

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Second Session
(Twelfth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. IV contains Nos. 21 to 30)

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LOKSABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, July 16, 1998/Asadha 25, 1920 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MR. SPEAKER : Question No. 422 . Shri Pradeep Kumar Yadav.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to make a submission about the question.

MR. SPEAKER : No, please take your seat.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Sir, kindly permit me. Today, I have got no.1 in the ballot.

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the time to seek clarification. Please take your seat.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Sir, I gave in writing also in the morning. It is the right of the Member. If we get no.1 in the draw, then there is no reason why our question should not appear in the list.

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

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Sir, let me know the reason as to why my question has not come today. My name was no.1 in the ballot for today. If I get no.1 in the draw of lot, there must be some reason as to why my name is not appearing in the Question List. I have given in writing also about this matter.

MR. SPEAKER : You can discuss with me in my chamber.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Sir, I met you and also I have given in writing. What is my fault ? The office should be fair to all the Members. If I get no.1 in the draw of lot, why should I be denied the opportunity ?

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what the hon. Member says is right. I have also had similar experience. The question which I got in the ballot did not appear in the Question List.

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Kurien, you can discuss with me in my chamber. Please take your seat.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Sir, this is a serious matter. If we get no.1 in the draw of lot, why should our question be deleted ? The office should be fair to all the Members.

MR. SPEAKER : I can discuss with you in my chamber. Please take your seat.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, these things are sacrosanct. If a question has come in the ballot, it should come in the Question List. There is something wrong going on here. The priority of questions are manipulated and those questions which have come in the ballot are not appearing in the Question List. I subscribe to what the hon. Member said. He is correct.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also support it.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Scheme to Clean Rainy Water

+
*422. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV :
SHRI MITRASEN YADAV :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating any scheme to store the rainy water and use it for drinking and irrigation purposes;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) If not, the reasons therefor ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Rural Water Supply is a state subject and the State Governments are charged with responsibilities for providing safe drinking water supply to all the villages/habitations. The Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM) in the Department of Rural Development supplements their efforts financially and otherwise, inter alia through the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP).

As part of the programme, the Mission has been advising the states to harness and conserve rain water through appropriate harvesting techniques in those areas with inadequate surface or ground water resources inter alia using funds made available by the Mission and under allied programmes of the Ministry like JRY & EAS. Prior to 1.4.98, funds, amounting to about Rs. 31 crore

were released to 17 states under the Sub-Mission on Sustainability to enable the States Government to undertake scheme relating to water harvesting. With effect from 1.4.98, full powers to plan, implement and monitor all Rural Water Supply projects, including those related to water harvesting, have been delegated to the State Governments. As such no new scheme in this regard is being contemplated by this Ministry.

[Translation]

SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water mission in one of the schemes of the Government. The Central Government contributes 75 per cent of the total amount within scheme and the remaining amount of 25 per cent is contributed by the State Government. I would like to ask as to why this scheme has been totally left in the hand of the State Government. I would also like to ask about the role of the MPs in such schemes particularly when the amount under this Mission for installing handpumps etc. or facing the emergent problems is given to MLA and nothing goes in the hands of MPs because MLAs are required to get installed 25 or 50 pumps with this amount.

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, drinking water is a State subject. The State plan, implement and monitor the water supply schemes and we, the Government of India, assist the State Governments in providing drinking water to rural areas. With effect from 1.4.98, the full powers of the Rajiv Gandhi Technology Mission have been delegated to the State Governments and we have written letters to all the Chief Secretaries to take suggestions and recommendations from Members of Parliament regarding drinking water supply schemes.

[Translation]

SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR : My second supplementary is, when the whole amount under Jawahar Rojgar Yojna and Assured Employment Scheme is spent through D.M. then is it not necessary to seek suggestions from Members of Parliament in these cases and whether some instructions are being issued by the Government in this regard so that the approval of MPs may be recognised as on consultation is being done with MPs.

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : We are issuing instructions.

[English]

I have written letters to all the Chief Secretaries to take suggestions and recommendations for Members of Parliament. . . (Interruptions) No State has responded.

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to seek your support. There are two parts of my question—

in the first part, it was asked the way in which the facility of water for irrigation and potable water would be provided and in the second part, it was asked the way in which that water was being accumulated or stored my intention is that the rain water is going waste. By properly utilising this rain water and properly store it the water level can be raised and used it for irrigation and drinking purpose. If the hon. Minister conducts a survey in the whole country particularly in Uttar Pradesh, it will be find out that the water level of has gone down by three meter in UP and all type of potable water facilities have failed there. Hon. Pradeepji has told that facilities of potable water have been provided under JRY, E.E.S., R.E.S, and Minimum Needs Programme and whatever handpumps are bored under these schemes, there are no say of Members of Parliament in these scheme. 25 taps are given to each M.L.A. but nothing to us. I would like to know whether the Government of India propose to formulate any long-term scheme to raise the water level where it has gone down in the whole country particularly in Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : I appreciate the concern of the Member. If we neglect this problem to re-charging the ground water level, we have to import water in a few years from now. So, we have taken up the watershed programme from this year. We have written letters to all the State Governments to take up these re-charging programmes under E.A.S. The first instalment for E.A.S. has been released specifically saying that they have to take up the check dams, nullah bunds and water harvesting structures under this scheme.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Sir, I am really sorry to say that while replying to the question, the Minister has only mentioned about the States. He has forgotten that there are Union Territories also in the Union of India.

Sir, in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, scattered islands are there. I would particularly like to mention the name of Char Island where 100 per cent population is tribal. There is an acute shortage of water. Only rain water can be retained there and it can be supplied. This year, there was so much water shortage, that water had to be carried from other islands.

But when the Minister says that all the responsibilities are given to the States, then what about the Union Territories ? It is the domain of the Central Government. It has to do it. What action have you taken to provide money to the Union Territories for storing rain water in areas like Char Island ?

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : If the hon. Member gives a specific notice, I will answer.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the coastal areas in Karnataka, especially, the Districts of Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Uttara Kannada, received the highest rainfall in the State. But the water flows over to the Arabian Sea during rainy seasons. The water retention power of the soil is also the lowest in that area. Due to this, a lot of difficulties are being faced by the citizens for drinking purposes and also for irrigation purposes. Is the Government intending to implement any programme so that enough water is made available for drinking and irrigation purposes especially during non-rainy season ?

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : The farmers are digging borewells everyday and the ground water level is going down and down. Unless we regulate by legislation, water cannot be restored. So, we have prepared a model legislation and we have asked the State Governments to adopt that model legislation.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : What are the details? How the Government intends to tackle the problem ?

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : If the hon. Member asks a separate question, I will answer that.

MR. SPEAKER : You can send it to the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask from the Minister through you as to how much amount you have sanctioned to U.P. under this scheme because you have sanctioned Rs. 31 crore for storing water for irrigation and drinking purposes in 17 states, as we lives of National drinking water mission of the Government of India and Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Rapid Scheme. Secondly, whether the opinions of the Members of Parliament are being taken or not ? Thirdly, whether you propose or likely to be proposed to provide potable water for SCs colonies ?

[English]

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : The answer has already been given. About Rs. 31 crore have been given to 17 states.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : How much amount you have given to U.P. ?

[English]

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : I will give the information for Uttar Pradesh.

MR. SPEAKER : If the information is not readily available, you can supply it later to the hon. Member.

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : It has been provided. I am having the information.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister is not fully prepared. . . .(Interruptions) the Minister should be fully prepared and give information.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. The hon. Minister is replying.

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : An amount of Rs. 146 lakh has been given to Uttar Pradesh.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Mr. hon. Minister. It is the largest state of the country, Rs. 146 lakh is insufficient.

[English]

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : It is for rain water harvesting structure. It is only for that purpose.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Have you any scheme for SCs colonies ?

[English]

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : We are not having information for that.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a question which is very important for West Bengal. We have this problem of arsenic in half of the districts of West Bengal because of excessive ground water exploitation. If rain water is collected, maintained and distributed, it would be very good for us. There is a good approach to this problem which will be employment-oriented and community-based. Will the Government make a scheme where the villagers will themselves maintain the rain water that collects in pools and lakes and also take the responsibility of distributing it ? In that case, you can also generate some employment among the landless poor.

Will the Government make a scheme so that the rain water can be used ? What is the use of just collecting it if you do not have a scheme ? How to use it ? If you just say that it is a State subject and shirk your responsibility, that does not help. Please have a good scheme which will be community-based. Would you have a scheme which will store and distribute rain water and give employment also to the landless peasants ? That is my question.

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : Hon. Member's suggestion will be looked into. But the Government of India is not

having a scheme. We are only assisting the State Governments by giving financial assistance.

[Translation]

MAJOR GENERAL BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI
AVSM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are discussing on rain water harvesting.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot accommodate all the hon. Members Please understand it.

[Translation]

MAJOR GENERAL BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI
AVSM : There are severe crisis of potable water in the hilly areas in spite of flowing ganga-yamuna river. Rain water harvesting scheme is a very useful. Hon. Minister has said that everything would be done by the state. I want to know through you whether any such scheme has been given to research centre at central level so that it may provide economically viable scheme to store water of rivers and drains of hilly areas under rain water harvesting scheme. There is a Govind Vallabh Pant University in Uttar Pradesh. Such type of a scheme was made by Govind Vallabh Pant survey centre, Ranikhet. According to this, water can be stored by spending only Rs. 12-15 thousand. I would like to know whether you have got any research conducted or have assigned any task to anyone so that it may formulate a scheme for utilizing the rain water harvesting particularly in hilly areas.

[English]

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : We are making some excesses to club all those programme under different Ministries in order to have some watershed programme from this year. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very sorry to say that Mr. Minister has not given the reply seriously. A large tank has been constructed for storing rainy water under rain water harvesting scheme and it is very costly. The amount allotted to JRY has never been sufficient and in future also it will not be sufficient. The D.P.A.P. was started by the Congress Government to implement the scheme. Rs. 10 crore was to be sent to those selected districts under that plan. These districts are of Rajasthan Madhya Pradesh and other states. The D.P.A.P. Scheme was started by the Congress Government.

[English]

The D.P.A.P. Scheme was started by the Congress Government.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Lakshman Singh, you put your question, please.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh) : If you send the amount of D.P.A.P. to State Governments. The waste related to rain water harvesting can be done under this. Thus the amount will be sufficient and this problem can be solved. Will you send the amount of D.P.A.P. to states so that the task of rain water harvesting can be done.

[English]

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : We will take note of the suggestion of the hon. Member. We will instruct the State Government to take up such programmes under D.P.A.P.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : The Scheme is already there. You have to provide funds. . . .(Interruptions) The D.P.A.P. Scheme is already there. You have to provide funds so that work can be carried out. Are you going to give funds to the States ? Are you aware of the D.P.A.P. Scheme? That is my question. I do not think you are aware of it. . . .(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : It was started by the Congress Government.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, would you like to respond ?

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : Yes, the D.P.A.P. Programme is also implemented by the State Governments.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : The D.P.A.P. Scheme is implemented by the State Governments. It is a Central Government Scheme. Funds have to be provided to the State Governments. Are you going to provide funds to the State Governments so that rain water harvesting work can be taken up ? That is my question. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Q. 423. Shri Chandu Lal Ajmera.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that I cannot accommodate every hon. Member. Shri Rajesh Pilot, if the House is interested, I have no objection to have a Half-an-Hour discussion on this subject.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Let the hon. Minister agree to it.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, are you agreeing to have a Half-an-Hour discussion on this subject ?

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : All right, Sir.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Will it be discussed in this Session ?

Railway Projects

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, it will be discussed in this Session.

*423. SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this should be discussed soon. . . . (Interruptions) It should not be taken up for discussion lateron.

(a) the details of projects proposed by the Railways from 1992-93 to 1996-97 and the anticipated cost thereof;

(b) the manner in which the Railways propose to finance these projects; and

(c) the progress made in the projects so far, project-wise ?

MR. SPEAKER : You sit down please, the time has been allotted on this.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) The undermentioned projects are financed through Railways internal resources and budgetary support from the General Exchequer. The details of the projects are as under :

Sl. No.	Year of Inclusion	Name of Work	Cost in CRS.	Progress
1	2	3	4	5
New Lines				
1.	1992-93	Dudhnoi - Depa	22.33	There is a problem in land acquisition by State Govt. The work would be completed within two years of land being made available.
2.	1993-94	Amravati - Narkhed	175	Earthwork is in progress in 18 out of 27 sections. The contracts for major and minor bridges have been finalised. Earthwork in the remaining 9 sections would not be started since adequate resources are available.
3.	1993-94	Peddapalli - Nizamabad	261	The work is being done in two phases. In the first phase Peddapalli to Karimnagar has been taken up. Earthwork and bridges is in progress and would be completed in 1999-2000 subject to availability of resources. The FLS* for 2nd phase for Karimnagar to Nizamabad has been completed but the work would be taken up after completing the first phase.
4.	1993-94	Lanjigarh - Junagarh	100	623 hectares of land out of a total of 1220 hectares has been received from Lanjigarh to Bhavanipatna and earthwork and bridges work in this stretch has been taken up.
5.	1994-95	Udhampur - Srinagar	2500	This is a national project. Land acquisition papers have been submitted to the State Government for Udhampur-Katra section. The work has been taken up wherever land is made

*FLS - Final Location Survey

1	2	3	4	5
				available by the State Govt. FLS* is being done beyond Katra upto Baramulla and is expected to be completed by Aug. '98. Land has already been acquired for Srinagar and a consultancy contract for station building has been awarded to M/s. IRCON. Land for other three stations is also being pursued with State Govt.
6.	1994-95	Mandarhill - Rampurhat	170	Final location survey has been completed and phase-I estimate from Dumka to Mandarhill has been prepared. Preparation of land acquisition plan and papers is in progress. The work would be started once the land is made available by the State Govt.
7.	1994-95	Khurda Road - Bolangir	353	The work of Final Location Survey is in progress between Khurda Rd and Bolangir and report is expected by Dec.'98. Once the survey is over land acquisition will be process and once land becomes available, work would be taken up.
8.	1995-96	Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli Vajinath	353	Final Location Survey has been completed for 15 km. From Ahmednagar. Land acquisition plans and papers has been submitted to the Govt. and the work would be progressed once they make available the land. Station building at Beed is under progress.
9.	1995-96	Panvel - Karjat	107	The complete land has been acquired and tender for 2.61 km. Tunnel has been awarded and work has been taken up. Tenders for earthwork and bridges has also been invited and would be finalised shortly.
10.	1995-96	Dalirajahara - Jagdalpur	369	This work is to be taken up on cost sharing basis with Ministry of Steel and MP Govt. the cost of the first phase work from Dalirajahara to Rowghat being borne entirely by the Ministry of Steel since the line would be used for transporting iron ore to Bhilai, for the rest of the line SAIL* is providing finances to the tune of Rs. 75 crs. to be adjusted through freight concessions. MP** Government would be providing land free of cost worth Rs. 25 crs. and rest of the money is to be given by the railways and Memorandum of understanding has been signed and the work would be started once Steel Authority of India deposite their share of cost and the land is made available. At present FLS* is in progress.

* FLS - Final Location Survey

* SAIL - Steel Authority of India

** MP - Madhya Pradesh

1	2	3	4	5
11.	1995-96	Kottur-Harihar	66	Final Location survey has been completed and preparation of land acquisition, plans and papers has been taken up. The committee appointed by the Cabinet for review of projects has recommended freezing of this project. The work would be resumed once their approval for starting the work is received.
12.	1996-97	Nandyal-Yerraguntla	156	Final location survey has been completed and preparation of land acquisition plans and papers has been taken up. The work would be started once the land becomes available. Soil investigations of Pennar Bridge have been taken up.
13.	1996-97	Sakri-Hassanpur	89.7	Land acquisition papers have been submitted to the State Govt. for the entire length and an amount of Rs. 11 crs. Has been deposited with the State Govt. for land acquisition. Notification under section 4 has been issued by the State Govt. for 50 km length covering 883 acres. The work would be taken up once the land becomes available.
14.	1996-97	Kadur-Chickmagalur	157	Earthwork and Minor bridges between Kadur-Chickmagalur have been taken up.
15.	1996-97	Haridaspur-Paradeep	122	Final location survey has been completed and an amount of Rs. 5 crs has been paid to the State Govt. for land acquisition. Work would be started as soon as land becomes available.
16.	1996-97	Dausa-Gangapur City	151.84	Final location survey has been completed and work would be taken up once the land is made available. Work will be progressed as per availability of resources.
17.	1996-97	Kumarghat-Agartala	575	Land acquisition papers for 648 acres of land has been submitted to the State Govt. out of which 70 acres has been handed over so far. Tenders for earthwork and minor bridges for 5.3 km from Agartala end has been invited. Since the land has now to be constructed as broad gauge, a fresh final location survey has been taken up by RITES* in the ghat section. Work will be started on the rest of the section after the alignment is finalised and land becomes available.
18.	1996-97	Khagaria-Kusheshwamath	78	Final location survey has been completed and preparation of land acquisition plan and papers has been taken up. Earthwork in Khagaria yard has been taken up.

1	2	3	4	5
19.	1996-97	Hassan-Bangalore	295	Final location survey is in progress. The land acquisition papers for 30 km have been submitted to the State Govt. and section 4 has been issued for 20 km. Work has been commenced on formation and bridges in 20 km portion from Hassan and Bangalore ends.
20.	1996-97	Karur-Salem	136	Final location survey and preparation of land acquisition plan and papers is in progress Rs. 4.5 crs has been paid to the State Govt. for land acquisition. Work will be started once the land becomes available.
21.	1996-97	Hubli-Ankola	483	Final location survey for 87 km has been completed and is in progress for balance portion which is likely to be completed by Sept. '98. Land acquisition plans for 13 km length have been submitted to the State Govt. Work would be started as soon as land becomes available.

Gauge Conversions

1.	1992-93	Daund-Baramati	12.5	Work completed.
2.	1992-93	Delhi - Rewari	38	Work completed.
3.	1992-93	Burhwal - Sitapur	46.99	Work completed.
4.	1992-93	Muzaffarpur-Raxaul & Saguli-Narkatiaganj	87.19	Work completed.
5.	1992-93	Allahabad - Varanasi	86.65	Work completed.
6.	1992-93	Mankapur - Katra	24.62	Work completed.
7.	1992-93	New Guwahati - Lumding	179.58	Work completed.
8.	1992-93	Bangalore - Hubli	234.9	Work completed.
9.	1992-93	Dindigul - Trichy	89.37	The work is in progress and would be completed in 1998-99. Full funds have been provided for completing the work.
10.	1992-93	Miraj - Londa	122	Work completed.
11.	1992-93	Hospet - Goa	312	Work completed.
12.	1992-93	Guntur - Guntakal - Kolluru	502	Guntur to Guntakal completed. Guntur-Kolluru is yet to be taken up. With the sanction of Dharmavaram-Pakhala for which CCEA* clearance is yet to be obtained. Gauge conversion of Guntakal-Pakhala would be done in one phase. Land acquisition for new line portion from Gooty to Pendakallu has been started and work will be started once land becomes available which is expected by Sept. '98.

1	2	3	4	5
13.	1992-93	Secundrabad - Duronachallam & Secundrabad - Bolaram	226.4	Work completed.
14.	1992-93	Katpadi - Pakala - Tirupali	71	Out of 19 major bridges 15 have been completed and 4 are in progress. Earthwork and ballast supply is also in progress. Work is proceeding well and is targetted for completion in 1999-2000 subject to availability of resources.
15.	1992-93	Gondia - Chandafort	170.22	Work completed.
16.	1992-93	Rewari - Jaipur	104.6	Work completed.
17.	1993-94	Miraj - Latur	314	The work is being progressed in phases. In the first phase work from Latur to Latur road and Khurdwadi to Pandharpur is progressing well.
18.	1993-94	Rewari - Bhatinda	135	Work completed.
19.	1993-94	Jodhpur - Jaisalmer	125	Work completed.
20.	1993-94	Luni - Marwar	31	Work completed.
21.	1993-94	Lumding - Dibrugarh	300	Work completed.
22.	1993-94	Solapur - Gadag	180	The first phase from Hotgi to Bijapur has been completed and the rest of the section is targetted for completion by Dec. 2000.
23.	1993-94	Phulera-Marwar-Ahmedabad	280	Work completed.
24.	1993-94	Neemuch-Ratlam	116.74	Work on long lead items has been taken up. The work on this project was proceeding slowly but has now been accorded higher priority and is being speeded up.
25.	1994-95	Rajkot-Veraval	100	This work was held up due to a survey for diverting the line near Gir forest. The work is now in progress and will be completed in the 9th five year plan. Adequate funds have been provided for the works planned in 1998-99.
26.	1995-96	Mathura - Achnera	20	This work was earlier planned under BOLT*. However, owing to high rates and unacceptable conditions, it has been decided to carry out the works with railway funds. It is planned to do this work alongwith Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura gauge conversion project and completed in the coming years.
27.	1995-96	Khadda-Gorakhpur	58.47	This work is progressing well and would be completed alongwith Valmikinagar-Narkatiaganj and Khadda-Valmikinagar in 1998-99. Full funds have been provided for completing the work.

1	2	3	4	5
28.	1995-96	Luni-Jodhpur	20	Work completed.
29.	1995-96	Narkatiaganj-Valmikinagar	44	The work is progressing well and would be completed alongwith Valmikinagar-Khadda-Gorakhpur by March '99. Full funds have been provided for completing the work.
30.	1995-96	Mysore-Hassan	80	Work completed.
31.	1995-96	Yeshwantpur-Salem	140	Work completed.
32.	1995-96	Trichy-Nagore-Karaikal	138	The section from Trichy to Thanjavur has been completed and commissioned. The rest of the section has been temporarily frozen due to low operational priority and constraints of funds.
33.	1995-96	Mudkhed-Adilabad	114	The work is in progress under Build Own Lease Transfer (BOLT). Earthwork is in progress. The work is expected to be completed during 98-99 provided the contractor is able to obtained the funds which he has tied up in United Kingdom.
34.	1995-96	Rupsa-Bangriposi	58	Earthwork has been taken up from km 0 to 75. Work will be regulated as per availability of resources. Funds are adequate for progressing the earthwork and bridges planned in 1998-99.
35.	1995-96	Agra-Bandikui	89	This work was earlier planned under BOLT. However, owing to high rates and unacceptable conditions, it has been decided to carry out the works with railway funds. It is planned to do this work alongwith Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura gauge conversion project and completed in the coming years.
36.	1995-96	Wankaner-Maliya Miyana	78.79	The work is now being taken up and is expected to be completed in Dec. 2000 subject to availability of resources. Adequate funds have been provided for progressing the works planned in 1998-99.
37.	1995-96	Gandhidham-Bhuj	41.04	Earthwork, and bridges are in progress and will be completed by March 1999. Track will be converted thereafter as per availability of resources. Adequate funds for completing formation work.
38.	1996-97	Mansi-Saharsa	210	Earthwork has been completed in 22 km and is in progress in rest of the section. Minor and major bridges are also in progress and completion on major bridges will take at least 2-3 years period. Adequate outlays has been provided for bridge work and earthwork planned in 1998-99
39.	1996-97	Hajipur-Bachwara	67.17	Work completed.

1	2	3	4	5
40.	1996-97	Lumding-Silchar	648	Final location survey for diversions in the ghat section to suit the requirement of BG and preparation of land, acquisition plan and papers has been taken up. Earthwork and bridges has been taken up between Badarpur and Silchar where no change in alignment is necessary.
41.	1996-97	Jabalpur-Gondia with Balaghat-Katangi	386.3	Final Location survey to determine the diversion required to suit BG has been taken up. No target date has yet been fix.
42.	1996-97	Ranchi-Lohardanga with extrn. to Tori	147	The work is being started on phase I i.e. gauge conversion of Ranchi-Lohardanga section. Final location survey on Lohardanga-Tori (phase-II) is in progress. Adequate outlays has been provided for earthwork and bridgework on Ranchi-Lohardanga and final location survey, land acquisition on Lohardanga-Tori section.
43.	1996-97	Ajmer-Chittaurgarh-Udaipur	262	The work is in progress between Udaipur-Chittaurgarh in first phase.
44.	1996-97	Surendernagar-Bhavnagar, Dhola-Dhasa-Mahuva with extrn. to Pipavav	337	Necessary clearances have been obtained. The modalities of funding the project are being explored through IRCON* as M/s. GPPL* have offered to participate in the funding. The modalities of funding are yet to be sorted out. The tenders for the works are being floated and the work would be started shortly.
Doubling				
1.	1992-93	Khana-Jhaptardal phase-I	12.27	This work was earlier held up first due to court case and contractual problems and then due to release to excess*water by DVC** leading to flooding of area. The work is now expected to be completed in 1998-99 including the fly over at Khana.
2.	1992-93	Kuppam-Whitefield	105	The work is in progress and the first phase from Whitefield to Malur has been completed and commissioned. The work is now being progressed from Malur to Bangarpet and is expected to be completed in 1998-99. Beyond Bagarpet work would be taken up thereafter.
3.	1993-94	Jhaptardal-Guskara (phase-II)	11.46	One block section from Jhaptardal-Bonpas has been completed. The work on remaining section would be completed in 1998-99.
4.	1993-94	Gajapatinagaram-Vijayanagaram (phase-II)	22	Gajapatinagaram - Gotlam (16 km) has been completed and from Gotlam-Vijayanagaram will be completed by 31.07.98. Yard remodelling is also in progress.

* IRCON - Indian Railway Construction Co. Ltd.

@ GPPL - Gujarat Pipavav Port Ltd.

** DVC - Damodar Valley Corporation

1	2	3	4	5
5.	1994-95	Chandanpur-Gurap third line	23.82	Work is in progress and it is targetted for completion in 2000-2001 depending on availability of resources.
6.	1994-95	Rajatgarh-Nergundi-Talcher	60	The section from Rajatgarh to Salegaon is expected to be completed by Sept. '98. The remaining section of 4 km has a flyover and would be ready by June '99 subject to land being made available by the State Govt.
7.	1994-95	Akaltara-Champa 3rd line with OHE	39.97	Akaltara-Naila (16 km) has been completed. The section Naila-Champa (12 km) will be completed by June '99.
8.	1995-96	Divya-Vasai	90	The work is progressing well. In phase-I 11 km from Vasai Road to Kaman would be completed by March '99 and 17 km from Kaman to Bhiwandi by June '99. Bhiwandi to Diva is targetted for Dec. '99 subject to removal of encroachments and availability of resources.
9.	1995-96	Divya-Panvel	47	Work completed.
10.	1995-96	Daund-Bhigwan	32.42	The balance work on bridge and formation and complete ballast collection would be completed in all respect by Dec. '99 for which adequate funds are available in 1998-99.
11.	1995-96	Guskara-Bholpur phase-III	24.15	All tenders have been awarded except for Ajay bridge for which tenders have been opened and is under process. The work from Guskara to Pitchkuridhal (5.5 km) is expected to be completed in 1998-99 & rest of the section by Dec. '2000.
12.	1995-96	Budge Budge-Akra phase-I	7.85	Earthwork and bridges is in progress. The work is targetted for completion by March, 2000.
13.	1995-96	Tundla Yamuna Bridge	24.6	The work on Tundla-Etmadpur and the flyover is in progress. The earthwork and minor bridges have been complete. The scope of the work has been reduced and target for reduced scope of work is Dec. '99.
14.	1995-96	Muradnagar-Meerut City	39.62	Earthwork and minor bridges completed. Tender for major bridges has been invited and will take about one year in completion.
15.	1995-96	Ghaziabad-Muradabad Ph.-I	37.68	The work is in progress and the first block section Ghaziabad-Mehrauli (7 km) will be completed by August '98. The work on Mehrauli-Hopur section would be completed by Dec. '2000.
16.	1995-96	Kanpur-Panki phase-I	34.03	The Survey for connecting central railway line with flyover has been completed. Earthwork is

1	2	3	4	5
				in progress and the work order for 76.2 m girders for flyover has been placed on Manmad workshop.
17.	1995-96	Kuttipuram-Guruvayoor	30	The work was sanctioned as doubling. However, with doubling extended from Kuttipuram to Shoranur, this will now be a new line. The railway is updating the survey so that the requisite clearances can be obtained.
18.	1995-96	Bangalore-Kengeri patch doubling	23.59	Due to low operational priority the work is frozen for the present.
19.	1995-96	Raghunathpur-Rahama patch doubling	53.37	Earthwork major and minor bridges are in progress. The work is targetted for completion in 1998-99.
20.	1995-96	Urkura-Raipur-Sarona	11.9	Urkura-Raipur (6.5 km) has been completed. The work is progressing well on the rest of the section and linking completed.
21.	1995-96	Kota-Gurla Doubling of Chambal bridge	11.68	The work is making good progress and would be completed by this month end.
22	1996-97	Panvel-Roha land acquisition	4.1	Final location survey is in progress. Land acquisition would be taken up once the FLS* is completed.
23.	1996-97	Patna-Gaya phase-I	10	Earthwork is nearing completion and bridge works are in progress. The work is expected to be complete by March '99.
24.	1996-97	Gurup-Shaktigarh	41.43	Plan finalised. Work will be progressed as per availability of resources. The work has relatively lower operational priority.
25.	1996-97	Alipur-Akra phase-I	11.82	The plans have been finalised and the work is to be progressed as per availability of resources.
26.	1996-97	Gonda-Jarwal Road	62.58	The work is in progress and 20% earthwork and 21 minor bridges out of 33 have been completed. The work on 3 major bridges out of 8 have been started.
27.	1996-97	Iruguru-Coimbatore	25.11	Plans and estimates are under preparation. The work would be taken up in the coming years as per availability of resources.
28.	1996-97	Vijaywada-Krishna canal 3rd line	23.52	Plans and estimates are under preparation. The work would be taken up shortly. Adequate funds have been provided for earthwork and bridges planned in 1998-99
29.	1996-97	Korba-Sarabundia	27.59	The work is in progress and Sarabundia-Urga (6.5 km) will be completed by Sept. '98 and rest of the work by January '99.

*FLS - Final Location Survey

1	2	3	4	5
30.	1996-97	Talcher-Cuttack-Paradeep 2nd bridge on Birupa and Mahanadi river	93.1	Soil investigation and detailed design on Birupa bridge has been completed and drawings are under preparation. For Mahanadi tenders for investigation and design have been opened and are under process.
31.	1996-97	Dalkola-Kisanganj	26.18	Tender for earthwork, minor and major bridges have been finalised and other tenders are under finalisation. Two block sections from Kisanganj-Hatwar-Kanki (17 km) is targetted for completion by March '99 and rest by 1999.

Sl. No.	Projects	Year of Inclusion	Cost in Crores	Progress
Metropolitan Transport Projects				
1.	Thane-Turbhe-Nerul-Vashi part of corridor No. 2 in Mumbai (19.00 km)	1995-96	403.39	Works in progress.
2.	Balapur-Panvel doubling of Commuter line (10.90 km)	1995-96	279.83	Works in progress.
3.	Kurla-Bhandup 5th & 6th line (10.00 km)	1995-96	49.84	Works in progress.
4.	Belapur/Nerul-Seawood-Uran double line (22.30 km)	1996-97	495.44	Estimate has been sanctioned.
5.	Quadrupling between Borivali-Vlvar (25.84 km)	1995-96	401.66	Detailed estimate has been sanctioned and works is in progress.
6.	Santacruz-Borivali 5th line (15.81 Km)	1995-96	64.17	Land acquisition in progress.
7.	Luz-Velacheri extension of MRTS (10.30 km)	1996-97	605.70	3rd part of the estimate has been sanctioned and work is in progress.

Workshop/Production Units

1.	CLW-Addl. facil. for manufacture of HHP 3 phase ABB locos	1992-93	29.81	Works in progress.
2.	Ludhiana-Elect loco shed for homing 100 locos	1996-97	24.35	Works in progress.
3.	Chitradurg-RDH-POH wagon facilities	1996-97	33.84	Works frozen.
4.	Kazipet-Third Elect. loco shed for homing 100 locos	1996-97	24.35	Works in progress.

Railway Electrification

Sl. No.	Year of Inclusion	Name of work	Cost Rs. in crores	Progress
1	2	3	4	5
1.	1992-93	Erode-Paighat-Ermakulam including Cochin Harbour Terminus	156.09	Section Erode - Shoranur commissioned. Progress till -March 1998 is 74%. Target : March 2000.

1	2	3	4	5
2.	1992-93	Renigunta-Guntakal-Hospet including Tornagallu-Ranjeetpura Branch line	177.00	Pended.
3.	1992-93	Ambala-Moradabad :	152.21	
		(i) Ambala-Saharanpur		(i) Progress till March 98 is 63%. Target : March 1999.
		(ii) Saharanpur-Moradabad		(ii) Pended.
4.	1992-93	Chandil-Muri-Barkakana	45.06	Completed.
5.	1992-93	Jamadoba-Mohuda	8.43	Completed.
6.	1992-93	Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam including Samalkot-Kakinada port branch line	240.73	Completed.
7.	1992-93	Bandel-Katwa	49.54	Completed.
8.	1993-94	Adra-Midnapur	84.41	Progress till March 1998 is 28%. Target : March 2000.
9.	1995-96	Kharagpur-Bhubaneswar including Talcher-Paradeep Branch line	310.19	Progress 5%, Target : March 2002.
10.	1996-97	Khurja-Meerut-Saharanpur	89.21	Pended.

Telecom Projects

Sl. No.	Year of Sanction	Description of the Project	Cost Rs. in Crs.	Progress
1.	92-93	Mumbai-Bhusawal Replacement of Microwave link by digital	20.53 (DRF)	Building works have been completed. Construction of MW towers are in progress. Telecom equipments have been received. Overall Progress : 55% T.D.C. : 31.3.99
2.	92-93	Churchgate-Ahmedabad Replacement of analog Microwave link by (34+2) MB system.	22.00 (DRF)	Part link between CSTM - Churchgate has been commissioned. Buildings works and towers have just been completed. Telecom equipments are under installation. Overall Progress : 75% T.D.C. : 31.12.98
3.	96-97	Chakradharpur-Rourkela-Jharsuguda : Railway owned optic fibre cable and Chakradharpur-Jharsuguda. Analog Microwave system.	20.96 (DRF)	The work was originally sanctioned under BOLT scheme. No progress under BOLT could be achieved. The work has now been sanctioned under Railway's finance. T.D.C. : 30.6.2001

T.D.C. : Target Date of Completion

SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA : Sir, the C&AG in his report has criticised Railways for not keeping in view the funds' position while issuing fresh sanctions. The Railways have added 1847 new projects from 1992-93 to 1996-97 at a cost of Rs. 22,875 crore. But the projects were frozen or slowed down due to paucity of funds. I would like to

know whether the financial implication of each project was worked out and studied. If so, why is the progress not seen in respect of the 235 works that have been under execution for the last five years ?

I want to know why the Peddapalli-Nizamabad

Railway Line Project which was taken up in 1992-93, is still pending. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chandu Lalji, you cannot make a statement in the Question Hour.

SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA : Sir, the Andhra Pradesh Government has requested for introduction of a pilgrim train from Hyderabad with stops at Mantralaya, Puttaparthi, Tirupathi etc. The then Railway Minister on 1.9.97 had stated that the route was being worked out . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chandu Lal, please understand that this is a Question Hour.

SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA : I would like to know why this train has not been introduced in this year's Budget. What is the present position about this ?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I have given a detail reply to the question asked about the whole country. There is no scope for any supplementary as such. So far as the replies of the starred or two-four question are concerned, I think it is not possible to hold a discussion on the present positions of the different projects being implemented throughout the country. Recently, Rail Budget has been discussed, in which everybody has put up his views before the House. So far as the position of the project is concerned or the report which they have referred to it is a convention that pending rail projects are also being taken up alongwith the new projects. The status paper has already been placed before the House, showing whole position in this regard and we also held a discussed on that.

So far as the details of the Project is concerned, I would lay the white paper stating the position of the whole project, date of its approval etc. on the table of the House in the last week of this session itself.

[English]

SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA : I would like to know why is the Nandyal - Yerraguntla Project not taken up whereas the survey work was completed in 1997.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Not only the survey is completed but the details of the projects are also prepared, which are presented before the House and sent to Planning Commission, Expandant Board also, Cabinet Clearance is also sought in this regard and these projects are taken up only after completing these procedures. The Hon'ble Members, speaking on this subject, if wish, can

get all the information about the position of these projects from us.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : I would like to ask a simple question from the Hon'ble Minister. I have seen the reply given to a question by you and observed that Rajasthan has been in the grip of nature's fury, particularly the Bikaner area.

There we are already facing paucity of water as it is a desert area and it hardly rains there. It had been written in your earlier reply. I know that the gauge conversion scheme from Rewari to Bikaner was already existing but there is no mention about that scheme in it. You kindly look into it and atleast get it renovated as it is a historical city. . . .(Interruptions) It is my submission. I would like to say one thing that if you want that a backward area should march ahead, then it is necessary to do it first. I request you to do that job. Would you please tell me as to why it is not mentioned in it though this has come up in your Board meeting also. I don't know why it is so. I know everything. You kindly pay attention to it and let me know later on as to when you are initiating an action in this regard. My second request is that though trains are running but now their halts at small stations have been stopped. It is said that these trains are uneconomical. Let the farmers board the trains. I have written a letter to you in this regard. Let me tell about it.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not a question. He has just made a submission, we will definitely consider it.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has agreed to place the White Paper in the House. We thank him for that. As we all know, out of the nine new zones which have been created, the East-Coast zone for Orissa is one of them. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps are being taken to activate this zone and get the divisions of Waltier, Sambalpur and Khurda amalgated into the East-Coast zone. When will this work start ?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : This question does not arise from the main question.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is our experience that implementation of the railway projects takes a lot of time. This system is prevailing for the last several years. Sanctioning and clearance process of the project and then the techno-economic survey, final location survey and tender finalisation takes 3-4 years period. The electrification of Adra - Midnapur section was sanctioned

in 1993-94 but so far only 28 percent progress has been made thereon. The second Kumarghat - Agartala Project was sanctioned in 1996-97. When it was already decided that the new line will be a broadgauge line, then why the survey was conducted in metregauge. It has been stated in the statement laid just now that the survey regarding conversion of metregauge into broadgauge will be conducted again.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : There are other hon. Members also who want to ask their questions. So, please come to the question.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We are coming to the point. It is a big problem. There is a metregauge line between Dharamtala - Kumarghat, it has to be converted into broadgauge as broadgauge conversion has been taking place in Silcher - Laming - Badarpur Section also. How can we reduce the period of 4-5 years taken in implementation of the project. We would like to include it in the White Paper which you are going to place. Whether there is any proposal of the Ministry of Railways to implement the project soon after its approval ?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the funds available to the Railways for completing the sanctioned projects and the budgetary support being given to it every year. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We are not talking about it, we are just talking about initiating the projects.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You first listen to me. . . . (Interruptions) You know everything. You have been the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Railways.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We have given a suggestion only.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : We have discussed this problem in the Status Paper also and would also like to place the White Paper regarding position of the Project in this session itself.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, to execute a project, it is necessary to have adequate provision for funds and today we will require atleast 35,000 crores rupees for completing the pending projects whereas we are provided only 2000 or 2100 crores rupees every year - we have to see it. It has only one solution that the whole scheme should be reprioritised or the Government should provide enough funds to complete the whole project. We have to opt one

solution. All these points have been discussed in this House and the hon. Members know it.

SHRI RAJO SINGH : You yourself are a Government.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker Sir, it is the demand of Railways that the Govt. of India should increase the Budgetary support. It is necessary to formulate project for the development of backward region, but where is the fund for that ? There is requirement of Rs. 6000 crores to complete the project of North-East, where as we could manage Rs. 200 crores every year; In view of this, you can easily calculate as to how long it will take to complete it. Every one knows about it. We have presented all these things in status paper. It is the question of every one's concern as to how it can be resolved.

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : All the time in being appropriated by the front benches only. We have a serious complaint.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to ask my question from Minister of Railways in two parts. One parts is that when we were in Govt., for the development of backward areas, we thought that the project should be taken for the development of those areas by giving relaxation in all the rules. As Shri, Basu Deo Acharia has said just now and the honourable Minister also knows that the survey is being made before taking up each project. After that it is referred to Planning Commission, then it goes to expanded board and then to cabinet and C.C.A. After completion of this process it is included in Rail Budget. The way in which honourable Minister is giving reply, it seems that when the sky falls we shall catch larks. It is not at all possible for backward areas. Therefore, it was said for the development of backward areas that even if the project is not economically viable and the Govt. considers that it is essential for the development of the backward areas then that project will be taken up and in view of this, the projects have been taken up in Bihar, North-East and all the places and these have been approved by the cabinet also. At last I would like to ask from the Govt. whether the projects, which have been sanctioned by the Railways, would be completed as early as possible because the procedure, which the Minister would adopt, will create difficulties for Railway Board and if we adjudge it from of economically viability point of view, then 90 percent projects of Railways would be rejected. Will you therefore take approval of the cabinet as early as possible for the projects, which have been sanctioned in Railways budget and where the Government is satisfied ?

I would like to ask the next question that when we were in the Government. Under the Prime Ministership of Shri Gujral the priority was already fixed for all the projects of Railways and it is also partially true to say that how will you provide funds to Railways. The new railway lines, for which the provision of Rs. 400 crores was made during the last year; I think that this amount has not been spent on new Railway lines. This time also, a provision of Rs. 500 crores has been made, it has also not been spent. If the allocation of funds is necessary, it is also essential that the funds should be spent on new Railway lines but the first part of my question is whether the work on those projects would be taken up immediately after taking clearance from the Cabinet or not; let me know about this.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker Sir, In the beginning I have already said that as far as the backward areas are concern unremunerative projects have also been taken are being taken and can be taken because Rail lines, which will be laid for the development of backward classes, will not provide immediate return at required rate. Therefore where, there is negative rate of return or where, the required rate of return is not there, as the Railways desires, this type of new rail projects have been taken up for the development of backward classes if these are beneficiary plans. There is no question to amend that policy. This policy is continued in the same spirit and it will be continued.

Now the question is this, as honourable Paswanji said that how it will be implemented; every one knows about its implementation. That at present what ever projects are pending, including the projects of new rail lines, gauge conversion, doubling and electrifications if we combine these together then Rs. 35 thousand crores will be required to complete these projects and Railways may not have Rs. 35 thousand crores. So the rail lines for the backward areas, north-east, Kashmir or the projects of such other backward areas. . . .(Interruptions) the budgetary support of these areas should be enhanced. Secondly the fund, which is given for the development projects of backward areas, should not have the burden of dividend liability. It is also the views of the Standing Committee. We have also stated this point in our status paper.

As far as the question of prioritisation is concerned, the planning commission has again asked for prioritisation. Paswanji said that previous Govt. has adopted the policy of prioritisation. I agree that they had initiated the process of prioritisation on 18 March, that was the last day of their Govt., that day the process of prioritisation was launched . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : On 9 March. I asked a very small question that will you take approval of cabinet for the projects, which you have sanctioned in the Budget. This is my simple question.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : There is no question to stop any project from our side. For that we have been continuing that process with Planning Commission and C.C.A.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question relates to the projects proposed by the Minister of Railways. Everybody in this House knows that Parliament is supreme. You are the custodian of this House.

In the Eleventh Lok Sabha, the former Minister of Railways, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan announced many projects for the backward areas. Are those projects included in the present Budget or not? If not, why have they not been included? What is the status of those projects which had been announced by the previous Government? If they are not included that is a violation on the part of the Government of India. So, the hon. Speaker must take care that all those projects announced by the previous Government are included and completed as soon as possible as those are commitments.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I think, the hon. Member's apprehension is wrong. Not a single project has been dropped from 'the pink book'. I would like to advice him to go through the pink book of the Railways. He will find the answer in it that not a single project has been dropped. The projects which were announced or included in the Budget speech of any of the former Ministers of Railways have not been dropped by me. . . .(Interruptions)

The hon. Member will get the details project-wise after the White Paper is presented to the House.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : You are giving a chance only to Ex-Ministers. What about other Members?

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my friend, Shri Nitish Kumar says that he has not dropped any project. At the same time, he cites many reasons in his Performance Report.

As far as the Tiruchi-Thanjavur-Nagore-Karaikkal line gauge conversion is concerned, he has said that the contractor was not up to the mark. He has directed Rs. 5 crores allocated to this work as the contractor has not carried out the work. When I wanted to ask why it was cancelled, in the Performance Report, he has said that the contractor was not up to the mark. He now cites operational priorities and fund constraints as reasons. In a way, he might say that it is because of fund constraints or operational priorities.

In that particular area, we have the famous Vailankanni Church of the Christians; in Nagore, we have a Muslim

Darga and in Thiruvapur, we have a Hindu Temple. Thus, we have got a lot of passenger potential. My question to the hon. Minister is this. What is the necessity to shelve this project without any reason ?

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Baalu, please understand that there is a lot of frustration among the junior Members since they are not getting any chance. I am appealing to the senior Members also to please understand this.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, I do not find any question in his question !

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, he has frozen this project; and he has not replied to it.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : That is different thing.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : How is it different ? He was frozen this project.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Shri Baalu, you can come to me and get the details or you may wait till the last week of this session. I will give you each and every detail regarding each and every project. So, please wait till the last week of this Session.

Development of Software

*424 SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the software for networking arrangements exist at all locations where computerised reservation facilities have been made available and whether such arrangements have been developed further;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which all the State capitals are likely to be brought under networking arrangements ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR):

(a) to (c) A project has been undertaken for networking of the five systems of Calcutta, Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi and Secunderabad. The software for networking has already been developed. The first phase of the project has been successfully completed by linking Delhi and Secunderabad systems. It is expected that the whole networking project would be completed by December, 1999. This will bring all Passenger Reservation System (PRS) locations under the network.

SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the North-East being in the farthest corner of the country, may I know from the hon. Railway Minister whether he would be giving priority to bring the North-East under this software networking arrangement ? I would like to say that the North-East should be given priority and particularly,

Guwahati, so that it is brought under this networking system. May I know whether there is any proposal with the Ministry regarding this ?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : The computerised public reservation system and passengers reservation system exist at all the places and it exist also at many places in North-East. Where earlier there was facility of computerised reservation on 300, this time after giving relaxation it has been provided on 200. In North-East, where, there is no rail head, this facility is available. The out station facilities is already available there. Even then if you feel that required there is something any where in North-East, you give in writing, I will certainly consider it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Nripen Goswami, please put our second supplementary.

SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Thank you very much, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : What about your second supplementary ?

SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : I have already put my supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER : Okay. Shri Govindan.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Sir, first of all, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity. My supplementary question is regarding the backwardness of my constituency with regard to railway projects. I would request the hon. Minister not to be little or to avoid this. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Railway Minister towards the agitation launched by the passengers' association of my constituency in front of the Palghat Regional Railway Office.

Among other demands, one of the most important demands was to provide a computerised railway reservation system at my constituency, Kasargod. There was a proposal to provide it there, but unfortunately, it was delayed; and no reason was assigned for this. I would ask the hon. Minister as to when the computerised reservation system in the headquarters of my constituency, Kasargod will be established.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : It will be done in this financial year itself.

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to raise a question. The Konkan Railway has already been opened for traffic. The Railway Minister has already diverted the Kurla Express through that line and there is also a proposal to divert even the

Mangla Express through that line. So, the entire textile belt, Coimbatore-Palaghat-Coimbatore. . . .

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, please understand that this is a question relating to the development of software and not diversion of trains.

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, I am coming to my question. What steps are taken by the Ministry of Railways to introduce a new line to connect the entire textile belt with Delhi ?

There are no reservation facilities available in Coimbatore. The EQs are getting released from a place called Olavokod. Even though there is a computer system, I am not able to get reservation from Coimbatore itself. Everytime, I have to send a fax to Olavokod. I am spending Rs. 40 to Rs. 50 on fax to get it confirmed. Moreover, I am getting confirmed seats only at the last minute. The same is the case with the people of my constituency and EQs.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : This supplementary does not arise out of the original question. This is a personal problem.

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN : It is not my own problem. It is the problem of my constituency.

MR. SPEAKER : You can write a letter to him and he will reply to it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw his attention through you that the Ajmer division in Rajasthan has become separate and the adjoining districts of Bhilwara and Chittor come under the Ratlam division, which is far away. I would like to ask the Honourable Minister whether he would be pleased to include the districts of Bhilwara and Chittor in the Ajmer Division ?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : The question asked by the honourable Member is not related to this question. This is a question pertaining to passenger reservation whereas the Honourable Member is asking a question about the Division. He can ask a separate question about this.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, right from the beginning of the computerised system of ticketing in India, people are not able to get confirmed tickets. As soon as the ticket counters are opened, tickets go into the waiting list. Will the Honourable Minister look into this matter. In addition, the former Minister of Railways had promised in this House that if all the Universities in India make a request for arrangements of computerised reservation with in their

campus, the facilities will certainly be provided to them. However, this facility has not been extended to them so far.

I would like to know from the Honourable Minister whether he will provide reservation facility in each University if the Vice-Chancellor and the students of that University so desire ? The Laheria Sarai station comes under my constituency and an announcement for its computerisation has already been made. However, the computer could not be installed there so far while as many as 600 tickets and not 200 tickets are purchased there everyday. The Honourable Minister may kindly tell about it also.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, as far as the assurance given in this House by the then Minister is concerned, if the assurance has been given by him, then that is the assurance of the Government which will certainly be fulfilled. Whatever assurance is there, you may take initiative about that accordingly. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : When the assurance is for Bihar, then it is alright but it about U.P. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Shri Mulayam Singhji, he has given assurance with regard to all the Universities of the country. He has stated that the Honourable Minister has given assurance on the requests made by all the Universities of the country. The assurance given by the Honourable Minister is the assurance of the Government which will certainly be fulfilled provided there is such an assurance and if you are telling the truth in the House.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : I am telling the truth. Honourable Minister, you please tell whether the assurance exists or not ? This is my question.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : My answer is that it is not a matter of conflict. It is the time for question-answer.

So far as a particular station mentioned by him is concerned the situation relaxed norms exists there that there should be 200 reservations from there, then that will be included in the work plan. It is possible only if that comes under the relaxed norms, then if it is not as per norms and even then he wants it, then he will have to request for the same time and again.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Honourable Minister of Railways has realised that the Government is committed to the assurances, given by the former Railway Minister and they are the assurances of the Government. Ferozabad is an industrial and commercial area where a number of traders come. The former Hon'ble Minister of Railways had given assurance in this

very House for providing computerised reservation facility in this area but that assurance has not been fulfilled till now. Sir, my next question connected with the same is that a very big accident had taken place at Ferozabad sometime back for which the entire country had we it. A small bridge has damaged and there may be a major accident any day. Therefore, I want to tell the Honourable Minister of Railways that arrangement should be made to repair the damaged bridge by sending a team there. Honourable Minister Sir, please state about the period by which the computer facility will be provided there and the action is being taken by the Government to repair the small bridge ?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, I have noted the information given by him.

[English]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Sir, now the Railways are taking reservation charges from the persons who are wait-listed. It is a very serious matter. In my State, when the people are reserving their tickets as passengers in the waiting list at the Calicut Railway Station they are being charged the reservation charges. May I know whether the Minister of Railways is aware of it or not ?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : That measure was announced during my Budget speech. So, we are fully aware of it. We have done it consciously. If there is any complaint, you can bring that to my notice. I will look into it.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : I have brought it to your notice.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : What hardships are they facing ? You please bring them to my notice.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL (Karnal) : Sir, First of all I would like to congratulate the Hon'ble Minister that he has not given a single positive answer to any question. He has tried to suppress all the facts. I congratulate him and at the same time I would like to ask him a similar question and he may please give a positive answer to it. He should not try to avoid the same.

Ajmer Sharif is a historical place. Straight from Ajmer Sharif to Gurgaon via Mewat, Nooh, Ferozpur Jhirka is a very important Railway line. The survey of this line has already been carried out ten years ago and the project has been planned. Likewise, Panipat is another historical place where three historical battles have taken place. The Marathas fought the battle at Panipat. Hence, will you please link the railway line from Panipat to Haridwar and Hissar to Ratia, Jakhali in route Fatehabad ?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Prithviraj D. Chavan.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Sir, my question has not been answered.

MR. SPEAKER : The answer will be given later.

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, this is a very specific question on development of software for networking of the reservation system. Now, while allowing a very wide discussion on the entire gamut of reservations, you are not allowing us to get information on this important subject. The whole thing is about what the reservation system is.

My question is specifically about the main question, that is, about development of software by one of the organisations under the Ministry of Railways. I think, CRIS is developing it. The system is called 'CONCERT'. What is happening to development of software for this networking system ? The whole country wants all the reservation system to be networked so that we are able to buy tickets from any place to my place in the country and at any time. This is what we want to know.

Further, what I would like to know specifically is this. When was this project started ? Is CRIS, the agency which is developing the software, competent to develop it ? Recently, we had a problem. During the last week, there was a question about the computerised ticketing machines which are installed at various places for reservation. There was a major fraud. The CBI has launched an inquiry against an employee of the manufacturers, and seven or eight employees of the Railways. What security measures are they taking ?

The second part of my question is this. When will the Internet purchasing of tickets with credit cards be allowed? Is it being done away with ? It is within the competence of the Indian Industry. Why are they not giving it to others who are competent ? When was the project started ? When will it be completed ?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the answer to the first question has already been given in the answer of the main question. There are five prominent places which are covered in the network. Delhi and Sikanderabad have already been linked. Delhi and Calcutta will be linked towards the end of this month and Mumbai and Chennai will be linked by the end of this year. Thus, the facility to

get reservation for to and fro journey from any corner of the country will become available. This has already been made clear in the answer.

As far as the question of Software is concerned a fraud has been detected and what I replied last week in this connection was not related to the reservation system.

It was in connection with the self printing ticketing machine. The software, which was already there, was without any security device and the fraud which was committed by taking the undue advantage of that has been detected. Now, the input of security device is being attached with that. This facility has been withdrawn from those places where this fraud was detected and tickets are being sold manually there. So far as the reservation system is concerned there is no complaint in this system as such. It's software, which have been manufactured by the CRIS, are in order. So far as the maintenance is concerned that is being done by the CMC, a Government of India undertaking.

Induction of New Technology in Naval Forces

*426. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Naval Chief has pointed out that India needs timely induction of new technology in the Naval forces;

(b) whether our Naval forces have a major role to play as India is covered with vast high sea areas;

(c) whether our Naval force at present lacks new technology;

(d) whether a time-bound programme of inducting new technology to the Naval forces have been formulated; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Proposals regarding induction of new technology in the Indian Navy are continually under processing in line with the role of the Navy to safeguard India's maritime interests.

(c) No Sir.

(d) and (e) Induction of new technology in the Naval forces which is an on-going exercise, is executed either through new technology bought from abroad or through indigenously developed sources. The Government has taken into consideration the desirability of inducting new technologies in the field of weaponry/missile systems,

information technology system etc., suitable to the requirements of Indian Navy while acquiring/indigenously constructing various categories of warships.

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Mr. Speaker Sir, we all are proud of the past performance of the Indian Navy but keeping in view the changes following the nuclear explosion, we have to observe the changed situation closely. As we are aware that we have only 136 ships and out of them only 50% are in working condition. So, such ships are urgently required to be replaced by the modern ships. These ships of Indian Navy are not only utilised during war but also used for the safety of "Exclusive Economic Zone", our natural oil and its pipelines, from the external aggression. This situation has been reviewed recently. The Hon'ble Minister may tell as to what steps have been taken for its modernisation.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the points explained by the Hon'ble Member about our Navy are absolutely right. He has stated that at present only 50 per cent ships are worth working out of 136 ships. In this connection I would like to mention that some ships, as per their life, have a lot of time remaining but some ships have completed their life and therefore they are out of work today. However, we will take, every step to fulfil every need of the Indian Navy. Attempts are constantly being made to supply the ships to Indian Navy by constructing them indigenously or acquiring them from abroad. So far as the powers in the hands of navy to fulfil its present responsibilities are concerned, the navy have those powers today.

12.00 hrs.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Mr. Speaker Sir, did the Government take a notice over the changed scenario after nuclear explosions ? Under the circumstances, our National Defence College, which is also known as our higher profile think tank, has recently tried to evaluate the naval force and comprehensive plan for action, based on strategic planning was also discussed therein. I would like to ask from the Hon'ble Minister, through you, that in view of the changed situation as well as our traditional enemy too what kind of attention we have given to it. If so, what measures have been taken by us. I have a doubt about it due to the changed scenario today.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, taking into account the situation arose after the declared itself as an atomic weapon state, not only Navy but all the three departments of defence forces have taken necessary steps and the work is in progress in this direction.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Laying of New Railway Lines

*425. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the proposals received from the Government of Assam and other North-Eastern States for laying new railway lines;

(b) the details of the surveys conducted for laying of new railway lines under North-East Frontier Railways during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(c) the details of the new rail routes out of the above proposed new railway lines found remunerative and approved;

(d) the funds allocated for the construction of new railway lines under North-East Frontier Railways during each of the last three years; and

(e) the time by which these new railway lines are likely to be laid ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR):

(a) Proposals have been received from the Govt. of Assam and the other North Eastern States for laying new lines as under :

1. Assam	Lekhapani to Kharsang Dibrugarh to Jorhat via Moranhat Guwahati to Byrnihat
2. Arunachal Pradesh	Mukongselek to Pasighat Harmuti to Itanagar
3. Mizoram	Bhairabhi to Sairang/Aizwal
4. Manipur/Nagaland	Diphu to Imphal via Karong
5. Meghalaya	Dudhnoi to Depa
6. Sikkim/West Bengal	Sevok to Giellakhola-Gangtok
7. Tripura	Kumarghat to Agartala Agartala to Sabroom

(b) The following surveys were conducted for laying of new lines in the North East Frontier during the 8th Five Year Plan :

- Final location survey for new line from Kumarghat to Agartala.
- Construction of new line from Lanka to Silchar with the alternative of gauge conversion of Lumding-Silchar.

- Updating survey for a new line from Diphu to Karong.
- New line from Lekhapani to Kharsang.
- New line from Harmuti to Itanagar.
- Final Location Survey from Dudhnoi to Depa.

(c) None of the rail routes out of the above works was found remunerative but the following works out of the above have been approved.

- Construction of new line from Kumarghat to Agartala.
- Gauge conversion of Lumding-Silchar.
- Construction of new line from Diphu to Karong (to be taken up after obtaining the requisite clearances).
- Construction of new line from Harmuti to Itanagar.
- Construction of new line from Dudhnoi to Depa.

In addition, it has been decided to take up construction of Bogibheel bridge on the river Brahmaputra with rail and road links on both sides. The work has been sanctioned and the survey is in progress.

(d) Funds allocation for the construction of new railway lines under North East Frontier Railway during each of the last three years has been as under :

Year	Rupees in crs.
1995-96	40.50
1996-97	36.00
1997-98	81.02

(e) The lines would be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources. However, projects in the North East are being given priority and efforts are being made to obtain extra allocation of funds for these works from the Planning Commission so that they can be completed early.

Central Investment in Rural Housing

*427. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central investment in rural housing has been enhanced in accordance with the targets fixed and achieved during the last five years;

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

(c) whether the Government have any specific scheme for improvement of housing system in the rural sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, and the funds allocated during 1998-99 therefor, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) and (b) Target under Indira Awaas Yojana is fixed annually depending on the allocation and on the basis of poverty ratios as approved by the Planning Commission. Therefore, the central allocation precedes setting up of targets.

The state-wise details of target achieved during the last five years is given in the statement-I enclosed.

(c) Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) is the only Centrally Sponsored Scheme being implemented all over the country with the primary objective of providing houses to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, freed bonded labourers and also non-SC/ST rural poor below the poverty line by providing them with grant-in-aid.

(d) The details of central allocation tentatively made under IAY during 1998-99 is given in the attached statement-II.

Statement-I

Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)

(In Nos.)

Name of the State	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98*
	Achievement	Achievement	Achievement	Achievement	Achievement
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	44897	57483	69086	46181	104115
Arunachal Pradesh	120	219	420	387	932
Assam	4304	6862	24871	13401	17507
Bihar	88960	59216	114506	133244	103506
Goa	358	329	967	466	463
Gujarat	7117	7895	31770	30481	17854
Haryana	1552	3536	9024	6153	4505
Himachal Pradesh	629	853	1727	2373	1843
Jammu & Kashmir	390	1697	3554	10197	6172
Karnataka	8820	13831	37460	45503	43522
Kerala	16999	18549	29368	23202	12834
Madhya Pradesh	48108	48967	125757	87371	101549
Maharashtra	18870	22812	66648	58244	60709
Manipur	208	197	784	715	1096
Meghalaya	353	283	207	646	316
Mizoram	240	368	569	369	302
Nagaland	1536	895	470	3691	1933
Orissa	10588	13297	51033	54612	50023
Punjab	2739	3849	1121	1709	3235
Rajasthan	19958	28934	41756	46682	34858

1	2	3	4	5	6
Sikkim	142	108	1065	760	590
Tamil Nadu	33758	33176	56885	63959	55830
Tripura	636	567	1348	983	1665
Uttar Pradesh	47722	50908	159073	139801	94535
West Bengal	13389	15526	34278	34722	43931
A & N Islands	21	21	21	78	6
D & N Haveli	60	59	13	50	100
Daman & Diu	13	45	62	92	38
Lakshadweep	0	0	10	105	60
Pondicherry	48	0	36	113	214
Total	372535	390482	863889	806290	764243

*Provisional

Statement-II*Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)**State-wise allocation under IAY for the year 1998-99*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	Allocation*		
		Central	State	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8370.41	2092.60	10463.01
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	184.03	46.01	230.04
3.	Assam	4781.82	1195.46	5977.28
4.	Bihar	27420.52	6855.13	34275.65
5.	Goa	19.29	4.82	24.11
6.	Gujarat	3150.78	787.70	3938.48
7.	Haryana	1853.66	463.42	2317.08
8.	Himachal Pradesh	780.64	195.16	975.80
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	966.16	241.54	1207.70
10.	Karnataka	6320.85	1580.21	7901.06
11.	Kerala	2836.14	709.04	3545.18
12.	Madhya Pradesh	13898.74	3474.69	17373.43
13.	Maharashtra	12494.77	3123.69	15618.46
14.	Manipur	320.57	80.14	400.71

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Meghalaya	359.16	89.79	448.95
16.	Mizoram	83.11	20.78	103.89
17.	Nagaland	246.36	61.59	307.95
18.	Orissa	9574.03	2393.51	11967.54
19.	Punjab	900.86	225.21	1126.07
20.	Rajasthan	4799.63	1199.91	5999.54
21.	Sikkim	92.02	23.00	115.02
22.	Tamil Nadu	7401.28	1850.32	9251.60
23.	Tripura	578.80	144.70	723.50
24.	Uttar Pradesh	30176.52	7544.13	37720.65
25.	West Bengal	10639.62	2659.91	13299.53
26.	A & N Islands	44.40	0.00	44.40
27.	D & N Haveli	43.79	0.00	43.79
28.	Daman & Diu	1.82	0.00	1.82
29.	Lakshadweep	3.65	0.00	3.65
30.	Pondicherry	56.57	0.00	56.57
Total		148400.00	37100.00	185500.00

*Allocation is provisional

Projects pending with CAPART

*428. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is inordinate delay in clearing the projects by the Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of proposals of various States pending with CAPART, State-wise; and

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) and (b) It has been reported by CAPART that generally there is no abnormal delay in clearing the projects by them. However, in a few cases, the delay occurs mainly because of the following reasons :

(i) Proposals received from the N.G.Os. are not formulated according to the prescribed guidelines and hence are required to be referred back.

(ii) Additional time consumed by the correspondence between the N.G.O. and CAPART for eliciting additional information or for seeking/providing clarification.

(iii) Delay in receipt of pre-funding appraisal reports from the monitors.

(e) A Statement giving state-wise details of the proposals pending with CAPART, as on 30.6.1998, is attached.

(d) CAPART has reported that the proposals pending with them are likely to be cleared by 31.12.1998.

Statement

State-wise Detail of the Proposals pending with CAPART as on 30.6.1998

Sl. No.	State/U.T.	No. of Proposals pending with CAPART
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1246
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4
3.	Assam	64
4.	Bihar	464

1	2	3
5.	Delhi	19
6.	Gujarat	61
7.	Haryana	39
8.	Himachal Pradesh	49
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	19
10.	Karnataka	95
11.	Kerala	75
12.	Madhya Pradesh	48
13.	Maharashtra	55
14.	Manipur	107
15.	Meghalaya	5
16.	Mizoram	15
17.	Nagaland	19
18.	Orissa	434
19.	Punjab	1
20.	Rajasthan	261
21.	Tamil Nadu	269
22.	Tripura	10
23.	Uttar Pradesh	348
24.	West Bengal	1112
Total		4819

Provisional

Shatabdi Express Trains

*429. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria adopted for introduction of Shatabdi Express trains;

(b) whether several Shatabdi Express trains are incurring losses;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the total loss incurred on each route during each of the last three years;

(e) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General pointed out that the cost analysis of most of the Shatabdi Express trains have not been worked out by the Government;

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(g) the remedial measures taken by the Government to make these trains viable ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR):

(a) Shatabdi Express have been introduced connecting two importing terminals having upper class segment of travelling public, popular demand and anticipated growth of traffic.

(b) Trainwise cost analysis is not done on the Railways.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Trainwise/routewise analysis is not done on the Railways.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The report of Comptroller & Auditor General is under examination by the Ministry of Railways.

(g) Indian Railways is a departmental undertaking providing rail transport at reasonable costs, while, at the same time, maintaining financial viability of the system. As a part of the Government, Indian Railways are expected to provide the basic transport infrastructure for promoting economic growth and industrialisation of the country. After initial phase of stabilisation, gradually, Shatabdi Expresses are becoming popular mode of travel.

[Translation]

Allocation of Fund under JRY

*430. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI :
SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated and actually disbursed under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana during 1996-97 and 1997-98, State-wise;

(b) whether any comprehensive assessment of this scheme has been made by the Government in term of generation of employment; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) State-wise amount allocated and actually disbursed under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) during 1996-97 and 1997-98 is given in the attached statement.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Two round of Concurrent Evaluation of JRY have been conducted. The first round was conducted from January, 1992 to December, 1992 and the second round from June, 1993 to May, 1994. In terms of employment generation, the second round of Concurrent Evaluation revealed that a JRY worker got 11 mandays of employment on an average during the last 30 days preceding the day of survey as against 3.81 mandays during the first round of Concurrent Evaluation. These evaluations also revealed that the share of SCs/STs and landless labour was 54% & 38% and 47.16% & 36.2% of wage employment generated during first and second round respectively. The share of women in the employment was 16.59% during the second round as against 20% during the first round of Concurrent Evaluation.

Statement

Central Allocation & Release under JRY during 1996-97 & 1997-98

(Rs. lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	1996-97		1997-98	
		Allocation	Release	Allocation	Release
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13897.91	14594.96	15528.39	16685.84
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	142.64	103.88	159.37	102.064
3.	Assam	4574.54	3186.93	5111.22	5524.152
4.	Bihar	27260.46	22856.07	30458.60	29322.768
5.	Goa	154.12	116.88	172.20	104.384
6.	Gujarat	5101.00	4419.33	5690.44	5747.72

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Haryana	1225.45	1195.38	1369.22	1624.752
8.	Himachal Pradesh	489.73	388.12	547.18	403.464
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	995.14	1199.75	1111.89	974.624
10.	Karnataka	9332.27	8873.18	10427.12	10353.992
11.	Kerala	3395.33	3286.60	3793.66	3734.12
12.	Madhya Pradesh	17611.61	15453.15	19677.78	18977.152
13.	Maharashtra	15150.04	14338.51	16927.42	16816.088
14.	Manipur	182.82	129.92	204.27	248.52
15.	Meghalaya	213.92	106.95	239.02	159.584
16.	Mizoram	90.12	84.21	100.69	102.872
17.	Nagaland	229.31	210.66	256.21	243.128
18.	Orissa	11274.49	10709.94	12597.20	13421.32
19.	Punjab	871.51	809.26	973.75	892.792
20.	Rajasthan	7317.12	7231.81	8175.55	8351.864
21.	Sikkim	83.49	81.37	93.28	96.784
22.	Tamil Nadu	12563.97	12088.51	14037.96	14564.384
23.	Tripura	237.46	237.45	265.32	476.352
24.	Uttar Pradesh	33867.93	32442.69	37841.25	35894.152
25.	West Bengal	12455.47	9564.86	13916.74	9066.992
26.	A & N Islands	84.41	42.21	94.31	50.7
27.	D & N Haveli	45.81	44.57	51.18	50.22
28.	Daman & Diu	26.99	26.99	30.16	16.21
29.	Lakshadweep	42.32	21.16	47.28	25.41
30.	Pondicherry	82.64	64.68	92.34	74.37
Total		179000.00	163909.98	200000.00	194106.73

[English]

Malhotra Panel Report

*431. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :
SHRI SADASHIV RAO MANDLIK :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Malhotra Panel has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the details of the recommendations accepted by the Government; and

(d) the strategy adopted by the Government to cope with the sanctions imposed on the foreign grants to the Housing Sector ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Part-I of the Report of the Committee regarding residential properties has been received. The main recommendations are given in the enclosed statement. The recommendations involving amendments to the Master Plan have been

examined and the proposed amendments with some modifications have been notified calling for objections/suggestions. After the same are scrutinised, the final decision of the Government will be notified. Thereafter the necessary amendments to the Building Bye-laws will also be carried out.

(d) From the present assessment, there is likely to be no impact of sanctions or the flow of external assistance to projects in the Housing Sector. All on-going projects will continue to be financed.

Statement

The Salient Features of the Recommendations made in the Malhotra Committee Report

Sl. No.	Malhotra Committee's Recommendation
1	2
1.	Permissible Ground Coverage and FAR : The permissible ground coverage & FAR has been recommended for increase by the Committee.
2.	Basement : Basement if constructed shall be allowed for house-hold storage and services as equivalent to the ground floor coverage without counting the same towards FAR.
3.	Permissible use of basement : The Committee has recommended that professional consultancy services may be allowed in the basement.
4.	Toilet Block in the Basement : It has been recommended that toilet block be allowed in the basement subject to the condition that appropriate disposal arrangement of the effluent from the toilet is ensured.
5.	Group Housing Schemes : The Committee has recommended :
	(a) that permitted FAR may be increased from 133 to 167 for the future, so as to provide for one additional floor;
	(b) that minimum streets in front of the Group Housing should be 18 mtrs. instead of 20 mtrs.;
	(c) it has been recommended that in case Group Housing have more than one block, one canopy per block on the ground floor not exceeding 4.5 mtrs. in length and 2.4 mtrs. in width may be allowed;
	(d) that balcony/balconies at roof level with width of 1.2 mtrs. each and an area not exceeding 3.5 sq. mtrs. per bed room but not exceeding 3 in number per flat may be allowed;

1	2
	(e) that a balcony having entrance from the toilet/bath room and the width as 1.2 mtrs. may be allowed for drying the cloths;
	(f) that additional space may be allowed to cater to the community needs etc. like recreational, hall, clubs, etc.
6.	Changes in old constructions in walled city : Internal changes in old constructions (existing prior to formation of corporation) in the walled city may be permitted subject to maintaining the same height, use, coverage and outer walls.
7.	Sunshades : Projections/sun-shades (not more than 0.45 mtr. wide) may be permitted on public roads over windows above ground floor.
8.	Farm Houses : Minimum area of farm houses may be reduced from 2.5 acres to 1 acre and permissible coverage and FAR be increased to 5% and 10% respectively of the farm land which includes services. Area of dwelling units should not exceed 300 sq.m. Out of FAR of 10, 6 may be allowed for DUS and 4 for services : maximum permissible height may be 8 mtrs.
9.	Use of residential Buildings for imparting professional consultancy services : 25% of FAR or 50 sq.m. whichever is less may be used for non-residential non-nuisance activity for rendering services based on professional consultancy in residential plots flats.
10.	Portion of plot affected by ROW : For plots affected under ROW, land may be taken as free of cost at the time of sanction of building plans and benefit of coverage and FAR given on the gross area of the plot.
11.	Area of mummy : A mummy over staircase on top floor may be permitted outside the FAR.
12.	Toilet in terrace : Toilet in terrace having 2.2 mt. height may be permitted.

Defence Co-operation with USA

*432. DR. ASIM BALA :

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and the United States have decided to hold fresh talks on Defence Co-operation in view of the slow progress of this programme in the past;

(b) whether the US Army Chief during his recent visit of India had discussions with the Defence personnel and visited Kashmir and some other parts of the country;

(c) if so, the extent to which India and the United States have agreed on the Defence Co-operation;

(d) whether any agreement in this regard has been reached; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) and (c) General Dennis J. Reimer, Chief of Staff, U.S. Army visited India from April 13-17, 1998. During his visit General Reimer called on the Raksha Mantri, Defence Secretary and Foreign Secretary. He also called on the Chiefs of Staff of the three Services. General Reimer visited Kashmir and some other parts of the country and met the GOC-in-C Northern Command, GOC-15 Corps as well as the GOC-in-C Eastern Command. General Reimer's visit was a ceremonial and goodwill visit. However, during his meetings with Indian dignitaries, he discussed defence-related aspects of Indo-US relations and some international issues.

(d) No agreement on defence cooperation was signed during the visit.

(e) Does not arise.

Declaration of Mega City

*433. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV
(Jhanjharpur) :
SHRI VITHAL TUPE :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria fixed for declaring 'Mega City' under Mega Cities Scheme;

(b) the number of on-going projects under the scheme alongwith their present status and financial allocations;

(c) whether some State Governments have sought additional financial assistance in this regard;

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

(e) whether the Government propose to include some more cities under the scheme; and

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

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) The Government

have not declared any city as "Mega City" under the Mega Cities Scheme. However, cities with population of 4 million and above, as per 1991 census (excluding Delhi) have been included under the Mega Cities Scheme.

(b) There are 95 on-going projects under Mega Cities Scheme. The details of present status of implementation of on-going projects under Mega City Scheme are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

The fund sharing under Mega City Scheme is 25%—Central Government, 25% — State Government and 50% of cost of approved project is to be met by Institutional Finance through financial institutions and Capital Markets. So far, an amount of Rs. 358.70 Crore has been released as Central Share, Rs. 503.36 Crore has been released by State Government as State Share and Institutional Finance to the tune of Rs. 530.64 Crore has been mobilised by various Nodal Agencies under Mega City Scheme.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The details are given in the enclosed Statement-II

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Question does not arise.

Statement-I

Details of Implementation Status of Ongoing Projects under MEGA CITY SCHEME

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Present Status (% expenditure)
1	2	3
I. Bangalore Mega City Project		
1.	Sirsi Circle to Town Hall Flyover Project	18%
2.	Madivala Shopping Complex Phase-II	24%
3.	Construction of Grade Separator at Richmond circle	1%
4.	Construction of electric crematorias at Banashankari	23%
5.	Construction of electric crematoria at Bommanhalli	23%
6.	Development of Taverekere Park	20%
7.	Development of JP Park at Mathikere	1%
8.	Construction of IRR	32%

1	2	3
9.	Iron & Steel Market	25%
10.	Construction of ORR (a) ROB at Benniganahalli (b) NH 4 to Sarjapur road	26%
11.	Improvement of Water Supply Scheme	30%
II. Hyderabad Mega City Project		
1.	Ameerpet Commercial Complex	5%
2.	Water Supply & Sewerage Schemes	10%
3.	Saheb Nagar Sites & Services	Nearing Completion
4.	Manikonda Sites & Services	5%
5.	Construction of Flyovers-I	24%
6.	Necklace Road Phase-II	20%
7.	Flyovers-II	45%
8.	Parallel Bridge at Moosi river	9%
9.	Parks & Play grounds	8%
10.	Road under bridges & road over bridges	13%
11.	Flyovers-III	9%
12.	NTR garden	Works recently started
III. Mumbai Mega City Projects		
1.	Street Lighting (BEST)	45%
2.	Development of Nodal Bus Station	10%
3.	Upgradation of Existing Relief Shelter	2%
4.	Land Development at Khargar	25%
5.	Underpass at Vashi Node	Nearing Completion
6.	Street Lighting (TMC)	85%
7.	Shopping Complex-cum-Town Hall	55%
8.	Sports Complex	68%
9.	Diesel Crematoria	50%
10.	ROB in Kalyan Shil Patri Road	25%
11.	Development of 404 hectare Industrial park at Kalambohi	8%

1	2	3
12.	ROB at Khandeshwar on Belapur- Panvel Rly. Line.	8%
13.	Toilet Complexes	20%
14.	Construction of Gutters	10%
IV. Chennai Mega City Project		
1.	Widening of Gandhi Irwin Bridge	Work being executed by Railways.
2.	FOB at Gengu Road	Nearing Completion
3.	Storage Reservoir at Triplicane	60%
4.	Storage Reservoir at Kannappur Thidal	55%
5.	Clear Water Transmission from Red Hills to Porur	90%
6.	MMDA Tower-II	53%
7.	Widening of Gandhi Irwin Bridge	Nearing Completion
8.	Construction of raised Panel at Perambur	Work being executed by Railways.
9.	Widening of Napier Bridge	10%
10.	Construction of Head Works	40%
11.	Providing Sewerage facilities	80%
12.	Re-routing of Sewers & providing large size sewers	5%
13.	Sewer facilities	35%
V. Calcutta Mega City Project Water Supply Schemes		
1.	Rajarhat	29%
2.	Uttarpara	65%
3.	Nabagram	50%
4.	Nungi Shyampur	83%
5.	Jatia, Ganipur & Nabapally	97%
6.	Balli, Banka, Serenga & Belanagar Abhoynagar	96%
7.	Andul Moihari	62%

1	2	3
8.	Bouria, Uluberia, Chengail	Nearing Completion
9.	Deulpara	78%
10.	Augmentation of Sources	87%
11.	Serampore T.P. Integration-II	Nearing Completion
12.	Improvement of W.S. JDV. Behala	22%
13.	U.G.R. at Salt lake & Lake town	96%
14.	New Supply Lines and Sources	88%
15.	Augmentation of Garden Reach TP	26%
16.	Stabilisation of Howrah W.W.	60%
17.	Boosting Station at Mohammad Ali Park	98%
18.	Balance portion of 1500 MM Palta-Talla water main	37%
19.	Augmentation of Padampukur W.T. Plant.	2%
Traffic & Transportation		
20.	Konnacar Rly. Underpass	88%
21.	Ultadanga Rly. Underpass	62%
22.	Salkia Flyover	78%
23.	R.B. Connector Widening	76%
24.	Improvement of roads in municipal towns	90%
25.	Garia Bridge	Nearing Completion
26.	Widening of EMBP-I	36%
27.	Widening of EMBP-II	73%
28.	Construction of P.A. Shah Road	20%
29.	Road over bridge at Lake Garden	2%
30.	Road over bridge at Bondelgate	3%
31.	BKP - DDM Expressway	1%
Sewerage and Drainage		
32.	Bangur Avenue Sewerage	95%
33.	Improvement of Branch Channel of T.P. Basin	90%
34.	Sewerage in CMC Wards 111-112	63%
35.	Conversion of Latrine in Municipal Areas	92%
36.	Removal of drainage congestion in HMC Wards	67%

1	2	3
37.	Renovation of Tapsia P.S.	84%
38.	Removal of drainage congestion in Nandan Nagar	87%
39.	Storm Drainage within HMC Wards 1-16 (Phase-I)	35%
Solid Waste Management		
40.	MIG Housing at Baishnabghata Patuli	36%
41.	Area Development at Kasba	24%
42.	Housing at Golf Green	67%
43.	Barrachpur Housing	36%
44.	CMDA Housing at Baghajatin	1%
Bustee Development		
45.	B.I Work at CMC Wards	81%

Statement-II

Details of Additional Financial Assistance Sought by State Governments under Mega City Scheme

Name of State	Details of additional financial assistance sought by the State Government
1. Calcutta (West Bengal)	The State Government has requested for enhancement of Central Share to Rs. 50 Crores per year for Calcutta Mega City Project.
2. Hyderabad (Andhra Pd.)	The State Government has requested for enhancement of Central Share to Rs. 25 Crores per year for Hyderabad Mega City Project.
3. Chennai (Tamil Nadu)	The Nodal Agency for Chennai Mega City Project has request for equal and matching Central Share corresponding to the State Share released to Nodal Agency by the State Government under the scheme. The State Government has also requested for enhancement of Central Share to Rs. 200 Crores for 9th Five Year Plan period for Chennai Mega City Project.
4. Bangalore (Karnataka)	The State Government has requested for equal and matching Central Share corresponding to the State Share released to Nodal Agency year under Mega City Scheme.

Misuse of Land Licence

*434. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of cases of land licences issued by Railways to private parties are being misused by the licencees in violation of the licencing agreements;

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken by the Government to terminate the licences of such cases;

(c) whether the Government have also considered the desirability of terminating licencing agreements of Railway lands held by private parties in order to let them not to claim propertorial rights on such lands;

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

(e) whether the Government would review and revoke such licencing agreements; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR):
(a) and (b) No, Sir. However, in the event of violation by the licensee of any terms or conditions of the licence agreement, suitable action including de-licensing and eviction from the premises is taken.

(c) to (f) Railway land is licensed on yearly basis and is renewed every year after review. The standard agreement provides for determining and putting an end to the licence by either party at any time with 3 months notice. The agreement also provides that nothing contained in the agreement shall be construed to create a tenancy in favour of licencee.

[Translation]

Purchase of Sub-Standard Ammunitions

*435. SHRI MOTI LAL VORA :
SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have suffered losses amounting to crores of rupees on account of purchase of sub-standard equipment for armed forces as has been reported in *Dainik Jagaran* dated June 14, 1998;

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

(c) whether the Government have investigated the matter; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the follow-up action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) Government has seen the report published in *Dainik Jagaran* dated June 14, 1998. In this connection a statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

The news report published in *Dainik Jagaran*, dated June 14, 1998, draws its conclusions from the Report of the CAG for the year ending, March, 1997. The details of projects, which have been highlighted in the news report are as follows :

- (i) Procurement of radars : The problems in most of these radars have been rectified and these are now in operation. One radar is being repaired and another met with an accident which is being investigated.
- (ii) Procurement of Barrels : The barrels already procured will be utilised in the coming years. More barrels as required would be procured.
- (iii) Procurement of ammunition : Due to technological upgradation, ammunition was supplied without a certain mechanism which had performed better in field trial.
- (iv) Procurement of Missiles : Out of a number of missiles procured from abroad in 1994, a few misfired. The reasons for the misfire are under investigation.
- (v) Import of Equipment Wattmeter : Some quantities of equipment Wattmeter were imported in 1989, inclusive of accessories and spares. Subsequently some of the accessories/spares were deleted from the scope of supplies through an amendment to the contract. On receipt of the contract, it was found that certain accessories were not supplied while certain other items not included in the contract were supplied. As per advice of the inspecting authorities to the effect that the Equipment will meet the intended purpose with the received accessories, the Equipment were issued to the user units.
- (vi) Import of Tank Fire Control System (TFCS) from Yugoslavia : The matter has already been taken up with the Government of Yugoslavia at the highest level through the Ministry of External Affairs and also through our Ambassador in Belgrade
- (vii) Procurement of rifles and its ammunition : Against the contract concluded in 1993 the foreign vendor backed out. To prevent

recurrence of such instances, furnishing of Performance Bond has been made a precondition in all import contracts. The loss is notional, as actual supplies against the contract were never made.

- (viii) Supply of 1000 Low Level Parachutes : The supplier modified all the 1000 parachutes in February, 1997. These modified parachutes have been accepted by our Board of Officers for operational and training requirement of Airborne forces. As such, no loss has been incurred in the procurement of 1000 nos. of low level parachutes.

[English]

Globalisation of Railways

*436. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Railways have decided to go global;
- (b) whether Indian Railways have become International with the opening of corridors for Bangladesh and Pakistan;
- (c) if so, the efforts being made by the Railways to plan globalisation in the world;

(d) whether the Government are considering to develop Railways in a number of countries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR):

(a) Yes, Sir, in as much as participating in cross country traffic & tapping business abroad.

(b) Corridors with Bangladesh and Pakistan are already functional. Interchange with these two countries is regulated by agreements.

(c) Indian Railways have agreed in principle to participate in Trans Asian Railway link to provide rail link between Europe and South East Asia via Iran, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia. In addition to this Railway's Public Sector Undertakings like Indian Railway Construction Company Ltd. (IRCON) and Rail India Technical & Economic Services Ltd. (RITES) have taken projects abroad earning foreign exchange. Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR) is handling containers in association with other agencies in India & abroad to transport International cargo.

(d) IRCON and RITES bid for the contracts for works, consultancy, training etc. abroad so as to earn foreign exchange.

(e) Details of the work being executed by IRCON and RITES are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

List of projects abroad being executed by IRCON & RITES

IRCON

1. Bangladesh	Widening & Strengthening of Sona Masjid Nawabganj section	35 crores (Rs.)
2. Nepal	Thankot-Naubise Highway	13 crores (Rs.)
3. Malaysia	Machine track relaying	11 crores (Rs.)
4. Tenzania	MG Diesel locos 10 nos.	On lease
5. Vietnam	Passenger coach 150 nos.	292.50 lakhs (Rs.)

RITES

6. Bangladesh	Supply of MG locos - 10 nos including training etc.	3430.15 lakhs (Rs.)
7. Srilanka	-do-	1953 lakhs (Rs.)
8. Tanzania	-do-	2030 lakhs (Rs.)
9. Puttalam	Supply of one BG loco	385 lakhs (Rs.)
10. Peru	Supply of diesel loco	120.30 lakhs (Rs.)
11. Bangladesh	Maintenance of locomotive	1800 lakhs (Rs.)

12.	Vietnam	Supply of spare parts for diesel locomotives	292.18 lakhs (Rs.)
13.	Srilanka	Supply of locomotive	33.00 lakhs (Rs.)
14.	Srilanka	Supply of locomotives	223.40 lakhs (Rs.)
15.	Vietnam	Supply of 4 BG locomotives	1953 lakhs (Rs.)
16.	Mozambique	Financial expertise	.176 m. US\$
17.	Botswana	Management Support Services	.252 m. US\$
18.	-do-	Management Accounts Services	.115 m. US\$
19.	-do-	Positioning of AGM (Infra)	.132 m. US\$
20.	Tanzania	General Management Service	.641 m. US\$
21.	Nepal	Costruction Management	248 lakhs (Rs.)
22.	Bhutan	Tender documents etc.	28 lakhs (Rs.)
23.	Nepal	Rehabilitation of bridges	10.10 lakhs (Rs.)
24.	Nepal	Enviroinment Study	7 lakhs (Rs.)
25.	Tanzania	Track renewal projects	.026 m. US\$
26.	Nepal	River Training works	25 lakhs (Rs.)
27.	Malaysia	Upgradation of railway bridges	.077 m. US\$
28.	Malaysia	Maintenance of coaches & wagons	.038 m. US\$
29.	Malaysia	Consultancy on short term	.090 m. US\$
30.	Jamaica	Techno-economic study	.152 m. US\$
31.	Tanzania	Road project	.140 m. US\$

**Operational Cost of Indian Airlines &
Air India**

(Rs. in crores)

*437. DR. SAROJA V. : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have assessed the operational cost of Indian Airlines and Air India;

(b) if so, the percentage of total earnings of both the Airlines being spent on this head during the last one year;

(c) whether the Government have taken any action to reduce the expenditure; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The operating expenses, total earnings and percentage of operating expenses to total revenue of Indian Airlines and Air India during the year 1997-98 are as under :

	Indian Airlines	Air India
Operating Expenses	2939.10	4031.81
Total Revenue	3217.25	3988.36
Percentage of Operating Expenses to total Revenue	91.35	101.08

(c) and (d) Some steps taken by the two airlines to control expenditure and increase productivity are as follows:

Air India

- (i) Marketing efforts have been stepped up to generate additional revenue.
- (ii) Network rationalisation 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 in various departments.

Indian Airlines

- (i) Closure of off-line stations and reduction in the number of booking offices.
- (ii) Ban on recruitment, unless absolutely necessary for operational reasons.
- (iii) Drastic cut in the expenditure on office buildings.
- (iv) Freeze on capital expenditure unless absolutely necessary for operational reasons.
- (v) Reduction in frequencies of loss making routes.

Defective Cartridges supplied by Khamaria Ordnance Factory

*438. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Air Headquarter declared 1.08 lakh cartridges supplied by Ordnance Factory Khamaria during 1990-93 unfit for the intended use of training of aircrew in fighter aircraft;

(b) if so, the details of the defects identified, value of the cartridges declared unfit and the authority that cleared the use of sub-standard material for the manufacture of cartridges; and

(c) the steps proposed to initiate to ensure quality control in the products manufactured by the Ordnance Factories ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Out of 7.18 lakh rounds supplied to Air Force upto 1993, 96,683 rounds of ammunition valued at Rs. 2.53 crores were declared unfit for the intended use of training of aircrew on fighter aircraft. Indian Air Force have subsequently cleared the use of these cartridges for the training of air crew from IL-76 aircraft.

The enquiry conducted by Air Headquarters identified the defect as 'splintering of shells' and attributed the reason to shell material. All these 7.18 lakh rounds were manufacture using substitute steel material SSE-30 for shells in place of the material specified by the foreign collaborator due to its non-availability from the indigenous sources. The use of this substitute material was authorised by Directorate of Technical Development and Production (Air), now Directorate General Aeronautical Quality Assurance (Air) [DGAQA(Air)] as the inspection agency as well as Authority Holding Sealed Particulars (AHSP). Even

while the substitute material was in use, efforts to develop the material to original specifications were being made concurrently.

Pursuant to the enquiry and as per the directives of DGAQA(Air), the use of substitute material was discontinued. Meanwhile steel to collaborator's specification was developed indigenously, which has been in use, defect free, since 1993-94 onwards.

[Translation]

Construction of Roads in Border Areas

*439. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the length of the road required to be constructed along the border to check infiltration and crimes effectively in the border areas;

(b) the progress made in regard to repair and maintenance of on-going construction in Tripura and Manipur areas of eastern border; and

(c) the time schedule fixed for its completion ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Ticket agents in Indian Airlines

*440. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether ticket agents in the Indian Airlines owe to Indian Airlines crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures taken by the Indian Airlines to recover the outstanding amount from these agents;

(d) whether any action has so far been taken against the defaulting agents;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether there is a proposal to give these agencies to the educated unemployed youths; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) As on 30th June, 1998 Indian Airlines

have to recover around Rs. 2.69 crores from defaulting agents.

(c) The following action is taken in case of default in payment of dues by the agents :

- If payment is not received within 24 hours, ticket stock is withdrawn and the agent concerned is placed on cash commissionable basis.
- If payment is not received within the next 72 hours, steps are taken to invoke the Bank Guarantee.
- If the amount of Bank Guarantee falls short of the amount due, legal action is initiated to recover the dues.
- IATA approved agents appointed by Indian Airlines for international sales are governed by IATA Agency Procedure.

- In case of default by these agents, claim is lodged with Airlines Investigation Panel (AIP)-9, (an International Air Travel Association (IATA) body which maintains consolidated Bank Guarantee taken from IATA agents and looks after Agency Administration of IATA agents). This body invokes the Bank Guarantee and makes the payment to the airlines on pro-rata basis.

(d) and (e) A statement showing the dues recoverable from the defaulting agents and the action taken to recover the amounts due is enclosed.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Statement

Dues Recoverable from the Defaulting Agents as on 30th June, 1998

Sl. No.	Name of the Agents and Location	Amount (Rs. Lacs)	Status of Recovery
1	2	3	4
1.	R.K. Travels, Delhi	4.31	Legal proceedings initiated.
2.	Travel Mart, Delhi	5.55	-do-
3.	Mac Travels, Aligarh	7.75	-do-
4.	Razdan Travels, Noida	21.94	-do-
5.	Shah Travels, Srinagar	21.53	-do-
6.	A.S. Travels, B'garh	4.71	-do-
7.	Globe Travels, Gurgaon	1.27	-do-
8.	Poonam Airfreight, Delhi	2.71	-do-
9.	Om Sai Travels, Noida	1.27	-do-
10.	Kabir Travels, Rohtak	1.65	-do-
11.	Combined Travels, Delhi	2.99	-do-
12.	Winfield Travels, Delhi	43.17	-do-
13.	R.R. Travels, Delhi	4.87	-do-
14.	G.K. Travels, Delhi	4.36	-do-
15.	Kwick Travels, Delhi	11.96	Legal proceedings initiated for Rs. 9.96 lakhs and for int' 1 dues of Rs. 2.00 lakhs claim lodge with AIP-9
16.	Kunal Travels, Delhi	2.14	Claim lodged with AIP-9
17.	Blue Bird Travels, Srinagar	0.79	Legal Proceedings initiated.

1	2	3	4
18.	Senior Travels, Mumbai	0.65	Legal Proceedings initiated.
19.	Prakash Travels, Rajkot	0.12	Recovery action initiated.
20.	Sree Gajanan, Nasik	0.05	-do-
21.	Trident Travels, Ahmedabad	0.31	Claim lodged with IAAI.
22.	Leader Travels, Karachi	2.10	Recovery is doubtful, may have to write-off.
23.	Western Travels, Karachi	1.76	-do-
24.	Real Value, Mumbai	25.00	Bank Guarantee being invoked.
25.	Olympic Express, Mumbai	14.00	-do-
26.	Ravi Travels, Pune	35.00	-do-
27.	ACSCO Travels, Shillong	5.03	Legal proceedings initiated.
28.	Ganesh Travels, Agartala	5.67	-do-
29.	Haokip Travels, Imphal	1.13	-do-
30.	Panorama Travels, Vizag	0.62	Matter referred to IAAI
31.	Travel Point, Hyderabad	9.51	Legal proceedings initiated.
32.	Sagar Travels, Chennai	1.64	-do-
33.	United Tours, Calicut	0.91	-do-
34.	Lavanya Tours, Calicut	0.40	Recovery action initiated.
35.	Abroo Travels, Chennai	0.37	Decree obtained in favour of IA. Realisation process is in progress.
36.	Menaka Travels Hyderabad	12.36	-do-
37.	Silver Streak, Chennai	2.14	-do-
38.	Hansa Travels, Cochin	6.31	Legal proceedings initiated.
39.	Sonys Travelines, Bangalore	1.21	Bank Guarantee is being invoked.
Total Dues		269.26	

Reduction in expenditure by Indian Airlines

*441. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has embarked upon the measures to reduce the expenditure by decreasing the flights on non-profitable routes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of economically unviable flights of Indian Airlines; and

(d) the steps being taken to make these flights economically viable ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Capacity deployment on uneconomical routes is constantly monitored in Indian Airlines and frequency of operations revised, wherever necessary, to improve economics of operation of these flights.

(c) A statement showing services operated by Indian Airlines including Alliance Air, which did not meet cash cost during the year 1997-98 is enclosed.

(d) As a result of reviews undertaken, frequencies of services on certain sectors were revised, equipment (aircraft) was changed or flights were combined.

Statement

*Indian Airlines Limited
Service not Meeting Cash Cost
(Including Alliance Air)
Domestic (F.Y. 1997-98)*

Sl.No.	Sector
1.	Guwahati – Agartala
2.	Chennai – Bangalore – Coimbatore
3.	Calcutta – Ranchi – Patna – Mumbai
4.	Calcutta – Guwahati
5.	Delhi – Srinagar
6.	Jaipur – Mumbai
7.	Bangalore – Calicut
8.	Chennai – Bangalore – Calicut
9.	Chennai – Coimbatore – Calicut
10.	Calicut – Chennai
11.	Mumbai – Calicut
12.	Chennai – Goa – Ahmedabad – Calcutta
13.	Delhi – Leh
14.	Calcutta – Silchar – Imphal
15.	Delhi – Chandigarh – Amritsar – Delhi
16.	Calcutta – Tezpur – Dimapur – Calcutta
17.	Chennai – Tirupati – Hyderabad
18.	Calcutta – Jorhat – Dimapur – Calcutta
19.	Leh – Jammu
20.	Chennai – Hyderabad – Bhubaneshwar
21.	Mumbai – Aurangabad
22.	Calcutta – Imphal – Jorhat – Calcutta
23.	Delhi – Agra – Khajuraho – Varanasi
24.	Delhi – Khajuraho – Varanasi
25.	Leh – Srinagar
26.	Chennai – Hyderabad
27.	Calcutta – Bhubaneshwar
28.	Delhi – Jaipur – Jodhpur – Jaisalmer

Sl.No.	Sector
29.	Calcutta – Imphal
International	
1.	Kathmandu – Varanasi
2.	Bangalore – Singapore
3.	Calcutta – Singapore
4.	Calcutta – Yangoon – Singapore
5.	Chennai – Singapore
6.	Calcutta – Chittagong*

*Since withdrawn.

Note : The above services also include services operated for part of the year.

**Employment to Dependents of
Contractors Employees**

4250. SHRI AJAY MUKHOPADHYAY :
SHRI MOINUL HASSAN :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a system of giving employment by Bokaro Steel Plant to the dependent of the employees of contractors including HSCL, who die while working for B.S.P. in accident;

(b) if so, the number of such employment given during each of the last three years;

(c) whether a number of cases of such deceased employees of HSCL have been left out despite representing several times; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) In Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) there is a practice of giving employment to one direct dependent of every contractor's employees who is involved in a fatal accident inside the plant. In case of HSCL, the primary responsibility to give employment to the dependent of its deceased employees lies with HSCL. However, in a few cases of fatal accidents in Bokaro Steel Plant involving HSCL employees, Bokaro Steel Plant did provide employment to dependents on humanitarian considerations. The number of such cases, including those of HSCL, in the last three years with year-wise break-up is as follows :

Year	Number of Cases
1995	07
1996	06
1997	06
Total	19

(c) and (d) In the case of the deceased, late Shri Amulya Mahto, an employee of HSCL, the primary responsibility for giving employment to his dependent rests with HSCL. HSCL, due to the large surplus manpower, are not in a position to provide any fresh employment.

[Translation]

Private Builders/Colonizers

4251. SHRI SOHAN POTAI : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any control/check on Private Builders/Colonizers to save lower/middle class plot holders from fraud practised by them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) Since land and housing matters fall under the jurisdiction of the State Government, the State Governments have to make necessary legislations to control the private builders/colonizers. However, a Model Bill to regulate Private Builders/Developers has been formulated by the Government and circulated to all States in 1992 for their guidance and help in formulating legislation to exercise control over builders/promoters. The matter is being regularly monitored by taking up with the State Governments in order to protect the purchasers from the fraudulent dealings of private builders.

An Act for controlling the activities of promoters and builders in Delhi is under consideration. The proposed legislation would provide for compulsory registration of promoters/estate agents, agreement to sale before accepting any advance, promoters, liability for construction of supporting infrastructure and common facilities, transparency in maintaining accounts, prohibition on setting up of unauthorised colonies and penalty for contravention.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Municipality Provisions

4252. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government to extend the provisions of Part IXA of Article 243 Scheduled Areas and Tribal Areas of Article 244 with some exception and modification of Municipality provisions;

(b) the main recommendations of the Committee relating to extension of Municipality to Scheduled Areas;

(c) the initiatives and measures taken by the Government to pursue with the States to constitute State Finance Commissions. District Planning Committees and enact the Act by them to fulfil the constitutional obligations; and

(d) the details of the constitutional and legal problems due to the elections already held in the States in Scheduled Areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) As per Article 243ZC, the Constitution (74th Amendment) Act is not applicable to Scheduled Areas referred to in Article 244 of the Constitution. However, Parliament may, by law, extend the above Act to such Areas with exceptions and modifications. A Committee of Members of Parliament and Experts was constituted by this Ministry to suggest salient features of the law extending the Constitution (74th Amendment) Act to Scheduled Areas. For introducing requisite legislation in the Parliament based on the recommendations of the above Committee, necessary consultation has already been completed with the concerned Ministries. The State Government having Scheduled Areas have also been requested to give their comments on the report of the Committee.

(b) The main recommendations of the Committee relate to the composition of Municipalities in Scheduled Areas, functions and powers of such Municipalities, measures for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes like reservation of seats in Municipalities and also appropriate reservation in development programmes, acquisition of their lands etc.

(c) As a result of the initiative taken by this Ministry, the State Finance Commission has been constituted in a States where the Constitution (74 Amendment) Act as applicable. As per information available, District Planning Committees have been constituted in Karnataka, Kerala, Tripura, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur (in two out of four Districts), West Bengal (in 16 Distt. out of 18 Distts.), Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Daman & Diu.

(d) No such case has been brought to the notice of this Ministry by the States having Scheduled Areas

regarding constitutional and legal problems due to the elections to Municipalities held in Schedule Areas.

Construction of Roads by B.R.O.

4253. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that low grade roads are being constructed by Border Roads Organisation in Modi Coalfield Limited Basundhara area;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The Border Roads Organisation is not constructing roads in Modi Coalfield Ltd. This Organisation is, however, constructing roads for Mahanadi Coalfield Ltd., in Basundhara area, as per the specifications laid down by them.

(b) and (c) In view of above, question does not arise.

C.S.D. Canteens

4254. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of canteens selling household items and liquor, separately, under CSD in Delhi, location-wise and the new consumer items added/deleted, therefrom during January 1997 to May 1998;

(b) the approximate number of officers/jawans and

defence civilians, separately who have availed the facilities from these canteens during the above period, canteen-wise and month-wise;

(c) whether any quota for purchase of liquor has been fixed for armed forces personnel; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, rank-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The various canteens, located in Delhi and selling household items and liquor are :

(i) Army HQ Canteen, near Sena Bhawan.

(ii) Rajputana Rifles Centre Canteen, Delhi Cantt.

(iii) Taurus Canteen in Delhi Cantt.

(iv) Air Force Canteen Race Course, New Delhi.

In addition, all the Defence Units, located in Delhi, have their own Unit Run Canteens to cater to the needs of their clientele.

Detailed list of consumer items added/deleted, during January, 1997 to May 1998 is enclosed as statement-I.

(b) The canteens, as a matter of policy, cater to the needs of the officers and jawans, including Ex-Servicemen, who are attached to them. Defence civilians, having offices near/adjacent to these Canteens, also avail of these facilities except for liquor.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Specific quotas, as detailed in the given statement-II attached, have been laid down for the Armed Forces personnel for purchase of liquor.

Statement-I

List of New Introduced Items from 01 January 97 to May 1998 (Major items)

1.	Soup Set	M/s La Opala Brand
2.	Kitchenette Bowl Set	-do-
3.	Serving Bowl Set	-do-
4.	Nirlep Concave Griddle	M/s Silver Glass Ltd.
5.	Series 1	M/s Titan Ind. Ltd.
6.	Series 11	-do-
7.	TV B & W Ajit 208	M/s BPL Ltd.
8.	-do- 14"	-do-
9.	-do- 14"	-do-
10.	TV Coloured Model FSR	-do-
11.	-do- FTR	-do-

12. Perfume Spray Mistique 60 ml.	M/s Sangam Exports Ltd.
13. Revive Starch 400 Gms	M/s Marico Indo Ltd.
14. Hair and Care Oil 200 ml	-do-
15. Boot Polish Kiwi Black (Liq)	M/s PTK Ltd. Kiwi
16. -do- Brown (Liq)	-do-
17. -do- Natural	-do-
18. Brylcreem Tub 100 Gms	-do-
19. Supremo Socks	M/s Juneja Inds Ltd.
20. Golf Polo T-Shirt (9 items)	M/s Penquin Clothing Co.
21. Wrist Watch Titan (6 Variety)	M/s Titan Industries Ltd.
22. Wrist Watch Timex (8 Variety)	M/s Timex Watches Ltd.
23. Liqueurs Keys and Archers	M/s International Distillery India
24. Whisky Blenders Pride, Oken Glow and Royal Stage	M/s Seagram Mfg Ltd.
25. Batteries Eveready (8 Item)	M/s Eveready Industries India Ltd.
26. Rexona Deodrant Roll	M/s Pond's (India) Ltd.
27. -do- Pump Spray	-do-
28. Exercise Note Books (5 items)	M/s Sangeeta Paper Merchants.
29. Titan Alaram Piece	M/s Titan Industries Ltd.
30. Radio Cassette Recorder AZ 8051	M/s Phillips India Ltd.
31. Legend Prem whisky	M/s Som Distillery
32. Rum Black Fort	-do-
33. Biscuits 10 Brands	M/s Cremics Agro Food Ltd.
34. Crackle 40 Gms	M/s Cadbury India Ltd.
35. Gems 35 Gms	-do-
36. Nutties 40 Gms	-do-
37. Drinking Chocolate 500 Gms	-do-
38. Double Burner Gas Stove S/S Steel	M/s Sunflame Enterprises Pvt. Ltd.
39. Water Filter Candle Low Hite	M/s Goldline Home Appliances
40. Single Burnor S/Steel	M/s SKN Gas Appliances
41. Double Burner S/Steel Gas Stove	M/s SKN Gas Appliances
42. HIP Foot Pump	M/s The Hammer Industries
43. Pheneoil ISI Marked (3 Brands)	M/s Bengal Pharmaceutical Ltd.
44. Mixer-cum-Grinder (2 Brands)	M/s Jain & Company Ltd.
45. Mixer and Grinder	M/s Klean - N Kare Electrical Appl.
46. Alfa Yellow aluminium Foil-1006	M/s Jagdamba Foils.

47. Casual Paper Napkins NA-3003	M/s Jagdamba Foils.
48. Washing Machine Model BS-50 and BS-30	M/s BPL Ltd.
49. Three Pos Cassrole Set	M/s APL Inds Ltd.
50. Electronic Pan	M/s Asiatic Engineers Pvt Ltd.
51. Comfit Sanitary Towels	M/s Christine Hoden (India)
52. Lungi Ganga	M/s Hastimal & Co.
53. Rubber Chappal Size 5 to 9	M/s Prince Rubber Inds. Inds.
54. Briefs Sumertex White (80 to 100 oms)	M/s Dawn Mills Co. Ltd.
55. Vests Diamonds King RN (80-100 oms)	-do-
56. Ford Cotton	M/s Shanta Hosiery Ltd.
57. Robin Nylon	-do-
58. Regent Cotton Sports	-do-
59. Toilet Soap Milk & Roses 75 Gms	M/s Wipro Ltd.
60. Tea Red and Gold 250 Gms	M/s Andrew Yule & Co. Ltd.
61. Helmets (3 Brands)	M/s New Steelbird Inds.
62. Chyawanprash Spl 250 Gms & 500 Gms	M/s Shree Baidyanath Ayurved
63. Lavan Bhaskar Churan 50 Gms	-do-
64. Dant Manjan Lal 50 Gms	-do-
65. Biscuits Bakeman Marie 200 Gms	M/s Bakeman Inds Ltd.
66. Pudim Hara Pearls 10 Caps	M/s Dabur India Ltd.
67. Body Silk Telecom Powder	M/s Calico Cosmetic.
68. Aristocrate Brief Case Fortuna	M/s Universal Luggage Mfg Co.
69. Football, Volleyball and Basket Ball	M/s BM CBE Sports Agencies Ltd.
70. Washing Machine Whirpool (5 Brands)	M/s Whirpool of India Ltd.
71. Domestic Monoblock Pump	M/s Usha International Ltd.
72. Coloured TV Model 35, 51, 54, 51 and 63 (5 Brands)	M/s Kalyani Sharp India Ltd.
73. Dirt. Buster Vacuum Cleaner	M/s Bajaj Electricals Ltd.
74. Mortein Mosquito Mat	M/s. Reckitt & Colman of India Ltd.
75. Mortein Mosquito Repellent Coil	-do-
76. Mysore Detergent Powder 1 Kg	M/s Kamataka Soaps & Detergent Ltd.
77. Cleaning Powder 1 Kg	M/s Fena Ltd.
78. Dish Cleaning Bar 200 Gms	-do-
79. Detergent Powder 1 Kg	M/s Fena Ltd.
80. Detergent Cake 250 Gms	-do-

81. Detergent Cake 125 Gms	M/s Fena Ltd.
82. Prem. Brand Toilet Soap 100 Gms	M/s. JK Helen Curtie Ltd.
83. Bau De Cologne 100 ml	-do-
84. Old Flame XXX Rum	M/s Ranger Breweries Ltd.
85. Britannia Biscuits (9 Brands)	M/s Britannia Industries Ltd.
86. Tirllok Tomato Soup 75 Gms	M/s Corn Production Ltd.
87. Sweet Corn Chicken Soup 58 Gms	-do-
88. Gits Brand Idli Mix 200 Gms Powder	M/s Gits Food Products Pvt. Ltd.
89. Gits Brand Dosa Mix 200 Gms Powder	-do-
90. Kera Coconut Oil 100, 200 and 500 ml	M/s Kerala Karakarshaka Sahakarana
91 "IFB" Washing Machine Model Supremo	M/s IFB Industries
92. "IFB" Washing Machine Model Executive	-do-
93. "Rose Garden" Juicy Frooty Black Current Candy and Butter Punch Toffee (2 items)	M/s Rose Garden Confectioneries Ltd.
94. Godrej Refrigerators (5 Brands)	M/s Godrej Inds Ltd.
95. Payal Rubber Chappals No 5 to 9	M/s Prince Rubber Chappies
96. Tea Lipton Yellow, 250 gms, 500 gms	M/s Hindustan Lever Ltd.
97. Tea Taj Mahal 100 gms, 50 gms	-do-
98 Hext 1 Lit line Pack	M/s Hoechst Schering Agrevo Ltd.
99. -GLS Lamp 60, 100w	M/s The Mysore Lamp works Ltd.
100. Rectangular 17"	M/s Golden Days Creations (P) Ltd.
101. Hanger Folding (3 type)	M/s MVX Hangers Pvt Ltd.
102. P/Cooker United Brand	M/s United Brothers
103. Simco Hair Fixer Gel 150 gms	M/s Simla Chemcials Ltd.
104. Borosil Glass (4 Type)	M/s Borosil Glass Works Ltd.
105. Pam Face Tissues Box	M/s Pam Cosmetics Ltd.
106. Chair Nilkamal Branch (3 Type)	M/s Nilkamal Plastocs Ltd.
107. Tooth Brush VIP (6 Brand)	M/s Joshi Plastic Ind.
108. Golf Set Spalding (4 Type)	M/s RHS Sprts Marketing
109. Casper Brand Mosquito (2 Type)	M/s Tainwala Pwesonal Care
110. Brief (9 Size) Jocky Brand	M/s Page Apprel Mar.f.
111. LML Scooters (4 Type)	M/s ME LML Ltd
112. HMT Tractor (5 Models)	M/s HMT Ltd.
113 Electric Immersion Water Heater (3)	M/s Sunflame Enterprises Pvt. Ltd.
114. Immersoon Rod (4 Types)	M/s Gupta Traders

115. Brief Case Focus (4 Brands)	M/s Samsonite India Ltd.
116. Vest/Brief Rupa (6 Items)	M/s Rupa & Co. Ltd.
117. Mosquito Nets (4 Type)	M/s Sri Ranga Knitwears
118. Riviera Red Wine	M/s Indian Laboratory
119. Ruby Port Wine	-do-
120. White Fort Wine	-do-
121. Videocon Refrigerator (3 Models)	M/s Videocon Appliances Ltd.
122. Videocon Air Conditioners (5 Models)	-do-
123. Sun Brand Umbrellas Diana	M/s Sait Hagice Purushotham
124. Suit Cases VIP (3 Type)	M/s VIP Ind.
125. High Cut Bikini (4 Type)	M/s Pase Apparel Mfg
126. Tissue Wipes 200 gms	M/s SR Foils Ltd.
127. P/Cooker Futura Brand	M/s Hawkins Cookers Ltd.
128. Ultra Ligh Weight Iron (3 Type)	M/s Super Part Ltd.
129. Ultra Shampoo Normal (9 Brand)	M/s Indelcor India Pvt. Ltd.
130. Morton confectionery & (3 Type)	M/s Hoorton Confectionery & Nild Prod. Fac.
131. Hot & Sour Veg & Thick Mishroom	M/s Com Products Co.
132. CTC Tea 500 gms, 250 gms	M/s Tata Tea Ltd.
133. Coffee Maker Preet	M/s Maya Appliances (P) Ltd.
134. Surf Exccel/Exelmatic (4 Type)	M/s Hidustan Lever Ltd.
135. Oven Toaster Groller	M/s Crompton Greves Ltd.
136. Superflame Brand Oven	-do-
137. Atlas Goldline Bicycles 24"	M/s Atlas Cycle Ind.
138. Atlas Goldline Bicycles 22"	-do-

List of Deletion of Items from 01 January 97 to May 98 (Major Items)

1. Sports Shorts Gents (Two items)	M/s Juneja Ind.
2. Hot Wheel: Sunagon (4 items)	M/s Mattel Toys (I) Ltd.
3. Scissors 125. 200 mm	M/s Fiskars India Ltd.
4. Camera Kodak Eroma	M/s Indian Photographic Co.
5. Dinner Sot	M/s Hitkari China Ltd.
6. Ganga Blanket Woollen	M/s Kewal Krishna Mehra
7. Cieling Fan Usha	M/s Usha Co.
8. Navtal Padlock (3 Brand)	M/s Godrej & Boyce Mfg Co.
9. Soap Sunlight & Det Pwd Sunlight	M/s Hindustan Lever Ltd.

10. Chadder L'unia	M/s Lunia Enter.
11. Comb Brite	M/s Quality Plastic
12. Godrej Storewel (3 Type)	M/s Gojdraj & Boyce Mfg Co.
13. Toys & Games (9 Type)	M/s Fun Kool (India)
14. Shoes all Kinds (22 items)	M/s Vishnu Corporation
15. Table Lamp TLB & TLF	M/s Electorflame Ltd.
16. Video Cassette Premium & Super	M/s Supper Enterprises
17. S/Cream Afghan	M/s Patanwala
18. Mosquito Net Manglam	M/s Manglam
19. Brandy Behive	M/s Poly Chem Ltd.
20. Cig Panama	GTC Ltd.
21. Auto Hot Case Recold	M/s Recold Etc. Appl.
22. Typewriter	Ramangton Rand of India
23. Bicycle BSA Gents & Ladies	M/s TT Cycle India Ltd.
24. Oil Postman 2 kg	M/s Ahmed Comerbhoy
25. Exercise Book (4 Type)	M/s Gujrat Sainik Society
26. Poly Sets (4 Sets)	M/s Poly set Product Ltd.
27. Holldal Mohan Leather (2 type)	M/s Mohan Leathers Works
28. Sandwich Tostar	M/s Monarch Engineering
29. Shoe Pantagon No. 7	M/s Pantgon Footwear
30. School Bag Billora	M/s Duke Agencies
31. School Bag	M/s Mx-Servicemen Products
32. Hanger Biju (2 Brand)	M/s Bijoy Enterprise
33. William Products (4 Type)	M/s William Industries
34. Video VCR (2 Type)	M/s Vidio Con International Ltd.
35. Sports Shoe (19 Brand)	M/s Paragon Footwear
36. Onido Color TV (3 Type)	M/s MIRC Electronic Ltd.
37. Hot line cooking Range	M/s Fuse Base India Ltd.
38. Dinner Set/Plates (item 9)	M/s Royal Industries
39. Table Fan/Celling Fan (item 3)	M/s HHP Engineering Ltd.
40. Maicook Oven (item 3)	M/s Expo Machinerics Ltd.
41. Video Con Audio (item 9)	M/s Video Con International Ltd.
42. TV Uptron (item 3)	M/s Uptron India Ltd.
43. Geep Torch Case (item 5)	M/s Geep Industrial Ltd.

44. Rubber Chappals Payal Brand	M/s Prince Rubber Industries
45. Tobu Cycle (items 4)	M/s Tobu Interprises
46. Biscuit Glucose D and Marrie	M/s Britannia Industries Ltd.
47. Fish Mackerals	M/s Costa & Co.
48. Chicken Makhani and Pallak Paneer	M/s Tasty Bite Estables Ltd.
49. Pure Honey 100 gms, 500 gms	M/s Ramtirth Yogashram
50. Helmet Wicket and Dimond	M/s New Steelbird Industries
51. Cloth Khaki Green	M/s Commerical Corporation Ltd.
52. Nirmal Vest (7 Items)	M/s Nirmal Texttle Co.
53. Door Mat Coir Mat (6 Type)	M/s Karala State Coir Co.
54. Natraj Pencil (7 Items)	M/s Natraj Pencil Pvt. Ltd.
55. Kisan Sweet Corn 400 gms	M/s Brooke Bond Lipton India
56. Melmowaro Dinner Set 28 Pc, 15 Pc	M/s Ratachand Harjasrai
57. Hopana Dairy Spl 500 gms	M/s Dalmia Industries Ltd.
58. Radio Paman	M/s Roshini Electronics Pvt. Ltd.
59. Bulbs Electric 100w, 60w, 40w	M/s Gayatri Enterprises
60. Black Ground Pepper 100 gms	M/s Hi-Tech Foods
61. Salt Catch Brand 200 gms	-do-
62. Jam Rex Strawberry	M/s Corn Products
63. Jam Rex Pineapple	-do-
64. Jam Rex Marmalade	-do-

Statement-II*Scales of IMFL Ex. CSD*

The present scales of authorisation of liquor and its equivalent in Ltrs are as follows :

(a) COAS/CNS/CAS on active list and Field Marshals . Admiral of the Fleet/Marshal of the Air Force	No limit. As required from any Service Canteen in India.
(b) Retd. COAS/CNS/CAS	No limit. As required from any Service Canteen in India.
(c) Army Commanders on active list and their equivalents in other two services	No limit. As required from any Service Canteen in India.
(d) Army Commanders or their equivalents from Navy and Air Force on retired list	18 units/13.5 Ltrs per month in any combination as desired from any Service Canteen in India.
(e) Lt Gens and Maj Gens or their equivalents from Navy and Air Force, on active list	16 units/12 Ltrs per month in any combination from the dependent canteen.
(f) All other retired General officers or their requiva- lents from other two Services	14 units/10.5 Ltrs per month in any combination desired from the unit canteen/Station canteen on which dependent/ attached

- | | |
|--|--|
| (g) Brig and their equivalents in Navy and Air Force on Active List | 14 units/10.5 Ltrs per month out of which rum shall be restricted to 6 units/4.5 Ltrs per month. |
| (h) All officers/Nursing Officers on active list including those on deputation with other Departments in India | 12 units/9 Ltr per month out of which rum should not be more than 6 units/4.5 Ltrs. |
| (i) All other retired Service Officers or Ex-Service Officers (Ex MNS Officers are only authorised in case they retain the status of Ex-Servicemen) and Hony Commissioned Officers | 10 units/7.5 ltrs per month out of which rum should not be exceed 6 units/4 5 Ltrs. |
| (j) JCOs of the Army and their equivalents in other two Services on active list | 8 units/6 Ltrs per month out of which rum should not be more than 4 units/3 Ltrs. |
| (k) Retired JCOs of the Army and their equivalents of the other two Services including Hony Commissioned Nb/Sub | 5 units/ 3.75 Ltrs per month out of which rum should not be more than 3 units/2.25 Ltrs. |
| (l) CR and their equivalents in other two Services on active list | 4 units/3 Ltrs per month out of which rum should not be more than 2 units/1.5 Ltrs. |
| (m) All Ex NCOs, CRs and NCsE of the Army and their equivalents in other two Services | 2 units/1.5 Ltrs of rum per month and 1 unit/.75 Ltrs of Brandy/Gin/Whisky/bear etc. |
| (n) CR and their equivalents in other two Services on active list serving in Field uncongenial/high altitude areas. | 5 units/3.75 Ltrs out of which rum should not be more than 3 units/2.25 Ltrs. |

**Air Commander (Retd.) killed in
Air Accident**

4255. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Air-Cor. (Retd.) H.S. Mangat was killed flying a West-land Chopper", published in Indian Express (Chandigarh) dated June 15, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the outcome of the inquiry made by DGCA into the causes of the accident ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) A Westland helicopter of Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited (PHHL) was involved in an accident at Sanjichat on 14.07.1998 resulting in fatal injuries to all the seven occupants on board the helicopter, including Air Cmde. (Retd.) H.S. Mangat who was the Co-pilot of the helicopter.

(c) According to the inquiry conducted by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, the accident occurred because the flight crew continued a VFR (Visual Flight Rules) flight into cloudy environment existing over the helipad and adjoining valley and thereby lost visual contact with the ground, resulting in the helicopter colliding with the hill slope. Non-availability of current weather at Sanjichat was a contributory factor to the accident. Immediately after the accident, PHHL had stopped operations to Sanjichat.

Roads constructed under JRY

4256. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the roads in kilometres constructed under JRY, during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the amount spent thereon, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) and (b) The roads constructed under JRY during the last three years and the amount spent thereon State-wise is as per the given statement.

Statement

Sl.No.	States	Roads Constructed (Kms)			Expenditure incurred	
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1995-96	1996-97
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	24.00	93.66	318.00	9.03	34.45
3.	Assam	995.87	221.97	N.R.	760.68	408.54
4.	Bihar	N.R.	1539.00	N.R.	N.R.	2062.05
5.	Goa	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.
6.	Gujarat	683.00	889.00	N.R.	1039.11	627.11
7.	Haryana	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.
8.	Himachal Pradesh	N.R.	670.00	N.R.	N.R.	436.31
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.
10.	Karnataka	10378.00	N.R.	N.R.	3097.88	N.R.
11.	Kerala	464.19	802.34	722.31	783.66	2068.66
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1593.00	2945.00	N.R.	69.36	1377.95
13.	Maharashtra	2341.74	4082.00	N.R.	705.05	4716.57
14.	Manipur	246.00	454.00	N.R.	21.82	18.75
15.	Meghalaya	47.00	N.R.	N.R.	22.60	N.R.
16.	Mizoram	201.00	11.69	47.50	5.06	27.73
17.	Nagaland	73.00	13.81	N.R.	36.50	7.17
18.	Orissa	2515.62	14026.66	N.R.	4695.24	2405.64
19.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	N.R.	0.00	0.00
20.	Rajasthan	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.
21.	Sikkim	0.00	40.00	0.00	0.00	45.50
22.	Tamil Nadu	240.54	583.06	N.R.	899.95	6534.35
23.	Tripura	573.23	450.00	N.R.	104.70	191.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	6961.00	5307.00	N.R.	6815.19	7998.80
25.	West Bengal	2559.00	7335.00	N.R.	941.98	5224.40
26.	A & N Islands	8.00	4.37	N.R.	1.23	8.23
27.	D & N Haveli	21.10	5.00	35.50	8.09	2.72
28.	Daman & Diu	1.40	0.00	N.R.	2.80	0.00
29.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	N.R.	0.00	0.00
30.	Pondicherry	7.66	N.R.	N.R.	3.11	N.R.
Total		29934.35	39473.50	1123.31	20023.04	34195.93

0.00 - Nil

N.R. - Annual Report not received from State Govt.

[Translation]

Introduction of New Scheme by DDA

4257. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether DDA is contemplating to introduce any new scheme to meet the demand of dwelling units;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of applicants registered under the different schemes are waiting for allotment of DDA flats/plots as on date, Scheme-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) The Delhi Development Authority has not finalised the introduction of any new scheme.

(c) As on date, following registrants are awaiting allotment of flats/plots, scheme-wise :

1. New Pattern Registration Scheme – 1979

MIG	LIG
9662	17558

2. Ambedkar Awas Yojana – 1989

MIG	LIG
3702	6059

3. Janta Housing Registration Scheme – 1996

JANTA
15338

4. Rohini Residential Scheme (Plotted Scheme) – 38295.

[English]

Jawahar Rojgar Yojana

4258. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Programme Evaluation Department of the Planning Commission has made assessment of the Jawahar Rojgar Yojana in Uttar Pradesh;

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

(c) whether the study has revealed that certain Panchayats in Uttar Pradesh have not used the funds received under this scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO), Planning Commission conducted a quick study of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) during 1992 covering the period from April, 1989 to September, 1991. The PEO has selected 10 States including Uttar Pradesh, 20 districts (2 from each State) and 40 Gram Panchayats (2 from each district) for this purpose. From Uttar Pradesh, 4 Panchayats were selected namely, Itai Rampur & Chandapur from Gonda district and Thathiya & Hotpur from Farukhabad district. On the basis of available sample, the study indicated that out of 35.9%, of the total population available for employment, 14.78% and 14.26% actually got employment during 1989-90 and 1990-91 respectively. The percentage of women in the employment generation was 15% to 18% at the Gram Panchayat level. It had also been observed that the quality of assets created in Uttar Pradesh like rural roads, drinking water, wells/ponds and panchayat ghars were good and 80% of the beneficiaries felt that the assets created were useful. The assets created were maintained by the Panchayats. It was also revealed that the Panchayat functionaries were not trained and there was inadequacy of staff to audit the gram panchayat accounts. Technical staff is required to be strengthened at the block level for technical scrutiny of the projects.

(c) and (d) So far as Uttar Pradesh is concerned, the study reveals that the funds were utilized in all the four selected Panchayats during 1989-90 and 1990-91. However, the Chandapur Panchayat of Gonda district did not report any utilization of funds during the first half of 1991-92.

The Government has taken a number of steps to improve the implementation of JRY since its inception. The Programme was first reviewed and streamlined during 1993-94 and again in January, 1996. No Panchayat is allowed to carry over more than 25% of the allocated funds. If carry over exceeds 25%, the Panchayat share equivalent to excess amount is deducted at the time of release of second instalment during the next year. In addition, Monitoring & Vigilance Committees at the village level are constituted to supervise and monitor the implementation of the programme.

Housing Projects for Tamil Nadu

4259. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the housing projects received from Tamil Nadu and approved separately by Housing and Urban Development Corporation during each of the last three years and till date; and

(b) the loan amount to be given for each of these projects and the period by which the projects are likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) The yearwise details of housing schemes sanctioned by HUDCO to different borrowing agencies in the State of Tamil Nadu during the last three years during 1998-99 (upto 30.6.98) are as follows :

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 (As on 30.6.98)
	1	2	3	4
No. of schemes	130	119	104	30
Project cost (Rs. in crores)	219.77	273.42	256.83	53.13

	1	2	3	4	5
Loan Amount (Rs. in crores)	156.55	190.58	176.03	39.46	
Dwelling Units Sanctioned	412.08	44412	72531	6700	
Plots sanctioned	643	1630	-	2159	

Project-wise & year-wise details of sanctioned schemes are enclosed as statement.

HUDCO only finances the housing and urban development projects of various States and the actual construction is done by the implementing agencies. However, each scheme has a different project period normally extending upto three years.

Statement

List of Housing Schemes Sanctioned to Tamil Nadu during 1995-96

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme	Project Cost	loan Amt.	Dwelling	Plot
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	EWS HS-Cum-work, SCH-Handl Mweavrs Vallair	42.58	18.02	117	
2.	EWS HSG SCH. Samoogarangya Ntikunel VEI DT.	46.18	34.32	176	
3.	EWS HS-Cum-Work SCH-Handl MWVRS. Madurai	33.49	14.17	92	
4.	EWS HS-Cum-Work SCH-Handl MWVRS Sirumugai	47.68	20.17	131	
5.	URB. EMP. THR. HSG. & SHL. UPG. SCH., Tirunelveli	23.60	19.95	210	
6.	LIG Coop Cash Loan HSG SC Hchengal Pattu	88.40	74.80	136	
7.	LIG Coop Cash Loan HSG SC Hthanjavur Dist	88.40	74.80	136	
8.	LIG Coop Cash Loan HSG SC Hquaid-E-Millet	88.40	74.80	136	
9.	LIG Coop Cash Loan HSG SC Hin 2 Dists	88.40	74.80	136	
10.	LIG Coop Cash Loan HSG SC Hpudukottai Dist	88.40	74.80	136	
11.	LIG Coop Cash Loan HSG SC Hsalem Dist	88.40	74.80	136	
12.	LIG Coop Cash Loan HSG SC Hmadurai Dist	88.40	74.80	136	
13.	LIG Coop Cash Loan HSG SC Hramanathapuram	88.40	74.80	136	
14.	LIG Coop Cash Loan HSG SC Hkamarajar	88.40	74.80	136	
15.	LIG Coop Cash Loan HSG SC Hpasumpon Thevr	88.40	74.80	136	
16.	LIG Coop Cash Loan HSG SC Hin 2 Dists	88.40	74.80	136	
17.	LIG Coop Cash Loan HSG SC Hchidambaranar	88.40	74.80	136	
18.	NHB REF. HSG SCH at West Cemetery Road	115.35	106.56	64	

1	2	3	4	5	6
19.	URB. EMP. THR. HSG. & SHL. UPG. SCH. in Panruti	33.96	30.56	324	
20.	URB. EMP. THR. HSG. & SHL. UPG. SCH. Pallavaprm	62.26	56.04	594	
21.	URB. EMP. THR. HSG. & SHL. UPG. SCH. Kuzhithuri	12.77	9.77	300	
22.	URB. EMP. THR. HSG. & SHL. UPG. SCH. Nagapatinm	12.77	9.77	300	
23.	URB. EMP. THR. HSG. & SHL. UPG. SCH. in Sattur	10.98	8.98	200	
24.	URB. EMP. THR. HSG. & SHL. UPG. SCH. Kmmaraplym	21.27	16.27	500	
25.	LIG HS AT JJ Nagar, Thiruvottriyur Ph-II Chennai	68.43	58.15	72	
26.	LIG SHG SCH AT JJ Nagar Tiruvottryur-3	68.02	14.18	72	
27.	LIG SHG SCH AT JJ Nagar Tiruvottryur-4	88.42	16.98	96	
28.	LIG HS AT JJ Nagar Tiruvottryur Ph-I Chennai	87.11	74.04	96	
29.	Rural HSG SCH for Marg. FARS. ARCOT GR.II	44.00	30.80	400	
30.	Rural HSG SCH for Marg. Fartiruvannamalai	66.00	46.20	600	
31.	Rural HSG SCH for Marg. Farin Trichy, GR. 9	66.00	46.20	600	
32.	Rural HSG SCH for Marg. Farin Pudukottai	66.00	46.00	600	
33.	Rural HSG SCH for Marg. Farin Salem GR. IX	66.00	46.00	600	
34.	LIG COOP Cash Loan HSG SCH. Ramanathapurm	76.57	60.00	150	
35.	URB. EMP. THR. HSG. & SHL. UPG. SCH. in Vellore	10.47	8.01	246	
36.	URB. EMP. THR. HSG. & SHL. UPG. SCH. Thirumnglm	31.44	28.29	300	
37.	URB. EMP. THR. HSG. & SHL. UPG. Maduranthagam	31.44	28.30	300	
38.	URB. EMP. THR. HSG. & SHL. UPG. SCH. Kovilpatti	21.28	16.28	500	
39.	URB. EMP. THR. HSG. & SHL. UPG. SCH. Pollachi	12.76	9.76	300	
40.	URB. EMP. THR. HSG. & SHL. UPG. SCH. Aruppukoti	17.02	13.02	400	
41.	COMP HSG SCH at Musiri, ST G-I, Tiruchirapl	107.29	77.58	63	
42.	URB. EMP. THR. HSG. & SHL. UPG. SCH. Villupuram	31.50	28.35	300	
43.	URB. EMP. THR. HSG. & SHL. UPG. SCH. Sankarnkil	8.51	6.51	200	
44.	URB. EMP. THR. HSG. & SHL. UPG. SCH. Tenkasti	21.28	16.28	500	
45.	COMP HSG-CUM-P.D. Scheme a Tattur, Salem DT	208.20	144.30	81	235
46.	MIG HSG SCH at Ambattur Chengalpattu	150.12	112.50	60	
47.	EWS HSG-Cum-Work SCH. for Beel Workers	98.78	57.07	439	
48.	LIG HSG SCH on Devdl. Plots at Thudiyalur	98.26	67.26	169	
49.	LIG HS at Annai Sathya NG RPH II, (A-1891)	47.48	33.00	48	
50.	URB. EMP. THR. HSG. & SHL. UPG. SCH., Nagercoil	4.26	3.26	100	
51.	Rural HSG SCH for Marginal Farmers	176.00	123.20	1600	

1	2	3	4	5	6
52.	Rural HSG SCH for Marginal Farmers	220.00	154.00	2000	
53.	Rural HSG SCH for Marginal Farmers Madura	275.00	192.50	2500	
54.	Rural HSG SCH for Marginal Farmers	214.50	150.15	1950	
55.	NHB REF. HSG SCH on DEV. Plotosur PH-X ST 7	91.82	85.22	99	
56.	Rural HSG SCH for Marginal Farm. Vallalar	165.00	115.50	1500	
57.	Compt. HSG. SCH. at District Tirunelveli	279.08	183.07	155	
58.	Composite HG CUM Plotted DEV. at Salem	84.05	59.89	35	48
59.	MIG HSG SCH at Melapatti	83.61	63.00	36	
60.	MIG HSG SCH at Melapatti Ponnappa PH.II	60.04	42.00	24	
61.	Rural HSG SCH for Marginal at Pudukottai	231.00	161.70	2100	
62.	LIG CL HSG SCH in GR. II Dharmapuri	201.50	170.50	310	
63.	MIG HSG SCH on DEV. Plots at Thudivalur	264.85	199.58	163	
64.	EWS CL HSG SCH for Handl Weavers	18.93	8.01	52	
65.	HIG HS PH-I, ST. I, H. Weavernolambur	179.61	107.77	44	
66.	HIG SCH ON DEV. Plots at Thudivalur	171.27	99.54	46	
67.	HIG HSG. SCH. at Nolambur ST. II, Phase-I	198.22	118.93	48	
68.	NHB Refinance HSG SCH at Athikulam	309.80	287.52	160	
69.	LIG HSG SCH at Chitra Nagamadars	169.91	116.88	170	
70.	Comp. HSG. SCH at Kavilpatti	100.84	70.79	60	
71.	MIG Cash Loan HSG SCH	175.10	120.00	150	
72.	MIG Cash Loan HSG in Tiruchirapalli	175.10	120.00	150	
73.	MIG Cash Loan HSG in South Area	175.10	120.00	150	
74.	MIG Cash Loan HSG in Dharmapuri	175.10	120.00	150	
75.	LIG CL HSG. SCH. in S. Arcotvallalar	201.50	170.50	310	
76.	LIG Cash Loan HSG SCH. in Coimbatore	201.50	170.50	310	
77.	LIG Cash Loan HSG SCH. Kanniyakumari	201.50	170.50	310	
78.	LIG Cash Loan HSG SCH. Periyar	201.50	170.50	310	
79.	HIG Cash Loan HSG SCH. Idindigul	325.00	195.00	65	
80.	HIG Cash Loan HSG SCH. Periyar, Salem	325.00	195.00	65	
81.	HIG Cash Loan HSG SCH. Chengalpattu	335.00	200.00	100	
82.	HIG Cash Loan HSG SCH. Coimbatore	335.00	200.00	100	
83.	HIG Cash Loan HSG SCH. Salem & Periya	335.00	200.00	100	
84.	HIG Cash Loan HSG SCH. Chengalpattu	325.00	195.00	65	

1	2	3	4	5	6
85.	Rental HSG SCH for Govt. in Chennai Madras	285.37	197.44	88	
86.	Rental HSG SCH for Govt. Chennai Madras	289.48	199.75	96	
87.	Rental HSG SCH for Govt. Chennai Madras	289.48	199.75	96	
88.	LIG HSG SCH at Nallankupa Nellikuppam Madras	141.85	115.50	168	
89.	LIG Cash Loan HSG SCH in Salem	201.50	170.50	310	
90.	LIG Cash Loan HSG SCH in Pudukkottai	201.50	170.50	310	
91.	LIG CL HSG SCH in Madurai	201.50	170.50	310	
92.	LIG Cash Loan HSG SCH in Chengalpattu	201.50	170.50	310	
93.	LIG Cash Loan HSG SCH in Padayatchi	201.50	170.50	310	
94.	LIG Cash Loan HSG SCH in Thanjavur	201.50	170.50	310	
95.	HIG CL HSG SCH in Madurai & Dindigul	335.00	200.00	100	
96.	MIG CL HSG SCH in Kamaraj & Tirunelveli	291.83	200.00	250	
97.	MIG CL HSG SCH in Madurai & Dindigul	291.83	200.00	250	
98.	MIG CL HSG SCH in Madurai & Dindigul	332.50	199.50	133	
99.	MIG CL HSG SCH in Salem & Pferiyar	291.83	200.00	250	
100.	MIG CL Loan HSG SCH Puduk O & Pasumponthev	291.83	200.00	250	
101.	MIG CL HSG SCH in Thanjav U & Nagai Quaid	291.83	200.00	250	
102.	MIG CL SCH Chidambaranar & Kanniyakumari	291.83	200.00	250	
103.	MIG CL SCH in Chengalpatt U & Villupuram	291.83	200.00	250	
104.	HIG HSG SCH at Mogappair Madras	324.51	192.00	64	
105.	HIG HSG SCH at Maduravoyal Madras	315.07	189.04	108	
106.	HIG CL SCH in Ambedkar & Thiruvannamala	291.83	200.00	250	
107.	NHB Refinace HSG SCH at Andipatti	541.95	502.97	588	
108.	Comp. HSG SCH ON DEV. Plots Namakkal PH-3	118.15	81.83	51	
109.	LIG HSG SCH at Singaravelnagar PH-III	207.84	144.38	210	
110.	EWS HS-Cum-Workshed SCH Hand. Weavers	14.56	6.15	40	
111.	MIG HSG SCH at Ambattur Madras	215.31	136.50	78	
112.	LIG Cash Loan HS Tiruvannamalai. Sambuvar	201.50	170.50	310	
113.	LIG Cash Loan HS. Dingigulanna	201.50	170.50	310	
114.	LIG Cash Loan HSG SCH in Ramanathapuram	201.50	170.50	310	
115.	LIG Cash Loan HSG SCH in Kamarajar	201.50	170.50	310	
116.	LIG Cash Loan HSG SCH in Tirunelveli	201.50	170.50	310	
117.	LIG Cash Loan HSG SCH in Chidambaranagar	201.50	170.50	310	

1	2	3	4	5	6
118.	LIG Cash Loan HSG SCH in Tiruchirapalli	201.50	170.50	310	
119.	MIG Cash Loan HSG SCH in Coimbatore	332.50	199.50	133	
120.	MIG Cash Loan HSG SCH in Salem & Periyar	332.50	199.50	133	
121.	MIG Cash Loan HSG SCH in 2 Dists	332.50	199.50	133	
122.	MIG Cash Loan HSG SCH in Ramanathapuram	175.10	120.50	150	
123.	HIG Cash Loan HSG SCH in Coimbatore	325.00	195.00	65	
124.	LIG Cash Loan HSG SCH in N.A. Ambedkar	201.50	170.50	310	
125.	LIG Cash Loan HSG SCH in Quaid-E-Millth	201.50	170.50	310	
126.	LIG HSG SCH EASE Cemerty Road Madras	126.31	88.00	128	
127.	Composite HSG SCH at Kilperumbakkam	295.54	199.78	100	360
128.	LIG Cash Loan HSG SCH in Pasumpon Thevr	201.50	170.50	310	
129.	Rental HSG SCH for Fire S. PERS. 3 Sists.	196.74	188.05	100	
130.	Rental HSG SCH for Police PERS. 3 Dists	348.82	209.29	191	
131.	Rental HSG SCH for Police PERS. 6 Dists	440.27	246.37	215	
Total		21977.25	15655.46	41268	643

List of Housing Schemes Sanctioned to Tamil Nadu during 1996-97

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	Project Cost	loan Amt.	DWEL Ling	Plot
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	LIG HSG SCH for REHB. SLUM DWL. R.G. Nagar	112.96	79.20	144	
2.	LIG HSG SCH for REHB. SLUM DWL. J.J. Nagar	86.30	59.40	108	
3.	LIG HSG SCH for REHB. SLUM DWL. J.J. Nagar	78.31	53.90	98	
4.	LIG HSG SCH for REHB. SLUM DWL. Gondu. Nagar	44.68	32.45	59	
5.	LIG HSG SCH for REHB. SLUM DWL. Pananthope	58.30	33.00	60	
6.	LIG HSG SCH for REHB. SLUM DWL. Pananthope	52.46	29.70	54	
7.	LIG HSG SCH for REHB. SLUM DWL. Pananthope	64.10	36.30	66	
8.	Comp. HSG SCH at Kilperum Viluprm	210.10	132.23	80	
9.	Comp. HSG CUM PLTD. DEV. SCH St-II Ph-I	140.30	96.25	30	
10.	Rural HSG SCH HSG FIR NARG. FAR Tiruchirapalli	220.00	154.00	2000	
11.	Rural HSG SCH HSG FIR NARG. FAR Tiruchirapalli	330.00	231.00	3000	
12.	Rural HSG SCH HSG FIR NARG. FAR MIN Dharampuri	297.00	207.90	2700	
13.	Rural HSG SCH HSG FIR NARG. FAR MIN Salem Dist.	320.00	224.30	2900	
14.	Rental HSG SCH for Fire PERS in 4 Dist.	216.87	130.12	101	

1	2	3	4	5	6
15.	Rural HSG SCH HSG FIR NARG. Farmers GR-V	220.00	154.00	2000	
16.	Rural HSG SCH for Margina Rural Farmers GR-13	232.50	164.85	2050	
17.	Rental HSG. SCH for Police Urban Personnel	427.45	256.47	251	
18.	Rental HSG. SCH for Police PERS. in 6 Dist.	667.47	386.29	343	
19.	Comp. HSG. SCH at Thoppur Tiruparankndrm	248.39	174.15	97	
20.	Rural HS for Marginal Far Periyar Dist.	187.00	130.90	1700	
21.	Rural HS for Marginal N.A. Ambedkar	148.50	103.95	1350	
22.	Rural HS for Marginal Far Tiruvannamalai	165.00	115.50	1500	
23.	Comp. P.D. SCH at Sankaraper Tuticorin	81.23	67.67	0	339
24.	MIG HSG SCH ON DEV. Plots Kalapatty, COIB	90.39	67.79	98	
25.	MIG HSG SCH at Maduravdya Maduravoyal Madras	174.38	104.62	46	
26.	HIG SHG SCH at Mogappair Madras	2798.53	1677.92	549	
27.	Comp. HSG CUM Plotted DEV. SCH Sankari	776.22	532.83	275	430
28.	Comp. HGG Curo P.D. SCH at Kumbakonam, Thanjavur	446.53	291.72	100	249
29.	Composite HSG SCH at Kottasoundampatty, Salem	547.19	382.78	200	384
30.	Comp. HSG SCH on DEV. Plots Stage II at Erode PHI	604.30	426.26	325	
31.	LIG HS at Navlar NGR, KOR Rukkupet, PH-I, Madras	110.73	84.00	96	
32.	LIG HS at Navalar NGR, KOR Rukkupet, PH-III, Madras	110.73	84.00	96	
33.	LIG HS at Navalar NGR, KOR Rukkupet, PH-IV, Madras	110.73	84.00	96	
34.	LIG HS at Navalar NGR, KOR Rukkupet, PH-V, Madras	110.73	84.00	96	
35.	MIG HSG SCH AT NVN NGR Thirumangalam, Madras	69.71	52.28	18	
36.	LIG HSG SCH AT Navalar NGR. Korrukkupet PH-II MDS	110.73	84.00	86	
37.	MIG HSG SCH AT Palayamkot TAI PH-VI ST-II	48.06	36.04	21	
38.	LIG HSG SCH AT Suthamalli Dist. Tirunelveli ST-I	53.12	45.16	66	
39.	MIG CLHS for Padiyan ROA Dways CORP. EMPSCOOP BLD	208.02	143.60	104	
40.	LIG HSG SCH at Mappillaiy Urani PH-II Stage-I	96.18	72.80	104	
41.	Rural HSG SCH for Marginal Farmers GRXXI SRXIII	165.00	115.50	1500	
42.	Rural HSG SCH for Marginal Farmers GRIII SRXIII	165.00	115.50	1500	
43.	Rural HSG SCH for Marginal Farmers GRXX SRXIII	159.60	111.65	1450	
44.	Rural HSG SCH for Marginal Farmers GRIV SRXIII	176.00	123.20	1600	
45.	Rural HSG SCH for Marginal Farmers GRXV SRXIII	197.50	139.75	1750	
46.	LIG HSG SCH at JJ Nagar Stage-III Nagamangalam	120.02	101.50	145	
47.	LIG HS at JJ Nagar Nagamangalam Stage-V Trichy	81.11	68.60	98	

1	2	3	4	5	6
48.	MIG HSG SCH at Thiruvottar Iyur, PH-V Madras	113.26	84.94	30	
49.	MIG CL HS Pandiyan Roadways Corp. Emp Coop BLD SCY	208.00	145.60	104	
50.	LIG CL HS of Chengai ANNA & MRG, SR.XIV PH-I GR-I	162.50	137.50	250	
51.	LIG CL HS of S.A. Vallalat & VRR, SR.XIV PH-I GR-II	162.50	137.50	250	
52.	LIG CL HS of A.T. PS & NQ-E-M, SRXIV PH-I GR-III	162.50	137.50	250	
53.	LIG CH HS SR.XIV PH-I GR.IV at Thanjavur PM	162.50	137.50	250	
54.	LIG CL HS PH-I GRV Theeran Chinnamalia Salem & TH	162.50	137.50	250	
55.	LIG CL HS SR.XIV PH.I, GR.VI, Pudukottai & Pasumpon T	162.50	137.50	250	
56.	LIG CL HS SR.XIV PH.I, GR.VII, Madurai & Ramanathap	162.50	137.50	250	
57.	LIG CL HS SR.XIV PH.I, GR.VIII, Mannar Thirumalai & VA	162.50	137.50	250	
58.	LIG CL HS SR.XIV PH-I, GR.IX, Kamarajar & TR	162.50	137.50	250	
59.	LIG CL HS in Kanniyakumari, SR.XIV, PH.I, GR.X	162.50	137.50	250	
60.	LIG CL HS. Coimbatore & Nilgiris SR.XIV. PH.I GR.XI	162.50	137.50	250	
61.	LIG CL HS, NA Ambedkar & TV MS, SR.XIV. PH.I GR.XII	162.50	137.50	250	
62.	LIG CL HS, Dharmapuri & Salem, SR. XIV, GR.XIII	162.50	137.50	250	
63.	LIG CL HS of Rajaji & Periyar SR.XIV, PH.I GR.XIV	162.50	137.50	250	
64.	MIG Housing and Commercial SCH.AT Visalakshiammal	84.55	58.90	16	
65.	Comp. HS on Dev. Plots, Kalapatty, Coimbatore, PH.I, STII	90.57	63.71	44	
66.	LIG HS AT JJ Nagar, Nagamangalam, ST.II, Trichy	96.83	81.90	117	
67.	LIG HS AT JJ Nagar, Nagamangalam, ST.IV, Trichy	96.83	81.90	117	
68.	MIG CL COOPL. HS, GR.III, PH.I, Tirunelveli KC & K	200.00	150.00	100	
69.	EWS CL House-Cum-Workshed SCH. for Hand. Weavers	43.54	23.50	94	
70.	EWS CL House-Cum-Workshed SCH. for Hand. Weavers	19.92	10.75	43	
71.	EWS CL House-Cum-Workshed SCH. for Hand. Weavers	34.75	18.75	75	
72.	EWS CL House-Cum-Workshed SCH. for Hand. Weavers	27.34	14.75	59	
73.	EWS CL House-Cum-Workshed SCH. for Hand. Weavers	36.60	19.75	79	
74.	EWS CL House-Cum-Workshed SCH for Hand. Weavers	19.45	10.50	42	
75.	LIG Tenements at Thilagar Nagar, PH-I, Chennai	133.49	105.00	120	
76.	EWS House-Cum-Workshed SCH for Handloom Weavers	30.12	16.25	65	
77.	EWS House-Cum-Workshed SCH for Handloom Weavers	27.80	15.00	60	
78.	EWS House-Cum-Workshed SCH for Handloom Weavers	140.32	72.50	290	
79.	EWS House-Cum-Workshed SCH for Handloom Weavers	65.78	35.50	142	
80.	MIG CL CO-OP HS GR.IV, PH. IPERU, MUTH, DHEE, CHIN,	243.00	180.00	90	

1	2	3	4	5	6
81.	MIG CL COOP HS IN North Arcot AMBE, TIRU, PH-I GR-I	200.00	150.00	100	
82.	MIG CL COOP HS Madurai, Mannar, Thir, Rama GR-II PH-I	200.00	150.00	100	
83.	MIG CL COOP HS Thanjavur Nagai Q-E-M GR.IV PH-I	200.00	150.00	100	
84.	MIG CL COOP HS Chengai Anna, Chengai MGR, GR-V PH-I	200.00	150.00	100	
85.	LIG CL COOP HS Thanjavur & Perumpidugu GR-IV PH-II	202.13	171.50	245	
86.	LIG CL COOP HS Chengai Anna, Chengai MGR, GRI, PH-II	202.13	171.50	245	
87.	LIG CL COOP HS A.T., Panee Rselvam & N-Q-E Milleth	202.13	171.50	245	
88.	LIG CL COOP HS in Madurai & R.N. Puram, GR-VII	202.13	171.50	245	
89.	LIG CL COOP HS in South Arcot Vallalar & Villupurm	202.13	171.50	245	
90.	LIG CL COOP HS in Puduko Ttai & Pasumpon Thevar	202.13	171.50	245	
91.	LIG CL COOP HS in Theeran Chinnamalai Thiruvall	202.13	171.50	245	
92.	MIG CL COOP HS in Tirunelveli Katta. VO Chid. Kanni	243.00	180.00	90	
93.	MIG CL COOP HS in Chennai Anna Chengai MRG PH-III	280.00	210.00	70	
94.	MIG CL COOP HS in Madurai Mannar Thrimalia Ramnd	243.00	180.00	90	
95.	MIG CL COOP HS in Coimbatore Periyar Salem Rajaji	243.00	180.00	90	
96.	Land Acquisition SCH Kalanivasal Karaikudi	45.14	36.11	0	
97.	EWS (R) HS for Marg. Farmers SR XIV Ph.II GR.VIII	220.00	154.00	2000	
98.	LIG HS Chelandiamman Kollin Tirupur Dt. Periyar	217.52	168.00	240	
99.	LA Scheme at Paeriyanaicken Palayam & Veerpandi	288.60	202.02	0	
100.	LA SCH at Pattinamkathan Ramanathapuram	450.00	360.00	0	
101.	HIG HS at Avaniapuram Madurai ST-II	298.89	179.33	51	
102.	HIG HS at Avaniapuram Madurai ST-I	347.87	208.71	63	
103.	Composite HSG Cum Plotted Dev. SCH PH.II	275.90	177.63	58	37
104.	HIG HS at Thiruyanmiyur Chennai	309.84	179.81	38	
105.	Rental HS for Fire Personel at Dhamrapuri	67.02	40.21	36	
106.	MIG CL COOP HS PH-III GR.II	280.00	210.00	70	
107.	MIG CL COOP HS PH-III GR.III	280.00	210.00	70	
108.	MIG CL COOP HS PH-III GR.IV	280.00	210.00	70	
109.	MIG CL COOP HS PH-III GR.V	280.00	210.00	70	
110.	MIG CL COOP HS PH-II GR.I	243.00	180.00	90	
111.	MIG CL COOP HS PH-IV GR.XI	251.55	171.20	214	
112.	MIG CL COOP HS PH-IV GR.XII	251.55	171.20	214	
113.	MIG CL COOP HS PH-IV GR.XIII	252.73	172.00	215	

1	2	3	4	5	6
114.	MIG CL COOP HS, PH-IV GR.XIV	252.73	172.00	215	
115.	Composite HS on Developed Plots at Perundurai	206.01	144.45	100	
116.	Rural HSG. SCH. from Margina Farmers in Kamarajar	148.50	103.95	1350	
117.	HIG HSG. SCH. AT JJ NGR. ST.I Mogtappair, Chennai	840.71	504.40	152	
118.	HIG HSG. SCH. AT JJ NGR. ST.IV Mogtappair, Chennai	966.97	580.18	160	
119.	HIG HSG. SCH. AT JJ NGR. ST.III Mogtappair, Chennai	939.60	563.71	174	
Total		27342.74	19058.01	44412	1630

List of Housing Schemes Sanctioned to Tamil Nadu during 1997-98

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	Project Cost	Loan Amt.	Dwelling	Plot
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	COMP. HSG. ON DEV. Plots at Sennapiratti Karur	109.05	75.44	75	
2.	EWS-Cum-Workshed CL HS for Handloom Weavers	22.95	11.73	51	
3.	LIG Tenements at Thilagarh NGR. PH.II Chennai	186.82	147.00	168	
4.	EWS(R) HS for Marginal Farmers in Chengalpattu	242.00	169.40	2200	
5.	EWS(R) HS for Marginal Farmers in Nagajquaid ME	220.00	154.00	2000	
6.	EWS(R) HS in Salem SR-XIV	246.00	173.40	2200	
7.	EWS(R) HS Coimbatore and Nirgiria	270.50	192.95	2350	
8.	Rural HSG. for Marginal Farmers in Rural Areas	143.00	100.10	1300	
9.	Rural HSG. for Marginal Farmers in Rural Areas	198.00	138.60	1800	
10.	Rural HSG. for Marginal Farmers in Rural Areas	110.00	77.00	1000	
11.	Rural HSG. for Marginal Farmers in Rural Areas	110.00	77.00	1000	
12.	Rural HSG. in Puddukottai	137.50	96.25	1250	
13.	Rural HSG. in Dharmapuri	209.00	146.30	1900	
14.	Rural HSG. in Chidambaram	115.50	80.85	1050	
15.	LIG HSG. Tenkasi PH.II Tirunelveli Kattavoman	79.98	56.00	80	
16.	LIG CL HS. for Women in Urban Areas	141.50	120.00	200	
17.	LIG CL HS. for Women in Urban Areas	141.50	120.00	200	
18.	LIG CL HS. for Women in Urban Areas	141.50	120.00	200	
19.	LIG CL HS. for Women in Urban Areas	141.50	120.00	200	
20.	LIG CL HS. for Women in Urban Areas	141.50	120.00	200	
21.	MIG HS on Developed Plots Hosur Dist. Dharmapuri	169.35	127.02	65	
22.	LIG CL HS in Nannar Thirumalai & Veeran Alagumuthu	202.13	171.50	245	

1	2	3	4	5	6
23.	LIG CL COOP. HS in two Dists PH-II, GR-IX	202.13	171.50	245	
24.	LIG CL HS in two Dists GR.X, PH-II	202.13	171.50	245	
25.	LIG CL COOP. HS coimbatore & Nilgiris PH-II, GR-XI	202.13	171.50	245	
26.	LIG CL HS. N.A. Ambedkar & Tiruvannamalai Sambuvayar	202.13	171.50	245	
27.	LIG CL COOP. HS, Dharmapuri & Salem, PH-II, GR.XIII	202.13	171.50	245	
28.	LIG CL HS in Rajaji & Periyar, PH-II, GR-XIV	202.13	171.50	245	
29.	Composite HSG. SCH. on Dev. Plots at Hosur	456.77	283.14	100	
30.	LIG HSG. SCH. at S. Mount Rd., Tirunelveli	263.41	190.40	272	
31.	Staff Rental HSG. SCH. for Police personnel	253.02	151.80	102	
32.	EWS (U) Coop. Cash Loan HSG SCH	168.00	150.00	600	
33.	EWS (U) Coop. Cash Loan HSG SCH	168.00	150.00	600	
34.	EWS (U) Coop. Cash Loan HSG SCH	168.00	150.00	600	
35.	EWS (U) Coop. Cash Loan HSG SCH	140.00	125.00	500	
36.	EWS (U) Coop. Cash Loan HSG SCH	140.00	125.00	500	
37.	EWS (U) Coop. CS HSG SCH, GR.XIII, PH.I	168.00	150.00	600	
38.	MIG HS. SC. at Malapatti Poannappa Mundali Ph-II	150.93	113.20	60	
39.	LIG HSG SCH at AV Pathyanagar Thanjavur	177.37	126.00	180	
40.	LIG HSG SCH at AV Pathyanagar PH-I Thanjavur	189.19	134.40	192	
41.	Comp. HSG SCH on Dev. Plots at Coimbatore	695.13	487.34	285	
42.	MIG CL Coop. HSG SCH PH-IV GR.II	251.55	171.20	214	
43.	MIG CL Coop. HSG PH-IV GR.III	251.55	171.20	214	
44.	MIG CL Coop. HSG PH-IV GR.IV	251.55	171.20	214	
45.	MIG CL Coop. HSG SCH PH-IV GR.V	251.55	171.20	214	
46.	MIG CL Coop. HS PH-IV GR.VI	251.55	171.20	214	
47.	MIG CL Coop. HS in PH-IV GR.VII	252.73	172.20	215	
48.	MIG CL Coop. HS in PH-IV GR.VIII	251.55	171.20	214	
49.	MIG CL Coop. HSG SCH in PH-IV GR.IX	251.55	171.20	214	
50.	MIG CL Coop. HSG SCH in PH-IV GR.X	252.73	172.00	215	
51.	MIG CL Coop. HSG SCH in PH-IV GR.I	251.55	171.20	214	
52.	EWS (U) Coop. CL HS in Salem & Mankkal Rajaji GR-XI	252.00	225.00	900	
53.	LIG HSG SCH at Sathiamoorthy Ngr. PH.IV ST-II	117.97	84.00	96	
54.	LIG HSG SCH at Sathiamoorthy Ngr. PH.IV ST-I	137.64	98.00	112	
55.	HIG HSG SCH at Dr. JJ Nagar (Mogappair) ST-II	396.84	237.84	171	

1	2	3	4	5	6
56.	Rental HSG SCH for Police Personel Dist. Nilgiris	324.96	194.98	95	
57.	Constn. of Flats at Ambattur Madras	106.51	42.00	27	
58.	Rural HS for Marginal Farmers in N.Arcot Ambedkar	203.50	142.45	1850	
59.	Rural HS in Periyar SR.XIV	170.50	119.35	1550	
60.	Rural HS Trichi. Perumbidughu	44.00	30.80	400	
61.	Rural HS in Pasumpon Thevar T	143.00	100.10	1300	
62.	Rural HS in Tirunelveli	165.00	115.50	1500	
63.	Comp. HSG. SCH at Uppilpalayam Sowripalayam	665.09	463.36	209	
64.	MIG HS on Dev. Plots at Navalpatu PH-II ST-II	502.29	376.72	200	
65.	C/O of Rental QRS for Police Per. in Trichi	714.82	418.52	302	
66.	EWS HSG SCHK for Palmyrah Workers at Martandam	35.82	30.00	150	
67.	Comp. HS on Dev. Plots PH-II ST-I Muthampalam	357.67	250.93	155	
68.	LIG HSG SCH at Singaravel AN Ngr. Ph-IV Chennai	248.29	175.87	201	
69.	LIG HSG SCH at Selathampa TTI, PH-I Salem	237.92	1687.00	240	
70.	LIG HSG SCH at Singaravel AN Ngr. Ph-V Chennai	212.43	148.75	170	
71.	LIG HS for Rehabilitation of Slum DWEL. Thomas Rd.	119.78	84.00	96	
72.	Const. of Rental Qtrs for Police Personnel	322.34	192.09	118	
73.	Rental HS for Police Personel Dt. Trichy & Pudukotai	509.27	305.56	149	
74.	LIG HSG SCH at Selathampa TTI, PH-II Salem	594.74	420.00	600	
75.	Staff Rental HS for Police Prsnl. in various	617.08	364.90	233	
76.	MIG II HS at Shenoy Nagar Chennai	129.58	97.18	30	
77.	EWS (R) HS for Marginal Farmers in Kamarajar Dist.	148.50	103.95	1350	
78.	EWS (R) HS for Marginal Farmers in Kaniyakumari Dist.	44.00	30.80	400	
79.	LIG HS at Chitra Nagar PH-III Chennai	199.45	140.00	160	
80.	Contn. of LIG HS at Rajiv Gandhi Nagar Ph.II	75.50	63.00	72	
81.	EWS HSG SCH for Scavengers at Krishnapet Chennai	38.37	25.00	100	
82.	EWS (R) HS Marginal Farmers Thanjavur SR-XIV PH-II	203.50	142.45	1850	
83.	EWS (R) HS Marginal Farmers Ramanathaprm SR-XIV PH-II	165.00	115.50	1500	
84.	EWS (R) HS Marginal Farmers Madurai SR-XIV PH-II	209.00	146.30	1900	
85.	EWS (R) HS Marginal Farmers Dindigulanna SR-XIV PH-II	150.50	105.95	1350	
86.	Constn. of Rental Qtr for Police Personnel	598.82	335.41	168	
87.	Constn. of Rental Qtr for Police Personnel	539.12	323.47	216	
88.	Constn. of Rental Qtr for Police Personnel	1022.88	613.73	392	

1	2	3	4	5	6
89.	Constn. of Rental Qtr for Police Personnel	579.58	347.75	224	
90.	Rural EWS-I HS for Marginal Farmers Series XV GR-I	140.00	100.00	1000	
91.	Rural EWS-I HS for Marginal Farmers GR.II	280.00	200.00	2000	
92.	Rural EWS-I HS for Marginal Farmers GR.III	364.00	260.00	2600	
93.	Rural EWS-I HS for Marginal Farmers GR.IV	336.00	240.00	2400	
94.	Rural EWS-II HS for Marginal Farmers GR.I	183.95	130.00	1300	
95.	Rural EWS-II HS Marginal Farmers' SR.XV GR.II	183.95	130.00	1300	
96.	Rural EWS-II HS Marg. Farmers SR.XV GR.II	240.55	170.00	1700	
97.	Rural EWS-II HS Marg. Farmers SR.XV GR.V	212.25	150.00	1500	
98.	Rural EWS-II HS Marg. Farmers SR.XV GR.VII	169.80	120.00	1200	
99.	Rural EWS-II HS Marg. Farmers SR.XV GR.IX	226.40	160.00	1600	
100.	Rural EWS-II HS Marg. Farmers SR.XV GR.VIII	198.10	140.00	1400	
101.	Rural EWS-II HS Marg. Farmers SR.XV GR.X	283.00	200.00	2000	
102.	Rural EWS-II HS Marg. Farmers SR.XV GR.IV	311.30	220.00	2200	
103.	Rural EWS-II HS Marg. Farmers SR.XV GR.VI	254.70	180.00	1800	
104.	C/O Resdl. Project Fernland	649.24	150.00	66	
Total		25683.88	17602.64	72539	

List of Housing Schemes Sanctioned to Tamil Nadu during 1998-99 as on 30.6.96

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme	Project Cost	Loan Amt.	Dwelling	Plot
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	EWS CL HS-Cum-Workshed SCH for Handloom Weavers	41.37	22.00	88	
2.	EWS CL HS-Cum-Workshed SCH for Handloom Weavers	44.67	23.75	95	
3.	EWS CL HS-Cum-Workshed SCH for Handloom Weavers	27.74	14.75	59	
4.	EWS CL HS-Cum-Workshed SCH for Handloom Weavers	31.97	17.00	68	
5.	EWS CL HS-Cum-Workshed SCH for Handloom Weavers	78.53	41.75	167	
6.	EWS CL HS-Cum-Workshed SCH for Handloom Weavers	48.44	25.75	103	
7.	EWS CL HS-Cum-Workshed SCH for Handloom Weavers	42.32	22.50	90	
8.	EWS CL HS-Cum-Workshed SCH for Handloom Weavers	12.23	6.50	26	
9.	EWS CL HS-Cum-Workshed SCH for Handloom Weavers	32.91	17.56	70	
10.	EWS CL HS-Cum-Workshed SCH for Handloom Weavers	16.47	8.75	35	
11.	EWS CL HS-Cum-Workshed SCH for Handloom Weavers	78.99	42.00	168	
12.	MIG I CL HS in Madurai & Thenni GR.IV	400.02	300.00	250	
13.	MIG I CL HS in Ferod & Coimbatore	400.02	300.00	250	

1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	MIG I CL HS in Salem & Nammakal	400.02	300.00	250	
15.	MIG I CL HS in Dharmapur & Tiruvantamalai	400.02	300.00	250	
16.	EWS Site & Services SCH. on Land Bank Sites	30.86	30.86	0	548
17.	EWS Plotted DEV. SCH. for Shelterless CAT.	31.75	31.75	0	480
18.	EWS Site & Services SCH. on Land Bank Sites	23.22	23.22	0	379
19.	EWS Site & Services SCH. on Land Bank Sites	29.56	29.32	0	425
20.	EWS (U) Coop CS HS in Thiruvannamalai Sambrayr	168.00	150.00	600	
21.	Contn. of Residential Flats at Besant Nagar	481.14	240.00	31	
22.	EWS OOP CL HS in Karur Theeran Chinnamalai	196.00	175.00	700	
23.	EWS Plotted DEV. SCH in Land Bank Sites	24.64	23.50	0	327
24.	EWS (U) Coop. Cash Loan HSG. SCH. GR.I	224.00	200.00	800	
25.	MIG I Cash Loan HSG SCH GR. VI	400.02	300.00	250	
26.	MIG I Cash Loan HSG SCH GR. VII	400.02	300.00	250	
27.	MIG I Cash Loan HSG SCH GR. VIII	400.02	300.00	250	
28.	EWS (U) Coop. Cash Loan HS G.SCH. GR. IV	224.00	200.00	800	
29.	EWS (U) Coop. Cash Loan HS G.SCH. GR. VIII	224.00	200.00	800	
30.	MIG I CASH LOAN HSG SCH GR. V	400.02	300.00	250	
Total		5312.97	3945.90	6700	2159

Airlink from Delhi and Mumbai to Kandla

4260. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is any demand for air service from Delhi to Kandla via Ahmedabad and from Mumbai to Kandla;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Requests have been received from various quarters to provide airlinks at Kandla airport.

(c) The airport at Kandla is capable of accepting only smaller capacity aircraft. The shortage of such aircraft does not at present permit Indian Airlines/Alliance Air to operate their services to this destination. Private operators have smaller aircraft are being encouraged to include new stations such as Kandla in their network, subject to viability.

Foreign Investment in Steel Sector

4261. SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of multinational companies who have sent their offers for making investment in steel sector;
- (b) whether any agreements have been signed in this regard;
- (c) if so, the terms and conditions thereof; and
- (d) the time by which these agreements are likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (d) Under the new Industrial Policy announced in July, 1991 'Iron & Steel' has been delicensed. Presently, foreign direct investment, upto 74% of equity, is freely permitted in the steel sector on the automatic approval route. As per available information, details of foreign direct investment proposals in the steel sector since July, 1991 is given in the attached statement.

Statement*Foreign Direct Investment in Steel Sector Since July, 1991*

Sl. No.	Name of the Company	Name of the Foreign collaborator (investor)	Item of manufacture & Capacity
1	2	3	4
Steel			
1.	M/s. Monica Metals Ltd., Gurgaon, Haryana	M/s. VNIETO All Union Scientific Research Institute, Russia.	Special Alloy Steel of high purity of electroslag melting and refining process. Capacity - 600 TPA.
2.	M/s. Piyush Steels Ltd., Vadodara, Gujarat.	M/s. Mukesh K. Patel & Mr. Hari Kishan M. Patel (NRIs) London, U.K.	Low Carbon Steel Wires not plated or coated Capacity 50,000 TPA
3.	M/s. Usha Martin Industries Ltd., Ranchi, Bihar.	M/s. Martech Ltd., (Formerly, Martin Black & Co. Ltd., U.K.)	All types of Steel Wires, wire ropes wire strands including locked coil ropes.
4.	M/s. Nippon Denro Ispat Ltd., Dolvi, Raigad, Maharashtra.	M/s. Ispat Maxicana Maxico	HR Coils Capacity 2 Million TPA
5.	M/s. Orind Steels Ltd., Keonjhar, Orissa. (Phase-I at Daitari)	M/s. Gold Star Investment Ltd., Dubai, USA Engrs. & Consultants inc. USA.	Hot & Cold Coils/Sheets, etc. Cap-7,00,000 TPA (CRC-Phase-I) 10,00,000 TPA (HRC/CRC-Phase-II)
6.	M/s. Kalinga Steels India Ltd., near Daitari, Dist., Cuttack, Orissa.	Dr. Swraj Paul Caparo Group Ltd., London.	H.R. Coils & Pig Iron CAP-1.5 MTPA HRC & 0.42 MTPA of Pig Iron (Revised : 1.25 MTPA HRC).
7.	M/s. Mid-East Integrated Steels Ltd., Kalinga Nagar Inds. Complex, Orissa.	M/s. China Metallurgical Import & Export Corporation, China and others	Phase I : Pig Iron Capacity -0.464 MTPA (100% EDU) Phase II : Pig Iron Capacity -2 lakhs TPA Steel Bars & Structural - 10 lakhs TPA (100% EDU)
8.	M/s. MESCO-Kalinga Steel Ltd., Kalinga Nagar Inds. Complex, Distt. Jaipur, Orissa.	M/s. Danieli & Co. Italy, United Engg. Inc; USA, Samsung Corpon., Korea, Mithui & Co. Japan.	H.R. Coils flat product -2.25 MTPA Pig iron .235 MTPA (100% EOU)
9.	M/s. Kimura Steel Ltd. Vill. - Kudiyana, Taluka - Oipad, Dsitt. - Surat, State - Gujarat.	Not indicated	Electrode quality wire rods 75000 TPA
10.	M/s. Nagarjuna Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd., Kanara, Mangalore, Karnataka.	NRI	HR coils-2.2 MTPA (100% EOU)
11.	M/s. BHP (India). Locations not identified.	BHP, Australia	Roll forming - 15,000 TPA (3 units) Zincaluse-1,50,000 TPA CR coils - 3,00,000 TPA
12.	M/s. Usha Iron & Ferro Metals Corp. Limited, Brahmavar, Karnataka.	M/s. Ferrostaal, Germany. IFC/ADB	Steel long products Cap : 1.5 MTPA Pig iron Cap : 0.75 MTPA

1	2	3	4
13.	M/s. Super & Stainless Hi-Alloys Ltd., Talaja, Maharashtra.	M/s. Golden Hi-Tech, Ltd. U.K.	Speciality Stainless Steel, Nickel Super Alloys, HSB Cap - 10,000 TPA
14.	M/s. Sri Vishnupriya Ind. Ltd., Panyan, Kurmool, A.P.	M/s. SMPC Steel Service Centre Malaysia. M/s. Mino - SPA Itlay.	CR Coils -1.5 lakhs TPA
15.	M/s. S.J.K. Steel Corp. Tadepatri, Anantpur, Andhra Pradesh.	M/s. Asian Finance Invest. Corp. Ltd., Singapore.	Steel Billets, Long products 2.63 lakh TPA
16.	M/s. Jindal Strips Ltd. 28, Najafgarh Road, New Delhi.	M/s. USINOR SACILOR (Ugine Division) Trans.	Stainless Seel flats. Cap. : 400,000 TPA
17.	M/s. Bellary Steels & Alloys Ltd., Amarpura, Bellary, Karnataka.	(i) M/s. Shougang International Trade and Engg. Corpn. Ltd., China. (ii) VISA Ltd., London.	Wire Rods, bars, steel rolled products. Cap. -5.0 lakh TPA
18.	M/s. Shamon Ispat Ltd. Calcutta (100% EOU)	M/s. Essential Finance Management Ltd. USA	Cold Rolled Coils Cap. : 50,000 TPA
19.	M/s. Ugine France, France	Ugine France, France	Flat products
20.	M/s. Morgan Construction Co., USA.	Morgan Construction Co., USA.	To facilitates the transfer of proprietary technology and provide back-up guarantees from them.
21.	M/s. Gustav wolf Coord. & Wire Pvt. Ltd.	Gustav Wolf Seil OMD Drahtwerke Gabh & Co. Germany.	Manufacture and sale of tyre Bead wire, Hose wire, Steel Cords.
22.	M/s. Hoogovans Technical Services Asia, BV, The Netherlands	Hoogovas Technical Services Asia, BV, The Netherlands	Manufacture & upgradation of steel and Aluminium plants.
PIG Iron			
23.	M/s. Lanco Industries Ltd., Vill. Panchagunneri, Distt. Chittoore, A.P.	Asian Finance & Investment Corporation Ltd., Singapore	Pig Iron Cap - 90,000 TPA
24.	M/s. Sesa Industries Ltd. Bicholia, Goa.	Finsider International Co. Ltd., London (FINCO).	Pig Iron Cap - 90,000 TPA
25.	M/s. Romelt Sail India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.	(1) M/s. Mosco Institute of Steel & Alloys, Russia. (2) M/s. Movolipetsk Iron & Steel Works, Russia (3) M/s. Amet Ltd., Russia.	Iron Capacity-3 lakhs TPA
Sponge Iron/Hot Briquitted Iron			
26.	M/s. Kalyani Konkon Sponge Pvt. Ltd.	(i) M/s. Davy Mackee Corpn. USA (investor) (ii) M/s. HYLSA, SA DECV. Mexico	Sponge Iron/Hot Briquitted Iron CAP-7.5 Lacs TPA

Projects sanctioned under CAPART

4262. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects sanctioned by Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) in Kerala during each of the last three years, district-wise;

(b) the names and locations of the voluntary agencies to which assistance has been provided by CAPART during the above period;

(c) the amount allocated, released and utilized by each of these voluntary agencies during these years;

(d) whether any evaluation has been made of the success of the projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

PF Deductions of Workers of Civil Works Utilities under AI

4263. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the workers of Civil Works Utilities under contractors of Air India are covered by Provident Fund Act;

(b) if so, whether Provident Fund is being deducted from the wages of these workers;

(c) whether the workers raised any dispute regarding irregularities in their Provident Fund deductions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action the Government propose to take to resolve the grievances ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Only one contractor is covered under the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) Act, 1952. The remaining 12 contractors are not covered under EPF Act as they are employing less than 20 employees.

(b) The Provident Fund is deducted from the wages of the Contract Workers by the contractor who is covered under the Provident Fund Act, 1952. In respect of remaining contractors who have no EPF number, the amount of Provident Fund is deducted by Air India from

the contractor's bills as a precautionary measure since Air India is the principal employer.

(c) No specific dispute in the matter was raised.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Promotion to Technical Employees of Air India

4264. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of disputes were raised under the Industrial Disputes Act regarding denial of promotion to Technical Employees of Air India during 1995, 1996 and 1997;

(b) the cases in which understanding was reached;

(c) whether these understandings were implemented in letter and spirit by Air India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Only one dispute relating to denial of promotion to a Senior Aircraft Technician was raised under the Industrial Dispute Act in the year 1996. An understanding was reached during the conciliation meeting before the Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC) that the case for promotion of the concerned official would be considered subject to fulfilment of the criteria under the revised promotion policy.

(c) and (d) The suggestion of ALC is under consideration of the management of Air India.

Introduction of Euro-Rail Credit Card

4265. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce an Euro-Rail Type Credit Card in the country;

(b) if so, the main features thereof;

(c) whether any guidelines framed for issuing of such card;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which these cards are likely to be issued ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME

IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (d) Indian Railways have approved a scheme called "Eurotrain International Explorer Pass Scheme" and not a Euro-Rail Type Credit Card. The main features of the scheme are:

- (i) A standard Pass uniformly applicable over all participating countries would be introduced. This scheme would entitle the foreign tourists visiting India with this pass to exchange it for Indrail Pass for travel on Indian Railway trains.
- (ii) Explorer Pass holder would be entitled for unlimited rail travel for the period of validity of the Pass as applicable in the case of Indrail Pass Scheme.
- (iii) M/s Eurotrain will be responsible for printing and supply of Explorer Passes to their agents at their own cost.
- (iv) Eurotrain International will be paid a 15% commission on the passes sold by them through their agents. Eurotrain International will be responsible for all aspects of accounting and payment of the collected fares of the sold tickets and will also undertake worldwide marketing of this product.
- (e) The scheme will come into operation after the procedural modalities are worked out.

Appointment on Compassionate Ground

4266. SHRI S.S. OWAISI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the case of appointment on compassionate grounds are pending since 1990 with the Railways, zone-wise;
- (b) the reasons for delay in providing employment to the eligible persons; and
- (c) the time by which all the cases of appointment on compassionate grounds are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

- (b) Delays in making compassionate appointment occur due to the wards being minor, non availability of suitable vacancies, legal cases pending in courts, etc.

(c) Instructions have been issued and reiterated from time to time to make all out efforts to provide compassionate appointments to all eligible persons as early as possible within the guidelines laid down for the purpose. It is, however, difficult to fix any time limit for the appointment on compassionate grounds as the same depends upon availability of eligible wards, availability of suitable vacancies, etc.

Manufacturing of Training Aircraft by HAL

4267. DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the reliability of HPT-32 basic training aircraft manufactured by HAL for the IAF remained doubtful from the beginning; and
- (b) if so, the corrective steps taken or proposed to be taken in regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir. There have been no doubts about the reliability of HPT-32 basic training aircraft designed, developed and supplied by HAL to IAF. The fleet has logged more than 1,50,000 flying hours.

- (b) Not applicable in view of reply to part (a) of the Question.

Koii Airport (Kashmir)

4268. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Koii Airport in Kashmir is not fit for commercial Air Traffic as pointed out by Kashmir Chamber of Commerce; and
- (b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to remove the hardships ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Koii Airport is understood to be another name for Awantipore airport which is a Defence airport. Following temporary closure of Srinagar Airport, civil flights are now operating to and from Awantipore Air Force Station. All necessary facilities have been provided at this new location by Airports Authority of India and Indian Air Force for commercial operations of airlines.

New Air Services to Bhubaneswar

4269. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of the new flights proposed to be introduced to Bhubaneswar from different cities during the current financial year; and

(b) the steps taken in that direction ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal, at present, to introduce new flights to Bhubaneswar from other cities. Airlines Operators are, however, free to operate to new stations based on their commercial judgement subject to viability and compliance with the route dispersal guidelines.

Increase of Coaches in Trains

4270. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to increase the number of coaches in popular trains on selected routes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, train/route-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A list is attached as Statement.

Statement

Augmentation of the load of trains is a continuous process keeping in view the operational feasibility, traffic justification and availability of coaches. However, the load of following trains have been augmented since 1.6.1998 :-

1. 1019/1020 Mumbai-Bhubaneswar Express
2. 2105/2106 Mumbai-Nagpur Express
3. 2619/2620 Mangalore-Kurla Express
4. 6635/6636 Ernakulam-Kurla Netravati Express
5. 2303/2304 New Delhi-Howrah Poorva Express
6. 2381/2382 New Delhi-Howrah Poorva Express
7. 3045/3046 Howrah-Guwahati Saraighat Express
8. 3073/3074 Howrah-Jammu Tawi Himagiri Express
9. 2001/2002 New Delhi-Bhopal Shatabdi Express
10. 2003/2004 New Delhi-Lucknow Shatabdi Express
11. 2011/2012 New Delhi-Chandigarh Shatabdi Express
12. 2013/2014 New Delhi-Amritsar Shatabdi Express
13. 2029/2030 New Delhi-Amritsar Shatabdi Express

14. 2433/2434 Nizamuddin-Chennai Rajdhani Express
15. 2429/2430 Nizamuddin-Bangalore Rajdhani Express
16. 2431/2432 Nizamuddin-Trivandrum Rajdhani Express
17. 2437/2438 Nizamuddin-Secunderabad Rajdhani Express
18. 2423/2424 New Delhi-Guwahati Express
19. 7001/7002 Hyderabad-Mumbai Express
20. 7031/7032 Hyderabad-Mumbai Express
21. 2703/2704 Secunderabad-Howrah Falaknuma Exp.
22. 7685/7686 Bangalore-Secunderabad Express
23. 7497/7498 Kacheguda-Tirupati Express
24. 7225/7226 Vijaywada-Londa Express
25. 7089/7090 Cochin-Varanasi Express
26. 7091/7092 Secunderabad-Varanasi Express
27. 2841/2842 Howrah-Chennai Coromandal Express
28. 2953/2954 Nizamuddin-Mumbai August Kranti Exp.
29. 9759/9760 Jaipur-Delhi Express
30. 9707/9708 Jaipur-Bandra Express
31. 9263/9264 Delhi-Porbandar Express
32. 2009/2010 Mumbai-Ahmadabad Shatabdi Express
33. 2925/2926 Mumbai-Amritsar Paschim Express
34. 2927/2928 Mumbai-Vadodara Express
35. 9031/9032 Mumbai-Gandhidham Express
36. 2955/2956 Mumbai-Jaipur Express
37. 9305/9306 Indore-Howrah Shipra Express
38. 9307/9308 Indore-Jaipur Express
39. 2903/2904 Mumbai-Amritsar Golden Temple Mail
40. 9005/9006 Mumbai-Okha Saurashtra Mail

[Translation]

Anomaly in Pay Scales of Engineers and Pilots in I.A.F.

4271. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the present position of the controversy arisen about the pay and allowances of the ground duty engineering staff and the pilots of the Indian Air Force:

(b) whether there has been differences in the pay scales of the above two categories of employees earlier also since the pilots run the risk of their lives;

(c) whether the Union Government have recently recognised this theory; and

(d) the remedial steps taken to resolve the issue ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) The Ajit Kumar Committee considered anomalies in pay and allowances of the Armed Forces personnel arising out of the Fifth Central Pay Commission recommendations including the disparity in the ground duty engineering staff and the pilots of the Indian Air Force and has submitted its report. Appropriate decision will be taken after due consideration.

[English]

Air Service from Dehradun

4272. MAJ. GEN. BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (AVSM) : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether regular flights were being operated to and fro from Jolly Grant Aerodrome (Dehradun);

(b) whether Government propose to re-start air service to this Aerodrome;

(c) if so, the date by which it will be resumed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) The airport at Dehradun is capable of accepting only smaller capacity aircraft. The shortage of such aircraft does not at present permit Indian Airlines/Alliance Air to operate their services to this destination. Private Operators having smaller aircraft are being encouraged to include new stations such as Dehradun in their network, subject to viability.

Unauthorised Constructions in Government Quarters

4273. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received regarding unauthorised constructions made in Government quarters in Babar Place, New Delhi during the last six months;

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to remove the unauthorised constructions; and

(c) the time by which the unauthorised constructions are likely to be removed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) 3.

(b) and (c) Removal of unauthorised construction is a continuous process. Action is initiated as and when any unauthorised construction is reported.

Notices have been issued to the concerned allottees to remove the unauthorised construction within 15 days of the issue of Notice.

Strength of RPF/RPSF

4274. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the strength of RPF/RPSF, zone-wise;

(b) whether the strength of this force has been increased proportionate to the increase in the number of goods/passenger trains, other vital installations and needs keeping in mind the 'Bhave Committee' recommendation;

(c) if not, the reasons rationale therefor;

(d) whether all the railway station platforms, railway yards, diesel/electric sheds, goods/parcel sheds are manned by RPF round the clock as per need;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMANTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a)

Railway	Strength
Central	7182
Eastern	10782
Northern	9347
N.E.	4433
N.F.	4476
Southern	5250
S.C.	3966
S.E.	8898

Railway	Strength
Western	7174
RPSF	8088
Total	69596

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Security for goods and other installations is provided on the basis of needs and not proportionate to the increase in the number of goods/passenger trains. Certain sections may not be vulnerable to crime even though there is increase in traffic. Similarly some vital installations may not require security arrangements.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Pending Railway Projects of Maharashtra

4275. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :
SHRI VITHAL TUPE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of proposals of Maharashtra Government relating to railways are pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the details of such proposals;

(c) whether survey work in case of some projects has been completed and submitted to Union Government;

(d) if so, the reasons for delay in taking final decision on these proposals; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Two new line projects in Maharashtra, namely Baramati-Lonand via Phaltan and Kopergaon-Shirdi, are presently pending with the Government.

The work on Baramati-Lonand via Phaltan line will be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained, for which action has been initiated. As regards Kopergaon-Shirdi line. Planning Commission have stipulated that the cost should be shared by Railways and the Temple Authorities to make the line viable. The Temple

Authorities, however, have expressed their inability to do so. The matter is under consideration.

(c) to (e) The surveys for Dhule-Nardana via Shirpur, Beed-Jalna and Ghatnandur-Ambajogai new rail lines have been completed recently. The results of the surveys for these lines have revealed them to be grossly unremunerative. In view of the same and acute resource constraints, the projects have been shelved.

[Translation]

Missing of Coal Wagons

4276. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the claim made by the Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board for the loss of coal wagons over railways as on March 31, 1995;

(b) the reasons for not reaching the coal wagons to their destination; and

(c) the time by which the claim is likely to be settled ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) As on 31.3.1995, claims for 18,827 wagons had been received from Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board (UPSEB).

(b) These wagons could not be delivered on account of operational reasons and other exigencies such as accidents en route, inability of Power Houses to accept/unload wagons, etc.

(c) These claims have been settled after adjustment with excess wagons delivered to Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board. This is an on going process and no claim is settled by payment. Claims are settled by adjustment basis in joint reconciliation meetings held between Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board and the Railways. On the basis of joint reconciliation, it was found that more wagons were delivered to them as matching adjustment than the number of wagons for which they preferred claims. Therefore, there are no claims payable to them upto 31st March, 1995.

Facilities to Wards of Deceased Army Personnel

4277. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of officers and jawans of the Indian Army killed on duty during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) the details of facilities being provided to the families of those officers and jawans; and

(c) the number of family member of these officers and jawans given employment on compassionate grounds so far ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) The details of the number of defence personnel killed on duty in the last three years is as follows :

Year	Officers	JCOs	ORs	Total
1995	85	192	1490	1767
1996	95	163	1350	1608
1997	92	134	1435	1661

The details of financial benefits given to the families of the defence personnel who die on duty are given in the Statement-I.

The details regarding compassionate appointments given to the dependents of the Service and Civilian personnel who have died on duty are given in the Statement-II.

Statement-I

The Compensation Paid by the Government to the Service Personnel Who Die while on Duty

(A) Death in War/war like operations

Liberalised Family Pension at the rate of last pay drawn by the service personnel till death or disqualification.

(ii) Death Gratuity :

- (a) Less than one year service 2 months pay#
- (b) Between 1-5 years service 6 months pay
- * (c) Over 5 years but below 20 year service. 12 months pay
- * (d) 20 years or more service One months pay for every completed year of service subject to maximum of 33 months pay or Rs. 3.5 lakhs whichever is less.

Weightage of five years is added to actual service for calculation of death gratuity.

Pay include basic pay + NPA + DA admissible at the time of death.

(iii) **Ex-gratia Payment** : Where death of a Service personnel takes place in CI Ops, NOKs are entitled to Rs. 2 Lakhs as ex-gratia from Central Government.

Following State Governments are also giving ex-gratia payment to NOKs of Service Personnel killed in CI OPs in their State which is over and above the payment made by Central Government.

- (a) Assam Rs. 5 lakhs
- (b) J & K Rs. 2 lakhs
- (c) Manipur Rs. 1 lakh
- (d) Tripura Rs. 25,000

(B) Death in Attributable circumstances

(i)* **Special family pension at the following rates :**

	Reckonable emoluments	Rate of Spl Family Pension (p.m.)
(a) If the widow is childless	(i) Not exceeding Rs. 1500/-	50% of reckonable emoluments.
	(ii) Exceeding Rs. 1500/- but not exceeding Rs. 3000/-	40% of reckonable emoluments subject to a minimum of Rs. 750/-
	(iii) Exceeding Rs. 3000/-	30% of reckonable emoluments subject to a minimum of Rs.1200/- and maximum of Rs. 2500/-
(b) If the widow has children	In all cases	60% of reckonable emoluments subject to a minimum of Rs. 750/- and maximum of Rs. 2500/-

Rates are to be revised based on recommendation of Vth CPC.

(ii) Death gratuity as applicable to death in war/war like operations.

(C) Death in non-attributable circumstances

- (i) Ordinary family pension at the rate of 30% of reckonable emoluments drawn at the time of death.
- (ii) Death gratuity : As applicable to death in war/war like operations.

Statement-II

Year	No. vacancies meant for Direct Recruitment	Vacancies Available for Compassionate Appointments (5% of Col.1)	Applications received for Compassionate Appointments from Dependents						Compassionate Appointments Made			Pending cases of Compassionate Appointments		
			During the year		Backlog of previous year		Total		Ser	Civ	Total	Ser	Civ	Total
			Ser	Civ	Ser	Civ	Ser	Civ						
1994-95														
Gp. 'C'	1800	90	124	283	176	398	300	681	43	191	234	257	490	747
Gp 'D'	9782	489	68	986	86	873	154	1859	20	674	694	134	1185	1319
1995-96														
Gp 'C'	2237	112	233	302	257	490	490	792	57	146	203	433	646	1079
Gp 'D'	10643	532	197	976	134	1185	331	2161	67	603	670	264	1558	1822
1996-97														
Gp 'C'	2230	111	300	322	433	646	733	968	37	84	121	696	884	1580
Gp 'D'	10467	523	220	982	264	1558	487	2540	38	487	525	449	2053	2502

Abbreviations : Ser = Service Personnel, Civ = Civilians

Pantry Car Facility

4278. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the name of trains which will be provided with Pantry Cars facility during 1998-99 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : A decision has been taken to provide pantry car service on the following trains during the current years :

- 1063/1064 Chennai - Mumbai Chatrapati Shivaji Terminus Express
- 1081/1082 Mumbai Chatrapati Shivaji Terminus-Kanayakumari Express
- 2703/2704 Falaknuma Express
- 3005/3006 Howrah-Amritsar Express
- 3151/3152 Sealdah-Jammu Tawi Express
- 5217/5218 Kurla Terminus-Muzaffarpur Express
- 5219/5220 Kurla Terminus-Darbhanga Express
- 6331/6332 Trivandrum Central-Kurla Terminus Express

*[English]***Extension of Railway Line from Dhule to Nardhan**

4279. SHRI D.S. AHIRE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to extend the railway line from Dhule to Nardhan in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether survey in this regard has been completed and traffic report has also been completed; and

(c) if so, the time by which the extension work is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The results of the survey for Dhule-Nardana via Shirpur new rail line have revealed the cost of the 61.77 kms. long line as Rs. 104 crores with a Rate of Return of (-) 2.19%. Due to the grossly unremunerative nature of the line and constraint of resources, the project has been shelved.

[Translation]

Production of Fertilizer by SAIL

4280. SHRI R.S. GAVAI :
PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the name of the fertilizers produced by the Steel Authority of India Limited;

(b) the total quantity of fertilizers produced and sold by the SAIL during the last three years and till date;

(c) the total loss suffered or profit earned by the Government by the sale of these fertilizers during the last three years and till date; and

(d) the steps taken by the Steel Authority of India Limited to increase the sale of the fertilizers produced by it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) The fertilizers produced by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) are Ammonium Sulphate (AS) and Calcium Ammonium Nitrate (CAN).

(b) The total quantity of fertilizers produced and sold by the SAIL during the last three years and till date is as under :

Item	Unit : Tonnes			
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 (Apr '98- Prov.)
Production				
Ammonium Sulphate	84869	86793	87910	6409
Calcium Ammonium Nitrate	148284	115195	91275	973
Total	233153	201988	179185	7382

Item	Unit : Tonnes			
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98 (Prov.)	1998-99 (Apr '98- Prov.)
Sale :				
Ammonium Sulphate	79901	90340	89321	1423
Calcium Ammonium Nitrate	172999	116827	95013	547
Total	252900	207167	184334	1970

(c) The loss suffered by SAIL on Ammonium Sulphate and Calcium Ammonium Nitrate produced during the last three years is as under :

(Rs. in Crores)		
1995-96	1996-97	1997-98 (Prov.)
35	46	49

(d) In SAIL, Ammonium Sulphate is a Bye-Product. Its production depends on the production plan of steel, coke even pushing etc. As regards Calcium Ammonium Nitrate, production of this an intermediaries would depend upon many operational aspects, price of naphtha and economics of production etc.

The price of both Ammonium Sulphate and Calcium Ammonium Nitrate has been decontrolled with effect from 10/06/1994 resulting in withdrawal of subsidy, thus making the fertilizer production and increasing sales unremunerative for SAIL plants. The Ministry has taken up the matter with the concerned Ministries for corrective measures.

Touts Activities at Jabalpur Railway Parcel Office

4281. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that money is being charged illegally from the traders by the touts for years together in the Jabalpur Railway Parcel Office with connivance of Railway officials;

(b) whether the Railways have incurred revenue losses by making wrong declarations of the goods and by taking weightage-measurements against the rules by touts.

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Railway Administration against the guilty officials ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (d) Activities of touts are not noticed in transactions at Jabalpur Parcel Office, The consignments are booked/taken delivery of either by the party itself directly or by the Agents authorised by the party. Surprise checks are conducted by the concerned staff and officers. During 1997-98, 93 checks were conducted in various parcel offices over Central Railway by Vigilance Department and 32 staff were detected indulging in malpractices and were taken up for

lapses. During this period, 2746 weighments were conducted in Jabalpur Parcel Office and undercharges of Rs. 8278/- were detected and realised.

Complaints against Private Airlines

4282. SHRI JAGADAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received some complaints regarding the functioning of private airline companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) All the private airlines are required to follow the guidelines issue by the DGCA/MCA. Whenever a complaint is received which affects safety of operation, violation of regulations and procedures, appropriate action is taken in accordance with the provisions of the rules and regulations and guidelines framed under the Aircraft Act, 1935 and Aircraft Rules, 1937.

[English]

Misuse of Railway Coupons

4283. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of free Railway coupons found from Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi, originally issued to be used by M.L.As. only;

(b) the total amount of money involved therein; and

(c) the action taken by the Railways to check the misuse of such Railway coupons issued to the M.L.As in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Coupons were recovered by the CBI during a search and one suspect was caught and arrested. The exact place where the CBI team laid a trap, the number of coupons recovered and the money involved is not known to the Railways since the case is under investigation by CBI.

(c) The printing and supply of coupons by the Railways to the State Assemblies/Councils and use of coupons at the time of bookings is regularly monitored to prevent misuse.

Model Draft for Functioning of Municipal Committees

4284. SHRI BIJOY KUMAR "BIJOY" :
SHRI SITA RAM YADAV :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Single Act to cover municipalities sought' appearing in the Times of India dated May 15, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of the Government in regard thereto;

(c) whether the Government have set up any Study Group in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which final decision is likely to be taken by the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) No news-item regarding 'Single Act to cover Municipalities sought' appeared in the Times of India dated May 15, 1998.

(c) and (d) Municipality is a State subject as per Entry 5 of the State List of the Constitution. In view of this, it is for the State Governments to take necessary action in such matters. The Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment has not constituted any Study Group to formulate proposals to frame a single Act to cover Municipalities.

[Translation]

Losses Suffered by Railways Due to Cyclone

4285. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Railway property damaged due to recent cyclone in Gujarat and Rajasthan; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Railways to repair the damaged property ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) The damage to Railway property Track, Signal & Telecommunication equipments, Electrical, and other structures has been as under :

- (I) Track and other structure Rs. 7.67 cr. (Station building & Houses etc.)
- (II) Signal & Telecommunication equipment – Rs. 14.29 cr.
- (III) Electrical Equipments – Rs. 1.41 cr.

(b) The track affected has since been restored. Gujarat Electricity Board supply to most of the stations have been restored. Other Electrical works like restoration of OH-alignments, rewiring of quarters, service buildings is in progress. The signalling gears on affected sections at 55 stations/locations have been restored and the work of restoration is in progress at balance 39 stations/locations and is expected to be completed by 31.8.1998 except Sirva Station. Most of the Railway's telecom circuits have also been restored temporarily through VHF communication. Permanent restoration of telecom circuits is expected to be completed by 31.3.1999 except on Wansjaliya-Jetalsar section.

[English]

Apartment Act

4286. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representations from organisations/individuals for making the provisions of Apartment Act applicable to Union Territory Chandigarh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Construction of Over Bridge at Maporda

4287. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

1. Ahmedabad-Sabarmati : Replacement of old girders of Sabarmati Bridge No. 733.

2. Sevaliya : Regirdering of Bridge No. 65 (Mahi Bridge)

3. Bharuch : Reconditioning of stringers on Bridge No. 502 (Narmada Bridge)

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct an over-bridge at Maporda by Konkan Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the above bridge is likely to be constructed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir, there is no proposal to construct an overbridge at Majorda.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Construction of Over Bridges in Gujarat

4288. SHRI JAYASINHJI CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present position of railway bridges and over bridges under construction in Gujarat as per the targets fixed during 1997-98;

(b) whether a large number of projects are running behind their schedule;

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

(d) whether the Government of Gujarat has sent any new proposal for construction of over bridges;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Present position is as under :

Work completed.

Girder fabrication work is in progress. (Progress 30%. Target dated 30.06.1999)

Detailed drawings finalised. Fabrication work being started. Target date 30.12.1999.

4. Surat : ROB in lieu of LC No. 146 Work completed and commissioned on Oct. 1997.
5. Sant Road-Piplod : ROB in lieu of LC No. 20-B work frozen.

In addition some works, as under, are also under construction on deposit terms :-

1. Saij-Sertha (Kalol) on Ahmedabad Mahesana section: ROB in lieu of LC No. 233 Substructure work has been completed & casting of girders is in progress
2. Maninagar-Ahmedabad : ROB in lieu of LC No. 308/A (Kokra) Approach work nearing completion for Railway's portion 4 girders have been cast.
3. ROB between Gandhigram-Vastrapur on Ahmedabad-Bhavnagar Para section. Work is in progress.
4. Anand : ROB in lieu of LC No.259 on Vadodra-Ahmedabad section Detailed estimate duly vetted by Accounts sent to State Govt. for acceptance on 8.10.1997 which it still awaited.
5. Viramgam-Ghandhidham : Providing ROB's in lieu of LC No .217, 212 & 232. Detailed estimate is under process.
6. ROB-widening of ROB for 4 lanes at Km. 403/24-26 between Chhayapuri-Pilol on RRC-GDA section. 60% progress of work by Railway & 100% by State Govt.
7. RUB at Km. 321/10-11 on ADI-UDZ sec. at Himmatnagar. Tender awarded. Work being started.
8. RUB at Km. 491/7-8 on Maninagar-Vatava near Daxini Society-Ahmedabad. 20% progress of work.
9. ROB Lakha-Baval on approved Jamnagar Bye-pass Road (Jamnagar city). Full money not deposited by State Govt.

(b) No, Sir. Progress is satisfactory, according to the availability of funds and requisites fulfilled by the State Govt. etc.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) 2 proposals for construction of ROB's from Gujarat State have been received, for which initial amount for preparation of plans and estimates has been deposited. These are :

1. KIM : ROB in lieu of LC No. 158.
2. Limbdi : ROB in Lieu of LC No. 123.

(f) Necessary plans and estimates are under preparation for these two works.

Railway Protection Force

4289. SHRI RAVINDERA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the newsitem captioned "Adhikarion Ke

Dabav Ke Karan R.P.F. Asahai" appearing in the *Dainik Jagaran* dated June 15, 1998;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It has been reported that RPF/Jammu has registered two cases of recovery of railway materials.

In one case RPF/Jammu has arrested 4 persons and recovered railway materials worth of Rs. 1,25,000/- and registered a case crime No. 7/98 u/s 3 RP(UP) ACT on 27.5.1998.

In another case RPF/Jammu has arrested 2 persons and recovered railway materials worth of Rs. 1,50,000/- and registered a case crime No. 8/98 u/s 3 RP(UP) ACT on 27.5.1998.

Both the cases are under investigation.

Bailadila Mines

4290. SHRI BALI RAM KASHYAP : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the date from which the work on Bailadila Iron Ore Project was started;

(b) the quantum of iron ore exported till March 31, 1998; and

(c) the total revenue received by the State Government and the Union Government from this project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) The construction work of Bailadila Iron Ore Project in Madhya Pradesh was started by National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC) in 1964 and production of iron ore was started on 07.04.1968.

(b) NMDC Ltd. have started that the quantum of iron ore exported till 31.3.1998 is 143.36 million tonnes.

(c) Revenue earned by State Government of Madhya Pradesh by way of royalty till 31.3.1998 against deposits for which National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. was having mining leases in Bailadila area was Rs. 136.72 crores.

The income earned from this project alongwith the income from other projects of NMDC is being taken for payment of income-tax to Central Government at the corporate level by the PSU. No projectwise/unitwise income-tax to Central Government is paid. The cumulative income-tax paid upto 31.3.1998 was Rs. 257 crores.

NMDC have paid Rs. 168.13 crores as dividend to Government of India till March 1996-97. Dividends are paid out of the profits of NMDC, including these accruing from the Bailadila Project.

[English]

Officer and Engineers sent Abroad by NALCO

4291. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of officer and engineers who have been sent abroad by NALCO at for training its cost since inception;

(b) the total amount spent on such training/visits; and

(c) the period after which these foreign-trained officers/engineers quit service ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) 238 officers/engineers of NALCO were sent abroad for training in the period 1982-83 to 1997-98. Out of this 167 officers/engineers were deputed for training under the provisions of foreign collaboration agreement with Aluminium Pechiney, France.

(b) The information regarding total amount spent on training is available for the period 1993-94 to 1997-98 which is given below :

Year	No. of Officers/ Engineers sponsored for training	Total amount spent on such training/visit
1993-94	04	Rs. 703760/-
1994-95	21	Rs. 4056022/-
1995-96	25	Rs. 5214374/-
1996-97	05	Rs. 1166914/-
1997-98	08	Rs. 1985080/-
Total	63	Rs. 13126150/-

(c) Out of 238 officers/engineers sent for training abroad, 44 have left the company. Out of these 44, 1 person has expired, 2 have retired on superannuation and 2 persons have taken voluntary retirement, 39 persons have resigned whose details are as under :-

Period after which resigned after training	No. of Officers/ engineers
1-3 Years	13
4-6 Years	19
Above 6 Years	07
Total	39

Extension of Ahmedabad-Khedbrahma Railway Line

4292. SHRIMATI NISHA A. CHAUDHARI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal is pending with the Government for extension of Ahmedabad-Khedbrahma Railway line upto Abu Road in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Scientific Research Programme

4293. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up an Empowered Committee to approve Scientific Research Programmes; and

(b) if so, the details with objectives thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An Empowered Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Steel with members from Department of Science & Technology, Planning Commission, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Main Producers of Steel, IIT Kharagpur, National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur, Development Commissioner for Iron & Steel, and others with a view to providing overall direction to the total research effort on Iron & Steel in the country and approve specific research projects placed before it.

The Empowered Committee will *inter alia* examine all aspects of Science & Technology in the Iron & Steel sector; Co-ordinate and monitor the on-going research programmes in the iron & steel sector; review the progress of Science & Technology programmes of national importance in the Iron & Steel industry periodically and advise Ministry of Steel on policies and programmes in developing domestic capabilities for Research & Development in the Iron & Steel sector.

Flight for Delhi-Rajkot Sector

4294. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any Plan to operate Indian Airlines flight between Delhi and Rajkot;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The traffic potential on the sector Delhi-Rajkot is not adequate for operation of jet aircraft available in Indian Airlines/Alliance Air's fleet. Private

operators with suitable aircraft are being encouraged to add new stations including Rajkot in their network, subject to commercial viability.

Appointment of Chairman of AAI

4295. DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Airports Authority of India is without a Chairman for the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The post of Whole-time Chairman in the Airports Authority of India (AAI) became vacant on 14.10.1996 and the Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation had been holding additional charge of the post till the appointment of the new Chairman. On the basis of the recommendations of the Public Enterprises Selection Board and with the approval of the competent authority Shri D.V. Gupta has been appointed as Chairman, AAI with effect from 06.07.1998.

Merger of HSCL and VISL with SAIL

4296. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI :
SHRI MANJUNATH AYANUR :
SHRI SUNIL KHAN :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to merge Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited (HSCL) and Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited (VISL) with Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL);

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

(c) whether any Committee was formed by the Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the Committee has submitted its report; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government alongwith the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) Government have decided to merge Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Limited (VISL) with Steel Authority of India Limited

(SAIL) in public interest under the provision of Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1956. Its merger with SAIL would provide the right opportunity for technological upgradation and better resource management. The merger would also enable creation of a better market synergy and proper linkages to other Special Steel Plants of SAIL, etc.

At present, there is no proposal for merging Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited (HSCL) with SAIL.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Do not arise in view of (c) above.

Gauge Conversion

4297. SHRI NEPAL CHANDRA DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for withdrawal of metre gauge railway line from Guwahati to Lumding which causes great inconvenience to the travelling public and traders of the barak Valley of Assam, Tripura, Mizoram and Manipur; and

(b) the steps being taken for smooth movement of goods and passengers trains till the gauge conversion is completed in the region ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) The metre gauge line between Guwahati and Lumding has been converted to Broad Gauge.

(b) Conversion of Lumding-Silchar line to Broad Gauge has been taken up. Till such time this work is completed, adequate transshipment facilities have been provided at Lumding.

Reservation Quota at Bhusawal Railway Station

4298. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reservation quota at Bhusawal station, train-wise;

(b) whether the quota allotted to Bhusawal station fulfils the requirement of the passengers;

(c) if not, the measures taken/proposed to be taken to fulfil the requirement of the passengers;

(d) whether the Government propose to sanction VIP quota also from Bhusawal for Karnataka Express; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) A statement is attached.

(b) and (c) The reservation quotas available at Bhusawal are not being fully utilised in most of the trains and as such are considered adequate to meet the present level of traffic. However, from November, 1997 onwards an additional quota of 67 berths has been allotted at Bhusawal in various trains where the same was considered necessary.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) 2627/2628 Karnataka Express is a fully patronised train and it is not feasible to make any adjustment with a view to allot emergency quota at Bhusawal in this train.

Statement

The details of reservation quota available at Bhusawal are as under

Sl.No.	Train No.	Destination	Class	Quota
1	2	3	4	5
1.	2106 Vidarbha Express	Mumbai	AC 2 tier AC 3 tier Sleeper	8 6 25
2.	1015 Kushinagar Express	Gorakhpur	AC 2 tier Sleeper	2 24
3.	1016 Kushinagar Express	Mumbai	Sleeper	24

1	2	3	4	5
4.	1027 Dadar-Gorakhpur Express	Gorakhpur	AC 2 tier Sleeper	6 10
5.	1028 Gorakhpur-Dadar Express	Mumbai	Sleeper	6
6.	2133 Pushpak Express	Lucknow	1 AC AC 2 tier AC 3 tier Sleeper	1 6 6 12
7.	2134 Pushpak Express	Mumbai	AC 2 tier Sleeper	2 6
8.	2137 Punjab Mail	Firozpur New Delhi	AC 2 tier AC 3 tier Sleeper Sleeper	2 2 12 2
9.	1061 Lashkar Express	Agra Cantt.	AC 2 tier Sleeper	4 8
10.	1062 Lashkar Express	Mumbai	Sleeper	4
11.	1065 Kurla-Varanasi Express	Varanasi	AC 2 tier Sleeper	2 10
12.	1067 Saket Express	Faizabad	AC 2 tier Sleeper	3 8
13.	1069 Tulsi Express	Allahabad	AC 2 tier Sleeper	2 20
14.	1439 Sewagram Express	Nagpur	AC 2 tier Sleeper	6 44
15.	1057 Dadar-Amritsar Express	Amritsar	AC 2 tier Sleeper	4 10
16.	1058 Amritsar-Dadar Express	Mumbai	Sleeper	34
17.	2779 Goa Express	New Delhi	AC 2 tier Sleeper	2 14
18.	2780 Goa Express	Miraj Londa	Sleeper Sleeper	2 2
19.	2627 Karnataka Express	New Delhi	1 Class Sleeper	2 10
20.	2628 Karnataka Express	Bangalore	Sleeper	8
21.	2859 Gitanjali Express	Howrah	AC 2 tier AC 3 tier Sleeper	8 6 32
22.	3448 Dadar-Bhagalpur Express	Bhagalpur	Sleeper	20

1	2	3	4	5
23.	9045 Tapti Ganga Express	Varanasi	AC 2 tier Sleeper	2 25
24.	9047 Surat-Patna Express	Patna	AC 2 tier Sleeper	2 25
25.	4313 Dadar-Bareilly Express	Bareilly	1 Class Sleeper	2 17
26.	5217 Pavan Express	Muzaffarpur	AC 2 tier Sleeper	4 10
27.	5218 Pavan Express	Mumbai	Sleeper	16
28.	5219 Kurla-Darbanga Express	Darbanga	AC 2 tier Sleeper	4 10
29.	5645 Dadar-Guwahati Express	Guwahati	AC 2 tier Sleeper	4 17
30.	6045 Navjeevan Express	Chennai	AC 2 tier AC 3 tier Sleeper	2 4 10
31.	6046 Navjeevan Express	Ahmedabad	Sleeper	2
32.	5220 Darbanga-Kurla	Mumbai	Sleeper	16
33.	6506 Swarna Jayanti Express	Bangalore	Sleeper	12
34.	7384 Maharashtra Express	Kolhapur Solapur	AC 2 tier Sleeper Sleeper	6 22 4
35.	8002 Mumbai Mail	Mumbai	Sleeper	40
36.	8030 Howrah-Kurla Express	Mumbai	1 Class Sleeper	12 34
37.	8401 Puri-Okha Express	Okha	AC 2 tier Sleeper	2 6
38.	8404 Ahmedabad-Puri Express	Puri	AC 2 tier Sleeper	2 18
39.	8403 Puri-Ahmedabad Express	Ahmedabad	Sleeper	8
40.	2716 Nanded-Amritsar Express	Amritsar	AC 3 tier Sleeper	4 30
41.	78 Bhusaval-Surat Passenger	Surat	1 Class Sleeper	10 58
42.	114 Bhusaval-Surat Passenger	Surat	1 Class Sleeper	10 58
43.	1077 Jhelum Express	Jammu	AC 2 tier AC 3 tier Sleeper	2 4 6

Procurement of Brake Blocks

4299. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to purchase the Brake Blocks from open market though the Dahod Workshop of Western Railway is producing the same at lower cost; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As Dahod and other Workshops on Western Railway are not able to fully meet the increased demand of Brake Blocks of Western Railway, only the shortfall is being met/procured from trade.

[Translation]

Accident of Kashivishwanath Express

4300. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Kashivishwanath Express met with an accident in the month of January 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the extent of loss of life and property therein;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) On 5th January 1998, 136 Dn Bareilly Express while on run between Karna and Masit stations of Moradabad Division of Northern Railway, ramméd in the rear of 4258 Dn Kashi Vishwanath Express which was standing disabled in the block section subsequent to a cattle run over. As a result of this Collision 51 persons lost their lives and 66 suffered injuries out of which 41 were grievous. Loss to railway property has been estimated at Rs. 1.02 crores.

(c) and (d) the accident has been inquired into by the Commissioner of Railway Safety who has held unauthorised lowering of Starter Signal and the Driver of 136 Dn Passenger train passing Advanced Starter Signal at

danger as the cause of the accident. The Assistant Station Master of Karna Station and the Driver and Diesel Assistant of 136 DN have been held responsible.

Fire in Diesel Engine

4301. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the diesel engine of a train got burnt due to burning of its filter near Kanpur station;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(c) if so, the outcome of the inquiry alongwith the loss of the railway property ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir. However, only the air filter of the locomotive got burnt on 22.6.1997 while working Shatabdi Express train between Kanpur and Ganga Ghat.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, technical investigation has been conducted to probe into the cause for burning of filters and corrective action required to prevent such cases. The damage to the locomotive was only to the tune of Rs. 12,900/- being the cost of air filter.

[English]

Air Service from A&N Islands

4302. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is shortage of seats in CD/IC flights from Chennai and Calcutta to Portblair;

(b) if so, the action the Government contemplate to take for a better Air Service to Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(c) whether Andaman and Nicobar Administration has proposed to provide Air Service for the inter Islands; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The operation of inter island air services for Andaman and Nicobar Administration was discussed by the Ministry of Civil Aviation with the Andaman and

Nicobar Administration following which the latter is working out the modalities of setting up such a service.

Interest Rate on Loan to IDSMT

4303. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to reduce the interest rate on loan given under the Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns Scheme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to reduce the rate of interest on loan given to small and medium towns covered under the IDSMT Scheme.

(b) Question does not arise.

Blocks under EAS

4304. SHRIMATI RANI CHITRALEKHA BHONSLE : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of existing Blocks State-wise;

(b) the number of Blocks covered under Employment Assurance Scheme during 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98, state-wise;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to cover all the Blocks under Employment Assurance Scheme in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) and (b) The number of existing rural blocks State-wise, blocks covered under EAS during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) All the rural Blocks of the country are covered under EAS with effect from 1st April, 1997.

Statement

Sl. No.	State	Total no. of blocks	Blocks covered under EAS Year		
			1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	330	185	280	330

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	56	56	56	56
3.	Assam	218	142	218	218
4.	Bihar	727	447	577	727
5.	Goa	11	0	4	11
6.	Gujarat	218	150	181	218
7.	Haryana	111	45	77	111
8.	Himachal Pradesh	73	19	44	73
9.	J & K	119	96	119	119
10.	Karnataka	175	133	162	175
11.	Kerala	150	19	79	150
12.	Madhya Pradesh	459	340	394	459
13.	Maharashtra	298	211	247	298
14.	Manipur	31	22	31	31
15.	Meghalaya	32	32	32	32
16.	Mizoram	20	20	20	20
17.	Nagaland	52	52	52	52
18.	Orissa	314	250	290	314
19.	Punjab	138	0	49	138
20.	Rajasthan	237	174	204	237
21.	Sikkim	4	4	4	4
22.	Tamil Nadu	385	198	282	385
23.	Tripura	27	27	27	27
24.	Uttar Pradesh	901	362	611	901
25.	West Bengal	341	213	270	341
26.	A & N Islands	5	1	2	5
27.	D & N Haveli	1	1	1	1
28.	Daman & Diu	2	1	2	2
29.	Lakshadweep	7	7	7	7
30.	Pondicherry	6	0	3	6
Total		5448	3207	4325	5448

Construction of Fly-over at Kuppam

4305. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a fly-over at Kuppam in Andhra Pradesh on 50% cost basis;

(b) if so, whether the sanction has been issue in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir. Fly-over will be constructed in lieu of level crossing No. 101.

(b) This work has been sanctioned in the Railway Budget of 1998-99.

(c) Does not arise.

Fund Released under EAS

4306. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is mandatory on the part of the CD Blocks to adhere to the guidelines of 60:20:20 basis circulated thereof by the Government or else with release of fund will be stopped; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. No such stipulation is made under Employment Assurance Scheme. EAS being a Wage Employment Programme, as per guidelines, at least 60% of the funds are to be spent on wage component, the rest being spent on material.

Implementation of IRDP

4307. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has established District Rural Development Agencies under the guidelines issued by the Union Government for the effective implementation of IRDP and allied programmes;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has requested the Union Government to provide atleast 50 percent expenditure towards pension and gratuity to be paid to employees of such agencies on the lines of other programmes; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The State Government of Maharashtra has been informed of the decision. DRDAs are constituted by the State Government as registered Societies under Registration of Societies Act 1860. Being Registered Societies the service conditions of their employees are to be framed by the concerned DRDAs in accordance with their bye-laws, with the concurrence of the State Government and subject to availability of funds to meet the administrative expenses. For meeting the administrative expenditure the implementing agencies are permitted to utilize a certain percentage of allocations under each scheme which is shared by both Central and State Government. The contribution of Central Government is limited to the above ceiling percentage.

[Translation]

Procurement of Sleepers

4308. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SAHU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sleepers procured by Railway Board in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years and the names of the agencies which supplied these sleepers and the amount paid, agency-wise;

(b) the details of the tenders awarded for the supply of sleepers from January 1, 1995 to March 31, 1998 and

(c) the details of tenders cancelled out of them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) 100412 nos. of wooden sleepers were procured during the last three years in Madhya Pradesh through M/s Madhya Pradesh Rajya Van Vikas Nigam Limited and M/s Madhya Pradesh Export Corporation, Bhopal. The amount paid agency-wise is :

(i) Madhya Pradesh Rajya = Rs. 3.38 crores
Van Vikas Nigam approx.

(ii) M/s Madhya Pradesh = Rs. 17.06 crores
Export Corpn. Bhopal approx.

(b) The details of Tender are :
Tender No. WS-103/97 for supply of 52,000 cums of Sal Wooden Special Sleepers to Indian Railways.

(c) No tender was cancelled.

[English]

Drinking Water

4309. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any indepth study about the achievements of National Drinking Water Mission launched by Late Rajiv Gandhi;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide sustainable drinking water to the entire rural population over the turn of this century; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) and (b) A national survey was conducted to verify the status of drinking water supply in rural habitations during 1991-94 and the same was reverified in 1996-97. As per these surveys as on 1.4.97, the status of coverage of rural habitations with drinking water facilities in terms of the national norms is as given below :

Not Covered	61660
Partially Covered	377484
Fully Covered	991519

(c) and (d) As per the action plan prepared by the State Governments, all the rural habitations except for some parts of Rajasthan are to be covered with safe drinking water facilities during the Ninth Plan period, subject to availability of funds.

Quality of Steel

4310. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to improve the quality of steel being produced at present; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) Improvement of quality of steel is a continuous process. It is dependent on willingness of the consumer to pay adequate price, technology, quality of raw materials, trained manpower, etc. Government have been sensitising the issue of need to improve quality of steel by the

producers at different fora through seminars, meetings, etc. The steel plants have been encouraged to implement total quality management/ISO 9000 standards in their plants. They are being encouraged to use better quality raw materials, acquire new and modern technologies, to train personnel to work in accordance with the right procedures, laid down instructions and to make investments in Research & Development for quality improvement. Policy for import of equipments, technical knowhow/knowledge, drawings and designs have been liberalised and tariffs have been reduced.

Setting up of a Cantonment in J&K

4311. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the date when the task for establishment of a cantonment at Bhaderwah in Jammu and Kashmir was taken up and the amount spent so far thereon; and

(b) the task completed so far and the reasons for delay in its completion ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) No decision has been taken to notify Bhaderwah in Jammu and Kashmir as a Cantonment under Section 3 of the Cantonments Act, 1924.

Retrenchment of Workers of BGML

4312. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA :
SHRI A. SIDDARAJU :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML), Kolar Gold Fields is planning to retrench workers during 1998-99;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of employees who have already opted for Voluntary Retirement Scheme;

(d) the number of employees required for operational and administrative functions;

(e) whether the above Company is running under loss;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps proposed to be taken to run the company on 'no-profit and no loss' basis ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b)

Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) has a proposal to retrench employees during 1998-99 as it has surplus manpower.

(c) During 1997-98 till 31.8.97, the last date for opting for Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) as per the decision of the Government, 1535 employees opted for the VRS.

(d) to (g) The Company is sick and is before the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) since 1992. The provisional net loss for 1997-98 and accumulated losses as on 31.3.98 are Rs. 66.60 crores and Rs. 370 crores respectively. During June, 1997 the Government decided, inter-alia, to explore the possibility of rehabilitating BGML through Joint Venture route by induction of a private co-promoter(s). Accordingly, a Committee was constituted, which has since given its report. The future of BGML will be decided as per the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. In the absence of any sanctioned rehabilitation scheme by the BIFR in respect of BGML, it is not possible to indicate the number of employees required for operational and administrative functions.

Compensation Paid to Karnataka by KIOCL

4313. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has granted permission to Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited to explore mining possibilities near Nellibeedu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of compensation to be paid by KIOCL to Karnataka Government for the development of Kudremukh National Park;

(d) whether the compensation paid by KIOCL has been utilised for the development of the Kudremukh National Park; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken by the Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

China's Accusation Against India

4314. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "China lashes out at India" appearing in 'The Hindustan Times' dated May 19, 1998;

(b) if so, the Government's reaction to Chinese accusations claiming that New Delhi has occupied 90,000 Sq. km. of Chinese territory and poses new threat to China as well as other neighbours with nuclear weapons;

(c) whether Chinese accusation is being considered as a threat to the country's security; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to safeguard the security and integrity of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned China lashes out at India, which appeared in The Hindustan Times dated 19.5.1998.

2. The Chinese statement about occupation of their 90,000 sq. km. of territory by India is contrary to facts. In fact, China is illegally occupying about 38,000 sq. km. of Indian territory of the Jammu and Kashmir State. Apart from this, under the so-called Sino-Pakistan 'boundary settlement' of 1963, Pakistan had illegally ceded 5180 sq. km. of Indian territory in Pakistan - occupied Kashmir to China.

3. As regards Chinese accusation that India poses new threat to China as well as other neighbouring countries, it may be stated that in India's neighbourhood, China is already a nuclear weapon State since sixties. China is also assisting Pakistan in their nuclear and missile programmes. India's nuclear programme is only for the purpose of defence of the country. It does not pose any threat to any of our neighbours including China.

4. All developments having bearing on our national security are constantly monitored and assessed. Appropriate measures are taken to maintain our defence preparedness to face all eventualities.

Linking of Talcher with Gopalpur

4315. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to lay new railway lines between Talcher and Gopalpur; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a final decision in the matter is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) A Survey has been included in the Budget, 1998-99. Further consideration of the Project will be possible once the Survey Report becomes available.

Closure of Bauxite and Iron Ore Mines

4316. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether large number of iron ore and bauxite mines have been closed down in Orissa and Bihar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken to revive these mines ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) 31 iron ore/iron and manganese mines in Orissa and 3 iron ore mines in Bihar were closed. Of these eleven have subsequently been re-opened in Orissa. No bauxite mine in these two States were closed.

(b) Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide its order on 12.12.1996 in the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202 of 1995 directed every State Government to stop mining operations in forest areas where the prior approval of the Central Government, as required under Section 2 of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 has not been sought for any non-forest activity. Subsequently, on the basis of Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgement dated 4.3.1997, eleven iron ore/iron and manganese mines in the State of Orissa, whose leases were granted prior to 25.10.1980 were re-opened.

(c) The Government of Orissa has submitted proposals for diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes in respect of ten mines.

[Translation]

Super Fast Trains

4317. SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of Superfast trains running all over the country at present;
- (b) whether a separate record of surcharge realised on these superfast trains is maintained;
- (c) if so, the average annual earnings of the Railways therefrom;

(d) the Heads on which the said surcharge realised is spent;

(e) whether the passengers travelling in these superfast trains are provided the pronounced facilities; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) 57 pairs.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The average annual earnings of the Railways is Rs. 26.55 crores.

(d) All the earnings realised are accounted for under Consolidated Fund of India and under the existing system, it is not possible to pin-point the particular heads on which the earnings on surcharge are spent.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. However, the extent of facilities to be provided in various trains also depends upon certain other factors, such as, the nature of the train, number of stoppages, the total running time and the clientele, etc. and not average speed alone.

Transparency in Purchase of Defence Equipments

4318. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to bring transparency and abolish the system of middlemen in the procurement of arms and other defence material from foreign countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The existing defence procurement procedures debar the involvement of middlemen in the procurement of arms and other defence material from foreign countries. In all contracts a clause containing affirmation by the seller that he is the original manufacturer of the stores in question and he has not engaged any agent/middlemen to intercede with the Government for award of the contract is included. In case of the declaration being incorrect, appropriate penalties ranging from cancellation of the contract to debarment of the supplier from entering into subsequent contracts with the Government are enforced.

[English]

Unweighed Wagons

4319. SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of wagons which remained unweighed during 1996, 1997 and 1998;

(b) the consequential loss of the penal freight to the Government;

(c) whether any responsibility has been fixed in the matter; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No separate statistics are maintained in this regard.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Construction of Railway Line between Muzaffarnagar and Roorkee

4320. SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any plan to lay direct railway line between Muzaffarnagar and Roorkee to decrease the travelling time between Delhi and Haridwar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the construction work of above line is likely to start; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (d) A survey has been taken up. Further consideration of the proposal will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

Encroachments in Government Colonies

4321. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 356

on November 20, 1997 reg. 'Encroachments in Government colonies' and state :

(a) the number of unauthorised encroachments removed till now by local bodies, Directorate of Estates and police to whom the cases were reported;

(b) if not, the reasons for delay in getting them evicted; and

(c) the time by which the Government propose to take control to the encroached land ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Since November 20, 1997 one unauthorised shop has been removed.

(b) Encroachments could not be removed due to non-completion of legal formalities required under the rules, litigations and non-availability of Police force.

(c) It is difficult to indicate a definite time frame as it depends in many cases on clearance of litigations.

Improvement of Civic Amenities in Uttar Pradesh

4322. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of civic amenities schemes of Uttar Pradesh are pending with the Union Government; and

(b) the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) There are two Centrally sponsored schemes : Low Cost Sanitation Scheme (LCS) and Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) being implemented by the Ministry for providing civic amenities in the urban areas of the country.

Under the LCS, for construction of pour flush toilets where none exist and conversion of dry latrines into pour flush toilets, there are no schemes pending with the Government for approval in respect of Uttar Pradesh.

Under the AUWSP, applicable for towns having population less than 20,000 as per 1991 Census, 81 schemes have been approved for the State of Uttar Pradesh and 5 schemes have not yet been approved due to lack of budgetary resources. The approval of these schemes would depend upon availability of funds under the Central Plan for the Programme.

[Translation]

Construction of Over Bridge at Digghi and Akara Level Crossings

4323. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal to construct overbridges over Digghi and Akara level crossings on the Hazipur-Muzaffarpur road are pending since a long time; and

(b) if so, the time by which the Government propose to construct these two bridges ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) A proposal for construction of Road Over Bridge in lieu of LC No. 54 at Digghi between Hazipur & Chakmakrandh Halt was proposed by PWD Patna as deposit work to be financed by World Bank in 1996-97. The General Arrangement Drawing and detailed estimate for railway portion were sent to PWD, Ganga project, Patna for acceptance in August 1996. Since it is a deposit work, execution can be taken up only after the State Govt. conveys its acceptance and deposits the amount. No proposal for Road Over Bridge at Akara has been received by Railway so far.

(b) Depends upon initiative to be taken by State Govt.

[English]

Pilotless Aircraft

4324. SHRI AJAY KUMAR SARNAIK : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal for manufacturing a pilotless Aircraft for Indian Air Force (IAF) was under the consideration of the Government sometime back; and

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Consequent to successful development of the indigenous Pilotless Target Aircraft (PTA) 'Lakshya', Defence Research and Development Organisation has undertaken limited series production to meet the urgent requirement of the Air Force, the Navy and the Army. Two PTAs are scheduled to be delivered to Air Force by August 1998. Parallely, the technology is being transferred to Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., the bulk production agency, to meet further requirements of the three Services.

Pension Revision for Pre-1986 Pensioners

4325. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have not yet issued orders for revising the pension of Pre-January 1, 1986 retirees from Armed Forces though the order has been issued on February 10, 1998 in the case of Central Civil pensioners;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the orders have been issued for disbursing medical allowance to armed forces/family pensioners as is being done in the case of civil pensioners; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Orders for revision of pension of Pre-January 1, 1986 retirees from Armed Forces have been issued.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Condition of Coaches

4326. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that many coaches in trains are in bad shape; and

(b) if so, the time by when these coaches would be repaired or replaced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Coaches are regularly maintained to prescribed norms and replacements are made on age-cum-condition basis within the available resources and manufacturing capacity. Regular induction of new coaches is steadily bringing down the percentage of overaged coaches.

Railways are also taking a number of measures to maintain the existing coaches in good fettle. Some of these are : renovation of rakes, rehabilitation of coaches, fitment

of UIC vestibules, stainless steel inlay in toilets, PVC flooring, fitment of FRP windows etc.

[English]

Manufacturing of Coaches

4327. SHRI V.K. KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the passenger coaches of conventional type is being manufactured more than the target since 1990-91;

(b) if so, the reasons for not transferring the budget allocation for production of new coaches with better layout and more seating capacity rather than producing conventional coaches;

(c) whether the second class passenger earning including sleeper class contributed 56% of the entire passenger earnings during 1995-96; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not increasing the second class including sleeper class capacity especially in the long distance trains ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir. The actual production of conventional (air conditioned and non-air conditioned types) has been more than the target during 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93 & 1994-95.

(b) Layout and design improvement on different type of coaches under production is a continuous process and new features for optimisation of layout, improvement in facilities for passengers, better reliability and safety are incorporated in newly manufactured coaches from time to time. These modifications are progressively incorporated in the conventional coaches.

(c) Second Class (Mail & Express) passenger earning including Sleeper Class contributed to 55 percent of the entire passenger earnings during the year 1995-96.

(d) Trains running on Indian Railways are predominantly carrying 2nd class unreserved/Sleeper class accommodation.

Limit of Area under MMRD Act

4328. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the maximum limits of area prescribed in the MMRD Act for which a person can ordinarily hold mining

lease or prospecting licence for any one mineral or associated group of minerals within the country;

(b) whether the Union Government are considering for upward revision of these limits; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (c) The maximum area from which a prospecting licence or mining lease may be granted is governed by the provisions of section 6 of Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957. As per section 6(1)(a) of the Act, one or more prospecting licence covering a total area to the extent of not more than twenty five square kilometres could be granted for the whole country. Similarly as per section 6(1)(b) of the Act, the maximum area, a person can acquire for mining lease in respect of any mineral or prescribed group of associated minerals, is ten square kilometres in the whole country. The Central Government may, however, permit any person to acquire one or more prospecting licences or mining leases covering an area in excess of the aforesaid area limits in the interests of development of any mineral for reasons to be recorded in writing.

The Central Government on 30.10.96 issued guidelines for grant of large areas for prospecting licences for carrying out aerial prospecting. Prospecting licence (PL) can now be granted to cover an area upto five thousand square kilometres for a single PL for aerial prospecting with a ceiling of ten thousand square kilometres for the whole country for a single company, subject to certain conditions relating to relinquishment of area over three years and physical and expenditure commitments.

Report by N.L.D.

4329. SHRI SITA RAM YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the NID has recently submitted any report;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount spent by the Government on the above report ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the year 1995, Northern Railway had asked National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, working under the Ministry of Industry, to conduct a study to decongest the station premises, designing of stalls/trolleys, passenger information system etc. Report on the above subject was submitted by N.I.D. in November, 1995. The Institute have suggested improvements in the following spheres :-

1. Traffic Management at the station.
2. Various design element to facilitate public such as catering stall/trolleys, waste disposal, telephone booths, public seating, kiosks etc.
3. Railway assistance for public which included "May I Help You Booth", Reservation Counters & Reservation Charts etc.
4. Colour and light as element which influence people and spaces for efficient operations.
5. Graphic element including functional communication system like signages, dynamic displays etc.
6. System for commercial application like advertisement, Hoardings, etc.
7. Segregation of Parcel traffic at Ajmeri Gate side, New Delhi station.
8. Modification of existing Ajmeri Gate station building plan.
9. Extension of Foot-Over-Bridges into circulating areas as well as their joining at the top.
10. Delineation and re-organisation of circulating area as well as their joining at the top.
11. Installation of tree, guards and greenery in both the circulating areas.
12. Development of benches around the pillars.
13. Development of reservation charts around the pillars.

(c) An amount of Rs. 3,74,330/- has been spent by the Government for NID report.

Construction of Over-bridges

4330. SHRI GANGARAM KOLI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the problems being faced by the people/commuters on railway stations in Delhi-Rewari Section due to raising the platform level towards broad gauge line involving risk of accidents;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to construct over bridges on Railway stations particularly at Pataudi Road Railway station to overcome the problem;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the over bridges particularly at Pataudi Road Railway station are likely to be constructed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Sewage Treatment Project in Bangalore

4331. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Rs. 17 crore Indo-Canadian assistance plan for a comprehensive sewage treatment project in Bangalore City has been received from the Government of Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the present status thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Extension of Dohrighat-Sahjanwa-Ghaghsara-Chhitauni-Bagha Railway Line

4332. SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Survey has been conducted during 1989 for extension of Dohrighat-Sahjanwa-Ghaghsara-Chhitauni-Bagha railway line;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the extension work on the above line is likely to be started and completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. However one survey was conducted for new BG line from Sahjanwa to Dohrighat via Bansgaon in 1977 and updated

in 1989 and it revealed that the line had poor traffic potential. In view of the grossly unremunerative nature of the project and constraint of resources, the project was not sanctioned.

The survey for restoration of Chhitauni-Bagha was conducted in 1973 and this work has already been completed and section opened for MG traffic in 1996. The complete section from Gorakhpur to Narkatiaganj via Bagaha is sanctioned for gauge conversion and the work is already in progress.

[English]

Construction of Roads in N.E. Region

4333.SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Border Roads Organisation has been entrusted with the work of the constructing roads for North Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the annual budget earmarked therefor;

(c) the details of the ongoing major works in hand in this regard;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to make available special funds for the State PWD for the upkeep and repair of such roads; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The Border Roads Organisation has been entrusted with the construction of only some of the roads in the North Eastern Region. Most of these are General Staff (GS) roads and the rest are the Agency works.

(b) The BE for 1998-99 for Border Roads Development Board is Rs. 516.34 crore. This amount is spent as per the requirement of Defence of the country. There is no separate ear-marking of annual budget either for a State or for a Region. The amount annually spent on Agency works depends upon the funds being made available to the BRO by the respective Agencies.

(c) Details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) and (e) Border Roads Organisation is maintaining the GS roads out of BRDB budget. The Ministry of Surface Transport provides the funds for maintenance of the National Highways to the State PWD, wherever the work of upkeep and repairs of the National Highways have been entrusted to the State PWD. Funds for the upkeep and repairs of PWD roads are to be met from the Non-Plan budget of the State Government. There is no proposal under the plan for allocation of special funds for the maintenance of State PWD roads.

Statement

Details of Major Works (with BRO)

Sl. No.	National Highway No.	Length (with BRO)	State	Work Undertaken
1.	52	337	Arunachal Pradesh	Improvement to NH single lane specifications in progress.
2.	53	25	Assam	Widening to double lane specifications in progress on Badarpur-Silchar portion.
3.	53	45	Assam	Widening to double lane specifications in progress on Silchar-Jiribam portion.
4.	53	218	Manipur	Widening to double lane specifications in progress on Imphal-Jiribam portion.
5.	54	40	Assam	Widening to double lane specifications in progress (Km 2 to Km 192)
		140	Mizoram	
		390	Mizoram	
6.	Agartala Sabroom recently declared as extension of NH 44	132	Tripura	Improvement to National Highway Intermediate width specifications in progress.

Frequency of EMUs in Delhi

4334. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have any plan to augment the frequency of the EMUs being operated on the Ring Railway, Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Control Room Facility at Airports

4335. SHRI PUNNULAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the agency responsible for controlling the air-traffic;

(b) the number of airports in India, where control-room facility is provided;

(c) the reasons for not providing this facility at all the airports; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be provided at the remaining airports of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Airports Authority of India (AAI) is responsible for controlling air traffic at Civil Airports in India.

(b) to (d) 62 Airports which have flight operations have been provided with control room facilities. Such facilities can be provided at other airports as and when operationally required.

[English]

Night Landing Service

4336. SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of National and International Airports in the country which do not have the facility of day and night services, separately;

(b) whether there is any proposal to introduce day and night services, where it does not exist; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) All the five international airports have facilities for both day/night operations. Out of 57 operational domestic airports in the country, 32 have day and night facility and 25 airports have facilities for day operations only.

(b) and (c) Provision of night landing facilities is a continuous process. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has planned to provide this facility to four additional airports in 1998-99. Keeping in view the resource constraints and operational requirements, AAI is taking steps to provide this facility at other airports also.

Black Marketing of Liquor by Staff of C.S.D.

4337. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that some popular brands of whiskey/rum are either denied or are generally found exhausted from C.S.D. canteens in Delhi depriving the armed forces from their right of getting this facility from these canteens;

(b) the number of such officers/jawans who could not/did not draw their full quota of whiskey/rum during January 1997 to May 1998 in Delhi, Canteen-wise and month-wise;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the left out stock of such officers/jawans is sold out in black market and entries as 'issued' made in their register; and

(d) if so, the punitive action taken on proposed to be taken to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Even though all out efforts are made to ensure adequate supply of popular brands of Liquor to the Armed Forces personnel, due to certain unavoidable reasons like non-supply by the firm on price revision, there could be some temporary denials.

(b) to (d) There are occasions when the officers and jawans do not draw their full quota of Whisky/Rum. The Unit Canteens keep these figures/stock held into account while working out their additional requirements for the next month. In such circumstances, the question of selling the left out liquor in the 'black market' and taking any punitive action in connection there-with does not arise

Responsibilities to Panchayats

4338. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the States those have enacted the Act under the Article 243G to entrust the powers, authority and responsibilities to Panchayats so far;

(b) whether the State have been asked to prepare and implement the schemes for economic development and social justice including subjects listed in the Eleventh Schedule; and

(c) if so, the funds provided by the States to the Panchayats as envisaged in the Constitution for the over all development of Panchayats at all level ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) Article 243G of the Constitution required the State Governments to enact legislation to entrust powers, authority and responsibilities to Panchayats, Accordingly, all the States, except Arunachal Pradesh, have passed State Legislation.

(b) It is a Constitutional mandate that the States may entrust the preparation of plans for economic development and social justice to the Panchayats and also implementation of schemes in relation to the matters listed in the Eleventh Schedule.

(c) Funds are provided by the States to Panchayats on the basis of recommendations of the State Finance Commission. This is a continuing process. State Finance Commissions of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have submitted their reports to the respective State Governments. The States of Assam, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and West Bengal have accepted most of the recommendations of the SFCs. Gujarat, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu have received Interim Reports of the SFC on which States/UTs have yet to take action. SFCs of Goa, Orissa and Sikkim have yet to submit their reports.

Development of Wasteland

4339. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total grant given by the Government for the development of wasteland in Kutch, Saurashtra and North Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) the assistance provided by the World Bank in this regard so far;

(c) whether any provision is made during the year 1998-99; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WASTELANDS DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) The Department of Wastelands Development, Govt. of India have released the total grant of Rs. 1433.84 lakhs under Integrated Wastelands Development Project (IWDP) Scheme for the development of wastelands in Surendranagar (Project-II), Kutch (Project-I), Panchmahal, Amreli, Jamnagar, Mehsana, Rajkot, Gandhinagar, Banaskantha, Kheda and Junagarh of Gujarat State during the last three years.

(b) The Department of Wastelands Development is not implementing any project assisted by the World Bank.

(c) and (d) Subsequent release of funds to the ongoing projects are made by the Department of Wastelands Development, Government of India on receipt of Quarterly Progress Report, Utilisation Certificate, Audited Statement of Accounts and satisfactory evaluation report subject to 50% utilisation of funds by the Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) of the concerned district. No specific pre allocation is made.

Godown Sites for LPG Distributors

4340. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of godown-sites earmarked/identified for allotment of LPG distributors in Delhi, Location-wise;

(b) the reasons for not allotting them so far;

(c) whether any preference is given to SCs/STs, handicapped and freedom fighter categories; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) DDA has reported that besides 233 existing sites, 8 new sites have been identified as follows :

Location	No. of Sites
Dallupura	4
Jwalapuri Resettlement Scheme Zone G-17	3
Sukhdev Vihar	1
Total	8

These sites have been allotted to the LOI holders on the basis of their seniority in a draw held on 26.6.98. Similarly the Land & Development office has identified 26 sites as under :

Sl.No.	Location	No. of sites
1.	Rajghat	4
2.	Sardar Patel Marg	5
3.	INA	3
4.	Nanak Pura	3
5.	R.K. Puram Sector-4	2
6.	R.K. Puram Sector 6-7	4
7.	R.K. Puram Sector-2	1
8.	West Kidwai Nagar	4
Total		26

Out of the 26 sites identified, 18 have already been allotted. 7 sites have been proposed for allotment and one is vacant.

(c) and (d) There is no such provision for any preference for allotment of sites to SCs/STs, handicapped and freedom fighters category since the allotment of sites is made to Oil Companies.

Implementation of Remote Area Development Programme

4341.DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assured the effective implementation of remote area development programme in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether any concrete programme has been prepared by the State Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the total amount that the Centre has agreed to provide to the State Government for implementation of the programme; and

(e) the areas that will be covered during 1998-99 by implementing the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the house.

Sponge Iron Plants in Orissa

4342.SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up some Sponge Iron Plants in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in this regard so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (c) Government do not have any proposal at present to set up a sponge iron plant in Orissa. However, as per available information, M/s. Bamra Iron & Steel Company Limited have proposed to set up a Sponge Iron Plant with an annual capacity of 0.3 million tonnes at Bamra, Sambalpur District in the State of Orissa. Land for this project is yet to be acquired.

Problems of Industries

4343.SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Raw Magnesite which is unprocessed and untouched ore has been classified alongwith Dead Burnt Magnesite (DBM) which is Processed Magnesite;

(b) whether the Magnesite Industry, the Refractory Industry and Steel Industry are suffering seriously owing to this;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to save these industries and finances ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Yes, Sir. However, Raw Magnesite and DBM have been classified under separate sub-headings under the Customs Tariff Act.

(b) to (d) Representations have been received from the refractory industry in this regard suggesting differential Customs Tariff for Raw Magnesite and DBM. These are receiving the attention of the Government.

Production of Aluminium

4344. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the production of aluminium in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the production by Bharat Aluminium Company Limited and National Aluminium Company Limited has declined;

(c) if so, the main reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase the production of aluminium ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) The production of aluminium in the country during the last three years is as under :

Name of Company	Unit in Tonnes		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Madras Aluminium Co. Ltd.	15401	22959	25853
Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd.	91240	91564	88198
Indian Aluminium Co. Ltd.	54084	37370	38790
Hindustan Aluminium Co. Ltd.	175398	166272	200304
National Aluminium Co. Ltd.	192288	203823	200162
Total	528411	521988	553307

(b) and (c) Production of aluminium by Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) and National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) during 1997-98 has declined slightly as compared to 1996-97. In case of NALCO, the decline in production was because of operating less number of pots on account of shortage of anodes. In case of BALCO, the main reason for decline in production was the break down in one of the generating units of BALCO's captive power plant which supplies power to the smelter.

(d) The performance of NALCO and BALCO is constantly reviewed by the Government and remedial measures suggested to the Company wherever required.

Construction of Over Bridges

4345. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN :
SHRI MANJUNATH AYANUR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to construct over bridges at Railway Crossings near Dera Bassi (Northern Railway), Punjab and near Shimoga (Southern Railway), Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the construction work on the above bridges are likely to be started; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d) The construction of Road Over Bridge at Dera Bassi, at Km. 229/10-11 on Ambala-Kalka section is being taken up by Punjab Govt. on built, operate and transfer scheme. The construction of Road Over Bridge at Km. 62/11-12 between Shimoga and Shimoga town in lieu of existing busy level crossing, qualifies for replacement on cost sharing basis but the State Govt. has not yet sponsored the proposal required under extant rules even after repeated requests.

(c) No target could be fixed.

[Translation]

Construction of Bridge over River Saryu at Ayodhya

4346. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the foundation stone of railway bridge to be constructed on river Saryu in Ayodhya, Faizabad (Uttar Pradesh) had been laid;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the project;

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose during the current financial year; and

(d) the time by which the construction of above bridge is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project is likely to cost about Rs. 51.26 crores.

(c) Rs. 10 crores.

(d) The bridge is likely to be completed in a period of 3 years, subject to availability of resources.

[English]

**Government Accommodation in
Guwahati**

4347. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government employees posted at Guwahati and other towns of Assam are facing hardship for want of Government accommodation;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the number of Government flats constructed at Guwahati and other towns of Assam during the last three years; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to build more flats for its employees posted there ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT. (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There are 1899 Central Government employees at Guwahati eligible for General Pool accommodation.

(c) and (d) No General Pool accommodation has been constructed at Guwahati during the last three years. However, 136 quarters of various types are presently under construction at Guwahati.

**Lounge Facilities at Lakheempur
Airport (Assam)**

4348. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether proper arrival and departure lounge facility is available at Lakheempur Airport (Assam); and

(b) if not the steps proposed to be taken to provide this facility there ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The existing terminal building is suitable to cater to the needs of 50 passengers only. Hence, Airports Authority of India has taken up the work for construction of new terminal building with all modern amenities at an estimated cost of Rs. 14.47 crores. It will cater to 300 passengers at a time and the target date of completion is July, 1999.

**Allotment of Govt. Accommodation to
Artists**

4349. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Directorate of Estates allots accommodation to artists on the recommendations of the Departments of Culture;

(b) whether some Artists who have been allotted accommodation are being asked to vacate the premises; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons there-
for ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) Directorate of Estates allots houses to artists only with the approval of the Cabinet Committee on Accommodation.

(c) Allotments in respect of 39 artists have been cancelled after expiry of the period of the allotment. Under the revised guidelines dated 17.11.97 allotments made to private persons including eminent artists are valid only upto the end of their current allotment period. Further, discretionary allotments in such cases, as per these guidelines, may be made if it is considered necessary in national interest or for meeting international obligations, with the approval of the Cabinet Committee on Accommodation.

**Contaminated Food Served in Railway
Canteen at Tughlakabad**

4350. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

SHRI K.S. RAO :

SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of railway employees fallen ill due to food poisoning after taking lunch at railway canteen in Tughlakabad as reported in "The Statesman" dated June 19, 1998;

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

(c) whether the quality of food etc., in various railway canteens are found to be highly substandard and unhygienic; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide safe food in canteens and fix responsibility for those who shows laxity ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) An incident of food poisoning was reported in the canteen at Railway Diesel Shed, Tughlakabad on 18.6.1998. A total of 110 number of staff were affected. They were quickly sent to various hospitals escorted by Railway Doctors. Out of the 110, 51 workers were admitted/kept under observation. Condition of others did not warrant hospitalisation and therefore they were discharged. Out of the 51 workers admitted two were kept overnight for observation while the remaining were released after some time. These two workers were also discharged the next day. A fact finding enquiry was ordered to go into the cause of the incident. The inquiry revealed the food poisoning occurred due to falling of lizard in 'Dal'.

(c) No, Sir. The quality of food in railway canteens is not substandard or unhygienic. It was just an isolated incident.

(d) The question does not arise. As far as this isolated incident is concerned, three employees have been prima facie held responsible for not exercising adequate care and are being taken up under Railway Servants (Discipline & Appeal) Rules.

[Translation]

Light Rail Project in Pune

4351. SHRI VITHAL TUPE : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has sent any proposal to the Union Government to introduce the 'light train' in Pune city;

(b) if so, the details and the present status thereof; and

(c) the funds likely to be provided for this Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Agreement with Foreign Companies

4352. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways still have any agreement with any foreign companies which were entered into prior to India's independence;

(b) if so, the names of such companies and the financial benefits which they derive from Indian Railways;

(c) the reasons for which such agreement still exists;

(d) whether the Railways propose to terminate such agreements in the near future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir. In so far as two branch Railways lines owned by private companies from pre-independence period are concerned, these are not foreign companies but Indian companies incorporated under the then Indian companies Act.

(b) The Indian companies concerned are the Ahmedpur-Katwa Railway Company Ltd. and The Central Provinces Railways Company Ltd. The financial terms are as shown in the given statement.

(c) and (d) The agreement provides for periodic review to examine the question to acquisition by the Ministry of Railways. Accordingly, the Ministry of Railways have decided not to exercise the purchase option in view of the poor financial position of both private Railways and hence the arrangements continue.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

(1) **The Ahmedpur-Katwa Railway Company Ltd. :** As per the agreement with the Company, if the net receipts in a year are not sufficient to pay a return of 3.5% on the paid up capital, the deficit shall be made good by the Government. If such receipts exceed 3.5% but do not exceed 5% of the paid of capital, the amount will be retained by the Company. In the event that net receipts exceed 5% of the paid up capital, the surplus will be divided equally between the Company and the Government. The Company is presently being paid only an amount of 3.5% of the paid up capital per annum.

(2) **The Central Provinces Railway Company Ltd. :** As per the agreement 45% of the gross earnings are retained by Central Railway towards operation and maintenance expenses. If the balance remaining is insufficient to yield a return of 5% per annum on the Company's capital of Rs. 94 lakhs plus Rs. 21,000/- per annum towards management expenses, the deficit

shall be made good by the Central Railway to the Company. In the event that the balance exceeds the guaranteed return as above, it is shared equally by Central Railway and the Company.

RLEGP as Part of JRY

4353. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA :
SHRI RAMSHAKAL :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme is a part of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana;

(b) if so, the details of the targets fixed for creating employment opportunities for the rural landless during the last two years, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the targets achieved during the above period, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) No, Sir. Rural Landless Guarantee Programme was merged alongwith the National Rural Employment Programme into Jawahar Rozgar Yojana w.e.f. 1st April, 1989 with the objective of providing additional gainful wage employment during the lean agricultural season to rural poor including poor landless.

(b) and (c) The State-wise details of targets fixed for creating employment opportunities and achievements made during the last two years under JRY is as per given statement.

Statement

(Lakh Mandays)

Sl. No.	State/U.T	1996-97		1997-98	
		Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	373.67	329.75	336.97	310.98
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4.42	2.79	4.94	2.88
3.	Assam	98.77	91.54	110.36	107.69
4.	Bihar	489.25	460.02	546.64	533.04
5.	Goa	4.39	5.30	3.32	2.55
6.	Gujarat	109.14	105.20	69.00	82.81
7.	Haryana	15.73	13.08	16.11	16.01

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Himachal Pradesh	7.63	10.62	8.52	10.11
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	47.27	18.36	22.64	24.05
10.	Karnataka	255.74	250.94	222.78	265.91
11.	Kerala	59.73	55.45	66.74	41.82
12.	Madhya Pradesh	444.97	349.02	329.89	347.15
13.	Maharashtra	469.32	455.08	524.38	527.74
14.	Manipur	3.20	3.49	3.15	2.16
15.	Meghalaya	4.35	6.96	4.87	4.54
16.	Mizoram	2.39	2.46	1.59	1.91
17.	Nagaland	6.54	11.65	7.30	7.71
18.	Orissa	321.32	314.19	299.18	299.82
19.	Punjab	15.62	7.85	11.95	12.83
20.	Rajasthan	162.92	168.12	182.03	196.14
21.	Sikkim	1.49	2.63	1.66	2.65
22.	Tamil Nadu	406.90	488.60	312.56	388.81
23.	Tripura	6.35	10.38	5.91	7.31
24.	Uttar Pradesh	603.21	658.18	561.71	599.49
25.	West Bengal	221.86	178.53	206.58	154.62
26.	A & N Islands	1.25	0.82	1.04	0.15
27.	D & N Haveli	0.65	1.02	0.73	0.49
28.	Daman & Diu	0.85	0.50	0.45	0.56
29.	Lakshadweep	0.80	0.88	0.90	1.46
30.	Pondicherry	1.74	2.91	1.00	0.63
Total		4141.37	4006.23	3864.90	3954.02

Traffic Survey for Running of DMU Train

4354. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether traffic survey is being conducted for running of a D.M.U. train from Katani to Narsinghpur via Jabalpur; and

(b) if so, the time by which this survey work is likely to be completed and the D.M.U. train introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Poor Catering facilities

4355. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI :
SHRI MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI MITRASEN YADAV :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of complaints received about poor catering facilities in the super-fast trains including Rajdhani Express trains;

(b) whether there is any proposal to improve catering facilities on board, including the quality food;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any inspection mechanism, to make surprise spot inspection to monitor quality, on a regular basis; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) 482 complaints were received during 1997-98.

(b) to (e) Improvement in catering services in an on-going process. Constant efforts are made by the Railways to improve the standard of catering services, which include maintenance of hygiene and cleanliness, improvements in handling, storage and service of food provision of potable drinking water, display of prescribed menu, daily registering of deficiencies in the lobby office for immediate action etc. Regular as well as surprise checks are conducted and remedial action taken

[Translation]

**Recruitment of Khalasis In Dahod
Loco Workshop**

4356. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts of Khalasis are lying vacant since 1990, in Dahod Loco workshop;

(b) the time by which the above vacant posts are likely to be filled up,

(c) whether all old casual labourers are likely to be absorbed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) The number of vacant posts of Khalasis from 1990 to 1997 are as follows:

1990	13	1994	71
1991	65	1995	117
1992	62	1996	105
1993	90	1997	94

(b) The filling up of vacant posts will depend upon future work-load of Dahod workshop and result of zero based study.

(c) and (d) There is no old casual labourer in Dahod Workshop.

[English]

Derailment of Goods Train

4357. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether derailment of a goods train occurred at Juvvalapalem Railway gate on the Rajamundry-Vijayawada section of the South Central Railway on June 15, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome of the enquiry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 15th June, 1998, 25 wagons of Tirovattur/Avadi/Box 'N' Up goods derailed and capsized near the Unmanned Level Crossing at Juvvalapalem village between Navabpalem and Tadepalligudem stations of Vijayawada Division, South Central Railway.

(c) and (d) The accident was enquired by a Committee of Officers which concluded that the accident occurred due to improper packing/flashing of consignment causing imbalance on under gear suspension resulting in derailment.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
S.R.	1995-96	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1996-97	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1997-98	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
S.C.	1995-96	1	3000	2900	3000	2900	3	-	-
	1996-97	9	30310	41825	30310	41825	18	2	-
	1997-98	6	21840	19203	21840	19203	25	1	-
S.E.	1995-96	109	255917	234133	255917	234133	224	1	-
	1996-97	143	155025	137493	155025	137493	262	6	-
	1997-98	60	50268	28428	50268	28428	134	1	-
	1997-98	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W.R.	1995-96	2	1040	480	1040	480	3	-	-
	1996-97	14	3160	722	3160	722	27	1	-
	1997-98	12	2950	615	2950	615	21	-	-
Total	1995-96	316	1187485	1294010	697567	660681	597	16	-
	1996-97	346	806182	750738	527318	495918	704	21	-
	1997-98	199	434738	318859	271868	246899	440	9	-

Merger of Guntakal Railway Division

4360. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government for not to merge the Guntakal division of the South Central Railway with the newly formed South Western Zone with Headquarter at Bangalore; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The detailed territorial jurisdiction of South Western Zone has not yet been finalised.

Execution of Railway Development Schemes

4361. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the developmental schemes sanctioned during 1993-94 for the development of Bhadrak Railway Station under South Eastern Railway have not yet been executed by the authority; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Three developmental works viz. (i) improvement to station building complex, providing booking and reservation office, two bedded retiring rooms, (ii) improvements to circulating area and (iii) raising of platforms 1 & 2 costing Rs. 23.7 lakh, 8.16 lakh and 15.33 lakh respectively were sanctioned for Bhadrak station during 1993-94 and have since been completed and commissioned.

Railway Guest Houses/Yatri Niwasas

4362. DR. SAROJA V. :

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to construct more Guest houses/Yatri Niwasas in the country during the current year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Commissioning of Frigates in Navy

4363. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had decided in 1964 that the Indian Navy should maintain a force level of 28 frigates;

(b) if so, the number of frigates commissioned in the Indian Navy since 1964;

(c) the number of old frigates de-commissioned by the Indian Navy during the same period;

(d) whether the projects for the indigenous production of frigates by the Mazgaon Dock Limited (MDL) and Garden Reach Ship Builders and Engineers Limited (GRSE) have been delayed resulting in manifold increase in their costs; and

(e) if so, the details of the time and cost over run on each of the sanctioned projects and steps for early commissioning of the required number of frigates ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The Government had approved a force level of 138 warships of all categories in 1964.

(b) 15 ships of destroyers/frigates category have been commissioned since 1964.

(c) 18 ships of destroyers/frigates category have been decommissioned during the same period.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The time over-run in respect of indigenous construction of frigates by Mazgaon Dock Limited (MDL) and Garden Reach Ship Builders and Engineers (GRSE) is expected to be from 1 to 3 years. The cost over-run of these projects has been substantial on account of delay in receipt of specialised equipment, delay in the creation of necessary infrastructure in shipyards, labour unrest etc.

For early commissioning of various projects being undertaken by Defence PSUs, system of performance review meetings at regular intervals, levying liquidated damages in case of delays, awarding contract on fixed price basis, etc. have been introduced.

[Translation]

Financial Irregularities in BALCO

4364. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether bungling of huge amount and financial irregularities have been detected in Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd. (BALCO);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (c) No case of bungling of huge amount and financial irregularities in BALCO have been detected. However, an Enquiry committee was constituted by the Ministry of Mines to look into the award of contract for modernisation of BALCO's smelter at Korba. The Committee submitted its Report on 3.12.1996. The report reveals that the guidelines given in the tender notice were not specific enough as the tender notice did not contain specific details of work, the exact scope of work, etc. In view of the serious lapses pointed out in the report, the matter was referred to the CBI on 13.6.1997 for detailed investigations and to fix responsibility.

[English]

Expansion of Cannanore Military Hospital

4365. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plans to modernise the Military Hospital at Cannanore, Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the allocation made for the same; and

(c) the date on which this Military Hospital was set up and the last expansion made ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government does not have any plan to modernise Military Hospital at Cannanore, Kerala as the existing facilities are adequate.

(c) This Military Hospital was set up on 1.1.1963. No expansion has been done in the recent past.

[Translation]

Maintenance of Tanks and Armoured Carriers

4366. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of tanks and armoured carriers worth crores of rupee are lying out of order for

want of maintenance and overhauling for the last several years thereby adversely affecting our defence preparedness and combating capability;

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
(c) the efforts being made to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Out of their total holdings some numbers of Tanks and armoured carriers do go out of order in a cycle owing to vintage, wear & tear and non-availability of spares, ex-import. Every effort is being made to maintain tanks and armoured carriers to the desired combat-preparedness level. There have been certain problems in regard to import of spares, which are being addressed, expeditiously.

Investment Plan by SAIL for Ninth Plan

4367. SHRI D.S. AHIRE : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited has decided to scale down its investment plans during the Ninth Five Year Plan;
(b) if so, the reasons therefor;
(c) the extent to which it will affect the SAIL in its production target; and
(d) the total amount to be spent by the SAIL during the Ninth Five Year Plan period for its projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has not yet decided to scale down its investment plans during the Ninth Five Year Plan. However, the individual schemes, envisaged for taking up during the 9th Plan Period, would be taken up depending upon the resource availability, market condition and other commercial considerations etc.

- (b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Flying Clubs

4368. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is the shortage of Pilots or Instructors in flying clubs located in various cities of the country;
(b) whether the condition of flying club of Delhi is also the same;
(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

- (d) the steps taken or being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Helicopter Service

4369. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is any plan to connect the Leh-Srinagar, Leh-Jammu, Kargil-Zanskar, Leh-Zanskar by the regular helicopter services especially during the winter session; and
(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited has offered a Mi-172 helicopter on long-term basis to Government of Jammu & Kashmir to meet the requirements of the State. This helicopter can be utilised by the State Government on any suitable route.

Water Supply and Underground Drainage Facilities in Karnataka

4370. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Karnataka Government has sent any master plan for water supply and Underground Drainage facilities to the Urban areas in Karnataka;
(b) if so, the details and the estimated cost thereof;
(c) the name of the towns proposed to be taken up thereunder;
(d) whether the pre-feasibility reports for 19 towns have been prepared for obtaining Overseas Economic Co-operation Funds; and
(e) if so, the latest status thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise. Since water supply & sanitation are State subjects, the schemes are required to be planned and executed by the State Governments and urban local bodies at their end.

(d) and (e) Pre-feasibility reports for 17 out of 19 towns had been received and cleared from technical angle by

the Central Public Health & Environmental Engineering Organisation (CPHEEO) in this Ministry at an estimated cost of Rs. 346 crores. The proposal for assistance from the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OCEF), Japan for 19 towns of Karnataka had been recommended by the Union Government, but was not finally approved by the OECF.

Delhi Urban Art Commission

4371. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction of hotels, bridges etc. have been coming up in Delhi without prior clearance of the projects from Delhi Urban Art Commission charged with the responsibility of urban aesthetics;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) to (c) The Delhi Urban Art Commission acts as an Advisory Body to the Central Government and the local bodies in Delhi with a view to preserving, developing and maintaining the aesthetic quality of urban and environmental design within Delhi. The Commission is required to scrutinise, approve, reject to modify proposals in respect of matters contained in the Delhi Urban Art Commission Act, 1973. Some instances have come to notice during 1996-97 where approval of the Delhi Urban Art Commission was not obtained, as required under the said Act.

- (i) Additions/alterations at DDCA Ferozshah Kotla Grounds.
- (ii) Additions/alterations at Lady Irwin College, Sikandra Road.
- (iii) Additions/alterations at Lady Harding Medical College, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Marg.
- (iv) Additional constructions in respect of Australian High Commission at Chanakaya Puri.
- (v) Second Bridge over River Yamuna at Nizamuddin.
- (vi) Hotel Radisson at National Highway No. 8.

An exhaustive list of such violations is not maintained.

The Delhi Urban Art Commission Act does not provide for any punitive action against violation of the said Act. The concerned local body is responsible for taking action against such violations.

Construction of Bridges Over River Birupa and Mahanadi

4372. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction of railway bridges over river Birupa and Mahanadi, connecting Cuttack is being taken up this year;

(b) if so, the present position thereof; and

(c) the time by which the construction of the bridges are likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Detailed investigation and design work has already been taken up.

(c) In about 5 years' time, subject to availability of resources.

Construction of Terminals

4373. SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL : SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal related to construction of terminals at Sabarmati, Abhinagar and Gandhigram railway stations was approved with a view to reduce the rush at Ahmedabad railway station;

(b) if so, the progress made so far in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the above work is likely to be commenced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Voluntary Retirement Scheme

4374. DR. CHINTA MOHAN : PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Employees working in all the units of the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), at present;

(b) whether around 60,000 employees are likely to retire under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) during the next three to four years; and

(c) if so, the category-wise number of such employees likely to retire during the said period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) The total number of employees working in all the units of the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), as on 31.05.1998, was 175096.

(b) and (c) A new Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) based on deferred payment has been in operation in SAIL since 01.03.1998 and will continue till 31.08.1998. No target has been fixed for the number of employees to be released under VRS. However till 30.06.1998, 2903 employees have applied for VRS, out of which 389 are executives and the rest are non-executives.

[English]

Selling of Water at Railway Stations

4375. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV :
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "At Railway Station, water you pay for may not be what you get" appeared in the Indian Express dated June 9, 1998;

(b) if so, the details of the facts;

(c) whether any action has been taken against the contractor/Railway officials to curb this activity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. This News Paper report points out alleged re-cycling of mineral water bottles at Railway Station in Delhi area.

(c) and (d) Involvement of any contractor or Railway official in such activities has not come to notice. However, checks conducted by Northern Railway reveal that some unscrupulous elements/rag pickers indulge in unauthorised recycling of mineral water bottles. The checks to curb these

practices have been intensified. Efforts are made to create awareness amongst passengers to crush used bottles.

[Translation]

Supply of Electricity to Railways

4376. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the name of States which are supplying electricity to Railways for running electric trains in the country and the rates at which it is being supplied;

(b) whether the Railways are getting electricity at the higher rate in Madhya Pradesh in comparison to other States as a result of which Railways are facing difficulties in electrification of railway lines in Madhya Pradesh;

(c) if so, whether the Government are formulating any plan for uniform rate of electricity being supplied by various States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) The names of States supplying electricity to Railways for electric traction and average cost/unit of traction energy charged by the concerned State Electricity Boards during 1997-98 are as under :

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Average cost per unit of traction energy charged by the concerned State Electricity Board (in Paise)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	378
2.	Bihar	363
3.	Delhi	418
4.	Gujarat	399
5.	Haryana	361
6.	Karnataka	329
7.	Kerala	115
8.	Maharashtra	362
9.	Madhya Pradesh	512
10.	Orissa	382

1	2	3
11.	Punjab	323
12.	Rajasthan	320
13.	Tamil Nadu	346
14.	Uttar Pradesh	418
15.	West Bengal	338

- (b) Yes, Sir.
 (c) No, Sir.
 (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Air Taxi Operators

4377. SHRI S.S. OWAISI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) the total number of air taxi operations permitted by the Government during the last three years, year-wise;
 (b) whether a number of air taxi operations were stopped before the expiry of their permits;
 (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
 (d) the number of taxi operators who continued their operation even after permit date was over;
 (e) the total loss to the Government on this account during the last three years; and
 (f) The efforts being made by the Government to recover the amount from these taxi operators ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) The total number of permits issued for domestic air taxi operations during the last three years is as follows :

1995	8
1996	4
1997	5

(b) and (c) No air taxi operations were stopped from operating before expiry of their permit.

(d) No air taxi operator continued operations after the validity date of the permit was over.

(e) Total outstanding dues of Oil Companies, Inland Air Travel Tax (IATT) and Airports Authority of India (AAI) as on 31st March, 1998, is as follows :

		Outstanding Amount (Rs. in Crores)
Oil Companies	—	43.64
AAI	—	31.26
IATT	—	54.55

(f) Oil Companies are not allowing credit for supply of ATF to private airlines. Legal action has also been initiated by them against the defaulting operators for recovery of outstanding dues.

All efforts are being made by the AAI to recover the dues. The defaulting airlines are regularly reminded to clear the dues, failing which their security deposit is adjusted against the dues. Further, the credit facility has also been withdrawn in such cases.

For recovery of IATT, action including detention of aircraft is taken as per law against the defaulting airlines.

[Translation]

Railway Saloons

4378. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of Railway Saloons in Indian Railways;
 (b) the annual expenditure incurred thereon;
 (c) the utility of these Railway Saloons; and
 (d) the income earned therefrom ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) There are 631 Railway Saloons which includes 503 Inspection Carriages and Special Observation Cars and 128 Tourist Cars as on 31.3.1997.

(b) In the present Budgetary system, fund provision is made for "Carriages" as a whole in the Budget and not for a particular type of Coach/Saloon and accordingly the expenditure incurred is also accounted for in a similar manner.

(c) Inspection Carriages are used for movement of Railway Officers for inspection of track and rolling stock during the run, running sheds, depots, yards etc. and also for stay in case staying facilities are not available at stations. Tourist Cars are available for travelling by public on payment of required tariff.

(d) No separate earning figures are maintained for Tourist Cars. However, the total earnings from Special Trains and Reserved Coaches, which is inclusive of Tourist Cars was Rs. 4.57 crores during 1996-97.

[English]

Doubling of Railway Lines

4379. SHRI V.K. KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a emphasis on doubling of rail lines by the Railways during 1980-81 and 1993-94;

(b) if so, the increase in the net profit due to this exercise;

(c) whether the rolling stock has gone out of use due to unigauge of railway lines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to utilise the unused property so as to reduce the imbalances of the Railways ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir. There was no special emphasis on doubling either in 1980-81 or 1993-94.

(b) Does not arise.

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

(e) In order to reduce the imbalances of the railways, inter-railway transfer of wagons is being resorted to.

[Translation]

Use of Hindi

4380. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the internal official work of Civil Aviation Ministry is done in English only and Official Language Act is being ignored;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to give due importance to Hindi in day-to-day working ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Instructions issued by the Rajbhasa Vibhag from time to time regarding use of official language Hindi in the day-to-day work are being followed in the Ministry as far as possible.

[English]

Changes in the Laws

4381. DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to make changes in the laws pertaining to Group Housing Society and House Building Society, in Delhi;

(b) whether unlike the cities of Mumbai and Calcutta etc. where the laws relating to Group Housing Society have been successful whereas in Delhi it has not been successful where original members of the society have been selling houses/flats against power of attorney;

(c) if so, what protection do the PAs (power of attorneys) have and whether they will be permitted to become members of the society in place of original members;

(d) if not the reasons therefor; and

(e) the amount which the Government is losing by not allowing registration and transfer of plots by Power of Attorney ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Construction of Railway Line between Gadag and Wadi

4382. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether preliminary survey work has been taken up for laying of new railway line between Gadag and Wadi;

(b) if so, the amount earmarked for preliminary survey;

(c) the expenditure incurred thereon; and

(d) the time by which the work on the above line is likely to be started and completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A Reconnaissance Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey for a new broad gauge line between Gadag and Wadi was carried out in 1997-98 at a cost of Rs. 12.60 lakhs. The results of the survey have revealed that the cost of the 252.50 kms, long line will be Rs. 457.72 crores with a negative Rate of Return.

Due to the unremunerative nature of the line and constraint of resources, the project has been shelved.

Induction of Group 'B' Officer in Group 'A'

4383. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are considering to amend the provisions in the rules to debar the induction of group 'B' Railway Board Secretariat officers into IRPS group 'A'; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) The Fifth Pay Commission have recommended that in the light of present cadre strength the induction of RBSS officers in the IRPS should not be allowed. The Ministry of Railways have accepted the above recommendation.

Losses to MECL

4384. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) has been running at losses;

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

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to revive the different units of MECL which have fallen sick; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the losses incurred by Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) from 1991-92 onwards are as under :

1. Losses upto 1991-92	Rs. 3.83 crores
2. Loss during 1992-93	Rs. 10.29 crores
3. Loss during 1993-94	Rs. 11.16 crores
4. Loss during 1994-95	Rs. 11.99 crores
5. Loss during 1995-96	Rs. 12.32 crores
6. Loss during 1996-97	Rs. 4.16 crores
7. Loss during 1997-98	Rs. 2.62 crores

The main reasons for losses are as under :

(i) Reduction in contractual and promotional work availability commensurate with its capacity built-up over the years.

(ii) Drastic reduction in Government budgetary support to all public sector undertakings, especially to Coal India Ltd., who is one of the major clients of MECL.

(iii) In the liberalised scenario, a number of renowned international companies established their Indian outfits who are bidding for various jobs in the mineral sector including exploration work resulting in reduction of traditional business for MECL.

(iv) High proportions of wage bill compared to the total turn-over.

(v) Decrease in overall operational efficiency of the Company.

(c) and (d) The Government of India, Department of Mines constituted an Expert Committee for revival of MECL in June, 95 which submitted its report in November, 1995. Following the recommendations made by the Expert Committee, the Government has been implementing a package for revival of MECL which included the administrative and financial restructuring of the company and improving its operational productivity. This has resulted in reducing the losses of the company significantly.

Permission for Construction of Multistorey Buildings

4385. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Delhi Urban Arts Commission has permitted construction of multistoreyed buildings near

historical buildings and monuments tending to obstruct their field view;

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any complaints have been received by the Government in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) and (e) Do not arise.

Train Accidents in Kerala

4386. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the train accidents occurred in Kerala during the current year till date;
- (b) the main reasons for these accidents; and
- (c) the loss of property and life in each case ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Statistics of train accidents are maintained Railway Zone-wise and not State-wise. During the period there have been 37 consequential train accidents on Southern Railway, category-wise break up of which is given below :

Collisions	-	3
Derailments	-	30
Manned Level Crossing Accidents	-	1
Unmanned Level Crossing Accidents	-	2
Fire	-	1
Total	-	37

(b) These accidents can be attributed to (i) human error, (ii) track defects, (iii) wagon defects, (iv) electrical defects, (v) negligence of road users, and (vi) incidental.

(c) The loss of property suffered by the Railways on account of these accidents has been estimated at Rs. 1.23 crores approximately and 13 persons have lost their lives.

[Translation]

Housing Schemes of Madhya Pradesh

4387. SHRI PUNNULAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government has sent any housing schemes to the Union Government for approval and financial assistance;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the latest position of each of these schemes; and
- (d) the amount of assistance likely to be allocated, Scheme-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has not sent any housing scheme to Union Government for approval and financial assistance. M.P. Housing Board and Development Authorities of Madhya Pradesh have sent nine housing schemes seeking loan assistance of Rs. 23.72 crores. Details of these schemes are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) These schemes are at various stages of processing for sanction as per HUDCO's guidelines. Loan assistance asked for (as mentioned in Col. 3 of the enclosed Statement) will be released once these schemes are approved and documentation is completed.

Statement

Housing Schemes in Pipeline-State/Agencywise for the Month ending 30.6.98.

Sl. No.	Name of the Schemes	Dwelling Units.	Total
1	2	3	4
1.	Comp. Housing Scheme at Station Road Khachrod	227	175.94
2.	Shelter upgradation Chhatarpur	300	24.00
3.	Sonia Gandhi Shahri Garib Awaskya Yojana Bhopal	64	74.96
4.	Composite Housing Scheme at Indore	1863	1036.77
5.	Composite Housing Scheme at Jawad Mandasaur	253	121.38
6.	Composite Housing Scheme at Titurdi Durg	121	89.98

1	2	3	4
7. Construction of 132 flat at Shabari Nagari Indore		132	78.14
8. Construction of 500 LIG for Earthquake Jabalpur		500	733.25
9. Composite Housing Scheme at Badawada EWS Housing Scheme		161	37.84
Total		3620	2372.46

[English]

Supply of Uniforms to RPF Personnels

4388. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of uniform sets (Warm and Terricot) are given to the Railway Protection Force personnel in a calendar year;

(b) the number of times these uniforms have not been supplied to them within the span of ten years with reasons therefor;

(c) the number of personnel charge-sheeted and punished for not wearing proper uniform during the last three years;

(d) whether the Government propose to compensate the staff for arranging their own uniform when it is not supplied by the Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) One set of Terricot uniform in a year and two sets of Woolen trousers and Angola shirts in three years are given to the Railway Protection Force Personnel.

(b) Nil.

(c) Forty-six personnel have been charge-sheeted and punished for not wearing proper uniform during the last three years.

(d) No, Sir, as no such provision exists.

(e) Does not arise.

Review of Panchayati Raj

4389. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the States have constituted State Finance Commission under the Article 243-I to review the financial position of the Panchayats and to recommend allocation to Panchayats from the Consolidated Funds of the State and other related issues;

(b) if so, the names of the States which have forwarded their recommendations to the Government so far;

(c) whether the recommendations were adopted by the State Assemblies before forwarding to the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Article 243-I of the Constitution provides for constitution of a State Finance Commission to review the financial position of Panchayats and to make recommendations to the Governor regarding the principles governing the major issues mentioned in Article 243-H. State Finance Commissions of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have submitted their reports to the respective State Governments. The States of Assam, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and West Bengal have accepted most of the recommendations of the SFCs. Gujarat, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu have received Interim Reports of the SFC on which States/UTs have yet to take action. SFCs of Orissa, Goa and Sikkim have yet to submit their reports.

(c) Recommendations of SFCs are required to be placed before the State Assemblies before the State Governments act upon the recommendations. These reports are not required to be sent to the Government of India.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Dibrugarh Airport

4390. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Dibrugarh Airport is likely to be augmented soon facilitating landing and take-off flights; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On the request of Indian Airlines and other operators, Airports Authority of India (AAI) had taken up with the State Government of Assam the matter of acquisition of land required for extension of runway from 6000' to 7500' suitable for operation of Airbus 320 type of aircraft. AAI has also plans to construct a new terminal building to cater to 500 passengers at a time with all modern facilities. Drawings have been approved and the work is likely to be awarded in the current financial year.

Fleet Expansion Plan for AI

4391. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI G. GANGA REDDY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 2402 dated June 11, 1998 and state :

(a) the aircraft to be procured, indicating their capacity and other requisite features;

(b) the funds allocated for the purpose; and

(c) the time by which the same are likely to be inducted in the fleet of the Air India ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Because of the difficult financial position, Air India is reviewing its requirement of aircraft. It is, therefore not possible at this juncture to indicate the details regarding number of aircraft to be inducted by the airline, their cost and the time frame of their acquisition.

Upgradation of Guwahati Airport

4392. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Guwahati Airport is a 'C' Grade Airport;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to upgrade it with a view to maintain the flights there; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Guwahati Airport is being developed as a model airport. The existing terminal building has been modified and expanded at a cost of Rs. 21 crores construction of Arrival Hall and Car Park has been completed. At present, the airport is suitable for A-300 operations. The proposal is to develop the airport to

international standards. Land measuring 243 acres has been acquired from the State Government at a cost of Rs. 11.42 crores for augmentation of infrastructure facilities for operation of B-747 type of aircraft. This augmentation involves :

- (i) extension of runway from 9000' to 12000'; and
- (ii) construction of new international terminal building and cargo complex.

Electricity and Water Charges Due from MPs and EX-MPs.

4393. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether huge amounts are due from members and ex-members of Parliament towards electricity and water charges as on date;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time since these arrears are due; and

(d) the steps the Government propose to take in the regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Losses Suffered by NALCO

4394. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated cost of Debottlenecking plant set up by NALCO at Angul in Orissa;

(b) whether the project has been able to produce desired result;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the net losses sustained by NALCO thereby ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) The Debottlenecking of Aluminium Smelter of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) has been completed at a total cost of Rs. 49.12 Crores.

(b) All the facilities relating to the debottlenecking of Aluminium Smelter have been commissioned and the performance guarantee tests for all the equipments have also been completed. The installation of debottlenecking facilities gave adequate support to the plant production.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of reply to Part (b).

[Translation]

Allocation to Panchayati Raj Institutions

4395. SHRI VITHAL TUPE :
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :
SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

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

(b) if so, the reasons advanced by the State Government;

(c) whether the State Government has also requested to review the certain provisions of Central Act;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(e) the allocation made and released to Maharashtra for the Panchayati Raj Institutions during each of the last three years and till date; and

(f) the time by which the remaining amount is likely to be released ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The question does not arise.

(e) and (f) Minister of Rural Areas & Employment does not allocate funds to PRIs as such. However, the Ministry of Finance releases funds to various States for augmenting the finances of PRIs based on the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission. Releases commenced from the year 1996-97. Rs. 86.75 crore each was allocated and released to the State of Maharashtra during 1996-97 and 1997-98 for this purpose.

**Regularisation of Casual Labour
in Railways**

4396. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR :
SHRI ADITYANATH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria laid for the regularisation of Casual Labourers in Railways;

(b) the number of casual labourers regularised during each of the last three years, Division-wise;

(c) the number out of them belonging to SC/ST/OBC;

(d) whether a number of eligible casual labourers are waiting for regularisation;

(e) if so, the details thereof, Division-wise; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Casual Labour are absorbed in regular establishment after screening in their turn based on the number of days put in by them subject to availability of vacancies.

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

[English]

Induction of New Generation Coaches

4397. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways have decided to induct new generation coaches replacing existing passenger coaches;

(b) if so, the total number of coaches to be inducted;

(c) whether additional coaches will be able to cope up the rush of passengers;

(d) if so, to what extent; and

(e) the annual production of the new generation coaches in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Every year more than 2000 new coaches are inducted into the system to cater for condemnation and additional requirements. Indigenous efforts have ensured continuous upgradation of design and technology of the coaches being manufactured by Indian Railways. However, in addition 24 coaches are being received under the supply contract from M/s LHB, Germany together with the Transfer of Technology contract.

(c) and (d) Additional coaches are added on year to year basis to meet an ever growing demand. It is an on-going exercise.

Gold Deposits in Kerala

4398. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to engage any foreign agency to exploit gold deposits in Kerala on commercial basis; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) No, Sir. Any Indian National or a Company as defined in sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956 is free to exploit the mineral reserves after getting the mining lease in accordance with the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 and Rules framed thereunder.

(b) Does not arise.

Winding up of Uneconomic Units by SAIL

4399. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited has decided to wind up major uneconomic units;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) to what extent it will help in meeting the sluggish market conditions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) The Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) does not have any plan to wind up major uneconomic units.

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

Complaint Box in Defence Ministry

4400. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has put a complaint box in the Ministry against corruption in defence deals and the armed forces;

(b) if so, the total number of complaints received so far therefrom and the nature thereof; and

(c) the action, if any, taken by the Ministry thereon?

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

(b) 16 complaints have been received so far. Complaints vary in nature i.e. malpractice in recruitment, corruption in compassionate appointment and harassment of DSC personnel etc.

(c) Appropriate action as warranted in each case has been/is being taken.

[Translation]

Development of Government Colonies

4401. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey or framed any scheme for the development of Government colonies in metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Yes, Sir. C.P.W.D. have framed schemes for Development new colonies and redevelopment of some of the existing colonies in various metropolitan cities.

(b) and (c) Details are given in the attached statement.

Statement

Details of Schemes of Government Residential Accommodation in Metropolitan Cities

Sl.No.	Name of Work	City
1.	GP Hostel 106 suites hostel accommodation Sector X, R.K. Puram	New Delhi
2.	GPRA T-IV/96 Nos. at Sec.X, R.K. Puram SH : 1.T/IV/72, 2. T-IV/24	New Delhi

Sl.No.	Name of Work	City
3.	C/O 105 T-V Qtrs. at Sec. X, R.K. Puram – (a) T-V/63, (b) T-V/42	New Delhi
4.	C/O 94+1 T-V (Ph. II) Sec. X, R.K. Puram	New Delhi
5.	C/O 94+1 T-V Qtrs (+1 for Service Centre) at Sec. X, R.K. Puram	New Delhi
6.	C/O Transit Hostel of CPWD Staff at Aliganj, Lodhi Road	New Delhi
7.	C/O GP hostel accpm. 60 Nos. single suites in 4 storey in Dev Nagar	New Delhi
8.	C/O T-V/98 & VI/28 qurs. at INA.	New Delhi
9.	C/O Guest House of M/O UAE at Kidwal Nagar	New Delhi
10.	C/O 32 Nos. T-IV qrs. (MS) in North West Moti Bagh	New Delhi
11.	C/O 60 Nos. T-III (4 storeyed) GP Qrs. in Sec. II, DIZ Area.	New Delhi
12.	C/O 56 T-IV qrs. (MS) at Minto Road	New Delhi
13.	C/O GP qrs. (T-V G+9 storeyed) 72 Nos. at 14 Iron Side Road. SH : Pile Foundation	Calcutta
14.	C/O GP qrs. (6+7 storeyed) at Ritchi Road T-IV/28 in 2 blocks. SH : Pile Foundation	Calcutta
15.	C/O GP Hostel Bldg. at Merilin Park. 2 Bed roomed – 48 Nos, 1 bed roomed = 48 Nos. SH : Pile Foundation	Calcutta
16.	C/O GPRA T-II/60 & III/20 in SM Plot Sec. VII, Koliwada. (a) T-II/60 (b) T-III/20.	Bombay
17.	C/O 1018 Qtr. for GPRA at New Bombay. (T-I/150, II/300, III/400, IV/112, V/56)	New Bombay
18.	GPRA at Malad (1016) T-I/160, II/420, III/240, IV/140, V/56 Enquiry office Community Centre.	Bombay
19.	MS Transit Hostel at Hyderabad Estate, Napean Sea Road (72 suites)	Bombay
20.	GPRA at Anna Nagar, Madras (Ph-II). (a) 200 T-III Qtrs. (b) 40 T-II Qtrs. (c) 24 T-V & T-VI/4 Qtrs.	Madras
21.	C/O 32 Nos. T-IV Qtrs. at Anna Nagar (Ph. III).	Madras
22.	C/O Central Govt. guest house in GPOA complex at Koramangala.	Bangalore
23.	C/O GPRA at Hosur Sarjapur Road i/c enquiry office Community Centre - 505 Nos. T-I/96, T-II/200, T-III/160, T-IV/40, T-V/6, T-VI/3.	Bangalore

Exploitation of Mines

4402. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to form any new scheme for the proper exploitation of mines in Madhya Pradesh and Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) .

Prospecting and mining rights are granted by the concerned State Governments in accordance with the provisions of Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 and the Rules framed thereunder. The Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 also provides that in respect of any mineral specified in the First Schedule of the Act. no prospecting licence or mining lease shall be granted except with the previous approval of the Central Government. Neither any new scheme for exploitation of mines has been submitted by the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Bihar, nor is any such scheme under consideration of the Central Government.

[English]

**Purchase of Consumer Items from
Kendriya Bhandar**

4403. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air Force Installations in Delhi Cantonment including Air Headquarters are not making purchases of stationery and other items from the Kendriya Bhandar/ Super Bazar/NCCF as required under the Government orders;

(b) if so, the agencies from where these offices are making purchase of stationery and other items alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure that purchases are made from the above stated government sponsored cooperative institutions at the lowest rates in either of them without compromising the quality ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir. All Air Force Installations in Delhi including Air Hqrs are making purchases of stationery from authorised agencies like Kendriya Bhandar/ Super Bazar/NCCF only.

(b) The question does not arise.

(c) The question does not arise.

[Translation]

Reservation Quota for Small Stations

4404. SHRI V.K. KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the passengers of small stations are not able to make use of long distance trains in the absence of reservation quota for these small stations, though those trains have stoppage there;

(b) if so, whether any measures is proposed to be taken by the Government in this direction; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) The reservation quota at any station is allotted taking into account the availability of reserved accommodation in the train and the

demand pattern at various stations. It is not possible to give any quota at small stations irrespective of demand. Further, with progressing computerisation, provision of any quota of reservation at any roadside station has become an anachronism and is being dispensed with. However, even at those stations where even though there is no quota in a train, the passengers can always travel in unreserved coaches if the train has stoppage at that station.

(b) and (c) Periodical reviews of the quota are conducted and adjustments in reservation quotas at various stations are made, if found justified and feasible.

Allocation under RDP

4405. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :
SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the allocation made to the States under the rural development schemes during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government would define the role of local MP in regard to the funds made available for Rural Development; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) are the major rural development and employment generation programmes being implemented by the Ministry throughout the country. The details of allocations made to the States during last three years are given in the Statement attached. However, allocations for the current year will be finalised after the approval of Union Budget for the year 1998-99 by the Parliament.

(b) and (c) Members of Parliament (MPs) are members of governing body of respective District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) which are the implementing agencies for most of the rural development programmes. The Ministry has also issued instructions to State Governments to constitute Vigilance and Monitoring Committees at District and Block levels where local MPs will be members. These Committees would supervise, exercise vigilance and monitor the implementation of all programmes implemented by this Ministry in that district and hold meetings at least thrice a year. These Committees would also look into the complaints of misutilisation of funds of various poverty all aviation programmes in the districts.

Statement*Central Allocation made under major Rural Development*

Sl.No.	State/Uts.	JRY			EAS		
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	29785.92	13897.91	15528.39	14550.00	20110.00	16740.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	263.66	142.64	159.37	1859.00	1701.00	1890.00
3.	Assam	8656.14	4574.54	5111.22	8020.00	10820.00	8592.00
4.	Bihar	62878.54	27260.46	30458.60	16230.00	21245.00	18234.00
5.	Goa	284.87	154.12	172.20	0.00	80.00	140.00
6.	Gujarat	11803.29	5101.00	5699.44	6970.00	5850.00	4320.00
7.	Haryana	2718.62	1225.45	1369.22	3320.00	2680.00	2670.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	919.27	489.73	547.18	450.00	1590.00	2550.00
9.	J & K	2704.80	995.14	1111.89	6740.00	3860.00	4760.00
10.	Karnataka	19537.93	9332.27	10427.12	10970.00	11560.00	10600.00
11.	Kerala	6423.47	3395.33	3793.66	1850.00	2850.00	3989.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	40895.57	17611.61	19677.78	22940.00	22670.17	21507.85
13.	Maharashtra	33327.03	15150.04	16927.42	11460.00	6730.00	11334.51
14.	Manipur	340.36	182.82	204.27	900.00	1080.00	810.00
15.	Meghalaya	397.05	213.92	239.02	250.00	490.00	220.00
16.	Mizoram	166.43	90.12	100.69	1200.00	1200.00	800.00
17.	Nagaland	421.02	229.31	256.21	2080.00	2786.00	2100.00
18.	Orissa	24514.35	11274.49	12597.20	11460.00	16427.55	14721.58
19.	Punjab	1575.94	871.51	973.75	0.00	980.00	1840.00
20.	Rajasthan	16660.08	7317.12	8175.55	14030.00	10390.00	9265.00
21.	Sikkim	273.54	83.49	93.28	330.00	220.00	220.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	26107.25	12563.97	14037.96	8410.00	14725.00	18720.00
23.	Tripura	446.92	237.46	265.32	1560.00	2160.00	1440.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	69750.84	33867.93	37841.25	15560.00	21304.75	31448.06
25.	West Bengal	26630.17	12455.47	13916.14	9240.00	10170.00	7790.00
26.	A & N Islands	154.18	84.41	84.31	40.00	0.00	80.00
27.	D & N Haveli	93.92	45.87	61.18	30.00	60.00	30.00
28.	Delhi	49.28	26.93	0.00	0.00	20.00	0.00
29.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	47.28	20.00	140.00	0.00
30.	Pondicherry	75.70	42.32	92.34	100.00	60.00	60.00
31.	Daman & Diu	151.86	82.84	30.16	NR	0.00	0.00
All India		387988.00	179000.02	200000.00	170569.00	193959.47	196872.00

Programmes during last three years, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98

(Rs. in lakhs)

IRDP			ARWSP			IAY		
1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
4168.21	4168.21	4306.11	60.27	66.18	7964.00	8764.21	8870.30	8970.34
311.72	311.72	322.03	10.92	12.00	1444.00	79.71	79.71	80.71
1371.75	1371.75	1417.12	18.45	20.26	2438.00	2555.95	2918.68	2952.83
8109.12	8109.12	8377.40	70.99	77.95	9380.00	17079.21	17398.92	17597.09
70.94	70.94	73.29	1.70	1.89	227.00	86.12	86.12	87.63
1529.61	1529.61	1580.22	38.50	41.97	4672.00	3450.09	3255.70	3292.97
367.67	367.67	379.83	23.12	24.41	1746.00	1084.63	782.14	790.96
119.89	119.89	123.86	12.15	13.31	1568.00	273.65	273.65	276.72
499.55	499.55	516.08	33.62	36.88	4395.00	1056.07	556.07	582.66
2797.45	2797.45	2890.00	55.44	60.87	7325.00	5213.33	5956.29	6024.43
1018.07	1018.07	1051.75	28.19	30.95	3724.00	1896.68	2167.06	2191.85
5282.69	5282.69	5457.47	66.73	73.27	8817.00	11338.39	11240.56	11368.85
4543.87	4543.87	4694.20	80.23	88.10	10602.00	9064.06	9663.47	9779.75
224.80	224.80	232.24	4.01	4.40	529.00	102.16	102.16	103.77
238.78	238.78	246.68	4.30	4.72	563.00	119.54	119.54	121.07
100.91	100.91	104.25	3.07	3.37	406.00	50.36	50.36	50.73
167.85	167.85	173.40	4.22	4.22	422.00	128.13	128.13	129.14
3381.92	3381.92	3493.61	31.59	34.68	4173.00	6298.60	7195.91	7277.74
260.76	260.76	269.39	10.06	11.05	1330.00	486.85	556.21	562.65
2194.00	2194.00	2266.59	97.39	103.87	8732.00	5087.49	4670.13	4723.84
27.97	27.97	28.90	3.72	3.72	372.00	166.65	48.65	47.27
3768.57	3768.57	3893.25	47.79	52.47	6314.00	7468.73	8018.92	8110.20
320.71	320.71	331.32	3.80	4.18	503.00	132.69	132.82	134.90
10158.25	10158.25	10494.33	111.82	122.78	14775.00	20400.14	21616.11	21863.19
3736.10	3736.10	3859.71	43.17	47.40	5704.00	6957.87	7948.67	8039.87
70.94	70.94	73.29	0.44	0.25	12.50	47.17	47.17	47.27
14.99	14.99	15.49	0.25	0.15	12.50	25.61	25.61	25.37
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.29	0.30	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
27.97	27.97	7.22	0.12	0.00	12.50	15.08	15.08	24.21
6.99	6.99	59.87	0.30	0.20	5.00	23.65	23.65	47.27
57.95	57.95	28.90	0.15	0.10	12.50	46.18	46.18	14.59
54950.00	54950.00	56768.00	866.80	945.90	108190.00	108499.00	114000.00	115300.00

[English]

Allocation of Funds for Armed Forces

4406. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :
SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the extent to which allocation of funds has been raised for armed forces during 1998-99 in comparison to the previous year; and

(b) the reasons for non-utilisation of defence funds during 1997-98 and the steps taken to ensure that the entire allotted amount is gainfully utilised during 1998-99 ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Allocation of Rs. 41200 crores has been made in BE 1998-99 as against Rs. 36099 crores in RE 1997-98 for the Defence Services/Departments. Thus, an increase of Rs. 5101 crores has been provided during 1998-99 over the previous year.

(b) The funds allocated during the year 1997-98 could not be fully utilised under Army grant. The main reasons for non-utilisation are (1) lesser outgo under pay and allowances than anticipated for the implementation of the Vth Pay Commission Report; (2) non-resolution of dispute/discussion relating to a few contracts.

A system already exists for regular monitoring of outgo against the contractual obligations and new schemes. The problems relating to these contracts have since been resolved. All concerned have been directed to make continuous effort for optimum utilisation of funds allotted for the Defence Services.

Study Leave to Army Officers

4407. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Army has formulated a plan to send 700 officers to a two-year study leave every year;

(b) if so, the main points of the plan formulated;

(c) the extent to which it has been welcomed by the Army Officers;

(d) whether it is likely to give an opportunity to junior officers to show their worth and help in checking the stagnation in the armed forces; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (e) No such proposal is under the consideration of Ministry of Defence.

Seminar on Air Safety

4408. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether about 100 delegates from India and the Asia Pacific region attended the 5 days seminar held in India; and

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred and the main points discussed therein ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. India hosted the 33rd Conference of the Directors General of Civil Aviation of Asia and Pacific Region from 27th to 31st October, 1997. 151 delegates from Asia and Pacific Region, International Organisations and India participated in the Conference.

(b) While the expenditure on the delegates was borne by the respective countries, Government of India spent Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees fifty thousand only) on protocol arrangements. The main issues discussed in the Conference related to leased aircraft operations, harmonization of civil aviation regulations, air navigation, aviation safety and security, air transport, technical cooperation and regional planning.

[Translation]

Renovation of Jamalpur Rail Factory

4409. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to renovate/modernise the Jamalpur Rail Factory of the Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The following works are in progress to renovate/modernise Jamalpur workshop :

Name of work	Year of sanction	Cost (Rs. in Crs.)
1	2	3
(i) Jamalpur workshop - Development of traction generator rewinding.	1987-88	3.34

	1	2	3
(ii) Jamalpur - Modernisation of workshop.		1995-96	9.63
(iii) Jamalpur - Facilities for POH of BOX wagons.		1998-99	15.21

Amount Utilized for R.G.N.D.W.M.

4410. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether 60 percent of amount for rural development is utilized for Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (R.G.N.D.W.M.);

(b) the names of the districts of Madhya Pradesh where above Mission is functioning;

(c) the works covered by the mission and the departments responsible to implement them; and

(d) the amount allocated for the projects under the mission during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98, State-wise and project-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Water supply being a State subject, the State Government of Madhya Pradesh implement rural water supply programme through out the State. The Mission supplements the efforts of the State Governments, in providing drinking water of all the rural habitations. As on 1.4.98, as per the reports received from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh, 159868 rural habitations have been covered with the safe drinking water facilities. The State Public Health Education Department is responsible to implement rural water supply programme in the State.

(d) A Statement showing amount allocated for rural water supply programme during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 is at Annexure. The project-wise information is not maintained at the Central Government level.

Statement

Allocation under ARWSP and Provision under MNP for Rural Water Supply Programme for last three years

(Rs. in Crores)

State/Uts	Allocation (ARWSP)			Provision (MNP)		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	60.270	65.180	79.640	63.303	86.180	88.112
Arunachal Pradesh	10.820	12.000	14.440	11.400	19.530	26.580
Assam	18.450	20.260	24.380	59.920	59.920	64.170
Bihar	70.990	77.850	93.800	72.480	86.340	86.340
Goa	1.700	1.890	2.270	3.800	3.750	3.050
Gujarat	38.500	41.970	49.870	54.050	66.800	102.000
Haryana	23.120	24.410	27.360	24.900	26.400	26.250
Himachal Pradesh	12.150	13.310	15.960	47.030	52.900	56.914
Jammu & Kashmir	33.620	36.880	44.310	43.492	43.492	52.384
Karnataka	55.440	60.870	73.250	65.874	69.727	84.958
Kerala	28.190	30.950	37.240	51.640	51.640	51.840
Madhya Pradesh	68.730	73.270	88.170	66.730	74.526	65.759
Maharashtra	80.230	88.100	106.020	204.890	230.983	349.889
Manipur	4.010	4.400	5.290	7.710	14.230	15.109

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Meghalaya	4.300	4.720	5.680	10.000	17.000	12.000
Mizoram	3.070	3.370	4.060	3.400	6.500	6.000
Nagaland	4.220	4.220	4.220	4.500	5.000	4.220
Orissa	31.590	34.680	41.730	33.760	42.700	45.040
Punjab	10.060	11.050	13.300	24.500	29.000	22.350
Rajasthan	97.390	103.870	118.630	122.650	144.500	180.700
Sikkim	3.720	3.720	3.720	7.420	8.399	8.170
Tamil Nadu	47.790	52.470	63.140	63.900	53.330	72.000
Tripura	3.800	4.180	5.030	11.880	35.000	11.470
Uttar Pradesh	111.820	122.780	147.750	123.466	241.709	231.170
West Bengal	43.170	47.400	57.040	43.166	40.000	75.000
A & N Islands	0.440	0.250	0.125	4.100	4.100	4.500
D & N Haveli	0.250	0.150	0.125	0.990	1.340	2.830
Delhi	0.290	0.300	0.050	5.000	5.000	7.500
Lakshadweep	0.120	0.000	0.125	0.475	0.562	0.700
Pondicherry	0.300	0.200	0.050	0.700	0.700	1.252
Daman & Diu	0.150	0.100	0.125	0.630	0.920	0.620
Total	866.800	945.900	1126.900	1238.254	1502.158	1756.657

[English]

Functioning of DDA

4411. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI CHINTA MOHAN :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, Revamp DDA: Sahib appearing in daily 'Pioneer' dated May 27, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to bring about changes in the functioning of DDA; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. "The National Agenda of the Government had set out a target of two million additional houses a year. As a first step in this direction, orders have been issued to allow private

developers to assemble and develop land for the construction of houses. This will give rise to healthy competition in the market which would ultimately benefit the citizens of the Capital. Guidelines issued in this regard stipulate that the minimum areas required for land assembly, will be 30 acres of contiguous land, the ownership of the person(s) should be legal, the developers will have to pay 20% of the market value of the gross area, on 100 FAR, into a Shelter Fund, 10% of built up area will be houses of EWS and LIG category.

Instructions have also been issued to the Govt. of NCT of Delhi and the DDA to tone up the enforcement machinery in order to prevent constructions/other activities which are in violation of planning & building control norms.

Sanctioned Posts in CPWD

4412. SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether posts of 242 Head Clerks, 1325 UDCs and 1305 LDCs were sanctioned by Director General (Works) CPWD on 27.02.97;

- (b) whether these posts have been filled up; and
 (c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The post of LDCs were 1365 and not 1305.

(b) and (c) The position regarding filling up of these posts is as under :

(i) **LDCs To DUDCs :**

As per the Recruitment Rules for the posts of UDCs, these posts are filled 37.5% by seniority-cum-fitness 50% through seniority from amongst these categories subject to their qualifying the Departmental Test and 12.5% through merit from competitive examination. All the posts meant for seniority-cum-fitness in respect of LDCs to UDCs have since been filled up. To fill up the examination quota posts also through seniority-cum-fitness, as these posts were created with a view to relieve the stagnation of these employees with longer service, a proposal was taken up with DOPT for grant of one time relaxation of the Recruitment Rules. This proposal was, however, turned down by that Deptt. After this, DG(W) CPWD had issued instructions to fill up these vacancies strictly as per provision of Recruitment Rules. 59 posts of UDCs have already been filled up and for the remaining posts, it has been decided to conduct the examination on 21.7.98 and 22.7.98.

(ii) **Form UDCs to Head Clerks :**

The posts of Head Clerks are filled up 50% by seniority-cum-fitness and 50% by departmental examination. All posts meant for seniority-cum-fitness have since been filled up. For filling up the examination quota posts, after the proposal for grant of one time relaxation was turned down by the Govt., examination has been held from 12.5.98 to 14.5.98.

Compensation to Displaced Families of Ordnance Factory in Orissa

4413. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons displaced due to establishment of an ordnance factory at Santala, district Bolangir, Orissa;

(b) whether these displaced persons have been classified into two categories 'A' & 'B'

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether employment to one member of each displaced family was assured at the time of acquisition of land;

(e) if so, the number of the displaced persons employed by the Ordnance factory so far; and

(f) the time by which rest of the persons are likely to get employment ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) 1020 families have been displaced.

(b) No, Sir.

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

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) 778 persons have been given employment and 15 more have been issued appointment letters.

(f) the rest of the displaced persons are qualified for recruitment to labour/unskilled posts only. These are being filled up progressively as and when posts are released commensurate with workload. Priority is always given to these persons.

Repair of Government Quarters

4414. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1280 dated June 4, 1998 regarding repair of Government Quarters and State :

(a) the break-up of the Government Quarters in Delhi which are 5-10, 10-20, 20-30, 30-40 and 40-60 years old;

(b) the number of Quarters which underwent extensive repairs in those brackets of years of construction;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted to locate the grounds for undertaking extensive repairs; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) :

(a) 5-10 years old	1155 Nos.
10-20 years old	18665 Nos.
20-30 years old	7163 Nos.
30-40 years old	16107 Nos.
40-60 years old	23963 Nos.

(b) 5-10 years old	Nil
10-20 years old	1015 Nos.
20-30 years old	Nil
30-40 years old	Nil
40-60 years old	36 Nos.

(c) and (d) No formal enquiry has been conducted. However, extensive repairs are being carried out mostly in the quarters constructed under "Crash Housing Programme" because of corrosion of steel spalling of concrete.

Notices to Allottees of DDA Flats

4415. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether DDA has issued notices to the allottees of Janta/LIG flats under Hire-Purchase scheme for payment of pending instalments and penalty accrued thereon;

(b) if so, the action the Government propose to take against those who have so far not cleared their pending dues;

(c) whether the Government propose to take the similar action against those who have paid the pending instalments but not paid the penalty accrued thereon;

(d) whether the Government are considering to write-off the penalty in the case of allottees of Janta flats who have paid their pending instalments in view of their financial conditions; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) DDA has reported that as per policy, it initiates eviction proceedings under relevant provisions of Punjab Land Revenue Act and P.P. (Act) after giving the defaulter allottees due opportunity to clear their dues by way of issue of defaulter notices with usual penalty as per terms of allotment letters. It may, however, be added that DDA, with a view to provide relief to its allottees, had launched three Hire Purchase Penalty Relief Schemes from time to time. Last such scheme was scheduled to come to an end on 30.6.98. The Government has decided to extend this scheme for a period of six months beyond 30.6.98 under which 37% relief is allowed on the penalty amount. It has also been decided that this will be the last and final relief scheme and if the defaulter allottees fail to avail of this

opportunity to settle their over dues to DDA, their allotment shall be cancelled by following the prescribed procedure by DDA.

(d) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(e) In view of reply to part (d) above, the question does not arise.

[Translation]

Allotment of Government Accommodation

4416. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the allotment of Government accommodation to one type above the entitlement was made during the years 1991-95;

(b) if so, whether safety has been provided to all the allottees of higher allotment than eligibility under validation of Out-of-Turn Allotment Ordinance, 1997; and

(c) if not, the number of the allottees who are deprived of and the time by which such orders are likely to be issued ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Out of Turn Allotment of Govt. Residences (Validation) Ordinance, 1997 was promulgated on 21.6.97 for validating out of turn allotment made during the years 1991-95. As per clause 3(5)(c) of the said Ordinance, no protection against eviction is available to out of turn allottees where such allotment is of a higher type of Govt. residence than their entitlement.

(c) The number of such allottees is 45. The question of issuing orders providing protection against eviction to such allottees does not arise in view of reply against part (b) above.

[English]

Rural Infrastructure Development

4417. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK :
SHRI ARJUN SETHI :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any funds have been provided to states for Rural Infrastructure Development during 1996-97 and 1997-98; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment does not have a separate Programme for 'Rural Infrastructure Development'. However, under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) and Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), creation of community assets is a secondary objective, the primary objective being creation of wage-

employment. In addition, drinking water facilities are provided under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), upto 20% (25% in the North East) of the programme funds can be utilised by the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) for creation of programme infrastructure. The State-wise details of Central allocation made under these programmes during the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 are given in the attached statement.

Statement

Central Allocation made under major Rural Development Programmes during last two years, 1996-97 and 1997-98

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UTs.	JRY		EAS*		ARWSP		IRDP**	
		1996-97	1997-98	1996-97	1997-98	1996-97	1997-98	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13897.91	15528.39	20110.00	16740.00	66.18	7964.00	4168.21	4306.11
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	142.64	159.37	1701.00	1890.00	12.00	1444.00	311.72	322.03
3.	Assam	4574.54	5111.22	10820.00	8592.00	20.26	2438.00	1371.75	1417.12
4.	Bihar	27260.46	30458.60	21245.00	18234.00	77.95	9380.00	8109.12	8377.40
5.	Goa	154.12	172.20	80.00	140.00	1.89	227.00	70.94	73.29
6.	Gujarat	5101.00	5699.44	5850.00	4320.00	41.97	4672.00	1529.61	1580.22
7.	Haryana	1225.45	1369.22	2680.00	2670.00	24.41	1746.00	367.67	379.83
8.	Himachal Pradesh	489.73	547.18	1590.00	2550.00	13.31	1568.00	119.89	123.86
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	995.14	1111.89	3860.00	4700.00	36.88	4395.00	499.55	516.08
10.	Karnataka	9332.27	10427.12	11560.00	10600.00	60.87	7325.00	2797.45	2890.00
11.	Kerala	3395.33	3793.66	2850.00	3989.00	30.95	3724.00	1018.07	1051.75
12.	Madhya Pradesh	17611.61	19677.78	22670.17	21507.85	73.27	8817.00	5282.69	5457.47
13.	Maharashtra	15150.04	16927.42	6730.00	11334.51	88.10	10802.00	4543.87	4694.20
14.	Manipur	182.82	204.27	1080.00	810.00	4.40	529.00	224.80	232.24
15.	Meghalaya	213.92	239.02	490.00	220.00	4.72	568.00	238.78	246.68
16.	Mizoram	90.12	100.69	1200.00	800.00	3.37	406.00	100.91	104.25
17.	Nagaland	229.31	256.21	2786.00	2100.00	4.22	422.00	167.85	173.40
18.	Orissa	11274.49	12597.20	16427.55	14721.58	34.68	4173.00	3381.92	3493.81
19.	Punjab	871.51	973.75	980.00	1840.00	11.05	1330.00	260.76	269.39
20.	Rajasthan	7317.12	8175.55	10390.00	9265.00	103.87	8732.00	2194.00	2266.59
21.	Sikkim	83.49	93.28	220.00	220.00	3.72	372.00	27.97	28.90

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
22. Tamil Nadu		12563.97	14037.96	14725.00	18720.00	52.47	6314.00	3768.57	3893.25
23. Tripura		237.46	265.32	2160.00	1440.00	4.18	503.00	320.71	331.32
24. Uttar Pradesh		33367.93	37841.25	21304.75	31448.06	122.78	14775.00	10158.25	10494.33
25. West Bengal		12455.47	13916.74	10170.00	7790.00	47.40	5704.00	3736.10	3859.71
26. A & N Islands		84.41	94.31	0.00	80.00	0.25	12.50	70.94	73.29
27. D & N Haveli		45.81	51.18	60.00	30.00	0.15	12.50	14.99	15.49
28. Delhi		26.99	0.00	20.00	0.00	0.30	5.00	0.00	0.00
29. Daman & Diu		82.64	30.16	0.00	0.00	0.10	12.50	57.95	28.90
30. Lakshadweep		0.00	47.28	140.00	0.00	0.00	12.50	27.97	7.22
31. Pondicherry		42.32	92.34	60.00	60.00	0.20	5.00	6.99	59.87
All India		179000.02	200000.00	193959.47	196872.00	945.90	108190.00	54950.00	56768.00

* This relates to release of funds allocations are not made under EAS.

** The figures represent the allocation for the programme as a whole.

[Translation]

Non-Stoppage of Goods Train

4418. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a goods train started from Jabalpur on April 28, 1998 crossed Katani Station inspite of having stoppage signal;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(c) if so, the outcome of the inquiry and the action taken against the guilty official ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) The Bogey Hopper Truck Goods train from Jabalpur started from Dundi station on 28.4.1998 and while on run passed Katni Station with signals 'at danger'. The incident has been enquired by the Officers of Zonal Railway who have fixed the responsibility on the Carriage & Wagon staff of Jabalpur and the Driver of the Goods train. The responsible staff have been taken up under Discipline and Appeal Rules.

Exploration of Minerals

4419 SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the minerals being exploited so far in the country, State-wise;

(b) the basis of royalty being paid to the respective States on these minerals;

(c) whether the State Government of Madhya Pradesh has forwarded any proposal urging enhancement in royalty on minerals; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Information regarding minerals being exploited State-wise is given in the attached statement.

(b) to (d) Under the provisions of Section 9(1) & (2) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957, the holder of a mining lease has to pay royalty in respect of any mineral removed or consumed by him or his agent, etc. from the leased area at the rate specified in respect of that mineral in the Second Schedule to the said Act. The royalty on major minerals (excluding coal and lignite), is charged on unit of production basis or ad valorem basis. The current rates of royalty on major minerals other than coal and lignite have been revised vide Government of India Gazette Notification GSR No 214(E) dated 11.4.97 copy of which has been laid on the Table of the House on 8.5.97. Such revision was based on the recommendations of the Study Group constituted by the Government of India in 1995 for revision of royalty on major minerals (other than coal & lignite). The said

Study Group comprised of, inter-alia, representatives of the State Governments of Gujarat, Karnataka and Rajasthan at the level of Secretary to the State Govt. as members. As per convention, the State Govts. are represented in such Study Group constituted for recommendations on royalty rates on different occasions by rotation. In the previous Study Group constituted on 30.3.89 whose recommendations formed the basis of the revision of royalty rates in 1992, the Government of Madhya Pradesh was represented by its Secretary in the Mineral Resources Department as a member of the Study Group.

The Study Group constituted in 1995 had detailed consultation with the State Governments including the Government of Madhya Pradesh before finalising its recommendations. The Government of Madhya Pradesh had favoured increase in the then existing royalty rates on minerals in varying degrees during the consultations of the Study Group and after the revision of royalty rates in April, 1997, taken up the issue of reduction of royalty rates on diamond with the Union Government but it was not found feasible to accede to their request.

Statement

1. Andhra Pradesh

Coal
 Nature Gas (Utilised)
 Petroleum (Crude)
 Gold (Primary)
 Iron Ore (Lumps)
 Iron Ore (Fines)
 Lead Conc.
 Manganese Ore
 Silver
 Apatite
 Asbestos
 Ball Clay
 Barytes
 Clay (others)
 Corundum
 Dolomite
 Felspar
 Fireclay
 Garnet (Abrasive)
 Graphite (R.O.M.)
 Kaolin (Natural)
 Limestone
 Lime Kankar
 Limeshell
 Mica Crude (P)

Mica Waste & Scrap

Ochre
 Quartz
 Silica Sand
 Sand (others)
 Steatite
 Vermiculite
 Shaje
 Laterite

2. Arunachal Pradesh

Petroleum (Crude)

3. Assam

Coal
 Natural Gas (Utilised)
 Petroleum (Crude)
 Limestone

4. Bihar

Coal
 Bauxite
 Copper Ore
 Gold (Secondary)
 Iron Ore (Lumps)
 Iron Ore (Fines)
 Manganese Ore
 Silver

- Dolomite
 Felspar
 Fireclay
 Garnet (Abrasive)
 Graphite (R.O.M.)
 Kaolin (Natural)
 Kaolin (Processed)
 Kyanite
 Limestone
 Mica Crude (P)
 Mica Waste & Scrap
 Ochre
 Pyrites
 Quartz
 Quartzite
 Silica Sand
 Steatite
 Laterite
5. **Goa**
- Bauxite
 Iron Ore (Lumps)
 Iron Ore (Fines)
 Iron Ore Conc.
 Manganese Ore
6. **Gujarat**
- Lignite
 Natural Gas (Utilised)
 Petroleum (Crude)
 Bauxite
 Agate
 Ball Clay
 Chalk
 Clay (others)
- Fireclay
 Fluorite (Graded)
 Fluorite Conc.
 Gypsum
 Kaolin (Natural)
 Kaolin (Processed)
 Limestone
 Calcareous Sand
 Ochre
 Quartz
 Silica Sand
 Steatite
 Vermiculite
 Laterite
 Perlite
7. **Haryana**
- Iron Ore (Lumps)
 Dolomite
 Kaolin (Natural)
 Limestone
 Lime Kankar
 Silica Sand
 Sulphur
8. **Himachal Pradesh**
- Barytes
 Limestone
 Salt (Rock)
 Shale
9. **Jammu & Kashmir**
- Coal
 Gypsum
 Limestone
10. **Karnataka**
- Bauxite

Karnataka (contd.)

Chromite
 Gold (Primary)
 Iron Ore (Lumps)
 Iron Ore (Fines)
 Iron Ore Conc.
 Manganese Ore
 Silver
 Dolomite
 Felspar
 Fireclay
 Felsite
 Kaolin (Natural)
 Kaolin (Processed)
 Kyanite
 Limestone
 Limeshell
 Magnesite
 Ochre
 Quartz
 Fuch Quartzite
 Silica Sand
 Steatite
 Shale
 Dunite

11. Kerala
 Bauxite
 Graphite (R.O.M.)
 Kaolin (Natural)
 Kaolin (Processed)
 Sillimanite
 Limestone
 Limeshell
 Silica Sand

Sand (Others)

12. Madhya Pradesh

Coal
 Bauxite
 Copper Ore
 Iron Ore (Lumps)
 Iron Ore (Fines)
 Manganese Ore
 Tin Conc.
 Phosphorite
 Calcite
 Corundum
 Diamond
 Diaspore
 Dolomite
 Felspar
 Fireclay
 Kaolin (Natural)
 Kaolin (Processed)
 Limestone
 Ochre
 Pyrophyllite
 Quartz
 Quartzite
 Silica Sand
 Slate
 Steatite
 Vermiculite
 Laterite

13. Maharashtra
 Coal
 Bauxite
 Chromite
 Iron Ore (Lumps)

Maharashtra (Contd.)

Iron Ore (Fines)

Manganese Ore

Corundum

Dolomite

Felspar

Fireclay

Fluorite (Graded)

Kaolin (Natural)

Kyanite

Sillimanite

Limestone

Ochre

Pyrophyllite

Quartz

Silica Sand

Sand (Others)

Shale

Laterite

14. Manipur

Chromite

15. Meghalaya

Limestone

16. Orissa

Coal

Bauxite

Chromite

Iron Ore (Lumps)

Iron Ore (Fines)

Lead Conc.

Manganese Ore

Corundum (Ruby)

Dolomite

Fireclay

Graphite

Kaolin (Natural)

Kaolin (Processed)

Sillimanite

Limestone

Pyrophyllite

Quartzite

Steatite

17. Punjab

Sulphur

18. Rajasthan

Natural Gas (Utilised)

Copper Ore

Iron Ore (Lumps)

Lead Conc.

Tungsten Conc.

Silver

Zinc Conc.

Phosphorite

Asbestos

Ball Clay

Barytes

Calcite

Chalk

Dolomite

Felspar

Fireclay

Fluorite (Graded)

Garnet (Abrasive)

Garnet (Gem)

Graphite (R.O.M.)

Gypsum

Jasper

Kaolin (Natural)

	Kaolin (Processed)	Silica Sand
	Kyanite	Steatite
	Sillimanite	Sulphur
	Limestone	Vermiculite
	Mica Crude (P)	Laterite
	Mica Waste & Scrap	Dunite
	Ochre	21. Tripura
	Pyrophyllite	Natural Gas (Utilised)
	Quartz	22. Uttar Pradesh
	Quartzite	Coal
	Silica Sand	Phosphorite
	Steatite	Diaspore
	Vermiculite	Dolomite
	Wollastonite	Limestone
	Laterite	Magnesite
19.	Sikkim	Pyrophyllite
	Copper Ore	Silica Sand
	Lead Conc.	Steatite
	Zinc Conc.	Sulphur
20.	Tamilnadu	23. West Bengal
	Lignite	Coal
	Natural Gas (Utilised)	Apatite
	Petroleum (Crude)	Clay (Others)
	Bauxite	Dolomite
	Ball Clay	Fireclay
	Felspar	Kaolin (Natural)
	Fireclay	Kaolin (Processed)
	Garnet (Abrasive)	Sulphur
	Graphite (R.O.M.)	[English]
	Gypsum	Mining Activities in Kolar Gold Mine
	Limestone	4420.SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of
	Lime Kankar	STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :
	Magnesite	(a) whether mining activities have come to a stand
	Quartz	still in Chigaragunta old Bisanatham, Yeppamana, Ramagiri
		and other neighbouring areas of Kolar Gold Fields;

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether more than 12 tonnes of Gold can be extracted from about 33 million tonnes of tailings by installing a plant at Kolar Gold Fields; and
- (d) if so, the response of the Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) and (d) As per the report submitted by the Operating Agency (OA) in October, 1996 about 12 tonnes of gold can be extracted from the 33 million tonnes of tailing by setting up a metallurgical plant estimated to cost about Rs. 77 crores. The project was a part of rehabilitation scheme submitted by the OA. The report of the OA has not been accepted by the Government. Government decided in June, 1997 to explore the possibility of rehabilitating the Bharat Gold Mines Ltd. (BGML) through Joint Venture route by induction of a private co-promoter(s). Accordingly, a Committee was constituted which has since given its report. The future of BGML will be decided as per the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.

Defence Deal with Yugoslavia

4421. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a contract was concluded with M/s FDSP of erstwhile Yugoslavia for supply of 150 TFCS for T-55 tanks at a cost of \$ 35.4 million as has been brought out in the news-item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated June 22, 1998; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to recover the losses ?

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

(b) Immediately, after the embargo on dealings with Yugoslavia was lifted by UN, following action has been taken by the Government to retrieve the money paid to the Yugoslavian firm in terms of the contract, dated 23.7.1991:

- (i) Deputy Minister of Defence of Yugoslavia visited New Delhi in December, 1997 and offered a Sovereign Guarantee. Continuous meetings were held at the levels of Joint Secretary, Additional Secretary and Defence Secretary. They expressed wish to settle the 'advance' paid to them through subsequent contracts. However, the Indian side insisted on the issue to be settled by Yugoslavia by refunding full amount of the 'advance'.
- (ii) In order to put pressure on Yugoslavia to resolve this issue, it has since been decided that no fresh contract may be signed or offer of Yugoslavian Firms entertained by the Ministry of Defence.
- (iii) Our Ambassador in Belgrade has also been requested to take up the matter at the highest level with the Government of Yugoslavia.
- (iv) The matter is also being pursued through Ministry of External Affairs, at the highest diplomatic level, to persuade the Yugoslavia Government to settle the issue.

Compensation from Russia for Tunguska Air Defence System

4422. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Defence Ministry has scored a significant victory by negotiating with Russian Vendors for the Tunguska air defence system into paying a multi-million dollar compensation package; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) A Protocol, *inter alia*, providing for payment of US \$ 8.64 million, by the Russian side, towards compensation for some defective units of the System has been signed with M/s Rosvoorouzhnie on May 30, 1998. A sum of US \$ 5.75 million, recovered, earlier, by encashment of the Performance Bank Guarantee of the Vendor has been mutually agreed to be adjusted towards the compensation. The balance amount of compensation will be adjusted against the cost of other items contracted with Russia, separately.

Grievances of IAF Staff

4423. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a high level panel has been set up to study IAF staff grievances;
- (b) if so, the composition and terms of its reference; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to submit its Report?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) A high level committee headed by the Defence Secretary was set up.

(b) The Committee consisted of Defence Secretary, three Vice Chiefs and FA (DS). The Committee was set up to go into the pay anomalies, resulting from the pay Commission Report.

(c) The Report was submitted in April 1998.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

A copy of the MOU between the Indian Airlines Ltd. and the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the year 1997-98

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : I beg to lay on the Table :

A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Indian Airlines Limited and the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1099/98]

Annual Report and Review by the Government of the working of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Limited, New Delhi etc.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-
 - (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96 alongwith Audited

Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1100/98]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1101/98]

- (3) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Capital Region Planning Board, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Accounts, under section 26 of the National Capital region Planning Board Act, 1985.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1102/98]

Annual Report and Review by the Government of the working of the Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre, Nagpur

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK) : I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and design Centre, Nagpur, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre, Nagpur, for the year 1996-97.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1103/98]

12.02 hrs.

**ELECTRICITY LAWS (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 1998***

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 and the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"The leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 and the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : I introduce the Bill.

representing this independent country. An attempt is being made to show and send a message to the nation through fascism that whatever Mahatma Gandhi had done was wrong. Mahatma Gandhi followed the path of truth and non-violence, it was wrong, he brought freedom to the country by fighting with the Britishers, it was wrong, if he tried to bring the country on the right path by going on a fast then it was wrong. If Mahatma Gandhi removed untouchability from the country, then it was wrong. He brought equality and uniformity in the country, it was wrong. If everything was wrong, then what was right ? The fact was that the three bullets were shot in the chest of Mahatma Gandhi who was the founder of our independence. When it was right then why an attempt is being made to show . . . (Interruptions) I would like to make a request only. I do not want to deliver a lengthy speech . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Sir, I have given a notice on it.

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow all of you one by one.

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Every Member present in this House irrespective of the party with which they belong to, please listen to my request. The Censor Board of Maharashtra Government allowed them to perform this play. It is a serious matter. It is a matter of prestige and culture of the nation. You should ask the Maharashtra Government to withdraw this permission. Otherwise, we will think that there is a difference between your words and deeds. If you do not honour Nathuram, then you should direct the Maharashtra Government which is running on your support to withdraw permission given to this play immediately.

[English]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Sir, Mahatma Gandhi is not an ordinary person . . . (Interruptions) We respected him . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister is going to reply. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jogi, please understand. The Minister wants to reply.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Govindan, the Minister is going reply.

(Interruptions)

12.03 hrs.

**RE : STAGE PLAY ON NATHU
RAM GODSE**

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up Zero Hour

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to raise a very serious matter. I have given a notice also for that.

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you after Shri Jogi.

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the nation and the entire House to very serious matter through you. An attempt is being made to negate the prestige of the nation as well as the struggle for freedom. An attempt is being made to forget the history and culture of India. I would like to draw the attention of the nation, through you, towards that attempt. A stage play called "Nathuram Godse Boltai" is being performed in Mumbai. This play is based on the biography of Nathuram Godse the killer of Mahatma Gandhi. Through that biography an attempt to justify the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the Nation, by Nathuram Godse is being made. Through this play an attack has been made on the life, philosophy and thinking of the Mahatma Gandhi, who brought freedom to the country and with whose kindness, we people including you are sitting here

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extra Ordinary, Part-II, Section 2, dated 16.7.98

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Madurai) : Sir, this Government cannot unfurl the national flag on the 15th of August. How can you allow those who are praising the murderer of Mahatma Gandhi to be in Government ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand. This is not good. The Minister will reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI : The Prime Minister should come to the House and give reply . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There are other Members also on the same subject. Shri Vora, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There are other Members also who want to speak on the same subject. Shri Kawade, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Sir, we respected Gandhiji not only as the Father of the Nation but we have also respected him as a saint and it is on record throughout the country that we did not have a person born in India of the stature of Gandhi after the Buddha. Now, his name is being vandalised in this play. Dialogues purportedly spoken by Gandhi are being rebutted by Godse in this play. His brother Gopal Godse was received in Maharashtra. Now, Sir, my point is . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It has already been raised by Shri Jogi. Please assist him. You need not go into the facts.

(Interruptions)

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : I am giving a suggestion. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand. The Minister is also going to reply.

(Interruptions)

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : How can the play be allowed in Gujarat and Maharashtra. Either you take a serious notice. . . . (Interruptions) I want this House to take a serious notice. . . . (Interruptions) I want the Government to clear the position. . . . (Interruptions) The Government should explain the position to this House and to you, Sir. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Except the speech of Prof. Soz, nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : I want the Government to explain the position. . . . (Interruptions) I want an observation on this today. You have to take a serious notice of this. How can the Government allow this play ? . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will also allow you. I have allowed Shri Jaipal Reddy. After him, I will call you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, not now. Except the speech of Shri Jaipal Reddy nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : He has mentioned my name, I want to hear him. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, Prof. Soz, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Government is going to reply. No cross-talk please.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahabubnagar) : Sir, it is a matter of indescribable shame that Gandhi, who is not only the Father of the Nation but the greatest man of this millennium, is not only being vilified but his assassin is being glorified. That is the point. This play was specifically permitted by the Censor Board of the Government of Maharashtra and the BJP which is a leading party here, is a leading partner of that Government there. Whenever we refer to Shri Nathuram Godse as one of the RSS activists, these people keep finding fault with the facts. Today, the same RSS persons are encouraging enactment of these plays. We want the Government to come up with a categorical statement. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Please

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to very strongly associate with what has already been said by Shri Jogi. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are not expected to give a direction to the Chair. Please take your seat. I have called Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

* Not recorded.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should have thought that in a matter like this, the hon. friends who are sitting now on the Treasury Benches. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. This is not good.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chaubey, please take your seat. He is a very senior Member, please understand.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi) : We should also be allowed to speak. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you. I have called Shri Somnath Chatterjee to speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You please take your seat. We will listen to you also.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I think, the time has come for us to very seriously consider whether we can, at all, function in this House. When a very serious matter like this is being raised, there are obviously, considerably strong feelings, feeling of anguish and feeling of horror also, that some hon. Members are expressing. The way they are being interrupted only shows that today we are facing a dispensation which has become a matter of serious danger to the country, the country's integrity, country's ethos.

Today, Sir, extolling the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi by conscious attempt in the name of some cultural activities is nothing but a direct insult, not only to his memory but also for whatever good we stand for, this country stands for. Therefore, I should have expected some humility from their side, at least, the readiness to hear what others may have to say.

The other day Comrade Indrajit Gupta expressed his anguish which we all share that if we do not come here to discuss things, then we have no justification to be here. Therefore, I am requesting our hon. friends on the other side, enough damage has been done to the country because of their coming to power. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : That is their real problem.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : This is the only trouble with him. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : It is an aspersion on the people who have elected us. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No please, let him complete.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Although, I agree with my friends that Shri Sharad Pawar and his friends have very liberally contributed to their coming to that side. Therefore, I request that whatever little is left of the heritage and the greatness of this country may not be directly attacked in this manner. Today, if this play is continued to be staged in a city like Mumbai – I have great respect for Mumbai – what is the message that is going down the country ? Therefore, I strongly request that, at least, some good sense may prevail. For a change, Shri Madan Lal Khurana may agree with that and categorically state here that there has been a great damage to the principles which we hold very dear in this country and let the murderer of Mahatma Gandhi not be extolled and not be projected as a martyr.

Therefore, it is a very serious matter and we wish the Government to respond to it very seriously.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North-East) : Does Shri Somnath Chatterjee accept Gandhiji as the 'Father of the Nation' ? I just want to hear that from him. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Yes, some people have to be told. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak. I have heard Shri Ajit Jogi, Prof. Saifuddin Soz, Shri Jaipal Reddy and Shri Somnath Chatterjee. I do not know one thing. Out of these four hon. Members, who has gone through that particular play, that particular drama ? I have not read it. Whatever I have seen or read, that was from the newspapers only. One should not rely upon the information or news given in the newspaper. . . .(Interruptions) Please just listen to me. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Sir, he is saying that I have not read the book. I have read the book. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ajit Jogi, let him complete.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Let us know the contents of the book. Do not make allegations unnecessarily. After all, you are making allegations against the government. There is a machinery which approves any act or anything and only after ratifying, it comes to the stage. Now it is necessary to find out the facts as to what have been stated in that play and thereafter this House should criticise any State or any citizen of Mumbai or any Government of this country. One should not criticise without application of mind. It is absolutely wrong. . . .(Interruptions)

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Sir, I have verified the facts. He is wrong. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Sir, I urge upon Shri Somnath Chatterjee and other hon. Members of this House . . .(Interruptions) What you are saying is not a fact. . . .(Interruptions). This is the thinking of the other person which has been displayed in the drama. There is no criticism. As far as Mahatma Gandhi is concerned, there is no criticism at all. While you shout, you should apply your mind and then shout. This is not the way, one should go on shouting . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Do you approve it ? . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Every person has got the other side. Every coin has the other side. You try to understand that and then you can raise this issue here. That is my humble submission.

I will come back to this House after collecting the information. If what you have said is correct, I will also appreciate that but we should know the facts. That is very much important. Relying upon the news or information in the newspaper, one should not shout in this House. That is my contention. Thank you very much.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Mr. Speaker, Sir. . .(Interruptions) Please allow me to speak.

[Translation]

(Interruptions)

You start shouting without listening anything. First listen to me, than speak.

[English]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter raised by Shri Ajit Jogi is a very serious matter. Gandhiji is not only the Father of our Nation but all the people in the world respect him as a philosopher, friend and guide. So, Sir, what Shri Chatterjee has said is not factually correct.

I request the Government to collect the details from the Maharashtra Government. If any such attempt has been

taking place, then the Government should take strong action so that the men like Gandhiji's name, philosophy, guidance and the facts are not distorted. . . .(Interruptions) Any such attempt should be dealt with firmly so that the message should go to the country that we respect Gandhiji as the Father of our nation.

There were other national leaders like Ambedkar, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Bhagat Singh and Subhash Chandra Bose. Please see that there should not be any character assassination of these leaders. If it has been there, then you take strong action. I condemn if any such attempt has been made. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad) : You yourself have not seen the play. . . .(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : That is why, I have said it. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think, we should give a deep thought to the points arose from the question raised by Shri Ajit Jogi. This is present trend in the country of staging plays. Many big personalities like Arastu, Jesus Christ, Mahatma Gandhi who have been assassinated due to one or the other reason have also been shown in the plays. The plays, which were staged earlier are being staged and displayed today also. But in the staging, the decision is left on the people. We cannot suppress anything. Whether it is Nathuram or any other person worst than Nathuram, everything about him should be staged so that the people can give their decision. I do not think. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Dr. Shakeel Ahmad, Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mohan Singh, I will allow you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas Athawale, please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY You please listen to me. I am telling very important point. . . .(Interruptions) This play has been staged, but Shri Ajit Jogi says . . .(Interruptions)

Mr. Jogi, please take your seat. When I am on my legs, you should not interrupt me like this. I do not think it is appropriate. Dr. Shakeel Ahmad, please be seated. I would like to say that if the play "Nathu Ram Godse Boltai" shown from the staging that . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Lal Muni Chaubey, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Lal Muni Chaubey, please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY : I have great regard for Gandhiji, Arastu, Jesus Christ and Prophet Mohammad. You please listen to me, if you want to create disturbance in the House, then I will think that you want to make this point a political issue. I do not want. . . *(Interruptions)*

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (Madhubani) : The killer of the Father of the Nation should not be staged in this way. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, every spectator has admitted that nobody is ready to accept the manner in which Mahatma Gandhi was murdered and it is also very clear that consequent upon the staging of this play, the people will abandon the principles of truth and non-violence expounded by Gandhiji. Nobody would doubt on Gandhiji's principle of equality. The whole world accept Gandhiji's principles of truth, non-violence and equality. . . *(Interruptions)*. Nobody has appreciated the assassination of Gandhiji in this country and nothing has gone against Gandhiji in this country so far. It is said about him that still 700 years more . . . *(Interruptions)* discussions are being held . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the murder of Mahatma Gandhi is a blot on

* Not recorded.

the face of India. It is a blot on the face of humanity. All the great, popular and famous leaders of the world have given a higher status to Mahatma Gandhi and the principles of humanity, love and affection, non-violence of Mahatma Gandhi are the gifts to the world in the twentieth century. . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Lal Muni Chaubey, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Lal Muni Chaubey, please take your seat.

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record . . . *(Interruptions)*

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chaubey, please take your seat. What is this ? This is not good.

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the mentality of the killers of Gandhiji is still the same.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mahatma Gandhi was killed. This is a blot on the game of humanity, not only in India but in the whole world. Today, we are celebrating 50th anniversary of this independent country . . . *(Interruptions)* in this situation glorification of the killer of Gandhiji is another sordid. . . *(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the question, which has been raised by hon. Ajit Jogiji is concerned in Mumbai, if such things are happening and the killer of Gandhiji is being glorified, they are making him a hero by this character, then it is a blot on the name of civilization and culture of India. Let it be anyone, who gives encouragement, protection and glorification to the killer of Gandhiji, he cannot be tolerated in India. . . *(Interruptions)*. Therefore, I would like to request you that the Government of India should be directed that the Minister who are running the Government, they should not try to undermine Gandhiji and glorify the killer of Gandhiji, otherwise India will not tolerate it. . . *(Interruptions)* RSS who is glorifying him. . . *(Interruptions)* India will never tolerate this . . . *(Interruptions)* the family members of the killer of Gandhiji. . . *(Interruptions)* We cannot tolerate them . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will speak in brief.

(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : You speak after that.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) (U.P.) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today Ajit Jogiji has raised an important question. This question is being raised in newspapers for the last so many days. The people of the country are much worried about this. I did not want to comment on this question but after listening to the speeches of our friends, the leader of Shiv Sena, Shri Chaubeyji, it came to my mind that the mentality of this country and this House is becoming a bit perverse. To reform this mentality, we should introspect within ourselves. It is not the question of cultural freedom, it is the question of fundamental beliefs of the country. It was my thinking that after the question of Ajit Jogiji, the whole House would unanimously condemn this act due to which the character and personality of Mahatma Gandhi is being adversely affected indirectly.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am surprised that on this point our dear friends, the leader of Shiv Sena said that it is a State matter and it should be investigated first that what is in the drama ? After all the newspapers of the country are writing about it whether it was not the duty of the State Government to give statement after conducting inquiry about this. Whether it was not the duty of the Government of India and the responsibility of our information department to come before the House with a suo-mottu statement after discussing the matter between themselves. This is an horrible indication in the wrong direction and the majority of the country is already worried about it. I would like to tell hon. Speaker that if this controversy is carried on further it will never add to anybody's prestige. This play has undermined the dignity of the country. By accepting the fact, this House should unanimously decide, should tell, should humbly request the Maharashtra Government to prevent this misdeed. To clarify it, to delay it is an insult of the House, is insult of the tradition and pride of the Nation. Mr. Speaker, Sir, please protect the country from it. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL (Hingoli) : The Maharashtra Government has said yesterday that this drama will not be repeated. It has withdrawn the permission given to it. . . .(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : Hon. Speaker has given me permission thrice to speak but they did not allow me to speak. . . .(Interruptions) Somnathji was saying that he was not allowed to speak. . . .(Interruptions) Earlier whatever Jogiji said, if Jogiji has seen that drama, he is saying on the basis of that. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI : I have not seen but I have read.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : I am saying so because whatever Chandra Shekharji has said in this House, let me clarify one thing in the first instance that we do not need any certificate from anyone. We consider Mahatma Gandhi as our ideal person. Whatever he has done for the freedom struggle of the country . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS (Mukundapuram) : Do you approve Mahatma Gandhi as the Father of the Nation ? (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jos, Please do not disturb.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : I would have given the direct reply of the issue which you have raised. But the manner in which RSS has been brought in between, it was said about the Government that after this Government took over, the country has suffered great losses. Somnathji, you are insulting the people of the country by saying so. We have been sent here by the people of the country. We have not come here on your mercy. . . .(Interruptions).

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Listen him first.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : If Chandra Shekharji raises this issue then I can understand, who . . . to Mahatma Gandhi and Subhash Chandra Bose in 1942. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : His Knowledge of history is very poor . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : If, what Jogiji has said is correct, then it is deplorable . . .(Interruptions) Let me complete first. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chaman Lal Gupta, the Minister is giving a reply.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Whatever Jogiji has said if that is true then I have also read this that this drama has been staged in Gujarati language about 40-50 times, and now this issue has been raised. I will collect these facts by today, evening or tomorrow, I respect the sentiments of this House and Chandra Shékharji. Whatever you have said, it is a very serious matter. I agree with this. I only saying that it is a state matter. We cannot escape over responsibility. Therefore, it is my submission that I would apprise the Minister of Home affairs or the Prime Minister about your sentiments and the Minister of Home Affairs or the Prime Minister would come before the House after collecting the facts from the State Government either today or tomorrow.

[English]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Idukki) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with a great sense of sorrow, I want to report to this House and also seek the indulgence of the Government on a very devastating land slide which has happened in my constituency. The monsoon comes to Kerala with all its fury. . . .(Interruptions).

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Your name is in the list.

[English]

I will allow you.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Sir, the devastating floods in my constituency Idukki in Kerala have taken away many lives and destroyed large areas of agricultural land. Land slide, which is a natural calamity, happens very often in Kerala. Unfortunately, we are remaining a mute witness to this natural calamity. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Your name is in the list, I will call you. Please take your seat.

[English]

12.41 hrs.

[SHRI P.M. SAYEED in the Chair]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Those hon. Members who want to go out may please go out quietly.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this natural calamity which has occurred in the Ramli Assembly constituency of my parliamentary constituency Idukki, has destroyed acres of agricultural land and one whole family has perished. Land slides are happening very often in my constituency, Idukki. In the last fifteen days, in Adimaly, in Kærithode and also at four places in Seethathode Panchayat, land slides have destroyed many acres of agricultural land and one whole family has perished. The Central Government should send a team to the Idukki constituency and to the Idukki district, and also to the Ramli Assembly constituency. . . . is a natural calamity of a very serious magnitude. Every time the Central Government says that it is waiting for a report. This is a very serious matter. Many people have died and many areas of agricultural land have been destroyed. . . .(Interruptions).

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : If your name is in the list, I will call you.

[English]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Sir, this natural calamity is happening very often during the monsoon periods. If the Central Government is not sending a team, full justice cannot be done to the State of Kerala. I seek the indulgence of the Government that they should send a team to assess the loss due to this natural calamity in the Idukki parliamentary constituency in Kerala.

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY (Ramanathapuram) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, I am raising an urgent and sensitive issue concerning Tamil Nadu. The admissions for professional colleges are going on . . .(Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am sorry, Prof. Kurien also wanted to speak on the same issue on which Shri Chacko has spoken. He has already given a notice to the Speaker.

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY : You have already called my name, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It was my mistake. He has already given a notice to the Speaker on the same subject on which Shri Chacko has given. You will be given a chance after Prof. Kurien.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : Thank you, Chairman Sir. I would like to raise the same issue which is raised by Shri Chacko. There has occurred a landslide in the State of Kerala, specially in Idukki district at places called Seethithode, Adimaly, Kærithode etc. A large number of cattle have lost their lives. Many casualties have taken place and agriculture has suffered a substantial loss. I only request the Government of India – the Agriculture Minister

is not here, but the Finance Minister is here – that the Central Government should immediately release some assistance to the State of Kerala from their special fund because when such things happened last time, the Central Government did not respond in time. That is our complaint. Please do something immediately so that these victims are given some compensation. That is all I have to submit.

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am raising an urgent and sensitive issue pertaining to Tamil Nadu. The admissions to professional colleges are going on even though the Government of Tamil Nadu is committed to 69 per cent reservation in order to render justice to SC, ST and OBC communities. The policy had been adopted by our leader Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi for rendering social justice to the suppressed community. Now, the Government of Tamil Nadu is unable to provide 69 per cent reservation due to the Supreme Court's judgment. This reservation policy has been implemented by the Tamil Nadu Government from 1980 onwards, that is, from the Government of our Dr. Puratchi Thalaivar MGR onwards.

In this issue, Tamil Nadu is facing problems only after the Central Government proposed to implement the Mandal Commission Report due to the Supreme Court's interference. The reservation system in Tamil Nadu is an accepted policy of all political parties in Tamil Nadu State. The policy is meant for render social justice. In order to render social justice to the suppressed sections of Tamil Nadu people, our great leader Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi got passed an Act in the Assembly with the unanimous support from all corners House.

Our leader had also approached leaders of all the parties and groups in Parliament, the then Prime Minister and the President of India with the request to include the said Act passed by Tamil Nadu Government in the Ninth Schedule of our Constitution. A team headed by Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi, including leaders of all parties of Tamil Nadu had met all the leaders concerned in this Parliament and other concerned authorities.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What do you want the Central Government to do ?

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY : The House is spending almost fifty per cent of the business time in shouting alone. I am raising six crore people's issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Sathiamoorthy, you know that in Zero Hour, you have to raise the matter and ask the Government what you want it to do.

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY : Sir, I am coming to the point. Please do not divert me.

Our leader alongwith leaders of all the political party in Tamil Nadu had met all the political leaders in this Parliament and emphasised and explained to them the necessity to include the Act passed by the Tamil Nadu Government in the Ninth Schedule of our Constitution. Then, a resolution was adopted in this august House. More or less the leaders of all the parties and groups in this present 12th Lok Sabha Parliament had, already given their consent to it. In such a circumstance, there is no obstacle in the way of this Government to bringing a Constitution (Amendment) Bill to prevent the court's interference while the State are rendering social justice to the suppressed classes through reservation policy. So, it is the slackness of the Central Government and the parties within the Government which is delaying in bringing of the Constitution (Amendment) Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Sathiamoorthy, you cannot make a speech.

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY : Now, I would like to remind and urge upon the Government to see that the Reservation policy a programme committed in their National Agenda for Governance is implemented.

If the Government is not ready to bring a Constitution (Amendment) Bill in this connection, then the people of Tamil Nadu will feel that the Government of India is adopting a discriminatory attitude towards them. The people of Tamil Nadu have been patient for the past six years and obliging the judgement of the Supreme Court.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Sathiamoorthy, please wind up. This is not the way. Zero Hour is not meant for speech making.

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY : I am concluding.

Sir, there is a limit for everything. It is the duty and responsibility of the Government to see that the judgement of the Supreme Court is not being ignored by the law abiding citizens and at the same time, it is also the responsibility of the Government to see that the demand of the people of Tamil Nadu regarding 69 per cent reservation is to implement without interference from any corner. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please state that under which rule you have put your point of order ?

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Rule 182 – please listen first. The new members. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whether we should take protection of the point of order for raising the issue in Zero Hour ?

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, everyday we have to . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : We should not say like this. You are not allowing any other hon. Member to speak. If your name is there. I will call you. I will not make any discrimination. Why you are so worried ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Mr. Chairman. Sir, I would like to raise a very important point in the House. The eastern part of the Uttar Pradesh has come under the grip of heavy flood due to torrential rain and hailstorm. The people of eight districts of the eastern Uttar Pradesh are compelled to live on trees and on the roof of houses. The crops worth Rs. 78 lakh are totally damaged. The canals and dams have developed cracks and the roads are flooded with water upto the knee height. The five crore people of the eastern Uttar Pradesh are facing fury of flood at present. It is raining there continuously. The State Government has failed to extend any help to them. The engineers of Chhittouni-Baghha area have been passing all the information to us regarding the cracks which have developed in Chhittouni-Baghha Railway bridge built at a cost of Rs. 135 crores. In such a crisis period, the Government of India should send a team there and in order to save life of common man in eastern Uttar Pradesh, special financial assistance should be provided. At the same time the Government of India should come forward to protect the life of these people who are facing such devastation. The hon. Minister of Finance is present here, all Members of Parliament from eastern Uttar Pradesh are also here they are aware that how devastating is the situation in all these areas. All the canals have got damaged now and those areas are flooded heavily with water coming from Nepal. On such an important issue, when the hon. Minister is also present in the House, what kind of help is being provided by the Government of India to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for saving the people from such devastating flood situation.

[English]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir I want to make a submission. The question of privilege gets precedence. . . . *(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am on my legs. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Jain, Your notice on breach of privilege has been received by the Speaker and the matter is under his consideration at present.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Sir, I want to say only one sentence.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, your notice is at the stage of consideration.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Sir, it is a very serious matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat now.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ADITYANATH (Gorakhpur) : Sir, I have also given a notice for speaking on this subject, let me also get an opportunity to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You might have given a notice but your name does not exist in it.

SHRI ADITYANATH : Sir, I also wish to speak on this. You have given him opportunity to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He had given a notice.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna) : Sir, we have also given a notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mishraji, you please see how many hon. Members are standing behind you. Can I listen to you like this ? If you want to speak, then speak one by one.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ADITYANATH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have witnessed a heavy flood situation in the district of Gorakhpur, Maharajganj, Devaria, Padrauna, Siddharth Nagar locality, Saint Kabir Nagar, Ajamgarh, Mau etc. due to torrential rains during the last ten days. The river banks have developed cracks. More than 30 people have died so far. Lacs of acres of crops have been destroyed, but the administration has not provided any sort of relief material. The boat-owners who had engaged their boats to serve people during the flood for the last two years,

have not been paid their dues so far. Therefore these people are not willing to supply their boats now. . . .
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please state as to what the Government of India should do about it.

SHRI ADITYANATH : We demand from the Government that the relief material should be supplied there without any delay and a joint Parliamentary Committee be sent there to take a account of the loss of life and property there. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record, except the speech of Shri Mishra.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

13.00 hrs.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have never witnessed such a heavy flood situation in Poorvanchal for a long time. The dam of Narayani got damaged near Piprasi, the natural structure of that area is such that the lower layer of the land there is sloppy and as a result thereof entire Kushinagar and Deoria can also be flooded with water. Such a grim situation prevails there. Mohan Singhji was just telling that I support everything but I do not support one thing. The Minister of the Uttar Pradesh Government had reached there by Helicopter and money was also sent there but the flood situation is so grim that the Government is hapless even if it has a will to do so. So through you I urge upon the Government of India that the Government should send a supervisory team to the areas where crores of people are distress and save their lives by granting additional resources from its discretionary fund. The indications which we gathered from there show that if the railway bridge which has been built there gets damaged, then the whole area will be ruined. I would like to make a special request to the Prime Minister that the Government of India should save our area by providing money from its discretionary fund as has been generally spent for protecting the people of other States and districts during floods. This is my submission.

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : I would like to draw the attention of this august House to the disastrous death of a prominent and eminent businessman Shri Rajan Pillai on 7th July, 1995 during judicial custody. The death

was due to lack of proper medical treatment and care. I would like to say that Shri Rajan Pillai was a businessman in Singapore and he was a citizen of India and he was found guilty by a Court of Magistrate in Singapore for misappropriation of funds in a company. Subsequently, he came to India to seek justice through Indian judicial system. The Government of Singapore sought extradition of Shri Rajan Pillai and the Government of India had constituted the Extradition Court and the Magistrate issued warrant on 1st July, 1995 and he was arrested on 4th July, 1995 from *La Meredian Hotel* at about 0.15 a.m. on 4th July, 1995. On the same day, he was brought to the Magistrate Court and he was rejected the bail. He moved an application seeking proper medical treatment. He submitted all the documents from Singapore Hospital. But the Central Bureau of investigation vehemently opposed the application and the application was rejected and he was remanded to custody. It is to be noted that on 7th July, 1995 at about 8.30 p.m. the nation heard the latest news that Shri Rajan Pillai died due to lack of medical treatment when he was in judicial custody. I would like to say that on 27th July, 1995 when Shri Madan Lal Khurana was the Chief Minister of Delhi State Government, he ordered an inquiry under Section 3 of the Commission of Inquiry Act and the Inquiry Commission submitted its report known as Liela Seith Commission report. The main terms of reference of the Commission were as follows.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You cannot make a speech like this during Zero Hour.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : The House is concerned about it. The terms of reference are, the circumstances and the sequence of events leading to the death of Shri Rajan Pillai. That is the main point which has to be inquired into. The Commission has submitted its report. There is a clear finding against the CBI. I am not going into the details. There is a clear finding about the jail authorities and also against the doctors, but the factum of conspiracy has not been inquired into. There is a reasonable apprehension to believe that there is a case of conspiracy. There is a factum of conspiracy leading to the death of Shri Rajan Pillai because when he was remanded to the jail, a letter had been given to the RMO of the Tihar Jail seeking his medical report and that was to be reported on 5th July, 1995 at 2.00 p.m. in the court.

But that letter is missing. That is the first point. Secondly, the CBI is well aware of his liver cirrhosis, hypertension and blood vomiting. . . .(Interruptions). As far as the CBI is concerned, it is well aware of everything. That has come out in the evidence. That is there in the relevant paras of the report. But I am not going to read it out also. The specific finding against the CBI is also there
(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What do you want the Government to do ? Please tell it in just one sentence.

(Interruptions)

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : I want to make one more point. It is about Mulazhia. It means that medical check up is to be conducted when a person is worse affected. . . *(Interruptions)*

I am concluding now. Mulazhia had not been conducted at the right time. It was conducted only on 7.7.95, the date of his death. So, I request the Government of India to order a special inquiry into this matter having the factum of conspiracy also in the terms of reference. The appropriate Government is the Central Government to order an inquiry in this case . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : All of you have associated with him. Now, Shri Prabhunath Singh to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : We want an Inquiry Commission to be set up. The Government should come forward with an Inquiry Commission . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already brought the matter before the House. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Sir, it appears to be a cold-blooded murder. The Liela Seith Commission has certain findings implicating the Tihar Jail Authorities. There are many loose ends. So, the Central Government should conduct a full and thorough inquiry immediately . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have already called Shri Prabhunath Singh to speak. Please understand that I cannot direct the Government. If they want to react, let them react. But I cannot do that. The Presiding Officer cannot direct the Government.

(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : It was a cold-blooded murder. You know how Indians are treated elsewhere . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister wants to react to it. Do you not want to hear him ? He wants to react to it.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : Will you kindly bear with me for a minute ? . . . *(Interruptions)*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Shri Ram Jethmalani, you are a senior Advocate and you are defending human rights. This is a human rights' case where a person was killed in custody. Kindly convey our feelings either to the Prime Minister or the Home Minister and get an Inquiry Commission constituted in respect of the conspiracy angle in this case . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : I want to share a personal difficulty with the hon. Members here. I was doing my best to concentrate on what the hon. Member was saying. But he spoke with such a tremendous speed that my knowledge of English has failed me . . . *(Interruptions)* Kindly just walk over to me, tell me and I will do everything that you want to be done. I must understand exactly what has happened. Kindly tell me. We will do everything that you want . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : I will submit again as to what happened . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no repetition. I will tell you what he said. You can see the record. He was telling that some inquiry was conducted. He says that there is some irregularity in conducting the inquiry.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Sir, I assure you that we will look into it and do the needful.

MR. CHAIRMAN : They will look into it and whatever is needed will be done.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Limestone mines were set up in 1968 in Bhavnathpur, district Garhwa (Bihar) of Raw Material Division Cell. It started as captive mines of Bokaro Steel Plant. It was linked to RMD w.e.f. 1992. Before linking it to RMD its all the material was used to be sent to Bokaro. That time its production was upto 30 Racks but after linking it to RMD its production was left to just two-three racks. It means the production remained upto 10 percent only. No budget for limestone was even allocated for the year 1998-99. Consequently on 4th April 1998 the management under a conspiracy intimidated the workers in regard to closing of the mines. These are being closed. The workers are being compelled to take retirement under the voluntary retirement schemes during the closure of the mines. Even the CISF is being used to expell the workers forcibly. Mr. Chairman, Sir, 10 thousand workers have become jobless due to closure of the mines and millions of families are facing starvation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to urge upon the Government through you that production be stopped at previous level and loading should also started again in

Bhavnathpur to save millions of families from Starvation. Hon. Minister for Steel is not present here now, but senior Minister of the Cabinet are sitting here. I am requesting them to restart the factory of Garhwa lime.

SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV (Kannauj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, new Members have not been allotted time at all. We have also given notices.

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI (Rewa) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have been giving notices for the past several days, but we are not being called.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have also been given notice for the past several days, but I have not been given any chance. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Indrajit Gupta to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has already given a notice. His name is there. I would have called him first.

(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore) : Mr. Chairman, I only want two minutes from you. I wanted to raise a matter which I consider to be very urgent. I would have been happy if – of course, two or three Ministers are here – the Home Minister, The Defence Minister and the Communications Ministers had been here because may be we would have got some response. I am referring to the news report which has appeared that the Government is contemplating to requisition the use of the Army. The services of the armed forces are proposed to be utilised for breaking the strike of the postal workers. I do not know if the report is correct or not. I want the Government to state here whether any such proposal is under consideration. I think, our Army is meant to defend the borders of our country, a job which they are doing with great courage. They are not to be used for breaking the strike of the workers. It will be something deplorable and something which will be condemned, I am sure, by everybody in this country. I would request the Government to see to it that the Army is not used in order to break the strike of the postmen. That is all I wanted to say.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : This is a serious matter. We want a clarification and a statement from the Government. The Army is being deployed to break the postal strike . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has already said it. The Government has taken note of it.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI C.H. VIDYASAGAR RAO (Karim Nagar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Junior Members are not being given chance in Zero Hour even though he is a senior Member, I have been watching for the last three days that he wants to raise an issue but he is also not getting the opportunity.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is a Senior and not junior.

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wanted to raise this question for the last three days. I thank you very much for giving me a chance. In order to get cheap publicity, Government of Madhya Pradesh the previous land in cities. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : This is never done. The Army is being utilised to break the strike of the postal employees. This is a serious matter. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Tripathi says.

(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Resume your seat. I have called Shri Tripathi.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Chandramani Tripathi says.

(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is a limit. Every junior Member stands up in revolt against the senior Member. They should also get a chance to speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI : I was submitting that in order to get cheap publicity, the Government of Madhya Pradesh is allotting precious land of cities in Madhya Pradesh to slum dwellers on lease and subsequently this land is being purchased at cheaper rate by influential leaders of the Congress. The Chief Minister can allot the land on lease simply by signing his photograph and repurchase that land himself again. I want to submit that. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ram Narain Meena.

* Not recorded.

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI : I have not yet finished. . . .(Interruptions) The poor people are rehabilitated by leasing them a hut at the banks of rivers and drains and then they are given compensation. I would like to say through you and demand from the Minister that whatever scheme has been made by the Government of Madhya Pradesh to grab the precious land should be stopped. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Kota Municipal Corporation has not discharged any of its responsibilities. The funds for flood relief works which are sanctioned and granted by the Government of India are not being utilized by the Government of Rajasthan. Due to non-implementation of the flood relief scheme, which was sanctioned in 1995 and the lethargic policies of Kota Municipal Corporation two children lost their lives as they were washed away in flood and the people of this area suffered a heavy loss as a result thereof. Mr. Chairman, Sir, subsequently public representatives of Congress and Members of Municipal Corporation, Abdul Rasheed Paperwala, Rajendra Bhardwaj and Hukam Chand Jain tried to meet and discuss the matter with the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Mayor and Deputy Mayor, but nobody was found there and they are being arrested by filing false cases against them like damaging the national property to suppressing the voice of the councillors thereby the voice of the people. On the one hand the litigations against the workers of BJP are being withdrawn in Rajasthan while cases are being filed against the Congress Workers on the other, so that they do not raise their voice and do not protest against their illegal activities. I would therefore, like to request through you that whatever action which ought to have been taken in Kota of Rajasthan under flood relief scheme, the State Government has failed in that. . . .(Interruptions) so relief work should be undertaken there and the Government of India should compensate the death of their children who have lost their lives. The Prime Minister should help them out from his relief fund. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. RANJIT KUMAR PANJA (Barasat) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the insect borne diseases like malaria, dengue and *kala azar* are coming back in the form of epidemic.

There was a recent report in the newspapers that in West Bengal, malaria is coming as a very bad type of epidemic. I know the problems that there is a huge population, poverty, lack of proper housing and sanitation. On the other hand, there is resistance of the vector against the insecticides. There is difficulty in availability of drugs. There is shortage of diagnostic equipments to the general practitioners are treating patients without diagnosis. That results in drug resistance and repeated relapses.

Alongwith malaria, there is also rampage by *kala azar* and dengue. Sir, the month of June has been taken as the malaria month. What has been done during the month of June regarding vector control ? The old insecticides like DDT and Gamexane have become obsolete and they are not in use nowadays. But there are some newer insecticides are also available. Some biological and ayurvedic methods have also been employed. This has appeared in the newspapers also.

As this is the foremost thing in the prevention of the disease, this should be taken care of.

About the drug availability, last year we had several outbreaks of malignant malaria in which hundreds of people were affected. But Primaquine was not available regularly. Drug availability has to be ensured this year. I would like to know whether revival of cinchona plantation is being considered by the Government for manufacture of quinine, whether primary health care system is being utilised and whether the Indian Medical Association is being officially authorised to advise regarding the control of malaria.

The World Health Organisation and the World Bank also give a lot of funds for research and treatment facilities and prevention of malaria. May I know whether it is being distributed throughout the country and whether it is being properly utilised ?

In our student life we could not pass MBBS without knowing about malaria, *kala azar*, typhoid fever and TB. As these diseases have come back, may I know whether sufficient stress is being laid on undergraduate medical education on these diseases ?

'Malaria control is everyone's concern'. That was the slogan. Is that message being properly sent out now ?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : In every family, there is a malaria case.

DR. RANJIT KUMAR PANJA : It is going to be very serious.

A Central Team should go from the Health Department. Otherwise a Central Team of Parliamentarians should go to visit the places where there is a chance of the epidemic. West Bengal is one. We definitely welcome a medical team or a Team of Parliamentarians to visit West Bengal. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not disturb please, every body will get a chance to speak.

SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, three members of a family Shri Gendem Lal Katiyar, his wife and his son were killed and their entire property was looted on 28.6.1998 at Kannouj in the State of Uttar Pradesh. This case has been registered at crime No. 411/98 under section 396. Initially the police had taken some action, some innocent people were locked up also. But as soon as the facts surfaced that the relatives of an MLA and a Minister in the present Government were found involved and immediately thereafter the orders for CID inquiry were issued.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please suggest quickly as to what the Government of India should do in this case ?

SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV : Sir, through you I request the Government to bring out the facts about this case by ordering a CBI inquiry into it.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Damoh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh is a peculiar and an important tourist place, with unique archaeological assets of the world. Million of tourist visit there and due to the severe jolt caused by the landing of Aeroplanes there is apprehension of appearance of cracks and damages in those temples in which the importance of Khajuraho lies. This has been disclosed by the experts and intellectuals. Therefore, I request you that there is a Sakaria Aerodrome which is about 60 kms. from Khajuraho and earlier aeroplanes used to land there where an airstrip is also available. If aeroplanes will land there then archaeologically important temples of Khajuraho can be protected and we can keep that historical place intact. So it is my request that a new aerodrome may be constructed there.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take note of this.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is reign of terror and disturbance, due to the Naxalite activities and the areas of Madhya Pradesh bordering Maharashtra, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh. There has been report that murders have been committed there by some naxalites.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the naxalite activities have been so intensified in the tribal areas of Bastar that a parallel Government is running there. The State Government is unable to check the naxalite activities there. The killings still continued. The tribals are fleeing. As the Government of Madhya Pradesh is sitting idle I request the Central Government to intervene and to protect the life and property of the tribals and to make such an arrangements

in the border areas that the people do not face such dangers.

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Jalore) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the details of the new project. The Minister of Railways has declared in reply to the question No. 423 of date. I am aggrieved after reading them. A project for laying the Railway line from Chandigarh to Ludhiana was approved in 1996-97 but that is not mentioned in it. I feel that it has been left out. I want to ask from the Government and would also like to know whether this project has been suspended or abandoned. If it has been abandoned then what are the reasons thereof because that was passed in this very House. The Member from Punjab, who are sitting here, were there at that time also. I would like to know the reasons as to why provision have not been made in the budget for this Railway project of Punjab, which was passed to link Ludhiana with Chandigarh. Why it has been dropped ? If it is an omission then it should be rectified. If it is not an omission then the House should be told as to why this scheme has been left out.

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA (Churu) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I may be given only one minute. I want to raise a very important matter in the House related to the farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Not now. First, let the listed names be completed. I will definitely give you time. Since you want to raise a matter related to the farmers.

[English]

DR. T SUBBARAMI REDDY (Vishakapatnam) : Sir, very recently, the Prime Minister of India has dedicated the Konkan Railway project to the nation. What is most important is that it covers about 750 kilometers, the longest coverage in the country that has been built by the Government of India after the British, who built the old lines, left India. The Government has borrowed Rs. 3,500 crore from the public. They have to pay back Rs. 1,000 crore in three years. We are shocked that there is a loss of Rs. 1 crore every day. This is a matter of serious concern for the nation.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways to take immediate action so that more trains are allowed to play on this line and this loss of Rs. 1 crore is not incurred. Of course, they say that in the first year, there is likely to be some loss. That is the argument advanced by the Ministry of Railways. But it is impossible to pay back Rs. 1,000 crore within three years unless they take some immediate action. Therefore, in the interest of the nation and for the better future for the Railway system, I request the hon. Minister of Railways to take immediate action.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Mumbai North-Central) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, three officers, undergoing training in the Armed Corps Cadet School in the Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra tried some tress-passing on 3rd July. One boy, named Sameer Mote pointed out to them that they were trying to jump the signal. After that these officers beaten the boy severely. Thereafter they went to the house of a volunteer named Ashok Chandurkar and there at least 40-50 military officers attempted hooligonism. The Ministry of Defence should take note of it and must take action against these officers. Something should definitely be done about it.

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir. Shri Chandrahas Pandey son of Shri Ram Naresh Pandey working as works Manager in the Ordinance Factory Barmal, distt. Bolangir (Orissa) is missing since 9.2.98, His father Shri Ram Naresh Pandey has lodged a report of kidnapping with the local police station on 18.3.98. This case has been transferred to the crime branch for investigation but till date. The police has failed to find Chandrahas Pandey. I had demanded from the hon. Minister of Home Affairs Shri L.K. Advani to conduct a high level inquiry of this case, but of no avail. Therefore, I demand, through you, that this case may be got investigated through the CBI.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government through you towards my constituency. My constituency is Chail. At least 50 people have died of Cholera in Koshambi, Fatehpur and Allahabad of Uttar Pradesh so far there is a 30 bedded primary health unit. There are many more primary health centres in my constituency and in the entire block I myself visited those villages which are affected of Cholera. There are no doctors and no staff in these health centres. Therefore, one out of five persons is dying of Cholera there everyday. I have its complete list with me. I would like to demand from the Minister of Health of the Government of India through you.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is it that you want ?

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : I am making a demand only. I am demanding from Health Minister, Government of India, through you that a survey inspection team should be sent there so that effective steps could be taken to save people's lives, in this area where five persons die daily and doctor's could also be appointed in primary health centres located there.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN (Amroha) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise a very important matter here. Population is increasing unabatedly in the country.

In yesterday's newspaper I was reading a news item that 23 theft incidents have taken place in Delhi. There was a huge and cry over price-hike and also regarding non-availability of essentialities. A National Policy on population was likely to be formulated and the report prepared in this regard is still awaited. I would like to demand through you that an all party meeting should be called immediately as it is a very serious problem. Thus, whatever development may take place and increase in agriculture production may be resisted, we would not be able to do anything unless our population increase unabatedly.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is the specific programme that you want from the Government ?

[Translation]

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN : I demand from the Government that the report regarding the National Policy on Population is likely to be formulated and it should be released at the earliest. An all party meeting should be called. Every effort should be made by launching a national movement so that this increasing population in our country could be controlled. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have been thinking for a long time that our friends will certainly raise this issue. When I returned from Madras in the morning today. I read in newspaper that this incident took place with an Hon. Member, when he was medically checked up, weapon were found from his possession. This news item appeared in newspaper. It is an unfortunate incident. If this was happened in the house. I would like to request you to see as to how far it is true and whether a Member of Parliament had really entered in this House with a weapon, what is the truth in it, all the facts regarding this should be put before the House as it is a matter of the dignity of the House. When anyone will read this news, what he will think ? It will lower the dignity of the House. If the dignity of the House will lowered, it will be very bad for the country and democracy. I request to you that the Government should come up with this report and place it

* Not recorded.

in the House. If any such thing happens, the House should ponder over it. Whether this custom will continue in the country as well as in the House ? The House will have to decide about this otherwise it will be very serious matter for the country.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : He was also intoxicated.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take note of this.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI AVSM (Garhwal) : I would like to support what Shri Rajesh Pilot has said.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am requesting to introduce the bill for the creation of Uttaranchal State only in this Session, but whatever matter have been raised by our allies on the basis of our identification and culture etc. I humbly request the Government to take immediate steps to solve this problem. So far as that area is concerned, all the four Members of Parliament are from BJP and that is why people totally supported our manifesto.

Elections, to MLC were held recently. People supported us. Elected representatives from there should be invited to reconcile the matter and a meeting of our allies parties and elected representatives should be held to redress the doubts. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : You are not giving us a chance to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you make a noise like this, you will not be able to get a chance even today.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : Do not give chance, I am walking out.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am calling all the Members, why are you making a noise like this . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : A meeting of both parties should be held to reconcile that. The facts should be verified, otherwise it will have an adverse impact at the national level, as has been published today about it in 'Jansatta' newspaper that Ferozpur, Pathankot, Chandigarh, Alohara are Hindi dominated areas and even then Punjabi language and life style are not at all found in these areas. They can also demand that they will go to Rajasthan and several things will come up. I humbly request that all the representatives should enquire in to all the facts in this regard. . . .(Interruptions)

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Just now he said that the Members of Parliament and District Council have been elected, and we may consider it as a referendum. Election were not fought on this point. I also supported them. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You need not think about it. He has asked the Government to solve this problem. Why are you so much worried ? You sit down please. . . .(Interruptions)

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI AVSM : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the point raised about referendum has been quite wrong. If we make any referendum at District and Tehsil level to see as to which tehsil will go where. This will result in spreading of anarchy in the country. This is not correct and also not good in the interest of the nation. I urge that this should not put it there. . . .(Interruptions)

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : But in Punjab and Haryana referendum was conducted against each village. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please sit down. Whatever cases are raised in the zero hour, if it contains unparliamentary words, it is said that it should be withdrawn, we expunge, if it should be expunged. It is asked to the Government to solve remaining problems, there should not have any objection therein. It is a waste of time of the house.

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : Sir, it was agreed by the Government in this house that there will be statehood for the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and other Union Territories. But it is unfortunate that when the Government has announced its decision, these Union Territories were left out. As you know, on the request of the then Minister of Parliamentary Affairs on the floor of the House, a Private Members' Bill was withdrawn. It was piloted by Shri Basudeb Acharya. And on the basis of that assurance, an all-party meeting was also convened and there was unanimity in that meeting that these Union Territories would be given the representative type of Government. But when the Government of India had announced about the Statehood of Varnanchal, Uttaranchal and Chhatisgarh as also Statehood for Pondicherry, nothing had been mentioned about other Union Territories including Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Chandigarh. So, my request to the Government is that they should consider this when they will get the Bill passed. These Union Territories should be looked after and not be thrown out. They should not compel the people of the Union Territories to go on an agitational path. This is my request to the Government of India.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : I support the demand made by Shri Manoranjan Bhakta.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : I also support Shri Manoranjan Bhakta and appeal to the Government of India to adopt a uniform policy on all the Union Territories. We are all one on this point. We request that Statehood should be given to Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and Chandigarh.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : I also want that Statehood should be given to Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep. There should also be a response from the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Minister is sitting here. Important things have been mentioned to be conveyed to the Minister concerned for taking action.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : Mr. Chairman, Sir. There is a world famous diamond mine in my constituency. Now a company Beers of South Africa has an eye on this mine and Madhya Pradesh Govt. has been continuously trying for four years that Beers may get all the contracts, all work of prospecting, marketing and mining but when it could not get success in this work, then the Govt. has decided to give prospecting and other type of works to a firm of Mumbai from the back door, which is actually very improper. It is an effort to give benefit to a person. Whereas it is a reserve forest. This diamond mine has not been cleared under conservation of forest Act, 1980. Therefore I would like to request the Govt. of India that it should interfere in this matter immediately because it has been decided to create Chhatisgarh state as a new state. The Central Govt. is committed for this, then the decision should be taken in regard to that diamond mine only after the creation of the new State. I would like to say through you. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM PAL SINGH (Domariaganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir. At present, our district Sidharthnagar is badly effected by flood and Maharajganj, Sidharthnagar, Gorakhpur, Basti in U.P. are under the flood and the complete district headquarter has been cut off from other tehsils. Every year it comes under the flood. It is my submission to Central Govt. that some master plan may be formulated in this district to 'prevent flood' and the loss of lives - assets, which has taken place there, should compensate by sending a central team. The crop has been destroyed there.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please speak in brief because other two-three members have to speak. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue. The farmers of

Rajasthan are not getting improved quality of seeds and as per Govt. statistics only 34 percent Kharif crop has been sown till four days ago due to scarcity of seed. It is a very serious issue. If the farmers do not get seeds now, then when sowing will take place, the whole country will be effected by decline in production. In Rajasthan, gawar is considered as the cash crop and the farmer grow gawar crop more there. You will be surprised to know that a leading Newspaper of Rajasthan also agree that the improved quality seed is not available to farmers even after paying the price. Only 7.5 crop has been sown against the fixed target crop. The target of availability of seed was 3.70 lakh quintal, this much seed was required for the farmers and out of that the Govt. has fixed the target of 1300 quintal but only 630 quintal seed has been made available.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What do you want to say, what Govt. has to do, you say that.

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA : It is a matter of Agriculture. Today, all papers have written that the farmers are not getting seeds. It should be taken seriously and the Minister of Agriculture should ask the Govt. of Rajasthan that why the seeds are not being made available to farmers. If the farmers will not get the seed, the country and the state will have to face heavy loss. Therefore, it is my submission that the improved quality seed should be made available to farmers. Whatever step, the Govt. of India can take for this, should be taken for the interest of farmers.

[English]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE (Jadavpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am raising an issue about the release of provident fund for employees of the closed industries. Just now, I am speaking about the Metal Box Company. Some of its employees are now in Delhi. They are going from one office to another. We all know that the units of the Metal Box Company in Chennai, Mumbai and Calcutta have been closed down ten years back. They have gone through an untold suffering. That is an old story. In the meantime, many of the employees have expired. Just now, they are only demanding that provident fund should be released to those employees who have already crossed the age of retirement.

Somehow, this is not being done. If the hon. Labour Minister could intervene in the matter and ask the Management concerned to release the Provident Fund amounts due to them and not be callous towards their needs, then hundreds of families and the widows of those who have already died would be very much grateful to this Government. This is what I would like to request the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONE (Kanpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the most populated city of U.P. is Kanpur which has 40 lakhs population. Every day 22 trains run for Delhi from there. Out of them, reservation quota for Kanpur has been fixed in only eight trains. I would like to mention that Every day about ten thousands of travellers travel from Kanpur to Delhi. But the reservation facility is available only for 1056 sleepers, in which there are 358 airconditioned and 658 ordinary berths. There are four Members of Lok Sabha four Members of Rajya Sabha also from this place, who make their journey regularly. Earlier, Shatabdi express was introduced for Kanpur but, it was given to Lucknow due to some reasons. In view of present circumstances and incomparision to population, in regard to reservation quota in trains, I submit that it is insufficient, it should be increased. The present quota should be atleast five times so that the travellers may get comfort. At present out of ten thousand, only 1056 people get the reservation, it is about 10 percent. Atleast five thousand people travel by bus in compulsion. Due to this, the people are feeling difficulty and it has created a great discontentment in the public of Kanpur. It is my submission to honourable Minister of Railways that one train should leave for Delhi from Kanpur in the morning and come back in the evening. In rest 22 trains, the quota for Kanpur may be fixed.

SHRI SYED HUSSAIN (Ladakh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir. As all of you know that Ladakh is the backward area of the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The Central Govt. should give every assistance to the Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir so that it may make efforts to remove the backwardness of Ladakh.

Today I would like to mention some main difficulties so that a special preference can be given towards the construction and progress of Ladhakh' city.

I demand the Central Govt. that tunnel may be constructed on Jogila hill so that Ladhakh city can get road for all the 12 months and the people, who live in this city can be relieved from the difficulties.

There is no Aerodrome in Kargil. The construction of Aerodrome was started there two years ago, which could not be completed due to non availability of adequate fund. I request the Central Govt. that it should provide relief to the people of Kargil, Jaskar and Leh by providing funds to complete the aerodrome work.

Besides, no income tax should be taken from the people of this city because the area is under terrorism and backwardness.

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House as well as of the Finance Minister, who is present here, to the CAG Report for the year ending March, 1997 (Union Government, Commercial IV of 1998) regarding the modernisation of the Durgapur Steel Plant.

Sir, the Reports of the CAG and the Departmentally-related Standing Committee on Industry have already been placed on the Table of the House. The Committee has expressed their anguish over the undue delay in clearing the project. Para - 98 of the CAG Report says that the *ad hoc* advance amounting to Rs. 135 crore granted to the contractors could not be recovered upto March, 1997. No interest was charged on the *ad hoc* advance of Rs. 37.25 crore granted to a private party on contractual terms and conditions. It has been further stated in the Report that due to lack of coordination amongst the designers, the cooling water system has been damaged resulting in loss of production and there has also been a damage of equipment amounting to Rs. 12.88 crore. In February 1989, the estimated cost of modernisation scheme was Rs. 2667.56 crore, with the completion schedule of 31st March, 1993. The amount became double because of not only there was delay in completion, but also unholy alliance between the management and contractors. I am giving you some examples.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not make a speech in the 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Huge amount was spent on AMR scheme. Only a part of this expenditure, amounting to Rs. 210.22 crore can be taken as cost towards modernisation. Lion's share of AMR scheme had no direct bearing with modernisation work and hence ignored. Up-to 1997, the total cost on this head is Rs. 1164.56 crore and Rs. 225 lakh was paid to M/s M.S. Sahaney for seven schemes but practically no work was done. Still the party continues to get contract from DSP.

DSP was regularly paying Rs. 43 lakh to BTS office at Calcutta without formal tender obligation but HSCL was being charged heavily for a dilapidated accommodation provided by DSP at Durgapur.

Six band saws were purchased at a cost of Rs. 12 crore through a NRI contractor. SPS. These machines are made in Japan. When DSP made direct contact with Japanese firm, they quoted a price of Rs. 28 lakh only for each machine. It comes to Rs. 1.68 crore for six machines. DSP incurred a net loss of Rs. 10.32 crore on these six machines. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not the time for making a long speech.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : I would urge upon the Government to order a CBI inquiry and the guilty persons should be punished. The hon. Finance Minister is here. He should make a statement in this regard. This is a serious matter.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : I would like to draw the attention of the Finance Minister towards an issue relating to the farmers who are cultivating rubber. Earlier also, this issue has come before the Government many a time. I think about 50 Members of this House sat on *dharnas* when the House commenced its sitting. The issue continues till now. I urge upon the Finance Minister to increase the import duty on rubber from Rs. 20 at present to Rs. 25 or Rs. 30. And also on polyurethane, which is imported in large quantities, the duty should be increased from Rs. 30 at present to Rs. 35 or Rs. 40 so that indiscriminate import can be stopped and farmers are saved to some extent. I would also like to say that the export and import policies should be shaped in such a way that rubber is placed in the negative list of import because we have adequate amount of natural rubber in this country and the farmers are in doldrums.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargod) : I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a serious matter arising out of sea erosion in Kerala. As we know, out of the total coastal area of 750 Kms. in the State of Kerala, my constituency Kasargod is having nearly 100 Kms. of coastal area. During monsoon, we hear the news of severe sea erosion in Kerala. Two weeks ago the representatives of fishermen took me to the affected areas where I could witness the severity of the sea erosion. A vast stretch of land was taken away by the sea erosion. Hundreds of coconut trees were uprooted. Hundreds of families were evicted. A large stretch of precious coastal land is being taken away by the sea every year. I request the Central Government to allot sufficient funds to construct a sea wall there. In the last 50 years very meager amount was allocated for the construction of sea wall. It is the bounden duty of the Central Government to construct a sea wall there because our coastal area has an international border. So, it is the bounden duty of the Government to construct a sea wall there. The State Government is not in a position to construct the sea wall there.

[Translation]

VAIDYA VISHNU DATT (Jammu) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Jammu and Kashmir is the highest producer of silk in the country; and in this state, particularly Rajouri is the area which produces the best silk in the country. The cocoon of the silk is prepared here. Traders come and purchase

it from here at a very less amount and zamindars do not get anything there. I urge the Government to setup small factories and install machines there for sericulture in this area.

A Sericulture industry should be setup there so that a better silk can be produced in that area. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Devegowdaji undertook a package deal for Jammu and Kashmir when he was Prime Minister . . . (Interruptions) According to that package, all those persons who were affected by insurgency and had taken loans upto Rs. 50,000 from the Government, then loans were waived off. The loans taken by the shopkeepers and boathouse owners have been waived off. As such, loans taken by many people have been waived off but I don't know why the loans taken by farmers have not been waived off, though they are the biggest backbone of the society. The agricultural loans taken by the farmers have not been included in that package.

Sir, more than 500 farmers have taken loans in the country and out of them, many have committed suicide. I request that to stop recurrence of such incidents of suicides the agricultural loans upto Rs. 50,000 taken by the farmers should be waived off immediately so as to provide relief to them. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SITA RAM YADAV (Sitamarhi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Sitamarhi is the birthplace of Sita called 'Jagat Janeni' and this area is adjacent to the border of Janakpur in Nepal. Tourists come here in a large number but they are not provided much facilities, hence they have to face great difficulties. Keeping in view the difficulties faced by the tourists, if adequate facilities are provided there, then it will generate employment opportunities to the unemployed and the tourists won't have to face inconveniences.

Hence I request the Government, through you, that all the required facilities should be provided to Sitamarhi for converting it in a 'tourist place' and Sitamarhi should be connected with the Buddhist Circuit by constructing road there.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in connection with the setting up of a Sport Project (LPDA) of Sports Development Authority of India in Pendra Distt. Vilaspur of Madhya Pradesh, I would like to submit that in order to provide adequate opportunities to the rural people in the sports development and to promote the sports talents, about five years ago, the Committee under the chairmanship of the Sports Director, Shri D.K. Arya had selected the sports ground situated in Pendra town located at the bank of river Narmada for setting up a Sports Development Area (LPDA) by the Sports Development

Authority of India, keeping in view of its natural beauty and the climate of the place. Vidyannagar is the area in Pendra, where 40 acres land is lying vacant, 18 acres land of that area is quite enough for constructing a swimming pool, ground for tennis, kabaddi, kho-kho and 400-800 metres track for giving the training of Football, Volleyball, Basketball, Hockey and Swimming. Eatable, foodgrains, fruits, vegetables milk etc. are very cheap and easily available there.

Hence, I request the Central Government to setup a Sport Project of Sports Development Authority of India in Pendra of Distt. Vilaspur.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Ferozabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to request the Government that if an hon'ble Member of any party, keeping in view the dignity of this Loksabha, is raising the issues in Loksabha, related to his constituency the biggest Panchayat of the country, then the Government, after considering its seriously. Should realise its responsibility and the Member should get the appropriate reply so that the dignity of this House can be maintained. With this hope, I have already apprised the hon'ble Minister during question hour today morning also that a major incident took place in Ferozabad earlier which compelled the entire country to cry. Thousands of people were killed in rail accident. A Pal of gloom prevailed in Loksabha for one hour due to deaths of innocent people. I have apprised the Railway Minister about it in the morning also that this incident can happen anywhere, my question is related to this.

Sir, I have apprised the Railway Ministers from time to time in this House during 10th, 11th and 12th Lok Sabha about constructing an over bridge in Shikohabad. 160 trains run up-down between Delhi and Calcutta, Sir, the traffic is paralysed there due to the closing of railway crossing for 30-40 minutes.

As a result thereof two ladies, who were pregnant, expired for want of medical aid in time.

14.00 hrs.

An incident also had taken place in Ferozabad. Therefore, I would request the Railway Minister, through you that he should consider it seriously and make provision for a over-bridge in Shikohabad.

SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM (Palamu) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a lime stone and dolomite mine of raw-material division of SAIL in Bhavnathpur of my constituency, Palamu in Bihar. Bhavnathpur lime stone mines was the captive mines of Bokaro - Steel Plants for which an attempt is being made to shut it down by hatching some conspiracy.

Lime stone and dolomite is an important mineral required for making steel. Our Palamu division is badly affected with terrorism. Unemployment is prevalent there. In such circumstances if this mine is closed down then the workers will migrate from there and they can stray from one place to other for want of employment. Therefore, I would request the Government, through you, to restart that mine so that the people can be saved from hunger and terrorism, which hire unemployed persons.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 3.00 p.m.

14.01 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Fifteen of the Clock.*

15.00 hrs.

[English]

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at
Fifteen of the Clock*

[SHRI KHAGAPATI PRADHANI in the Chair]

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will now take up matters under Rule 377.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to Protect Water of Sai River in Pratapgarh, U.P. from Pollution Caused by Adjoining Factories

[Translation]

DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI (Pratapgarh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the river Sai flows in my constituency. Poisonous water from sugar mills and leather industries of Raebareli is falling into this river continuously. Due to this the water of the river has become so polluted that fish and other aquatic animals have died. The animals who consume the water of the above river also die. They are being affected by different diseases. The climate there has been very much polluted.

I, therefore, would like to urge the Union Government, through you, that the India marked-2 hand pumps, which were installed in the villages situated on the river bank, also started giving polluted water. People will be badly affected by this water, so immediate steps to protect the Sai river from pollution should be taken so that the people as well as the animals can be timely protected from epidemic.

(ii) Need to Declare Pariyar and Bithur in U.P. as Tourist Centres and Provide Adequate Funds for Their Development

SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH (Unnao) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards my district Unnao (Uttar Pradesh). There is a belief among people that the Ashram of Maharishi Valmiki, where Sitaji spent her life after she was exiled by Shriram in forests, was in the Pariyar and Bithur region, adjacent to Unnao and Kanpur district. Evidences of existence of Janaki Kund and Valmiki Ashram are still available there. Several tourists from Uttar Pradesh as well as from other States visit these places, but no facility is available for them. It is said about this place that a war took place here between the forces of Shriram and Lava-Kusha and later on Sitaji submerged herself in the earth. The residents of this area and their representative have been repeatedly been making demands to the Government to declare these places as tourist centres and their development should be taken up accordingly. I specially request the Hon'ble Minister of Tourism to get these places inspected and declare them tourist centres immediately and to make adequate funds available by taking necessary steps for its development.

(iii) Need for Construction of a Bye-Pass at Ranchi, Bihar

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of Govt. through the House, towards Ranchi bye-pass. The survey work of this project has since been undertaken but so far the work has not started on it. Absence of a bye-pass leads to the traffic jams because the vehicles have to pass through the city. It also increase the consumption of petrol and the number of accidents. Ranchi is the second capital of Bihar and the proposed capital of the Jharkhand region. Many smaller towns have bye-pass facility. This city has a population of about 10 lakh. The development activities of the Adivasi people and Adivasi region are implemented from this region.

I therefore urge the Government, through this House to expedite the construction of a bye-pass in Ranchi.

(iv) Need to Provide Telecommunication Facilities in Churu Parliamentary Constituency, Rajasthan

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA (Churu) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the communication system has completely been paralysed in the rural areas of entire Rajasthan and particularly in my constituency Churu as rural PCOs and telephone exchanges are lying out of order. Causing great inconvenience to the people. Several letters were written to the higher authorities of the Rajasthan telecommunication circle and requested on telephone also to improve the

telecom system in Rajasthan but got only assurances and the situation is becoming from bad to worse. I have written many letters to the Minister of Communications regarding faulty rural PCO's but the necessary action is still awaited and the system has totally collapsed now.

I would like to request, through you to the Government of India to restore the paralysed communication system in my constituency Churu at the earliest. There are several schemes sanctioned for this area like opening of new telephone exchanges, providing STD facilities, increasing capacity of telephone exchanges, connecting with optical fibre cable but the work on them has either not been started and if it has been started anywhere, its pace is very slow. I therefore request to complete these schemes at the earliest to ensure uninterrupted communications services to the people.

[English]

(v) Need to take necessary steps to set up Cotton and Chilli Boards with Headquarters at Hyderabad and Guntur respectively in A.P.

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government of Andhra Pradesh had pointed out to the Government of India that they have been able to set up Coffee Board, Tea Board, Tobacco Board, etc., to look after these very important crops. They have suggested that cotton and chilli are the two crops which are very important to the country's commerce. Further, there is no Board to regulate these crops in terms of area grown, the variety grown, etc. under these crops.

The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh had, therefore, urged the Centre to take immediate action to set up a statutory Cotton Board with headquarters at Hyderabad, which is centrally located. Further, he had also requested to set up a statutory Chilli Board with headquarters at Guntur which is an important centre for production of Chilli. He pointed out that setting up of these Boards will help and serve the farming community. This proposal was forwarded by the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister to the former Prime Minister of India on 17.11.1996.

Sir, I, therefore, urge that the Government should take immediate measures for setting up of these Boards, which will be helpful to the chilli and cotton farmers.

(vi) Need to set up a Major Loco Shed or a Carriage and Wagon Workshop in Bitragunta in Nellore District, A.P.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA (Nellore) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Bitragunta (Nellore District) in Andhra Pradesh is an important railway station as well as railway town on Indian Railways.

In steam days, the locos were being maintained in the loco shed at Bitragunta apart from other railway activities. The same loco shed was one of the biggest in the Indian Railways. It is a major yard and also inter-changing depots for the drivers and guards.

Consequent upon the closure of the steam loco shed in Bitragunta, the infrastructure, other equipment and land have not yet been utilised for any purpose. Several representations were made to the Railway Minister in 1997 that it should be converted into either a major electric loco shed or a carriage wagon workshop. But, so far, the Railways have not given any consideration to the proposal to make use of the existing infrastructure at Bitragunta. Sir, the people of Bitragunta had also given ultimatum to the Railway authorities that they would launch an agitation if their demand is not. I, therefore, urge upon the Railway Minister to look into the proposal submitted to the then Railway Minister to set up a major loco shed or a carriage and wagon workshop instead of developing a fresh one at other place by huge investment.

(vii) Need for Formation of Western Orissa Development Council

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur) : The western part of Orissa consisting of ten districts including Kalahandi is economically a very backward area. Though this part of the country is replete with minerals, rich forests and full with water resources, it is still reeling under poverty due to non-utilisation of all these resources. The people of the area have been demanding, in one voice, for the formation of Western Orissa Development Council for many years. Though assurances have been given in the past by the Governments, yet nothing tangible has been done in this regard so far.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to take necessary steps in this regard.

(viii) Need to enhance the grant and increase the strength of Doordarshan Kendra, Imphal

KUMARI KIM GANGTE (Outer Manipur) : The Doordarshan Kendra, Imphal is in a very bad shape from the very start. The greatest set back of the Doordarshan Kendra, Imphal, Manipur was because of a major fire accident in 1995 which damaged the studio complex leaving the studio unusable. The repairing works were started very late and it took three years. Though the studio is now functional, the machines have since been exposed to fire and kept unused for three years. As a result, the smoothness of the machines is totally absent. Certain machines are yet to be operational. As such, the quality of the programme is comparatively very poor and the programmes could not be telecast in all the districts.

Another problem being faced by the Kendra is the shortage of engineering staff. At present the main operational staff (EA & SEA) is only ten while as per norm, the minimum requirement is 26. Although there is a public demand for the increase in the duration of local transmission, it has not materialised due to the lack of staff and equipment. The budget is another problem being faced by the Doordarshan Kendra, Imphal, Manipur. Though the number of programmes and participations have increased, the budgetary grant is not proportionately enhanced. In the circumstances, I urge upon the Government to enhance the grant to Doordarshan Kendra, Imphal and increase the strength of the staff so that the functioning of the Kendra and the quality of the programme can be improved.

[Translation]

(ix) Need to bring a Resolution Condemning the Happenings of 1984 Riots

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Sir, I would like to draw attention of the House today towards the inhuman incident that took place in the last decade which had shaken every human being. Not only in our country but also the world over, everyone knows that in November, 1984, there was a genocide of a particular community all over the country, especially in Delhi. It seems that behind this incident there was a hand of the administrators and rulers. Sir, now the question arises as to which community these people belong and what was their role in our independence and the history of the nation ? This community was raised by Guru Teg Bahadurji to save people against suppression and exploitation and protecting our secular structure. In order to protect these principles, Guru Govind Singhji sacrificed his father and sons and found a community with a view to protect them even in future. The record of the Port Blair jail is an eyewitness to independence of the nation itself, the Sikhs were 80 per cent among those who were hanged to death, 93 per cent were incarcerated 85 per cent were those whose property was attached. The Akali Dal in the interest of Punjab made a demand for water, Chandigarh, devolution of powers to State and the Punjabi speaking areas to form part of Punjab State. Just for this a political conspiracy was hatched to inflict a severe punishment on this community. The Army was sent to Harminder Sahab and the Pious Akal Takht the place of pride of the Sikhs. Consequently, it was natural that there was a resentment among Sikhs over this was taking advantage of it. Sikhs were made to face genocide all over the country. The most sad thing about this is that no one has even dared to share their sorrow publicly on such a inhuman and shameful incident.

Today, I would request the Central Government to bring about a resolution in the House for publicly condemning this inhuman act and expressing sympathy for the affected families.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Mr. Chairman, Sir. Shri Chandumajraji, has made a very good suggestion. We all support it and we should also get a resolution of this type passed from here.

[English]

(x) Need to take urgent steps to protect Sea Erosion along the affected Seacoast of Kanyakumari

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil) : The Arabian seacoast of Kanyakumari District is one of the major marine fish producing centres in the country. Fishermen in large numbers are living there. They are fully depending on fishing which is their traditional and only occupation.

In the recent years sea erosion has been causing grave destruction, loss and damage to the poor fishermen. It is the worst sea erosion prone area in the country. By the commencement of the monsoon season this year, the houses started collapsing in large numbers by the mighty waves, cruel winds, heavy rains and sea erosion. The situation would deteriorate during the coming days of the monsoon season. So, if immediate steps are not taken by dumping big stones as walls along the Western Arabian seacoast of Kanyakumari District, several coastal villages and houses would be washed away by sea erosion.

The natural breathing places of fishing vessels are washed away and severely damaged by sea erosion, making it impossible to operate their fishing vessels into the sea. So, to save the fishermen villages, their houses and their fishing materials from the sea erosion, immediate and urgent steps have to be taken to prevent sea erosion. So, I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to dump big stones as walls to protect sea erosion along the affected seacoast there as a very urgent measure.

(xi) Need for Stoppage of Delhi-Guwahati Rajdhani Express at Kishanganj in Bihar

SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE (Raiganj) : Kishanganj in Bihar is an important Railway Station and also the Civil District Headquarters of the N.F. Railway, Adjacent to it, is the Uttar Dinajpur district of West Bengal. Railway communication being very limited, the pressing demand of the passengers of the districts of Uttar Dinajpur and Kishanganj is the stoppage of the Delhi-Guwahati Rajdhani Express at Kishanganj Railway station. I draw the attention of the Government to take necessary action in this regard.

(xii) Need to find Permanent Solution to Ethnic Violence between Santhals and Bodos in Assam and also to Include Santhal in Scheduled Tribes List

SHRI SALKHAN MURMU (Mayurbhanj) : I would like to bring to the kind notice of this august House, through you, Sir, the need for an urgent and permanent solution of the ethnic violence in Assam between Santhals and Bodos. Santhals and other tribals, who were taken to tea plantation from Jharkhand region by the Britishers over a century are still deprived of many facilities normally accorded to the tribals. They urgently need to be included in the Scheduled Tribe list in Assam since the same people are listed in Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa and elsewhere. The Santhals, in the presence of a Central Minister, congregated at Jamshedpur, Bihar on 5th July, 1998 at Santhali Bhasa Rally in a very big number from Bihar, West Bengal, Assam and Orissa etc. and expressed their deep concern over the deplorable situation in Assam and have also strongly demanded for immediate inclusion of the Santal language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

Therefore, I request the Central Government and the Assam Government to do the needful urgently.

FINANCE (NO. 2) BILL, 1998

15.20 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the House will take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Yashwant Sinha on the 15th July, 1998, that the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 1998-99 be taken into consideration. The time allotted for this discussion is nine hours. Out of that, two hours and fifty-one minutes have already been taken and the balance time left is four hours and nine minutes.

Prof. Prem Singh Chandumajra was on his legs. He will continue his speech.

15.21 hrs.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, what I was saying is that under Sarkaria Commission in Longowal Rajiv Accord for reviewing Centre-State relation, in Anandpur Sahib Resolution it was said that the State should be given more power. But it was not implemented. Then the Governments of the United Front came to power. They were also of the view that it should be reviewed and the country should be brought under the federal structure. But that too was not implemented. I am happy that our's is the first Government to write that if the

Constitution of the country is rewritten, then the Centre-State relations should be reviewed because decisions taken in the past, have been taken on political considerations. The States have not been given their due on the basis of their requirements; and whatever they were provided was given under political compulsions. As a result, the States could not prepare their plans. Here we can say that if a family do not care for its earning member then the family naurishes itself. Likewise if the States which would collect tax, were not given their due and also not given enough time for their development. The country could not lead towards prosperity and became weak. I request the Hon'ble Finance Minister that 50 per cent of the ratio of the tax collection may be provided to the States. Then only the States can make progress. Likewise they should have liberty to take decisions about their plans. If they take loans from the Reserve Bank, from foreign countries and make plans as per their requirements, then the country can certainly achieve progress.

I would like to tell the Honourable Finance Minister that it was announced in the National Agenda that a National Water Policy would be prepared. It was urgently required. The Hon'ble Prime Minister had agreed in the address of the President that 75 per cent of our rainwater is not utilized properly and this also leads to damages. Now a days crops worth crores of rupees was damaged due to floods in Punjab, Haryana. Had the dams been constructed somewhere in Himachal, the flow of rainwater could have been contained and it could have been utilized for irrigation purposes. The 21 per cent cultivated land of our country has access water and 15 per cent land drought prone while only 62 per cent land comes under normal land. If this point is taken seriously on priority basis in National Water Policy in order to protect our land from drought and flood, then only it would be possible. I wish that with a view to make the country flood proof such projects should be prepared under the National Water Policy which could save the nation from devastation caused by flood waters. In the same way there is a need to take care of the power sector as transmission losses, distribution losses in our country are highest in the world which needs to be check and in peak seasons in several States we need power only for 3-4 months in a year and in the remaining eight months the power requirement goes down.

There are such States where there is a surplus of power. So we should take some measures for transmission of power from surplus states to deficit states. For example, in Punjab, highest requirement of power is just for three-four months, and the power is surplus for nearly eight months. The States where there is surplus power, some step should be taken for transmission of this surplus power to deficit state from there.

Likewise, unemployment problem in our country is very serious. Parents are worried about their wards as to how they could get employment. For this purpose, there should be Agro-based industries and Labour intensive units. The multinational companies which are coming now they should be given instruction that their projects should be labour intensive and not capital intensive. Today what is happening is that the multinational companies which are coming, they exit smoke or dirty water or poisonous gases but they do not offer any employment as such. Power, land and roads are ours but our youths still wandered unemployed. This is very serious matter. 360 lakh people are registered as unemployed. There are a large number of people who live in villages and are not registered. I am happy that they have said special attention to the easy (salar) employment but there is a need to pay more attention to this front.

I think that it is very necessary to cut down the Government expenses. The Government expenses have been constantly increasing for the last 50 years habitually which is required to be checked now. It is a matter of great concern and thought that where 40 per cent people are below the poverty like, the Government has borrowed Rs. 79 thousand crores from the Financial Institutions. When the Government has borrowed such a huge amount from the Financial Institutions then the rate of interest and inflation will go up. Then, where from the agricultural sector, industry and individuals will take loans. They don't get loans, today investment is hampered and the work stops. So, the Government must cut down their expenses.

Similarly, a lot of Govt's wealth is lying unproductive. As much as Rs. 64 crore pertaining to taxes, income tax and custom duty locked in litigation is not being recovered, which should be recovered. Rs. 44 crores belonging to national banks are lying in non-performing assets. If this amount is turned productive then the country can march ahead and it will also help in generating employment.

Likewise, price-rise is required to be checked. Inflation has gone up to seven percent which has increased by two and a half to three percent within the last two-three months only. The prices of potato has increased by 127 percent, the prices of onions, tomatoes have gone up and the prices of pulses reached upto 40 to 50 per K.G. the Government says that its a seasonal increase. I don't think it is a seasonal increase. It is required to be checked. Something is lacking somewhere which needs attention. Hon'ble Minister Shri Hedge said that the export is decreasing. The export is decreasing because production is decreasing. The production is decreasing because the demand is decreasing. Demand is decreasing because the purchasing power of the people is decreasing. It's a matter of great concern. There is some deficiency in our economy and our

[Prof. Prem Singh Chandumajra]

system somewhere which is required to be checked so that we able to do something.

I would like to say one more thing that the huge amount of wealth in the country has been misutilised and it happened because there are so many disputes in the country. The inter-state disputes have not been solved by anybody. Many such disputes kept on arising for the last 50 years on the basis of language and many other issues. We used to demand Chandigarh. Whichever State was reorganised in the country, every state was given its capital like Maharashtra, Gujarat, but Punjab is the only State which was not given a capital. We had to fight and an accord was signed which was obstructed but it was implemented at last. We also talk about water. These issues can be easily solved if these are decided under riparian law, rule, Constitution and tradition. Similarly when the states were reorganised they were reorganised on the basis of language. Punjab was created on the basis of Punjabi language but the Punjabi speaking areas were left out and nobody agreed to that. I mean to say that had inter-state disputes been solved according to the rules, constitution and traditions, then many disputes in the country would have ended and the money wasted would have been saved. If it is required to be saved today.

I would like to say one more thing. On the one hand, prices are increasing and on the other hand you have imposed service tax like tax on transporters such as taxi owners, truck owners or those who are in the business of goods transport. This will further accelerate the price-rise. I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister of Finance to withdraw the service tax from transport in the same manner as he has withdrawn it from many other items. You had proposed tax on branded milk products in your Budget, but just now you have given a good indication in this regard and if it is implemented then it will be a welcome step.

70 percent people in the country depend on agriculture. Ancillary industry of agriculture is either transport or milk product. If they are taxed then it will affect the agriculture sector and our economy as well. Therefore, the tax imposed on milk should be withdrawn.

You have raised the income tax limit from Rs. 40 thousand to 50 thousand. It would be better if you raise it upto Rs. 60 thousand because our employees pay their taxes honestly and regularly. So they also need due attention as the prices have already gone up.

Whenever our friends gather they talk about price-rise you have raised the salary of the people of all categories and you also pay them T.A. & D.A. etc. but the

salary of the Members of Parliament is still the same i.e. Rs. 1500/- p.m. Something should be thought about it also because in these days Rs. 1500/- p.m. is quite insufficient. Therefore, it is my request that it should be raised.

I support the proposals of Hon'ble Minister of Finance and I think that with these proposals the country will make progress and will march ahead.

[English]

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN (Trichur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I oppose this Finance Bill introduced by our hon. Finance Minister. In our country, most of the wealth is accumulated by the monopoly capitalists, the big business houses and the landlords. The wealth is accumulated by these people. A majority of people in this country live below the poverty line. In such a situation, resource mobilisation proposed by the hon. Finance Minister in this Finance Bill will certainly adversely affect our economy itself. That is my point.

The hon. Finance Minister has completely let out the corporate sector free from new tax or levy. It is said that it helps investment. Our past experiences are there. The amount of concessions they give to the corporate sector is not invested as capital. It all goes unaccounted. That is the experience of our past years. The whole burden of new taxes and levies is imposed upon the middle class and the common people. The Finance Minister has kindly hinted that packed sweets and *namkeens* may be exempted from eight per cent excise duty.

What about other items ? The prices of all the packed food items have touched the roof and if we add eight per cent excise duty on all these items, how can the common people afford them ? After the presentation of the Budget, the price of tea has increased by about Rs. 15/- per kilogram. This has happened even before the Finance Bill is passed. This is the position in our market. There is nobody to control it. The Finance Bill is not passed and the budgetary proposals have not been given effect to. But they have already increased the prices of these items. So, I urge the Finance Minister to withdraw this eight per cent excise duty which he has imposed on packed food items.

Sir, the Finance Minister has tried to widen the tax net. It is necessary and I agree with it. But instead of taxing the common people, why does he not look towards the immensely rich people to find out some new tax avenues? He has proposed that every household with a telephone should have to file income tax returns. Telephone is not a luxury item of the rich people now-a-days. Small professionals also require this facility. He has insisted that those who are having a telephone in their houses in the cities should file income tax returns. This is too much.

Sir, I would like to point out that there are thousands of people who own more than two motor cars. Some of them own even six luxury motor cars. Why can he not think of some kind of a family planning for the vehicles also? It is high time that we should think on these lines. If the Finance Minister imposes a heavy tax on those people who own more than one motor vehicle, nobody will complain. If he does that, the congestion on our roads may ease and we may also save motor spirit. He should think of taxing such immensely rich people instead of taxing the common people.

Sir, paying lip service to the small scale industries is of no use. The Finance Minister has spoken eloquently about these small scale industries when he presented the Budget. There is a proposal in the Finance Bill to impose eight per cent excise duty on rubberised coir mats also. The factories manufacturing these coir mats come under the small scale sector and they are spread in many parts of the State of Kerala. They are spread not only in Kerala, but they are there in the entire country. If the Finance Minister imposes eight per cent excise duty on rubberised coir mats, these factories have to be closed down because they cannot survive. We are now trying to find new uses of rubber. The one of the main product from the coconut trees is coir fibre and there are factories which are producing rubberised coir products. If the Finance Minister imposes eight per cent excise duty on such products, these small units in the State of Kerala cannot survive. So, I earnestly request the Finance Minister to withdraw this eight per cent excise duty imposed on rubberised coir mats and such other products.

Sir, as the professor has pointed out, there are huge arrears to be collected by way of taxes and other bank dues.

I have learnt that about Rs. 45,000 crore are due to the banks by the monopoly houses. What are you going to do to collect those arrears? Such huge arrears of taxes are due from the corporate houses. When I was a Member of the Public Accounts Committee, I had a chance to scrutinize them. We were all surprised to see it.

Now you have put forward a new scheme, viz., the Kar Vivad Samadhan Scheme. This is rewarding the defaulters. Last year, it was VDIS. Now it is KVSS. You are giving concession to the defaulters. Then how will the honest people pay tax? If defaulters are given concessions like this through a number of scheme, then the taxpayers are cheated.

I may point out that these huge arrears of taxes and the prolonged litigation proceedings are due to the lack of vigilance on the part of your Department. Had the Enforcement Directorate and the various Departments

which are led by you were vigilant and sincere, such huge arrears and prolonged litigations would not have been there. In the name of these schemes, you are giving concessions to the defaulters. Rewarding the defaulters is not at all the correct way to get things move in the right direction.

Sir, the Finance Minister had said in his speech that he is enhancing the share of the States. Now I see, while scrutinizing the Budget, that it has actually reduced. Last time, it was 5.6 per cent of the G.D.P., this time, it is five per cent only. The tax share dropped from Rs. 43,602 crore to Rs. 39,074 crore this year. In this connection, the Tenth Finance Commission's recommendations are there. I do not know how the calculations are done. But my point is that the share of the States has not enhanced. On the contrary, it has reduced. I hope, there will be some explanation on this point from the Finance Minister.

Sir, you have to give more funds to the States. They are in crises. They are all putting forward so many schemes and demands, but on this count, you have to somehow enhance their share. I do not know how the calculations are done. The Tenth Finance Commission's guidelines are there. Even then how is it that in 1997-98, they got Rs. 43,000 and in 1998-99 they get Rs. 39,000 crore? I do not know how this difference comes. Any how, this has to be compensated. This is my request.

Sir, lastly in the name of restructuring and modernization, we are actually dismantling the very foundation of our economy.

I hope, your ideology does not share it. It all began, as my friend said yesterday, when we accepted the neocolonial powers' slogan of globalisation for the integration of the world economy. It was a trap laid by the neocolonial powers. The trap was complete, when we became a member of the WTO in December 1994. Under the compulsion of WTO's 'slave clauses', as I call it, you have further liberalised imports allowing the multinational corporations to capture our market.

Kerala, the State from where we come, is the most hit by these liberalised import policies. Our peasants are in great trouble. The producers of cash crops like rubber, coconut and spices are in a very bad shape. Used tyres are coming into the market from other countries. Polyurethane chemicals are coming from outside for producing synthetic rubber. All these things have created a very difficult position. Similar is the case with marine products also. I need not go to the extent of saying as to how it affects here.

After liberalising the imports and after the sanctions, there is a rush to invite foreign investment on their terms.

[Shri V.V. Raghavan]

I do not know as to how you can be in peace with the efforts that are being made. I wonder, whether the *Swadeshi* Movement of your Party is not clashing with these policies! Allowing them to invest 74 per cent of the capital and giving only 26 per cent to Indians means that complete management goes to them. We are also giving them our minerals. All these things are happening very quickly. I do not know as to how you can be in peace with these things.

Sir, what is the necessity for opening up the insurance sector, when it is working well? In 1956, there were 256 insurance companies and there were scams in all the private companies and the funds were looted. They were all in a very bad shape. Then, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru took the initiative and nationalised the insurance sector, and we gained much. The Insurance companies are helping the housing sector, water supply schemes etc. A huge amount is being spent on our developmental activities. Moreover, it is within our command. The insurance companies are helping the common people. You are saying that you are opening the sector to the Indian companies. Which Indian company is capable of conducting the insurance business? They are looking to the foreign companies for collaboration. The foreign companies will come through back-door. What is the necessity?

SHRI MURLI DEORA (Mumbai South) : Do you know the meaning of reinsurance? All the insurance companies are reinsuring with the foreign companies.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Shri Deora, I know that you are an expert in economics. Let my opinion be expressed. I do not agree with you and I do not agree with Shri Chavan also. We disagree with you on this point. So, opening up of the insurance sector, at this time, is quite unnecessary. It will adversely affect our economy.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : As such, he has not yet opened it.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Being a Mumbaite, I know you are very much interested in the opening up of insurance.

A word about disinvestment. As reports appear in the press, I am very much surprised that the most well-managed, the most profit-making public sector units are listed for disinvestment. Why? What is a reason for it. Why do you disinvest ONGC? Why are you disinvesting FACT, the most profit-making unit in Kerala? That also is listed. I do not know what the Government is thinking on its investment policy and unnecessarily you are opening up the insurance. You are disinvesting the most profitable

public sector unit. This kind of step will not help us. It will ruin our economy and once again I appeal to the hon. Finance Minister that "You are acting against the campaign you have conducted during election. The BJP, the RSS and the Jan Jagran Manch have told the people that they are against the multinationals and against the imperialist forces and against the neo-colonialists. We have a different path of economics. We are *Swadeshi*" and you are now drifting from that path. Action and words should not be different. So, think of it. It is quite necessary. You should reconsider it. These things will ruin us. We are not obliged to act upon all the Clauses of the WTO. They are not implementing all the Clauses. The European Union has their own legislations. They are following their own interests. They are not keeping up the Clauses of WTO. Then why should we enforce all the Clauses? We are not obliged to keep all these Clauses. We have to choose our own way. So, you should remember that drifting from your election words pledges to the people is not at all good for the country and for the party.

I once again appeal to the hon. Finance Minister that excise duty on packed foods should be withdrawn and the 8 per cent excise duty on rubberised coir mats and such other products of the small-scale industry should be withdrawn. I hope you should consider all these points.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, I am on a point of order. My point of order is that the Finance Minister started with shaking his head even when proposals are coming from the side of the Opposition. I appeal to him not to disappoint us so much!

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : I impress upon the hon. Member not to relate my body language to the comments which have been made here!

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North-West) : Sir, I rise to support the Bill. Well done. Finance Minister, you are again on the striking headlines today and you have also become the darling of the news media. Even those who have criticised you have written in favour of you because you have given a boost mainly to imported sectors while introducing the Finance Bill yesterday in which you have categorically mentioned 100 per cent income tax exemption on information technology export, duty free import of software allowed to bring down Customs duty on information technology products to zero by the year, 2003.

Naturally, you have to share all these things, allotted to discuss the Demands for Grants of different Ministries, only one Ministry's Demands for Grants were discussed. Only one or two Members were allowed to speak on the Demands for Grants in respect of the Ministry of Agriculture

on the floor of the House. And the discussion was there for only one hour. So, many points, which could have been discussed during the discussion on the Demands for Grants of different Ministries and Departments, were not discussed at all. I can mention one or two such points which come to my mind. I will do so after my deliberation on the Finance (No. 2) Bill.

Recently, in a passing comment with the Doordarshan channel, the hon. Minister was telling that he did not impose taxes on vegetables and so he was no more responsible for the price hike which is causing tremendous anxiety to the common section of the people. I would certainly agree with him. But what I would rather suggest to him is that when the prices of agricultural products are going up sky high, the export of these agricultural products, which we export now, should be stopped. What are the agricultural products that we are now exporting? They are: pulses, rice, wheat, cereals, tobacco, sugar, molasses, poultry, dairy and horticulture products. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, as the Chairman of the other House has summoned me, I seek your leave and the leave of the House to go. I would say that my Minister of State and the other Cabinet Ministers are here. . . .(Interruptions)

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : Sir, from the main opposition party, I am going to speak. So, I want that the hon. Finance Minister must listen to me. I am going to give some important suggestions. They are very important.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I will go and come back. You wait for me. I have been summoned by the Chairman of the other House. So, I have to go. I want the leave of the House. My Minister of State is here. . . .(Interruptions)

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : All right. I will wait because I have to give some very important suggestion on the important Finance Bill. . . .(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN) : I will take down every word of what you say. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Reddy, he will return soon. The Minister of State is here.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I want both the Ministers to listen to me. Shri Yashwant Sinha, when will you come back? . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Please wait till I come back.

MR. CHAIRMAN : As I said earlier, the Minister of State is here. The Finance Minister will come back.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : As I said, I want both the Ministers to listen to me. Ours is the main opposition party. Today, I am the first speaker from the main opposition party. When I speak, I want both the Ministers to listen to me. So, I will wait till then.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Coming to my point, I would like to say that we are exporting horticultural products, groundnuts, fruits and vegetables, and processed vegetables.

It is a most alarming sight to see that last year, the country's total export in respect of agriculture was to the extent of 15 to 18 per cent. The export of agricultural products was to the tune of Rs. 21,021 crore whereas India's total export was to the tune of Rs. 1,18,817 crore. So, when price is going high, we should all take cautious steps to see that this export is stopped at least for one or two years.

Next, all sorts of sales taxes on essential commodities and the life-saving drugs have to be withdrawn. They have been mentioned in para 5.5 of the Economic Survey. Poor people, who have been given prescriptions to purchase life-saving drugs, express their inability to purchase. We found that many times. So, we make a positive proposal to the Government to look after this problem and to see to it that the life-saving drugs are made totally tax-free. The hon. Minister should announce about it today while replying to the debate on the Finance Bill.

16.00 hrs.

This Government announced that the rate of duty on petrol be increased by one rupee per litre. There was some tremendous confusion about this. It has been mentioned in the Finance Bill also. Even Rs. 4 was charged extra on the sale of per litre of petrol due to the total mismanagement and lack of positive announcement. I do not know what were the reasons for that. Even the money that was charged extra was not refunded. Those who purchased petrol for Rs. 4 more per litre from the petrol pumps were refused refund of the extra amount. The reason for this is still not known to us. It has happened due to lack of infrastructure.

You had categorically mentioned in this House that you would be saying at the time of discussion on the Finance Bill, about the infrastructure sector. Shri Chavan from the Congress side mentioned about infrastructure of railways. But I would rather seek a clarification from the Government regarding infrastructure units of electricity generation, crude oil, coal, refinery, steel and cement

[Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay]

because merely by imposing taxes and duties, nothing could be achieved. You must evolve a proper infrastructure system.

In your Budget speech on page 19, para 180, a very important issue has been mentioned about the postal workers. It has been mentioned that the changes would take effect from a date to be notified after the Finance Bill is passed. It says and I quote :

"A revision of tariff for postal services has become unavoidable. However, in the interest of the common man and the role of the print media in a democracy, there will be no change in the tariff for postcard and registered newspapers. However, the rate of competition postcard is being raised from Rs. 2 to Rs. 3, Inland letter from Re.1 to Rs. 1.50, letter from Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 for every 20 gms. or part thereof and parcels from Rs. 8 to Rs. 10 for every 500 gms. or part thereof. There are also certain other changes which are explained in the Memorandum circulated along with the budget documents. The changes would take effect from a date to be notified after the Finance Bill is passed. The revisions proposed are estimated to yield an additional revenue of about Rs. 270 crore in a full year and about Rs. 100 crore in 1998-99."

16.04 hrs.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

The postal strike which is going on in the country at this stage is causing tremendous difficulties to the common people of this country. The matter is being discussed on the floor of the House. In the Budget speech, specially a paragraph has been added to look after the problems of the postal employees. But still the fate or the movement or the decision of the Government is not clear to the Members of this House in spite of the decision that is being taken. The Minister has given a reply. But what would be the approach of the Government to see that postal strike-oriented problem is sorted out and common people can get a relief from this burning problem which is causing tremendous anxiety ?

The Finance Minister is imposing taxes and duties upon us. But what is happening is that the United States along with other countries like Japan, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Norway and the Netherlands are imposing sanctions on us. We want to know categorically whether you are going to re-allocate your budgetary provisions to the different departments due to these sanctions.

What will be the fate of the on-going accepted projects ? In any way will these sanctions affect the economic structure or the budgetary proposals which have been announced by the Government ?

Now, I will come to a few of your tax proposals. It has come out in the newspapers also. There is still hesitation on the issue of the eight per cent excise duty on branded sweets and *namkeens* though it has been kept in abeyance. But I would appeal to the Government to announce withdrawal of this eight per cent tax because Bengali people are very much fond of taking sweets, and they have categorically asked us to see that this tax is withdrawn.

In the case of medical instruments and appliances, and on pollution control equipments, you have raised the tax from five per cent to eight per cent. You should not do that. In my opinion, the pollution control is the utmost necessity in the present day world. Any imposition of tax on pollution control equipments will not reflect the proper intention of the Government to make our country pollution-free. Similarly, on medical instruments and appliances also the tax should be withdrawn.

A few hon. Members have categorically mentioned about the public sector units both at the Central and State levels. I would like to mention about the modernisation of a few public sector units including IISCO MAMC, MPC Metal Box, and Cycle Corporations. All these units are pending with the BIFR. I would request the Government to kindly see to it. You have proposed to hand over a few such public sector units in the hands of the foreign investors. One such units is BALCO, that is, Bharat Aluminium Company. Sir, our suggestion is that without announcing disinvestment of these public sector units, can you not give relief of taxes to those Indian industrialists who can take over them or give you an offer by which they can run or take one industrial house ? If you announce a better package or propose to give some relief to each industrial house to take over or to run such public sector units, I hope, they will come forward. So, in this regard, I suggest that serious attempts should be made from the Government side.

This Government's brain child is the *Kar Vivad Samadhan* Scheme which is mentioned in paras 89 to 101 of the Finance Bill. It is to be seen that the process of this *Kar Vivad Samadhan* is transparent. It should be without any hazard. Without having transparency in the tax proposals, no Government can mobilise its resources. I would also suggest to the Government to give tax relief and encourage those who will come forward with the full-fledged proposals throughout the country in the Ninth Plan. Government should take all out steps because one of the major causes for the price hike is not having sufficient number of cold storages in the country. Therefore, in the Ninth Plan, cold storage sector will have to be given priority. Otherwise farmers will be in real trouble. They are increasing production, they are contributing to the welfare

of the nation, but ultimately they are not being benefited due to lack of cold storage facility. Therefore, it is badly needed at this juncture. There should be an all-out plan to build cold storages in the country in huge numbers because of which the price rise can also be contained.

Shri Murlī Deora has made a number of suggestions and has put forth a number of ideas the other day. One of them is the crop insurance scheme. The Central Government has allocated in 1998-99, Rs. 100 crore. When the GIC does not have much experience to work at the village level, why not set up another corporation to look after these problems? It can work along with the Departments of Agriculture, Rural Development and NABARD. The Government should take a positive decision in this matter.

I support the Bill and expect that in regard to the policies and proposals which the Finance Minister had announced, the Government would announce some positive decisions.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : The Finance Minister is not present here.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister of State is taking notes. There is no problem.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Mr. Chairman Sir, I would have been happy to speak in the presence of both the Ministers. It is a disappointment that when the representative of the main opposition, the Congress Party is to speak for the first time today the hon. Finance Minister is not present in the House. We feel very sad about it. Of course, Shri Kadambur M.R. Janardhanan is here, but I would have liked both the Ministers to be present here.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Two Ministers are here; one is a Cabinet Minister and another is a Minister of State. So, you can continue.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I must start with the remembrance of one of our great poets :

"Lokopayanah Sanghatnah Nirupmah Na Dwitiyah"

The dream of the people of India is to see the glorious prospect of this country, eradication of poverty and creation of employment potentiality. I must say that every youth who is education in this country must get employment. The poor people who are living in rural areas and remote areas must have a minimum reasonable life. This is the most important million dollar question. This has been the dream of everybody. But nothing is happening.

In the Finance Bill, our Finance Minister has been very optimistic. He has taken a very optimistic view that he

would be able to raise a lot of revenue. In spite of having five to six per cent fiscal deficit, which may go upto 6.2 per cent also, minus two per cent agricultural growth, industrial growth falling down, inflation going up; with all these things in the background, he is still optimistic that he is going to derive very good results in respect of industrial growth, employment potentiality and poverty eradication. He has been dreaming so many things. Anyway, we welcome his optimistic views. He has given incentives to a number of schemes. Of course, it will be short-lived and politically perhaps it may be just a temporary inspiration for people.

Now, my question is this. How are we going to solve this problem? How are we going to provide houses for the poor people. As Shri Ram Jethmalani's dream is to provide houses for the poor people, the BJP's dream is to eradicate poverty and provide 'ram rajya'. The answer is, you must create an all-round good atmosphere. Let us remember that if we help the industrial sector, it should not be misunderstood that we are helping the rich industrialists. It is not so. We can make India one of the great countries of the world only by building the industrial sector. If we want to help industrial growth, let us remove the wrong notion that we are helping the big industries.

The United States of America, under Section 105(b) of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act, has stopped all facilities that were given to us. They have immediately stopped the developmental assistance. They have instructed their EXIM Bank not to give any assistance. They have prohibited their commercial banks from extending loans and credit facilities except for food grains and food items. They also want to oppose us tooth and nail in the World Bank and in the IMF on the question of extension of credit facilities for us. While they are taking this action on the one side, on the other, Japan, Germany, Canada and other countries have decided to stop all assistance given to us.

The hon. Minister of Finance, the Ministry of Finance and the Government of India may feel that the sanctions do not have any impact on the economy but that is totally incorrect. Of course, they are under a wrong impression. There are two types of assistances, short-term and long-term. Whatever assistance, loans and help have been already agreed upon by America and other countries are not going to be stopped. But they are not going to give any assistance in the future. Therefore the present proposition in the Budget is that the finance situation and the country's economy would not be affected. They are happy with the philosophy that nothing will happen. But this is a chain reaction. It is not a question of just one Budget and one Finance Bill. They are going to have a stupendous economic burden and a magnificent impact on the Indian

[Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy]

economy and the Indian financial position. Therefore, we have to bear this in mind here. I am not just indulging in criticism. I do not believe in criticising for the sake of mere criticism. There should be constructive, practical and positive criticism. We have to give suggestions which – the Government must bear in mind – are in the interests of the country and in the interests of building this nation.

While the sanctions are giving us trouble on the one side, on the other, there are financial and economic crises in the East-Asian countries and help from them is also disturbed. At this stage, how are we going to build infrastructure, power projects, roads, ports and industrial units? Without their help it is not possible. Therefore, I draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Finance and request him to work out and see how they can do it without their help.

There is gross red-tapism and nothing works in Delhi. For example, in my constituency, we are dreaming of having projects in Vishakapatnam, which will give employment to thousands of people and also increase revenue and add to the GDP. If the Ministry of Finance says something in respect of a project, the other Ministries say something else. There is no coordination between different Ministries. There is a total lack of understanding. I have suggested many times – at least, if this Government wants to face the challenge – that they should form a coordination committee and produce results. There should not only be talks and statements. The results should be produced by implementation of constructive methods.

Today, the capital markets have crashed and no institution is giving any loan to industries. I would like to ask: 'Which new industry has come up in the country in the last two or three years? How many industries have come up?' They are dreaming of ten per cent industrial growth. They will not have even three per cent growth at this rate.

The Foreign Exchange Regulation Act was formulated with the object of regularising the foreign exchange flow. Again in 1973, on the basis of the 56th Report of the then Public Accounts Committee of 1968 and 47th Report of the Law Commission, they totally modified it. In 1947, there were 21 Sections. They introduced 86 Sections in 1973 and again modified in 1993. They have given sweeping powers under this Act. The junior officers can just act like the biggest men of the country and create a scare. I am shocked to know this. They have filed 16,000 cases but only in 72 cases, people are convicted. Is this the way of doing it, Sir? If somebody is guilty, there is no question of sparing him. You must punish him, whoever he may be.

The philosophy of our people is to punish the guilty ones. But it does not mean that you have to create a scare in the Indian economy and give an impression to the world that the people of India are only after democratisation. It always comes in the newspapers that so and so has been arrested and so and so has been prosecuted. But nothing happens. About the ITC case, the entire industry is shocked to know that the court of New York has recently said that ITC was not at fault. Then who is responsible for this? The answer to this question is FERA. Then how do you expect the Indian economy to grow and how do you expect the industry to grow?

I will give you an example. The major goals in 1973 were:

- (1) Savings in the large outflow of foreign exchange
- (2) Prevention of leakage of foreign exchange
- (3) And reduction in the level of external dependence for our economic needs.

In 1973, they said that the then situation calls for an early new sets of goals. Again, as on today, where do we stand? Those goals were:

- (1) A clear signal to foreign investors that FERA is designed to welcome policy investor and make his operations smooth and hassle-free.
- (2) Ensuring dynamic growth of the economy,
- (3) Importing competitiveness to the economy both domestically and internationally,
- (4) Modernisation and upgradation of technology in existing industries and leap-frogging into frontier technologies to catch up with the advanced countries,
- (5) To integrate the Indian economy with the global economic networks of finance, industry, technology, market and management.

As on today, we are dreaming to build up an economy. We are dreaming to inspire the world to come to this nation and participate in the investments to build up our industry and see that a tremendous employment potential is built up. When your child becomes a graduate today, where is the job for him? There is frustration among the people. There is violence going on because of this frustration. Since there is no goal of prosperity in the minds of the youth, they are going in the wrong direction and track. The only solution to this problem is to forget this misunderstanding. Let us have a human touch. Let us think, before leaving this world, what we have done to our country,

society and profession. Let us not politicise issues. Let us not dramatise them. Let us not trouble and harass people. Let us build this great nation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Reddy please conclude.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : If you want, I will sit down. I am speaking on Finance Bill. If any of my points are waste and are not useful for the Indian economy and finance, I will sit down. If they are useful, kindly allow me to speak. I will not give a lecture or a speech. I will give only valid points.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are giving a very good speech and good suggestions.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Government, vaguely and indirectly, said that they are going to replace FERA by FEMA. When are they going to do it and what are they doing for it ? I want a commitment from the Finance Minister while giving his reply as to when he is going to do this. When is he going to give a new atmosphere ? He is talking about globalisation, liberalisation and inviting people from all over the world asking them to come to our great country and invest here which has glory of thousands of years. But what is happening ?

The Finance Minister must also give a reply as to how he is going to control inflation. There is no doubt that he has introduced a number of schemes like *Samadhan* and so on. I appreciate it. Under *Samadhan*, we are shocked to know that five lakh cases are pending and Rs. 40,000 crore are under litigation in the income-tax.

In so far as customs and excise duties are concerned, one-and-a-half lakh cases are pending and an amount of Rs. 12,000 crore is also pending. It is welcome. But the mistake in this Act is 'samadhan'. If we say '*samadhan*' nobody will take it seriously. They must say that from so-and-so date, the *samadhan* will be functioning. Afterwards, there would not be any '*samadhan*'. Unless there is a specific date or there is some compulsion, a man takes it easily. If a temple is in the next house, he will never see it.

[Translation]

We will see it later, what is the hurry, in any case early solution do not come easily.

[English]

You never get the required amount also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are a number of speakers. We have to conclude the debate today.

(Interruptions)

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : We want to see that our indigenous industry is protected. Take, for instance, sugar. Sugar is the most important product. Millions of workers are depending on the sugar industry. What is the point in encouraging import of sugar ? We cannot imagine it. You are only charging customs duty at the rate of five per cent. Indirectly, it is 12 per cent only. Sugar manufactured in our country is being taxed at 20 per cent. Shri Janardhanan, please note down that. That means, sugar produced in India will attract 20 per cent tax and sugar, which is imported, gets 12 per cent tax. What is the logic ? If you take the international system, even Pakistan and Bangladesh are charging 40 per cent to 50 per cent customs duty. We are charging six to 12 per cent only. Therefore, the customs duty should be planned in such a way that it should not kill the Indian industry.

We are shocked to know that today, we are having a stock of 10 million tonnes of sugar for free sale this year. And 12.6 million tonnes of sugar is being produced this year. So much sugar is always there in the market. We are importing two lakh tonnes. We have already signed a contract. The sugar is coming mostly from Pakistan. How are we justifying it ? Once you are losing the foreign exchange, you are losing the revenue and you are harming the Indian sugar industry. The Indian Sugar Mills' Association have been representing that a gross injustice has been done. A conspiracy is going on to encourage the imports to help some section of people. So, I am drawing your attention to do justice.

About revival of the capital market, we have to take some pains. In 1990-91, the iron and steel industry was totally decontrolled. They started a lot of mini blast furnace plants spending Rs. 3,000 crore. Now, they are all in a bad shape because of wrong import policy and having anti-dumping policy. When coke is being imported, you are unnecessarily having anti-dumping charges. That is also damaging that industry. One lakh workers are depending on that industry. Please help in that respect also.

Shri Ananth Kumar has just now left. The entire Finance Bill is silent about development of the airports in the country. The airports are not a luxury. In the modern society, an airport is also a necessity to build this nation. No money has been provided. You want to go for BOT. BOT will come only as grants and nothing will happen in this country. Therefore, the Minister of Finance must bear in mind that at least besides the four important cities, namely, Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi and Calcutta other small cities like Vishakhapatnam, Cochin or Coimbatore, and all medium cities should be given importance. The airports at these places should be given modernised. For that, either you give money or borrow money or you make available somebody to invest money.

[Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy]

Lastly, you must bear in mind the sanctions. Regarding the Foreign Exchange Act, you must not forget that no country in the world, not even Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan, are having this Act. Why are we having this Act here ? This Act should be abolished immediately. There should be sugar, coking coal, revival of the capital market, and also facilities for drinking water. You are silent about it. You must provide more amount for drinking water, and also see that the poor people in the rural areas are provided houses. You must give money for what Shri Jethmalani is dreaming about.

MR. CHAIRMAN : A decision has been taken in the Leaders meeting that the discussion on Finance Bill would be completed today even if the House is required to sit beyond eight or nine o'clock. All the Members who wish to speak on it would be accommodated today and the Finance Minister would reply to the debate tomorrow. So, I request the hon. Members to be brief.

SHRI INDERJIT SINGH RAO : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Under which rule you are raising the point of order ? —

SHRI INDERJIT SINGH RAO : A point of order can be raised at any time regarding the business which is before the House. Unless you give me a chance, I cannot tell you what I want to say. How can you rule out my point of order even before I have raised it ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have to raise a point of order under some rule.

SHRI INDERJIT SINGH RAO : Sir, I am raising it under Rule 376 which says that a point of order can be raised at any time as long as it is within the purview of the House. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The rule says that the point of order may be raised in relation to the business before the House at the moment.

SHRI INDERJIT SINGH RAO : The business before the House is that the Chair wants to postpone it. I have an objection to it and I am raising a point or order on that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Which business is being postponed ?

SHRI INDERJIT SINGH RAO : You wish to extend the House beyond 18.00 hours.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It has been decided in the Leaders' meeting.

SHRI INDERJIT SINGH RAO : The House is supreme. The House has not decided it so far.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order. It has been decided in the Leaders' meeting. This is the convention of the House. There is no point of order.

(Interruptions)

SHRI INDERJIT SINGH RAO : You have to seek the permission of the House. . . .(Interruptions) We do not want to sit after 18.00 hours.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Why is he wasting the time of the House ? Unnecessarily, he is raising the point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order. At the appropriate time, sense of the House will be taken.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : At 18.00 hours, sense of the House will be taken. For the information of the Members, I have announced the decision taken in the Leaders' meeting and I request the Members to be brief.

SHRI INDERJIT SINGH RAO : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want your ruling on this issue, whether the House is supreme or not, whether the Executive Committee meeting that you are alluding to is sufficient to overrule the House ?

I want your ruling whether the House is supreme or not.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have informed the Members of the decision taken and the sense of the House would be taken at proper time. Why do you worry about it ?

[Translation]

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI (Machhalishahar) : Mr. Chairman Sir, first of all, I would like to express my gratitude to you for giving me an opportunity to express my views on this important bill.

The Budget presented by our Honourable Minister of Finance is certainly the first budget of this Government formed under the leadership of the Bhartiya Janata Party which has come forward with a number of originalities. It was but natural. That the budget which will be presented as such a moment will contain some basic things and those basic things would be there to provide infrastructural support and resources to the economy of our country. The economy with which we had been struggling for the last fifty years, had not been able to fulfill the requirements of our country. The man of our country who lives in village, did not have a house to live, water to drink, roads to walk,

medicines to remain alive and schools to study. If all these had been there, the percentage of literacy which is so low, would not have been such a low.

The number of dying persons would not have been so much and the nation would have marched towards progress. Despite having rich resources, all the raw materials and labour force, we could not make economic progress with the speed which we ought to have. The only reason behind this was the wrong economic policies. The economic policies were never framed here in the manner which could prepare the ground for strengthening our economy to help increase our self-reliance.

Sir, I would like to submit that when the budget was presented in the month of June, the people did not expect that such type of budget would be presented. There was economic slump, unemployment everywhere along with revenue deficit, Fiscal deficit, devaluation of currency, rising market prices. Even due to nuclear test, such a situation had developed in which the entire country was hoping for such a budget which would bring more sufferings for the country. I would like to thank our dynamic Minister of Finance who, by respecting the sentiments of Hon'ble Prime Minister included all those facilities in the budget which are required to make the country prosperous economically. There were several national enterprises and the public sector industries in our country which, were running in losses for years together. Only salaries were being given to their employees, the production was nil. The burden of loan continued to mount because of nil production and increasing expenditure. No efforts were made to find out solutions. We were tied with our views, traditions and false rituals from which we do not want to get rid of. However, an era which began in this country few years ago which was an era of nationalisation under the socialistic slogan, was stopped in the name of liberalisation and privatisation. But that privatisation and liberalisation had been started under the foreign pressure and not due to economic compulsions of the country and strengthening its economy. The share market of the country was destabilised at that time also. It had jumped and gone high. When the share market of the country went high the people were clapping : They were very happy that share market is going up due to foreign investment and foreign capital. However, after just four months, the people realized that this was not due to that but due to scam. It was a conspiracy due to which the share market had gone upwards but today the share market is not going up; it is going downwards for which it is being said that this is because of our wrong economic policies, but it is not so. Had moody not brought down the credit rating of our country, then probably the share market would not have been affected like this. But now, there is improvement in share market and it is heading towards further improve-

ment. What our Hon'ble Minister of Finance had said is becoming clear. Control is being established on the share market.

Sir, I was talking about public sector enterprises. What we had to spend in order to make up for losses of the public sector enterprises, that policy has been changed now. Under that change in policy we can see whether the public sector enterprises are viable or not and if they are in running condition, arrangements are being made to run them. If they are not in running condition, then we should find out their alternative. Their employees have to be resettled somewhere and they will get relief by way of the package prepared for them and the VRS scheme. The attempt which was made earlier to remove them by giving them a small amount has been enhanced to a considerable extent. The payment which was being made at the rate of 15 days per annum has been increased up to 45 days. If they complete 30 years of service, an attempt has been made to satisfy them by paying them five years accumulated salary. It is a positive steps to improve the deteriorating economy.

Likewise, we say that the foreign capital should come in the country. But the question is in which field the foreign capital should come ? If it comes to develop the infrastructure and to develop those resources which helps industrial progress and which provides us a foundation and base for fulfilling our requirements. It should come in those undertakings which might provide job opportunity, then it would be better. Today, the foreign capital is being invited in those industries only. I would like to thank the Hon'ble Minister of Finance for abolishing the import duty on computer software which has been reported in all the newspapers today. I just like to submit that this is the first budget in which the requirement of the infrastructural resources has been considered.

For 50 years we continued to deny that agriculture is the need of our country and we continued to purchase foodgrains from abroad. We continued to feed the people by importing things from abroad. We did not make efforts to strengthen our country. For the first time a revolutionary step has been taken in the field of agriculture and that is a welcome step. 58 percent allocation in the budget is an example in itself.

Likewise 19 per cent budget allocation for rural development is also an example. The budget allocation seems to have been increased everywhere whether it is in the field of education, social sector, healths family welfare, children's welfare or social welfare. At the one hand, we talk about increasing the budget allocation while on the other hand, we talk about fulfilling the requirements. However, we should also think in terms of mobilising funds.

[Shri Chinmayanand Swami]

The methods to bring money have also been prepared scientifically. It has not been done that those who are paying taxes only they should pay. The tax base has not been increased but the tax-payers base has been increased which will not trouble anybody. At first, it was thought to impose tax on transport and decorators but later it was felt that there is no such need.

[Translation]

On the other, hand all those people who were earlier spared from imposing tax whether chartered Accountants, interior decorators or other people engaged in different businesses and today by including 12 metropolitan cities in this net we have given a signal that tax should be collected from those who can pay the tax and more and more people should be brought into the tax net.

Till date we have not paid any respect to the tax payers. My friends discussed and analysed "Samadhan" scheme. An scheme named V.D.I.S. was introduced and the Government got money from that. We are not following that path but we talk of the "Samadhan" because my friend. Shri Chandu Mazra has told that Rs. 64 thousand crore, or some other figure told by him, is involved in the disputes. If these disputes are solved in time then can we not be able to get that money? We have tried to reach at this stage through "Samadhan" so that the money may come back. We could not think in last 50 years to honour the person who contribute from his earnings in the building, operation and development of the country. I have always been criticising the wealthy people. For the first time we have taken a positive step by giving respect to the tax-payer. We should honour those people who make a contribution in the progress of the nation by paying taxes.

Hon'ble Minister of Finance has taken initiative to simplify the tax system which is also a welcome step and I thank him for the same. By this budget we have given a signal to the people of this country and to the people outside the country that there is a guarantee of investment in India and investment can be made in India. Similarly we have opened the doors to invite the foreign money in India. If these doors would have been opened earlier and in the same way as they are opened now then the Indian economy would have been very developed and strong.

It has been said that the nuclear-tests are not discussed in the budget. Hon'ble Minister of Finance had said at that time also that the nuclear tests will not make any impact on our budget and it looks right today.

America was talking about imposing sanctions and some people in the country were also talking about the sanctions but that also has been left behind.

Hon'ble Minister of Finance has been proved right. I want to state have that whatever steps have been taken by the Minister of Finance in this budget for the prosperity of the nation are always welcomed. For this I would like to greet Hon'ble Minister of Finance that it is the first budget of its kind in the country in which positive steps have been taken to strengthen the infra-structure and the resources.

SHRI R.S. GAVAI (Amravati) : Mr. Chairman Sir, will be very brief. I will give my humble suggestions as far as the logic of the Budget is concerned.

Deficit Budget is always detrimental and dangerous to the last consumer of the country. Indirect taxation should be discouraged. It is also detrimental to the last consumer of the nation.

I have gone through the Budget and came to know that one-third of the amount of the total Budget outlay is under non-plan. As a matter of fact, there should be some ratio between non-plan and plan outlay. As far as possible, non-plan expenditure should not exceed 25 per cent of the total Budget. But it is rather contrary. Why I am saying this is because in non-plan expenditure, there is scope for discrimination and corruption also.

Of course, I have earlier mentioned that the Budget is silent on the impact of the sanctions till today. I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister, what will be the impact of the sanctions imposed by America and other countries. It should be brought to the notice of the people at large.

My worry is that the present Budget is demolishing the public sector and encouraging the private sector. The impact of the Budget on the weaker sections, particularly on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, would be that they would be deprived of their legitimate right of reservations in jobs in the private sector. There are a number of complaints that discrimination is being observed by the private sector with regard to the reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Therefore, I urge upon the Prime Minister to take cognisance of it and provide certain apparatus by which they should follow the policy of the Government because Government is giving so many sops and aid to the private sector like water, electricity, etc. They are bound to follow the line and policy of the Government.

I would now take up Social Component Plan and the Tribal Sub-Plan. The Special Component Plan is dead for the individual beneficiaries and Department-wise to the persons belonging to the Scheduled Caste, so also the Tribal Sub-Plan which deals with the tribal population. I am very sorry to bring to the notice of the Finance Minister that the outlay provided to Special Component Plan and

Tribal Sub Plan is not in proportion to the total Budget outlay.

Sir, the cut in the outlay to the welfare schemes under the Ministry of Welfare is very significant. If we go in detail, you will understand that we are going in a reverse direction in safeguarding the interests of the Scheduled Castes and the Schedule Tribes.

Sir, I want to bring to your notice that the chief architect of the Indian Constitution, Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar had brought out the Overseas Scholarship Scheme in 1945, that is during the British regime. This Scheme enables the intelligent boys from the weaker sections to go abroad. Now, this Scheme had been kept in cold storage, so also the case with regard to the Government of India's Scholarship Scheme. As far as the philosophy of Baba Saheb Ambedkar is concerned, it is not scholarship but it is subsistence allowance. Since the last three or four years, the scholarships given to the boys of these sections are not keeping with the cost of living index. I urge upon the hon. Finance Minister to look into this matter also.

It is incumbent on the part of the Government to submit the Annual Report of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commissioner on the floor of the House so that the hon. Members of the House could know as to what is the exact position of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Why are these Reports not discussed on the floor of the House ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI. R.S. GAVAI : I will conclude within a minute.

As I have earlier mentioned, since Independence, the food processing industries are brought under the purview of taxes. Sweet, *masala* and fees of Rs. 1,000/- for slaughter houses are related to the poor persons. So, taxes on these things should be withdrawn. Thank you.

16.53 hours

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR (Dumdum) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, as the number of hon. Members who are present here has been reduced, my speech also will be reduced significantly.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please be brief.

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR : Sir, the Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister, Shri Yashwant Sinha is a very significant one. As I said the other day, it is a 'Golden Budget' in the Golden Jubilee Year of our Independence.

I am also happy that the 'Dream Budget' presented by the previous Government did not serve any good for the country. I am also happy that our Finance Minister is not a 'dream master'.

This Budget has increased the Plan outlay by Rs. 2,400 crore, which is 35 per cent more than the previous year. This Budget has also increased the agricultural sector outlay by 58 per cent. So, it is also significant. So, the rural and the agricultural sectors will help the *Gram garibs* and *kisans* more. The decision taken by the hon. Finance Minister yesterday would also create so many job opportunities.

The stock market is the barometer of the economy.

In that perspective, I think, this Budget will help the development of Indian economy, employment opportunities, foreign trade and uplift of the poor, especially the rural people. That is why, I support this Budget. Thank you.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM (Sivaganga) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wish to intervene very briefly on the Finance Bill. I have spoken extensively on the Budget and I apologized to the Finance Minister that I would not be present for his reply because of a personal engagement in my family; and he graciously conceded my request. I have read his speech. He reserved his reply on many points to the Finance Bill. Then, again yesterday, I found that he has deferred many of the responses to the reply to the Finance Bill which leaves us in a state of wonder why the Government is taking so much time to make up its mind. After all, these are issues which have been debated extensively during the discussion on the Budget. And the Government has had a little over three or four weeks to make up its mind on these issues. In fact, if he had come forward and announced some bold decisions, although it may involve reversal of his own proposals, certainly we could have used this opportunity to congratulate him for responding to some of the concerns expressed in this House as well as outside.

Be that as it may, Sir, I wish to briefly highlight some concerns about the Finance Bill and I sincerely hope that, as he said yesterday they were receiving his keen attention, the suggestions made today, will also receive his keen attention and, tomorrow, he will come back to this House and respond positively to the concerns expressed.

Firstly, I wish to draw attention to a very illuminating report presented by the Standing Committee on Finance, that is, the 'Third Report'. I want to draw attention, in particular, to three aspects. Firstly, let me draw your attention to the comment on the fiscal deficit. Fiscal deficit is not a partisan issue. It is not that Shri Yashwant Sinha invented the fiscal deficit, nor did he inherit it. Fiscal deficit is something that occurs year after year because of policies that we have followed in this country for many years. The account of the Government is closed on the 31st of March every year. So, in a way, you start on a clean slate except, of course, the interest burden. What do we find when we

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start on a clean slate ? We find that the entire plan expenditure in this country for many years has been funded by borrowing. That means what you raise by way of taxation or other receipts goes into non-plan expenditure. I am not one of those who believe that all plan expenditure is good or all non-plan expenditure is bad but going by conventional classification, the plan expenditure must have priority over non-plan expenditure. The result of policies that we have followed for many years, going way beyond the period of Dr. Manmohan Singh, is that we finance our plan through borrowings. If we look at revenue and capital, almost 40 per cent of revenue expenditure is financed through borrowings. This is not good. This is not good whoever is in power. This is not good whether the Congress is in power or the BJP is in power or any other combination of parties is in power. We must put an end to this. Why does the fiscal deficit burden mount year after year ? The main culprits are two. Firstly, there is the problem of interest burden. Secondly, we have no control over expenditure.

17.00 hrs.

We believe and in a way I think my friend the Finance Minister may have contributed to the strengthening of this erroneous thinking that expenditure is good, that if Government spends, it will bring benefits overnight. Therefore, I would urge the Finance Minister, before he loses all control over fiscal instruments, to rein in the fiscal deficit, to begin a process of reining in the fiscal deficit by addressing the issue of expenditure and addressing the issue of interest rate. On interest rate, I am afraid, despite brave words on the part of the Government, interest rates are firming up.

I sincerely wish the Government well that it will be able to overcome the sanctions. It is nobody's case that anyone in the world has a right to impose sanctions upon us. Certainly the United States must be the last country with any moral authority to impose sanctions upon India or any other developing country. But, sanctions are a fact of life. It is good to have the Finance Minister stand up here and abroad saying, "These sanctions will not hurt us." Anyone in that office must say that.

We are not talking about the direct cost of sanctions. We are talking about the indirect cost of sanctions, something which I think Shri Yashwant Sinha and Shri Jethmalani will understand. There is an indirect cost of sanctions. When Moody's downgrades us, or any other rating agency downgrades, when the world perceives South Asia as a theatre of conflicts, where there are choices of distinction of foreign investment to go, if money must come to India, it will come at a higher cost. Already,

I am told that the spread on external commercial borrowings has widened almost 450 basic points. One of our companies which used to borrow at about three to four per cent above LIBOR, I am told is now borrowing at something like seven to eight per cent over LIBOR. I say that the Finance Minister has to find ways and means to address the question of how to save on interest rates. For the first time in 1997-98 the overall interest rate burden of the Government of India came down marginally, from a little over 13 per cent to a little over 12 per cent.

The cost of Government borrowings is going up, the cost of private sector borrowings is going up, the cost of public sector borrowing is also going up. It means that the burden of this Government – I will assume it will remain in office for five years – goes up and the expenditure next year will go up very heavily. Therefore, the interest rates have to be brought down.

The other point is expenditure control. On this also the Third Report has a very illuminating comment. I want the Finance Minister to look at it. It refers to the Expenditure Management and Reforms Commission which I had promised as Finance Minister but which I could not implement. The reasons are obvious. I wanted it to be a blue ribbon commission led by a leader of the Opposition. I wanted all political parties to be on that Commission. Expenditure control by down-sizing or right-sizing Government making the going government more efficient, controlling unproductive non-revenue expenditure, particularly what goes under the name of administration and services must be brought down drastically.

I appealed from that side to the gentlemen and ladies who occupied the seats this side. But I did not get a response. I do not wish to take names. But here is an opportunity now. The Congress Party is committed to expenditure control and management. So said Dr. Manmohan Singh. The United Front Government was committed to expenditure control and management. Now that he is in office, this is the time for him to respond to the Third Report of the Committee and constitute an Expenditure Management Commission so that expenditure control will become the first priority with Parliament and with Government.

The third aspect of the Third Report which I wish to draw attention to is about the Asset Reconstruction Company which the Finance Minister proposed. Quite unsurprisingly, the Standing Committee has come to the right conclusion, "Go slow" about the Assets Reconstruction Company. The Committee has come to that conclusion.

This is an old idea of the Narasimhan Committee which was rejected, time and again, by the Ministry of Finance. There is no harm in reviving that idea. There is no

harm in examining that idea again. But if you are convinced that it is good, go ahead with it. However, we are not convinced that it is good. It is a bad idea. It will encourage bankers to become poor lenders. It will encourage bankers to be sloppy in their job and they will spin off all these so-called non-performing assets to the Assets Reconstruction Company, which, as the Committee pointed out, will be managed by some bank officers. What will you get out of it? The way to go about it is to look at the incremental N.P.A. after Basle norms were introduced as compared to the old N.P.A. You will find that the incremental N.P.A., after the Basle norms were introduced, are much smaller, in the region of about four or five per cent. It is the pre-existing N.P.A. before Basle norms were introduced which adds to the total N.P.A. picture of about 17 or 18 per cent. We must attack old loans, the loans that were advanced earlier and remained non-performing. The answer is not Assets Reconstruction Company.

Having drawn attention to these vital aspects, to recapitulate firstly the fiscal deficit particularly interest rates, secondly on expenditure management and thirdly on Assets Reconstruction Company, let me quickly appeal to the hon. Minister of Finance to pay attention to some of these concerns.

Firstly, I have already in Question Hour raised my concern about Section 10(23)(G). I find that while introducing the Bill yesterday, you said that you are paying keen attention to that subject. I wish that you will stand up and say quickly that it was an error, it was perhaps a drafting error or error in conceptualisation. But it was an error to try to amend Section 10(23)(G). Our infrastructure capital companies will be greatly affected. I will request you to graciously and gracefully withdraw that amendment that you proposed to Section 10(23)(G).

Secondly I will come to Science and Technology. Again, I will not lay the blame at your door. It is quite possible that it had escaped your attention. For many years, we have been giving hundred per cent tax concession to laboratories set up by companies for Research and Development, particularly pharmaceutical companies. For about two to three years, industry represented that they must get an additional incentive to invest in Research and Development; that you must go back to the situation prevailing some years ago where you gave a weighted deduction of 125 per cent. In the last year's Budget, we did give 125 per cent. Then, we set up groups to work out the modalities in the Department of Science and Technology. Dr. Mashelkar was involved, Dr. Ashok Parthasarathy was involved, and the industry was involved. Finally, the Government issued a notification in March, 1998 because the provision would come into force in the assessment year 1998-99, beginning on 1st of April,

1998. Now, what has the Ministry of Finance done? It notified in March, 1998 that it will give a weighted deduction of 125 per cent to indigenous Research and Development by Indian companies willing to invest money in Research and Development. Then, comes the Budget on the 1st of June which takes it away and says; "No, we only give you hundred per cent." Now, what happened between March and June is that the Ministry of Finance has done a *volte-face*. I can see no logic in it. I am sure, cutting across party lines, all Members will support a weighted deduction to Research and Development by Indian companies so that indigenous Research and Development will be encouraged and more money will be invested in indigenous Research and Development. I would urge the hon. Minister to kindly withdraw the amendment that he proposed to that particular section.

Finally, I will come to the point regarding four per cent SAD. I do not know why you named it as SAD. The day since it was named that way, it has had a very sad history. I confess that last year we had to introduce a three per cent special customs duty. But that was as part of basic duty because we had to meet a huge bill of the Pay Commission. It may have been the right thing to do or wrong thing to do. If I were doing it all over again, I would not do it. I say that I would not do it. At least I had a sunset clause. There was a sun-set clause that three per cent will lapse on the 31st March, 1999. Now, what you have introduced is not an addition to the basic customs duty. It is top of all duties. We calculated and showed you that eight per cent really worked out to twelve or thirteen per cent. You were good enough to roll it back to four per cent. But even four per cent works out to six or seven per cent. It applies to capital goods. Capital goods manufacturers in this country have protested. And despite the early figures, the new figures put out by the Department of Statistics show that the capital goods industry did go up in the first three quarters of the last financial year. The decline started only in the fourth quarter, perhaps some time after elections were announced and instability became entrenched. I would urge you to boldly scrap this four per cent duty. That is the right thing that you will do. But even if you cannot bring yourself to scrap the four per cent duty, then take it away on capital goods. Just imagine the cost of a refinery, a power plant or a fertiliser plant. Imagine that a plant is coming into India which is internationally priced. In any other country if it goes in at zero duty – the initial cost, the initial capital outlay is only the cost of the machinery and other developmental work – in India, you start on day one by a 25 per cent customs duty or a 30 per cent customs duty. The cost goes up by thirty per cent. All your pricing is based upon that. How can the Indian product ever be competitive to the world product? That is why Dr. Manmohan Singh introduced zero

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duty for fertiliser. I introduced zero duty for refinery under certain conditions. I am glad that despite industry's demonstrations, you have not gone back on that. I am glad that you have stood firm and said; No, let refinery and fertiliser capital goods come at zero duty. I am not saying you extend it to other sectors. If they deserve, you must extend it to other sectors. But this four per cent duty may not apply to fertiliser and refinery. The same logic applies to all industries which import capital goods. As long as the Indian industry is import-dependent, in the sense that even the export industry is based upon a high import content, any addition to customs duty makes our exports uncompetitive. That is why, the classic economists will say that import duties are a tax on exports. It makes the domestic market more profitable, but it makes the export market unprofitable and uncompetitive, and the exports will decline. I would urge you, Mr. Finance Minister, bite the bullet. You have, after all, rolled back the increase in fertiliser prices, you have rolled back the unintended increase in petroleum prices. So, to roll back something which is clearly wrong is not an act of defeatism or is not an act of humiliation. I think it means that you have the statesmanship and the courage to recognise that something done may not have been the correct thing and you will roll it back. I would urge you to bring to bear on your task the courage and the statesmanship required to roll back this four per cent.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : You were not present in the House when I was piloting the Bill. On your five per cent thing, I had announced in this House that I shall allow the sunset clause to become effective on 31st March, 1999 and your five per cent shall stand eliminated on that day.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : That I noticed. That sunset clause was already there in the Finance Act. Unless the Parliament agrees to amend the sunset clause, it will go away on 31.3.1999. I am saying that your four per cent should be rolled back now. But if you required the four per cent this year for revenue purposes, let it also be subjected to the same sunset clause. Let your four per cent also go on 31.3.1999. Unfortunately, your four per cent is a permanent tax. You have put it as a permanent tax on the Statute Book today. You had it as eight per cent, you have got it as four per cent. I am not convinced about the logic of four per cent of this year. I said so when I spoke on the Budget. I said this is inflationary and this will make the Indian industry uncompetitive. You were good enough to roll it back by four per cent. But I would say, roll back the remaining four per cent also. But if for revenue reasons—we are in the month of July now – if you are not able to roll it back across the board, roll it back at least for selective sectors, for capital goods. I give you a third option. If you

are unable to roll it back even for capital goods, at least roll it back so that it stops on 31.3.1995, so that this mistake is not perpetuated beyond 31.3.1999.

Finally, a word on inflation. Again, the Treasury Benches were very kind and indulgent to listen to me with rapt attention, and I appreciate that. Please bear with me for another minute and I will conclude. Inflation again is not a partisan issue. All of us are committed to fighting inflation. All of us are committed to keeping inflation below five per cent. In fact, the Finance Minister is on record speaking through his Economic Survey that inflation must be controlled to something like four per cent. What has happened is not what we are wishing will happen. We are not wishing that inflation should rise in this country so that we can stand up and taunt you in Parliament. Inflation hurts the poor people. Inflation hurts the fixed income people. Inflation has already touched 7.5 per cent.

With a certain amount of humility, I believe that one of the greatest, one of the best achievements of the United Front Government and the last year of the Congress Government was control of inflation. We targeted inflation. Inflation which used to average about eight or nine per cent and touched even ten per cent in 1992-93 and 1993-94, Dr. Manmohan Singh brought it down to an average of about 7.5 per cent. In the two years of the UF Government, we brought it down to an average of 6.5 per cent in the first year, and then to an average of five per cent.

I am not saying that there is a magic wand to control inflation. But I would request him not to lose over monetary instruments and fiscal instruments. He seems to have lost control over monetary instruments. But when he has control over fiscal instruments, he is using the fiscal instruments to impose taxes which are inflationary. Excise duty is by definition inflationary. Customs duty in a country where industry is dependent upon imports is inflationary. I once again implore upon him to look at the nature of his taxes and do not be carried away by what economists say.

Sir, there is a famous Newton's Law of physics. There is also a Newton's Law of economics. For every economist, there is an equal and opposite economist. So, he should not be carried away by what economists will tell him that the Laffer Curve will not work. The Laffer Curve will work. In fact, he will reap the benefit of the Laffer Curve. The Laffer Curve had worked last year on corporation tax. It did not work to the extent of Rs. 3,000 crore on personal income tax because of the slightly diversionary effect of VDIS. The Laffer Curve will work and he has a bonanza waiting for him under his Samadhan Scheme, if he can formulate the scheme, and implement it with vigour because it is not as though the revenues will not come.

But he may please take a second look at inflationary taxes. I am not going to mention the taxes. In my speech on Budget, I said sewing machines, tractors, tyres for off-the-road vehicles and sweet meats. What is the need to impose taxes on all these things? Please look at that list.

It is not as though Dr. Manmohan Singh or I put zero duty by over-sight. Zero duty is put there for many of the items because they are items of mass consumption and they should be available to the people of India at low prices. Zero duty has been put there on many other products because we must encourage people to use those products. The best example is the tyres for bullock-carts and other carts.

Now it is very tempting to say let us impose eight per cent duty and collect money. That is inflationary. It will discourage people from using those products. Products will not be available to people at low prices. I am not going to list them. I would request him to please look at them. He is raising over Rs. 9,000 crore. The people of India pay to the Central Government alone Rs. 1,70,000 crore by way of taxes. Why does he want to add another Rs. 9,000 crore? I know that it is too late in the day for me to persuade him to withdraw all Rs. 9,000 crore levy. But he may please look at some of his taxes, some of his excise duties, some of his customs duties, particularly the four per cent, and roll them back.

Sir, inflation has already touched 7.41 per cent. This is a provisional figure. Our experience is that final figures are usually about 0.2 or 0.3 per cent above the provisional figures. So, it is quite possible, as I speak today, inflation has already touched eight per cent. That is only on the Wholesale Price Index. On the Consumer Price Index, it has already crossed ten per cent. As far as agricultural labour is concerned, inflation has perhaps already crossed ten per cent. I know that 150 days is too short a period for anyone to deliver the goods. We want him to deliver the goods. We may debate with him, we may argue with him, we may quarrel with him, but after all, it is the Government of India and the economy of India, the people of India who have to eventually succeed and triumph. So, we are as concerned as they are and when we say this, we say this in a spirit of trying to help him. I sincerely mean it when I say that we want to be helpful to him. I would request him to please target inflation. As I said, when inflation crosses eight per cent, he will find that there are a few friends even on that side for him. As inflation crosses ten per cent, they will be demanding the scalp of the Finance Minister. I would request the Finance Minister not to allow himself to be carried away by the advice – may be well – meaning advice but wrong advice – which will only stoke inflation. Inflation control, Mr. Finance Minister, must be the prime target of the Government. I would

request the Finance Minister not to lose control over monetary instruments, and not to use fiscal instruments in a manner that will stoke inflation.

I would urge him to respond to these concerns. When he comes back tomorrow, I hope that he would have responded to these and other concerns that were expressed by us so that we can support his Finance Bill.

*SHRI V.K. CHINNASAMY (Gobichettipalayam) : Hon'ble Chairman, I would like to speak in Tamil, my mother tongue. At the outset I would like to thank our beloved leader Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi, the General Secretary of All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam who was the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and who will be the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in future. Our leader has enabled me to represent the people of Gobichettipalayam constituency in Tamil Nadu. I express my deep gratitude again.

I would like to thank the electorate of my Gobichettipalayam Parliamentary constituency for electing me with a margin of 1,14,626 votes after my being introduced in the fray as an AIADMK candidate by our leader Puratchi Thalaivi who lives in our hearts. I also thank the volunteers and friends of my party who ceaselessly endeavoured to make my victory possible.

While supporting the Finance Bill moved by the Hon'ble Finance Minister, I would like to express my views placing forth certain suggestions and demands pertaining to my electorate. I listened to Mr. Chidambaram, Former Finance Minister and Hon'ble Member of this present Lok Sabha speaking just before me. He analysed the Bill in detail and came with several suggestions. As far as I am concerned I would like to assure Mr. Chidambaram who comes from Tamil Nadu that our Finance Minister from this alliance Government will not lag behind in any respect. I may also assure him that the functioning of the Finance Ministry will not be wanting in any way now. Let me also point out that our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri A.B. Vajpayee has made a right choice in nominating an efficient Finance Minister.

While presenting the Budget, our Finance Minister announced a hike in petrol price. But later on, considering the demands from the Hon'ble Members of this House he reduced the increase in petroleum prices. I think it is our duty to thank him for that gesture.

I would like to point out that about 75% of the Members of this House are from agricultural families. When the Finance Minister proposed to increase the urea price by one rupee per kilo, members from various parties drew the attention of the Finance Minister. He immediately brought

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

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it down by fifty paise at the first instance and subsequently he had withdrawn it fully proving a point that we are responsive.

In India about 70% of our children are not getting nutritious meals. At the same time, about 40% of our population is not able to buy food to sustain them and enable them to work and earn their livelihood.

I am duty bound to impress upon this Government at this juncture, to go in for increasing the foodgrains production to alleviate poverty related problems like hunger and sickness. Poverty and hunger are not mere economic problems. It is treated as a political problem too. So it is needless to emphasise the urgency to evolve measures to eradicate poverty from this country. The new Union Government led by BJP and its alliance partners share a common objective to put an end to the problem of hunger. The entire responsibility is vested with the Finance Minister.

New agricultural policy and new food policy with a thrust on increased production must be evolved soon. This is my opinion would require nationalisation of rivers in India especially the inter-state rivers. We have enough of land and water resources. So at this point of time when we are facing imminent economic sanctions against us by countries like America, we need not lose heart.

Let me recall a saying by our founder leader Puratchi Thalaivar late Dr. MGR who was a very popular film star of his times and a three-term Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for eleven years. In a movie titled Vivasayi (Farmer), I hope Hon'ble Member Shri Chidambaram might have seen it, he made us to think saying that, "In this country there is no dearth of resources, they are aplenty. So we need not go for alms to other countries."

So I would like to draw the attention of this Government through the Finance Minister. Crores of acres of land are there lying as dry lands and waste lands without adequate water and irrigation facilities. If we could take effective and viable measures we can convert these lands to be cultivable ones. Thereby we would be able to augment foodgrains production and we would be able to export food supplies to other countries. So I would emphasize here the need to go for Ganga-Cauvery link project.

It is fifty years since we won freedom. So many parties like Congress party ruled the country all along. They might have left several things unfulfilled. So I would like to impress upon the Prime Minister that it is not important as to how long we ruled this India. It is all the more important

to prove that how have we taken up and implemented projects and schemes that would have lasting impact. Puratchi Thalaivar MGR as a visionary functioned with a perspective.

Yesterday during the Kamaraj statue unveiling ceremony, our Prime Minister lauded late Kamaraj's Midday Meal scheme. But it is only Dr. MGR, the erstwhile Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu who proved that such a noon-day nutritious meal scheme can last for long that too feeding children upto plus two. He showed a way to the whole of India. So I request our Prime Minister to implement this Midday Meal Scheme throughout the country taking cue from the one and the only Chief Minister who introduced it in Tamil Nadu. I also request the Prime Minister to seriously consider implementing the Ganga-Cauvery project. Even if it is to cost thousands of crores of rupees this BJP Government must find ways and means to take up this project. I would be happy if survey work for this project is taken up this year. I also look forward to your announcement in the ensuing session that funds have been earmarked for this purpose.

Annoor, Avinasi, Nambiyoor, Gobi, Perundurai, Bhavani Sagar, Karamadai, Uthukuli, Chennimalai are the ten panchayat unions in Coimbatore and Erode districts that have vast dry land due to dry spells and deep water table. A scheme was evolved to replenish the water in the irrigational tanks and water sheds. This Athikkadavu scheme was evolved as a major Drinking Water Scheme. In 1995, when our Puratchi Thalaivi was Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, survey was carried out. Public Works Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu conducted a survey and submitted its recommendations. It was found to be a viable scheme. Government of Tamil Nadu also took up the project for consideration. This Rs. 135 crore project would benefit about 20 lacs of people in these areas. It would provide drinking water to their parched throats. This scheme would solve the drinking water problem faced by these 20 lacs of population. Water has to be drawn through canals from Athikkadavu. The required fund for this viable scheme at a cost of Rs. 135 crore needs to be allocated by the Governments both in the State and at the Centre. I request the Union Government to provide its share of 50% at the earliest to complete this project before any cost overrun could ground this project. I request the Finance Minister to look into this.

Let me bring to the notice of the Government the shopping of certain trains running via Erode. The business community from Erode, Tiruppur, Salem, Coimbatore are greatly affected by this. Turmeric, sugar, oil, handloom products etc. transported to other States especially to the Northern States are facing transport problem. Four to five trains have been stopped on this route while rescheduling their routes. These goods cannot be moved as easily as

they used to be done due to inadequate rail traffic. So I would like to impress upon this Government especially the Railway Ministry to press into operation immediately certain other train services to enable the movement of these essential goods.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

AN HON. MEMBER : Sir, please allow him to continue. It is his maiden speech.

SHRI V.K. CHINNASAMY : The Handloom Weavers' Association of Erode have submitted a memorandum to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him conclude in one minute.

SHRI V.K. CHINNASAMY : In and around towns like Uthukuli, Chennimalai and Tiruppur the places in and around my constituency production of ghee from home made butter is carried on like cottage industry. Every household in every village there around the region participates in this village level cottage industry. Excise duty has been levied on ghee and butter. This may be withdrawn. I request the Finance Minister to waive the excise duty levied on turmeric, pepper and tiles too.

Handloom weavers were getting 20% rebate for the past 15 years right from the tenure of late Dr. Puratchi Thalaivar MGR. For the past two years the handloom weavers face several hardships. It is due to the withdrawal of this 20% rebate scheme. The DMK Government in Tamil Nadu has withdrawn the rebate. The plight of the handloom weavers have gone pitiable because of stagnation in the sale of these handloom goods. I urge upon the Union Government to intervene and ensure that both the Central and State Government provide a cushion to boost up the sales of handloom goods offering rebate throughout the year. It would be better the Union Government itself come forward to procure all these handloom goods and dispose them off either in the domestic market or through exports to foreign countries.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : One minute is over. Shri Chinnasamy, please take your seat. You have spoken for 15 minutes. Please take your seat. Now, Shri N.K. Premchandran to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. I have called Shri Premchandran.

SHRI V.K. CHINNASAMY : Please give me one minute.

Now there is a rumour that Centre is going to ban tobacco cultivation in Tamil Nadu. This has created a panic

giving rise to crisis sales. Farmers are greatly agitated and plan to give up tobacco cultivation. Traders also pay them less price. So I request the Union Government not to ban tobacco cultivation in Tamil Nadu as it would affect hundreds of agriculturists and families which rely on them.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have taken 15 minutes. You are the second speaker of your party.

SHRI V.K. CHINNASAMY : Please give me one minute.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except Shri Premchandran's speech. Shri Chinnasamy, please take your seat now.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri) : Sir, I am on a point of order and it is regarding the strike by postal employees. We came to know from outside that the strike has been called off, but the Government has not intimated the same to this House. So, will you please instruct the Government to intimate the real position to this House ? We would like to know whether it has been really called off or not.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I do not know whether the Finance Minister is in a position to inform this House.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I will send a word to my colleague.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It should be conveyed to the Minister of Communications that she should inform the House about the latest position in regard to the postal employee's strike.

(Interruptions)

SHRI V.K. CHINNASAMY : Sir, please give me one minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can pass on your papers to the Finance Minister. I have already called Shri Premchandran.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record, except Shri Premchandran's speech.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to express my views in regard to this Finance (No. 2) Bill, 1998.

* Not recorded.

[Shri N.K. Premchandran]

I rise to oppose this Bill because the general character of this Bill is favouring or benefiting the multinational companies or corporates and the rich people of the society. The concept of this Budget has been extensively discussed. I would like to say one thing on this Finance Bill also. Now-a-days, it has become a practice, when we formulate the Budget proposals or when we formulated the tax proposals, to give much importance to the rich class in the society. We are ignoring the tolling masses, the working class, the peasants and the common mass of this country. This Finance Bill is also moving in the same direction benefiting the rich class or the haves in the society.

We do agree with the Finance Minister that the economic growth of the country is the main factor in determining the welfare measures. But the economic growth should grow with equity.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Premchandran, just a minute. The Parliamentary Affairs Minister is here.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): Sir, Hon'ble Minister is going to make a statement regarding Postal Strike in the Rajya Sabha at half past five and as that House is adjourned at half past five, after that I would request her to come here.

[English]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : The whole country is undergoing through this agony. Kindly tell us whether the strike is over or not. We do not want any speeches.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : She would tell this after coming here personally.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : She is going to make a statement in the Rajya Sabha.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : She will tell. She will come back here immediately after making statement at 5 P.M.

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Sir, the Preamble of our Constitution as well as the Directive Principles of State Policy envisage for a welfare State and economic justice.

So, one of the main questions to be considered as far as this Finance Bill is concerned is whether the tax proposals would lead to economic justice or not. My answer to that is 'no' because the main lacuna in the tax structure of our country is that we are not able to collect the taxes in due course. That is the main thing which I would like to highlight. There is a lack of proper and effective mechanism to collect the taxes. It is astonishing to note that the total present arrears, both under direct and indirect taxes, are more than Rs. 50,000 crore. That itself is sufficient to overcome most of the defects that our economy is facing. There is also a high asymmetry existing in between the direct and indirect taxes collection. What is the percentage of contribution of direct and indirect taxes from 1992-93 to 1997-98 in the gross tax revenue ? It is 36 per cent in the case of direct taxes and 64 per cent in the case of indirect taxes, that is, by way of customs duty and excise duty. It indicates that we are relying or depending much upon the indirect taxes. The is why, 64 per cent of the total tax revenue is from the indirect taxes and only 36 per cent is from the direct taxes. So, I would like to say that it is undesirable and it is not good for a country where 40 per cent of the people are living below the poverty line. It will place heavy burden upon the common mass of the country and it will also result in a negative economic growth also. So, Sir, I suggest that they should have a proper and effective enforcement mechanism to collect the taxes.

As far as the concessions, benefits and extensions are concerned, I have already said that we are giving it to the multinational companies, corporates and the rich people of the society. Last year, the former Finance Minister, in the last Budget, had introduced a new scheme, that is, Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme. We do not know who have deposited and how much amount. The Parliament, the supreme august body, is not aware of who deposited how much amount. It has not been disclosed; that may be one of the conditions of the Scheme. But it is learnt that so many politicians are also involved. I have heard from some source that Rs. 170 crore have been brought to the Income Tax Commissioner's Office in two trucks and they were not able to count it even. I would say that we are indirectly encouraging black money.

We are indirectly encouraging tax evasion also. So, I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister whether it is possible to disclose the name of the persons who have submitted the amount at least after closing this. Now there is a new scheme, *Kar Vivad Samadhan* Scheme. A lot of concessions are going to be given from 31st March, 1998 by offering waiver of a part of tax arrears and also interest and providing immunity against prosecution and penalties. This kind of giving exemptions, concessions and benefits

to tax evaders shall not be made a permanent practice, as in that case, tax evasion will be a continuous practice.

Now, I come to the excise duty structure. Almost all hon. Members have expressed their concern regarding 8 per cent duty on packaged tea and branded edibles and sweets which are putting much of a burden on the common man.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member may conclude within one minute.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : I hope that the Finance Minister will withdraw the tax proposal which has already been made here.

I now come to the next proposal regarding 5 per cent excise duty on rubber coir mattress. It is purely an agro-based industrial product because 70 per cent of the coir mattress is from coconut fibre and 30 per cent is from rubber. Suppose 5 per cent excise duty is imposed upon it, the entire tyre industry will suffer. It is also against the policy of the Government. This Budget speech also is giving much thrust to the eco-friendly relationship. But why 5 per cent excise duty is being imposed ? It cannot be legitimately explained. I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister to withdraw it because rubberised coir industry is competing with the polyurethane foams because polyurethane foams are made with raw materials which are totally imported. It will affect the indigenous industry and our economy will also be affected. There are 92 rubber based coir industries in total in India and 1,000 small-scale coconut fibre extraction units also. All these units will suffer. Five per cent excise duty upon the rubberised coir mattress may be withdrawn.

I would also like to say another thing. It is about the duty on caprolactam. The duty has been reduced from 30 per cent to 25 per cent. FACT is a major public sector unit in the State of Kerala. With this measure, it will suffer very much by way of reduction of the customs duty from 30 per cent to 25 per cent. It is also having a social commitment because food security of the country is mainly dependent on fertilizers. So, that suggestion may also be taken into consideration.

Now I come to the *tapal* tariff. The price of postal articles is going up. The price of Inland Letter has been increased from one rupee to Rs. 1.50, so also, the price of postage cover has been increased from rupees two to rupees three. These are all affecting the common masses of the country because the common people, the poor people are depending on all these communication systems. The rich people in the society are having so many other most modern technological equipment. So, this issue also should be reviewed.

For the Road Development Fund also, the hon. Minister has increased the price of petrol by rupee one per litre. The Government is expected to be collecting Rs. 790 crore out of the Road Development Fund scheme. I would like to say that we should develop infrastructure facilities by way of BOT scheme. I think the Government should not impose much duty on petrol which is causing a heavy burden on the common people.

I would welcome the hon. Finance Minister's proposal in regard to sports. The Finance Minister has announced the setting up of a National Sports Fund for the promotion of sports and games in the country. It is a very welcome suggestion. We were witnessing the finals of the World Cup Football Tournament. What is the position of India in the World Cup Football Tournament ? Like the Atlanta Olympics, without Leander Paes, the medals tally of India would have been zero. He had got a bronze medal. Otherwise, India would have been a zero in the medals tally. So, we have to promote sports and games in our country for which a Fund has to be constituted. There should be proper administration and management of sports in the country. The Government of India should have a sports policy and on the basis of that, we can promote sports and games also.

Croatia which is having only forty lakhs of people have got the third place in the World Cup Football Tournament. But what is the position of India ? I think the position of India in the World Cup Football Tournament is 106. That is the statistics which we have. So, I would welcome this suggestion of the hon. Minister. There should be proper administration and management of sports. I welcome the Government's intention of having a sports policy. All the taxes, the direct tax, the indirect tax, the service tax, *tapal* revenue, do constitute the Central resources.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : I am concluding. There are two things with respect to my State. I would like to say that there is no just and equitable allocation of Central resources among the States. For example, the *per capita* outlay allocation to Kerala is much below the national average. The *per capita* outlay allocation to Kerala is Rs. 1883 as against the national average of Rs. 2162 . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister of Communications wants to make a statement. She wants to go to the Rajya Sabha after that.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : I am concluding. I will take just only one minute. Coming to my point. I would request that this deficiency should be rectified. It should be taken into consideration and it should be rectified.

[Shri N.K. Premchandran]

Similarly, the Central sector investment in Kerala has come down from 3.24 per cent in 1975 to 1.8 per cent in the year 1995. I suggest that plan allocation and Central investments should be based on population, *per capita* income and unemployment.

The corporate income-tax has to be made a shareable revenue. The Tenth Finance Commission recommended and accepted it. I think he has also accepted it. I hope that without any further delay, he will come forth before the House with the proposal so that we can approve it also.

Finally, I would suggest one more thing. Just like that of the Sports Fund, I appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to constitute a Fund for the rehabilitation of the Gulf returnees. Yesterday, I got an answer from the hon. Prime Minister saying that 30 lakh Indians are working in the Gulf countries. That means that the Gulf countries are the main foreign exchange-earning sector to us. The Non-Resident Indians in the Gulf countries contribute a lot. Thirty thousand Malayalees have returned from the UAE. It amounts to a loss of foreign exchange of Rs. 1000 crore. Thirty per cent of the foreign exchange earnings is from the Gulf countries. So, I suggest that a permanent rehabilitation fund and scheme has to be constituted so as to rehabilitate the Gulf returnees. It will also help for the welfare of these people.

With these words, I conclude, Thank you very much.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Sir, what happened to the postal strike ? Has any settlement been reached or not ? Where is the Minister ? . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : She will be coming.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Chaman Lal Gupta to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : The hon. Minister of Communications is here. We want to know about the latest position in respect of postal strike . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him start now. She will come and make a statement. Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : She has been called by the hon. Speaker. Please have some patience. She is coming back . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : What is the latest position about the postal strike ? . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Guptaji, please take your seat. Let the Minister of Communications make a statement.

17.46 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Calling off of strike by Postal Employees

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : Mr. Chairman Sir, it is a great opportunity for me that I am declaring the solution of the matter, which has been raised with such an intensity in the House by you, at a time when you are presiding the House. The time runs, at many time, so speedily that the morning event becomes tale at the evening. Today morning my friends were raising on issue related to this strike with stimulation but I am happy to say that the strike ended with a satisfactory solution. It's a signed statement which is signed and submitted jointly by the Secretary General of National Federation of Postal employees Shri R.L. Bhattacharya and Secretary General of Federation of National Postal organisation Shri Padmnabhan. I would like to read this statement.

[English]

On 15.7.98, the Joint Council of Action had very fruitful discussion with Chairman and Members of the Postal Board. On 16.7.98, the Joint Council of Action met the hon. Minister of Communications and she appealed to the union to have full faith in her and assured sympathetic and expeditious settlement of the issues including the implementation of the Talwar Committee recommendations contained in the Charter of Demands. The JCA expressing full confidence in the Minister's assurance called off the strike forthwith. The JCA appealed to all the employees to resume the work with immediate effect. On behalf of the employees, the JCA has assured the hon. Minister that the backlog will be cleared as expeditiously as possible and the normalcy will be restored.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman Sir, as a trade union leader you might have seen the rounds of strikes, but, perhaps, for the first time this signed statement is an ideal document of mutual trust and confidence between the Government and the Union. Perhaps we are going to enter in the new century of new tradition of trade unionism. I want to

assure the House that this new step would prove as a milestone. I would like to thank you people for your co-operation.

HON'BLE CHAIRMAN : Thanks.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : I want to thank Hon'ble Minister for this.

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : I congratulate the hon. Minister for having it settled. But kindly tell us by what time you will implement the Talwar Committee Report.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Very soon.

PROF. P.J. KURIAN : We take your words "very soon" as an assurance given to the House.

17.48 hrs.

FINANCE (NO. 2) BILL, 1998

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Chaman Lal Gupta to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I will take very little time. I have stood up in support of Finance Bill. For the first time, attention has been drawn towards the areas of housing, rural development, education, health, employment and welfare in this budget. The areas which were neglected earlier are now taken care of. First time we have seen the budget attached to the ground and the tax proposals related thereof.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to draw your attention on two-three issues related to my state.

There are many such districts which are declared backward districts by you. Under this, these districts will get tax holiday for ten years. Unfortunately this entire area was tax free till 1993-98. You are aware that how insurgency and militancy is still going on there. According to my knowledge no district of Kashmir is declared as backward. Even the area like Ladkhakh is placed out from the holiday tax limits. I request to the Hon'ble Minister of Finance that as north eastern states are spared from the income tax, similarly the rest of the districts of whole Kashmir should also be included in the tax holiday by declaring them backward.

I would like to state one another thing that invest limit which was considered earlier for the small scale industrial

units upto three crores, has been reduced to one crore now.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : That has been revised.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : It is published in the new's papers that it would be treated as one crore but that reduction is not necessary due to the regular fall in prices. Therefore, the limit should remain three crores.

Mr. Chairman Sir, there are so many Tarpine oil industries in my area. Pine oil was used to bring from the forests and as a result there of 40 industries are running there. The total number of such industries in rest of the areas of the country is 150.

[Translation]

It is an unfortunate thing that due to destruction of forests, the raw-material has become short. It is being imported from abroad and 8% excise duty has been imposed on it. We cannot able to compete with foreign countries due to this excise duty. Consequently, all such industries are on the verge of closure. The matter should be given a thought. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to tell the Hon. Minister of Finance that the 8% tax have been imposed on dairy farm, snacks and sweets etc. The demand is being raised from all quarters that they are running small scale industries and they are not big industrialists. They should not be put at par with any foreign industry. Therefore, tax should be withdrawn from them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a capacity of generating 15 thousand MW electricity through Chenab river in my constituency, but no project has been formulated so far. The reason is that this sector is being neglected. A project was started in Dulhasti in 1983, it was started by the previous Government, but it is now being abandoned. It is my request that at least some attention should be given towards electricity. If you try to pay some attention towards it, our state can be self dependent. If you clear our projects from here, we do not need any assistance from you. N.H.P.C. can easily develop it by taking over this project.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, one thing has been said repeatedly here that there is a number of such projects, which are funded by the Central Government. Jawahar Rojgar Yojna is one of the main project among them. It has been said by the Hon. Members here that no State Government is prepared to link any M.P. with it in any way. You said that instructions are being issued, but even after four months, I can say with challenge that Members of Parliament have not been associated by the State Governments with work relating to implementation of these

[Shri Chaman Lal Gupta]

projects. I would like to say that you should issue mandatory instructions that the amount given by the Central Government will not be utilized till the local M.P. is not associated with the projects.

Lastly, as I have stated in the morning that loan upto Rs. 50 thousand have been waived off in our Jammu & Kashmir which include traders, shikarawalas and small shopkeepers, but the unfortunate farmers are deprived of the loan waiving scheme so far. Agricultural loans upto Rs. 50 thousand should be included in that package and the same may be waived off, that is my request. I am quite hopeful that the Hon. Minister would pay attention on these one or two points and I would like to request that our state should be given preference so that it may fight against insurgency in the best way.

[English]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Idukki) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Yashwant Sinha is now the Finance Minister of the BJP Government. It is very difficult for me to appreciate his present position because I know him not as a BJP leader but as a leader of a secular party for the last many years. Now this transformation has happened only recently.

I never expected that Shri Yashwant Sinha would deny the privilege to the ordinary Indian housewife to offer a cup of tea to a visitor. This was the cruellest part of his Budget. Probably, living in Delhi, we are not able to offer anything more than a cup of tea to our visitors. The maximum that we can offer is only a cup of tea. As you know, the Government is giving only Rs. 1500 salary to the MPs. Even for us also how costly it is to offer a cup of tea today! I do not know whether Shrimati Sinha has told Shri Sinha about the additional commitment she is going to have.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Please say what Shrimati Chacko has told you to say here.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : That is exactly the agony of my household that I am trying to express here.

One kilogram of branded tea is going to be costlier by Rs. 10 to Rs. 15. Here you have developed a kind of allergy to the branded products. I do not know why you are having that allergy.

I was also associated with some of the Committees in the Tea Board. I remember the recommendations of the Tandon Committee for the Tea Board. It was a Committee appointed by the Tea Board which once made a very specific recommendation that tea should be encouraged to be sold as packed tea and not as loose tea. The

possibility of adulteration in the case of loose tea is much more than that of packed tea. Another Committee appointed by the Tea Board said very specifically that the Excise Duty and any other levy on the packaged tea should be removed. This is the recommendation of a Committee appointed by the Tea Board, which is an organisation of the Government of India. Packaged tea has different advantages; cheap packaging, MRP price written on the pack, quality assurance for the consumers, etc. But you have taken away many of the items from the packaged category, from the exempted list, from zero point Duty to 8 per cent, 12 per cent and 13 per cent Duty.

I do not know what made you to take a hostile attitude to the dairy industry in the country. I am sure that there is no personnel reason for that. But you have charged more for branded butter, branded cheese, branded ghee, milk powder and spices. I come from a constituency which is full of spice gardens. All the spices of the country like cardamom, pepper, vanilla are grown there. Till the other day, before he presented the Budget, I was a privileged person, but after he presented the Budget, I have become the most unlucky representative of my constituency.

18.00 hrs.

On packaged spices also, an additional excise duty is being levied. Many other items are also there but because of paucity of time, I am not able to go into the details. But his Budget is definitely going to be inflationary.

I remember, almost with a prophetic prediction, the former Minister of Finance, Shri P. Chidambaram, after this Budget was presented said : 'This Budget is going to be highly inflationary.' I feel that majority of these inflationary trends are contributed by the additional excise duty on the food products, especially on tea and packaged food items. You have denied it and said : 'All these people will be proved as prophets of doom and there is not going to be any inflation. We are very much in control.' What is the situation regarding inflation as of today ? The former Minister of Finance has amplified it very eloquently and so I am not going into the details. But the calculation of inflation in this country based on the Wholesale Price Index is totally faulty. I am not blaming the hon. Minister of Finance for this but I am blaming only the system that he has inherited. He should have had boldness to correct it. The Wholesale Price Index is no index for calculating inflation all.

The official rate of inflation, based on the Wholesale Price Index, is 7.41 per cent for the week ended the 10th July, 1998. This is the rate of inflation for the current week. There is a steep jump in the rate of inflation from 6.86 per cent last week to 7.41 per cent this week. This means that

there has been a jump of about 0.6 per cent in four days time. This is the way inflation is going up in the country. I do not know whether with the natural cool and calm manner which our hon. Minister of Finance exhibits we can. . . (Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, the time is six o'clock. There has to be an extension of time.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, many hon. Members are yet to speak. There is a long list of Members with you. In the morning, the hon. Speaker had called a meeting with the Leaders of Parties and Groups. There it has been proposed that all hon. Members who want to speak would speak today and the Minister of Finance would reply to the debate tomorrow. So, accordingly, I request that the time should be extended so that hon. Members who are on the 'waiting list' could get an opportunity to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are approximately twenty-five Members who want to speak. Presently we shall extend the time of the House up to eight o'clock.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : I agree with it but my only request is that all hon. Members who want to speak from our side should be allowed to speak.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Everyone should get an opportunity.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : I fully agree with this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : But Members should not take more than five minutes.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Yes, Hon. Members should not take more than five minutes except Shri P.C. Chacko who has already taken fifteen minutes!

SHRI T.R. BAALU : There is no necessity of such an extension. What is the use of giving only five minutes ? How can we conclude within five minutes ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right, you can speak for ten minutes.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Mr. I would like to thank Shri Ram Naik for the special concession that he has given me !

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time of the House is now extended up to eight o'clock.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you. I will not infringe into the time of other hon. Members.

What is worrying hon. Members and the people of the country today is the sky rocketing rate of inflation, which

is taking place beyond all predictions and statements of the Minister of Finance. The official figure of the rate of inflation as on the 10th July, 1988 is 7.41 per cent. That is the figure according to the latest statistics available. But this is based on the Wholesale Price Index. If we take the retail price index or the Consumer Price Index of the Industrial workers, it is 10.51 per cent.

I am sure that the hon. Finance Minister has got all these figures. Today when we are discussing this Finance Bill, the inflation rate on the basis of the Consumer Price Index of the industrial workers is 10.51 percent. It may be more, if you take the urban white collared workers into consideration. It may be much more if you take the agricultural workers into account. So, Sir, inflation has crossed double digit. I do not know whether the Government is aware of this calamity which is happening in this country. You were assuring us that it will be a single digit inflation only and it is not going to be inflationary. Hon. Chidambaram has said that the two previous Governments owe an explanation to this country. In spite of all the difficulties, the two previous Finance Ministers could bring down the rate of inflation. During Dr. Manmohan Singh's time, it was brought down to six per cent and during Shri Chidambaram's time, it was brought down to five per cent. Five to six per cent is an ideal situation so far as inflation is concerned. You are not able to control inflation at a particular level. You are increasing the prices of tea and other items. You are increasing the price of motor spirit and you are directly contributing to inflation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude. You have spoken for ten minutes.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, in between, about five minutes were lost.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please try to conclude, as there are many Members to speak.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : I will briefly deal with a few points. I am sure the Finance Minister is capable of understanding much more than what I am saying. He will understand what is in my mind. So, I am not going into the details.

Yesterday, I was watching with great interest the speech of the Finance Minister on Information Technology. You have given some concessions to Information Technology. It is very good. Information Technology is going to be the industry in future and I am not opposing whatever concessions you have extended to them. I welcome those suggestions which you have made.

But I have one thing to say, I have made a representation to the hon. Minister. He was kind enough

[Shri P.C. Chacko]

to look into my representation also. Strontium chemical is used for the manufacture of colour television tubes. You have given concession to so many items in computer software and various other things but not to the colour television tubes which are made of strontium chemical, an imported item. We are now developing strontium chemical in this country out of imported strontium ore. . . (Interruptions) You have reduced it from 25 per cent to 10 per cent. By imposing eight per cent duty, you have given something by the right hand and taken it away through the left hand. That four per cent works out to seven or eight per cent because of the depreciation of the rupee. Any imported item becomes costly because of the depreciation of the rupee. Any imported item becomes costly because of the depreciation of the rupee. So, even if you say that it is four per cent, it will come to six or seven per cent. The cumulative effect of strontium is going to be very uneconomic to the industry.

I will come to the aluminium industry of our country. Our industry should be competitive also. If you take the last four years into account, you may find that the indigenous manufacturers of aluminium have doubled the price of aluminium. It was Rs. 42,000 per tonne. It has gone up to Rs. 70,500 per tonne. But what happened? The import duty on aluminium was ten per cent and it has gone up to 25 per cent and now it is 30 per cent. What about indigenous manufacturers who are not able to discipline themselves? They are hiking the prices to more than double and when the duty is increased, thousands of workers are left jobless which is a grave problem which this industry is facing.

My friend, Shri Premchandran has spoken about rubber and coir industry. I come from Kerala. Its name itself drives from the word coconut. The fibres got out of coconut husk combined with rubber form coir mattresses. The hon. Minister has stated that he proposes to exempt 100 per cent wood-free particles-based residues from excise duty. We know the Minister's broad-minded approach. This is nothing but a difference in density. You know that by putting coir fibre and latex together, we make mattress and foam rubber. Unfortunately, for the last few years, the duty on PUF – the polyurethane foam – is reduced which is imported. Now, PUF is replacing fibre foam. PUF is replacing the latex foam. PUF is taking over the indigenous products. You are a *swadeshi* Government. You should not allowed PUF to encroach upon *swadeshi* products. Hundreds of industries are manufacturing this fibre foam . . . (Interruptions). . . Sir, you are the champion of the labour class.

Hundreds of industries are manufacturing such foam.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Sir, you are a champion of the labour class. We will have to close these industries if this duty continues. That is a small thing which I wanted to bring to your notice.

The effective duty of seven per cent is going to affect the import of copper. Copper sulphate is used for agricultural purposes. In Kerala, there are a few units which are manufacturing copper sulphate. The copper sulphate is imported for agricultural purposes and also manufactured for agricultural purposes. We do not manufacture copper. We do not have copper. Copper is imported. As a balancing act, to help the indigenous manufacturers, you are imposing this levy. The imported copper is being used for various purposes. It is also used for making pesticides. Copper sulphate is a pesticide commonly used in agriculture. 'Bolomixture' is a very common pesticide. You know, it has 101 applications. So, copper sulphate is manufactured. The raw material, that is copper, is imported for that purpose. That may also please be exempted. That is a big burden on them.

The other point is about charitable and religious organisations. I know, you have made a reference about it in your speech. You have put a 'comma'. You have not put a 'fullstop'. You have said that charitable and religious institutions should be exempted. In this Finance Bill, there are clauses 22 and 22(a) of section 10 of the Income-Tax Act. If the proposed amendment is going to be there, the charitable institutions and educational institutions will suffer. They are doing a yeoman's service to the whole country where the Government service is inadequate. Where Government cannot penetrate or where Government cannot go, their services are being rendered to the poor people.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : I have many points but I will not be able to cover all those points. Whenever you bring an amendment, a lot of repercussions will be there if you make it applicable with retrospective effect. Some overzealous officers commit a mistake. They want to do some kind of things. They make you to read out a clause which is unethical and very complicated. In the Finance Bill, an amendment is proposed for clause 40-A. It seeks to add an explanation for the word 'executed'. That means, when the search process is on, the officers have got unbridled powers. They can start the search today. They can complete it within eight, nine or ten months. When the final 'panchnama' is issued, only then the search is executed. Here is an amendment which has come with a retrospective effect. It is creating unbridled powers for the

officers. You want to take away the 'Inspector raj'. Here is a different situation. The poor assesses are being harassed unnecessarily by the unscrupulous elements in the bureaucracy. There is an official amendment. You may apply your mind about this question.

Since you are such a nice person, all of us would like to support this Bill. But when you are imposing excise duty of Rs. 7,000 crore on two items alone and Rs. 790 crore on petrol, I am sure that your conscience will not ask us to support this Bill. So, we oppose this Bill. I hope you will remove all these anti-people duties.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Please remove all these things. We will support you !

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I accept all the suggestions that you are making !

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Then, we will support !

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, I oppose the Bill introduced by the hon. Minister of Finance. My opposition is not because of negative approach. I have my own reasons. Before I enter into the discussion on the Bill itself, I may be permitted to speak about my feelings in regard to financial matters transacted in this House. We all know that legislative accounting is the essence of parliamentary democracy.

18.15 hrs.

(SHRI P.M. SAYFED *in the Chair*)

But I am sorry to say that in this august, House, that is the first casualty. Yesterday, we sanctioned about Rs. 14,000 crore in a minute without any discussion.

Is it Parliamentary accountability ? We are enacting legislations in the House without speaking a word about it. The Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture were passed with only two Members having taken part in the discussion. I may say that scrutiny by the Standing Committee is no substitute for the scrutiny by the House. They are entirely two different things. The Standing Committee deals with a particular Ministry only and scrutiny by the House is totally of a different nature. The House is being denied of an opportunity to scrutinize the Demands for Grants. We have introduced scrutiny by Standing Committees only recently. In Kerala, we have introduced it decades before it was introduced in the Parliament. But that has not taken away the right of the House to scrutinize them separately. Unfortunately, in this House we have done away with the system of scrutinizing the Demands for Grants by the House. It is rather unfortunate considering the experience of the past two days. I stand for one nation. I am even prepared to sacrifice

my life for it. If we function like this, the day will not be far off when the Members from the South will come to blow with the Members from the North. That will happen very soon. This is what we witnessed with regard to the Women's Reservation Bill. We witnessed very unfortunate scenes in this House which are shameful for us. With these words I come to the main Finance Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you coming to the Bill now ?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Mr. Minister, I am very sorry to tell you all this. We are all representing our constituency people. We are here to speak about their grievances but we are being denied of that opportunity by a minority section of the House which has the power to control the House. It cuts at the roots of the Parliamentary democracy. It will not lead us to anywhere. It will not lead us to the objectives enshrined in the noble Constitution which is a model to other countries.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Radhakrishnan, you have still not come to the subject.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I oppose the Finance Bill mainly because of two reasons, when we examine it we find that 65 per cent of the net collection comes from indirect taxes and 35 per cent comes from Direct taxes. So, it is the poor man who is paying the taxes. Though we achieved Independence 50 years ago, even today a poor man working in the field or in the factory is compelled to pay taxes by way of excise duty or customs duty. The only source of income for the State Government or the Central Government is indirect tax. The poor man will always be taxed. Our GDP comes to 12 per cent. According to GDP, our net tax collection is 11 per cent. This is the main reason for opposing the tax proposals contained in the Bill. It is a heavy burden on the poor man. You cannot escape from this fact. One must follow progressive taxation but we are following regressive taxation. Regressive taxation will not improve the society and the net result is, rich are becoming richer and the poor are becoming poorer. They are made to starve because of this regressive taxation. I may tell you that we have tax arrears of the order of Rs. 50 crore. The Government has not been able to collect them. May be, some of them got lost in appeals and some in other technicalities.

The Ministry of Finance is not so much interested in collecting the arrears of tax as it is interested in putting the common man to difficulty. Whenever there is financial crunch, the Government looks to the common man. It immediately raises tax on petroleum products, the Customs Duty and the Excise Duty. It leaves the indigenous producers in total disaster and economic difficulties. I would ask the hon. Finance Minister, "Is it not our experience ?"

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

I would like to talk about rubberised coir. Shri P.C. Chacko has also mentioned it. I understand that the Standing Committee on Finance has strongly recommended that this item should be exempted from duty. Not only rubberised coir, there are some indigenous products made by Chavari Minerals, Travancore Chemicals, and Fertilisers and Chemicals Udyog Mandal, Alway, which are required to be exempted from duty. These are indigenous products and these are only intermediaries. These are not finished goods. The total tax collection from these indigenous products would be very negligible. Why should the Government put these domestic industries to such great difficulty ?

Regarding production of phosphates and chemicals, they themselves do not produce finished goods. They rely on imported material. However, the importing agencies have finished goods because the Government has relaxed all import duties. A situation has arisen in the country where the domestic industry is not in a position to compete with the foreign industry.

I would agree with the Finance Minister on one thing that he has enlarged the tax net. The provision of issuing PAN has been extended to 33 centres. That is all right but not sufficient. It will have to be extended to all areas in the country. The Government has to collect taxes through direct taxation in all places and in all fields and leave the poor man to do his job.

The Finance Minister has proposed to introduce the Samadhan scheme. There also there is a flaw. According to the scheme, people whose taxes are in arrears and whose cases are in dispute can prefer an appeal following which the matter would be pending before the appellate authority and they need not pay their tax till the case is decided. But, there are innocent people, honest people, who may like to remit the tax first and prefer an appeal later. While the person who has intentionally not paid his tax arrears is getting the benefit of this scheme, the person who has remitted the tax arrears is deprived of settlement of his dispute under this scheme. I urge upon the Finance Minister to enlarge the scope of Samadhan to include the taxpayer who has remitted his tax arrears. If he does not do it, he would be doing injustice to people who have already paid their tax arrears. I hope the Minister would understand the position and would take a decision to include this category of cases also in the scheme.

There is another matter which I would like to impress upon the hon. Finance Minister and that is in regard to the nationalisation of insurance sector. You have not defined as to what is a 'private firm'. I was trying to understand as to what is a 'private firm'. Is it Indian or

multinational or multinational-cum-Indian ? I do not know. We can express an opinion on this aspect only when it is defined. In regard to nationalisation of insurance sector, I would like to know as to what exactly the Government is proposed to bring in. Which is a real private firm ? That must be made clear. Then only we can take a decision. Anyhow, at any rate, we are strongly opposed to nationalisation of insurance sector. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Are you opposed to nationalisation or denationalisation ?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Now, among the public sector undertakings, my learned friend, the hon. Finance Minister is aware that nationalisation of insurance sector was introduced by Shrimati Indira Gandhi because of the fact that insurance people and private entrepreneurs were defrauding public money. That was the reason why she nationalised the insurance sector. We are reverting it. If we revert it to that position, generally the situation will not be better. The poor man's money will be left to the private individuals or dishonest people who will definitely defraud public money. There is no doubt about it. Moreover, the GIC as well as the LIC are doing the business with a considerable profit. You cannot say that they are bringing liabilities to the Exchequer. You cannot claim that. The GIC as well as the LIC have increased their business by three or even four or five times. That will not be the reason for nationalising the public sector undertakings in the insurance sector. We vehemently oppose the policy of the Government in that respect.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact as to why should we impose Rs. 500 as Foreign Travel Tax. Poor people from my place as well as from other parts of India are going to gulf countries. Whenever they proceed or return from gulf countries, the airport authorities collect Rs. 500. Previously they were collecting Rs. 750. Now, it is reduced to Rs. 500. Why should that amount be collected ? Moreover, one-third of it goes to the agency of the private airlines and the Central Government will be getting two-thirds of it. After all these poor labourers or workers seek employment abroad with a visa. They spend thousands and thousands of rupees to get the visa from gulf countries. At the time, Shri Yashwant Sinha is demanding the amount. You pay Rs. 500 then only you can leave this country. That is the position. I do not know whether you are aware of it or not. In our State, thousands and thousands of people are proceeding every day to gulf countries seeking employments. After all, you get a negligible amount. I can understand why you take money from rich tourists.

I hope the hon. Finance Minister will take a sympathetic view in both the matters. . . .(Interruptions) I will not take too much time.

Before I conclude, I may be permitted to bring to the notice of the hon. Finance Minister the increase in customs duty of certain items. The hon. Finance Minister has given a list of 98 items which relate to the common man. Sir, if you want to purchase a paper, which is of better quality or imported quality, you will have to pay additional excise duty. Suppose, you wish to purchase an imported pen, you will have to pay additional duty. I will not take too much time by reading out all these items.

He has given certain concessions with regard to items like video cassettes. But if a man wants to purchase paper or some other household material, he will have to pay more. I am not speaking from the air, I am speaking from the list given in this Book. If you go through this list he has exempted so many items like software, television, etc. But the duty has been increased on materials used for construction of a house. On petroleum products, duty has been increased, or for that matter any other material which may affect the common man's purchasing power, excise duty has been increased.

With due respect to Shri Yashwant Sinha, I would like to know how would he justify this increase. That is why, after hearing Shri Chidambaram, I came to the conclusion that what he has said is correct that the hon. Finance Minister has put a proposal for bringing the inflation rate of double digit. Previously, it was in single digit. It is because the excise duty is so much that it will definitely affect the common man and the poor man in his purchasing capacity.

On medical, surgical and other items like medicines etc. duty has been increased. The duty has been increased from five per cent to eight per cent on medical equipment. Duty has been increased to eight per cent on spectacles. I do not think the hon. Minister uses them but I use them. These are items which concern the poor man of this country.

So, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to reduce as far as possible this increase in duties and change the duty rates also.

With these words, I strongly oppose this Finance Bill.

Thank you.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak.

I rise to support the Finance Bill because the present Finance Minister has very sincerely tried to set the things in order in this year's Budget.

I support this Bill because this is an excellent Budget. It is an excellent Budget because of two reasons.

Everybody has heard the speeches made by the hon. Members of the Opposition. Has anyone of them just found any serious flaw in Budget besides saying that this tax has gone up and that tax has gone up? They have not found any serious flaw in this Budget. That is the first reason for which I commend this Budget.

We have heard the speech made by the former Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram. The second point is that you must read between the lines as to what he has said. He did not say many more things than what he has said. Did he say that he handed over a healthy economy to the present Finance Minister? Did he say so? I congratulate him for the scintillating speech that he has made. I congratulate him because he did not make his speech just for the sake of opposition. He made a very constructive speech. I congratulate him – he is not present here now – because he made a speech which is befitting his status.

What I am saying is that he did not say that he had handed over a healthy economy. Now, one of the hon. Members and Shri P. Chidambaram has also said that this Budget is going to bring in inflation. Does it mean that because the present Finance Minister has increased the taxes here and there, this inflationary trend has been seen now-a-days? What about the gloomy picture painted by the Economic Survey for the last year? Is it not true that the economy stagnated since the last 18 months? Is it not true that the GDP growth of 7.85 per cent, which was in 1996-97, fell to five per cent in 1997-98? Is it not true that the fiscal deficit targeted at 4.5 per cent went up to 6.1 per cent in the last year? Last year, the export fell from 4.5 per cent to 2.6 per cent. Do you mean to say that all these points do not subscribe to inflation? All these points subscribe to inflation.

He has said that the Government expenditure must be controlled. I agree with him that the Government expenditure must be controlled. This is the only Government which has got a mindset to control the expenditure because even before we came to power, we were talking in our party circles about the need to control the Government expenditure. Shri P. Chidambaram has said that the United Front Government and the Congress Government did not have the real desire to control the Government expenditure.

This year, our debt servicing is Rs. 1,75,000 crore.

What is our revenue receipt? It is Rs. 1,61,994 crore. Our revenue receipt is less than what you are paying to our creditors. Rs. 1,75,000 crore debt serving with more than Rs. 1,00,000 crore as capital. Is it a healthy order? The previous Governments have brought us to this state

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

of affairs. That is why, this preset Government is in a fix and because of this only, the inflation is just going up.

Thirdly, he had talked about Moodys' downgrading the ratings of India. By what way the Moodys downgraded the ratings? It is not that it happened in one or two or three months. Not that the financial position of India went down in two month. It is only a mind-set. Moodys downgraded the ratings of India because Moodys thought that because of the sanctions imposed by the United States of America and some other countries of the world, the financial position of India would be going down. That is what they thought.

Two or three months back after the Pokharan nuclear tests, many countries were talking about a more, vigorous and further sanction. Is this being said by any other country now? Now they are talking about waiver of sanctions, reduction of sanctions and removal of sanctions. The American Senate and the American Government themselves are finding flaws. They are now tracing out the flaws in their own laws. They are thinking of how to dilute the sanctions because the sanctions are hurting them more than us. So, I am asking this question. When the sanctions will be wiped out totally after two or three months, will the Moodys upgrade the ratings of India? It is a passing phase. It is a mere mind-set and nothing else.

So, I may tell Shri Chidambaram this way that this country is not going to fall prey to sanctions. I can emphatically say that. I can tell you that this is an excellent Budget which was made possible by the Government of India led by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Earlier, it was not made possible although the same Government was there, the same country was there, the same economy was there, but the mind-set was not there, the real desire to perform was not there and the political will was not there. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is the only one proud son of mother India, who could do this thing and who could show it to the world that India can become the greatest, the most powerful country among the comity of nations in the next 21st century. It is Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee who made all the changes which made all the difference between the previous Government, the previous Congress Governments and the United Front Government.

I am a new Member. The way you are just looking at me, I understand that. It is a very threatening look. I should complete my speech. Certainly I will do it.

I will not go into the details of this Budget. We have increased the allocation for education sector by 50 per cent. The main thrust of this Budget is infrastructure development. This Budget is to increase the infrastructure

sector. We have increased the allocation for infrastructure sector by 35 per cent. The economists say that for healthy economy, eight per cent growth is required. How do you achieve this growth? Unless you develop this infrastructure, we are not going to achieve eight per cent growth per year. It is not possible. Unless you build the roads, develop the power sector, develop the telecommunications sector, you are not going to achieve the growth rate.

About the growth rate, I am very sure, that 35 per cent growth rate will be there in the infrastructure, by the end of this year. We can positively attain eight per cent growth rate which was not attained by any other Government. I mean to say, that I would like to tell my hon. colleagues from the Opposition that the test of the pudding lies in the eating. Let them wait for one year then they will see whether we attain the eight per cent growth rate that is expected by our hon. Finance Minister.

Finally, I will just make two or three suggestions. One is a very important one because I am a Member of the Railway Standing Committee. The first point is, I will appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to kindly evolve a National Transport Policy. I mean to say that now the road sector has been allowed just to enter into a competition with the Railway sector, but the road sector by which we are transporting goods is very costly. The per unit cost is more if we transport by road. If we transport by rail it will come to much less. I appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to kindly envisage that a National Transport Policy to determine up to what length the railway will carry the load and to what length the road sector will carry the load.

Finally, let me tell the Finance Minister about the funds being sent to States and the MPs. He is sending crores and crores of rupees to the States for development under EAS schemes, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and under the MPLAD scheme. I want the MPs to be more empowered; more power may be given to them so that they could supervise it more. They are not in a position now to supervise. We are at the mercy of the Collector, we are at the mercy of the Government of India and at the mercy of the State Government. He may kindly see that we are more empowered. He may also increase the MPs' fund from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 2 crore so that we are able to help our constituents in a meaningful way. Thank you.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have only a couple of points to say. I would first make some general observations very briefly in the hope that he will kindly respond to them.

I want him to kindly consider and changes the whole structure of sales tax; because in most cases people do not pay sales tax at all. So many people have spoken about the inspector *raj* and about that inspector *raj* I have

personal experience. Whether it is in Delhi or the State Government that has to collect the sales tax, it is not paid by the traders. I will come to the Union sales tax also. But as the Finance Minister he may kindly go into this. Because I have observed that apart from some Emporia in Delhi, sales tax is not paid at all.

At Pachquan Road, Lajpat Nagar and South Extension, wherever you find household furniture is being sold, nobody pays sales tax. One of those people told me that a senior officer who purchased some furniture from him, when he started making a bill, asked him, "Mereliye bhee hoga?" The tragedy is that it is 12 per cent and nobody pays. And if the Minister has to exercise a review the whole structure of tax, this sales tax is a disaster. Nobody pays 12 per cent and actually it is the inspector who makes money. How much the inspector collects nobody knows. They purchase land, they make houses and what kind of things, nobody knows.

It is also part of the black money, it is a perennial economy. Only the inspector has to be removed. How can we do it? The Finance Minister can do it. Not now; but he can respond later. This whole gamut of activity will have to be watched and we have to punish the culprits. We have to collect the money from the people.

I have collected only a couple of things for your kind consideration.

Then, I wanted to say that it has become a fashion. It is not a complaint against you as a person. Shri Chidambaram did the same thing. I think, Dr. Manmohan Singh also did the same thing. They call it a necessity. I refuse to do it. *Bharat* is the costliest country in the world so far as petrol is concerned. Every year there is some increase in petrol. Now, they say that the increase is one rupee per litre. In Khan Market they had increased the price of mutton disproportionately. So, I raised a question why did it happen?

[Translation]

Says that he have to bring by scooter from trans Yamuna!

[English]

Now, the increase in petrol might be one rupee per litre, but the scooterist will charge six rupee and the rate of mutton per kilogram will go up by five rupee. That is the impact of increase in petrol. Today, I am saying it with a sense of responsibility. In the whole world, petrol is the costliest item in India. I have collected some figures also, but I will not waste your time because I have promised that I will not repeat things that have been spoken here. So, the tax structure will be examined by you for the States as also for the Union.

But coming to your Memorandum explaining the provisions, I want to bring to your kind notice pages 20, 21, and 24. I feel that if you have more time, then you would see on those pages. You would yourself get down to not increasing the duty at all. But perhaps there was no time with you and you could not deal with those items in details. But here I would request you to consider about butter and cheese. They are necessary items for children. They must take butter; they must have cheese. I am talking of middle class and lower middle class people. But ghee, be it branded or not branded, is injurious to health. It must be banned, if not banned, then you raise taxes. We need pure ghee. Pure ghee is spoiled because it creates blood pressure and other tensions. I would have not groused if the hon. Minister had increased the price of ghee. He has done it by eight per cent. But what about butter? In my childhood, we do not have butter at all. But, today, I find lower middle class, even a peon, working somewhere, will try to afford a little education to his children and a little breakfast for them. So, butter and cheese are very essential items.

As far as packaged tea is concerned, I would not take interest in that. There was a telephone call from Srinagar that saffron has been taxed. It is a flower. The poor people are having small farms. So, I would request you to consider not raising on saffron. These are the items where you should not raise taxes.

Now, I will come to cigarettes. The hon. Minister has increased Rs. 10/-, i.e., from Rs. 90 per thousand to Rs. 100 per thousand. You could increase it more. We must be unique in the world.

In the Zero Hour I was saying that in Maharashtra they said that the Americans can do it. They can discuss Lincoln and his killer simultaneously, and dialogues can take place on both sides. But we are a different country. In America, a ten-year old child can possess arms. In certain respects, American society is a violent society. But we are a peace loving country. When I said we should be unique, we should be unique. We should abolish smoking. This is producing pollution and spoiling the health of the people. Poor people have taken to it. A ten rupee increase per thousand is no increase at all. I would say that you should kindly consider it and, in your magnanimity, you should give relaxation on butter, cheese, milk, biscuits, etc.

Sir, Budget is a very interesting document. I wish you well, Mr. Finance Minister. You are here through democratic process and we should not grudge it. Next time if you are the Finance Minister, then you should call us for a meeting before making the Budget because you will start that exercise well in time.

[Prof. Saifuddin Soz]

Coming to the increase in postal charges, I would raise a question. Now the educated middle class people have access to E-Mail, to computer, to FAX, to telephone, to TELEX and all that, but common people do not have access to any of these things. Therefore, increasing the cost of an inland letter by fifty paise is too much. You should kindly keep it at Re. 1. The cost of envelope also should not go up to Rs. 3. Kindly consider it because it is the poorest of the poor who will write a letter. I do not see educated people who have access to modern gadgets, writing letters at all. That time is gone now. They will shoot on E-Mail. I have the computer but I have not yet learnt E-Mail, maybe the hon. Finance Minister can do that. Now people do not write letters. These are meant only for the poorest of the poor. So, there should be no increase in the cost of postcard or inland letter or envelope. You can compensate it by increasing somewhere else, but kindly do not do it here.

I would very briefly mention one or two things about Kashmir. Shri Chaman Lal Gupta said that farmers should be given a waiver on loans. I support him on that and urge the Finance Minister that loans to farmers up to Rs. 50,000 should be waived.

I have to say a couple of things more. One is about railway. I raise it deliberately and very seriously because the Railway Minister had made a statement. I offer figures which were not available with him, although he had worked very hard on that. In 1995, Rs. 50 crore were available for railway in Jammu and Kashmir. In 1983, late Shrimati Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister, had said here in response to my question that Rs. 5 crore more would be provided for Jammu-Udhampur railway. But it never happened. Then there was the price escalation. So, that railway line has not come up. Hon. Deve Gowda and hon. I.K. Gujral also went to Kashmir and laid foundation stones. What I see now is that this year Rs. 200 crore were allotted but that was slashed down to Rs. 75 crore. When Shri Nitish Kumar stood up here to answer my question, he made a remark that the Railways, from their own funds, can afford only that much. It means that at the current prices they need Rs. 2,500 crore and if they spend Rs. 100 crore every year, leaving price escalation out of the gamut of this discussion, it will take the Railways 25 years to build that railway line. We are hard pressed for railways. Kashmir cannot live in isolation. We are part of this country but we are not on the railway map. I am sure, it is not the Railway Minister who can put us on the railway map, the hon. Prime Minister should consider it and the hon. Finance Minister should consider it. Kindly make a special plan for Jammu and Kashmir. I would say that on the pattern of Konkan Railway, you can have a Kashmir Express Corporation and it should be a part of the General Budget. Then only railway

can come up in Jammu and Kashmir, otherwise it can never come up because the Railway Minister has said that out of his Budget he can afford only this much.

Sir, the State of Jammu and Kashmir has passed through a financial crunch and the PTV is causing disaster by making exaggeration and spreading untruth. If there is a financial crunch in Bihar, I do not say it should not be there in Kashmir. But we must take notice of it. Ultimately you have to spend the money. Every penny comes out of the Consolidated Fund of India. So, we should take stock of the situation in advance so that it would bring grist to the mill. For the last two or three months, there has been a financial crunch in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. That should be removed. You have already tried to remove it and we are grateful to you for that, but in future it should not happen. . . .(Interruptions)

19.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prof. Soz, please conclude.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Mr. Chairman, I am raising the last point. I know that there is paucity of time. I made a plea to the Ministry of Industries. I will not say that it is in a mess, but I will say that something has gone wrong there. I went to the Minister of Industries and told him that HMT was the only unit which was sickening to the bone. I repeat in this House that HMT is the only Central Government public sector undertaking which is there. Instead of reviving that, they have shifted the showroom. He made a heartening statement. It received a lot of coverage in the Press there.

I say as a representative of people not to shift this showroom. Will they listen to the Chairman of HMT who sits in Bangalore and does not know anything about Kashmir ? I invited him to come to Kashmir and convince me about why he is shifting the showroom. It may have five employees, but shifting of it creates a bad impression. Then, they are shifting a part of it to Jammu. They can open another unit in Jammu, but should not demolish HMT in Srinagar. He had made a remark which was heartening and the Press in Kashmir gave him a lot of credit for that, that showroom will not be shifted, that HMT unit will be revived fully and that its part will not be shifted to Jammu. If at all they have to set up HMT unit in Jammu, I welcome that idea. But nothing should happen to HMT unit in Srinagar. He may kindly inform the Ministry of Industries that last time, he had committed this here.

I have many more things, but I am not raising them due to paucity of time. Thank you very much.

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South) : Sir, I rise to oppose this Bill. You have given me this opportunity to speak in

this august House on behalf of my party, as one of the common men and as a humble farmer of Indian nation which has got 950 million population out of which 372 million people live below poverty line and whose per capita income is 310 dollar per year and the rate of population increase is 1.9 per cent. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to concentrate on population control. In the present Budget and the Finance Bill, I have not seen that much thrust is given to population control. A decade ago, the population control measures were strictly adopted. The State of Tamil Nadu went to the extent of implementing the population control measures so well that by and by the incentive we got from the Central Government was that we lost two seats of Lok Sabha. Before implementing the population control measures, Tamil Nadu was having 41 Lok Sabha seats. Now, these seats have been reduced to 39 because of the implementation of population control measures, thereby the rate of growth of population has come down. So, I would request through you that the Government should consider to get us back whatever seats we have lost because of proper implementation of population control measures as it should not act as a disincentive.

During the sad days of emergency, myself, our leader, Mr. Murasoli Maran, many and many senior Members and leaders of B.J.P. party were arrested and imprisoned under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act. At that point of time, the Congress Government had listed 'Education' in the concurrent List. There was a lot of hue and cry, at that time, from the BJP top ranking leaders. But now they are at the helm of affairs and I request them to see that 'Education' is brought into the State List.

I would once again insist that population should be controlled so as the opportunities may be shared. How are you going to give more employment opportunities? The only way to provide more employment opportunities is through agriculture and nothing but agriculture.

Sir, before coming to the discussion on the Finance Bill, I demand that one-third tax collection of the Centre should be given to the States, as demanded by my leader, Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi.

Sir, I have got some statistics with me. In our country, 65 per cent of labour force creates 31 per cent of GDP in agriculture and, at the same time, only 13 per cent of labour force creates 27 per cent GDP in industry. In a way, agriculture gives more employment. But the industry is giving less employment opportunities whereas it creates more GDP. Are we going to industrialise and provide less employment opportunities to our people or instead of having more GDP, are we going to give more employment opportunities to 40 per cent of the people below the

poverty line in the agricultural sector? I urge upon the Government to come forward to modernise our farming sector and to upgrade the technology that is being used by our farming community. I also demand that enough thrust should be given towards soil conservation and the fertility of the soil should be kept up so that the crops can grow well.

Sir, the second point I want to deliberate upon here is about inflation. Our hon. Finance Minister says that he would keep inflation between 6.5 and 7 per cent and he would see that his fiscal deficit does not go beyond 5.6 per cent. How will the Finance Minister be able to keep the fiscal deficit within 5.6 per cent? Unless and until he increases the GDP upto 14.8 per cent at the present level of prices, he will miserably fail and inflationary trends will grow.

Sir, what are the causes for inflation in the Budget? All the qualifications that inflation needs are all there in our Finance Minister's Budget. The fiscal deficit is Rs. 91,025 crore, the revenue deficit is Rs. 48,068 crore, the interest payment is Rs. 75,000 crore and the rate of interest payment compared to the gross revenue receipt by way of taxes, duties etc. is 46 per cent. In the given situation of having a fiscal deficit of Rs. 91,025 crore and a revenue deficit of Rs. 48,068 crore, it means that 50 per cent of the finance is used for revenue expenditure. Is it fair on the part of the Finance Minister to do this? Will it not create inflationary trends? This is not only a waste of our national savings, but, at the same time, it would also create a mounting interest burden on the Budget.

Sir, I will now come to the expenditure part. In 1998-99, the Finance Minister has proposed that the Plan expenditure will be Rs. 72,002 crore, the Non-Plan expenditure will be Rs. 1,95,925 crore and the total expenditure will be Rs. 2,67,927 crore. The excess amount which he is going to give, over and above Mr. Chidambaram's Budget, is Rs. 21,310 crore as Non-Plan expenditure and Rs. 11,372 as Plan expenditure. What are the funding arrangements? He will have to give budgetary support and he will have to give internal extra-budgetary support from the public sector undertakings. He is going to give 29 per cent as budgetary support and give 71 per cent from internal extra-budgetary resources. The total amount which he is going to give, over and above Mr. Chidambaram's Budget, is Rs. 8,835 crore as budgetary support and Rs. 15,319 crore as internal extra-budgetary support from the public sector undertakings.

So, a total amount of Rs. 24,154 crore is in excess. How will the PSE resources jump suddenly from Rs. 47,404 crore to Rs. 62,723 crore and the excess amount is Rs. 15,319 crore. Is it via profits? Is it via internal

[Shri T.R. Baalu]

accruals ? Is it via debentures or from bonds that you are going to raise or is it from external commercial borrowings? I want to ask a pertinent question. You cannot go for debentures in the given condition of the share market. You cannot issue any bonds as nobody will come and have it. Only thing that you can do is, you have to go for external commercial borrowings. At this juncture, after Pokharan-II, is it possible to go for external commercial borrowings ? I want to know this from the hon. Finance Minister. There is no other option. Finally, you have to cut your coat according to your cloth. You have to cut your Plan Outlay. Sir, previously in the last Budget, your predecessor has cut Rs. 10,000 crore from the Plan Outlay. Now, my dear friend, Mr. Yashwant Sinha, has the guts to increase more than Rs. 20,000 crore. But is there any possibility to do this ? Only thing you are relying upon is the public sector undertakings. I want to know whether the health of the public undertakings is good to take care of your proposals. I want to ask a question. By and by, the atmosphere is not congenial enough to help the Finance Minister. There is hike in prices of essential commodities. You have rolled back the prices of urea and petrol. We welcome it. The value of the rupee has plummeted to a level of Rs. 43 per dollar. There is a heavy debt servicing burden of Rs. 1,75,253 crore. Out of which, Rs. 75 crore alone is the interest burden. We cannot stop the expenditure that has to be incurred for paying the Fifth Pay Commission arrears. You cannot cut down the Defence expenditure of Rs. 40,000 crore because it is a holy cow. We cannot permit you to reduce the subsidies. You cannot postpone the debt service obligations. You cannot and you should not cut the plan expenditure because it will affect the employment generation. Ultimately, there is no other way but to cut short the plan outlay like your predecessors.

Sir, in the given situation the debt servicing burden is Rs. 1,75,253 crore. Of which, Rs. 75,000 crore is the interest burden and Rs. 1,00,253 crore is the repayment amount this year. But the total revenue receipt is Rs. 1,61,994 crore. It is a shame on the part of the Government that the debt service burden is Rs. 1,75,253 crore against the revenue receipt of Rs. 1,61,994 crore. So, the debt servicing burden is more than our revenue receipts. I want to know how the Government is going to tackle this sort of issues.

Sir, some conspiracy is being hatched at the instance of Ms. Jayalalitha who is supporting this minority Government. This Government is obeying the command

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : Sir, he should withdraw these words. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, these words should be taken back.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am on my legs. Shri Sathiamoorthy, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please let me deal with this. If there is anything objectionable, I will expunge it.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have already expunged it.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have already expunged it.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Before I conclude, I will go through one paragraph.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Shri Baalu. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, I will take only half a minute.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : if you do not yield, I will not speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Baalu, you have to speak only on the Finance Bill and you should not drag other personalities into this.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let me deal with him. Shri Baalu has yielded to the hon. Finance Minister. Mr. Finance Minister, do you want to say something ?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, Shri Baalu, taking advantage of the intervention on the Finance Bill, has raised an issue which is absolutely unconnected with the Finance Bill and the debate which is going on. But since

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

*Not recorded.

he has raised it, it is my responsibility as the Minister in charge to deny that allegation with all the emphases at my command.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Baalu, please do not bring the names of any personalities or any such things. You have to speak on the Finance Bill.

(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, in another instance, the Enforcement Directorate officials. . . *(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should not say such things. This will not go on record.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please hear me. I am dealing with it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY : Sir, it should not go on record. I may clarify that it was the Principal Sessions Court in Chennai which has given direction to the investigation officers to investigate into the matter. .

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will clear your doubt. If he has expressed any objectionable things, then they will be expunged.

(Interruptions)

SHRI INDERJIT SINGH RAO (Mahendragarh) : Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI P. RAJARETHINAM (Peramballur) : Shri T.R. Baalu is misleading this House by giving false information . . .**

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will have to withdraw your words now. You must beware not to speak like this.

Expunge that also. You are casting aspersion on the Chair.

SHRI INDERJIT SINGH RAO : Sir, I realise that when I speak on the Finance Bill, I labour under a constraint as well as a handicap. The constraint is of time. As I am the first timer, I have been given time at the fag end of the Budget deliberations and I think that before I even put forward my point of view fully before the Finance Minister and the Government, you are constrained to ring the bell. However, I can avail the time.

The handicap is that I am an agriculturist. I am speaking on a subject which relates to agriculturists, by and large. Speaking on the Finance Bill is generally the preserve of economists, businessmen and industrialists. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is his maiden speech. Please do not disturb him.

(Interruptions)

SHRI INDERJIT SINGH RAO : This is my maiden speech and my thread of thought would obviously be disturbed, if people disturb me. . . *(Interruptions)* What I am trying to say is that when the Finance Bill is debated, it is generally the preserve of industrialists, businessmen and economists. When finance is mentioned, agriculturist gets up and goes out. It is only a few diehards like Shri K. Natwar Singh and a few others who are sitting here who speak on the Finance Bill. But generally speaking, the agriculturist gets up and goes away. When the agriculturist gets up to speak, he talks about licences and patently obvious things like the urea plants and the Power Bill. I am not going to deliberate upon those things because in the Budget, they have already been discussed. But I would like to say one thing. I would like to say through you that when the Finance Minister says that the price of urea will be raised by one rupee per kilogram, does he mean to say that the agriculturists sitting all over the hall do not realise what it amounts to ? Which farmer, Shri Yashwant Sinha, buys urea by the kilos ? No farmer buys it, even if he is a 2½ acre farmer. Today the situation is that nobody who is in that profession is leading a good life. He is barely making a subsistence living. When you say on rupee, then you are talking for every kilo of urea of a bag of 50 kilos. Farmers buy urea by the kilos. Fifty rupees on a bag of urea means about 25 per cent to 28 per cent in the price of urea. Is it one rupee increase ? I am glad that an attempt, if it is a deliberate attempt, was prevented from being fulfilled by members of their own coalition.

The second point is the Power Bill. The Power Bill, as it stood and as it was the intention of the BJP, if it was passed, it would have cut off the hands and feet of the farmers in three years time. Why ? It is because, after three years, the farmer would have to pay the cost of installation of electricity. Today the farmer, I can say in my State, pays Rs. 1½ or Rs. 1.75 per unit of power. Three years later, he would have to pay the cost of construction in terms of Rs. 5 or Rs. 7 per unit of power. The timing is amazing. There was a protest by the farmers outside, and by our Party. The people are dying like flies in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and other States. The Bill is hitting under the belt of a farmer. I again thank the AIADMK people who are sitting here.

*Not recorded.

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Shri Inderjit Singh Rao]

[Translation]

You had Killed the farmers. I do not like to say any more on this, many people have said on this.

[English]

My village is in Haryana. I am from Haryana. My constituency is adjacent to Delhi. I used to come and go twice a week. When I come to Delhi and when I go back to Haryana, I used to say thanks to the Lord. I was born in a rural area, in a village. When I go back, I see the yellow fields of mustard and rice and I see the green fields of barley and wheat in the midst of the trees. I am a man of rural areas. As a villager, I lift my head high when I walk. The *pugree* on the head of the villager is his preserve—

[Translation]

And he used to go everywhere wearing that *pugree* with pride, but, what is going now-a-days, I go to my village only to find bricks walls and wires of factories in those areas, where greeny fields were prevailing there. After Punjab our tiny state Haryana is feeding the country. Greeny and agricultural land are being encroached on who are encroaching on — They are supporter of B.J.P.

[English]

This is my assessment. You may differ with me. The constituency of the BJP is that of the traders, the businessmen, the industrialists and last but not least, it is the face of Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee. If it is not for the face of Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee, they would not have got 182 seats by themselves. I used to hear his speech on the television. I just used to say that here is a man who is speaking from the core of his heart. My feeling was that were he to get a chance, he would do good to the country and so he should be given a chance. He laboured hard for so long a period. He has been trying for it for so long a period to occupy the Prime Minister's Chair. At least, he achieved it. But in the very first Session, I was amazed to hear when he said;

[English]

I am not fighting my election, he raised his hands.

[Translation]

I thought that he is made of a stern stuff. But he is like a putty. He is a man whom the country believed. It is because of his face that the BJP was able to get 182 seats by itself. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I know it. I am appealing to you to yield for a minute. Again I would request you to confine to the Finance Bill. We are discussing the Finance Bill. So, we should confine ourselves to the discussion on the Finance Bill. We should not discuss the issues which are not totally related to the discussion, which are totally irrelevant.

[Translation]

SHRI INDERJIT SINGH RAO : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was just making ground.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please speak on finance bill.

SHRI INDERJIT SINGH RAO : I speak on finance bill. . . .(Interruptions)

Madam, this is a speech, but I will say as such as you are saying.

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : It is his maiden speech. Let him speak. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI INDERJIT SINGH RAO : Regarding the Finance Bill, I would like to say that the agriculturists was subjected to a lot of hardships. The destiny is controlled by the bureaucrats, by the Finance Ministers and by Governments who and which have no interest in the activities of the farmers. I am not saying that Shri Yashwant Sinha is fully responsible. He may be one among the Finance Ministers. Generally speaking, I have found that most of the Finance Ministers have a built in switch which turns off automatically whenever the demands of agriculturists are mentioned, whenever the plight of agriculturists are mentioned. Now, if the Finance Minister's switch is switched off automatically because I am talking of the agriculturists and their problems, he should manually put it back again. He does not listen but the just hears.

Now, I have to say something about agriculture and the Finance Bill. The NABARD has been created for the agriculturists. The Reserve Bank is there for everybody. But what strikes at the root of the agriculturist is this. When a business house or a business man takes a loan from the banks, the banks are entitled to write it off treating it as bad debt. He does not have to pay. The feel that this is a non-recoverable loan and therefore, it should be written off. There are umpteen number of such cases. But if the agriculturist takes a loan, he has to pay it through his nose. Take the case of Shri Devi Lal.

[Translation]

He belongs to our state, he become the Deputy Prime Minister. He announced, farmers were agreed with him. He

said that your loans of cooperative will be waived off. They were also waived off. But what happened when bureaucracy was prevailed, people have to pay their debt, only interest was waived off.

[English]

Why is this discrepancy there between the agriculturist and the business people? I want to know about it. It is not only this.

Under the Wealth Tax Act, a lot of sops have been given in this Finance Bill to the industry who were supporting the BJP in the elections.

[Translation]

Everyone talk about his near and dears, he also. We have a saying that if anyone close to us hit, then he will hit softly.

[English]

Should it be at the expense of agriculturists? Should not the agriculture also be given a little bit of Government's attention? Under the Wealth Tax Act – if the Finance Minister would be so kind to listen to it – under Section 2(e)(a), agricultural land within eight kilometres of a Municipal Committee or a Cantonment Board is brought under the definition of capital assets thus attracting wealth tax by issue of a notification by the Central Government. The Capital Gains Tax is also chargeable on such land under Section 2(xiv) of the Income-Tax Act.

Most of the parts of Haryana comes under the National Capital Territory Region. If the agriculturists are at a distance of eight kilometres from a municipality, they are charged Capital Gains Tax if they sell their land. A farmer who ekes his living on his two acres, three acres or four acres of land because of industrialisation, because of the country becoming better financially, when the price of his land increases, he is asked to pay the Capital Gains Tax. It is not the same in case of an industry. That is what hurts the most. If in an urban area, an industry picks up on a piece of agricultural land and within three years, Mr. Finance Minister, if we were to construct an industry in that piece of land, we will not be charged the Capital Gains Tax. Maruti Udyog has a big factory in Haryana. It comes in my constituency. One thousand acres of land were taken from the farmers for this industry. Today, only a portion of land is being used for making a mechanised car. If today, they want to sell 500 acres of land at a profit, they will not be charged Capital Gains Tax. But a farmer, as an individual, has to pay the Capital Gains Tax if he sells his land. Not only that. If an agriculturist has to pay the Capital Gains Tax and if he is to prevent the tax from going into the kitty of the Finance Minister, he has to buy another

piece of land in lieu of the land that he sold. And when the time comes to sell it, to make some money and lead a happy life, he has to pay a portion of it to the Government. What is this? This is nothing but buying a land in lieu of the land sold to prevent oneself from getting charged under the Capital Gains Tax. This benefit is only available to an individual and not to a HUF. In the whole of the country, people live under the HUF. A father is a member of the HUF, a son is a member of the HUF, and a grandson is a member of the HUF. But this benefit is not available to a HUF. I do not know why this has not been brought into Parliament before.

The BJP talks about the Common Civil Code. But they do not talk about the HUF. Under the HUF, a Hindu is entitled to derive taxation benefits. He gets less taxed. The BJP Government does not mention this. I do not know why this has not come out.

Now, I will digress a little.

What I was speaking was about the agricultural land and capital gains things. What is surprising, Mr. Minister, is that the agricultural land which is situated in municipal areas with a population of upto 10,000, in the last census, are exempt under the wealth tax for capital gains. But a panchayat, not a municipality, which has a population of 40,000, and if it is within eight kilometres of a town, people in that area have to pay Capital Gains Tax. Is it not unjust? Smallest hamlets of even 180, 200, 500 people living in villages – most of Haryana comes under the 80 kilometres of your National Capital Territory Region – if there are 150 hamlets, they have to pay Capital Gains Tax on that land.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI INDERJIT SINGH RAO : Sir, these are the things which I wanted to highlight. I thank you very much for the time that you have given to me and I hope, the hon. Finance Minister would be able to through light on the points which I have raised. Thank you.

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNAIAH (Tumkur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Finance Bill, 1998-99.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why don't you speak in Kannada? . . . (Interruptions) facility is available.

*SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNAIAH : Oh, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Sir, I appreciate and wholeheartedly support the Finance Bill, 1998-99. Filing the income tax form was a burden to the tax payers. This has been made very simple in this Bill. This is a welcome step and I congratulate the

*Translation of speech originally delivered in Kannada.

(Shri S. Mallikarjuniah)

Hon'ble Minister for this. But at the same time I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister as to how the assesses are treated by the Inspectors and the assessing authorities. Is there any change in the attitude and approach of these Inspectors and assessing authorities. The assesses are the wealth of this nation. They pay a part of their earnings to the Government. This feeling must be there always in the minds of officers. Hence it is very essential to inculcate a refined and cultured approach in the attitude of these officers. It is true that there are some very good Inspectors. But many of them create problems to assesses unnecessarily. They ask them to come to income tax office again and again. Now, the new Government has taken over. But the staff members remain the same. We are curious to know whether there is any change in the attitude of these staff members. Assesses are human beings like others. They deserve better treatment by the Inspectors and assessing authorities. Many associations and other organisations send representations to the Minister. The Minister has discussed with these people to sort out their income tax problems. This attitude of the Finance Minister is highly appreciate.

There is huge amount of black money in our country. The entire loan of the World Bank can be cleared tapping this black money. I request the Hon'ble Finance Minister to come out with concrete proposals to unearth black money. It should be a very successful project. All the black money which is hidden shall have to be unearthed. A very substantial amount of India's money is in the Swiss Bank. But I do not know the steps taken by the Government of India to bring out this huge amount of money.

Sir, the amount that is allocated for the development of constituency of a member is only one crore. This is not at all sufficient. Here the members of Parliament supervise the progress of the work directly. Quality of work does not suffer. I therefore urge upon the Hon'ble Finance Minister to enhance this amount to at least two crores. The Government of India is spending money for various projects. They are releasing funds to PWD, Zila Parishad, Taluk Panchayat, Mandal Panchayat and other organisations. In the case of MP fund the entire amount is spent directly and the work is completed according to the stipulated time. The concerned dealing persons in the planning section should give correct information to the MPs.

Lesser the rate, better the collection. Hence there should not be heavy taxation. It should be minimum and simple. Then only the tax money can flow to the treasury easily.

There are three lakh practitioners and if you include clerks, typists and their other dependents the total strength would be ten lakhs. These practitioners have registered their names under the Income Tax Act, 1922, Section 288(2). Income Tax Rules 50 to 58 also provide specifications about the practitioners. Hence, there should not be any apprehension about the functioning of these tax practitioners. They come directly under the control of the Commissioner of Income Tax. If they are not properly presented, if there are any lacunae, if there are any loopholes, they are liable to be prosecuted and their names will be cancelled from the list and they will be blacklisted. Therefore the question of misuse of power does not arise. There are eight to ten rules regarding them and their duties. Recently 44AB and AF have been introduced and there is restriction on these practitioners. Now, it says, only Chartered Accountants should audit. This system should go and the old method of auditing should continue. Even if the accounts of a Chartered Accountant are doubtful, they will be referred to some other Chartered Accountant for reauditing. In the same way even in the accounts of Income Tax practitioners, if there are any lacunae they can also be referred to others. Hence, I say that it is not proper to differentiate tax practitioners from Chartered Accountants.

There is heavy taxation on aluminium industry during the current financial year, 1998-99. There are several well established aluminium industries in the country and all of them are affected very badly due to heavy taxation. My humble submission to the hon. Minister through you Sir, is to rescue this industry by reducing the taxes with immediate effect.

Regarding coir industry many of my friends from Kerala have explained the plight of that industry. There are a number of industries in Karnataka. Increase in duty this year has given a rude shock to the coir industry. Coir industry is an industrial industry. It provides jobs to several lakhs of people particularly those who live in rural areas. Therefore, I request the Hon. Finance Minister to reduce the duty on coir industry without any further delay.

Sir, the Centre should take immediate steps to provide water to Tumkur from Kumaradhara river. It appears that the State Government is not interested in this matter. This district is a drought prone area. Poverty is rampant and even drinking water is not available to the people particularly those who live below poverty line. There is no water in the tanks. Coconut and arca nut trees are drying up and there is no proper yield from these trees for the last ten years. The water in Kumardhara river which is flowing towards west should be diverted towards east. This would enable the whole of Tumkur district to get water.

People have already expressed their anger about the delay in this work.

There is diversion of water near Navile Tunnel and drinking water is not available to the people of Tiptur. Water is not reaching Bugadanahalli in Tumkur district. The State Government is not at all worried about the serious problem of drinking water in Tumkur district. Hence, the Centre should come forward to help the people and save them from distress. I request the Centre to construct a dam across Kumardhara river and to provide water through canals to the entire district of Tumkur.

Sir, before I conclude let me request the Hon'ble Finance Minister once again to allow the tax practitioners to continue with their profession of auditing without any restriction. I believe the Hon. Minister will look into this serious matter and protect the tax practitioners of this country.

Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak and with these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Mr. Chairman, the Finance Bill is under consideration. The underlying budgetary policies and the fiscal policy were discussed during the general debate on the Budget. So, I will not go into them but come directly to the proposals contained in the Finance Bill.

At the outset, I must refer to the hike in the excise duty. The hike in excise duty is expected to bring in an additional Rs. 5,900 crore. I submit that this would create inflationary pressures in our economy. The hike in excise duty on petroleum, that is motor spirit, from twenty per cent to thirty per cent would only fuel inflation. Even a cup of tea, as has been pointed out, has not been spared. The common man's drink has not been spared. We have the example of packaged tea where the duty has gone up from zero per cent to eight per cent. It is very strange. We have a very strange Finance Bill. In the case of import of whiskey, vodka and beer, the basic customs duty has been reduced by fifteen per cent.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Shri Banatwalla, you may please yield for a moment.

This is a fact that these duties had been reduced but we had to do it because we had to fall in line with the GATT-bound rates. That is a commitment which this Government did not make but which the previous Government had made. . . (Interruptions) In order to be in uniformity with the . . . (Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Do you accept that commitment ? Or, would you withdraw from that ?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I said, we are paying for the sins committed by others.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Why do you not consider withdrawing from that ?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Are you making this suggestion on behalf of your Party ?

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : I am replying to you. I am asking you a question; not that I am making a suggestion.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is also asking you a counter-question.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : I am not a Minister to reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Okay, Shri Banatwalla may continue.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, this should not take away my time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, I know that.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Special excise duty, as I said, on these items has also been withdrawn. What I say is, please do not indulge into making political scores. Please look at the position that emerges from the Finance Bill. We have cheaper vodka, cheaper whisky, cheaper beer and dearer cup of tea ! That is what I am pointing out. Who is responsible for this ?

You may have your duel later on, but then, we, the common people, are the sufferers and such is the Budget that we have. You could have been careful on the point of at least yielding to the question of the package of tea.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, are the spectacle lens a luxury ? The duty on this goes up from zero per cent to five per cent; it is not merely on lens, but also on frames. He does not want me to even look at him ! The duty on this also goes up from zero per cent to eight per cent. They do not want that we should even consult our notes or look at the Finance Minister. What is all this ?

Duty on medical equipment is increased from five per cent to eight per cent. Duty on the preparation of meat, fish, etc., has been increased from zero per cent to eight per cent. Duty on certain articles of plastics which are household articles has been increased from zero per cent to five per cent. As has been pointed out, duty on snacks and sweat meats has been increased from zero per cent to eight per cent. Spices, butter, cheese, etc., have received the wrath of the Finance Minister.

Of course, there is a good proposal there also for which I congratulate the Government. There is a proposal to set up an authority for advance tax rulings for excise

[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

and customs. This is a welcome proposal because the foreign investors will know in advance their liabilities with respect to the indirect taxes. This will remove a lot of uncertainties.

There is a service tax of Rs. 1,000 per animal on the slaughter of bovines in mechanised slaughter houses. I wonder whether this service tax on the slaughter of bovines represents an item in the hidden agenda of the Government! I respectfully submit that this service tax is the most ill-advised one, it is outrageous, it will have a disastrous and a crippling effect on the meat industry. It is also a retrograde levy because it will have an adverse impact on the modernisation of slaughter houses. It is an anti-poor tax. The consumers of bovine meat are largely drawn from the down-trodden, under-privileged, working people, the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, the minorities, etc. These are facts from which one cannot run away.

Valuable animal by-products are obtained at the time of slaughter and a large number of industries depend upon them. You can, therefore, understand the disastrous effect of this service tax. I will come again to the House with my amendment on this proposal but I hope that the Finance Minister will respond and withdraw the service tax in the interest of the industry.

A hardship is being done to the NRIs also. As we know the status of non-ordinary residents is proposed to be deleted. One aspect of the hardship should be considered. We are all inviting the NRIs and then creating hardships also. Mr. Chairman, people who go abroad for work and then return after a long time were earlier allowed to earn income on their investments made outside India for a period of nine years. That income was not taxed in India. The benefit would no longer be available now. Here, I am not going into the aspect of double tax. I only wish that the Finance Minister does not come harshly upon the people who had gone abroad for work and now continue to receive some amount from their investments.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, take the question of one out of six parameters like phones etc. for filing returns. Now, two more parameters have been added. It has been further provided that if a person has satisfied even one of the parameters instead of two parameters, he will have to file the return compulsorily. No doubt, it is an attempt to widen the tax net. But it is better to go after the sharks rather than trying to create hardships for the common people.

19.57 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Sir, medical and educational institutions which are not for profits are at present exempted from income tax. This exemption is sought to be withdrawn. I do understand that they are to go under Sections 11 and 12 as charitable trusts but then that requires Government notifications and so on and so forth. It will only result in greater and greater hardships.

Mr. Speaker Sir, gifts will henceforth be considered as income in the hands of the recipient. It is proposed to repeal the Gifts Act and the gifts will be treated as income from other sources. Now, even when there is a release of a debt, that is also considered as an income. I owe certain money and the person is good enough to release me of the debt which I had taken some time back and I had already spent it as per my necessities. Today, I am released of the debt. You are coming upon me harshly and considering it as my income, subject to taxation. I do understand that there may be certain misuse to these provisions but then let us come harshly upon the misuse rather than punish in the genuine cases.

Sir, an aggregate amount of receipts upto Rs. 30,000 per year are proposed to be exempted. I have an amendment to say that the limit should be increased to Rs. 2 lakh.

Then gifts on marriages are exempted only upto Rs. 2 lakh. Any further gift beyond Rs. 2 lakh will be considered as income from other sources subject to taxation. Why are you after marriages also making them bitter?

20.00 hrs.

Let us have some consideration. These days, an amount of Rs. 2 lakh has no meaning. Some small items are given at the time of marriages. I believe, the limit should be increased to Rs. 5 lakh.

There is an increase in the fees for filing of appeals. Now, especially in the case of small assesseees, there will be a hardship. I respectfully submit that justice should not be denied by raising the cost of filing appeals.

There are several points. But I do not want to hold up the House for the same. Before I conclude, I must refer to the position in Kerala. Unfortunately, this State is getting a lot of injustice.

MR. SPEAKER : If the hon. Members agree, we can extend the time of the sitting upto 9 p.m.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. SPEAKER : So, the time of the sitting is extended upto 9 o'clock.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : The Central investments in Kerala are at a pitifully low level. These are on the decline. They are the lowest of all the States except some North-Eastern States. The Central investments in Kerala at the gross block level is hardly 1.40 per cent of the total investments. If we compare with the total Central investments in all the States, we find that the Central investment in Kerala is hardly 1.40 per cent. What is the situation then? The situation concerning employment and unemployment will be clearly that in the total employment, the percentage share of Kerala is hardly 1.58 per cent, that is, next only to some of the North-Eastern States.

The Central investments in Kerala are on the decline. In 1975, the share of the Central investments in Kerala, when compared to the total Central investments, was 3.24 per cent, that is, almost equal to the percentage share of population of Kerala in the total population of the country. From 3.24 per cent, it has declined continuously. Today, it has come to hardly 1.6 per cent. I would, therefore, very much urge upon the Government to consider this serious situation also. They should respond to this serious situation by correcting the imbalances that are there in our economy.

With these words, I hope that the Minister of Finance will respond positively. I am very much encouraged by the fact that while I was speaking, at least, neither did he nor his head nor did he even shake his head. So, I expect that some positive response will come from him to the points that have been raised here.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chall) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me a chance to speak on the Finance Bill. I would like to say before the Hon'ble Minister of Finance Shri Sinha who is sitting here, that about 80 per cent people live in the villages in India.

76 per cent people are dependent on agriculture. All the Hon'ble Members might have observed that from the time of presentation of budget price-rise has gone to the maximum height in the whole country. If we go through carefully, we can see that you have increased the prices of the goods used by the middle class people and reduced the prices of goods being used by the upper class people. In India, 76 per cent people live in villages. They have many requirements related to irrigation, fertilizer and agricultural equipments to which you have to consider seriously. The flow of village money, going towards the

cities very speedily, will have to be checked. Even after a lot of hard work, today's farmer is not getting proper price for his produce. He is not getting the facilities which should be provided to him. You see that when a farmer takes loan, whether it is from a Rural Bank or from a Co-operative Bank, then he comes under a severe burden. They are not able to repay the loans and they find it difficult to take loans too. The rates of interest are increased today. Therefore, I would like to say that the rate of interest should be reduced and they may be provided with loans easily so that they may raise their production.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say one more thing that there was a time when the farmers produced the potatoes in abundance but all were rotten, and they could not get the proper price for that. You know that how the price of potato has gone up now. In a T.V. interview the Hon'ble Minister stated that the tax has not been imposed on the vegetables, so if the prices of vegetables have gone up, how he is responsible for that? The Government should take care of all these things whether it is related to the Ministry of Food Processing or Agriculture. Today, you might have seen that the prices of all items, like sweets, milk, namkeen, spices or tea, have gone up. We have to reduce the tax on them because all these items are used by the middle class families.

You have raised the individual income tax exemption limit from 40 thousands to 50 thousand. Today, you are looking the effects of increase in prices in whole India. The prices of all the items, either it is wages or other products, all are increased. If any person constructs his house, he finds that prices of all the materials to be used therein have gone up. I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister to raise the individual income tax exemption limit from Rs. 50 thousand to 70 thousand. Many Hon'ble Members have raised their points here. I would like to say one more thing that today we have come to Delhi as new members. We have also seen the limit of expenses in our states till now. After coming here the expenses of all the Hon'ble Members have gone up. I would like to request you that if we are to stay in the capital of the country, Delhi, the pay and allowance and amenities of the Hon'ble Members of Parliament should be increased so that we may think over the problems of the public sitting together here. If the expenses would be more, we cannot talk with free mind.

Similarly, there is money of Member of Parliament Fund. Rs. 50 lakh have been allotted to each Legislator in the budget presented in the Uttar Pradesh. We represent fine legislative assembly constituencies but we get only 1 crore. This is a meagre amount. If you allot 1 crore per legislative assembly constituency, only then we can talk of development there.

[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

I demand that if you can not increase much, then increase it at least from Rs. one crore to two crore. This has been said by the Hon'ble Members but our demand is of at least one crore per legislative assembly constituency. . . . (Interruptions)

I would like to tell another important thing which is related to the problems of the Hon'ble Members. All the Hon'ble Members raise their problems here during Question Hour, Zero Hour and under rule 377. When Government of India sends the budget to the State Governments then our constituencies possess all the schemes like employment assurance scheme, Indira housing or accelerated drinking water scheme. All such budget are sent from the Union Government but when the sittings are held in the district, the Hon'ble Members of Legislative Assembly tell only one thing that we get Rs. one crore. We are not consulted in any matter and not given participation. Therefore, I would like to request that the suggestions and at least participation of Hon'ble Members of Parliament should be ensured in the money which goes to the State Government from the Union Government.

Recently many industrialists of Uttar Pradesh had assembled. Shri Agnihotri also attended that meeting. All the Members of Parliament from Uttar Pradesh were invited in that meeting. They pointed out that the declarations are made in the Legislative Assemblies and Lok Sabha but are not implemented. So, I would like that whatever resources for setting up industries are available, we should encourage them and pay our attention to them.

I would like to tell one important thing related to the Government. As you are following economy in the expenses, similarly I would like to draw your attention about Uttar Pradesh Government where jumbo-jet Ministry has been made. Agnihotriji, if you go through, you would know that their expenses on account of catering, tea, decoration and maintenance are too much. I have noticed just now that our Hon'ble Chief Minister came to the Hon'ble Prime Minister to demand some funds for developmental works. It would had been much better if he had invited the Members of Parliament from Uttar Pradesh also. It would had been better if he listened to us. We would also would had given him suggestions.

Likewise, you have made some allocations for the revival of those factories which are one the verge of becoming sick or closure. In Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh a cable factory is on the verge of closure. I.T.I. is also on the verge of closure, B.P.C.L factory is also running into heavy losses. It is required to increase the allocations

made by you for them. It is a good thing that you have reduced the prices of diesel, kerosene oil or Petrol earlier increased. But I would like to request to reduce the tax on at least kerosene oil so that the farmers, who plough their farms with pumping sets and tractors, may be benefitted. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has imposed one rupee additional tax on diesel also which will make another burden on farmers.

The postage has been increased from rupee one to rupees one and a half. All those poor people, who cannot write letters in envelopes, correspond through post-cards. Many members have just said that there has been a 8 per cent increase, in taxes on the essential commodities of daily use like butter, cheese and ghee. On the other hand taxes on fruits, motor spirit and ice-cream have been hiked by 18 per cent, 35 per cent and so on. Special attention should be paid towards this. So far as the increase in the court fee from rupees 250 to rupees 1000 is concerned, the same will harm the poor but benefit the rich.

The members of the Scheduled Caste residing in Ladakh, have been given exemption in income-tax.

I would submit that it would have been better if you had also reduced taxes on the people of North East and at least on the Scheduled Caste people of North India.

With these words, I conclude my speech and hope that the Hon'ble Minister will pay his attention towards my suggestion. I oppose this tax increase and this bill.

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISRA (Bilhaur) : Honourable Chairman, Sir, I rise in support of the Finance Bill introduced by the Hon'ble Minister of Finance in this august House.

First of all, I recall some proverbs popular in the country side, e.g. 'Agony both ways'. This proverb is very much popular in our Uttar Pradesh. The other one is "to be on the horns of a dilemma". But why is it happening? Today our Minister of Finance Shri Sinhaji is in a difficult situation because he has the responsibility to improve and correct the economic policies and their implementation which he has inherited from his Predecessors. I would like to congratulate our Hon'ble Minister of Finance that he has made efforts for providing stability to the Indian economy in terms of giving it a new direction and financial strength by rectifying all those mistakes.

I would like to congratulate the Hon'ble Minister of Finance that he has made efforts to herald a new economy in the country by removing all ill-spirits from the Indian economy like a wizard so that a cultural economy comes into effect in this country. However, the disease is very serious, which requires treatment for a long period. All the

past mistakes cannot be rectified within 100 days or within a year. Yet, the efforts made by our Minister of Finance under the directions of Hon'ble Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji, are commendable and, for that I would like to extend my thanks to him.

Honourable Minister of Finance has called for building a powerful nation economically and he has only given a call but has also taken steps in that direction. I had said in this very House during the tenth Lok Sabha that in this country of Mahatma Gandhi, do not give borrowed tie, trousers and coat to the common man wearing loin cloth because when that borrowed tie and trousers will have to be returned, the loin cloth will also go the same way and he will be left without even his loin cloth. I would like to express thanks that our Hon'ble Minister of Finance has paid attention towards the man in loin cloth, the poor farmers and the labourers living in villages. He has not only paid attention to the weakest and the poorest man in loin cloth as conceived by Gandhiji but has also allocated more funds on agriculture, employment, education and health. This is a firm step. It is commendable that a 58 per cent increase has been made in the field of agriculture and the economy has been made stronger by further empowering NABARD by enhancing capital.

Gandhiji had said that this is the country of villages. However, today, when we go to the villages, after fifty years of independence, then we will see the farmers beleaguered with various difficult problems and inconveniences. He has no house to live, no water to drink, no facility of health, no school for his children to study, no shoes in his feet and no head gear. If we go ahead on these lines today, then the Honourable Minister of Finance has made arrangements for rural houses given by education especially for which is in keeping with the slogan of 'food cloth and home' given by the Bharatiya Janata Party girls. In addition allocation of special funds has been for providing hand pumps in villages for drinking water and employment opportunities have been provided to arrange two square meals a day. I would like to congratulate the Hon'ble Minister of Finance for all these steps.

Our previous Government had also made some arrangements but those arrangements were for the animals which resulted in the fodder scam. When the arrangements were made for fertiliser to the farmers, urea scam took place. That provision did not reach to the poor farmers and animals. Some human beings ate the provisions midway and they suffered from indigestion too. Today, our budget is coming through which we will go ahead with such type of provisions.

I want to make some suggestions in this regard but at the same time I would also like to feel the Hon'ble

Minister of Finance that it also requires some amendment. The income tax limit has been increased. The excise duty has been enhanced from Rs. 30 lakh to Rs. 50 lakhs. The service tax has been abolished and there is a proposal to exempt sweets and snacks from excise duty. Thanking him for all these things, I would like to make a request that you have imposed eight per cent excise duty on tea packaging. The packing of tea is not done in big factories but it is done in small houses.

It is brought in open packs and packed there. In 1993, Tandan Committee had given their report, on which the excise duty which was @ Rs. one per Kg. had been withdrawn. Now it has increased to Rs. 12 per Kg. I would like to request that no excise duty should be abolished to boost small and cottage industries. Similarly, 8% tax has been imposed on crushed spices. Spices also fall under cottage industries and spices are crushed in hand mills in the villages, there are no big mills. I request that it should also be removed. Like this, 8% excise duty has been imposed on medicines. Life saving drugs are also in these medicine. The poor people also purchase medicines. So you should also withdraw the 8% excise duty which has been imposed on drugs.

Glassware goods are manufactured at Ferozabad in our Uttar Pradesh. Designs and painting are made on it by hand. You have imposed 8% excise duty on that designed and painted goods. To encourage the artisans and workers, I hope that you will withdraw this duty. You have also imposed 8% excise duty on dairies. This industry belongs directly to the farmers in which ghee, butter, cheese and milk are produced. I hope that you will withdraw it too.

You have already made an arrangement for auditing the sale of Rs. 40 thousand. Keeping in view the increase in prices at present, I hope that you will increase this limit up to 75 thousand rupees. You have laid down the limit of cash payment to 30 thousand rupees. When some one goes to some other place he goes to the Banks with a cash amount of Rs. 5000/- or 10,000/- for getting draft to the Bank authorities refuse to issue such draft by accepting the cash money. It can be risky to carry the whole cash with him. Therefore, this limit should be extended and the instructions should be given to the banks for issuing drafts to such people after taking cash money. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I conclude my speech by saying two things. Whenever any scheme or assured employment schemes are prepared, the Members of Parliament should also invariably be consulted in preparing these schemes but they are not being consulted at present. You have provided facilities to construct houses in villages, towns and cities, but jobs are not available to remove unemployment. I, therefore, would

[Shri Shyam Bihari Mishra]

like to urge the Government that unemployment people should be given opportunity to run shops by constructing small commercial complexes of shops of 8x8 feet and 15x15 feet in villages, towns and cities.

I shall conclude my speech by making a request. The Government of Uttar Pradesh have made a provision to give Rs. 50 lakhs to each M.L.A. for developing his constituency. Apart from this, 25 handpump and electrification of 5 villages have been provided in each constituency. In this way the amount of Rs. one crore given to us, is much less. This scheme of the Government is successful. Therefore, the amount should be enhanced to Rs. 2 crore at least. If you want, you may see progress which have been made with Rs. one crore.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi) : It depends upon the hon. Speaker.

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA : I would like to request to Mr. Speaker to increase this amount.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : All Members are interested to increase this amount.

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to comment only one thing on the functioning of the Government :

Waqt ane par hum dikha denge tujhe eh asman,

Hum abhi se kya batayen ki kya hamare dil mein hai.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, discussion on Finance Bill is going on in the House, I would like to put my views in short. We simply know how the taxation policy should be made. They have a vision in their mind for bringing 'Ramrajya'. They had said that they would remove hunger, fear and corruption from the society and will bring simplicity and equality. Instead of it, they imposed a number of taxes.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to lay stress on a basic point. Village-oriented policy is the right policy. The taxation policy should be formulated in such a way that the commodities, which are used by common people, should be available at cheaper rates. The commodities which are being used by the affluent persons of the society should be made dearer. It is better, if the prices of all the commodities should be lower, but it is not possible to lower

the prices of all the commodities due to deficit financing and bad economy condition. At least the commodities, which are used by the poor, should be low priced and others, which are used by the rich people, should be high priced. Taxation are in two forms direct and indirect. We have read that taxation should be like black bee, which absorbs honey but does not spoil the flower. Similarly there should be a provision for taxation system so that common people may not be burdened and functioning of the Government should also go smoothly. We have a saying in our village "Nadiyak pani - Na diye jo, jo hummar nunga sukhaile jo". Tax should be collected from public in such a way as wet cloth dries and the water evaporates and this tax should be spent upon public. We also are following that policy, but in the finance Bill the commodities being used by the poor have been made dearer and the taxes have also been increased. The rate of tax has been reduced on the commodities used by the rich people and not only the tax has been reduced, but at some commodities have been removed also. They say that they are reducing the prices of commodities. Commodities will be imported and there will be no tax on them. Imported will be duty free but on tea, tax will be charged. All the speakers have said. We would like to attract your attention on this that with the commencement of this financial provision and Finance Bill poverty/disparity, unemployment will increase. The Price has increased and will continue to increase, it will not stop.

Sir, I would like to make the people of India cautious. The Government under Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee came to power. The people had had high dreams. The media had publicised that an opportunity should be given to Shri Atalji who would bring about major improvement. However, in view of price rise, the budget provisions and aggravating problems of the poor, it is clear that the illusion of all the people has gone away in the sense that this Government too, is not taking care of joblessness, price rise and unemployment instead it is increasing all these things. You talk about abolishing hunger and corruption but these are not going to reduce price rise and it seems to me that they will be enhancing the same.

Sir, I would like to say about Bihar that a great injustice is being done to this State. People laugh at Bihar, make complaints and all these bring bad name to Bihar. Everyone is making charges against each other and that they indulge in politics against one another. If Bihar lags behind, can India make progress it cannot. When a very large territory of this country is left behind in the race, India cannot progress. However, despite all weak points, Bihar has the credit that there is no regionalism in Bihar and Bihar has the feeling that all of us are Indians and India should make progress. If you see the economic indicator of Bihar, you will find that 54 per cent people in Bihar are

living below the poverty line. There are 86 lakh families living below the poverty line. The per capita income there, is the lowest in the country. The CD ratio is the lowest, it reduced from 34 per cent to 27 per cent whereas the national average is 60 per cent. Thus, as we go through all the economic indicators, we find that Bihar should get a special category. The situation which is prevailing in the country and your Gadgil formula which used to be applied and the expenditure which was made according to the Finance Commission, have led to an increase in poverty, inequality and unemployment and all the problems exist there. The State of Bihar is facing financial crisis.

Sir, Yashwant Babu hails from there. I appreciate him. We have praised Bihar in the sense that regionalism does not prevail there. However, he has not worked for improving the state of Bihar and is not observing its difficulties and problems so far. He knows Bihar more than us but no steps have yet been taken. For example, the amount of Central Government Undertakings is due on Bihar. An amount of Rs. 1200 crores provided as central assistance in five years, has been curtailed. An amount of at least Rs. 1200 crores which belongs to the undertakings of the Government of India and which is outstanding on industries of Bihar, has been curtailed. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi) : Which Government has curtailed. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I am taking of all the Governments. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA : When your Government was in power in Bihar and here, why did you not get this loan repaid. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI REGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I am talking of the people and the States, let it be this Government or some other Government in power. We are committed to the people and particularly to the poor. Let it be any Government in power, we will fight against the same for them.

The Undertakings of Bihar have 1700 crore of rupees due on the Undertakings of the Government of India. Yashwant Babu is the Minister of Finance. He is requested to state whether justice has been done to Bihar. Can justice not be done to Bihar? There are 9 crores of people in Bihar and today Bihar is passing through a period of economic crisis. Bihar is not getting justice. The amount of Rs. 1200 crores which is outstanding on Bihar, has been curtailed but its 1700 crores of rupees which is outstanding, has not been given. I would like to express everything in detail. Rupees 27 crores are outstanding against Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation, Barauni, Rs. 148

crores against Heavy Engineering Corporation, Rs. 164 crores against Central Coal Field, Rs. 1092 crores against Bharat Coking Coal, Rs. 201 crores against Eastern Coal Field. Thus Rs. 1700 crores are outstanding. However, the Government of India have forcefully worked for curtailing 1200 crores of rupees of Central assistance given to Bihar during the last five years. However, it has not provided Rs. 1700 crores of Bihar which is outstanding. Likewise, the tenth Finance Commission has made recommendation of Rs. 560 crores and Rs. 67 crores for the Panchayati Raj institutions and the local bodies of the State, respectively. Nevertheless, it has not received Rs. 126 crores and 16 crores of the year in 1996-97 and Rs. 143 crore of each in 1997-98 & 1998-99 which should have been provided to the State. The reason is stated that Panchayati Raj election has not been held there. So, they would not grant any money. This is not justified. In order to hold Panchayati elections, law was enacted there, the concerned authorities faced High Court, the appeal is pending with the Supreme Court. That is why the election has not been held. If the Government of India do not make payment of the amount sanctioned for Bihar, it is an exploitation and it cannot be tolerated. I, therefore, request that this payment should be made quickly. Likewise, the State Government may be provided Rs. 450 crores under the share of the State Governments which is going to be enhanced from 23 per cent to 29 per cent. However, it has not received the same. So, I would like to request the Honourable Minister through you that the same may please be paid.

On the basis of the Gadgil formula, our share of Rs. 1484 crores in the assistance to the States from the Centre, has been kept as it is in 1997-98 and in 1998-99 as well. The 15 per cent increase which is made for every state, has not been effected for Bihar. So, the amount of Rs. 223 crores which we should have got, have not been provided to us. I would like to request that in addition to the Gadgil formula, the formula to increase an additional 15 per cent, should be implemented.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : You were in Government when injustice was done to Bihar.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The injustice to Bihar was not done in a day. When the first Five Year Plan was implemented, then provision was made for Bihar in the form of five rupees per-capita central allocation. This was the lowest in India. The people of Bihar have always been in power in Central Government but they did not speak in favour of their State unnecessarily and did not favour regionalism as well. Nobody can say that any person has openly worked for his State. Nobody can make any such allegation. The persons from our Bihar who have been in different Governments right from Late Rajendra Babu and Jagjivan Ram, have not done any such illegal

[Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

work. For this, the entire Bihar is proud of them. Hence, Bihar should get full justice and Honourable Chairman Sir, I would like to make a request to you in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has mentioned the names of Shri Jagjeevan Ram and Shri Rajendra Babu. They made tremendous efforts to up-lift Bihar and the country. They provided resources not only to Bihar but to the whole country. They contributed a lot.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I did not say so. I did not put any blame. They had the whole and not any small part of the country before them.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he mentioned the names of Shri Jagjeevan Ram and Rajendra Babu and said that they had neglected Bihar. These wording are incorrect. Therefore these words should be taken back.

MR. SPEAKER : He has not said anything like this.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : They did not neglect Bihar. These great persons had the vision of the entire country. I am saying that Bihar did not get due justice. The case of Bihar should be advocate strongly. When big things are in front, the small things are left behind. The great persons make such small mistakes. The families of social servants and Philanthropist are not able to rise. I have its practical experience. I am not making any allegation against those great persons. I was stating about their generosity and greatness. Late Karpoori Thakur fought for the poor but could not develop his own family and could do nothing for them. The great men keep high ideals before them. They think about the interests of the crores of poor people. When Dr. Lohia was in hospital, he was still hankering after the poors. Even at that time he was worrying about the crores of poors saying that there are 12 doctors for one person but not a single doctor for crores of poors. These were the words of Dr. Lohia. Those who want to uplift the poors, the society and the country have to sacrifice their families, districts and the states. This has been proved in case of the great persons. They fight for the rights of those who do not get justice.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : Bihar is ahead of all in All India Services.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : We have a glorious history. The history of Bihar is the history of India. Democracy was born in Vaishali which is my constituency. That is the work place of Lord Buddha and the birth place of Lord Mahaveer. Vaishali has a bright chapter of Lichchavi republic.

Today those states are the poorest which produce coal. They get royalty on the basis of O.G.L. They should get the royalty on the basis of prices which is called Ad-valorum. A committee was set up in this regard. It had also made recommendations in this regard in September 1997. Nothing has been done in this regard for the last 8-9 months. This Government discriminates. The Union Government damages the relations between the Union Government and the State Government. If you will not uplift the backward states then the country will not progress. I want that our demand for ad-valorum should be fulfilled immediately. Similarly, Rs. 18 thousand crores were spent for 40 lakh families.

Rs. 18 thousand crores were spent to implement the recommendations of the Vth Pay Commission out of which the State Government had to spent Rs. 6899 crores during five years. There were agitations and strikes for that. The State Government was in crisis, hence the Union Government should pay its 50 per cent. Likewise, the scheme related to agriculture, water resources and energy are pending with the Government of India. A scheme of Rs. 489 crore for the development of agriculture in North Bihar is lying with the Government of India. The scheme worth Rs. 38 crore for horticulture production, worth Rs. 59 crore for soil conservation and development and worth Rs. 80 crore for waste land development are pending with the Govt. of India. The Govt. of India don't want to clear it. The schemes like Kosi phase-II project worth Rs. 568 crore, Sone Canal modernisation scheme worth Rs. 235 crore, North Bihar Coal Project worth Rs. 475 crore, Durgavati Jalashaya Project worth Rs. 124 crore, Ajay Barrage scheme worth Rs. 82 crore, Rs. 488 crore scheme for Aurangabad distt. Karvan Dam Project worth Rs. 1050 crore, Suvarna Rekha Project scheme worth Rs. 1800 crore and Koel-Karo Project of 732 Megawatt electricity are still pending.

I was a Minister of State in Bihar in 1997. I was adamant to send it to the Union Govt., but the Koal-Karo scheme is still pending with the Union Government which should be cleared and implemented. When Shri N.K.P. Salve was the Minister of Power in the Govt. of India, he had said that the Govt. of Bihar should accept the conditions. The Govt. of Bihar did accept those conditions but the scheme is still pending.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request the House that keeping in view the backwardness and crisis before the state. 10 to 15 kg. foodgrains should be provided under the T.P.D.S. scheme to the 9 crore people of Bihar Rs. three thousand crores were to be spent on this and Rs. 18 thousand crores was to be given to the forty lakh families but Rs. three thousand crores could not be granted for six crore families. Therefore, I want to say that 10 to 15 kg

grain should be given under the Public Distribution System to the six crore families living below the poverty line.

Mr. Speaker Sir, with these words I conclude my speech and thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

*SHRI S. MURUGESAN (Tenkasi) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I am now a member of this august House as a Candidate identified by our leader Puratchi Thalaivi (Revolutionary Leader) who is a deity living in our hearts. I who hail from a poor family has been chosen by our Puratchi Thalaivi, the General Secretary of All India Anna Dravida Munetra Kazhagam. First of all I would like to bestow my heart felt thanks to our great leader who lives in the heart of the masses.

I would also like to thank the electorate of my Tenkasi Constituency who have elected me with a huge margin to be the victorious candidate emerging from a multi-cornered contest.

The Budget for the year 1998-99 is the first budget of the present Finance Minister. Incidentally this happens to be my maiden speech to put forth my views on the Finance Bill that is a corollary to the Budget. In this august House that has many luminaries, my colleagues who have taken part in the discussions ahead of me have expressed their views on this Finance Bill. I feel proud and deem it a privilege to record my views during this debate.

Explaining the expenditure that has been committed, indicating the allocations that has been earmarked, identifying the ways and means for revenue collection through tax proposals, this Finance Bill seeks to remain a bill with a change that aims at consoling.

I congratulate the Finance Minister for rolling back price hikes and reducing certain taxes announced in the tax proposals. Particularly the measures pertaining to Petroleum Products and Urea have been adequately modified. I would like to record my appreciations for yielding to our demands.

The Central point of our Finance Policy is to give new impetus to the dormant economic activity in the backward rural areas in our country. In line with that the backward areas which do not have industrial growth need to have schemes that would provide economic development.

Our Tenkasi Constituency is an industrially backward area. Though natural resources are available in plenty, though several herbal plants are found in abundance around Courtallam, no industrial effort has been made to tap these resources. A herbal medicine plant and a scent

factory could be set up there. I would like to impress upon the Union Government to go in for this. This Finance Bill must give right directions to such proposals.

It is necessary to draw a perspective plan to improve the lot of the backward rural areas spread all over the country. For instance I would like to point out the plight of my Tenkasi Constituency. In this backward area Handloom weavers and Beedi workers form a large chunk of the population. In order to improve their living conditions, poverty alleviation programmes should reach them with more funds allocated for the purpose.

Our leader Puratchi Thalaivi has been impressing upon the Union Government to evolve a permanent solution to the vexing Cauvery water dispute. This has been incorporated in the action plan for the National agenda. In the same line effective water sharing and water management measures must follow. For instance Courtallam Falls is in my constituency. It could be developed to become a tourist spot like Shimla or Ooty. As such it attracts many tourists every year during the season. We get water in plenty in all the Falls there for about three months every year. During the remaining period of the year even drinking water becomes a scarce commodity leave alone water for irrigational purposes. I urge upon the Union Government to take upon itself the responsibility to create facility at Courtallam to store the water that flows away waste in to the Sea. A reservoir could be an answer and I request the Union Government to seriously consider taking up this project.

Tirunelveli town in the neighbourhood of my constituency is an important town around the place. It has been upgraded to be a Municipal Corporation. But there is not even a single railway train originating from Tirunelveli though there is a railway station. This hampers the pace of industrial growth there. It also affects the economic growth because commercial activity is slackened due to inadequate transportation facilities. Trains from Kanyakumari pass through this place. Just because there is no 'Pit line' no train originates from there. Considering the need to give impetus to economic growth to this emerging town and also the backward rural pockets in the area, adequate measures should be taken to start train services originating from Tirunelveli.

Union Government are implementing several schemes for the uplift of poor and there are many financial assistance schemes to improve the lot of the poor especially those who live below the poverty line. But to our dismay we find that such benefits aimed at the poor do not really percolate down to the needy people. For instance the financial assistance extended through TADCO do not reach the needy ones. Some Banks scuttle the

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri S. Murugesan]

efforts of the poor who go in for those loans. Middlemen also hamper the judicious fund flow through these schemes. Several other benefits meant for the poor through schemes like TRYSEM and Jawahar Rozgar Yojna do not reach the poor people. I would like to humbly request the Union Minister for Finance to intervene and to ensure that these social measure aimed at the poor really benefit them and improve their standard of living. I also request you to increase the loan extended through the TRYSEM schemes as it is aimed at helping the youth going in for self-employment.

It is needless to mention that Agriculturists from the backbone of this country. They get loan grants for buying cattle and livestock. This may be increased.

Several financial assistance schemes are there for Waste Land Development. These schemes should be geared up with more allocations to ensure that more land could come under cultivation providing more job to many rural people.

Students who want to pursue higher studies overseas get loans from the assistance schemes of the Nationalised Banks. Even after fulfilling all the eligibility criteria and even after furnishing necessary surety etc., such loans are not sanctioned to the needy in their hour of need. Twenty five percent of the loan amount is sought to be paid in advance to the Bank. Loan assistance to students should be liberal and I urge upon the Union Government to issue suitable instructions to the Banks to be lenient and liberal in disbursing loans to students in pursuit of higher education. I urge upon the Hon'ble Finance Minister to look in to this personally.

In addition to this I would like to bring to the notice of this august House a matter of urgent public importance.

There was a scam to the tune of about Rs. 1300 crores in Indian Bank. The scamsters and the culprits behind this scam causing a huge loss to the Indian Bank must be identified and brought to book. I urge upon the Union Government to take speedy action in this regard to punish the guilty and rejuvenate the Indian Bank that incurred heavy loss in extending loans.

My colleague who spoke ahead of me touched upon the need to wipe out corruption. I would like to point out the fact that the guilty identified by the Sarkaria Commission are going scot free. Sarkaria Commission observed that they resorted to Scientific Corruption.

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South) : Since he is making his maiden speech, I do not want to intervene. . . . (Interruptions) This is not correct. . . . (Interruptions) If he is

allowed to speak about this, then I should also get time for clarification. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No.

(Interruptions)

SHRI C. GOPAL (Arakkonam) : He has not mentioned any name. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South) : . . . *

(Interruptions)

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

(Interruptions)

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY (Ramanathapuram) : The Principal Session Court in Chennai had given direction to the police to investigate the allegations. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : . . . *

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : What is their Government doing there ? . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : . . . *

(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER : Sarkaria Commission has proved that . . . *

(Interruptions)

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

**SHRI S. MURUGESAN : I would like to point out that an Hon'ble Minister in the Tamil Nadu Government was indicated by the Court for acquiring property disproportionate to his income.

(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : It is a matter pending in the Court of Law.

SHRI S. MURUGESAN : I request the Finance Minister to clarify as to what action has been taken in this regard. There is another important matter about the co-operatives.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

**Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

Let me read,

"The system of agricultural cooperatives in our country is plagued by bureaucracy and political interference at many levels. As part of a concerted programme to revitalise the co-operative sector, Government will shortly bring forward a model cooperative law to replace the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act of 1984 and will encourage the States to make similar amendments in their own acts."

So, I request the Government to see that elections to the Co-operative bodies in Tamil Nadu are held in accordance with the proposed Act. Then alone the Co-operative Banks and other bodies would be able to discharged their duties effectively. I urge upon the Finance Minister to look into it.

I would like to thank the Hon'ble Speaker for giving me this opportunity to speak on this bill.

While expressing my support to this Bill moved by the Hon'ble Finance Minister I would like to reiterate the need to allocate adequate funds to meet the basic needs and several other developmental schemes.

With this I conclude. Thank you.

21.00 hrs.

SHRI K. BAPIRAJU (Narsapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to spell out a few suggestions on the Finance Bill. We have a young person as the Finance Minister.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bapiraju, please wait for a minute. There are five more speakers left. If the House agrees to sit upto 9.30 p.m. we can complete the list of speakers today itself. But there is a condition that every Member should speak for only five minutes each.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MOTILAL VORA (Rajnandgaon) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, have all the previous speakers taken only five minutes?
...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the sitting of the House should be extended upto 10 o'clock.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with him. Let the sitting of the House be extended upto 10 o'clock.
...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a suggestion. You have said that there are only five speakers left. But if you say that the House

will sit upto 9.30 p.m. or 9.40 p.m. in order to complete the list, according to our experience, we have seen that it would go upto 10 o'clock. A ruling was given from the Chair already that dinner would be arranged if the House is extended beyond 9.00 p.m. That is one aspect.

The other aspect is that our staff and other people will go late today and they have to come again tomorrow morning. So, my humble submission is that you can call these five speakers tomorrow morning and we have time from 2.00 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. for the Minister's reply and passing of the Bill. If we want more time, we can start the Private Members' Business a little later than 3.30 p.m. If we have Zero Hour only for one hour tomorrow, then we will be in a position to pass the Finance Bill by 3.30 p.m. and in case half-an-hour or one hour is needed more, by taking the sense of the House we can postpone the Private Members' Business till Four o'clock. This is my humble submission.

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE (Chimur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if we can continue to sit for half-an-hour more now, we can complete the list of speakers today itself.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, our hon. Member Shri P.M. Sayeed has given a suggestion that, taking into consideration the difficulties of the staff who have to go late today and come again tomorrow morning and also in view of the fact that dinner also is not arranged, we can allow the remaining five speakers tomorrow. I think it is a suggestion to be considered. I have another addition to it. If need be, we can dispense with the Lunch Hour so that there would be enough time. We have only five speakers left. If the hon. Speaker sticks to the time of five minutes to each Member, then we can complete the list of speakers in half-an-hour.

MR. SPEAKER : Tomorrow morning some more Members may also would like to speak. That is the problem. If we complete the list of speakers today itself, that will be better so that the Minister can reply tomorrow.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Is that your ruling ?

MR. SPEAKER : It is not a ruling. I want to take the sense of the House.

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNAIAH (Tumkur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with his foresightedness, Prof. Kurien could have arranged dinner for us. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, it is the responsibility of the Government to arrange it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : All right. We will sit upto 9.30 p.m. and we will see after that. Shri Bapiraju can continue his speech. Please keep in mind the time limit.

SHRI K. BAPIRAJU (Narsapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you that finally you have decided to give me time. As I have already mentioned, we have a Minister who is young and quite decent. There is a lot of burden on his head. I would not try to advise him because I am a new entrant into Parliament. I would like to give a few suggestions with my little experience in the Assembly since I have also had the opportunity of having Commercial Tax and Excise as my portfolio as a Minister in the State.

Sir, I feel that a reduction in the tax rates by 50 per cent or even less and an effective vigilance will give more revenue. That is what I realised. I could get proper results as a Minister for Commercial Tax. In fact, we got the highest revenue to the extent of 11 per cent which has never been achieved in my State after Independence. Without any harassment to any industrialist, I could, with my coordinating officials and the industrialists together, improve our revenue collection in the State. Similarly, I will request the hon. Minister to think of applying his mind in reducing the tax rates and effective vigilance as it will give more revenue. . . (Interruptions)

Shri Sayeed, as I told you that I am just a baby. I thought, you will guide me from here. You are one of the seniormost Members here. We all respect you and we want your guidance. I hope, you do not mistake me. You are one of the disciplined persons.

Sir, I just want to request the Finance Minister to give us some kind of feelers so that we could give our suggestions. I do not think my speech or the speeches of other hon. Members can definitely do something. It is because I have been observing a number of sittings of the Assembly as well as the sittings here that a very little is being noted and reacted. So, I hope that this gentleman may react. I am speaking with that hope. Otherwise, I would have only observed the proceedings of this Session also. I did not want to open my mouth. But thinking that he would react I am trying to speak.

When I wanted to reduce the tax, our Finance Secretary and the Chief Secretary advised me that we cannot afford to reduce the tax. They asked me that when America is increasing the tax rates, how can Andhra Pradesh afford to decrease the tax rates? Then I said that the Americans are paying the tax. But here a lot of tax evasion is there. So, if people are able to pay the tax, it is well and good. A tax should always be a payable tax. Then only, the people will come forward to pay taxes. In that aspect I hope our hon. Minister will have a proper discussion about it. Above that, we cannot have more money whatever we may suggest. If we suggest about one department, the other department will lose. So, we may, like crazy persons, only think about our State or about a

particular department which we may like. But I do not know how much is going to be useful because one is affected if you want to help the other person. So, naturally I would request the hon. Minister to save the money in the best possible way.

For example, you can take roads.

For laying of proper roads, you can take any amount of loan that you want to. That way, we can definitely save a lot of foreign exchange. It is because of bad roads that we are not able to reach our destination in time. We are also losing a lot of petrol. If we have good roads, a lot of foreign exchange spent on the import of petrol can be saved. This is one of the small suggestions that I wish to make to the hon. Minister. You can react to this or you can write a letter to me and I do not mind that because I consider myself to be too small to receive an explanation from you and also because several Members spoke. But when you talk to me separately, you can advise me on this and I do not mind that.

Regarding crop insurance, we all want to help our ryots. In 1986, a Committee headed by the Additional Secretary (Agriculture and Cooperation) was constituted to look into this matter. But the problem is that we are not able to put enough thrust on this. We are not keen on this. We are only mentioning, but we are hardly able to work for the society. I feel pity that a question on this was not answered in the Parliament. The point is to what extent we can take care of them. Of course, there is a burden, but 65 per cent of the society, be they farmers or agricultural labourers, live on agriculture. I hope, the hon. Minister will apply his mind to do something for the agriculturists.

Sir, if you press the bell one more time, I will sit down. You know that I have some discipline. You know me very well from my Assembly days. If you press the bell one more time, I will sit down even if I am in the middle of my speech. I believe, Sir, in self-discipline. So, if you press the bell one more time, I will sit down. You are kind enough to give me an opportunity and I will have no regrets at all.

Now, I come to the Polavaram Project. Our people are very keen in laying foundation-stones. I do not say that it is the case with any particular party or a Chief Minister, but generally, they are found of laying foundation-stones. When it comes to the question of implementing them, they are very far off. The hon. Speaker comes from one end of the Godavari and I come from the other end of the Godavari. In 1978, the estimate cost of this Project was Rs. 1,100 crore. When completed, it can produce 1100 MWs. Today, to construct a thermal station, it costs about Rs. 5,000 crore. Today, the escalation cost is so high, that it may now cost you Rs. 11,000 crore or Rs. 12,000 crore.

So, Sir, at least, you should make a start. I do not expect you to give us this amount immediately. But you can sow the seed. I am saying this because 80 per cent of this Godavari water is going to the sea and only 20 per cent is being utilised. We are fighting and dying for this Cauvery water, whereas we are wasting 80 per cent of the water in the Godavari. This is how we are not able to concentrate on anything. I request the Finance Minister to kindly review this matter with the other concerned Ministers and see how best this water can be utilised. As you know, hydel power is cheap. We cannot depend on coal only. The Americans, though they have 100 times more coal than what we have, are buying coal from other countries and they are not wasting their coal. They are storing it. Whatever little we have, we are exploiting it. We cannot afford to waste our mines. We have to preserve them to the extent possible and, at the same time, increase our foreign exchange earnings. It is very essential to do that.

You have mentioned about the exemption of four per cent CST that you have given on rice exports and other things. We are not benefited by it locally because they say that only when the rice miller can export to the other country, he is exempted from CST of 4 per cent and no miller, no individual, can do any export in this country. Only foreign agencies will be doing that for which proper clarification was not given and for which the mention made by the hon. Minister is not properly understood by our State Government.

They are producing nuclear energy and the policy is that 50 per cent of revenue they get will be given to them to develop their nuclear energy plants for which they need some loaning facility. I hope you can think about it. We cannot afford to give up our plants. It is very difficult. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to see that loaning facility is created for Nuclear Energy Corporation of India.

We have prawn culture and fish culture in the coastal area for which we are getting about Rs. 3 crore of foreign exchange. But prawn culture and fish culture are not coming under income tax net. It is not fair. Let it be considered as agriculture. Please see that more fish is produced, more export is done and more foreign exchange is brought to us. This is my suggestion.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri K. Bapiraju, please conclude now.

SHRI K. BAPIRAJU : I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

*SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI (Dharwar-South) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I thank you for giving me an opportunity to

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

speak for about five minutes on the Finance Bill. Sir, I want to speak in Kannada. I do not know whether Interpretation facility is there or not.

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNAIAH (Tumkur) : Yes, yes. Interpretation is available.

SOME OTHER HON'BLE MEMBERS : Yes, we are listening to interpretation.

SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI : Sir, the main hurdle in the progress of our economy is corruption. It is rampant throughout the country. It has spread all over the country and it is affecting the economy of the whole nation. People have the tendency of amassing huge wealth by any means. This tendency of accumulating wealth is more common among the educated people of our society. The fact, many hon'ble members of Parliament too have this tendency.

Mahatma Gandhi's statue is there outside the Parliament House. We look at it every day when we come to the House. But we do not care to think about his principles of life. His aim of life has no relevance to us. This is the condition in most parts of our nation. Corruption is rampant at all levels from top to bottom. I therefore urge upon the Hon'ble Finance Minister to take some measures to check corruption in our society. There is no mention about this measure in the Budget or Finance Bill, 1998-99. The property of all officers and others who are connected with the public life should be examined periodically. There should be provision for this in the law and I urge upon the Hon'ble Finance Minister to do the needful in this regard.

The major problem before the Government is to unearth the black money. This amount would be more than the total budget allocation. Hence the Centre should take immediate steps to make the people particularly politicians and bureaucrats to disclose their wealth periodically. This step is very essential to strengthen the economy of our country. Sir, now I shall dwell upon only two or three important points relevant to the Finance Bill, 1998-99.

*That is the limit which is prescribed under the Act for which a person should take the Permanent Account Number. It creates much confusion in the minds of the public. It causes harassment to ordinary dealers in the villages also. Therefore, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to repeal Section 139(A) also.

Now I come to Section 142(2A). Under this Section, if the Income Tax Officer is not satisfied with the accounts of an assessee audited by the Chartered Accountant, the Income Tax Officer is authorised to transfer that case or

*This part of the speech was delivered in English.

[Shri B.M. Mensinkai]

refer that case to some other Chartered Accountant for audit purpose. So, there is a scope for disbelieving the audited accounts of some Chartered Accountants is not solved. The purpose is to get the accounts audited by the Chartered Accountant. The Income Tax practitioners who are coming under Section 288(2) of the Income Tax Act, are serving the same purpose. Even under Section 288(2) the Chartered Accountants also come in as an Accountant. Therefore, they should be treated as one and the same. So, I would request that Section 44(AB) and 44(AF) should be deleted from the statute because they are not serving any purpose. Black money is accumulating like anything now. To unearth black money, Sections 44(AB) and 44 (AF) were introduced earlier. Therefore, I would request the Finance Minister to see that these two sections are omitted. In case if they are to be continued, the Income Tax practitioners and the other tax advocates having five or ten years' experience are to be permitted to audit the accounts. Also, I feel that the limit of Rs. 40 lakh which is already there is to be increased to rupees one crore for the purpose of audit if the Finance Minister believes in the audit of the Chartered Accountant.

Next, the cooperative movement in India is losing its ground. Because of the market economy and liberalised economy, some reservation is required to protect the cooperative movement. Therefore, I would request the Finance Minister to see that taxes are done away with in respect of the cooperatives. Already, some taxation measures are there. In America and England also, but there is tax exemption for the cooperative movement. Therefore, I would request the Finance Minister to act in this regard. If the Finance Minister wants some taxes to be paid by the cooperatives also, a minimum of at least 10 per cent of the income may be levied as tax.

There is no Model Cooperatives Act. Therefore, the Centre should consider implementation of the Model Cooperative Act so that the States can enact a particular law to improve the conditions of the cooperatives in India.

I would like to make another point. . . .(Interruptions)
The powers of the officers of the Income Tax Department are limited to unearth the black money. Therefore, I would suggest that the Finance Minister should give them full powers to unearth the black money in the country. Though many of the Income Tax Officers or the Commissioners of Income Tax are not Chartered Accountants yet they have got the powers to examine the accounts and come to the conclusion whether correct accounts are maintained or not. That way, the Finance Minister should give them more power so that his responsibility gets reduced.

With these words, I once again thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, and the learned Members of this august House including the Union Finance Minister, I will be brief in my speech. I may not be able to speak at length because of lack of time.

While speaking in the discussion on the Finance Bill, I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister through your honour, to take note of the following few but very genuine and serious points in the best interest of the nation as well as for the greater interest of the down-trodden Bodo and tribal people and other cross sections living within the Bodoland area.

I have not seen in the Budget any specific or scheme or projects for the well-being and development of tribal people. I feel very sorry for that. That is why, I would like to appeal to the Government of India to undertake certain effective and concrete policy measures for the rapid development of the Scheduled Tribes and the Scheduled Castes so that these two vulnerable sections of the Indian society also can come up on par with the rest of the country.

During the past fifty years, the sort of developmental activities that were supposed to be done within the Tribal Sub-Plan Area and within the Scheduled Castes Component Plan area, those sort of things have never been done with great sincerity and seriousness. It is because of this fact, most of the areas and regions in our country are still lagging far behind. It is because of these reasons that questions like becoming separate from the existing States, are getting impetus and importance. This has led to the emergence of a lot of democratic and non-democratic kinds of agitations and struggles. I would like to mention here about the Bodoland Movement. Why have, our indigenous Bodo people been fighting to have a separate State of Bodoland? What were the reasons for our Naga brethren, the Mizo brethren, the Arunachal brethren and Meghalaya brethren to go away from Assam? The reason is the same. That is why, we are also fighting to have a separate State of Bodoland. It is the turn of for the Bodos now to go out of Assam. It is because of the discriminatory attitude shown and injustice done to the indigenous tribal people of Assam that we are demanding for a separate State.

Here, I would like to State certain facts. The Bodoland Autonomous Council was constituted under the State Act in the year 1993. During this period of five years between 1993 and till date, hardly a sum of Rs. 110 crore has been given by the Assam Government to the Bodoland and Autonomous Council whereas the total budget allocation

of Assam comes to around Rs. 1400 crore to Rs. 1500 crore every year.

In percentage terms it comes to hardly 1.5. What sort of crimes or mistakes we, the Bodos, and the plains tribals have committed? Why have we have been discriminated against in such a manner? Even in the year 1998 also, during the last Budget Session, the Assam Government had earmarked hardly between Rs. 30 crore to 40 crore for Bodoland out of a total of about Rs. 1400 crore to 1500 crore. It comes to only 2.26 per cent. Even in regard to the much talked Prime Minister's Special Economic Package for the North-Eastern Region, out of Rs. 6,100 crore, for Assam it was earmarked around Rs. 3,550 crore, and for the schemes and projects undertaken or proposed to be undertaken within Bodoland areas – two schemes have been undertaken or have been proposed to be undertaken – there is hardly Rs. 500 crore. It comes to only around 14 per cent. In this regard also, a great sort of discrimination has been shown against the Bodoland areas.

That is why, I would like to appeal to the Government of India to undertake a very strong, positive venture and take a concrete decision to create a long awaited separate State of Bodoland within the Indian Union on the lines of Uttarakhand, Jharkhand and Chhatisgarh without any further delay.

Here again, I would like to appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to set up a separate National Scheduled Tribe Finance and Development Corporation. The Government of India should create a separate Ministry for Tribal people, affairs tribal development and tribal security. The Commission for Scheduled Tribes has to be a separate one. There should be a separate Scheduled Tribe National Commission at the national level.

Here again, I would like to appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to set up a Central Agricultural University within Bodoland because this Bodoland territory is very fertile. If we can have a separate State of Bodoland, then we can declare that Bodoland as Punjab or Haryana of the North-East.

There are a lot of big and small rivers and tributaries flowing down from Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh towards Brahmaputra. On those rivers, the Government of India should construct some multi-purpose irrigation dam projects and some hydel projects.

MR. SPEAKER : Please wind up now.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : Yes, Sir, I am just concluding.

Here again, I would like to appeal to the Union Government and particularly, the hon. Finance Minister to earmark a minimum of Rs. 1,000 crore per year for the development of our neglected Bodoland territory. The Government of India should create a separate National Commission also for and tribal people and tribal sub-plan areas. We have been observing as to how many tribal people are there in the Yojna Bhawan to look after the tribals' scheme to be undertaken the tribal areas. Only the suggestions will be made by the Assam Government, only those are being taken note of. But the Assam Government is not interested at all in sending proposals to benefit the tribal people.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bwiswmuthiary, please wind up.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : So here, I would like to appeal to the Government of India to set up some viable industrial units, to start some multi-purpose irrigation dam projects, hydel projects within Bodoland areas. They should set up agro-based and forest-based industries there.

I would also appeal to the Government of India to enhance the MP Local Area Development Fund, at least, in case of my constituency. My constituency consists of 10 Assembly segments. So, I require a minimum of Rs. 10 crore.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bwiswmuthiary, please wind up now.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : I am concluding, Sir, within a minute.

Sir, a great damage has been done to the plains tribal people, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people over the last 50 years. That is why, the Government of India should earmark at least, 25 per cent out of each and every Department's Budget to compare the damage done towards these vulnerable section of society, during the last fifty years.

[Translation]

During the last 50 years injustice was committed on the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes people. Until the related Budget is prepared by the concerned deptt., their will not get justice.

[English]

At least 25 per cent should be earmarked. Even if you see the Prime Minister's Special Economic Package

[Translation]

It will not benefit us. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : I do not like to prolong and disturb you.

With these few words, I would like to conclude my speech and again I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister to take note of all these points very seriously. Immediately the Government of India should take a very effective action and positive decision to create the much long awaited State of Bodoland within the Indian Union without any further delay. There should not be and there cannot be, justice of double standards. There cannot be secularism of double standards. In the same way as the Government of India is willing to concede Uttaranchal,

Vananchal and Chattisgarh, they have to concede Bodoland also which is the genuine, the most legitimate and the many decade old birthright of Bodos.

MR. SPEAKER : There are only two more speakers, Shri Motilal Vora and Shri Rajendra Agnihotri, left now.

The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 17th July, 1998 at 11 a.m.

21.36 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven
of the Clock on Friday, July 17, 1998/
Asadha 26, 1920 (Saka).*

CORRIGENDA TO LOK SABHA DEBATE
(English Version)

Tuesday, July 16, 1998/Asadha 25, 1920 (Saka)

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<u>Col./line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
65/12(from below)	Shri Moti Lal Vora	Shri Motilal Vora
78/16] Shri Moinul Hassan	Shri Moinul Hassan
131/22		Shri Moinul Hassan
97/3(from below)	39473.50	39473.56
114/19	90.57	90.67
155/10 (from below)] Shri Gordhanbhai Javia	Shri Gordhanbhai Jadavbhai Javia
197/6		Shri Gordhanbhai Javia
172/8] Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab	Shri Bhartrahari Mahtab
212/3		Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab