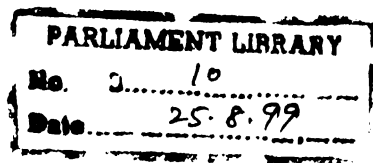


LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

Second Session
(Twelfth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. III contains Nos. 11 to 20)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday July 9, 1998/ Asadha 18, 1920 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM VENEZUELA

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, at the outset I have to make an announcement. On my own behalf and on behalf of the hon. Members of the House, I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency Deputy Julio Castillo, First Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies of Venezuela and Deputy Gustavo Tarre Briceno who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

They arrived in Delhi on Wednesday, July 8, 1998 night from Bangalore. They are now seated in the special box. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through them we convey our greetings and best wishes to the President, the Parliament and the friendly people of the Republic of Venezuela.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

11.02 hrs.

Defence Engineering Academy

[English]

+
323* DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal to start Defence Engineering Academy to supplement technical manpower is in the offing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a acute shortage of technical manpower in the Army; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to encourage young talented persons to join the Army ?

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

(c) and (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

At present there is a shortage of 3636 officers in technical cadres of the Army.

2. In order to improve the intake of officers in the technical cadres of the Army, following steps have been taken :

(a) Technical Graduate Cadre (TGC)

Previously, only engineering graduates were eligible to apply for recruitment under this scheme. The rules have since been amended and now students appearing in the final examination of their engineering degree can also apply for recruitment as Technical Officer in the Army. Their induction is, however, subject to their passing the final examination and obtaining an engineering degree.

(b) University Entry Scheme (UES)

The students who are in the final year of their degree course are eligible for induction under this scheme. The eligibility conditions have since been relaxed and now the students in the pre-final year of their engineering course are allowed to apply under this scheme.

3. The candidates selected for commissioning in the technical cadres are given two years ante-dated seniority on the grant of Commission.

4. An Image Projection Campaign has been launched to motivate qualified youth to take up Army service as a career. The aim of the campaign is to highlight the unique and positive features of the Army as a fulfilling career.

5. The above mentioned steps are expected to bring about considerable improvement in the induction rate of Technical Entry Schemes in 1998 onwards as compared to the preceding year.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Shri George Fernandes has given a very very insignificant, simple and very ambiguous reply. We have to remember that the Indian Army is one of the best armies in the World. They have shown their grit and talent in fighting various wars, particularly the First and the Second World Wars. Today we are finding that there is a huge shortage of soldiers in our Army. The Minister has accepted that there is shortage of soldiers. He has given a reply that the Government is encouraging them by allowing the people before completing their graduation to apply for recruitment. I do not think it will be inspiration at all. Various newspapers and even people belonging to the Army are feeling that if you call for an interview, 75 per cent candidates particularly who are technical people

are opting to go to Civil Services and not to Army because in terms of salary and encouragement it is very very less in the Army as compared to other services.

I want to know whether there is a shortage of soldiers in the Army. If so, where is the protection for this country? The Government must ensure that all efforts are made to inspire and attract that youth. There is also a feeling that though modern technology is so much improved today, it is still outdated in the Army. Therefore, I am asking the hon. Defence Minister to let us know who at concrete and effective steps he has proposed to take to encourage youth, technocrats, technologists and graduates in Engineering and Technology to be recruited in the Army.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, firstly, this question, relates to the technical manpower in the Army and not to the recruitment of soldiers and so on and so forth. This primarily relates to the technical manpower.

There is a shortage and that shortage has been listed. So, there is no ambiguity about it. I have said that there is a shortage of 3636 officers in the technical cadre. I have also listed the various steps that are being taken.

One point that has not been listed is a new scheme that has now been cleared. This does not really pertain to recruiting but it pertains to inducting students at the ten plus two or school leaving stage itself. The idea is to induct these young people, give them training in engineering and bring them straight into the service as one does today in the National Defence Academy, where at the ten plus two stage, the students are brought in and given the requisite training. I believe that with this particular scheme and the schemes that have been listed in the statement that I have laid on the Table of the House, it should be possible for us to find adequate number of recruits over a period of time. I say, 'over a period of time' because this is going to take a certain amount of time to make up the deficit that one sees today.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : What about my first question ?

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask your supplementary.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : My first question is this.

MR. SPEAKER : You have to ask a pointed supplementary. There is no time to be wasted.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Is there an acute shortage of technical manpower in the Army ? That was the concerned question. He has given a reply that there is a shortage but he has not been able to give me a reply on the steps that he is going to take to recruit technical manpower. This is not a normal thing. I have highlighted that there is no encouragement for technocrats and technical people to join the Army because their salaries and incentives are very less compared to the civil servants. He has not replied to part (c) of my main question.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, I do not agree with the point made by the hon. Member that there is no incentive or that the salaries are less than what are available in the civil services. The army is covered by the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission and I do not believe that there is anyone here who is trying to suggest to me that the Army should be brought out of the purview of the Central Pay Commission's pay scales. The qualifications of the personnel, risks undertaken by them, etc. are taken into account when the salary schemes are fixed. There are also several incentives, as far as the Army is concerned, where they work in areas(Interruptions)

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : But what about the shortage ?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Well, the shortage has developed over a period of time. From the records, it appears very clear that this shortage has been on since the early 1960s; and the training facilities not being adequate, this shortage has continued over a period of time. So, what one really needs to do today is to increase the training facilities and in the process be able to induct more and more students. Therefore, I do not see any point in the argument that he is trying to make that there is no incentive. People are coming.

I will give just one illustration. In the National Defence Academy, every year, the number of persons who seek admission is 1.7 lakh, the number recommended by the UPSC is 14,000 and the capacity(Interruptions)

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : What about the technical people ?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : The capacity to recruit in each of these terms is only 330. Therefore, it is not a question of incentives. Young people are coming. We need more facilities to train them and we will go in for those facilities.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Sir, I want to put my second supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER : No, Shri Subbarami Reddy, you cannot do that.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Sir, I have asked only one supplementary; I am the first Member to put the question and so, I have to put the second supplementary.

My second supplementary is this. There is a feeling that in the Army, in spite of modern scientific and technological development with regard to guns and equipment, they are very much outdated and we have to modernise them. This is one of the reasons for discouragement of youth and youngsters who are with bubbling enthusiasm with modern technical mind, to join the army. Therefore, may I know whether they are planning to improve the situation ?

Of course, this is my information which may be correct or incorrect. The hon. Minister can clarify this just as he clarified saying that there is no discouragement and that they are giving good salaries. I am asking the question based on what I heard; if the hon. Minister clarifies, I would agree with that and that is a different issue.

May I know whether they are planning to modernise the outdated machine guns or equipment with the help of Budget allocation and have modern computers and technology? How are they going to do it? Having modern equipment is only going to be an encouragement for youth and youngsters to join the army.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Modernisation is a continuing process and it is on; and it has been there.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : Sir, in reply to parts (a) and (b) of the question, the Minister has said 'no'. It means that they do not wish to establish a Defence Engineering Academy. He has also stated that there is a shortage of 3636 officers. I hope that this shortage is basically in the rank of Captains and Majors and not in the ranks. I do not understand why his reply to parts (a) and (b) should be just a flat 'no'. Why is the Government disinclined to have Defence Engineering College? There is a very good institution already, exists with the Army - College of Military Engineering, Pune which has got a large infrastructure. Only a very little additional financial resource would be required to convert this in a Defence Engineering College.

We have shortage of officers and the Government is trying to dilute the criteria for recruiting people; they are reducing the criteria gradually and constantly, yet people are not coming forward to join. On the other side, for the Armed Forces Medical College at Pune which has got a similar requirement, there is a great rush of people. Thousands of people are coming but only a few get selected. Why is the Government disinclined to establish a Defence Engineering College? I would like to know this particularly in view of the fact that the Government has not been able to get people from graduate-entry level, in spite of reducing the criteria from final year to pre-final year and also by giving all sorts of facilities.

Therefore, there is a basic requirement for the Armed Forces to train their own engineers which should be done by the Defence Engineering College. Therefore, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister as to what prevents him from establishing a Defence Engineering College, the nucleus of which is already existing at the College of Military Engineering, Pune.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, the Hon. Member has partly answered that question himself by saying that there is a College of Military Engineering in Pune. Then, there is a Military College of Telecommunication Engineering in Mhow and then there is also a Military College of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering in Secunderabad.

The Hon. Member's only point is that why should we not have another institution. As I said earlier in my reply, we will expand the facilities available so that the requisite number of persons who get trained in a year are recruited and we do not see any problem coming in the way of that.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN : I would like to raise a question about the Naval Academy which is a famous institution situated in my Constituency, Kasargod in Kerala. This Naval Academy was started during the period of Shrimati Indira Gandhi when she laid the foundation stone for that at that very site. Our respected leader Shri Karunakaran was the Chief Minister then. Unfortunately, for the last 14 years, the construction of this Naval Academy is dragging on. Here, the Government is saying that it is giving high importance to strengthen our defence preparedness. There is only one institution in the defence sector in Kerala and that is this Naval Academy and it is in a very very slow process. I do not know whether in this Budget the hon. Minister has provided any fund for the construction of this Naval Academy. I would request the hon. Minister to state categorically as to when it will be completed and when the training of cadets will be started then.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Frankly speaking, the supplementary of the hon. Member does not arise out of this question but because it was anticipated that such a(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED : You answer why there is a shortage of technical officers.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : The question is on shortage of technical officers which has been asked categorically. Now here we are discussing the Naval Academy which has been asked categorically. But since it was anticipated, I have made some enquiries on this point. It is true that the foundation stone was laid in 1984. It is like many foundation stones that get laid without any idea of what is to be done with them.....(Interruptions)

SHRI T. GOVINDAN : This is not right..... (interruptions)

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Sir, the foundation stone was laid by the former Prime Minister..... (interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ahamed, the hon. Minister has given his reply. Please understand and take your seat.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : You are not allowing me to complete. You should understand it. You should hear my reply. I said that this is one of those foundation stones which was laid without any plan....(interruptions) ... Please listen to me.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : This is not like any other foundation stone(interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He is replying. This is not a discussion. Please take your seats.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Please have some patience and hear my reply. You should at least allow me to complete my reply. I do not understand this.... (interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, please take your seat. Let him complete.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Shri Karunakaran, you were the Chief Minister at that time. My point is that this project was sanctioned, in so far as the Budget is concerned, only in 1995. This is the truth.

AN HON. MEMBER : That does not matter.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : It matters because the hon. Member has put a question. I had to make this point. I had to say it. Otherwise, the Defence Minister will be charged....(interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : The Academy will not be cleared till the Cabinet clears it and till the Planning Commission clears it. It can go to the next year. That will not matter.....(interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : The point is, the foundation stone was laid in 1984 and the project was sanctioned in 1995. It will be completed as per the schedule in the year, 2001. So, in three years' time from today, that project will be complete. You need not worry about the completion of that project.

DR. SAROJA V. : Sir, I understand that in the French Government, they are recruited at the age of 18 years, given all technical training, and absorbed in the Army. They serve for 18 or 19 years and retire at the age of 35. Will the Government of India consider the same policy to meet the acute shortage of training personnel and encourage young and talented youth ?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : This supplementary does not arise from this question. This is about technical efficiency.

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that as on today, the Armed Forces have become very technical and sophisticated. The weaponry and equipment inducted in the Armed Forces are very sophisticated. Therefore, we need engineers not only to meet the shortage but they should also be of quality. As on today, most of the engineers coming

to the Army, Navy and Air Force pass their degrees from the colleges where they have paid capitation fees. I would ask the Minister to please check up as to how many IIT engineers have come to the Armed Forces during the last five years. I think there is not a single IIT graduate who has come to Armed Forces. In the Army, Majors and Captains are going to fight the battle tomorrow. There is 50 per cent shortage of engineers among 13,000 total shortage in the Army. My basic question is, apart from filling up this shortage, to attract good engineers, are you going to give some qualification pay like you are paying the flying officers and the Non Practising Allowance (NPA) to the doctors ? But the engineers are not paid at par. That is why no good engineer is coming.

Are you planning to pay extra pay as an incentive like you are paying to the doctors ?

I have also done my studies in the field of engineering. As Major General Khanduri has brought out, the College of Military Engineering is not for graduation. Only after the Army officers are commissioned at the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, they go and do the course there.

My question is that an academy should be opened where students after the ten plus two stage could be inducted for engineering.

MR. SPEAKER : Col. Choudhary, please put your supplementary.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is this ? This is not a discussion.

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : There are two portions of my question. The first portion is about additional incentives. Secondly, as Major General Khanduri has brought out, kindly give consideration to have a dedicated academy where students could be attracted after they pass their ten plus two examination so that good engineers could be posted to the Armed Forces.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, in so far as the question of a college, which has already been answered by me, is concerned, I may make the point that at ten plus two stage, the new scheme, that has now been cleared, provides that the candidates who have passed ten plus two will be recruited provided they are in the age-group of 17 to 20 years. The selection will be directly through the Services Selection Board. Then, they will get an initial training of six months at the Indian Military Academy in Dehra Dun. From there, they will go and have three-and-a-half years of training in engineering degree course at the College of Military Engineering or Telecommunications or Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, as the case may be.

The remaining six months' engineering course will be completed after they have been commissioned. Therefore, I believe, that this is a scheme which will take care of the point that you have raised, namely, seeing that people do get training in the requisite branch for which they are being detailed.

In so far as the other question of incentives is concerned, I do not believe that it is the lack of incentives or it is the pay that alone is responsible if we are not getting adequate recruits. There is an ethos. In so far as Defence Services are concerned, there has to be a certain ethos. And that ethos is not to be confined only to the men in uniform. But it has to be some kind of a national ethos where a sense of taking risks, etc., has to be encouraged as a part of our overall national ethos.

In the last few years, the thrust has been on higher pay, jobs where one can have the best things of life and so on and so forth. I am aware of the fact when you mention IITs and so on and so forth. Today, you have multinationals which stand at the gates of these institutions of higher learning in the country and recruit people—even before they have passed out by judging their records through direct deals with those who are running those institutions. Now, I do not believe that the Indian Government or the Indian Defence Forces can afford to compete with that kind of a culture. Therefore, the question of ethos comes. A sense of patriotism and a sense of sacrifice also has to be instilled among the people.

I believe that when we are now making this effort straight at the ten plus two stage or the university stage or the college stage to encourage the young people, to get into the Defence Services, we shall be rewarded. We shall overcome the shortage that is present today.

I do not believe that it is only a question of incentives. The incentives are there. I believe, the salary scales is not the issue which anybody has complained about.

Commercialisation of Ordnance Factories

*324. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ordnance Factories which were hitherto catering exclusively to the needs of defence forces have decided to enter the commercial market in the country and abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of countries to which the arms and ammunition are likely to be exported ?

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

Statement

Ordnance Factories primarily cater to Defence demands. On fulfilling these they meet the requirements of the Ministry of Home Affairs and also exploit commercial opportunities within the country and outside.

The quantum of issues made by the ordnance factories during the period 1993-94 to 1997-98 is furnished below :

Year	Total Issues	Commercial Sales	
		Domestic	Export
1993-94	1915	78	9.5
1994-95	1986	106	7.1
1995-96	2307	134	19.0
1996-97	2561	132	9.6
1997-98	3043	168	14.6

Export opportunities for Arms & Ammunition exist in AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, BOTSWANA, CYPRUS, GERMANY, GREECE, KENYA, MALAYSIA, MAURITIUS, MYANMAR, NEPAL, SINGAPORE, SWEDEN, THAILAND, TURKEY, ZIMBABWE etc.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Mr. Speaker Sir, I thank the Hon'ble Minister for providing detailed reply to my question. Alongwith it, I thank Hon'ble Prime Minister and all those scientists and army men who are responsible for making Pokhran nuclear test a reality with their hard work. The goods manufactured in our country's ordnance factories are great achievement. Today, we are proud of our self-reliance in the field of defence....(Interruptions) Please tell what is your problem ? When you deliver the speech, we people listen peacefully, now you should also try to listen.

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask the question.

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : I am asking the question only. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister as to how much foreign exchange has been earned from the export of goods manufactured in the ordnance factories to cater to the needs of country's defence forces ? Alongwith this, I would also like to ask about the steps being taken by your department, under Ninth Five Year Plan, for commercialisation of ordnance factories.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the question of earning foreign exchange is concerned, our export is negligible. Last year, the total export was worth Rs. 14.6 crore only. The maximum export of Rs. 19 crore was registered in 1995-96. I feel that due to our policies in the past, we have not been able to pay adequate attention towards the exports. We do agree that this policy is not right because we do pay thousands of crores rupees to the foreign countries for the purchase of weapons

essential for our defence forces, and they are not manufactured in our country, or are manufactured in small quantity. We have not taken initiatives in the direction of exporting small items which are manufactured in our country and are having great demands in the world market. That's why our export has been so low. If you see the average then you will find, probably, in last 5-6 years we have been able to export worth of Rs. 10-12 crore per year. Recently, a meeting was held between Defence Ministry and Confederation of Indian Industries in which many decisions were taken. It was also decided that wherever possible, we should be prepared to sell weapons, manufactured in our ordnance factories and Public Undertakings in the world market. A proposal to set up an agency for this purpose was also considered in this meeting. This decision was taken in the meeting held between Confederation of Indian Industries and our Ministry where the officials of the Departments of three Defence Forces were also present. I am sure that they would be able to manufacture weapons in large quantity.

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether an Indian delegation had gone to Russia in June, 1998 for comprehensive discussion on defences cooperation ? Has Russia agreed to import goods manufactured in our ordnance factories and whether in future, the government will encourage export of goods to other countries ? If so, when and details thereof ? Just now, hon'ble Minister has mentioned the names of 16 countries. I would like to know about it in detail.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : This effort will continue. According to our agreement with Russia, if we see in broader terms we need technical transfer. We will do it. For this, the immediate purchase of some items is required, and we will buy them. For this purpose only, our delegation had gone there and we had also accomplished that task. We are sure that good manufactured with the Russian technology would be easy to export to some other countries. But at present it is not possible to the names of those countries. It is also difficult to state, how much we would be able to sell.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Ordnance Factories are located in Vidarbha, Nagpur, Bhandara and Chandrapur regions of Maharashtra. These factories are using 50% of their installed capacity. The employees of those factories are not having work. Is hon'ble Minister aware of this fact. Even today, we are importing sophisticated weapons. I want to ask whether we are going to use the capacity of these factories for the production of sophisticated weapons ?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : There are total 39 ordnance factories in the country out of which 10 are in the Maharashtra. I do agree with the Hon'ble Member that the installed capacity is not being utilised not only in the factories situated in Maharashtra but in all the factories in the country. The main reason behind it is that they manu-

facture goods which are used in battlefield. If the produced goods are not used, then how can the production in these factories be according to their capacity ? This is because if a situation is created tomorrow for the use of weapons and we reduce the capacity of production and work force in anyway, then the country would face a great loss. Therefore, you have to bear this loss. We with that the present situation may continue we may not reach a situation where full capacity of these factories is utilised.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : There is no work for more than half of the employees there.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, I told that this was true. The same situation prevails in many ordnance factories of the world. This is because you have to remain prepared. When need arises, work will be got done.

[English]

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, is there any proposal to allow private participation in the existing ordnance factories ? If there is any such proposal, would it be good for the security of our country ?

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, among the ordnance factories there are factories which produce cloth and Jonga vehicle, today Jonga vehicle is manufactured in Jabalpur ordnance factory. General opinion in the country is that there is no vehicle which is better than Jonga in the country.

[English]

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Sir, my question was in English. The hon. Minister may give the reply in English.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I am sorry, Sir. I apologise for it.

There are various things that we produce in our ordnance factories, including cloths. In certain areas there are ordnance factories where we are producing vehicles also. For instance, Jonga which we produce today is the best type of vehicle in the market, both in terms of its capacity as well as fuel efficiency. In fact, it is the best in everything except in its looks. There will always, therefore, be areas where interaction and cooperation, perhaps also collaboration with the corporate sector will be possible. For instance, as of today, the corporate sector does give us a whole lot of material which finally goes into the end product in the ordnance factories or in the various undertakings that we have. Therefore, if we formalise what is there at an informal level and in the process have technology sharing, technology improvement, more effective marketing and more effective production, I think we should welcome it. And, this was a part of the Agenda of the

conference that we had between the Confederation of the Indian Industries and the Defence Ministry. We are waiting for the Reports. We will take a decision as soon as those reports come.

[Translation]

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, demand for weapons is increasing in the country, especially for small weapons. In comparison to weapons made in our country, people prefer foreign make weapons, even if they are old and banned ones. Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what the Government is doing to improve the quality of such weapons in our ordnance factories? As has been stated, talks are going on to induct foreign technology in this field. If so, what is the progress in this regard and the time by which improvement is expected? The situation in the country is that market of weapons is increasing because of extremism and deterioration in law and order situation in many parts of the country. People buy weapons because of security reasons but the difficulty is that these weapons are not of good quality. I want the hon. Minister to reply to these two points.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, adequate technology needed to improve the quality of small weapons is available in the country itself. Moreover wherever there is a possibility to improve, work in defence laboratories is going on. I do not think that we need foreign technology to improve the quality of small weapons. But if need is felt, we will certainly take steps in that direction.

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has made a very important policy announcement today that he intends to give export orientation to our ordnance factories. I welcome the announcement and thank him for that. It is a fact that most of the forty and odd ordnance factories are working below capacity. They are working on the principle of cost-plus-manufacture which itself cannot produce efficiently and, therefore, exports are virtually ruled out. I would like to know from the Minister whether he will consider to completely overhaul the structure of ordnance factories and corporatise them on the lines of the public sector enterprises operating in the field of defence.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are working on the ideas that the hon. Member has just now enunciated. As and when the proposals are formalised, I shall come before the House or make an announcement.

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, sport of shooting is associated with the Defence Ministry. For the sport of shooting, rifles, air rifles, pistols etc. are needed for participating in international competitions. For this sport we need imported goods. During the last fifty years we

have not been able to bring the level of our ordnance factories to international mark. This is the only sport which has brought gold medals many times for the country in international tournaments. This country has produced great international shooters from Karani Singh to Jaspal Rana. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether steps would be taken to ensure that guns, rifles, revolvers, air-rifles, air pistols are provided for the international shooting competitions at lower rates? Besides, there is shortage of cartridges and this item is also imported. I want to know whether arrangement for this would also be made in the country so that Indian shooters could earn a name for the country.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have already taken initiative in this direction and this matter will be decided shortly.

[English]

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister is talking about exports, commercialisation and all that but the immediate problem of the ordnance factories is that of modernisation and also replacement of obsolete machinery. Whereas ordnance factories demanded a lot of money for replacement of obsolete machinery, the current Budget has not provided that and there is a grievance on that count. Will the Minister consider giving the funds asked for modernisation of ordnance factories?

Secondly, as Mr. Minister has himself admitted, they are making so many things which are not supposed to be made by them, for which there is enough competition or enough units in the country. Will the Minister consider curtailing these products which are made by the Ordnance factories and confine them to the Defence sector?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, the point that has been made by the hon. Member in his supplementary has been under consideration of the Ministry for a while. A Report on the possibility of modernizing and at the same time divesting oneself of some areas where one need not be, like for instance, in producing garments, etc. have been subjects of that Report. That Report is under consideration and soon we will take a decision on this.

So far as providing adequate funds are concerned, I do not think there will be any problem in providing funds as far as the needs of the Ordnance factories or the Defences Forces are concerned.

Duty Free Shops at International Airports

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*325. SHRI K.S. RAO :
SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India (AAI)

has proposed to invite fresh bids for setting up of duty free shops at the International Airports in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating inter-alia the particulars of the international airports for which bids are likely to be invited;

(c) whether Airport Authority of India had earlier accepted the bids from some foreign based companies which were at advanced stage of evaluation;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for inviting fresh bids; and

(e) the total amount likely to be earned by setting up of duty-free shops at International Airports ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (e) No fresh bids have been invited. However, Airports Authority of India (AAI) had received bids in response to an advertisement issued in 1995 for Consultants/Consolidators to assist the AAI for running Duty Free Shops at the five international airports. These have been examined but no final decision has been taken so far. The exact amount of revenue which the AAI would earn from these Duty Free Shops cannot be quantified at this juncture.

SHRI K.S. RAO : The hon. Minister has given an answer in which he has said that the Airports Authority of India (AAI) had received bids in response to the advertisement issued in 1995 for Consultants/Consolidators to assist the Airports Authority of India for running Duty Free Shops. Mr. Speaker, Sir, for bids offered in 1995, the Government is not in a position to take a decision, having decided to permit the people to start Duty Free Shops in India. It is known to everybody that millions of dollars of foreign exchange can be earned through Duty Free Shops. It is also known that in some of the Airports in the international arena like Dubai, Singapore and Hong Kong, millions of dollars of foreign exchange is being earned and Indian are going there only to purchase these commodities. It is a pathetic situation to see that for three years, the Government is not in a position to take a decision on this matter.

I wish to know from the hon. Minister – though I do not find fault with him for having taken charge now – whether at least he would wipe out the disrespect we have in the international community that this Government, this country cannot take a decision across the table or even act fast. Will you now come forward and make your machinery to act fast and take a decision in the interest of the nation ?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, I understand and appreciate the concern expressed by the hon. Member, Shri K.S. Rao. Even in our country at the international airports, the Duty Free Shops should be outforced so that our income can be spectacularly increased by the Airports Authority

of India. The issue of global tender is a lingering matter. Therefore, it is a question between the consolidatorship and the concessionership. There is a dichotomy in the perception. I am instituting a brief in-house enquiry regarding the inordinate delay and why this dichotomy in the perception has happened.

I entirely agree with the hon. Member that we should be resolving this problem and outforcing the Duty Free Shops for better facilities and for earning a lot of revenue for Airports Authority of India.

SHRI K.S. RAO : Sir, in his reply the hon. Minister has stated that 'The exact amount of revenue which the AAI would earn from these Duty Free Shops cannot be quantified at this juncture. I did not ask the exact amount. I had only asked the total amount likely to be earned by way of setting up of these Duty Free Shops.

Unfortunately, even the officers have not put their mind on this matter. Without knowing as to what would be the approximate revenue that would be generated from this how can a proposal be taken up ?

Sir, if the hon. Minister, Shri Jethmalani were to come forward with the repeal of the Act, he has to have an estimate.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister has already replied that he is going to enquire into the matter.

SHRI K.S. RAO : Sir, in the Ministry, every officer must have an assessment of what he is doing. If the hon. Minister says categorically to the House that he cannot say anything, that means obviously he and the officials are not taking to the heart even the questions put by the Members of Parliament.

I would request you to protect us. This is not just an affair of putting a question and getting an answer without any subject. I have not asked the exact amount. I have only asked the approximate revenue which would be earned by this. The hon. Minister or the officials of the Ministry are not even bothered to take to their heart the question put up by me.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether they have done any exercise in knowing the approximate amount of revenue, whether it is in lakhs or in millions or in billions. Does the Minister have any idea about this at all ? If the hon. Minister knows about this, why does he not tell that to the House ?

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rao, please put your supplementary.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I can answer only if there is a question in his supplementary.

SHRI K.S. RAO : Sir, in part 'C' of the question I have asked whether the Airports Authority of India had earlier

accepted the bids from some foreign based companies which were at advanced stage of evaluation. But there is no answer for this in the reply. They did not mention at what stage they are.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rao, what is your supplementary ?

SHRI K.S. RAO : Sir, I would like to have a categorical reply from the hon. Minister to this question.

MR. SPEAKER : So, a specific and categorical answer is expected from the hon. Minister.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, taking the question put up by the hon. Member to my heart in the real sense of the term, I would like to say that actually the present Duty Free Shops in five International Airports are run by ITDC with a turnover of Rs. 75 crore. Airports Authority of India is getting only Rs. 7.5 crore annually whereas the outforcing through these international and global tenders, the minimum licence fee per annum, we have specified in the tender format, is Rs. 50 crore per annum. Therefore, when it is Rs. 50 crore, it can be something more than that which we cannot contemplate.

SHRI K.S. RAO : It can be more or less, but what is the approximate amount ?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : This is the thing.

Secondly, in 1995 advertisements and bids called for on that count are, in a way, at a final stage. When they were floated, the advertisement was given for consolidation. But now, a new change in the policy has come and we are ready to give it for concessionership also. Therefore, I think, there is a requirement to renegotiate.

SHRI K.S. RAO : For more revenue !

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Naturally.

SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL : Mr. Speaker Sir, Shri K.S. Rao has very categorically asked two questions. This is one of the very important fields where India can earn a lot of foreign exchange.

More over, from the study conducted for the past five years, it has been seen that there were only 1500 items to be considered but now there are more than 50,000 items that are to be transacted. More or less, it has been found that the comparative price of the goods that are being dealt by ITDC are much cheaper than the goods they have now in other foreign countries' airports, such as Frankfurt, London, Singapore etc. Therefore, this is one of the very important fields where India can earn foreign exchange. Hon. Minister has already categorically stated that there are only five international airports of this category. Is there any plan to have more airports of this category to deal with the items of duty free shops ? This is my first question.

My second question is that. What is the plan before the Government or what are the steps or measures to be taken by the Government to enhance the revenue from duty free goods in shops at Airport.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Firstly, as on today, we have got five International Airports. Many times, I have answered that five more are eminently qualified. We have got a few more airports where points of call have been given for international operation. We will examine the possibility of opening duty free shops in all such points of call. This is my first point.

Secondly, the only way to enhance the income of Government of India, that is, the Airports Authority of India through the duty free shops is, by better management, that is by giving these duty free shops for out-forcing.

SHRI A.C. JOS : The hon. Minister has been saying that he is having a very ambitious programme. Looking around the five International Airports that we have, I think his plan cannot work there because there is no decent space for any duty free shop. First, that has to be done. As a new venture and on the basis of the Companies Act, a new airport is coming up in my constituency, that is, Cochin. It is coming up very well. It is about to be completed. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Airports Authority of India would get themselves involved into the construction of a bigger duty free shop in the international airport that is coming up in Cochin ? It is because only then some more money can be pumped in by AAI and construct a duty free shop in the new International Airport that is coming up in Cochin.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : An Expert Committee was appointed in 1996 and it studied this aspect of getting more space in the five International Airports. Other than 1626 square kilometres of space which we are already using for duty free shops being managed by ITDC, we have carved out another 1380 square kilometres of space in five International Airports for which we have gone for global tendering. This is one thing.

Regarding the senior hon. Member's query about Cochin Airport which is coming up, I think that is a very welcome suggestion because my view is also that our airports should not only earn revenue through aviation activities but also revenue through non-aviation aspects. Therefore, they should not only be embarking and disembarking platforms but they should also be having important centres, shopping malls and commercial transaction.

SHRI A.C. JOS : You can plan it even now.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : As he has rightly mentioned, duty free shops become a part of it. We will pro-actively consider and examine the possibilities regarding Cochin Airport.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Sir, the Civil Aviation Ministry is running duty free shops. Is it limited to air-

ports? Or is it free from duty also? I would like to know this from him. The other day, I had put a question and you were kind enough to direct the Minister to give the answer in writing because the time was over. So far, I have not received the Ministry's information though one month has already gone. With all that, I also understand Tirupati has paid Rs. 6 crore to the Airports Authority of India. I do not want a duty free shop there.

But I want the Minister to increase the frequency of flights between Tirupati, Chennai and Hyderabad. This I had asked, though it was not concerned with that question. Because he said 'duty free' I asked whether he is a 'duty free' Minister also!

MR. SPEAKER : I have no objection if he likes to respond to it.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I am duty bound to the Constitution and to this House. Though it does not exactly come under the purview of this question. I am responding to the hon. former Chief Minister and hon. Shri Reddy's query. Regarding the airport at Tirupati and various airports in Andhra Pradesh I had a detailed meeting with the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Chandrababu Naidu. He has been quite helpful and responding.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Are you consulting the Chief Minister for increasing the frequency of air flights also?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I should place it on record that I appreciate the hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. He came all the way to have a structured meeting with me regarding the upgradation of airports and also the aviation links in Andhra Pradesh. We are taking up a plan regarding the renovation of the Tirupati Airport and upgradation at a cost of Rs. 7.2 crore. Also, I am pleased to say that we are upgrading the Tirupati Airport, and will be commissioning it and giving it to the people before Andhra Day, that is, November 1, 1998.

Regarding more air links to Tirupati for having a *darshan* of Balaji, it is also under serious consideration.

Losses to Railways

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*326. DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELLA :
SHRI K.P. NAIDU :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have incurred losses of crores of Rupees due to defect in Computer obtained for Ticket Booking during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof zone/division-wise;

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

(d) if so, the findings thereof; and

(e) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR):
(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) Railways have incurred revenue losses due to irregularities and defects noticed in Computer Based Ticketing Machines for issue of unreserved/season tickets. The details are as under :

- i) SEASON TICKET PRINTING SYSTEM (STEPS): This system was installed at Churchgate State of Western Railway. Irregularities were detected in the system during the month of September/October, 95, causing an approximate loss of Rs. 40-45 lakhs. The system has since been discontinued.
- ii) SELF PRINTING TICKET MACHINES (SPTMS): As a result of irregularities committed by the railway staff, the approximate loss of revenue on this account has been as under :

Railway	Name of the station	Approximate amount of leakage of revenue
Central	Pune, Bhandup and Bhopal	Rs. 34,000
Northern	Allahabad	Rs. 1.85 lakhs
South Central	Secunderabad	Rs. 1,660

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Enquiries were conducted in all these cases by multi-disciplinary committees of the railways. In one case relating to the fraud committed on Western Railway for issue of Season Tickets, enquiry was also conducted by the CBI. A Committee was also constituted by the Ministry consisting of officers from Commercial, Finance & Stores Departments to enquire into all aspects of functioning of these machines and make suitable recommendations.

The main finding in the enquiry conducted for Season Ticket Printing System on Western Railway was that design of the system was defective as it enabled an operator to manipulate the date files containing record of transactions due to lack of proper security procedures;

In the Self-Printing Ticketing Machines on Allahabad Station of Northern Railway the facility of grant of refund from any counter of the machines, which were not inter-linked for want of centralised accounting system, was mis-used by the booking clerks. On Pune, Bhandup and Bhopal stations of Central Railway, the booking clerk inserted a blank paper for manipulating the printer and saved pre-

printed stationery which was used for printing ticket of higher denomination and balance money was mis-appropriated by the booking clerks and on Secunderabad station of South-Central Railway, the actual amount of the ticket was accounted as Rs. 2 instead of actual value of the ticket and balance money was misappropriated by operator. This irregularity was detected by checking the records of collected tickets.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- i) The SPTM should not be Personal Computer (PC) based.
 - ii) Organisations of proven expertise should develop computerised SPTMs for railways.
 - iii) The allotment of SPTMs should be based on limited tenders based on pre-qualifications of vendors.
 - iv) Standard format of Annual Maintenance Contract should form a part of the Tender conditions. The system should have built-in diagnostics to check the components.
 - v) All the data should be stored in battery backed-up Erasable Programmable Memory (EPROM) in Computer so that it can be retrieved at any point of time.
 - vi) Staff of Commercial, Traffic and Accounts Office should be properly trained.
 - vii) Standard Joint Procedure should be issued for accountal and inspection.
- (e) The following action has been taken :
- The STEP system installed on Western Railway has been discontinued.
 - The recommendations of the committee in para (d) above have been implemented.
 - The facility of cancellation of ticket for grant of refund in SPTMs has been restricted to only those counters from which the ticket is issued.
 - CBI has filed the charge-sheets for prosecution of 7 railway officials and one person of the company which supplied the machine.
 - Major penalty charge-sheets to 17 railway employees and minor penalty charge-sheets to 16 railway employees, have been issued.

DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELLA : I thank the hon. Minister of Railways for giving a detailed answer. I want to know whether the same licence for Keltron com-

pany is continuing in the Central, Northern and South-Central Railways and if so why has it not been cancelled or discontinued because this poor developing country cannot afford to lose crores of rupees in this way ?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in my opinion, the hon'ble Member had wanted to know about the functioning of the self-printing ticketing machine in Sikanderabad. In its reply I am to state that for the time being it has been shut down and the work is being carried out with old manual system. As far as the question of 'Keltron' is concerned, this company is owned by the State Government of Kerala. This is an Undertaking of the Kerala Government. As far as the question of involving security system is concerned, so that it could not be misused, the company is being advised in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Suguna Kumari Chellamella, second supplementary.

DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELLA : No further supplementary.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Speaker, all computers are deliberately being put out of order. At every railway station, tickets are sold in black market. The effort is being made to malign the Railway Ministry. There is a big racket behind it and people are doing illegal business. Is the hon'ble Minister aware of it ? If yes, has he ordered an enquiry into this matter.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the efforts are on to make improvement in the software. As I have stated earlier, we are trying to evolve in built system to prevent beguilement. As far as the question of inquiry is concerned, the CBI has conducted an inquiry in one case and the case has been filed against some people in the court. The departmental proceedings are going on against some other people.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Sukinda Chrome Ore Mines

*322. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Pressure to clear Sukinda lease" as reported in the Statesman dated April 16, 1998;

(b) if so, whether the private sector companies which propose to take over Sukinda chrome-ore mines have been pressing Government to hand over the mines to them; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 mining lease can be granted to an Indian national or a Company as defined in sub-section (1) of Section 3 of Companies Act, 1956 by the concerned State Government. However, for a mineral listed in the First Schedule of the aforesaid Act, prior approval of the Central Government is required before grant of the mining lease by the concerned State Government. In accordance with these provisions, some Companies have been requesting the State Government of Orissa to grant them mining lease for Chrome Ore in Sukinda Valley.

2. The State Govt. of Orissa had sent a proposal dated 24th June, 1997 to the Ministry of Mines seeking approval for the grant of mining lease for chrome ore in Sukinda Valley of Orissa over 50% of the balance area of 855.476 hectares which had become available for grant after the second renewal of the mining lease of M/s Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. (TISCO) for a reduced area, in favour of four parties, i.e. M/s Indian Metal and Ferro Alloys (IMFA)/Indian Charge Chrome Ltd. (ICCL), M/s Ispat Alloys, M/s Ferro Alloys Corporation Limited (FACOR) and M/s Jindal Strips. The proposal was for grant of only 50% of the area of 855.476 ha. whereas the Central Government's Order dated 17th August, 1995 had requested the State Govt. to send the proposal for grant of mining lease in favour of the aforesaid four parties for the total area of 855.476 hectares.

3. While the aforesaid proposal of the State Govt. dated 24th June, 1997 was under examination, Shri M.C. Mahapatra, the then Joint Secretary in this Ministry who was handling the matter, died on 27th September, 1997, allegedly as a result of jumping from the office building of Shastri Bhawan. The police took up the investigations of the circumstances relating to the death of Shri Mahapatra. Initially, the matter was being investigated by the Delhi Police and subsequently by the Crime Branch of the Delhi Police. Later on, the investigations were entrusted to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The entire original records in respect of the proposal for grant of mining lease of Sukinda Chrome Ore mines have been taken over by the CBI and any further action in the matter regarding consideration of the aforesaid proposal for grant of mining lease can be taken up only after return of the original records by the CBI who are still investigating the matter.

4. Subsequently, another proposal dated 30th March, 1998 was received from the State Govt. of Orissa

seeking the views of the Central Govt. on their proposal to undertake mining operations of Chrome Ore over an area of 190.80 hectares (the same area which was earlier recommended by the State Govt. for grant of mining lease in favour of M/s IMFA/ICCL) in Sukinda Valley under section 4(3) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 (MVR & D Act) and to engage M/s IMFA/ICCL as an agent of the State Govt. to undertake mining operations in the aforesaid area under Rule 75(2) of the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960. Since the proposal of the State Govt. was not found to be consistent with the provisions of the MVR & D Act, particularly Section 4(3) of the Act *ibid*, which allows only the State Govt. to undertake mining and does not recognise mining operations by the State Govt. through an agent. The aforesaid proposal of the State Govt. was returned to them on 23rd April, 1998 conveying Central Government's views to the effect that the proposal is not consistent with the provisions of the MVR & D Act.

5. Subsequently the State Govt. of Orissa vide Notification dated 17.6.98, has notified under Rule 75(1) of Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 that the State Government proposed to undertake mining operations for chrome ore over an area of 119.08 ha. in village Kalipani, District Jajpur in Sukinda Valley. The State Govt. of Orissa vide its order dated 17.6.98 has also granted working permission to M/s ICCL to undertake mining operations of chrome ore over the above mentioned area as an agent of the State Govt. under the provisions of sub-rule (2) of Rule 75 of the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 for a period of 2 years or approval of lease in their favour by Central Government whichever is earlier.

6. M/s. FACOR has filed a writ petition before the Hon'ble High Court of Orissa, challenging the above mentioned Order of the State Govt. dated 17.6.98 regarding grant of working permission to M/s. ICCL to undertake mining operations as an agent of the State Govt. and thus the matter is subjudice.

Wasteland Development Task Force

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

(a) whether the Government have constituted any Wasteland Development Task Force (WDTF) for regeneration of wastelands in the country through afforestation; 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Department was set up Wasteland Development Task Force (WDTF) on 12.9.1994 with the objective to provide a disciplined force for regeneration of waste-

lands through afforestation including :

- in-situ soil and moisture conservation
- plantation
- maintenance of plantation
- protection

The force consists of 300 ex-servicemen under the command of Territorial Army and the Core Group of 15 Army/Territorial Army personnel. The Force has been deployed specifically for the development of the ravines of Chambal in the State of Madhya Pradesh with a target of development of 1170 hectares area with the financial outlay of about 3.81 crores. No such Wastelands Development Task Force has been constituted in any other State/Union Territory.

Reserved Fund of JRY for SC/ST

*328. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the schemes of Community Irrigation Projects and Water Harvesting Structures have been implemented by some of the States in lieu of Million Wells scheme and 22.5 per cent of funds from Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) reserved for the direct benefits of SCs/STs in individual beneficiary schemes;

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

(c) whether the Government are aware that the Central guidelines on rights over the possession of land in the name of SC/ST beneficiaries are being violated in revenue districts of Balasore and Bhadrak of Orissa; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps proposed to be taken to set the matter right ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) and (b) The funds under the Million Wells Scheme (MWS) which is primarily intended for open irrigation wells can also be utilised for the other schemes of minor irrigation like irrigation tanks, water harvesting structures and also for the development of lands belonging to small and marginal farmers, if construction of wells is not feasible due to geological factors. At least two-thirds of the funds utilised under the scheme in any year are to be spent on poor small and marginal farmers belonging to SCs and STs. Similarly under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), 22.5% of the funds earmarked at all three levels of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) i.e. Zilla Parishad /DRDA, Intermediate Panchayat and Village Panchayat must be spent on individual beneficiary schemes for SCs and STs. These guidelines have generally been followed and no major deviation has been reported. The State-wise information, however, is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) Information is being collected from State Government of Orissa and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Air Link to Buddha Pilgrimage Centres

*329. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme for connecting Buddha Pilgrimage Centres by air services in order to boost tourism in the country is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether there is also a scheme for connecting Saarnath, Kushinagar and Lumbini in Uttar Pradesh by air services; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, the needs of the pilgrims visiting Saarnath, Kushinagar and Lumbini (Nepal) are being met by Varanasi Airport which is in close proximity to these places and connected with Mumbai, Delhi, Agra, Khajuraho, Kathmandu and Lucknow.

[English]

Sanitation Programme

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

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

(a) whether any centrally sponsored rural sanitation programme for construction of individual latrine is being undertaken in the country;

(b) if so, the per unit cost prescribed in the scheme alongwith the Central share to be made available to State Governments;

(c) whether due to increase in the cost of building material the State Governments are facing difficulty in the construction of such latrines at the rate of prescribed limit;

(d) if so, whether the State Governments particularly Maharashtra Government have written to the Union Government to raise the prescribed per unit cost limit and also to raise the Central share;

- (e) if so, the details thereof ; and
 (f) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) to (f) A Centrally Sponsored Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP) has been in operation in the country since 1986. The programme aims to :

(a) inter-alia accelerate the coverage of rural population below the poverty line with sanitation facilities, to generate felt need to, awareness generation, etc. and to eradicate manual scavenging. In addition to the construction of individual sanitation latrines with subsidy for below poverty households, the programme component also includes :

- (a) conversion of dry latrines into low cost sanitary latrines,
 (b) construction of village sanitary complexes for women,
 (c) setting up of sanitary marts, and
 (d) campaigns for awareness generation, etc.

As per guidelines, a maximum unit cost of Rs. 2500 has been fixed. 80% of the unit cost is subsidy, equally contributed by the Government of India and the State Government. 20% of the unit cost is to be borne by the beneficiaries.

Almost all the States are implementing the programme as per national norms. Only a few States have expressed their difficulty in the construction of latrines within the prescribed cost ceiling.

Though Maharashtra had represented, it was informed to them, based on the technological options developed by the Ministry, the existing cost norms were found to be more than sufficient to meet the requirements. The State Government has also been apprised the wide range of low-cost, appropriate technological options that could help in reducing the per unit costs, and any further enhancement of the unit cost would reduce the extent of physical coverage and that costs in excess of Rs. 2500/- should be borne by the beneficiary.

Gauge Conversion

*331. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the total length of metre gauge in the country at present ;
 (b) the names of places in Maharashtra and other States having metre gauge railway lines with state-wise breakup;
 (c) whether the Government propose to convert

these metre gauge lines into broad gauge under the phased programme; and

- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) The total length of metre gauge (route kilometre) in the country as on 31.3.1997 (latest available) is 17,044 Kms.

(b) The State-wise details of places having metre gauge lines are not maintained. However, the State-wise breakup of metre gauge lines is given below :

S.No.	State/Union Territory	Length of M.G. lines (Route Kms.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1015
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
3.	Assam	1903
4.	Bihar	1427
5.	Delhi	22
6.	Gujarat	2532
7.	Haryana	322
8.	Karnataka	717
9.	Kerala	117
10.	Madhya Pradesh	500
11.	Maharashtra	542
12.	Manipur	1
13.	Mizoram	1
14.	Nagaland	13
15.	Rajasthan	2916
16.	Tamil Nadu	2477
17.	Tripura	45
18.	Uttar Pradesh	2019
19.	West Bengal	463

Union Territories

1.	Pondicherry	11
Total		17044

(The remaining States/Union Territories have no metre gauge railway line.)

(c) and (d) There is no plan to convert all the MG lines to BG. However, some of these lines have been identified for conversion to BG in the action plan, under Project Unigauge taken up by the Railways. Out of these, some lines have already been included in the budget and the works are in progress. The details of lines included in the action plan and those on which work is in progress are as under :

States & Railway Sections	Included in action plan	Included in budget work in progress	Remarks
ANDHRA PRADESH			
Mudkhed-Adilabad (162 kms)	32.00	32.00	
Tirupati-Pakala-Katpadi	106.98	106.98	
Guntakal-Dharmavaram	101.54	50.54	Dharmavaram-Kalluru to be lifted.
Dharmavaram-Pakala	227.42	227.42	⊙
Malkajgiri-Maula Ali	4.90	4.90	
Guntakal-Hospet (Part)	20.00	20.00	
Mudkhed-Secunderabad	179.79	179.79	
Naupada-Gunupur (90 km)	36.00	36.00	⊙
Janampt-Bhadan	19.93	19.93	
Total :	728.56	677.56	
ASSAM & N E STATES			
Dhubri-Fakiragram	66.16		
Baliapara-Bhalukpong	34.04		
Rangia-Murkong Selek	449.88		
Rangapara North-Tezpur	26.41		
Lumding-Silchar	214.82	214.82	
Badarpur-Dharamanagar-Kumarghat	117.82		
Baraigram-Dullabcherra	28.85		
Makum-Dangari	30.77	30.77	
New Jalpaiguri-Silliguri-Bongaigaon (Part)	73.00	73.00	⊙
Bongaigaon-Guwahati	145		to be lifted.
Katakhal-Bairabhi as Ph.I of extn. to Sairang	83.57	83.57	⊙
Total :	1270.32	402.16	
BIHAR			
Narkatiaganj-Valmikinagar	59.09	59.09	
Mansi-Saharsa	43.67	43.67	
Saharsa-Forbesganj	110.68		
Jaynagar-Darbhanga-Narkatiaganj	259.11	259.11	⊙
Samastipur-Khagaria	86.09	86.09	⊙
Samastipur-Bachhwara-Barauni	48.7		to be lifted.
Ranchi-Lohardanga	70.14	70.14	
Katihar-Jogbani	108.00	108.00	⊙
Total :	785.48	626.10	
DELHI			
Delhi-Rewari	22.00	22.00	
Total :	22.00	22.00	
GUJARAT			
Samdari-Bhildi (225 kms)	43.00	43.00	
Patan-Mehsana	39.65	39.65	
Viramgam-Mehsana	64.21	64.21	
Rajkot-Veraval	186.56	186.56	
Maliya-Miyana-Wankaner	96.75	96.75	

States & Railway Sections	Included in action plan	Included in budget work in progress	Remarks
Gandhidham-Bhuj	58.03	58.03	
Surendernagar-Bhavnagar, Dhola-Dhasa-Mahua & linked	364.09	364.09	
Dharandara-Kuda	33.00	33.00	⊙
Gandhidham-Palanpur	313.00	313.00	⊙
Narrow Gauge lines	195		
Total :	1393.29	1198.29	
HARYANA			
Rewari-Sadalpur (144 km)	120.00	120.00	⊙
Delhi-Rewari	52.92	52.92	
Hissar-Bikaner (Part)	41.00		
Total :	213.92	172.92	
KERALA			
Quilon-Tenkasi-Virdhunagar-Tenkasi-Tirunevelli-Trichandur (357 kms)	102.00	102.00	⊙
Total :	102.00	102.00	
KARNATAKA			
Mysore-Chamarajnagar	60.78	60.78	⊙
Hospet-Guntakal (Part)	45.39	45.39	
Sakleshpur-Manglore	146.70	146.70	
Manglore-Thokkur	21.67		to be lifted.
Bayapanhalli-Yeshwantpur	18.00	18.00	
Bijapur-Gadag (300 kms)	190.15	190.15	
Shimoga-Talguppa	97.28	97.28	
Chickballapur-Bangarpet	85.00		
Total :	664.97	558.30	
MADHYA PRADESH			
Nonera-Bhind	39.00	39.00	
Neemuch-Ratlam	122.98	122.98	
Indore-Kandawa	138.76		
Ratlam-Indore	118.65		
Chandravati Ganj - Ujjain	22.96		
Kandwa -Akola (Part)	81		
Jabalpur-Gondia incl. Balaghat-Katangi (283 kms)	255.79	255.79	
Total :	779.14	417.77	
MAHARASHTRA			
Mudkhed-Adilabad (162 kms)	139.00	139.00	
Miraj-Latur	325.91	325.91	
Jabalpur-Gondia incl. Balagat- Katangi (283 kms)	18.00	18.00	
Sholapur-Hotagi	16.00	16.00	
Khandwa-Purna	301.86		
Pachora-Jamner NG			
Secunderabad- Mudkhed	61.07	61.07	
Total :	861.84	559.98	

States & Railway Sections	Included in action plan	Included in budget work in progress	Remarks
ORISSA			
Rupsa-Bangriposi	89.00	89.00	
Naupada-Gunupur	54.00	54.00	⊙
Total :	143.00	143.00	
RAJASTHAN			
Bandikui-Agra	151.00	151.00	
Luni-Munabao	299.00	299.00	
Sriganganagar-Sarupsar	126.00	126.00	⊙
Rewari-Ringus-Phulera	173.01		
Samdari-Bhildi (225 kms)	182.00	182.00	
Bikaner-Ratangarh-Hissar	267.11		
Marwar-Mavli-Barisadri	233.66		
Pipar RD - Bilara	41.14	41.14	
Sri Ganganagar-Hanumangarh	57.00		
Jaipur-Phulera-Ajmer	144.62		
Chittorgarh-Neemuch	56		to be lifted
Ajmer-Chittorgarh-Udaipur	300.00	300.00	
Rewari-Sadulpur (141 km)	39.00	39.00	⊙
Total :	2069.54	1138.14	
TAMIL NADU			
Madras-Trichy chord	340.29	340.29	
Dindigul-Trichy	92.61	92.61	
Arakkonam-Chengalpattu	63.00	63.00	
Thanjavur-Villupuram	192.00	192.00	⊙
Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tenkasi-Virudunagar-Tirunelveli-Trichandur (357 kms)	256.00	256.00	⊙
Villupuram-Pondicherry	38.00	38.00	⊙
Madurai-Rameshwaram	161.00	161.00	⊙
Thanjavur-Nagore	85.00	85.00	
Total :	1227.90	1227.90	
UTTAR PRADESH			
Valmikinagar-Gorakhpur	90.04	90.04	
Mathura-Achnera	35.00	35.00	
Gonda-Gorakhpur loop with Anandnagar-Nautanwa and Gainsari-Jarwa	274.93	274.93	⊙
Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura and Bareilly- Kasganj	467.23	467.23	
Kashipur-Lalkuan	58.34	58.34	
Gonda-Bahraich	60.34	60.34	⊙
Indara-Phephna	50.31	50.31	
Total :	1036.19	1036.19	
WEST BENGAL			
New Jalpaiguri-New Bangaigaon (Part)	120.97	120.97	⊙
Bankura-Rainagar	96	96	⊙
Total :	216.97	216.97	
G. Total :	11515.12	8499.28	

⊙ Work shown in progress as included in the budget but clearances are yet to be obtained.

Crimes and Robbery in Trains

*332. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has drawn any action plan to contain crimes and robbery in the trains ;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry called any joint meeting of Railway Protection Force and Government Railway Police to discuss the strategy to check crime on wheels and sabotage ; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAY (SHRI NITISH KUMAR):

(a) Policing being a 'state subject' under the Constitution of India, prevention of crime in the running trains and Railway premises is the constitutional responsibility of the State Government concerned which they discharge through their Government Railway Police (GRP). The Railway administration on their part, maintains close liaison and coordination with the State Governments and renders necessary assistance to them to contain crime on railways.

The Ministry of Home Affairs had convened a meeting on 8.4.1996, to review the measures taken to prevent crime, robbery and dacoity in the trains. Ministry of Railways has suggested an 'Action Plan' in the meeting. The Action Plan and other suggestion were communicated to the State Governments for taking appropriate action.

(b) The Ministry of Railways had called a joint meeting of Chief Security Commissioners of all Zonal Railways and all State Government Railway Police Chiefs in September, 1996 to discuss the strategy to check crime on railways. The next joint meeting is proposed to be held in August, 1998.

(c) Based on the Action Plan and discussion in the joint meeting, following action, as reported by the GRP authorities has been taken :

- 1) Lodging of FIR is made easier and victim friendly.
- 2) Investigation of pending cases is being expedited by the GRP Authorities.
- 3) Special raids are being conducted by the GRP against absconding accused.
- 4) Mobile Police Posts have been opened in few selected trains.
- 5) Police/RPF booths have been provided on platforms for the assistance of passengers.
- 6) As far as possible trains are escorted by GRP

in the vulnerable section specially during night hours.

- 7) The compendium of criminals operating on railways are being prepared for sharing of criminal intelligence.
- 8) Special joint drives are being conducted against undesirable elements in the Station area.
- 9) Periodical coordination meetings between RPF and GRP are being conducted regularly.
- 10) Schemes for modernisation of RPF have been undertaken.

[Translation]

Reservation Facilities

*333. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY :
SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the places where the computerised reservation facility is available in the country, zone-wise;

(b) the places where the return reservation facility is also available, zone-wise;

(c) the details of places where computerised reservation/return reservation facility is likely to be provided during 1998-99, zone-wise;

(d) whether there is any proposal to increase the existing computerised reservation counters to meet the heavy rush of passengers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR):

(a) and (b) Following are the places (stations/locations), zone-wise, where the computerised reservation facilities are available :-

Central Railway

Mumbai CST	Kalyan	Thane
Kurla (T)	Belapur CBO	Lonavala
Ghatkopar	Vashi	Ambernath
Pune	Deccan Gymkhana	Raviwarpeth
Khadki	Pune Cantonment	Shankarseth
Chinchwad	Nagpur	Santhra Market
Ajni	Wardha	Bhusaval
Nasik	Jalgaon	Khandwa
Amarvati	Akola	Manmad
Nasik CBO	Solapur	Gulbarga
Ahmadnagar	Jabalpur	Satna

South Eastern Railway		
Rabindra Sadan	Garden Reach	Shalimar
Bhubaneshwar	Cuttack	Puri
Visakhapatnam	Ranchi	Bilaspur
Raipur	Tatangar	Kharagpur
Rourkela	Behrampur	Purulia
Chakradharpur	Durg	Sambalpur
Bokaro	MVP Colony	Gajuvaka
Naval Base	Gondia	Rourkela CBO
Adra	Bankura	Chandrasekharpur
IIT, Kharagpur	Midnapur	Itwari
Bokaro CBO	Vizianagaram	Jharsuguda
Visakhapatnam Super Market		Old Koilaghat

Western Railway		
Mumbai Central	Churchgate	Borivali
Surat	Andheri	Sahar Airport
Navasari	Valsad	Virar
Ahmadabad	Gandhinagar	Vadodara
Padmavati Com.	Maninagar	Pratapnagar
Anand	Bharuch	Nadiad
Sabarmati	Gandhigram	Bhavnagar
Veraval	Porbandar	Rajkot
Jamnagar	Surendra Nagar	Indore
Ujjain	Ratlam	Abu Road
Gandhidham	New Bhuj	Falna
Udaipur	Ajmer	Agra Fort
Kota	Jaipur	Alwar
Gandhinagar (Jaipur)		Sikar

All the above mentioned places have the return journey reservation facilities from all places within the Passenger Reservation system with which these are linked. Since Delhi and Secunderabad Passenger reservation. Systems have been linked on a network, All stations/locations on these two Systems have return journey reservation facilities from all places on the two systems.

(c) The following stations/locations have been included in the Annual Plan 1998-99 :-

Central Railway	Eastern Railway	Northern Railway
Damoh	Koderma	Mandi (since commissioned)
Maihar	Jasidih	Nangal Dam
Babina	Barkakana	Shajahanpur
		Rohtak
		Naini
		B.H.U. Varanasi
N.E. Railway	N.F. Railway	Southern Railway
Farukhabad	MLS Hostel Dispur	Davangere
Ballia		Shimoga
Bahraich		Hasan

Pilibhit		Karaikudi
		Kasargode
		Bangarapet
S.C. Railway	S.E. Railway	Western Railway
Anakapalle	Telco	Bhayandar (since commissioned)
Nidadavolu	Sakchi Area	Sabarmati (since commissioned)
	Korba	Mount Abu
	Hatia	Palanpur
	Simachalam	Bhilwara

In addition to above places there are some locations/stations where the work for such facilities is in progress and these may be commissioned during the current financial year.

(d) and (e) Provision of additional counters at computerised passenger reservation centres is an on-going process and these are provided at Stations as per norms and subject to the availability of resources/funds. A policy decision has also been taken to provide computerised passenger reservation centres at stations having more than 200 reservation related transactions per day in place of existing norms of 300.

[English]

Urban Transport Projects

*334. DR. SAROJA V. :
SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA :

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

(a) whether Urban Transport projects have been taken up in the country as recommended by the national Institute of Urbanisation;

(b) if so, the names of the cities for which Urban Transport projects have been recommended and the present status of each of such projects; and

(c) the amount of foreign assistance being sought for these projects?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) There is no Government or semi-Government organisation called National Institute of Urbanisation as per information available with the Ministry. No proposal has been received by this Ministry from any such organisation. The National Institute of Urban Affairs under this Ministry has also not sent any suggestion for taking up of Urban Transport projects in the country.

(b) and (c) : Does not arise.

Wastelands

*335. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be please to State:

(a) The total land demarcated as wastelands at the inception of the Department of Wastelands Development, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have been able to develop appropriate technologies for increasing productivity of wastelands in sustainable ways; and

(c) If so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) Various agencies have estimated area of wastelands affected by soil erosion and land degradation ranging from 38.4 M.ha. to 187 M.ha. The National Waste-

lands Development Board (NWDB) launched in 1985 and the Department of Wastelands Development (DOWD) set up in July, 1992 had commissioned a study entitled National Wastelands Identification Project with the collaboration of National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Department of Space (DOS), Hyderabad, to identify the extent of various categories of wastelands in the country, on a scientific basis using Remote Sensing Satellite Imageries at 1 : 50,000 scale. NRSA has, so far, completed District level Mapping for 241 districts. Total area of wastelands in 241 districts is 35.65 M.ha. and the State-wise extent is given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(b) and (c) Research Institutions/Organizations under Central and State Governments, and State Agricultural Universities have developed technologies for improving the soil health and land productivity. The statement showing technologies for some of the problem lands is given in the Statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I

Extent of Wastelands for 241 district covered by NRSA Hyderabad

(Area in m.ha.)

Sr. No.	State	No. of distt. covered	Total Geographical area of distt. covered	Total Wastelands	Percentage of total geographical area
1.	Andhra Pradesh	19	24.677	4.88	19.78
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	0.722	0.162	22.43
3.	Assam	2	1.522	0.868	57.02
4.	Bihar	16	10.687	1.622	15.16
5.	Goa	2	0.037	0.006	16.75
6.	Gujarat	13	11.887	2.099	17.66
7.	Haryana	10	3.258	0.254	7.81
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3	1.338	0.505	37.72
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	3	2.035	0.983	48.32
10.	Karnataka	14	14.337	1.712	11.94
11.	Kerala	6	1.969	0.098	4.95
12.	Madhya Pradesh	45	44.344	6.971	15.72
13.	Maharashtra	17	19.533	3.832	19.62
14.	Manipur	6	1.419	0.535	37.40
15.	Nagaland	4	0.854	0.462	54.08
16.	Orissa	13	15.568	2.134	13.71
17.	Punjab	6	2.387	0.103	4.31
18.	Rajasthan	20	20.587	5.184	25.18
19.	Tamil Nadu	10	9.410	1.481	15.73
20.	Uttar Pradesh	28	14.232	1.490	10.47
21.	West Bengal	3	2.722	0.211	7.76
Total		241	203.857	35.65	17.49

Statement-II

Keeping in view the geo-location and type of wastelands, various Research Institutions viz. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) and other organisations under State/Central Governments have developed suitable technologies to improve the soil health and land productivity of various types of degraded wastelands. Technologies for some of the categories of wastelands are given below :

1. *Sandy/Desert area :*

Stabilisation of the problem area by wind breaks and shelter belts, stubble mulching, Strip cropping, Agro-Forestry Systems etc.

2. *Land with or without Scrub/Sheet erosion Area :*

Diversion bunds, contour /graded terracing and trenching, check dams, conservation structures of erosion control, water harvesting and storage including biological measures, agro-forestry systems, etc.

3. *Shifting Cultivation :*

Agricultural crops on the lower slopes, horticultural plantations on mid-slopes and grasses & forest plantations on the top, Contour/graded bunds, bench terracing, half moon terraces, grassed water ways, Silt detention tanks/storage structures etc.

4. *Salt Affected Soils :*

- (a) **Alkali Soil :** Bunding and levelling flooding/irrigation using good quality of water, surface drainage, gypsum and pyrite application followed by leaching, green manuring and crop production.
- (b) **Saline Soils :** Land levelling and grading, surface drainage, green manuring, crop management and auger hole technique for plantation of trees.
- (c) **Acid Soils :** Addition of lime, green manuring and crop management.

5. *Waterlogged Area :*

Surface and Sub-Surface drainage systems, bio-drainage and agro-management practices including raising of suitable Silvi-Horti-Grass Species.

6. *Gullied/Ravinous Area :*

Mechanical measures include land levelling/terracing contour/graded bunding, gully head control structures loose bolder structures, gabion structures, spurs, drop

structures mulching etc. The biological measures include contour wattling, Silvi-Horti-plantations etc.

[Translation]

Transportation of Coal

*336. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways have decided to transport the coal from the Coal Mines upto Thermal Power Plants on the basis of Advance Transportation Tariff ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the total outstanding amount of the Railways against the National Thermal Power Corporation, Delhi Vidyut Board, State Electricity Boards and private power stations separately; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Railways to recover these outstanding dues ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR):
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways are implementing the decision for prepayment of freight for coal consigned to Power Houses and State Electricity Boards w.e.f. 1.10.1996 with the exception of Badarpur Thermal Power Station (of National Thermal Power Corporation) in whose case it has been implemented w.e.f. 1.1.1997.

The prepayment of freight is arranged by either of the following options :

- (i) payment of freight at the booking station/ Railway;
- (ii) "Weight Only" system at the booking Railway;
- (iii) Advance payment of freight at the destination station;

Adjustment of railway freight bills with electric traction bills is also permitted.

(c) Details of outstanding as on 31.3.1998 are given in the Statement enclosed

- (b) (i) Outstanding dues are closely monitored by the Zonal Railways and regular meetings are held with the senior officials of the State Electricity Boards and Power Houses to persuade them to pay the Railway dues.

- (ii) Railways also adjust their dues with the amounts; if any, payable to such Organisations, when normal efforts to realise the dues fail.
- (iii) The past outstanding are also being realised and adjusted by appropriation from Central Plan Assistance at the rate of 15% of the total outlay and distributed by the Ministry of Finance prorata on the basis of proportion due to Indian Railways, National Thermal Power Corporation (Power facility) & Coal India Ltd.

Statement

Dues recoverable from State Electricity Boards/Power Houses (end of March 1998- Actuals)

Name of Organisation	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1. A.P. State Electricity Board	Nil
2. Assam State Electricity Board	Nil
3. Bihar State Electricity Board	6.68
4. Delhi Vidyut Board	1.19
5. Gujarat State Electricity Board	9.23
6. Haryana State Electricity Board	46.77
7. Karnataka State Electricity Board	Nil
8. Maharashtra State Electricity Board	12.90
9. M.P. State Electricity Board	2.68
10. Punjab State Electricity Board	Nil
11. Rajasthan State Electricity Board	13.04
12. Tamilnadu State Electricity Board	1.69
13. U.P. State Electricity Board	16.63
14. W.B. State Electricity Board	4.97
15. N.T.P.C. Badarpur T.P.P.	795.40
16. N.T.P.C./Others*	16.42
17. Damodar Valley Corporation	1.24
18. Private Power House- Sabarmati	0.02
Total	928.86

* Dadri, Unchahar, Ramagundam, Vin Kahal Gaon and Shakti Nagar.

Subsidy to Railways

* 337. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Railways are getting less freight

and fare from the goods and passenger trains than the operational cost ;

(b) if so, whether the Railways have asked for subsidy to make up the losses in this regard;

(c) if so, whether the Railways have identified the items for such subsidy ;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount of subsidy given on those items during 1995-96, 1996-97 1997-98 and proposed for 1998-99 ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR):

(a) Although the Railways are meeting the operational cost fully through the earnings from freight and fare from the goods and passenger trains on the whole, certain segments of Railway traffic are carried at charges less than the operational costs on social consideration. These losses are generally made up by charging certain services at high rates.

(b) Railways have sought financial assistance from Central Government for losses incurred in discharge of social service obligations.

(c) and (d) The following areas have been identified for working out the financial effects of social service obligations on the Railways.

(i) Loss on transport of essential commodities carried at rates below cost,

(ii) Loss on passenger and other coaching services where Railways are observing a policy of price restraint keeping in view the need of common man.

(iii) Loss on uneconomic branch lines which could not be closed.

(iv) Loss on new lines opened for traffic in the last 15 years.

(e) The financial effect of net social obligations on operational cost have been estimated as Rs. 1166 crores in 1995-96, Rs. 1826 crores in 1996-97 and Rs. 2852 crores (approximately) in 1997-98. The figures for 1998-99 have not been estimated as yet.

Surplus Land

*338. SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey of total surplus land in different parts of the country;

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

(c) the concrete steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to allot this surplus land to the people of weaker section and the landless people of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) to (c) Land administration including survey, maintenance of land records, determining rights in or over land, transfer and alienation of agricultural land which, inter-alia, include distribution of ceiling surplus land, comes under the exclusive legislative and administrative jurisdiction of the State Governments. However, this Ministry collects quarterly Progress Report on distribution of ceiling surplus land from various States. According to the latest reports received from the States, State-wise position of

area declared surplus, area taken possession, area distributed and number of beneficiaries is given in the Statement enclosed. The respective States go by their specific laws prescribing the conditions of eligibility for allotment of ceiling surplus land to prospective beneficiaries belonging to weaker sections and the landless people.

The role of this Ministry being only coordinating and advisory, periodical meetings of the Revenue Secretaries, Revenue Ministers and Chief Ministers are held on this issue for expediting identification of ceiling surplus land, taking possession thereof, taking special measures in getting the vested land released from the court cases and complete distribution of ceiling surplus land within a fixed time-frame. For the aforesaid purposes, this Ministry also fixes up annual targets for distribution of ceiling surplus land for each concerned State/UT and monitoring the progress quarterly.

Statement

State-Wise details of distribution of Surplus Land

S.No.	State/UTs	Area in Acres			
		Declared surplus	Taken possession	Distributed to indiv. benef.	Total No. of benef.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	791099	638107	576021	527864
2.	Assam	612380	575837	483822	444761
3.	Bihar	415447	386505	304942	376644
4.	Gujarat	231330	158363	134988	31842
5.	Haryana	93347	88172	87377	27432
6.	Himachal Pradesh	282581	281652	3340	4400
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	455575	450000	450000	450000
8.	Karnataka	267758	155118	118441	32047
9.	Kerala	137973	95984	64765	147927
10.	Madhya Pradesh	338778	306150	185624	72232
11.	Maharashtra	730306	666190	556532	141119
12.	Manipur	1830	1685	1682	1258
13.	Orissa	177535	166150	155193	136224
14.	Punjab	222594	105181	103545	28299
15.	Rajasthan	611009	567010	458734	80087
16.	Tamil Nadu	194658	171114	165922	137976
17.	Tripura	1995	1944	1599	1424
18.	Uttar Pradesh	569400	537112	400843	359570
19.	West Bengal	1350538	1261859	1023863	2454027
20.	D & N Haveli	9406	9305	6851	3353
21.	Delhi	1132	394	394	654
22.	Pondicherry	2326	1160	1023	1359
Total		7498997	6624992	5285501	5460499

*[English]***Financial Assistance given by CAPART**

*339. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB :
SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSAMNI :

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

(a) the details of projects taken up with the assistance of Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) in Orissa and Assam during the last three years;

(b) the details of achievements made therefrom ; and

(c) the details of mechanism adopted to supervise these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) The details of the projects taken up with the assistance of Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) in Orissa and Assam during the last three years are as follows :-

Orissa		(Rs. in lakhs)	
	No. of Projects	Amount Sanctioned	Amount released
1995-96	55	359.93	192.26
1996-97	123	275.75	162.16
1997-98	77	137.80	79.04
Total	255	773.48	433.46

Assam		(Rs. in lakhs)	
	No. of Projects	Amount Sanctioned	Amount released
1995-96	30	142.17	113.34
1996-97	32	286.70	39.26
1997-98	34	88.05	68.13
Total	96	516.92	220.73

(b) Out of 96 projects sanctioned in Assam about 45 projects stand completed and remaining are ongoing. Similarly in respect of Orissa 8 projects stand completed and 247 remaining are ongoing.

(c) Projects submitted by the voluntary organisations are monitored at various stages such as prior to funding (pre-funding appraisal), during execution (mid term appraisal), and after completion of the projects (post evaluation). The appraisal/evaluation of the projects is done by empanelled project evaluators namely, institutions experts or by CAPART's own officers.

Inter-Linking Air Services on Vayudoot System

*340. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of airstrips including at Solapur were used a Vayudoot and are now lying out of use since the closure of Vayudoot ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the total cost locked in such air strips and other infrastructure;

(c) whether there is any proposal to revive inter-linking air services on the pattern of Vayudoot through public or private airways; and

(d) if so, decision taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Operations to most of these stations on Vayudoot network were discontinued due to shortage of capacity and losses incurred in the operation of services there. Since many of these airports/airfields are fit for use only by small aircraft of 50 seater or less capacity, shortage of these aircraft with Indian Airlines and other scheduled operators does not permit operation to these stations. The total amount of money locked up in respect of these idle airports is approximately Rs. 245 lakhs. All the assets lying in these airfields have been fully depreciated except building, on which the annual depreciation works to approximately Rs. 3.10 lakh.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Airline operators are, however, free to operate to new stations based on their commercial judgement subject to viability and compliance with the route dispersal guidelines.

Transportation Facility to People of Indo-Myanmar Border

*341. SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Defence Forces have imposed any restrictions on construction of roads within 25 kms of Indo-Myanmar Border in Manipur;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the alternate measures being taken by the Government to provide transportation facilities to the inhabitants of the area ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) As per the existing instructions construction of roads within a 25 km belt of the International Border with Myanmar requires prior clearance of the Ministry of Defence for security reasons. These restrictions have been laid down by the Ministry of Defence to ensure that no construction/improvement of roads take place in the border

areas without assessing their implications from the point of view of security of the country.

However, the Govt. of Manipur can construct roads within the aforementioned belt after obtaining prior clearance on case by case basis from the Ministry of Defence.

The villages are connected by fair weather jeepable road constructed under Rural development schemes. The Govt. of Manipur approaches the Central Govt. from time to time for the clearance of roads which are important for development of the areas.

Verification of Antecedents of G.R.P. and R.P.F. Personnels

3226. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the bonafides and character antecedents of all G.R.P. and R.P.F. staff have been verified;

(b) if so, whether any unsocial elements have been detected in these forces; and

(c) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken against the unsocial elements ?

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 bonafides and character antecedents of all the candidates who qualify for recruitment in GRP/RPF are invariably verified from the police and District authorities before their enlistment.

(b) No, Sir. Only after getting satisfactory report from District authorities and police, the selected candidates are allowed to undergo initial training and given appointment;

(c) Does not arise. However, in case any staff is subsequently found to be involved in anti-social activities, action is taken against him through departmental process.

[Translation]

Mines in Rajasthan

3227. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rampura Anguja Mines in Bhilwada district of Rajasthan are in operation ;

(b) if so, the details of each of the metals, excavated from there and its annual production ;

(c) whether the life of the residents living in the Rampura Anguja mines area and its neighbouring villages has become difficult due to mine blast; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government so far to overcome their difficulties ?

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

(b) During 1997-98, 1033865 MT of Lead-Zinc Ore containing 1.85% Lead and 12.11% Zinc was produced from Rampura-Agucha mine.

(c) and (d) National Institute of Rock Mechanics, Kolar, has recommended Peak Particle Velocity of 5 mm/second as the safe limit of vibrations for the type of structures in the villages around the Rampura-Agucha Mine. The blasting operations being carried out at the Mine have been reported to be within the limit.

[English]

Drunken Guard Delays Kalka Mail

3228. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Drunk guard delays Kalka Mail' appearing in "The Hindustan Times" dated the April, 9, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent such occurrence 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 7.4.1998, train guard of 2311 UP Kalka Mail was found under the influence of liquor at Delhi Main Station before starting the train and train suffered 55 minutes extra detention on this account. Due to delay of this train, he has been placed under suspension and is being taken up under Discipline and Appeal Rules.

(c) Breath analyser test is being done for drivers and guards before they work a train.

Change of Medium in Bokaro Schools

3229. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY :
SHRI MOINUL HASSAN :

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

(a) whether Hindi medium schools following Bihar syllabus giving free education according to NJCS Agreement are being changed into English medium following CBSE course resulting in charging of fees by the management of Bokaro Steel Plant; and

(b) if so, the facts in details and the justification thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) At present, no Hindi medium school is being changed into English medium school by the management of Bokaro Steel Plant.

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

Wages to Workers

3230. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether HSCL workers of Durgapur Steel Plant, are not getting wages for three months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (c) It is a fact that HSCL workers of the Durgapur Steel Plant could not be paid their wages for the last three months due to acute financial crunch faced by the said public sector undertaking. The management of HSCL has been trying their level best to improve the turnover of the Company and to realise outstanding dues from their customers in order to enable payment of wages to the employees as early as possible. In view of the poor financial condition of HSCL, Government have been taking steps for assisting HSCL in obtaining more work orders. It is expected that an improved turnover would ultimately lead to an improvement in the financial condition of the Company.

Slaughter House on Railways' Land

3231. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways had acquired land at Mourigram about 16-17 km. from Calcutta for Panikuni Mourigram linkage project ;

(b) whether the same acquired land has been given to Fregerio Conserva Allana Ltd. popularly known as Allana of Mumbai for setting up a slaughter house on long lease of 99 years or so; and

(c) if so, the reasons 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Linking of Western Ghat With Hinterland

3232. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the missing Railway links across the Western Ghats and Hinterland (Ratnagiri-Kolhapur, Sawantwadi-Kolhapur, Kanwar-Hubh) have been identified; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be completed so as to boost economic development of the region?

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) (i) *Kolhapur-Ratnagiri and Sawantwadi-Kolhapur*

For providing a link between the Konkan Railway alignment and the hinterland, a survey for a new BG line from Kolhapur to Ratnagiri via Talwade is presently in progress. Further consideration of the project will be possible, once the results of the survey become available.

As far as Sawantwadi-Kolhapur new line is concerned, no survey has been done so far nor is any proposal under consideration. In any case, if the Ratnagiri-Kolhapur line is ever taken up, link between Kolhapur and Sawantwadi via Ratnagiri will become available.

(ii) *Hubli-Ankola new line*

A new BG line between Hubli and Ankola (new Karwar) has been sanctioned which when completed will link Karwar with the hinterland.

Final location Survey for 94 kms. has been completed and is in progress for balance portion which is likely to be completed by September, 1998. Land acquisition plans for 13 kms. length have been submitted to the State Government. Work would be started once the land becomes available.

Tourism Counters at I.G.I. Airport, New Delhi

3233. SHRI SURENDRAN CHENGARA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Indian Tourism Development Cooperative Limited, now known as National Tourism Development Co-operative approached Airports Authority of India for allotment of counters at IGI Airport during 1996-97.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the capital of India Tourism Development Co-operative Limited, who were its promoter members and who are presently managing the said co-operative ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The request of the Indian Tourism Development Co-operative Ltd. in 1996-97 was for the extension of licence granted to them earlier in 1995 for providing travel and tourism related services.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Handing over of Bridge at Rajahmundry

3234. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have agreed to hand-over 130 years old bridge across the river Godavari at Rajahmundry to the State Government;

(b) if so, whether any final agreement has been reached in this regard ;

(c) if so, whether any modalities of the new arrangements have been worked out; 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) to (d) No, Sir. The issue is still under consideration.

[Translation]

Fund Utilised by Gram Panchayat

3235. SHRI MOHAMMED ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Gram Panchayats have not utilized the amount provided to them under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana ;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) to (c) The utilization of funds by the Gram Panchayats are not monitored at the Central level. However, as per the guidelines, the implementing agencies DRDAs/Zilla Parishads, Intermediate level Panchayats and Gram Panchayats are allowed to carry over an unutilized balance equivalent to 25% of their allocated. If the carry over funds are more than 25% of the allocation funds during a particular year, DRDAs/ZPs can impose a cut in the share of Gram Panchayats and Intermediate level Panchayats to the extent of excess unspent balance at the time of release of the second instalment during the next year.

[English]

Air Concessions to Handicapped Citizens

3236. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Air India/Indian Airlines give concession in air fare to the Physically Handicapped/Blind citizens on the lines of Indian Railways; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Indian Airlines gives 50% discount on fares to Blind persons on its domestic sectors and India-Nepal Sector. However, the airlines does not give any concessions in fare to other Physically Handicapped Persons. No international airlines including Air India however gives any concession in fares to Physically Handicapped and Blind persons.

Fare of Rajdhani Express

3237. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the passengers travelling from Calicut to Nizamuddin by Rajdhani Express are charged the same fare right from Cochin itself; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the action proposed to be taken to rectify this anomaly ?

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) No, Sir. The rail fares are different from Calicut to Nizamuddin and from Earnakulam (Cochin) to Nizamuddin by Rajdhani Express.

Airport Advisory Committees

3238. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have constituted Airport Advisory Committees in different cities ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the functions assigned to such Committees and the work being done by them ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) At present, there is no proposal to constitute Airport Advisory Committees at airports.

Airport at Bhuj

3239. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a provision of about 22 crores has been made by the Government for the construction of Bhuj Civil Airport and further provision of Rs. 40 crores has been made for the Ninth Five Year Plan;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof ;
- (c) whether the construction work at the Civil Airport has been started ; and
- (d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) A provision of Rs. 2 crores have been made in the Annual Plan 1998-99 for construction of a new terminal building at Bhuj Airport.

(c) and (d) Land measuring 47.29 acres has been provided free of cost by the State Government. Airports Authority of India as appointed an architect to draw up a Master Plan for the Civil Air Terminal at Bhuj Airport. It is not possible, at this stage to indicate the likely date of completion of the project.

Difficulties faced by Passengers at New Delhi Railway Station

3240. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Stench makes passengers sick" appearing in "The Hindustan Times" dated February 24, 1998;
- (b) if so, the details of 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) The following issues have been mentioned in the news item :

- (i) Massive traffic jam on Paharganj side of the New Delhi Railway Station.
- (ii) Haphazard parking of Vehicles.
- (iii) Menace of touts from hotels and those from illegal travel agencies.
- (iv) Unbearable stench emanating from garbage out side the station and that from excreta and urine on the platforms.
- (v) Pre-paid scheme for Taxis and TSRs—A source of harassment.
- (vi) Harassment by legal/illegal porters.

(c) The information is being collected and it will be laid on the table of the House.

[Translation]

Nehru Rozgar Yojana

3241. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :
SHRI BHIM DAHAL :

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

- (a) the funds allocated under the Nehru Rozgar Yojana to the States during each of the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) the number of persons benefited during the above period, State-wise; and
- (c) the percentage of achievement made under the Nehru Rozgar Yojana.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) Statement-I is enclosed.

(b) The Statement-II to IV giving the number of beneficiaries assisted to set up micro enterprises under Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME) ; the number of mandays of work generated under scheme of Urban Wage Employment (SUWE) and number of dwelling units upgraded under Scheme of Housing & Shelter upgradation (SHASU) respectively during the each of the last three years, are enclosed.

(c) The NRY was launched in 1989 and wound up on 30.11.1997. The cumulative picture of physical achievement upto 30.11.1997 at the national level is given in Statement-V.

Statement-I
Nehru Rozgar Yojana

S.No.	Name of State	Funds provided (Rs. in lakhs)		
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98 (upto 30.11.1997)

1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	463.50	443.85	248.02
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	57.20	28.20	45.53
3.	Assam	147.20	135.70	110.97
4.	Bihar	471.45	454.80	178.61
5.	Goa	18.30	11.39	14.83
6.	Gujarat	215.90	77.72	76.61
7.	Haryana	111.99	84.75	59.99
8.	Himachal Pradesh	66.15	60.15	28.14
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	77.88	62.70	43.46
10.	Karnataka	252.06	147.72	135.04
11.	Kerala	154.60	149.25	92.88
12.	Madhya Pradesh	508.25	396.95	371.35
13.	Maharashtra	521.33	608.20	312.30
14.	Manipur	62.91	47.60	43.65
15.	Meghalaya	31.80	29.30	29.53
16.	Mizoram	27.58	21.85	31.81
17.	Nagaland	3.50	-	-
18.	Orissa	156.60	90.05	71.48
19.	Punjab	105.60	103.60	83.67
20.	Rajasthan	330.37	271.25	208.28
21.	Sikkim	28.46	22.70	17.15
22.	Tamil Nadu	563.49	478.00	223.31
23.	Tripura	26.41	21.75	34.21
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1138.89	1025.45	519.33
25.	West Bengal	441.00	179.00	99.39
26.	A & N Islands	16.70	15.00	9.38
27.	Chandigarh	12.03	9.35	7.18
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	9.65	6.07	5.23
29.	Daman & Diu	22.60	12.65	9.59
30.	Delhi	22.00	-	-
31.	Pondicherry	18.60	-	9.05
Total		6084.00	4995.00	3119.97

Statement-II

Nehru Rozgar Yojana

Achievement for the year 1995-96 to 1997-98

(Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises)

No. of Persons assisted to set up micro enterprises

S.No.	Name of State/UT	1995-96 1996-97 1997-98		
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98 (upto 30.11.97)

1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5701	18315	59709
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	813	-

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Assam	-	-	-
4.	Bihar	14026	428	-
5.	Goa	10	-	1023
6.	Gujarat	1777	1512	1159
7.	Haryana	1725	1644	1338
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1334	108	-
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1489	2386	500
10.	Karnataka	-	4358	-
11.	Kerala	1282	-	-
12.	Madhya Pradesh	16019	16581	15281
13.	Maharashtra	10649	13441	5968
14.	Manipur	-	-	-
15.	Meghalaya	146	1415	-
16.	Mizoram	40	-	130
17.	Nagaland	-	-	-
18.	Orissa	6223	3408	-
19.	Punjab	2133	3931	1344
20.	Rajasthan	9415	12140	5199
21.	Sikkim	310	406	111
22.	Tamil Nadu	9857	26618	165
23.	Tripura	22	119	1676
24.	Uttar Pradesh	24893	24833	14426
25.	West Bengal	17567	-	2055
26.	A & N Islands	102	328	19
27.	Chandigarh	135	64	-
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	37	40	23
29.	Daman & Diu	213	245	59
30.	Delhi	-	518	192
31.	Pondicherry	211	616	266
Total		125316	134267	110643

Statement-III

Nehru Rozgar Yojana

Achievement for the year 1995-96 to 1997-98

(Scheme of Urban Wage Employment)

No. of Mandays of Work Generated

(In lakhs)

S.No.	Name of State/UT	1995-96 1996-97 1997-98		
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98 (upto 30.11.97)

1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.95	1.59	12.43
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.53	1.47	-
3.	Assam	1.36	0.85	0.57
4.	Bihar	-	-	-
5.	Goa	0.73	-	0.71
6.	Gujarat	0.78	0.38	0.30
7.	Haryana	0.09	-	-
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.53	-	-
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.01	1.80	-
10.	Karnataka	-	0.70	-
11.	Kerala	0.49	-	-
12.	Madhya Pradesh	-	0.30	11.04
13.	Maharashtra	20.02	-	-

1	2	3	4	5
14. Manipur	-	-	-	-
15. Meghalaya	-	0.11	-	-
16. Mizoram	-	-	0.30	-
17. Nagaland	-	-	-	-
18. Orissa	3.91	1.50	1.54	-
19. Punjab	3.08	-	0.35	-
20. Rajasthan	1.93	1.15	1.20	-
21. Sikkim	-	0.78	0.50	-
22. Tamil Nadu	2.19	2.52	-	-
23. Tripura	0.12	-	0.41	-
24. Uttar Pradesh	9.69	7.72	5.75	-
25. West Bengal	5.95	1.99	0.33	-
26. A & N Islands	-	0.02	0.03	-
27. Chandigarh	0.10	-	0.11	-
28. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	0.01	-	-
29. Daman & Diu	0.25	-	3.33	-
30. Delhi	NA	NA	NA	-
31. Pondicherry	-	-	0.09	-
Total		54.71	22.89	38.99

NA = Not Applicable

Statement-IV

Nehru Rozgar Yojana
Achievement for the year 1995-96 to 1997-98
(Scheme of Housing & Shelter Upgradation)
No. of Dwelling Units Upgraded

S.No.	Name of State/UT	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98 (upto 30.11.97)
1	2	3	4	5
1. Andhra Pradesh		3199	78658	5685
2. Arunachal Pradesh		-	-	-
3. Assam		-	-	5801
4. Bihar		9588	-	-
5. Goa		-	-	-
6. Gujarat		-	-	-
7. Haryana		-	-	-
8. Himachal Pradesh		-	637	-
9. Jammu & Kashmir		-	2198	-
10. Karnataka		-	-	-
11. Kerala		-	-	-
12. Madhya Pradesh		-	-	-
13. Maharashtra		-	-	-
14. Manipur		-	-	200
15. Meghalaya		-	203	-
16. Mizoram		888	875	1250
17. Nagaland		-	-	-
18. Orissa		329	363	-
19. Punjab		4133	144	652
20. Rajasthan		-	-	-
21. Sikkim		-	-	-
22. Tamil Nadu		-	-	-
23. Tripura		431	313	1726
24. Uttar Pradesh		1186	8788	-

1	2	3	4	5
25. West Bengal	-	-	-	2900
26. A & N Islands	-	-	-	-
27. Chandigarh	-	-	-	-
28. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	45	-	-	-
29. Daman & Diu	-	-	-	-
30. Delhi	NA	NA	NA	NA
31. Pondicherry	-	-	-	-
Total		22763	92179	18214

Statement-V*Nehru Rozgar Yojana*

	Targets (in lakhs)	Achieve- ment	% age Achieve- ment
(i) No. of beneficiaries assisted to setup Micro Enterprises under SUME	8.47	10.17	120
(ii) No. of mandays of work generated under SUWE	504.61	484.65	96
(iii) No. of dwelling units upgraded under SHASU	7.98	4.75	60

(Note : With the wounding of the Yojana, all the States/UTs were requested to furnish a last and final report on progress under the Yojana upto 30.11.1997. Only 14 States/UTs have furnished the reports. After reports from all the State are received, the achievement are likely to improve further.)

[English]

Demolishing in Jama Masjid Area

3242. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to demolish a number of shops and other structures in Jama Masjid and Meena Bazar areas in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether alternative sites have been proposed to be made available to them;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) DDA has reported that as per the direction of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, the encroachments from the area are to be removed.

(b) There are about 150-200 encroachers on the site including some who squat on the footpath during the day time.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (c) above.

(e) As per DDA there is no policy to allot alternative site to those who have encroached land for commercial purposes.

Shortage of Staff

3243. SHRI S.S. OWAISI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is shortage of ticket checking and catering staff in all divisions of Eastern Railway;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to recruit more staff ?

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 information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Growth and Development of Delhi

3244. SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the growth and development of Delhi during the last 50 years has taken place in accordance with the assumptions and plans of the Government;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and the corrective measures under consideration of the Government;

(c) whether the Government are considering the proposal to do away with the multiple tasks of planning and development of Delhi;

(d) if so, the details of the proposed alternative set up;

(e) whether the Government are considering to undertake land survey in Delhi with the involvement of voluntary organisations to detect encroachment and unauthorised construction on public land; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) The population of Delhi has grown at a pace much higher than what was projected by the planning authorities. Therefore, the infrastructure that was planned has been inadequate. Therefore, there are serious bottlenecks in terms of supply of electricity, water, transport, communications, sewerage and dwelling units.

(c) Government does not propose to do away with the multiple task of planning and development of Delhi. Planning is necessarily a government function. Development can be a partnership process between the Government and the private sector.

(d) In order to meet the target for building two million additional houses as set out in the National Agenda of the Government, it has been decided to involve the private sector in the housing industry in Delhi. Order in this regard issued to all concerned on 19.6.1998 inter alia stipulates that the minimum area required for land assembly will be 30 acres of continuous land, the ownership of the person(s) should be legal, the developer will have to pay 20% of the market value of the gross area into the Shelter Fund and 10% of the houses will be for the EWS and LIG category.

(e) and (f) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Interlocking System

3245. SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether different inter-locking system has been adopted for various railway track;

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

(c) whether it is proposed to replace the outdated Grade-I system;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the year in which railway line from Kota and Beena is likely to be included in the annual plan for this work ?

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) Zone-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) Upgradation of the Standard-I interlocking system is taken up based on traffic requirements.

(d) The sections which are under progress for upgradation from Standard-I interlocking are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(e) A work of upgrading the standard of interlocking at 3 stations (Orr, Pipraigaon and Shadhoragaon of Central Railway) in this section is in progress. There is no proposal to upgrade the standard of interlocking at other stations in this section at present.

Statement-I

Railways	No. of Stations with				Total
	Stand-ard III Inter-locking	Stand-ard II Inter-locking	Stand-ard I Inter-locking	Modi-fied Non-Inter-locking	
Central	551	-	55	60	666
Eastern	479	-	72	33	584
Northern	660	23	331	78	1092
North-Eastern	240	-	134	113	487
Northeast Frontier	220	2	65	9	296
Southern	430	16	193	15	654
South Central	472	-	174	28	674
South Eastern	564	6	73	67	710
Western	475	60	202	95	832
Total	4091	107	1299	498	5995

Statement-II

Work in progress for upgradation of Standard-I Interlocking System

1. Northern Railway

Upgradation of Standard I to Standard-III signalling at 3 stations on Ambala-Chandigarh section. Work has been commissioned at two stations and is in progress at third station.

2. South Central Railway

Change of Standard-I to Standard-III signalling during gauge conversion of the following sections

- a) Tirupati-Pakala-Katpadi section, Guntakal Division

- b) Mudkhed-Adilabad section, Hyderabad Division

Connect Goods Train Station to passenger lines

3246. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to connect all Goods train stations to passenger lines in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time limit fixed for this conversion ?

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 information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Unauthorised Encroached DDA Land

3247. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the area of land belonging to Delhi Development Authority encroached upon;

(b) the total estimated value of the encroached land;

(c) the area of land got released from these encroachments during each of the last two years; and

(d) the steps being taken to get the remaining encroached land released along with the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) about 1790 Acres of DDA land was under encroachment on 31.12.1996.

(b) DDA has reported that in view of the various uses of the encroached land, including green, services, etc. its value has not been assessed.

(c) Year	Land reclaimed
1996-97	About 172 Acres
1997-98	About 137 Acres

(d) DDA takes action under the DD Act to remove the encroachment from its land. However, sometimes due to non-availability of police force, etc. the removal action is delayed. Similarly, the jhuggi-jhonpri clusters on public land are also removed after the eligible squatters are provided alternative sites.

*[English]***Cancellation of Shops/Flats by DDA**

3248. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1443. on June 4, 1998 regarding cancellation of DDA shops/flats and state :

(a) the rationale behind allotment of flats/shops in the absence of basic services and collection of money from these allottees; and

(b) the steps being taken to ensure that interest on the amount so collected is paid to the allottees till the basic services are provided and the possession of the flats/shops is given to them ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) DDA has reported that flats/shops where basic services were not available were allotted in anticipation of the target dates given by Delhi Vidyut Board for completion of electrification work. Moreover, the shops are auctioned/allotted on "as is where is" basis.

(b) In case of shops, there is no provision for allowing interest on the amount deposited by the allottees till basic services are provided. However, in case of flats following decisions have been taken :

- (i) In the hire-purchase allotments the commencement of monthly installments continue to be deferred till the services become available on case to case basis.
- (ii) In case of cash-down allotments, interest on delayed payments of the amount representing 50% of the demanded amount may be waived off till the date of payment or the date when services become available, whichever is earlier.

HUDCO Assistance

3249. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) has any plan to diversify into new areas of financing;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether HUDCO propose to finance private builders; and

(d) if so, the details of the term and conditions laid down therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) HUDCO has prepared to diversify its operation into the following areas :-

1. *Retail Financing in Housing Sector :*

HUDCO has been extending Cash Loans for construction of new houses and repairs and upgradation of old houses through intermediary agencies and cooperative societies. The facility of individual loan is proposed to be extended to the beneficiaries against mortgage of their individual properties.

2. *Consultancy services in Project Management and Turnkey Projects :*

After having the experience of executing projects HUDCO intends to extend its Consultancy Services in the area of project management and use of land as a resource and real estate development through turnkey projects.

3. *Forging joint venture partnership in urban infrastructure through setting up of SPV's/Joint ventures :*

Public private partnerships in urban infrastructures sector will be another area in which HUDCO intends to participate in the DOT projects as co-promoter and financier.

(c) and (d) HUDCO finances private builders, developers and corporate sector agencies for project linked loan assistance for land acquisition and/or land development and construction of housing and commercial projects including corporate offices. Detailed terms and conditions of loan are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Guidelines for Grant of Loans to private builders, Developers and Corporate sector agencies.

1. ELIGIBILITY

1.1 Private Builders, developers, and corporate sector agencies are eligible for project linked loans assistance for land acquisition and or construction of housing and commercial projects including corporate offices for their own.

1.2 Only financially viable and technically sound projects of private builders developers and corporate sector agencies of sound background will be considered.

1.3 The loan application should be made in the prescribed form and should be accompanied by a bank draft drawn in favour of HUDCO towards application fee. The application fee shall be Rs.

20000/- for loan requests upto Rs. 5.00 crores and Rs. 30000 for loan requests above Rs. 5.00 crores and upto Rs. 10.00 crores and Rs. 40,000 for loan above Rs. 10.00 crores for each project. The application fee is not refundable under any circumstances even where HUDCO may decide not to sanction the loan on a preliminary appraisal.

2. EXTENT OF FINANCING

2.1 The extent of HUDCO loan assistance available for land acquisition and/or construction of a housing project and commercial project shall be as follows :

A. LAND ACQUISITION

- (i) For exclusive land acquisition for a housing project – 50% of the cost of acquisition or Rs. 5 crores whichever is less.
- (ii) For exclusive land acquisition for a commercial project – 50% of the cost of acquisition or Rs. 7.50 crores whichever is less..

B. HOUSING PROJECT

- (iii) For construction of a housing project – 50% of the cost of project or Rs. 7.50 crores whichever is less.
- (iv) For composite scheme of land acquisition as well as construction – 50% of the cost of project or 7.50 crores whichever is less.
- (v) HUDCO may consider financing bigger housing project only in consortium with other financial institutions for which the consortium partners to the satisfaction of HUDCO will have to be identified by borrowing agency in that event also HUDCO loan assistance shall not exceed Rs. 15.00 crores.

Note : Normally HUDCO funding will be limited to the extent specified above. Provided, however, HUDCO in its sole discretion may agree to fund bigger project of private builders/corporate sector agencies of repute and sound financial background with larger loan fund only in consortium with other lenders acceptable to HUDCO but in such cases also its funding will be limited to 50% of the project cost or Rs. 2500 crores whichever is less.

C. COMMERCIAL PROJECT

- (vi) For a composite land acquisition and construction of commercial project – 50% of the cost of acquisition and construction or Rs. 15.00 crores whichever is less.

(vii) For construction of a commercial project – 50% of the cost of construction or Rs. 15.00 crores whichever is less.

(viii) Bigger commercial project will be funded by HUDCO only in consortium with other financial institutions to be identified by the borrowing agency to the satisfaction of HUDCO and in that event also HUDCO loan assistance will not exceed to Rs. 30.00 crores.

Note : Normally Hudco funding will be limited to the extent specified above. Provided, however, Hudco in its sole discretion may agree to fund bigger project of private builders/corporate sector agencies of repute and sound financial background with larger loan fund only in consortium with other lenders acceptable to Hudco but in such cases also its funding will be limited to 50% of the project cost or Rs. 40.00 crores whichever is less.

2.2 The project cost will include cost of land, cost of development, building construction with all internal services, a & s charges and capitalised interest on investment. Within the loan ceilings specified above for different schemes, Hudco will have absolute discretion to decide the extent of funding in each project and which shall be decided by Hudco keeping in view the project profile and other parameters laid down by it from time to time.

2.3 The borrowing agency will have to satisfy HUDCO that it is in a position to meet the balance cost of project as also any possible over runs on the project from its own resources.

2.4 In respect of Corporate Sector agencies, HUDCO would finance upto a ceiling of 2 times of the net worth of the Company including the total exposure of the company for other secured loans.

3. SECURITY

3.1 The loan will have to be secured either by a guarantee from a Scheduled Bank acceptable to HUDCO:

OR

By a first mortgage by deposit of title deeds of the project land with a clear and marketable title of the value not less than 200 per cent of the loan amount together with a collateral security specified herein. If the value of project land and the building constructed thereon as certified by a registered valuer on the date of creation of the mortgage is insufficient then the borrowing agency may mortgage any other properties owned by it of required value or make a cash deposit equivalent to 1/2 of the amount of deficiency in the value

of the project properties mortgaged. HUDCO may accept mortgage of the project land held on a Power of Attorney provided there exists Development Agreement between the borrowing agency and the land owner and land owner together with the borrowing agency jointly mortgages it to HUDCO. Third party mortgage will not be accepted as a security for the loan.

3.2 HUDCO will have the title to the project land investigated through an advocate or Solicitor of repute appointed by it. The cost of title investigation, preparation of legal documentation, stamp duty, registration charges, etc. will have to be borne by the private builder.

3.3 As a collateral security, personal guarantee of the promoters of the borrowing agency may be accepted where they have sound financial background satisfactory of HUDCO. For judging the financial soundness of the promoters they will be required to furnish (a) copies of their Income Tax and Wealth Tax returns for the immediate past three years, (b) list of unencumbered immovable properties owned by them with their approximate market value, (c) list of the guarantees furnished by them jointly and severally in the past, (d) details of the guarantee invoked, (e) whether invoked guarantees were honoured by time and (f) unable to accept the personal guarantee, any other collateral offered by the borrowing agency may be considered. This collateral security will not be insisted upon where the HUDCO loan is guaranteed by a Scheduled Bank.

3.4 In addition to the aforesaid security stated in 3.1 and 3.3 above, the borrowing agency will open an Escrow Account. The operation of the Escrow Account with a bank will be governed as follows :

- (i) The borrowing agency should open a bank account for each project with a bank acceptable to HUDCO.
- (ii) The borrowing agency shall ensure that all receipts pertaining to HUDCO loan and the sale proceeds shall be deposited in Escrow Account and all payments shall be made from such account.
- (iii) HUDCO shall have lien on the deposited amount towards repayments of its loan and interest as per the loan agreement. Any shortfall in this account shall be made good by the borrowing agency from its own resources.
- (iv) The bank shall be required to furnish a detailed monthly statement of the Escrow

Account incorporating therein complete details of receipts and payments made during the month.

(v) HUDCO will advise the bank the amount that is payable from time to time in advance towards the principal and interest due from the borrowing agency and the bank shall earmark such amount from the balance and provide a lien on the account to HUDCO to the extent of principal and interest due for the quarter until the loan and other dues are fully repaid.

(vi) The Escrow Account, its operations alongwith repayments of HUDCO dues will be monitored by HUDCO Regional Chief.

Before drawing the first loan instalment the borrowing agency will submit a letter from the bank in which the Escrow Account is opened agreeing to the aforesaid procedure and to mark HUDCO lien on the amount in the Escrow Account upto the extent of the amount needed to service HUDCO loan in each quarter.

3.5 Where the HUDCO loan is sought for land acquisition and the borrowing agency is not in a position to mortgage the project land in that event the borrowing agency will have to satisfy Hudco that they have entered into an Agreement to sell with the land owner or there is a firm allotment from a governmental agency, evidencing that on payment of land cost the land owner/governmental agency shall be in a position to transfer the title in the land being acquired. In such case, for the interregnum period, the borrowing agency may secure HUDCO loan by offering first mortgage of any properties owned by it or the bank guarantee from a Bank to be replaced with mortgage of the project land within a period of six months. Rest of the conditions concerning the collateral security as well as the opening of Escrow accounts as brought out in the previous paragraphs will also apply in such cases.

3.6 Where HUDCO loan is sought only for land acquisition, the borrowing agency will have to satisfy that it will develop it either from its own resources or through third party. In the case of former, the agency will have to satisfy HUDCO that it has mobilised required resources to implement the project on the land acquired and in the later case the borrowing agency will furnish to HUDCO a definite written commitment/ agreement entered into with the third party evidencing the agreement to develop the acquired land in a time bound manner to ensure timely repayment of Hudco loan.

4. INTEREST AND FRONT-END FEES.

4.1 The rate of interest applicable on loans to private builders/corporate sector agencies for Housing and Commercial Development will be as may be prescribed by HUDCO from time to time. Presently, the prevailing grow rate of interest for such loans is 19-½% per annum. ½% rebate shall be available for prompt repayment of principal and payment of interest. Further this shall be governed by 4.1.1 to 4.1.3. If Corporate Sector intends to take up their own Corporate Offices, for their self use, the rate of interest shall be 18.5% (gross) and 18.0% (net).

4.1.1. However, if the borrowing agency takes up EWS/LIG housing, and the agency follows HUDCO's norms for cost ceiling/price ceiling and other area limits as applicable for HUDCO financed EWS/LIG schemes from public sector agencies, and the disposal of these EWS/LIT DUs is also through a public housing agency, HUDCO's loan assistance shall be made available at concessional terms as applicable to public housing agencies as per details given below :

Category	Cost Ceiling	Loan Ceiling	Extend of finance	Interest rate gross	Repayment period net (years)
EWS	35000	25000	90	9.5%	10
LIG	10000*	70000	85	13.5%	10

* Price ceiling

** 25% increase in cost/price ceiling and loan ceiling is permitted for Island areas, hilly terrains, difficult areas and North Eastern Region.

4.1.2. If the private sector does take up EWS/LIG housing as per HUDCO norms and does the disposal directly, loan will be extended at 15.5% (gross) or 15% (net) with 10 years repayment period.

4.1.3. Similarly if the borrowing agency takes up MIG/HIG housing and the cost per DU does not exceed Rs. 10.00 lakh each, HUDCO's loan assistance shall be made available at the following concessional terms.

Category	Cost Ceiling	Loan Ceiling	Interest rate gross %	net %
MIG	1000000	300000	17	16.5
HIG	1000000	500000	17.5	17

Note : If the cost of individual MIG/HIG units is more than Rs. 10 lacs rate of interest as in 4.1 shall apply.

4.2 In addition to the applicable interest, the interest tax (as per prevailing Govt. rules) shall also be paid by the borrowing agency. Additional interest of 2½% shall be payable in the event of default over and above the applicable rate of interest. HUDCO also will have the power to vary the

interest rates upward on downward at any stage before each disbursement of the loan.

4.3 The borrowing agency shall have to pay the front-end-fee of 1.25% of the sanctioned loan amount immediately on receipt of the letter of sanction through demand draft payable to HUDCO. This will not be recovered from the loan amount provided. However, where the borrowing agency opts for availing loan on concessional terms in such cases the front-end-fee shall be payable on the total loan amount as per the following scale but will have to be paid through demand draft immediately on receipt of the letter of sanction and will not be recovered from the loan amount.

Category	Front end fee
EWS	0.50% of loan amount
LIG	1.00% of loan amount

If the private sector/corporate sector introduces cost effective/sustaining innovative technologies in the housing/commercial projects, a rebate of 0.25% will be given in front-end-fee.

5. REPAYMENT PERIOD

5.1 The maximum loan repayment period for loans to private builders/corporate sector agencies will be as may be prescribed by HUDCO from time to time. However for the present in case of loan for land acquisition schemes, the maximum repayment period shall be three years inclusive of one year moratorium period. The loan repayment period for loan for construction of housing and commercial projects will be the maximum period of five years inclusive of the moratorium period during the construction period not exceeding 18 months. However in case of EWS/LIH housing done by private sector the repayment period shall be of 10 years. However, the maximum repayment period agreed to by HUDCO and incorporated in the loan agreement shall remain unchanged.

6. MISCELLANEOUS

6.1 The layout plan and building designs approved by the concerned local body/planning authority should be submitted along with the application and if the required approvals are not available at the application stage, these must be submitted prior to the release of the first instalment. Documents evidencing the prescribed land use of the project land also need to be furnished.

6.2 The borrowing agency shall submit the detailed expenditure on the project duly certified by the Chartered Accountant while requesting the release.

6.3 The borrowing agency shall furnish with the loan application copies of documents relating to project land, its audited accounts for the immediate past three years, proof of its financial soundness including income tax clearance certificate for HUDCO satisfaction and name of its bankers.

6.4 Preference will be given to projects for housing with smaller size plot/dwelling units preferably in small and medium towns.

6.5 To ensure that the dwellings constructed do not lie vacant, HUDCO finances only schemes for which there is a ready demand.

7. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

7.1 The loan application should include details regarding an appropriate system on methodology that will be used for the purpose of maintaining the complex including services either on cooperative basis or through the local authority.

7.2 Loan application can be had from any of the HUDCO's Zonal/Regional Offices.

Unauthorised stalls at level crossings

3250. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that unauthorised stalls are constructed on the level-crossing of local stations under North-East Frontier Railway;

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

(c) whether these structures are obstructing the vicinity and thus causing accidents; and

(d) if so, steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to get such stalls removed expeditiously?

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) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

C.S.C. Madipur-Paschim Puri Scheme

3251. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of shops constructed by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) in Paschim-Puri (Janta

Flats) under the Community Shopping complex (C.S.C.) Madipur-Paschim Puri Scheme and other schemes are lying vacant;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which these shops are likely to be allotted to the applicants ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) DDA has reported that some shops in Janta Flats under C.S.C. Madipur, Paschim Puri and other Schemes are lying vacant.

(b) Till date DDA has not been able to dispose of these shops despite a number of attempts made to auction them because of :

(i) Poor response from the public; and

(ii) Misuse of residential property by the allottees of the Janta Flats for commercial purpose.

(c) In view of reply to (b) above, no time frame can be given in this regard.

[English]

Development of Rourkela Airstrip

3252. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for the development of Rourkela air strips and to start air service;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The airstrip at Rourkela belongs to Steel Authority of India Limited, a Public Sector Enterprise.

Pending Dispute cases of Air India

3253. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the dispute cases of Air India which are pending before the Assistant Labour Commissioner at Mumbai and Delhi; and

(b) the steps taken by Air India to get them resolved ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) A total of 18 cases of Industrial Dis-

putes between Air India and its employees pertaining mainly to service conditions are pending in conciliation before the Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC), Mumbai and Delhi. However, wherever feasible, the management of Air India takes action to resolve the disputes.

Chasnala Burnpur Ropeway

3254. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to states :

(a) the amount spent in working Chasnala Burnpur Ropeway with justification thereof ;

(b) whether the ropeway has been stripped and there is a plan to dismantle it; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (c) The operation of Chasnala Burnpur Ropeway was stopped as it had become highly unsafe and economically unviable. For renovation of the plant and machinery, an expenditure of Rs. 34 crores was estimated. Even after the aforesaid investment, the transportation cost was estimated to be higher than the transportation cost by Railways.

IISCO, being a sick company, is facing severe crisis of funds. Therefore, the viable option was to switch over to Railways for Transportation of coal. Part of assets of Ropeway are being utilised in IISCO and the balance will be disposed of by auction.

Late Running of Shatabadi Express

3255. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Shatabadi Express, running between Delhi and Chandigarh has started reaching late at its destinations, during last few months;

(b) if so, how many days since January, 1998 Shatabadi Express reached late in Chandigarh and Delhi and by how much time;

(c) the reasons for the same; and

(d) the steps are being taken to ensure that it reaches its destinations in time ?

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. The punctuality performance of 2011/2012 New

Delhi-Chandigarh Shatabadi Express during the last few months except January 1988 has been by and large satisfactory.

(b) During January 1998, the train ran 31 days and lost its punctuality on 11 days.

(c) The reasons for late running of this train were due to Rail fracture, alarm chain pulling, bad weather, agitations etc.

(d) All efforts including intensive chasing and daily monitoring at different levels are being undertaken regularly. In addition, punctuality drives both at Inspectorial and Officers' levels are also being launched.

Development of Domestic Air Transport Sector

3256. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether some private sector Airlines both foreign as well as Indian propose to develop the domestic air transport sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) In accordance with the existing policy guidelines, while private sector airlines registered in India are permitted to participate in the development of domestic air transport sector, foreign airlines are, however, not permitted to participate, directly or indirectly, in the equity holding of domestic air transport sector.

[Translation]

Air Service from Bhopal

3257. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no air service from Bhopal to Nagpur, Ahmedabad, Bhuvaneshwar and Lucknow; and

(b) if so, steps being taken to link the above places with Bhopal ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Due to capacity constraints, Indian Airlines has, at present, no plan to operate services from Bhopal to Nagpur, Ahmedabad, Bhuvaneshwar and Lucknow. Private operators are, however, being encouraged to add new stations including these stations in their network, subject to viability and compliance of route dispersal guidelines.

*[English]***Disposable Cups Replaced by Smaller Cups**

3258. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether disposable cups of standard size of 150 ml each procured by the South Central Railways were surreptitiously replaced by smaller cups;
- (b) if so the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the extent of loss suffered by the Railways on account of this scandal; and
- (d) the action taken against the culprits in this matter?

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) No, Sir. Instances of some vendors selling coffee/tea in sub-standard cups at stations and on trains have come to notice. Such vendors were fined and the sub-standard cups were seized and destroyed. Frequent checks are being conducted to prevent use of sub-standard cups by the vendors. Extent of loss cannot be estimated.

*[Translation]***Financial Assistance to Voluntary Organisations**

3259. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) the financial assistance provided to voluntary organisations in Maharashtra, through Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology during the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 location-wise;
- (b) the details of the complaints received so far against these organisations; and
- (c) 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) The details of the financial assistance provided to voluntary organisations in Maharashtra, through Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) during the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 is given in a Statements.

(b) and (c) It has been reported by CAPART that they have not received any complaint during the reporting period.

Statement*Details of the Financial Assistance Sanctioned by CAPART to the Voluntary Organisations of Maharashtra during 1996-97 and 1997-98*

S.No.	Name of the voluntary organisations and address	Location/ District	Amount Sanctioned (in Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1996-97			
1.	Centre for Science for villages, Magan Sanghrahalya, Kummaraappa Road	Wardha	22,03,250.00
2.	Rajeev Grameen Vikas Mandal, Umardhari, Mukhed	Nanded	25,000.00
3.	Yuva Vikash Pratishthan, Vikas Vardhani, B-9, Gurukul	Ahmednagar	2,00,000.00
4.	Institute for Rural Development and Social Service, Chadhna Mayadevi Nagar	Jalgaon	2,00,000.00
5.	National Institute for Rural Integrated Development Morina Apartment Compound, Juhu	Bombay	2,00,000.00
6.	Sandhi Niketan Shikshan Sansthan Bhadgaon Mukhed	Nanded	2,00,000.00
7.	Jeevan Sansthan 6-Shree Apartment, 917/16, Ganeshwadi	Pune	2,00,000.00
8.	AFAIM, Rayaseni Park	Pune	65,88,910.00
9.	Satpuda Vikas Mandal	Jalgaon	8,19,800.00
10.	Indian Institute of Education (IIS) J.P. Naik Path	Pune	21,59,555.00
11.	Vigyan Ashram, Pabal	Pune	12,50,000.00
12.	Kalbhairav Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Sirur	Pune	20,000.00
13.	Appropriate Rural Technology Institute, 6, Koyna Apartment, Kothurd	Pune	4,17,000.00

1	2	3	4
14.	Centrre for Science for Villages	Wardha	4,17,000.00
15.	Prabhat Shikshan Prasarak Mandal Gobardhangarh Road, Vagirabad	Nanded	6,21,810.00
16.	Vikas Pratisthan	Satara	1,76,400.00
17.	Development through Resource Organisation	Pune	1,28,075.00
18.	Socio-Economic Development Trust	Parbhani	1,13,600.00
19.	Varun Shiksha Sanstha	Nagpur	4,14,600.00
20.	Kantookar Education Society	Nanded	1,20,175.00
21.	Suvide Foundation	Akola	48,070.00
22.	Ajay Shaikshanik Sanstha	Latur	2,40,350.00
23.	REMI Voluntary Organisation for Holistic Development	Amravati	2,49,350.00
24.	Nanded Zila Khadi Gramodyog Vikas Mandal	Nanded	1,09,169.00
25.	Society for Education in values and Action	Aurangabad	1,11,826.00
26.	Jan Seva	Aurangabad	1,20,174.00
27.	Bahuddeshiya Samaj Kalyan Mandal	Nagpur	1,20,174.00
28.	Tirup Gram Vikas Sanstha	Amravati	1,20,174.00
29.	Social Centre	Ahmednagar	1,35,780.00
30.	Vidarbha Handicrats Artisans Welfare Association	Nagpur	1,33,500.00
31.	Yuva Vikas Pratisthan	Ahmednagar	1,21,250.00
32.	Indira Yuva Mandal	Aurangabad	53,100.00
33.	Manav Vikas Mandal	Osmanabad	27,500.00
34.	Gramin Vkas Bahuddeshiya	Nanded	27,500.00
35.	Sagarputra Shikshan Prasarak Mandal	Nanded	27,500.00
36.	Magasvargiya Priyadarshini Vikas Mandal	Shivajinagar	27,500.00
37.	Sri Mandveshwar Gram Vikas Sanstha	Ahmednagar	27,500.00
38.	Gramin Vikas Mandal	Latur	27,500.00
39.	Sri Kamaleshwar Dhyan Prasarak Bhagini Mandal	Latur	27,500.00
40.	Late Ulhas Memorial Trust	Nanded	27,500.00
41.	Rajmata Jijausaheb Vikas Pratisthan	Latur	27,500.00
42.	Women's Welfare Society	Beed	27,500.00
43.	Maharashtra Gramin Vikas Sanstha	Latur	27,500.00
44.	Vidhyak Kendra	Latur	27,500.00
45.	Sri Vithal Shikshan Prasarak Mandal	Latur	27,500.00
46.	Sambodhi Shikshan Prasarak Mandal	Parbhani	27,500.00
47.	Abhiruchi Sahitya Kala & Shaikshanik Sanstha	Bhadrawati	27,500.00
48.	Lok Vikas Mandal	Nanded	27,500.00
49.	Sri Jai Kisan Shaikshan Prasarak Mandal	Nanded	27,500.00
50.	Tukai Krishi Avam Vanvikas Sanstha	Ahmednagar	27,500.00
51.	Sharda Mahila Mandal	Goregaon	27,500.00
52.	Indrayani Yuvak Krida Shikshan Sanstha	Amravati	27,500.00
53.	Shri Yogesh Shikshan Prasarak Mandal	Nagpur	27,500.00
54.	Sammitra Yuvak Mandal	Ahmedpur	27,500.00
55.	Mahatma Phule Shikshan Sanstha	Nanded	4,77,410.00

1	2	3	4
56.	Prabhat Shikshan Prasarak Mandal	Nanded	3,97,687.00
57.	Bhagirath Shikshan Sanstha	Nanded	4,45,410.00
58.	Public Progressive Development Circle	Nanded	4,45,400.00
59.	Jeevan Sanstha	Pune	95,445.00
60.	Kunturkar Education Society	Nanded	3,97,687.00
61.	M/s Shyam Bengal Shyadri Films Dadar	Bombay	85,80,000.00
62.	M/s Shakil Productions, Ashraf Studios, Mahim	Bombay	1,30,000.00
1997-98			
63.	Jan Seva Sanstha	Aurangabad	50,000.00
64.	Prerna Prathisthan	Satara	58,12,852.00
65.	Vanarai People Movement for Green India	Pune	10,10,975.00
66.	Dharmitra, Bank of India Colony	Wardha	14,73,500.00
67.	Indian Institute of Education	Pune	7,50,750.00
68.	Munivar Abad-Charitable Trust	Mumbai	2,42,886.00
69.	Probhat Shiksha Prasarak Mandal	Nanded	4,02,130.00
70.	Kunturkar Education Society	Nanded	2,40,350.00
71.	Priyadarshini Mahila & Bal Kalyan Pratisthan	Pune	1,16,000.00
72.	Yuva Vikas Pratisthan	Ahmednagar	2,21,374.00
73.	Shri Sidheshwar Gyan Prasarak Shikshan Mandal	Latur	27,500.00
74.	Sarvangeen Manav Vikas Sansthan	Latur	1,95,000.00
75.	Society for Education in Values and Action	Aurangabad	28,000.00
76.	Kunturkar Education Society	Nanded	2,77,200.00

[English]

Transportation of Betel Leaves

3260. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the difficulties being faced by betel leave growers for transportation of betel leaves from Macheda and Panskura Railway Stations to different parts of the country due to irregular attachment of SLRs with various trains in South Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide VPU's and VP rakes ?

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 Railway is aware of the difficulties of betel leave growers.

(b) South Eastern Railway has taken sufficient steps in consultation with the betel leaves merchants and VPs/SLRs have been earmarked for Panskura and Mecheda stations on programmed basis which is monitored regularly. However, problem does arise sometimes due to shortage of VPs.

Fixation of Labour Material Ratio

3261. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government fixed labour and material ratio of 60 : 40 in execution of works under various Rural Employment Schemes, like JRY, EAS etc.;

(b) whether labour and material ratio is not practical because of increased material cost in construction of permanent structures and to maintain the accounts correctly;

(c) whether the Government has been requested to amend the ratio of labour and material 60 : 40 by various States ; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be 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) Jawahar Razgar Yojana (JRY) and employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) are wage employment programmes. The main objective of these programmes is to provide wage employment to the rural poor by taking up labour intensive works. To meet this objective, 60% of the funds are spent on payment of wage under these programmes.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The request of various States to amend the wage material ratio is being examined in the Ministry.

Contribution of Airport in Kolar

3262. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large area of land under his Ministry is lying vacant near Kolar;

(b) if so, whether there was a proposal to construct an airport on this land; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Union Government in this regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) An area of approximately 389 acres of defence land near Kolar is being used by Air Force for their operational requirements.

(b) and (c) At present, there is no proposal pending in the Ministry of Defence for construction of an Airport on this particular land.

[Translation]

Quality of Items Served by Railways

3263. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints regarding inferior quality of mineral water, food, tea and other items served at the Kanpur Central Station and in the Shatabadi Express;

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

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) 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

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Chief Catering Inspector-in-Charge of the Kanpur Departmental Catering Unit has been replaced. Catering services at Kanpur and in Shatabadi Express are being closely monitored. Regular and random sampling of water is done to ensure quality control.

[English]

Counter Magnet City Scheme

3264. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have approved any scheme for development of cities under the Counter Magnet City scheme in the country;

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

(c) the allocation made during 1997-98, city-wise?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) There is no scheme for development of cities under the Counter Magnet City Scheme in the country. However, there is a programme within the National Capital Region Plan to develop towns outside the National Capital Region to act as counter-magnets.

(b) The following five counter magnet areas have been selected by the NCR planning Board for development:

- (i) Bareilly (U.P.)
- (ii) Kota (Rajasthan)
- (iii) Patiala (Punjab)
- (iv) Hissar (Haryana)
- (v) Gwalior (M.P.)

(c) During 1997-98 an amount of Rs. 13.00 crore was allocated for development of Bareilly Counter Magnet Town.

[Translation]

Reservation for War Soldiers of Emergency Period

3265. SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any reservation have been made in civil and public services for the army jawans and officers recruited during the emergency period of war with China and Pakistan during 1962 and 1965 respectively;

(b) if so, whether this facility has also been extended to those jawans and officers who took part in the 1971 Bangladesh war; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which remedial action is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) In the wake of Indo-China war in 1962 and proclamation of National Emergency, the special recruitment of officers was made to meet the shortages. These officers were recruited for short durations and were known as "Emergency Commissioned Officers". To rehabilitate such officers recruited between 1.11.1962 to 10.1.1968, reservations were provided in Group 'A' and 'B' services because these officers had joined Armed forces responding to the call of the Nation and had deliberately shunned the opportunities which were available to them in civil life. This facility is not available to the officers who were recruited after 1968, as they had pursued Army service as their career. There was no special recruitment in the context of 1971 Bangladesh war.

There was no special resettlement scheme for the jawans recruited during 1962, 1965 and 1971 (Bangladesh war), as their recruitment was made on normal terms of engagement.

[English]

Recruitment from Eastern and N.E. States

3266. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to improve the rate of recruitment at different levels in the Army, Air Force and Navy from the Eastern and N.E. States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b)

ARMY

It has been decided to launch a special drive to improve the rate of recruitment from North Eastern States. The concerned Recruiting Office has been directed to take the following measures :

- (i) Ensure adequate publicity regarding the special drive in NE States.
- (ii) Work out a comprehensive recruiting schedule for NE States.
- (iii) Ensure adequate coverage of all NE States while organising recruitment rallies.
- (iv) Additional vacancies have been allotted to NE States during the current recruitment year.

AIR FORCE

Recruitment in the Air Force is on the basis of an All

India Merit List, without allotting any quota to any State. To encourage recruitment from remote place/low response areas, recruitment rallies are conducted from time to time.

NAVY

Navy has no proposal to increase the rate of recruitment from the Eastern and NE States.

Airport at Darjeeling

3267. KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a small airport at Darjeeling, the Queen of Hills; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the State Government can initiate a proposal in accordance with the Policy on Airport Infrastructure framed in December, 1997.

Catering and Tourism Corporation

3268. SHRI A.C. JOS :
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to create a new Catering and Tourism Corporation for railway Commuters, who have been demanding better facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said corporation is likely to be established ?

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) The note for Cabinet seeking approval for establishing the Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation is being finalised in consultation with other Ministries. The Corporation will be established after approval of the Cabinet is obtained.

Norms for Purchases of Articles by CPWD

3269. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the procedure/norms adopted for purchase of materials/items/articles by CPWD ;

(b) whether cases of violation of procedure/norms have come to the notice of the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the steps the Government propose to take to bring transparency in the purchase system ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) to (c) CPWD makes purchases of materials, items, articles, etc., either on call of tenders on competitive basis or through DGS and D rate contracts. These rates are generally not above the open market rates. There are however certain purchases of items of day-to-day use in the offices which are made from Super Bazar or Kendriya Bhandar as per the directions of the Government, purchase cost of which is at times higher than the open market costs. No Government enquiry has been conducted in the matter as the purchase are made as per Codal Rules, Manuals and Government Guidelines.

(d) The procedure followed being fully transparent, no further steps are considered necessary in this regard.

[Translation]

HUDCO Loan

3270. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the agencies which are given loans by HUDCO to distribute the same to the applicants for construction of houses;

(b) the procedure being adopted for grant of loan by these Agencies to the applicants; and

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

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) The agencies eligible for HUDCO's financial assistance are State Housing Boards, Slum Clearance Boards, Development Authorities, Municipal Corporations, Municipalities and various corporate/cooperatives and community Based Organisations (CBOs), Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and public as well as private sector for implementation of both rural and urban housing and urban development schemes. In case of staff housing schemes, both public and private sector are eligible.

(b) HUDCO provides loans for construction/implementation of projects and not as refinance for distribution among beneficiaries. HUDCO's borrowing agencies, which are primarily State Housing/Water/Sewerage Boards/Authorities, Municipal Council/Corporations obtain HUDCO's finance to implement the project and for allotment to ben-

eficiaries after development of land/plot or construction of houses.

The procedure adopted by the State level agencies to disburse loans or take up construction of homes or plot development varies from State to State and is formulated by the State Governments.

(c) HUDCO disburses loan to the borrowing agencies based on the progress and pace of implementation of project. The progress is monitored by periodical visit of the project sites, as also through the reports submitted by the borrowing agencies. HUDCO disburses loans as soon as the procedure is completed by the borrowing agencies.

Wasteland Reclamation Scheme

3271. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the most of the farmers of the country are deprived of the benefits of waste land reclamation scheme,

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

(c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make the scheme effective ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. In the Department of Wastelands Development, there is no wasteland reclamation scheme. However, the Department of Wasteland Development is implementing an Integrated Wastelands Development Projects (IWDP) Scheme for development of non-forest wastelands on watershed basis. Seventy-two projects have been sanctioned under IWDP Scheme during the last three years. Under this scheme, field activities are decided by the user groups, self-help groups at grass root level and most of the farmers living in that watershed area are being benefited.

(c) For successful implementation of programme requires a high level participation of the community. Watershed Association, Watershed Committee, User Groups, Self-help Groups have been constituted. Programmes are being monitored and inspected at the State and Central level.

[English]

Desalination Schemes

3272. SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned and actually released to Tamil Nadu Government for desalination schemes for drinking water during each of the last three years and till date;

(b) the number of completed desalination schemes which are functioning and the number out of them are not functioning;

(c) whether 53 crores estimated Mookaiyoor desalination plant scheme has been completed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) The Government of India had sanctioned a desalination plant of 1 million litre per day capacity for Narippaiyur in Ramnathapuram District at a cost of Rs. 10.75 crore on 75 : 25 funding pattern between centre and state. Against this project an amount of Rs. 5,3750 crore was released in 1995-96 and Rs. 1.6875 crore in 1997-98.

(b) The Government of India has sanctioned a scheme for installation of 21 desalination plants to Tamil Nadu. Out of this, 20 plants were installed and commissioned and remaining one plant is yet to be installed. In addition, 6 desalination plants were installed by the State Government and reported to be functioning.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, it has been reported that the State Government decided to enhance the capacity of the desalination plant at Narippaiyur of Ramnathapuram district of Tamil Nadu from 1 million litres per day to 17.1 million litres (appx) per day, the installation works are reported to be progressing well and it is expected to be commissioned by September, 1998.

Development of Road in Tribal Areas

3273. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether 100 percent grants-in-aid is given to the States directly for development of roads in tribal areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise particularly to the State of Karnataka since the introduction of the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government of India has no scheme to provide 100% grant-in-aid to the States directly for development of roads in tribal areas.

[Translation]

Condition of Bogies in Chhattisgarh Express

3274. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has received any letter/memorandum from MPs. in May, 1998 regarding mis-management and poor condition of bogies in Chhattisgarh Express which runs

between Delhi-Bhopal-Nagpur-Rajnandgaon-Durg-Raipur-Bilaspur;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any plan is under consideration to change the filth and squatting pits full of odour from the train; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard and the time by which these bogies are likely to be changed ?

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 complaint was in regard to poor air-conditioning, bad upkeep and lack of cleanliness in Chhattisgarh Express by Shri Motilal Vora, MP, vide letter number nil dated 01.05.1998.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Railways constantly endeavour to provide cleaner and more hygienic travel atmosphere to the passengers. Some of the measures taken to ensure proper upkeep and cleanliness in trains, especially the Chhattisgarh Express are enumerated below :

(i) Thorough cleaning of coaches and treatment of toilets with disinfectants and deodorants during rake maintenance at Bilaspur.

(ii) Use of mobile jet cleaning plants at nominated stations for providing enroute cleaning services.

(iii) Close monitoring of the condition of coaches through officer level inspections and special drives like "Own Your Rake Scheme" etc.

Regarding changing the coaches of this train, it is mentioned that no overaged or overdue periodic overhaul coaches are running on this train and all coaches used are well within their useful economic life.

Survey for Dohrighat-Balrampur Railway line

3275. SHRI INDRAJEET MISHRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether survey for the construction of rail line between Dohrighat and Balrampur was conducted but the follow-up action still awaits thereon ;

(b) if so, the reasons for non-inclusion of above work in the current Railway Budget; and

(c) the time by which the construction work 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) Surveys were taken up separately from Dohrighat to Sahjanwa in 1977 and 1989 and from Khalilabad to Balrampur in 1979 and they revealed that the lines had poor traffic potential. In view of the grossly unremunerative nature of these lines and constraint of resources, these projects were not sanctioned.

Replacement of Railway Lines

3276. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV
(JAHANABAD) :
SHRI R.S. GAVAI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) length of railway tracks at the time of Independence;
- (b) length of railway tracks added thereafter;
- (c) the length of old railway tracks replaced, State-wise; and
- (d) length of railway tracks yet to be replaced, State-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) The data of railway track (route kilometres) is maintained as on 31st March of each year. As such, the route kilometres of Indian Railways as on 31st March, 1948 was 54,693 Kms.

(b) the route kilometres as on 31.3.1997 (latest available) is 62,725 kms. which shows a net addition of 8,032 route kilometres since 31.3.1948.

(c) and (d) The figures of length of old track replaced since Independence is not available. However, during the last ten years, 31,652 Kms. of total track has been renewed. As on 1.4.1997 (latest available) 10,957 Kms. of track was due renewal. The information about track renewal as well as overdue renewals is not compiled State-wise, but Railway-wise.

[English]

Construction of New Railway line between Ghargram and Purulia

3277. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a survey has been conducted with

regard to construction of a new rail line between Ghargram and Purulia in West Bengal; 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) The Reconnaissance Engg.cum-Traffic Survey for New Line from Jhargram to Purulia (130 kms) has been taken up. The details will be available only after completion of the Survey.

[Translation]

Survey for Satna-Vyohari Railway line

3278. SHRI CHANDRAMANI TIRPATHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether survey had been conducted for a rail line between Satna-Vyohari in order to link Rewa (Madhya Pradesh) ;

(b) if so, whether any budget provision had been made during 1996-97, 1997-98 to complete the above rail line;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the work on this section is likely to be completed;

(d) whether the Government propose to start an additional new rail service to connect Rewa with New Delhi directly; and

(e) if so, the time by which the said new rail service 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) to (c) Yes, Sir. A survey for Satna-Beohari via Rewa new line was conducted in 1990-91. However, the Planning Commission had cleared Satna-Rewa new line project only, which was completed and commissioned to traffic in 1993.

Besides, a new BG line from Lalitpur-Satna, Rewa-Sidhi-Singrauli and Mahoba-Khajuraho whose alignment covers Satna-Rewa, has been included in the Budget, 1997-98. Work will be taken up after the necessary clearances have been obtained. Budget outlays of Rs. 0.01 crore and Rs. 1 crore have been provided for the work during 1997-98 and 1998-99 respectively.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

*[English]***Production of Steel**3279. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :
SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA :

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

(a) the quantum of iron, steel and iron alloys produced by the Public Sector Undertakings/Private Sector during each of the last three years, plant-wise, separately;

(b) the name of the countries to which iron, steel and iron alloys have been exported alongwith the quantity, and rates of each metal and foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(c) the details of items imported during the above period alongwith the rates and quantities thereof, country-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) The quantity of pig iron, steel and alloy/stainless steel produced by the public sector/private sector steel plants during the last 3 years was as under :

(Quantity in thousand tonnes)

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98 (Provisional)
Pig Iron			
SAIL	622	681	784
IISCO	420	352	402
RINL	771	700	521
Secondary Producers	1060	1570	1689
Finished Steel (Carbon)			
SAIL	7146	6796	6670
IISCO	268	280	259
RINL	1340	1452	1615
TISCO	1833	2008	1904
Secondary Producers	10816	12184	12642
Alloy/Stainless Steel			
SAIL	235	264	248
Secondary Producers	1186	1610	1615

(b) The quantity and value of iron and steel exports country-wise during 1997-98 were as under :

(Qty. in thousand tonnes, value in Rupees crores)

Country	1997-98 (Provisional)			
	Pig Iron		Steel	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Australia	35.8	23.39	20.7	22.56
Bangladesh	-	-	15.1	19.95
Belgium	-	-	-	-
Canada	-	-	14.6	19.83
China (incl. Hongkong)	-	-	22.9	31.85
Indonesia	117.8	53.27	169.4	15.66
Italy	176.8	93.26	59.6	149.53
Japan	150.5	78.61	80.3	84.79
Korea	50.8	25.16	48.9	44.80
Malaysia	46.8	25.18	69.6	66.18
Mexico	55.7	27.92	12.2	12.94
Myanmar	-	-	40.7	42.06
Nepal	-	-	136.4	135.43
New Zealand	-	-	6.2	6.86
Phillipines	-	-	36.9	33.68
Saudi Arabia	-	-	54.1	59.89
Singapore	-	-	16.9	18.35
Spain	-	-	43.3	47.85
Sri Lanka	-	-	77.8	80.13
Taiwan	27.5	13.63	183.1	163.23
Thailand	37.1	18.85	82.0	70.18
Turkey	-	-	25.0	26.03
UAE	-	-	31.2	39.68
U.K.	-	-	59.8	78.06
USA	85.1	45.45	181.8	215.86
Venezuela	-	-	10.8	12.45
Others/M.East	-	-	224.1	323.47

(c) The quantity and value of iron and steel items imported during the last 3 years country-wise and item-wise is given in the following statements.

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| (i) Quantity of import country-wise and item-wise during 1995-96 | Statement-I |
| (ii) Value of import country-wise and item-wise during 1996-96 | Statement-II |
| (iii) Quantity of import country-wise and item-wise during 1996-97 | Statement-III |
| (iv) Value of import country-wise and item-wise during 1996-97 | Statement-IV |
| (v) Quantity of import country-wise and item-wise during April-Dec. 1997 | Statement-V |
| (vi) Value of import country-wise and item-wise during April-Dec. 1997 | Statement-VI |

Statement-I
Countrywise Import of Iron & Steel through major Indian ports during 1995-96

('000 Tonnes)

Country	CARBON STEEL (including seconds/defective)																							
	Semis	Bar & Rods	Struct. Matrix	R/y	Plates	HR Sht.	HR Strips	CR Coils/ Sheets	GP/CC Sheets	Elect. Sheets	TMBP Plates	Tn VVVV	Tn Plate	Tn Free Steel	Total Alloy/ Stainless	Pipes & Fittings	Scrap	Melting	Pig Iron	Sponge Iron	Ferro Alloys	Misc. Items	Grand Total	
Argentina	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.1	3.9	-	-	0.3	1.8	-	7.1	-	10.7	-	-	-	-	0.3	-	18.1
Australia	22.6	-	-	-	0.8	-	48.0	1.7	0.2	0.4	-	0.3	3.2	-	77.2	0.8	0.5	13.0	-	-	-	-	0.3	91.8
Austria	-	0.1	-	-	0.1	-	-	0.4	0.1	0.2	-	-	-	-	0.9	0.5	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	2.1
Belgium	-	0.1	-	-	11.8	1.1	40.6	3.1	-	-	0.7	0.6	3.3	0.8	62.1	3.8	0.3	4.1	-	-	-	0.3	1.1	71.7
Brazil	26.4	0.8	-	-	0.1	0.1	2.7	0.2	0.1	1.8	6.1	15.8	5.0	3.1	62.2	3.3	1.9	-	-	-	-	0.3	0.1	67.8
Canada	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.6	0.2	-	0.6	-	0.1	-	-	1.5	1.1	0.1	4.1	-	-	-	0.1	0.1	7.0
China	-	-	-	-	9.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9.6	0.5	1.2	-	-	-	-	1.9	1.4	20.8
CIS	83.0	9.7	1.0	-	37.4	0.2	229.3	16.4	0.1	36.2	-	0.1	0.5	-	413.9	7.0	4.8	1.0	-	-	6.0	8.6	10	438.3
Czech	-	-	-	-	5.2	1.5	-	2.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	9.0	-	7.4	-	-	-	-	-	1.6	18.4
E.C.	-	0.1	-	-	1.9	-	3.1	10.2	0.2	1.0	1.4	1.2	5.6	1.7	26.4	1.0	0.5	1.0	-	-	-	-	0.5	29.4
Finland	-	-	-	-	1.3	0.8	-	0.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.7
France	0.2	0.6	-	-	5.8	2.8	5.1	4.1	0.2	3.8	8.7	0.4	2.7	2.1	36.5	1.0	2.8	0.2	-	-	-	-	1.6	42.1
Germany	9.6	7.1	0.4	-	41.6	9.9	46.1	54.9	1.1	14.6	1.1	2.4	2.8	4.4	196.0	23.4	4.9	11.9	-	-	-	0.2	2.1	236.6
Holland	-	0.5	-	-	-	0.1	12.3	8.7	-	0.4	1.4	4.1	8.3	0.8	36.6	3.0	0.1	27.1	-	-	-	0.8	0.2	67.8
Hungary	-	-	-	-	0.5	4.1	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.6
Iran	97.3	-	-	-	-	-	8.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	106.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	106.1
Italy	-	0.2	-	-	2.6	-	12.6	1.0	-	7.3	0.8	0.8	7.4	0.7	33.4	5.7	7.9	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	106.1
Japan	23.0	4.8	0.5	-	4.1	6.1	47.9	44.4	4.5	18.2	15.1	2.8	5.2	2.0	179.2	9.4	21.3	32.4	-	-	-	0.1	21.3	48.1
Korea	1.9	3.8	0.4	-	4.3	4.7	11.0	17.5	0.4	4.7	2.1	3.1	2.4	-	56.3	7.5	7.8	0.3	-	-	-	-	2.3	244.6
Kuwait	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.1	-	0.5	-	-	-	-	1.6	0.1	0.5	62.0	-	-	-	-	0.3	64.5
Mexico	-	-	-	-	-	-	11.0	-	0.2	-	1.0	-	0.3	-	12.5	-	4.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	17.0
Poland	10.8	0.1	-	-	0.5	0.7	0.5	1.0	-	0.8	-	0.8	0.3	-	15.5	0.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15.8
Romania	6.0	-	-	-	3.2	-	3.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13.0	-	8.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	15.8
Singapore	-	0.1	-	-	0.3	0.8	0.1	0.5	0.1	-	-	0.7	2.0	-	4.6	-	1.7	53.3	-	-	-	0.1	-	21.3
Slovak Rep	-	-	-	-	0.6	3.0	12.9	15.0	-	0.9	-	-	0.3	-	32.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	59.7
South Africa	0.4	-	0.1	-	0.1	-	62.5	1.1	0.6	-	4.2	0.5	3.6	0.4	73.5	0.2	0.1	12.8	1.6	-	3.9	0.2	92.3	
Spain	-	-	1.9	-	0.2	-	-	0.8	0.1	-	-	0.2	1.1	0.2	4.5	2.3	1.7	-	-	-	-	-	0.6	9.1
Sri Lanka	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35.6	-	-	-	-	-	35.6
Sweden	-	0.7	-	-	1.7	0.2	0.6	0.4	-	1.0	-	0.1	-	-	4.7	3.3	1.1	0.4	2.2	-	-	-	-	35.6
Switzerland	10.0	-	-	-	-	-	0.1	-	0.1	0.3	0.1	-	-	-	10.5	0.2	0.1	-	-	-	1.1	0.1	12.0	
UAE	2.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	0.8	-	-	-	-	3.1	-	0.3	95.0	-	-	-	-	-	98.4
U.K	0.1	1.2	4.3	15.5	2.9	0.1	38.5	6.8	0.2	7.5	1.9	7.7	15.3	5.0	107.0	2.6	2.5	125.6	-	-	-	-	-	242.2
USA	0.2	0.3	0.2	-	0.3	0.2	28.3	11.8	0.2	12.5	3.1	5.5	31.6	8.8	103.0	2.5	4.7	389.8	-	-	-	-	-	501.7
Others	3.8	1.9	2.1	0.3	8.5	0.5	22.5	21.6	2.6	4.2	0.3	0.1	6.9	-	75.3	0.9	2.7	103.1	0.1	-	-	-	-	194.1
Total	298.4	32.0	11.0	15.8	145.4	36.9	650.9	228.0	10.9	117.7	47.9	108.8	30.6	1783.8	80.6	100.8	873.8	7.7	2.2	26.0	26.0	4.0	23.6	2696.5

July 9, 1998

Statement-II
Country-wise value of import of Iron & Steel through major Indian ports during 1995-96
(CIF Value in Rs. Crores)

Country	CARBON STEEL (including seconds/defective)													Misc. Items	Grand Total														
	Semis	Bar & Rods	Struct. Rods	Rly. Matrix	Plates	HR Sht.	HR Coils/ Strips	CR Coils/ Sheets	GP/IGC Sheets	Elect. Sheets	TMBP Plates	Tin Plates WWV	Tin Free Steel			Total Alloy/ Stainless Steel	Pipes & Fittings	Scrap	Melting Iron	Pig Iron	Sponge Iron	Ferro Alloys							
Argentina	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34.93	-	-	-	-	1.24	-	43.94							
Australia	19.53	-	-	-	2.20	-	64.45	2.73	0.28	0.68	-	0.29	3.23	-	93.50	6.03	2.05	8.82	-	-	-	1.51	111.91						
Austria	-	0.90	-	-	0.22	-	-	0.95	0.06	0.59	-	-	-	-	2.72	8.89	1.83	-	-	-	-	-	2.59	16.03					
Belgium	-	0.09	-	-	35.97	2.17	57.55	3.80	-	-	0.80	0.57	4.41	1.32	106.68	28.98	1.78	1.91	-	-	-	-	5.77	7.40	152.50				
Brazil	25.37	2.00	-	-	0.14	0.11	3.64	0.78	0.22	7.99	13.44	37.88	9.40	6.86	107.83	11.27	3.37	-	-	-	-	-	1.31	3.33	127.11				
Canada	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.71	0.53	-	0.94	-	-	0.18	-	2.36	6.47	0.25	2.89	-	-	-	-	2.85	0.60	15.42				
China	-	-	-	-	10.36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10.38	1.55	2.85	-	-	-	-	-	12.30	8.17	39.64				
CIS	71.86	10.34	0.61	-	42.26	0.21	271.64	16.66	0.20	87.25	-	0.15	0.56	-	601.74	29.08	11.35	0.58	-	-	-	-	68.71	8.39	619.85				
Czech	-	-	-	-	9.50	2.35	-	4.57	-	-	-	-	-	-	18.42	-	19.80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38.22				
E.C.	-	-	0.10	-	5.36	-	4.39	10.22	0.66	1.82	1.21	1.29	6.26	1.74	33.06	6.04	1.75	0.48	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.93	42.26			
Finland	-	-	-	-	3.04	1.74	-	1.34	-	-	-	-	-	-	6.12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6.12			
France	0.52	1.82	-	-	15.07	5.78	7.72	4.98	0.21	17.91	15.51	0.51	4.00	3.41	77.44	6.65	14.88	0.19	-	-	-	-	-	-	8.12	107.28			
Germany	8.00	14.40	0.78	-	95.96	19.96	71.56	120.36	2.06	41.73	1.20	6.26	3.56	8.80	394.63	127.09	38.36	10.53	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.84	27.21	598.66		
Holland	-	1.87	-	-	-	0.08	14.01	11.33	-	0.71	1.93	4.17	9.19	1.12	44.21	10.83	0.57	22.25	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.10	1.30	82.26		
Hungary	-	-	-	-	0.78	6.61	1.10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8.49	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8.49		
Iran	84.53	-	-	-	-	-	11.07	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	98.60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	98.60		
Italy	-	0.75	-	-	4.66	-	16.27	1.25	-	19.04	0.78	1.00	8.87	0.67	53.29	42.46	37.85	0.24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15.57	149.41		
Japan	17.36	12.89	1.16	-	10.38	10.30	73.75	95.85	12.93	78.71	26.51	4.80	6.58	2.74	363.78	62.43	98.88	20.56	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40.50	674.15		
Korea	1.31	9.84	1.04	-	7.28	8.64	16.02	37.11	0.97	15.61	4.44	7.70	3.58	-	113.54	21.53	22.19	0.73	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.69	162.68		
Kuwait	0.74	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.07	0.70	-	-	-	-	-	1.51	0.50	0.60	35.29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.17	38.07		
Mexico	-	-	-	-	-	-	14.62	-	0.85	-	0.91	-	0.33	-	16.71	-	15.82	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32.53		
Poland	10.54	0.15	-	-	0.97	0.78	0.49	2.20	-	2.42	-	0.87	0.33	-	18.75	0.84	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19.59		
Romania	5.11	-	-	-	4.87	-	3.99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13.97	-	18.11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32.82		
Singapore	-	0.21	-	-	0.73	0.89	0.08	0.90	0.36	-	-	0.89	2.09	-	6.15	-	5.64	3.74	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.83	44.36		
Slovak Rep.	-	-	-	-	0.47	4.69	17.24	28.17	-	2.24	-	-	0.34	-	53.16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	53.16		
South Africa	0.26	-	0.16	-	0.10	-	74.37	1.29	0.70	-	5.11	0.50	6.05	0.56	89.10	1.45	1.02	8.99	1.73	-	-	-	-	-	-	15.50	0.47	118.28	
Spain	-	-	2.70	-	0.39	-	-	1.92	0.20	-	0.30	1.49	0.28	7.28	15.24	11.35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.01	35.88	
Sri Lanka	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20.58	
Sweden	-	4.89	-	-	4.61	0.34	2.05	1.60	-	1.55	-	-	0.20	-	15.24	29.75	11.87	0.20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13.21	72.87	
Switzerland	8.29	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.50	-	0.51	-	0.12	-	-	9.42	0.70	0.49	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.97	1.27	16.86
UAE	1.45	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.22	-	1.42	-	-	-	-	3.09	-	0.50	55.84	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	58.43	
U.K.	0.08	3.11	7.87	37.46	4.85	0.18	42.41	10.88	0.48	18.76	2.51	12.30	27.41	5.37	173.87	35.55	20.21	85.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.41	17.25	333.48	
USA	0.16	0.57	0.44	-	1.90	0.50	38.90	11.89	0.45	22.53	4.08	7.80	37.16	10.00	136.38	11.55	26.49	252.20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.26	18.74	448.82	
Others	4.96	4.79	3.65	-	10.11	1.57	27.31	47.87	8.02	11.40	0.70	0.26	10.05	-	130.79	5.48	7.12	58.81	0.05	-	-	-	-	-	-	72.19	10.98	286.22	
Total	280.19	68.42	18.51	37.46	272.18	87.00	838.28	423.78	28.58	334.51	79.13	88.28	147.48	42.87	2704.74	470.34	407.91	618.03	6.19	2.60	191.18	198.24	4598.24						

Statement-III
Countrywise Import of Iron & Steel through Major Indian Ports during 1996-97 (Prov.)
(000 tonnes)

Country	CARBON STEEL (including seconds/defective)														Misc. Items	Grand Total							
	Semnets	Bar & Rods	Ry. Meats	Plates	HR Slt.	HR Strips	CR Coils/ Sheets	GP/GC Sheets	Elect. Sheets	TMBP Sheets	Tin Plates	Tin V/W	Tin Free Steel	Total Alloy/ Stainless			Pipes & Fittings	Melting Scrap	Pig Iron	Sponge Iron	Ferro Alloys		
Argentina	-	0.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.5	-	6.5	-	25.3	-	-	-	0.3	-	32.1	
Australia	0.5	-	-	-	-	1.7	1.0	-	0.2	-	0.5	2.3	-	6.2	0.4	-	23.4	-	-	-	0.3	30.3	
Austria	-	0.1	-	0.1	-	23.0	2.3	-	0.1	-	-	-	-	25.6	0.5	0.7	0.5	-	-	0.1	0.4	27.8	
Belgium	1.3	0.8	0.1	5.7	0.3	107.5	6.1	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.4	4.0	0.7	127.6	6.7	0.4	-	-	-	0.1	1.8	136.6	
Brazil	20.3	2.6	-	1.2	0.3	-	3.2	-	0.2	4.5	10.0	1.8	2.7	46.8	5.0	0.7	-	-	-	0.8	1.2	54.5	
Canada	-	-	-	-	0.2	0.4	3.2	1.6	0.3	-	0.8	1.0	0.5	8.0	1.9	6.0	20.0	-	-	0.1	0.1	36.1	
China	0.3	0.9	-	-	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	0.1	-	-	1.4	1.8	14.0	0.2	12.7	-	0.2	1.5	31.8	
CIS	85.4	0.1	-	0.1	30.6	-	97.3	11.8	-	26.7	1.6	-	3.3	-	256.9	0.6	12.6	0.7	-	6.0	0.3	277.1	
Czech	-	-	0.5	-	0.2	0.3	0.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.3	0.1	12.3	-	-	-	-	-	13.7	
E.C	-	-	0.4	-	0.8	-	1.8	9.4	0.1	2.4	2.6	2.9	7.0	2.5	29.9	1.0	2.9	48.1	-	-	0.2	82.1	
Finland	-	-	-	1.9	0.3	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.3	8.9	-	-	-	-	-	11.2	
France	-	0.2	-	2.1	0.6	106.8	3.4	0.6	4.7	3.5	1.0	2.1	1.9	126.9	2.0	3.2	0.2	-	-	0.2	1.6	134.1	
Germany	-	4.9	0.4	0.2	39.5	4.7	69.5	7.0	2.7	9.8	1.2	5.0	7.4	4.4	224.7	8.2	9.8	25.3	-	0.1	2.9	271.0	
Holland	-	0.3	-	-	0.6	30.7	13.5	0.1	0.5	0.1	5.9	13.9	0.9	66.5	0.9	0.1	1.3	-	-	1.6	0.2	70.6	
Hungary	-	-	-	-	2.3	1.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.5	
Iran	94.0	-	-	-	0.7	-	1.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	96.2	-	0.4	-	-	-	-	96.6	
Italy	-	0.6	-	-	4.3	-	32.2	3.9	-	6.7	-	1.9	4.5	0.2	54.3	1.6	13.7	-	-	-	-	70.6	
Japan	5.1	3.5	1.3	-	9.5	2.2	25.8	80.9	5.4	19.8	10.6	6.0	4.5	3.6	178.2	16.5	25.4	7.3	-	-	3.2	230.6	
Korea	-	4.5	0.9	0.2	0.9	2.6	23.2	37.7	0.4	1.8	1.9	2.5	1.7	-	78.3	7.8	1.3	0.8	-	-	0.7	88.9	
Kuwait	1.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.1	-	1.0	72.8	-	-	-	0.2	74.9	
Mexico	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.1	0.1	0.1	-	9.1	-	-	-	-	0.2	9.4	
Poland	-	-	0.2	-	-	-	-	-	0.5	0.5	1.1	-	-	2.3	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.4	
Romania	-	-	-	4.6	0.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.0	-	3.8	-	-	-	0.1	-	8.9	
Singapore	2.2	3.2	-	0.2	0.9	0.1	1.3	0.1	0.2	-	0.4	1.4	1.0	0.2	0.3	71.4	-	-	-	0.1	0.3	82.3	
Slovak Rep.	-	-	-	-	2.0	0.6	20.1	-	0.1	-	-	0.1	-	22.9	0.2	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	23.2	
South Africa	1.9	-	2.1	1.3	1.1	23.9	4.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	2.3	2.8	-	40.7	3.0	-	17.3	2.7	-	4.0	1.8	68.5	
Spain	16.9	-	9.5	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	-	2.1	0.2	28.9	6.9	2.0	-	-	-	-	0.3	38.1	
Sri Lanka	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Sweden	-	0.4	-	1.4	0.4	0.6	0.4	-	1.2	0.1	0.1	-	-	4.6	3.6	0.5	0.4	1.1	0.5	0.5	0.1	52.4	
Switzerland	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.1	-	0.1	-	0.1	-	-	0.3	-	0.1	-	-	-	-	0.8	1.2	
UAE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.4	-	0.1	0.1	-	0.8	-	0.9	104.6	-	-	-	-	106.8	
U.K.	1.8	1.5	11.6	14.5	2.8	-	45.8	7.1	-	4.3	0.8	9.3	5.8	2.5	107.8	13.1	2.8	272.1	-	-	5.2	401.0	
USA	-	-	-	-	0.1	-	1.2	12.8	0.1	13.7	4.9	8.3	32.9	10.8	84.8	3.8	2.2	356.7	-	-	3.4	1.6	452.6
Others	4.5	2.2	2.1	-	7.5	0.7	33.6	5.2	0.5	4.8	0.5	1.7	6.1	0.6	69.8	6.9	3.1	69.6	-	-	3.7	3.0	176.5
Total	235.3	28.2	26.1	15.0	115.5	19.9	628.6	306.9	12.0	98.9	33.5	59.8	107.6	31.5	1720.0	101.7	154.7	1164.8	15.4	1.1	22.3	29.3	3209.3

July 9, 1998

Statement-IV
Countrywise Value of Import of Iron & Steel through Major Indian Ports during 1996-97 (Prov.)

(CIF Value in Rs. Crores)

Country	CARBON STEEL (including seconds/defective)																Misc. Items	Grand Total					
	Semis	Bars & Rods	Ry. Mats	Plates	HR Strips	HR Coils/ Strips	CR Coils/ Sheets	GP/CC Elect. Sheets	TMBP	Tin Plates	Tin VVV	Tin Free Steel	Total	Alloy/ Stainless	Pipes & Fittings	Melting Scrap			Pig Iron	Sponge Iron	Ferro Alloys		
Argentina	0.85	-	-	-	-	-	3.77	-	0.98	-	2.29	-	7.90	-	83.60	-	-	-	-	1.60	-	93.10	
Australia	0.39	-	-	-	-	1.76	1.60	-	0.28	-	0.58	2.71	-	7.22	2.36	-	14.58	-	-	-	-	24.84	
Austria	-	1.19	-	0.27	-	25.47	3.51	-	0.41	-	-	-	-	30.85	7.50	2.40	0.35	-	-	1.46	2.72	46.22	
Belgium	1.10	0.88	0.24	19.85	0.42	125.87	7.73	0.25	1.42	0.61	0.55	5.47	1.00	166.39	34.97	2.89	-	-	-	1.32	13.20	217.77	
Brazil	21.21	4.94	-	2.22	0.48	-	6.22	-	1.29	9.58	26.93	3.98	6.84	83.89	13.14	3.80	-	-	-	4.01	3.94	108.58	
Canada	-	-	-	0.17	-	0.89	3.96	1.57	0.53	-	1.56	0.97	0.54	10.19	7.49	11.67	12.49	-	-	2.85	0.61	45.10	
China	0.47	2.07	-	0.17	-	-	-	-	0.09	-	-	-	-	2.80	8.76	34.73	0.10	8.80	-	1.80	5.51	82.60	
CIS	84.24	0.29	-	34.00	-	95.27	15.09	-	70.12	1.47	-	4.04	-	306.31	2.54	23.46	0.61	-	-	33.00	0.69	226.91	
Czech	-	0.66	-	0.45	0.40	0.38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.89	0.37	28.09	-	-	-	-	-	30.36	
E C	-	0.78	-	1.35	-	2.58	9.17	0.11	4.98	2.48	3.08	7.94	2.48	34.96	5.01	11.44	30.68	-	-	0.14	-	82.23	
Finland	-	-	-	4.03	0.49	0.13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.65	39.37	-	-	-	-	-	-	44.02	
France	1.00	-	-	7.15	1.00	121.63	4.90	0.55	28.35	7.10	2.61	3.90	3.91	182.10	10.99	19.21	0.12	-	-	0.92	9.03	222.37	
Germany	7.11	1.33	0.82	82.57	8.09	85.26	132.75	6.33	30.42	1.17	10.78	9.26	5.00	384.29	34.61	45.16	15.47	-	-	0.85	44.33	524.71	
Holland	0.60	-	-	1.03	32.85	12.81	0.14	0.86	0.22	6.42	18.28	1.13	74.34	2.66	0.27	4.45	-	-	-	9.04	1.78	92.64	
Hungary	-	-	-	-	3.62	1.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.12	
Iran	77.27	-	-	1.09	-	1.17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	79.53	-	0.37	-	-	-	-	-	79.80	
Italy	3.01	-	-	7.37	-	39.87	6.34	-	20.66	-	1.96	5.43	0.22	84.86	8.68	37.73	-	-	-	10.19	-	141.46	
Japan	3.87	10.71	2.49	20.88	3.56	39.77	169.71	13.45	90.01	17.02	16.03	6.61	6.67	400.98	79.54	100.03	4.85	-	-	32.50	617.90		
Korea	-	8.12	1.59	0.44	1.88	4.49	25.93	85.44	0.40	7.40	4.38	6.17	2.86	149.10	22.19	3.45	0.56	-	-	3.31	178.81		
Kuwait	0.74	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.74	-	0.96	40.48	-	-	-	-	42.28	
Mexico	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.12	-	-	0.12	-	25.21	-	-	-	-	-	26.82	
Poland	-	0.29	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.86	-	0.51	1.12	-	3.78	0.46	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.24	
Romania	-	-	-	6.66	0.56	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.22	-	9.23	-	-	-	0.15	-	16.80	
Singapore	1.45	4.14	-	0.45	1.07	0.15	1.26	0.11	1.38	-	0.40	1.70	12.11	0.52	2.99	43.52	-	-	0.24	0.82	60.29		
Slovak Rep	-	-	-	-	2.77	0.73	36.10	-	0.34	-	0.16	-	-	40.10	0.49	0.20	-	-	-	-	-	40.79	
South Africa	1.04	-	2.95	3.00	1.09	21.87	5.23	0.25	0.88	0.43	4.38	4.72	-	48.84	13.53	-	10.94	2.75	-	10.23	3.11	86.40	
Spain	22.32	-	13.46	-	-	-	0.53	-	-	-	4.70	0.29	41.30	35.89	14.70	-	-	-	-	-	2.20	94.05	
Sri Lanka	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28.64	-	-	-	-	-	28.64	
Sweden	2.35	-	-	4.30	0.75	2.06	1.89	-	1.67	-	0.11	0.11	-	13.24	29.29	6.78	0.24	1.44	1.99	3.94	56.92		
Switzerland	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.60	-	0.47	-	0.10	-	-	1.17	-	0.30	-	-	-	3.57	-	5.44	
UAE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.23	-	0.10	0.10	-	1.43	-	1.13	60.05	-	-	-	-	63.82	
U.K.	2.61	4.18	19.35	36.35	6.73	-	48.38	11.83	-	11.04	1.17	10.62	11.27	3.00	164.51	81.44	12.72	170.59	-	-	21.54	480.82	
USA	-	-	-	0.25	-	2.00	15.03	0.10	31.10	6.45	10.63	41.36	12.32	119.24	16.66	9.19	218.85	-	-	47.73	15.66	427.32	
Others	5.56	4.01	3.22	-	11.89	1.29	41.24	4.33	0.80	10.28	0.88	1.99	9.01	0.66	94.97	22.00	18.18	51.43	-	-	29.93	24.75	241.27
Total	222.27	55.45	46.36	38.40	216.96	31.28	714.74	538.80	24.06	316.99	53.78	106.60	148.11	47.26	2681.03	480.45	509.89	709.01	11.55	1.44	150.89	202.16	4628.42

Statement-V
Countrywise Import of Iron & Steel through Major Indian Ports during Apr.-Dec.-97 (Prov.)

(000 tonnes)

Country	CARBON STEEL (including seconds/defective)																Misc. Items	Grand Total					
	Serris	Bar & Rods	Struct. Mesh	Rly. Plates	HR Sht.	HR Strips	HR Coils/ Plates	Tin Plates	Tin W/V	Tin Free Steel	Total Alloy Steels	Pipes & Fittings	Melting Scrap	Pig Iron	Sponge Iron	Ferro Alloys							
Argentina	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6.4	-	6.4				
Australia	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.4	0.2	0.4	1.4	2.4	0.1	-	-	-	-	0.3	-	0.1	2.9			
Austria	-	-	-	-	-	0.5	-	0.1	-	0.4	1.0	0.4	6.1	-	-	-	0.1	0.1	1.7				
Belgium	-	-	-	3.8	0.2	2.16	6.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	3.4	0.7	36.7	3.7	0.1	-	0.1	0.6	41.2			
Brazil	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.3	0.1	8.6	2.3	1.8	13.4	1.4	0.1	-	-	0.3	0.6	15.8			
Canada	-	0.3	-	0.2	0.4	0.2	4.7	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.8	1.0	-	8.4	0.4	-	23.6	-	0.3	32.7			
China	0.4	0.1	0.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.1	-	-	-	0.9	4.9	1.1	-	-	2.0	9.8			
CIS	70.3	11.0	-	58.8	0.2	244.1	15.0	0.1	19.1	0.2	0.4	419.2	1.6	2.7	0.7	-	5.2	0.4	429.8				
Czech	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	0.5	-	-	0.7			
E.C.	-	-	0.4	-	-	1.8	8.1	0.1	1.2	0.8	1.2	9.8	1.3	24.7	0.4	0.3	0.9	-	-	26.3			
Finland	-	-	-	1.3	-	-	0.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.6	7.1	-	-	-	0.2	8.9			
France	0.5	-	-	3.8	-	2.7	3.1	0.1	2.3	0.3	0.6	2.3	1.2	36.9	1.1	0.8	-	-	0.4	1.4	40.6		
Germany	-	6.5	0.4	30.3	2.1	33.7	53.8	3.9	7.5	0.6	2.5	13.7	2.9	157.9	13.5	21.6	1.0	-	0.2	1.4	198.6		
Holland	-	0.6	-	-	1.2	15.6	13.3	-	0.6	0.1	3.4	10.4	0.6	45.8	1.2	-	-	-	0.4	0.1	47.5		
Iran	90.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	90.7	-	-	-	-	-	90.7			
Italy	-	0.1	-	12.2	-	-	1.2	-	4.3	-	0.5	4.1	-	22.4	1.3	1.9	-	-	-	0.9	26.5		
Japan	3.1	2.6	-	0.4	3.0	16.6	43.6	4.8	12.8	1.0	6.4	2.8	2.9	100.0	7.8	25.4	4.1	-	-	2.9	140.2		
Korea	4.9	2.7	0.2	0.3	0.8	6.2	40.6	35.1	1.4	0.2	-	0.2	0.7	93.3	5.4	0.2	-	-	-	0.4	99.3		
Kuwait	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.1	-	-	0.2	48.6	-	0.1	49.0		
Mexico	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.4		
Romania	-	-	-	14.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14.4	-	2.5	-	-	-	-	16.9		
Singapore	2.3	2.1	-	1.0	0.1	2.1	15.0	0.1	-	0.6	0.1	0.6	0.1	99.0	0.1	-	65.5	-	-	0.5	76.0		
Slovak Rep.	-	-	-	-	0.3	9.9	16.5	-	0.1	-	-	-	-	26.8	0.1	0.2	-	-	-	-	27.1		
South Africa	1.9	0.9	-	0.8	1.0	7.2	6.4	0.5	0.1	2.1	1.3	0.1	0.1	87.7	0.3	-	27.5	2.6	5.4	1.3	124.8		
Spain	5.3	-	2.4	-	-	-	0.3	-	-	0.1	2.4	1.1	1.1	11.6	2.8	1.6	0.5	-	-	0.1	16.8		
Sri Lanka	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.1	-	-	37.0	-	-	-	37.1		
Sweden	0.3	-	-	2.9	0.2	1.6	1.8	0.1	1.8	0.1	-	0.1	-	8.8	0.6	0.2	5.4	0.9	0.1	0.3	16.3		
Switzerland	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.3	-	-	-	-	0.4	0.2	-	20.9	-	-	-	22.2		
UAE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
U.K.	5.8	0.9	0.6	3.2	1.8	12.1	2.2	0.1	2.2	1.4	5.0	9.3	1.6	48.0	7.7	0.4	23.1	-	2.4	90.4	0.2	93.2	
USA	-	0.3	-	0.3	0.1	0.7	11.6	0.6	8.1	2.4	9.0	29.3	6.4	66.3	3.3	0.6	9.4	-	-	0.1	1.6	288.9	
Others	7.6	0.7	1.5	-	1.6	0.3	29.3	0.4	0.5	2.7	0.2	2.5	9.0	0.9	0.9	1.4	5.2	-	-	1.8	2.3	127.6	
Total	192.3	29.3	6.4	0.3	136.1	17.1	524.7	225.9	12.7	64.6	7.2	44.1	104.8	21.5	1367.0	77.4	72.0	706.7	2.6	0.9	18.8	17.0	2282.4

July 9, 1998

Statement-VI
Countrywise Import of Iron & Steel through Major Indian Ports during Apr.-Dec.-87 (Prov.)

(000 tonnes)

Country	CARBON STEEL (including seconds/defective)														Misc. Items	Grand Total						
	Semris	Bar & Rods	Ry Meins	Plates	HR Sht	HR Coils/ Sht	CR Coils/ Sht	GP/GC Sheets	Elect Sheets	TMBP Sheets	Tin Plates	Tin V/W	Tin Free Steel	Total Alloy/ Stainless			Pipes & Fittings	Melting Scrap	Pig Iron	Sponge Iron	Ferro Alloys	
Argentina	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19.57	-	-	-	-	0.32	-	16.89
Australia	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.84	-	0.50	-	0.56	1.84	-	3.74	0.30	-	0.30	-	-	-	0.52	4.86
Austria	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.11	-	0.12	-	0.53	-	-	1.76	5.38	0.24	-	-	-	2.27	0.89	10.54
Belgium	-	-	10.24	0.40	24.00	9.54	0.23	0.29	0.32	0.50	4.91	0.87	51.30	11.76	0.38	-	-	-	-	2.16	4.33	69.93
Brazil	-	1.03	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.83	-	22.30	4.38	3.64	33.18	4.02	0.38	-	-	-	1.76	2.38	41.72
Canada	-	0.26	-	0.18	0.40	0.27	9.44	0.31	0.84	0.11	0.82	1.13	-	13.76	1.29	-	13.30	-	-	1.10	1.10	29.45
China	0.31	0.47	-	0.46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.12	-	1.36	8.15	2.86	-	-	8.31	5.29	25.97	
CIS	68.70	11.58	-	64.53	0.21	264.50	17.47	0.10	48.50	-	0.60	0.77	-	476.96	3.30	7.18	0.40	-	19.33	2.29	509.46	
Czech	-	-	-	-	0.32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.32	-	1.22	-	-	-	-	-	1.54
E.C.	-	0.69	-	-	-	1.57	8.23	0.22	2.94	0.79	1.42	11.60	1.47	28.93	6.11	1.70	0.50	-	-	-	-	37.24
Finland	-	-	-	2.69	-	-	-	0.52	-	-	-	-	-	3.21	30.55	-	-	-	-	-	-	34.30
France	-	1.14	-	7.95	-	28.29	4.28	0.10	11.57	0.36	0.83	3.46	1.70	59.68	6.44	3.20	-	-	0.98	6.62	76.92	
Germany	-	8.60	0.95	48.28	3.98	41.76	78.17	8.24	20.26	0.55	6.14	18.76	6.01	241.70	52.60	77.19	0.82	-	0.99	9.41	382.71	
Holland	-	1.38	-	-	1.41	19.08	12.94	-	1.16	0.10	3.56	12.55	0.80	52.78	3.12	-	-	-	5.01	1.15	62.06	
Iran	81.44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	81.44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	81.44
Italy	-	0.86	-	20.60	-	-	3.08	-	14.16	-	0.57	4.85	-	44.12	3.81	12.71	-	-	-	-	7.10	87.74
Japan	2.66	8.57	-	0.87	4.81	24.66	80.50	11.74	54.40	0.88	15.01	3.92	6.28	214.30	35.30	102.69	2.93	-	-	-	15.84	371.06
Korea	3.91	5.71	0.30	1.70	10.60	50.30	70.50	5.56	1.07	-	0.44	1.08	-	151.67	16.50	0.44	-	-	-	-	2.70	171.31
Kuwait	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.14	-	-	-	-	-	0.14	-	0.20	27.50	-	-	-	-	0.10	27.94
Mexico	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.84	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.84
Romania	-	-	-	18.04	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18.04	-	7.35	-	-	-	-	-	25.39
Singapore	1.85	2.32	-	1.82	0.11	2.18	1.53	0.19	-	0.25	0.91	-	11.27	0.38	-	39.56	-	-	-	-	1.52	53.13
Slovak Rep.	-	-	-	-	0.44	13.32	28.43	-	0.17	-	-	-	-	43.36	0.26	0.55	-	-	-	-	-	44.17
South Africa	2.08	-	1.34	1.60	1.08	81.53	8.46	0.58	-	0.12	3.28	1.61	0.30	101.94	1.48	-	16.27	2.40	12.57	3.39	136.05	
Spain	6.52	-	3.49	-	-	-	1.51	-	-	-	0.21	3.47	1.60	17.00	17.30	6.07	0.32	-	-	-	0.45	41.14
Sri Lanka	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.14	-	-	-	-	0.14	-	-	21.77	-	-	-	-	21.91
Sweden	-	21.4	-	7.30	1.10	5.68	7.12	0.19	2.65	-	-	0.17	-	26.35	6.51	2.92	3.19	1.33	0.57	4.60	45.47	
Switzerland	0.22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.98	-	-	-	-	1.20	1.00	-	12.77	-	-	2.48	-	17.45
UAE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.70	-	0.19	-	-	0.89	-	4.26	53.50	-	-	-	1.22	59.87
U.K.	5.27	5.69	1.20	5.56	1.60	14.21	4.84	0.53	7.30	1.76	6.36	16.74	2.38	73.46	43.22	4.03	143.76	-	-	1.27	7.51	273.25
USA	-	0.75	-	0.45	0.11	0.44	17.58	0.82	21.82	3.15	11.08	38.15	7.40	101.35	14.42	2.86	57.30	-	-	4.49	2.78	226.20
Others	5.05	2.13	2.67	8.68	0.40	25.42	0.73	0.69	9.77	0.63	4.01	13.25	1.12	74.55	47.07	7.18	30.62	-	-	7.94	15.77	183.13
Total	177.88	52.85	10.64	200.95	26.95	597.21	368.16	29.30	200.87	8.77	78.15	144.20	33.37	1929.90	320.27	266.02	424.81	2.40	1.33	113.45	97.90	3156.08

*[Translation]***Facilities to Rail Passengers**

3280. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have chalked out any plan to provide extra facilities to the pilgrims coming from various parts of the country to visit Ajmer City of Rajasthan this year to pay their obeisances on the occasion of 786th Special Urs of 'Garib Nawaj Khawaja Muinuddin Chisti; 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) Every year a meeting of Members of Urs Committee and Nodal Officers of Railway Department is held to finalise the arrangements to be made during Urs Mela. This year also arrangements will be made to cater to pilgrims in coordination with Urs Committee.

Privatisation of Air India

3281. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal for converting of Air India into a Public Limited Company is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Consequent upon the repeal of the Air Corporations Act, 1953, Air India has been converted into a Public Limited Company with effect from 1.3.94. It is fully owned by the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[English]***Aircrafts and Employees Ratio in Indian Airlines**

3282. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the aircraft and employees ratio in the Indian Airlines vis-a-vis four leading Airlines of the world; and

(b) the steps being taken to run the Indian Airlines on the lines of the four leading Airlines of the World ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) The aircraft employee ratio of Indian Airlines vis - a - vis some of the leading airlines of the world is as under :-

	Name of the Airline	Employee Aircraft Ratio
1.	British Airways	215
2.	Air France	277
3.	K.L.M.	240
4.	Thai Airways	303
5.	Indian Airlines	400

Most of the foreign airlines outsource (contract out) several activities such as engineering and maintenance facilities, passenger/cargo/ground handling and the like.

(b) Indian Airlines has taken/proposes to take the following measures to improve its services as well as financial position : (i) Restructuring of routes; (ii) Creation of profit centres; (iii) Increase in international operations; (iv) Change in training pattern of pilots; (v) Creation of Alliance Air; (vi) Improvement in customer services (vii) Improvement in corporate image by disseminating information about Company's strengths; (viii) Aggressive marketing strategies to improve market share; (ix) strict control on recruitment and on capital expenditure; (x) Turnaround strategies suggested by the Kelkar Committee.

Damage to Defence Establishment due to Cyclone in Jamnagar

3283. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cyclone that hit Jamnagar and Kandla in June 1998, has severely damaged Air Force, Navy and Army bases in the areas; and

(b) if so, the extent of loss caused thereby ?

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

(b) The estimated amount of loss pertaining to Army, Navy and Air Force is Rs. 13.21 crores.

Construction of Port at Dhamra River in Orissa

3284. SHRI KHARBELA SWAIN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware that a major port is proposed to be constructed at the mouth of the Dhamra river in Orissa near the newly constructed missile testing base at Wheelsi Island;

(b) whether the Ministry of Defence have enquired about its impacts on the sensitive missile testing base; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Government are aware that a port is being constructed by Government of Orissa at Dhamra. The newly constructed range facilities are away from the proposed port. Therefore, the port will not have any impact on the range facilities.

Foreign/HUDCO Assistance for Drinking Water Supply in Orissa

3285. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for getting foreign/HUDCO assistance for drinking water supply and sewerage projects in the town of Dhenkanal and Angal in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amounts earmarked for the purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) The Government had received a proposal for regional water supply in certain urban areas of Orissa, including Dhenkanal and Angul, at an estimated cost of Rs. 139.31 crores, which had been recommended for foreign assistance from the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), Japan during 1997-98. However, the proposal was not approved by the OECF for funding.

Proposals for HUDCO assistance are submitted by the State Governments directly to HUDCO for consideration. HUDCO has informed that a loan of Rs. 950.96 lakhs and Rs. 864.26 lakhs have been sanctioned for Dhenkanal and Angul water supply schemes estimated to cost Rs. 1358.56 lakhs and Rs. 1234.65 lakhs respectively. The schemes are being implemented by the Orissa Water Supply & Sewerage Board.

(c) The HUDCO assisted projects are likely to be completed within three years.

Doubling of Guntakal-Bangalore Railway Line

3286. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether survey has been ordered for the doubling of Guntakal-Bangalore broad gauge section ;

(b) if so, the time by which the survey is expected to be completed ; and

(c) the funds earmarked for the survey work ?

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) There is already a double line between Guntakal and Gooty. Between Dharmavaram and Penukonda, doubling is proposed to be achieved by construction of a new line via Puttappathi which is already included in Budget, 1997-98 to be taken up after obtaining the requisite clearances, for which action has been initiated. There is no proposal for doubling of Gooty-Dharmavaram and Penukonda-Bangalore sections at present.

(c) Does not arise.

Production Capacity of Bhusawal Ordnance Factory

3287. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the production capacity of Ordnance Factory, Bhusawal;

(b) whether the production capacity is being fully utilised;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of requests received for employment in Ordnance Factory, Bhusawal from the land affected families; and

(e) the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (e) Ordnance Factory, Bhusawal can manufacture Steel Boxes for ammunition, Barrels for oil and lubricants and other steel containers upto 8 lakh numbers per year. Due to reduction in demand from the Army for 200 litre barrels the capacity of the factory could not be fully utilised during the last three years. However, with the introduction of new ammunition boxes full capacity utilisation is expected during 1998-99.

It is reported that about 40 persons approached the factory for employment stating that their land had been acquired for the construction of quarters. The Employment Exchange sponsored their candidature and they were given employment. The Ordnance Factory Board has reported that no request for employment is pending since 1980.

[Translation]

Decline in Beneficiaries of IRDP

3288. SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a steep decline in the number of beneficiaries of Integrated Rural Development Programme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BAGGOUDA PATIL) : (a) to (c) The thrust in IRDP in the recent years has been to increase the Per the family Investment to ensure quality of projects and better income to the beneficiary. This correspondingly involves higher per capita subsidy, leading to some decline in the number of beneficiaries, given the marginal higher annual releases under IRDP towards subsidy.

[English]

Strength of Engineers in DDA

3289. SHRI KARIYA MUNDA :

Statement

S.No.	Category	Total Nos.	No. of		Percentage		Backlog			Reasons/steps taken to clear the backlog
			SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST	OBC	
1.	Engineer Member	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
2.	Chief Engineer (C)	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
3.	Chief Engineer (E)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
4.	Suptdg. Engineer (C)	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
5.	Suptdg. Engineer (E)	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
6.	Executive Engineer (C)	17	13	1	11.11	0.9	-	-	-	
7.	Executive Engineer (E)	17	2	-	11.80	Nil	-	-	-	
8.	Asstt. Engineer (C)	510	74	3	14.50	0.6	6	8	-	
9.	Asstt. Engineer (E/M)	72	10	-	13.90	Nil	-	-	-	The post was 'selection' post prior to 3/97 and as such there was no carry forward of reserved post. However, the post became non-selection vide Resolution dated 31.3.97 and out of the 5 vacant posts, 2 posts of AE (E/M) were filled up from the SC Category.
10.	Jr. Engineer (C)	1406	110	-	7.82	Nil	101	105	-	As per recommendations of Cadre
11.	Jr. Engineer (E/M)	192	17	-	8.85	Nil	12	14	-	Review Committee approved by Authority, recruitment to the post of J.Es. has been restrained. However, in the category of JE (E/M), as per directions of Hon'ble High Court, 9 candidates selected in 1989, have been allowed to join in 7/1997. The backlog/short fall of OBC in the category of JE (Civil) & JE (E/M) may be treated as Nil, as no recruitment to the post of JE (Civil) has been made since 1986. In the category of JE (E/M) last recruitment was made in 1989. Reservation for OBC has been introduced only from September, 1993.

SHRI INDRA NATH BHAGAT :
DR. C.P. THAKUR :
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :
SHRI AJIT JOGI :
PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE :

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

(a) the total strength of the engineers working in DDA, categories-wise;

(b) the percentage of SC/ST engineers among them; and

(c) the details of the backlog vacancies in different categories reserved for SC/ST and OBC during the last three years in the DDA and the reasons therefor, the steps taken by the Government to clear the backlog ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHAMALANI) : (a) to (c) A statement is enclosed.

[Translation]

Renovation/Modernisation of Railway Stations

3290. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :
SHRI VAIKO :
SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD :
SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ :
SHRI JUAL ORAM :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the railway stations which have been expanded/upgraded/renovated/modernised/developed during each of the last three years, zone/division-wise;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon ;

(c) the name of railway stations where renovation/modernisation work is in progress; and

(d) the name of railway stations proposed to be renovated/modernised during 1998-99 and the amount earmarked for this purpose ?

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) There are more than 7000 railway stations of different classes all over Indian Railways. Upgradation/renovation/modernisation of railway stations is a continuous process and the same is undertaken every year wherever warranted on condition basis. Station-wise expenditure is not kept. During 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 expenditure of Rs 87.98 crore Rs. 87.96 crores and Rs. 89.33 crore respectively was incurred on this account.

Information with regard to major modernisation works in progress and new works approved for the current year at various railway stations are included in the Works Machinery and Rolling Stock Programme, Part II presented to the Parliament along with the Railway Budget Documents. An allocation of Rs. 100 crore has been made for upgradation/renovation/modernisation of railway stations during the current year. Out of this Rs. 18.78 crores is earmarked for new works during 1998-99.

Steel Development Fund

3291. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of grant or loan made available from Steel Development Fund for research and development in the field of steel during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have fixed any time schedule for the payment of loans; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) The amounts of grant or loan made available from Steel Development Fund for research and development in the field of Steel during the last 3 years are as follows :

1995-96

Rs. 50.00 lakhs - grant

1996-97

Rs. 19.30 lakhs - grant

1997-98

Rs. 19.20 lakhs - grant

(b) There is no time-schedule for disbursement of loan.

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

Compensation for Land acquired for Defence use in U.P.

3292. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Air Force has acquired a large area of land of Ubhari village and also the land along Allahabad-Kaushambi road for use of Allahabad-Bamrauli Airport;

(b) if so, whether the requisite compensation for the land has been paid;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ;

(d) whether the Government propose to construct another road for public in place of the Allahabad-Kaushambi road; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FER-NANDES) : (a) and (b) As per available records, 648.61 acres of land in village Umari and not in the village Ubhari alongwith other villages and land along the Allahabd Kaushambi Road was acquired in 1945-46 for use of Air Force Bamrauli. The compensation for the land had been paid in full.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal at present to construct another road for public in place of Allahabad-Kaushambi road by the Ministry of Defence/Indian Air Force. However, a path

way exists for the villagers through Air Force area for commuting to their land.

[English]

Encroachment of Railway Land in Delhi

3293. DR. Y.S. RAJSEKARA REDDY :
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :
SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, Railway stations Paradise in hell for encroachers appearing in the Hindustan Times dated May 20, 1998 wherein it has been stated that a whopping 357 hectares of prime railway land in the capital, valued at Rs. 1500 crores has been encroached upon in the last few years;

(b) whether the Railway authorities are pleading helplessness not only in recovering what has been lost but also in preventing further encroachment;

(c) whether such large scale encroachment on Railway land including some railway platforms have severely affected passenger amenities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken to remove the encroachment ?

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) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. However, bonafide Railway Passengers suffer to some extent where the encroachments are very near to platforms.

(d) Removal of encroachments on Railway land is a continuous process and action is taken under the Provision of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupations) Act, 1971.

[Translation]

Expenditure Incurred on Chartered Planes

3294. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state the annual expenditure incurred by Bokaro Steel Plant on the chartered planes during each of the last two years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : Bokaro Steel Plant did not charter any aeroplane during the last two years.

[English]

Upgradation of Srinagar Airport

3295. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY :
SHRI M. RAJAIAH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Srinagar Airport has been closed for Upgradation; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to solve the difficulties of passengers and tourists arriving there ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Srinagar airport which belongs to Indian Air Force (IAF) has been temporarily closed for flight operations from 8.6.98 for recarpeting of the runway. Civil flights are being operated from Awantipore Air Force Station. Airports Authority of India and IAF have provided all necessary passenger facilities as Awantipore Air Force Station.

[Translation]

Criteria for RAC and waiting list tickets

3296. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the norms prescribed for issuing tickets against RAC and the waiting list in the Fast and Express Trains;

(b) whether the passengers having A.C. and the First Class tickets against RAC and waiting list have to travel in the second class and even in standing position on several occasions; and

(c) if so, whether the Railway Ministry propose to regulate the number of RAC's and the waiting list upto a fixed proportion of the total berths and seats reserved ?

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 norms prescribed for issue of RAC and waiting list tickets are as under :

Class	No. of berths earmarked for RAC passengers per coach	No. of Passengers to be provided RAC accommodation per coach
RAC		
IAC	Nil	Nil
2AC	2	4
1st Class	2	4
3 AC	2	4
Chair Car	Nil	Nil
Sleeper	5	10

Waiting List

Class	Upper limit for waiting list
1st AC/Executive Class	30
2 AC	100
1st Class	30
3AC/Chair Car	300* 75 in case one AC 3-tier/Chair Car running in train.
Sleeper Class	400

(b) The passengers provided RAC accommodation are allotted a proper seat which they can occupy on entraining the train. They are provided a berth falling vacant on account of not turning up of confirmed passengers. Passengers holding wait listed ticket are not permitted to board the reserved coach.

(c) No, Sir.

[English]

Growth of Steel Industry

3297. SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Steel Industry grew at lower rate than the GDP growth rate for the first time this year ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the measures taken to remedy the position ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) The growth rate of finished (carbon) steel vis-a-vis Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate during the last 3 years was as under :

	Growth Rate	GDP Growth @ rate (at 1980-81 prices)
1995-96	20.08%	7.2%
1996-97	6.2%	7.5% (Q)
1997-98 (P)	(-) 0.7%	5.0% (A)

(P) – Provisional
(Q) – Quick estimates
(A) – Advance estimates
© Source : Economic Survey 1997-98.

(b) and (c) The growth of the steel sector is dependent upon the growth of the economy in general and growth of Industrial production and infrastructure sector in particular.

The major reasons for slow growth during 1997-98 in the steel sector include :

- i) Sluggish demand in the steel consuming sectors;
- ii) Overall economic slow down in the country
- iii) Lack of investment by Government/private sector in major infrastructure projects;
- iv) Greater competition from imports due to reduction in custom duty for finished steel; and
- v) Dumping of finished steel in the country, particularly from CIS and South East Asian countries.

The enhanced allocation for infrastructure development, housing, power and highways proposed in the budget for 1998-99 is expected to stimulate the demand for steel.

[Translation]

Dolomite Reserve

3298. SHRI D.S. AHIRE : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the States where Dolomite minerals is available in the country;

(b) the name of the places where Dolomite reserves are found in Maharashtra; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to explore availability of mineral in Maharashtra ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Dolomite reserves are found in Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Himachal Pradesh.

(b) Dolomite reserves are found in Chandrapur, Nagpur and Yeotmal districts of Maharashtra.

(c) Any Indian National or a Company as defined in sub-station (1) of Section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956 is

free to explore the mineral reserves after getting prospecting licence in accordance with the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and Rules frames thereunder. Geological Survey of India (GSI) a subordinate organisation under Department of Mines, Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL), State Directorate of Mining and Geology, Govt. of Maharashtra carry out investigation and exploration of minerals including dolomite in Maharashtra which is a continuous process.

[English]

Acquisition of Land for Air Base Station in Gandhinagar

3299. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the stage at which the matter of acquiring land for setting up of a Cantonment and a full-fledged Air Base Station at Gandhinagar in Gujarat stands at present ; and

(b) the progress of work made so far and the quantum of funds sanctioned for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FER-NANDES) : (a) and (b) Government have acquired 106.25 acres of land at cost of Rs. 3,23,63,353 for setting up the Headquarters of the South Western Air Command on a permanent basis. An expenditure of Rs. 4.00 crores has been incurred for addition/alternation to buildings acquired from the Government of Gujarat.

There is no proposal for establishment of a Cantonment at Gandhinagar at present.

Doubling of Railway Line between Bangalore and Tumkur

3300. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted by the Railway for doubling of railway line between Bangalore and Tumkur; and

(b) if so, the time by which the doubling work is likely to be started and completed and the funds allocated for the purpose ?

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. However, the survey for doubling has been done from Yeshwantpur to Tumkur.

(b) The work of doubling of Yeshwantpur-Tumkur has been included in the budget 1997-98 at a cost of Rs. 80

crores with the proviso that the work would be taken up after obtaining necessary clearance for which action has been initiated. Funds can be allotted once clearances have been obtained and work started.

Terminal Facilities at Airports

3301. SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India has provided terminal facilities in addition to existing ones at certain airports to handle additional flights;

(b) if so, the names of these airports; and

(c) the amount spent thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has provided, at a cost of Rs. 182.93 crores, improved facilities at domestic airports located at Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Calicut, Coimbatore, Dimapur, Goa, Hyderabad, Indore, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Leh, Lucknow, Nagpur, Raipur and Vadodara.

Works on provision of additional facilities have also been undertaken at Agra, Bangalore, Bagdogra, Guwahati, Imphal, Kargil, Patna, Port Blair, Silchar, Tirupati and Tezpur at an estimated cost of Rs. 128.69 crores.

At international airports such as Mumbai, Calcutta and Trivandrum, construction of new International terminal complex/buildings has been undertaken at an estimated cost of Rs. 155.12 crores. Visitors Lounge and a new Terminal at Indira Gandhi International Airport have been constructed at a cost of Rs. 45.07 crores.

[Translation]

Linking of Buddhist Places with Railway Lines

3302. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to connect all the Buddhist places in the country with rail;

(b) if so, the number of Buddhist places connected with rail, so far, State-wise; and

(c) the reasons for not connecting the salvation land of Lord Buddha, Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh, with rail?

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. Places of religious interest are one of the criteria for provision of

rail connectivity, but not all places of religious interest can be connected by rail in view of the limited availability of resources. A large number of important places of Buddhist interest are connected by Rail.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Although Kusinagar is not directly connected with rail, it is near by district headquarters Padrauna (approximately 25 km from Kushinagar), Deoria (approximately 25 kms from Kushinagar) and Gorakhpur (approximately 60 km from Kushinagar) are directly connected with rail. These stations i.e. Padrauna, Gorakhpur Deoria are well connected with Kushinagar by road. A survey for a new BG line from Deoria to Padrauna via Kushinagar has been sanctioned in the current financial year. A decision on the line will be taken after the survey is completed.

Vacant DDA Flats

3303. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of D.D.A. flats are remained vacant for want of basic amenities;

(b) the time since when these flats are remained vacant, type-wise, location wise;

(c) the amount of loss suffered by D.D.A. as a result thereof ; and

(d) the time by which the Government is likely to provide the basic amenities in these flats ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) DDA has reported that 16,219 flats under various categories have been constructed which are lying vacant for want of electricity. The details of these flats type-wise, location-wise and the time since when lying vacant are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The flats are allotted at the cost prevailing at the time of issue of demand letter.

(d) The target dates by which the power is likely to be made available as given by DVB has been indicated in the statement against each scheme. Regular coordination meeting are held by DDA at various levels with all concerned agencies for provision of basic amenities in these flats. However in the absence of water supply and sewerage services by the MCD, interim arrangements are made by DDA through tubewells for water supply and through Oxidation ponds for sewerage disposal.

Statement

Details of Flats lying Vacant

S.No.	Name of Scheme	SFS	MIG	LIG	Janta	Total No. of flats	Lying Vacant since when	Details of services not available	Fresh Targets given in the last meeting held on 13.6.98 & 30.6.98 with Member Technical (D.V.B.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	MIG Flat at Kondli Gharoli	-	176	-	-	176	6/95	Power not available	10.7.98
		-	192	-	-	192	3/95	-do-	-do-
		-	128	-	-	128	3/95	-do-	-do-
		-	120	-	-	120	8/96	-do-	-do-
		-	180	-	-	180	8/96	-do-	-do-
		-	152	-	-	152	8/96	-do-	-do-
		-	176	-	-	176	8.96	-do-	-do-
2.	189 SFS at Ghazipur	101	-	-	-	101	6/96	-do-	31.7.98
		88	-	-	-	88	12/96	-do-	-do-
3.	MIG/LIG Houses at Mayur Vihar Pkt. IV, Phase I	-	124	-	124	248	3/96	-do-	30.6.98 (in Progress)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4.	Near Pearaghari (i) (ii)	177 -	- 148	- -	- -	177 148	3/97 12/96	-do- -do-	31.7.98 -do-
5.	Rohini Ph. III Sector 21, Pkt.4	-	-	240	-	240	6/95	-do-	8/98
6.	Rohini Ph. III sector 22, Pkt. 12	-	-	176	-	176	6/95	Power not available	9/98
7.	Rohini Ph.III Sector, 22 Pkt. 16	-	-	136	-	136	3/95	-do-	-do-
8.	Rohini Ph. III Sector 22, Pkt 16A	-	-	136	-	136	3/95	-do-	-do-
9.	Rohini Ph. III Sector 22, Pkt. 17	-	-	136	-	136	3/95	-do-	-do-
10.	Rohini Ph. III Sector 22, Pkt. 15	-	-	176	-	176	6/95	-do-	15.10.98
11.	Rohini Ph. III Sector, 23. Pkt. I	-	288	-	-	288	3/95	-do-	15.11.98
12.	Rohini Ph. III Sector 23, Pkt. 2	-	288	-	-	288	3/95	-do-	-do-
13.	Rohini Ph. III Sector, 24, Pkt. 4	-	225	-	-	225	3/95	-do-	Target not given by DVB likely to be completed by 1/99
14.	Rohini Ph.III Sector 24, Pkt. 24	-	288	-	-	288	3/95	-do-	-do-
15.	Rohini Ph. III Sector 24, Pkt. 23	-	270	-	-	270	3/95	-do-	-do-
16.	Rohini Ph. III Sector-24, Pkt.1	-	-	176	-	176	6/95	-do-	31.10.98
17.	Rohini Ph. III Sector 24, Pkt. 10	-	-	176	-	176	6/95	-do-	30.11.98
18.	Rohini Ph. III Sector 24, Pkt. 13	-	-	176	-	176	3/95	-do-	-do-
19.	Rohini Ph. III Sector 24, Pkt. 25	-	-	176	-	176	3/95	-do-	-do-
20.	Rohini Ph. Ili Sector, 24, Pkt, 26	-	-	292	-	292	3/95	-do-	-do-
21.	Rohini Ph. III Sector 25, Pkt. 8-9	-	-	250	-	250	3/95	-do-	Target not given by DVB likely to be completed by 2/99.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
22.	Rohini Ph. III Sector 25, Pkt.1	-	-	282	-	282	3/95	-do-	-do-
i)	Rohini Ph. III Sector 23, Pkt. 3	-	288	-	-	288	3/95	Power not available	15.11.98
iii)	Rohini Ph.III Sector 21, Pkt. 7	-	270	-	-	270	4/96	-do-	11/98
iii)	Rohini Ph. III Sector 24, Pkt. 4	-	45	-	-	45	4/96	-do-	Target not given by DVB likely to be completed by 1/99.
23.	Rohini Sec. 23, Pkt. 6	288	-	-	-	288	12/96	-do-	31.8.98
24.	Rohini Sec. 23, Pkt 7	144	-	-	-	144	3/97	-do-	-do-
25.	Seikh Sarai	104	-	-	-	104	3/97	-do-	Target not given by DVB.
26.	Dwarka Ph. I Nasirpur Pkt. 9	-	-	68	174	242	3/95	-do-	30.9.98
27.	Dwarka Nasirpur Pkt. 6	-	246	82	-	328	3/96	-do-	11/98
28.	Sec. 11 Dwarka of 167 MIG	-	144	-	-	144	3/97	-do-	15.8.98
29.	Sec.11 Pkt. 2 Dwarka	-	198	-	-	198	12/96	-do-	10/98
30.	Sec.11 Pkt. 3 Dwarka	-	198	-	-	198	12/96	-do-	15.7.98
31.	Sec. 6 Pkt 1 Dwarka	212	-	-	-	212	12/96	-do-	10/98
32.	Sec. I Pkt. I Dwarka of 312 SFS	136	-	-	-	136	12/96	-do-	15.9.98
33.	Sec. 4 Pkt. MLU	228	-	-	-	228	12/96	-do-	11/98
34.	Sec. 5 Pkt. MLU	167	-	-	-	167	12/96	-do-	10/98
35.	Sect. 5 Pkt. MLU	197	-	-	-	197	12/96	-do-	10/98
36.	Pkt 6 Nasirpur Dwarka	-	184	-	-	184	12/96	Power not available	9/98
37.	Sector 13 Dwarka	-	628	-	-	628	12/96	-do-	10/98
38.	Sector 14 Dwarka	-	360	-	-	360	12/96	-do-	11/98
39.	Sector 17, Dwarka	-	292	-	-	292	12/96	-do-	12/98
40.	Sector 3, Dwarka	-	456	152	-	608	3/97	-do-	11/98
41.	Sector 7 Dwarka	182	-	-	-	182	3/97	-do-	11/98
42.	Sector 12, of 151 SFS and 182 MIG	-	182	-	-	182	3/97	-do-	10/98

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
43.	Sec. 13, Dwarka of 486 MIG and 223 LIG	176	126	224	-	526	3/97	-do-	7/98
44.	Sec. 22 Dwarka of 424 SFS	672	-	-	-	672	3/97	-do-	25.6.98
45.	Todapur	-	-	-	56	56	3/98	-do-	Target not given by DVB likely to be completed by 12/98.
46.	Jasola	752	-	-	-	752	3/96	-do-	Target not given by DVB likely to be completed by 3/98.
47.	Sample House at Vasant Kunj	6	-	6	-	12	3/98	-do-	Target not given by DVB likely to be completed by 10/98.
48.	Shalimar Bagh Pkt. A Block-D	200	-	-	-	200	3/98	-do-	Target not given by DVB likely to be completed by 8/99.
49.	Narela Sec. B4 Pkt. 3	-	-	-	512	512	3/98	-do-	-do-
50.	Narela Sec. B4 Pkt. 9	-	-	-	280	280	3/98	Power not available	Target not given by DVB likely to be completed by 8/99.
51.	Mayur Vihar Pkt. 4	-	20	20	-	40	3/98	-do-	Target not given by DVB likely to be completed by 12/98.
52.	Dwarka								
(a)	Sec. 14 Pkt. B	-	-	864	-	864	3/98	-do-	Target not given by DVB likely to be completed by 3/99.
(b)	Sector 12	151	-	-	-	151	3/98	-do-	10/98
(c)	Sec. 9 (out of 468)	164	-	-	-	164	3/98	-do-	Target not given by DVB likely to be completed by 12/98.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
(d)	Sector I Pkt. I	176	-	-	-	176	3/98	-do-	15.9.98
(e)	Sec. 9 (Out of 468)	144	-	-	-	144	3/98	-do-	Target not given by DVB likely to be completed by 12/98.
(f)	Sector, 13	176	-	-	-	176	3/98	-do-	7/98
(g)	Nasirpur Pkt. 6	-	96	-	-	96	3/98	-do-	Target not given by DVB likely to be completed by 12/98.
G. Total 16219									

*[English]***Rail Link from Diphu to Karong**

3304. SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Railway link project from Diphu (Assam) to Karong (Manipur) and Imphal has been approved;

(b) if so, the present status of the project;

(c) the funds allocated in the current budget and for the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the efforts being made for early completion of project ?

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 project for construction of rail link between Diphu and Karong as the 1st phase of the rail link to Imphal has been approved.

(b) The work is included in the budget and is to be taken up after obtaining the requisite clearances for which action has already been initiated.

(c) Funds can be provided only after the clearances have been received.

(d) Efforts will be made to obtain more resources from the Planning Commission and to allocate the same to this project for satisfactorily progressing this project once the clearances become available and the work can be taken up.

*[Translation]***Removal of Railway Track**

3305. SHRI GAURI SHANKAR CHATURBHUI BISEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to remove Sanbgi to Katangjhari in Balaghat (Madhya Pradesh) railway track which is presently not being used for a long time;

(b) if so, whether tenders for removing the above rail track have been invited; and

(c) the time by which the above track is likely to be removed ?

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) No tender has been called, nor any time-bound frame-work for dismantling decided.

*[English]***Iron Ore Reserves**

3306. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE :
SHRI A. GANESHMURTHI :
SHRI VAIKO :

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

(a) whether the Government have concluded any survey for exploration of iron ore reserves in the country;

(b) if so, the total estimated iron ore reserves available in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have studies the Environmental factors due to mining;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in preventing the pollution in river Bhadra, due to discharge from Kudremukh iron ore and VISL (Bhadravati) ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Exploration is an ongoing activity. The State-wise estimated reserves in respect of Hematite and Magnetite Ores of Iron are listed below as on 1.4.95.

Unit : Million Tonnes	
Name of State	Total recoverable reserves
<i>Hematite</i>	
All India	10052
Andhra Pradesh	51
Bihar	2657
Goa	745
Karnataka	1072
Madhya Pradesh	1998
Maharashtra	227
Orissa	3293
Rajasthan	9
<i>Magnetite</i>	
All India	3408
Andhra Pradesh	418
Bihar	5
Goa	164
Karnataka	2784
Kerala	36
Rajasthan	Negligible
Tamil Nadu	1

(c) The environment factors have been studied both by Private and Government Agencies.

(d) Under Sector 5(2) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 before grant of mining lease by the State Government, a mining plan duly approved by the Central Government is a prerequisite. The mining plan which is approved by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) also includes an environmental management plan. Thus, in each operating mine, environmental factors have been studied and are being monitored regularly by the IBM. Under BRGM of France, there is collaboration item in Iron Ore Mines of North Goa Mineral Belt that would entail preparation of Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

(e) Preventive measures to ward off pollution in river Bhadra have been taken. They are (i) construction of two mini dams and well designed drainage system, besides a series of check bunds (ii) construction of diversion channel of Kudremukh Holey (iii) construction of a dam across Lakya stream whose height has also been increased to contain railings. The State Pollution Control Board monitors regularly the quality of water of river Bhadra at both points of entry and exit of the project area.

The measures adopted to control pollution at Kemmannugundi Iron Ore Mines of M/s VISL are afforestation of waste dumps and bunding at the foot of the waste dumps. VISL have also set up effluent treatment plants and sewage treatment plant to minimise pollution.

Withdrawal of Passenger Train

3307. SHRI NEPAL CHANDRA DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether one pair of passenger train in Karimganj-Dhullavcherra route of N.F. Railway has recently been withdrawn ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the said pair of train is likely to be reintroduced ?

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. However one pair of Karimganj-Dullabcherra passenger was withdrawn w.e.f. 01.9.91.

(b) Poor patronisation.

(c) At present, there is no plan to reintroduce the train in view of poor patronisation.

Drought Prone Area Programme

3308. SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIYA :
SHRI RANJIB BISWAL .

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

(a) the name of districts covered under the Drought Prone Area Programme and the existing position in this regard State-wise;

(b) the funds allocated by the Union and State/ Governments and spent under the programme during the Eighth Five Year Plan, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) the funds earmarked under the DPAP in Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(d) whether some States have sent any proposals to bring a few more districts under the said programme;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(f) the schemes proposed to be introduced in Drought Prone Areas in Gujarat and Orissa ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) The names of districts covered under the Drought Prone Areas Programme is given in the enclosed Statement-I. The programme is being implemented in all these districts at present, on Watershed Project basis.

(b) State-wise position on the Central releases made, the matching share of the State Governments and expenditure under the programme, year-wise during the Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-93 to 1996-97) is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) The Ninth Five Year Plan has not yet been finalised by the Planning Commission.

(d) and (e) Some States have sent proposals to include few more blocks under the programme, but as these proposed blocks did not meet the criteria set for inclusion of areas for coverage under the programme, these proposals had not been accepted.

(f) Gujarat and Orissa are already covered under DPAP and the Programme is being implemented in these States also, on watershed project basis. No separate scheme is proposed in these States.

Statement-I

State-wise list of Districts covered under Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP)

State	Districts
1	2
1. Andhra Pradesh	1. Adilabad 2. Chittoor 3. Cuddapah 4. Kurnool 5. Khammam 6. Medak 7. Mahaboobnagar 8. Nalgonda 9. Prakasham 10. Rangareddy 11. Srikakulam

	1	2
2. Bihar		1. Bhaabua 2. Dumka 3. Deoghar 4. Dhanbad 5. Bokaro 6. Garhwa 7. Godda 8. Hazaribagh 9. Chatra 10. Jamui 11. Madhubani 12. Nawadah 13. Palamau 14. Rohtas 15. Sitamarhi 16. Sahebganj
3. Gujarat		1. Ahmedabad 2. Amreli 3. Bharuch 4. Bahvnagar 5. Junagarh 6. Panchamahals 7. Sabarkantha 8. The Dangs 9. Vadodra 10. Valsad
4. Himachal Pradesh		1. Bilaspur 2. Solan 3. Una
5. Jammu & Kashmir		1. Doda 2. Udhampur
6. Karnataka		1. Belgaum 2. Bidar 3. Bangalore 4. Chikmagalur 5. Chitradurga 6. Dharwar 7. Gulbarga 8. Hassan 9. Kolar 10. Mysore 11. Tumkur
7. Madhya Pradesh		1. Betul 2. Bhind 3. Bastar 4. Bilaspur 5. Chhindwara 6. Dhar

1		2	
		7. Dewas	
		8. Damoh	
		9. Durg	
		10. East Nimar	
		11. Guna	
		12. Jhabua	
		13. Jabalpur	
		14. Panna	
		15. Rewa	
		16. Rajnandgaon	
		17. Raisen	
		18. Rajgarh	
		19. Ratlam	
		20. Sivpuri	
		21. Shajapur	
		22. Seoni	
		23. Shahdol	
		24. Sidhi	
		25. West Nimar	
8. Maharashtra	1. Ahmednagar		
	2. Aurangabad		
	3. Akola		
	4. Amravati		
	5. Buldana		
	6. Beed		
	7. Chandrapur		
	8. Dhule		
	9. Gadchiroli		
	10. Jalgoan		
	11. Jaina		
	12. Latur		
	13. Nagpur		
	14. Nanded		
	15. Nasik		
	16. Osmanabad		
	17. Pune		
	18. Parbhani		
	19. Sangli		
	20. Satara		
	21. Sholapur		
	22. Yeotmal		
9. Orissa	1. Bolangir		
	2. Sonapur		
	3. Dhenkanal		
	4. Kalahandi		
	5. Naupada		
	6. Phulbani		
	7. Boudh		
	8. Bargarh		
		10. Rajasthan	
		1. Ajmer	
		2. Bharatpur	
		3. Banswara	
		4. Dungarpur	
		5. Jhalawar	
		6. Kota	
		7. Baran	
		8. Sawai Madhopur	
		9. Tonk	
		10. Udaipur	
		11. Tamil Nadu	
		1. Chidambarnar	
		2. Coimbatore	
		3. Dindigul Anna	
		4. Dharmapuri	
		5. Kamarajar	
		6. North Arcot I (Ambedkar)	
		7. North Arcot II (Thiruvanamalai) (Sambuvarayar)	
		8. Pasumpmuthuramalingan	
		9. Ramanathapuram	
		10. Salem	
		11. Tiruchirapalli	
		12. Karur Deeran (Chennamalai)	
		13. Perambalur (Thiruvalluvar)	
		14. Tirunelveli	
		15. Pudukottai	
		12. Uttar Pradesh	
		1. Allahabad	
		2. Almora	
		3. Baharaich	
		4. Banda	
		5. Chamoli	
		6. Garhwal (Pauri)	
		7. Gonda	
		8. Hamirpur	
		9. Mahoba	
		10. Jalun	
		11. Jhansi	
		12. Lakhimpur Kheri	
		13. Lalitpur	
		14. Mirzapur	
		15. Pithoragarh	
		16. Sitapur	
		17. Sonebhadra	
		18. Tehri Garhwal	
		13. West Bengal	
		1. Bankura	
		2. Birbhum	
		3. Midnapur	
		4. Purulia	

Statement-II*Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) 1992-93*

State	(Rs. in lakhs)			
	Central release	State share	Total funds	Utilisation
1. Andhra Pr.	631.50	601.50	1233.00	1479.47
2. Bihar	382.87	467.82	850.69	579.51
3. Gujarat	371.44	404.77	776.21	787.68
4. Haryana	67.50	67.50	135.00	142.14
5. J & K	166.80	176.18	342.98	332.29
6. Karnataka	571.55	571.78	1143.33	1272.39
7. Madhya Pr.	404.50	404.50	809.00	685.34
8. Maharashtra	627.35	671.50	1298.85	1247.66
9. Orissa	430.47	245.15	675.62	563.41
10. Rajasthan	256.99	330.78	587.77	635.70
11. Tamil Nadu	365.26	365.26	730.52	660.34
12. Uttar Pr.	693.00	693.00	1386.00	1271.36
13. West Bengal	155.15	156.13	311.28	296.73
Total	5124.38	5155.87	10280.25	9954.02

Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) 1993-94

State	(Rs. in lakhs)			
	Central release	State share	Total funds	Utilisation
1. Andhra Pr.	1201.50	1231.50	2433.00	2405.17
2. Bihar	434.11	305.10	739.21	880.28
3. Gujarat	559.12	559.12	1118.24	1193.91
4. Haryana	101.25	101.25	202.50	203.75
5. J & K	111.37	111.37	222.74	403.84
6. Karnataka	846.46	840.14	1686.60	1608.81
7. Madhya Pr.	575.39	575.39	1150.78	1339.18
8. Maharashtra	967.54	1007.25	1974.79	1825.91
9. Orissa	421.17	357.00	778.17	1125.74
10. Rajasthan	519.51	395.50	915.01	729.92
11. Tamil Nadu	682.17	682.17	1364.34	1074.30
12. Uttar Pr.	1036.53	1036.54	2073.07	1943.94
13. West Bengal	229.88	212.59	442.47	432.17
Total	7686.00	7414.92	15100.92	15166.92

Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) 1994-95

State	(Rs. in lakhs)			
	Central release	State share	Total funds	Utilisation
1. Andhra Pr.	1093.86	1093.86	2187.72	2354.86
2. Bihar	568.13	300.00	868.13	631.87
3. Gujarat	617.35	617.35	1234.70	1190.74
4. Haryana	112.50	112.50	225.00	224.25
5. J & K	266.75	268.75	533.50	502.73
6. Karnataka	1034.00	1034.00	2068.00	1718.74
7. Madhya Pr.	672.50	672.50	1345.00	1065.34
8. Maharashtra	1109.00	1109.00	2218.00	2382.51
9. Orissa	516.50	516.50	1033.00	889.83
10. Rajasthan	426.50	426.50	853.00	1013.03
11. Tamil Nadu	622.12	622.12	1244.24	1396.35
12. Uttar Pr.	1148.78	1148.78	2297.56	2091.18
13. West Bengal	302.86	302.86	605.72	671.58
Total	8490.85	8222.72	16713.57	16133.01

Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) 1995-96

State	(Rs. in lakhs)			
	Central release	State share	Total funds	Utilisation
1. Andhra Pr.	2106.55	2106.55	4213.10	2103.00
2. Bihar	724.71	724.71	1449.42	374.56
3. Gujarat	1013.96	1013.96	2027.92	774.80
4. Himachal Pr.	66.50	66.50	133.00	43.26
5. J & K	260.29	260.29	520.58	477.58
6. Karnataka	1159.04	1159.04	2318.08	1454.99
7. Madhya Pr.	1938.70	1938.70	3877.40	1534.48
8. Maharashtra	1721.31	1721.31	3442.62	1677.22
9. Orissa	403.84	403.84	807.68	715.21
10. Rajasthan	643.77	643.77	1287.54	1001.99
11. Tamil Nadu	532.49	532.49	1064.98	1307.86
12. Uttar Pr.	1093.16	1093.16	2186.32	1763.30
13. West Bengal	230.33	230.33	460.66	205.21
14. Haryana (ONG)	15.41	15.41	30.82	24.81
Total	11910.06	11910.06	23820.12	13458.27

Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) 1996-97

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	Central release	State share	Total funds	Utilisation
1. Andhra Pr.	2619.63	2619.63	5239.26	4312.74
2. Bihar	34.00	34.00	68.00	258.22
3. Gujarat	731.06	731.06	1462.12	1175.84
4. Himachal Pr.	194.00	194.00	388.00	185.28
5. J & K	198.00	198.00	396.00	63.80
6. Karnataka	493.55	493.55	987.10	1185.52
7. Madhya Pr.	2118.94	2118.94	4237.88	1648.10
8. Maharashtra	1260.73	1260.73	2521.46	1648.10
9. Orissa	295.00	295.00	590.00	454.08
10. Rajasthan	152.00	152.00	304.00	458.03
11. Tamil Nadu	1223.56	1223.56	2447.12	1210.71
12. Uttar Pr.	1649.57	1649.57	3299.14	2457.43
13. West Bengal	28.29	28.29	56.58	313.90
14. Haryana (ONG)	1.86	1.86	3.72	12.77
Total	11000.19	11000.19	22000.38	16008.10

Disposal of Surplus Defence Stock

3309. SHRI M. RAJAJIAH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to lay a Statement showing :

(a) the items that are available under the term "Stores" from surplus defence stock along with its cost and the places of its availability on payment basis to the welfare/charitable and educational institutions;

(b) the items that are available under the term "Vehicles" from surplus defence stock along with its cost and the places of its availability on payment basis to the above institutions; and

(c) the procedure of applying for these items ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FER-NANDES) : (a) A list of items that are available under the

term "Stores" from surplus defence stock to the welfare/charitable and educational institutions is given in the Statement-I enclosed. The places of the availability of these items are contained in the Statement-II enclosed.

(b) The details of the items that are available under the term "Vehicles" from surplus defence stock and the cost of each item are contained in the Statement-III enclosed. The places of its availability on payment basis to the above bodies are contained in the Statement-IV.

(c) The details of the procedure of applying for these items are given in the Statement-V enclosed.

Statement-I

The list of the items which can be made available under the term 'Stores' from surplus defence stock to the Welfare/Charitable/Educational institutions is as under :

- Blanket
- Blouse woollen
- Boot Ankle Rubber
- Coats and Caps WP
- Cover WP
- Durries
- Great Coats
- Overalls Combination
- Shirt Woollen
- Trousers cotton
- Bags Sleeping
- Towels
- Net Mosquitoes
- Bed Sheets

The above-mentioned items are issued to the said Institutions, Flood prone areas and Govt. departments, free of cost, within the delegated powers of Depot Commandant upto Rs. one lakh on the prevailing vocabulary rate available with each Depot.

Statement-II

Sl.No.	Depot	States, Organisations/institutions belonging to which will be dependent on the Depot.
1	2	3
1.	Ordnance Depot, Avadi	(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Karnataka (d) Kerala
2.	Ordnance Depot, Telegaon Dabhade	(a) Maharashtra (b) Goa (c) Gujarat (d) Union Territory of Diu and Daman
3.	6 Field Ordnance Depot C/O 56 APO	Rajasthan
4.	Ordnance Depot, Shakurbasti	N.C.T. of Delhi

1	2	3
5.	11 Field Ordnance Depot, C/O 56 APO	Haryana
6.	223 Advanced based Ordnance Depot	Punjab
7.	1 Field Ordnance Depot C/O 56 APO	Jammu & Kashmir (South of Banihal)
8.	2 Field Ordnance Depot C/O 56 APO	Jammu & Kashmir (North of Banihal)
9.	Ordnance Transit Group, Pathankot	Himachal Pradesh
10.	Central Ordnance Depot, Agra	Western Uttar Pradesh
11.	Central Ordnance Depot, Kanpur	Eastern Uttar Pradesh
12.	Ordnance Depot, Allahabad	Bihar
13.	Central Ordnance Depot, Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh
14.	Central Vehicle Depot, Panagarh	Orissa/West Bengal (Calcutta & areas West of it)
15.	5 Field Ordnance Depot C/O 99 APO	West Bengal (areas east of Calcutta Sikkim)
16.	222 Advanced Based Ordnance Depot	Assam/Nagaland/Manipur/Arunachal Pradesh/ Mizoram/Meghalaya/Tripura

Statement-III

List of Vehicles and the prices at which these can be allotted to the Welfare/Charitable/Educational Institutions

S.No.	Type of vehicles	Price fixed for 1.4.98 to 31.3.99
1.	Motor Cycle Solo 350 CC R/R	Rs. 10,900/-
2.	Car 250 Kg 4 x 4 GS M&M CJ3B	Rs. 28,136/-
3.	Car 250 Kg 4 x4 GS NSN 60	Rs. 20,487/-
4.	Truck 1 Ton 4 x 4 GS NSN	Rs. 36,162/-
5.	Truck 1 Ton 4 x 4 Amb NSN	Rs. 33,042/-
6.	Truck 1 Ton 4 x 4 Radio Relay NSN	Rs. 26,500/-
7.	Truck 1 Ton 4 x 4 Water 1000 Ltrs NSN	Rs. 31,821/-
8.	Truck 1 Ton 4 x 4 NSN FAT	Rs. 32,430/-
9.	Truck 1 Ton 4 x 4 NSN FAT (Amb)	Rs. 33,750/-
10.	Truck 1 Ton 4 x 2 TATA	Rs. 2,05,100/-
11.	Ly 3 Ton 4 x 2 GS TMB	Rs. 1,21,250/-
12.	Ly 3 Ton 4 x 2 Bus Body TMB 312	Rs. 1,58,577/-
13.	Ly 3 Ton 4 x 2 Tipping TMB 312	Rs. 1,10,833/-
14.	Ly 3 Ton 4 x 4 GS TMB 312	Rs. 1,65,162/-
15.	Ly 5 Ton Ashok Leyland	Rs. 1,28,461/-
16.	Ly 6.5 Ton 4 x 2 LPT TATA	Rs. 1,24,647/-
17.	Ly 6.5 Ton 4 x 2 LPT TATA 1210 E/42	Rs. 1,26,883/-
18.	Ly 6.5 Ton 4 x 2 LPT 1210E Bus Body	Rs. 1,70,000/-
19.	Ly 3 Ton 4 x 4 GS Shaktiman	Rs. 85,147/-

Statement-IV

Depots from where vehicles can be collected: The Vehicles are delivered to the welfare/charitable and educational institutions from the following Depots :

1. Central Vehicle Depot, Panagarh (West Bengal)
2. Ordnance Depot, Avadi Chennai (Tamil Nadu)
3. Central Vehicle Depot, Delhi Cantt.
4. Ordnance Transit Group, Pathankot
5. Central Ordnance Depot, Chheoki (Uttar Pradesh)
6. 41 Vehicle Company, Guwahati (Assam)

Statement-V

1. Procedure for allotment of stores to Welfare/Charitable/Educational institutions : Demands for release of unserviceable clothing items from Organisation falling within the jurisdiction of local administration, including Charitable/Welfare/Educational organisation, showing the items and quantity thereof, accompanied by a certificate duly verified by the Head of the Organisation/Institution to the effect that these are required for the bonafide use of the organisation and not for the personal use of any Officer(s)/Staff. The demand, alongwith such certificate, is routed through respective DM/DC/Incharge of District Administration, who not only certifies the bonafides of the Organisation but also indicates the reasonableness of the demand and the specific purpose for which the items are required. An undertaking is also given by the Organisation concerned that the items are not to be sold. The Commandant/OC of the concerned Depot is responsible to scrutinise the demand and has the authority

to reject the said demand, if found untenable, as per the existing instructions.

2. Procedure for applying for vehicles : The registered/recognised Welfare/Charitable/Educational institutions are authorised for one Truck/Lorry upto 6.5 Ton 4 x 2 Tata LPT 1210E, one Jeep and one Motor Cycle from the surplus defence stock in a block of 5 years. The application is submitted direct to the Government of India, Ministry of Defence alongwith the following certificates :

- i) Certificate from the Head of the Organisation/ Institution that the vehicle(s) is/are required for the bonafide use of the organisation and not for the personal use of any of its Officers/Staff.
- ii) That no vehicle(s) has/have been drawn by the institution within a period of three years prior to the date of the request.
- iii) That the released vehicle(s) will not be resold within a period of three years from the date of release.

The request should, normally, be made through the concerned Department of the State Government or Central Government, giving full justification of the requirements. The bonafides of the organisations and the reasonableness of the requirements are certified by an officer of the rank of Joint Secretary or an officer of equivalent rank by the concerned Department of the State Government or the concerned Ministry of the Government of India. Such certification, specifically, covers the financial standing of the institution and its capacity to make a capital investment, after certifying their balance sheets and accounts.

In the case of organisations, within the Defence set up, R & D organisation, DGQA, it is similarly certified by an officer not below the rank of Major General or equivalent that the requirement of the organisation are reasonable and that the vehicles asked for are required for bonafide Welfare amenity/educational purposes, and the organisation has financial standing and capacity for making the capital investment, as verified from their Balance sheets and accounts. In the case of Formation Head-quarters, an officer not below the rank of Major General for the respective side certifies.

Vehicles other than jeeps, are released at the latest average auction sale rate for the same time, make model, category as determined from time to time. In the case of Jeeps only one vehicle is released at 50% of the latest average auction sale rate for the same type, make model and category as determined from time to time. Release of any additional jeep will be at the full average auction sale rate, plus departmental charges.

The vehicle(s) are collected from the respective Depots by the representative of the organisation.

Release of vehicle(s) is not, normally, authorised to the same organisation more than once in three years.

Customers' Service "Access"

3310. SHRI P. UPENDRA :
SHRI RANJIB BISWAL :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Indian Airlines has started a new customers' service programme called "Access";
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the response of the travellers to this scheme ?

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

(b) In order to give a quantum face-lift and to improve Indian Airlines complaint handling system, a new feedback programme named 'ACCESS' has been launched on 8th May, 1998. The scheme is based on a fully computerised data base management system, which would ensure that every writer of the Access card gets a personalised response. The scheme was started with an initial letter from the Chairman & Management Director, Indian Airlines to passengers travelling on Indian Airlines, requesting them to give their views and suggestions for the improvement of services.

(c) The response from the passengers is phenomenal. In the first month approximately 5000 Access cards were received from the passengers, which is very high as compared to the number of suggestion cards received earlier.

Water Scarcity in Maharashtra

3311. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appeared in "The Hindustan Times" dated May 16, 1998 wherein it has been stated that more than 50 million people in the villages and slum of Maharashtra State are grappling with an acute water scarcity;

(b) whether the Government of Maharashtra has submitted any scheme/proposal and has demanded funds to ensure supply of water; and

(c) if so, the action the Union Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Drinking water is a State subject. States are expected and also guided to plan and implement individual rural water supply schemes. The Central Government supplement the efforts of the State Governments by providing central assistance under the centrally sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme. As per the Action Plan prepared by the Government of Maharashtra all rural uncovered habitations of the State will be fully provided with safe drinking water during the Ninth Plan period, subject to availability of funds.

Passenger Amenities at Railway Stations

3312. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that passengers' amenities at the railway stations have deteriorated since the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether any surprise checks have been conducted to find out the factors responsible for it;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the concrete measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to streamline the passenger amenities at the railway stations ?

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 has been no deterioration.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Regular and surprise inspections are conducted by Railway Officers and Supervisory staff at various levels in order to ensure that requisite passenger amenities are available and well maintained. As a follow up of these inspections, corrective action is being taken, where necessary. In addition, Service Improvement Groups have been constituted at important stations with a view to have a multi-disciplinary approach to the upkeep and improvement in the services provided. These Groups consist of Officers/Supervisory staff from various Departments and function at Station, Divisional and Headquarters levels.

(e) Minimum facilities have been provided at all stations. Norms based on volume of traffic at stations have been laid down for provision of various amenities viz. Waiting Hall, Sitting accommodation, drinking water, latrine and urinals, booking arrangements, water coolers, waiting rooms, covered-sheds etc. Allocation of funds for amenities are constantly being increased from year to year.

Besides, for the convenience of passengers, reserved accommodation on trains through Computerised Reservation System has been extended to 339 locations upto 31.3.1998 covering about 95% of the total reserved accommodation. Enquiry Offices are also being upgraded by providing Inter-active Voice Response System (IVRS) for telephonic enquiries, improved announcement and display systems.

Monitoring Cells at Ministry, Zonal and Divisional Railway Headquarters levels have also been set up for monitoring passenger complaints related to passenger amenities.

[Translation]

Development of Towns

3313. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount provided for development of towns during the last three years and till March, 1998 and the Plan Head under which the amount has been provided, State-wise;

(b) the amount provided by the Union Government during 1998-99;

(c) whether Uttar Pradesh has been provided inadequate funds for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHAMALANI) : (a) State-wise details of Central grants for development of towns for the last three years upto March, 1998 are given in the enclosed Statements I and II.

(b) and (c) The State-wise allocation funds for 1998-99 are yet to be finalised. Therefore, no Central grants have been released so far.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement-I

State-wise release of Central grants during the last three years upto March, 1998

S.No.	State/UTs	Funds released under plan head	
		Major Head 2217- Urban Development I D S M T	Major Head 2215- Water Supply and Sanitation A U W S P
(Rupees in lakhs)			
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	863.01	104.45
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	29.00	308.05

1	2	3	4
3.	Assam	151.86	94.00
4.	Bihar	195.00	94.00
5.	Goa	-	9.20
6.	Gujarat	657.52	97.30
7.	Haryana	82.00	250.88
8.	Himachal Pradesh	65.00	144.38
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	92.50	80.26
10.	Karnataka	740.34	227.54
11.	Kerala	448.25	137.39
12.	Madhya Pradesh	603.79	954.63
13.	Maharashtra	1140.99	480.85
14.	Manipur	85.50	206.03
15.	Mizoram	57.00	70.66
16.	Meghalaya	30.60	97.82
17.	Nagaland	39.00	86.69
18.	Orissa	157.00	344.99
19.	Punjab	134.00	121.76
20.	Rajasthan	464.00	715.27
21.	Sikkim	18.00	0.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	393.50	309.58
23.	Tripura	94.75	0.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	867.00	1893.86
25.	West Bengal	531.90	71.56
26.	Dadar Nagar Haveli	5.00	-
27.	Daman & Diu	15.00	-
Total		7961.51	6807.65

Statement-II

Mega Cities-wise release of Central grants during the last three years

S.No.	City	Funds released under Plan- Major Head 3601 for financing the project & Major Head - 2217 for feasibility study & research etc.
(Rupees in crores)		
1.	Mumabi	48.89
2.	Calcutta	46.55
3.	Chennai	41.87
4.	Hyderabad	39.51
5.	Bangalore	36.88
Total		213.70

Rail Passes on Payment of Foreign Exchange

3314. SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA :
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a decision has been taken by this Ministry to issue Railway Passes on payment of foreign exchange;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore and the date from which this decision is being implemented; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange received by the Ministry so far after implementing this decision and the number of passes issued so far ?

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) Indian Railways had introduced a scheme called "Indrail Pass" w.e.f. 1.5.1977. Indrail Passes have been designed and introduced by the Indian Railways, especially for the convenience of foreign nationals and Indians residing abroad. An Indrail Pass can be purchased against payment of US Dollar, Pound Sterling and other convertible foreign currency.

During 1996-97 an amount of US\$ 8,15517 was earned through sale of 10,500 Indrail Passes. Another scheme for exchange of Eurotrain Explorer Pass for Indrail Pass has been initiated.

[English]

Gauge Conversion of Mungher-Sahapur-Kamal Railway

3315. SHRI ANUP LAL YADAV :
SHRI RAJ BANSHI MAHTO :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways has taken up the conversion work of Mungher-Sahapur-Kamal railway line from metre gauge to broad gauge ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether this railway line is proposed to be extended upto Gaya through Uttar Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the extension work is likely to be taken up 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) and (b) Yes, Sir. Construction of rail bridge on river Ganga at Mungher has been included in the Budget 1997-98 and would be taken up

after obtaining necessary clearances. Once the work is completed Mungher will get connected to Sahibpur Kamal by BG line. —

(c) to (e) Sahibpur Kamal and Mungher are already connected with Gaya by BG line via Barauni Luckesarai and Jamalpur, Kiul respectively. None of these lines pass through Uttar Pradesh.

Air Conditioning System at Chennai Airport

3316. SHRI VAIKO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Air conditioning system for the Chennai Airport is awaiting installation since long ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) A new air-conditioning machinery has already been installed at Chennai airport on 14.5.1998.

[Translation]

Train Accidents between Delhi-Bhopal

3317. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of rail accidents occurred between Delhi and Bhopal during the last two years;

(b) the loss of Government property therein;

(c) the punitive action taken against the persons responsible; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to check such accidents ?

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 have been 32 train accidents between Delhi and Bhopal during the last two years.

(b) The cost of damage to railway property arising out of these accidents in the last two years have been estimated at Rs. 5.75 crores approximately.

(c) All these accidents have been enquired into and persons found responsible for causing these accidents have been taken up and proceeded against under Discipline and Appeal Rules.

(d) The Railways have taken the following steps to prevent train accidents :

i) The work of track circuiting has been accelerated on the trunk routes and other important main lines.

ii) Modification of the signalling circuitry is being carried out to minimise chances of human error in causing accidents.

iii) Auxiliary Warning System for giving advance warning about "Signal at danger" to the driver of the running train has been commissioned on Bombay suburban sections.

iv) There has been progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance.

v) For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometers are being progressively used.

vi) Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised and upgraded at many depots.

vii) To prevent cases of cold breakage of axles, Routine Over Hauling Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for detection of flaws in the axles.

viii) Whistle boards/ speed breakers and road signs have been provided at unmanned level crossings and visibility for drivers has been improved.

ix) Audio-visual publicity campaigns to educate road users on how to make a safe crossing are conducted.

x) Steps have been taken to prevent inflammable and explosive materials from being carried in passenger trains.

xi) Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernised including use of Simulators for training of drivers.

xii) Refresher courses are regularly organised at specified intervals.

xiii) Performance of the staff connected with train operation is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for crash training.

xiv) Periodical safety drives are conducted to inculcate safety consciousness among the staff.

*[English]***Extension of Indian Airlines to Jabalpur**

3318. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Airlines services being operated upto Raipur are proposed to be extended upto Jabalpur; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be extended?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Old age Pension Scheme

3319. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL :
SHRI UPENDRA NATH NAYAK :

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

(a) the funds allocated under the old age pension scheme and disbursed during the year 1997-98, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have yet to revise the Old Age Pension;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) A sum of Rs. 46396.79 lakhs was allocated to the various State/UTs under the National Old Age Pension Scheme (NDAPS) during the year 1997-98. Out of this Rs. 36278.88 lakhs was released. As reported by the States/UTs, a sum of Rs. 32706.31 lakhs (Provisional) has been utilised during the year 1997-98, State-wise allocation and release figures have been given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) to (d) The NOAPS introduced a national minimum standard for old age pension. Central funds are given to the States/UTs for payment of old age pension to the destitute persons of 65 years and above @ Rs. 75/- per month. The State Governments have the freedom to adopt more liberal criteria and to pay an amount higher than Rs. 75/- per month, meeting the differences from their own funds. The NOAPS has been in operation only for near about 3 years and many States are to achieve the numerical ceilings in respect of the number of beneficiaries prescribed for Central assistance and there is also the resource constraint. Hence, of late, the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment has no proposal to revise the old age pension.

Exploration of Mineral Wealth

3320. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the efforts made by the Union Government to explore mineral wealth of Maharashtra during the last three years ;

(b) whether the Government are satisfied with the results achieved; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Geological Survey of India (GSI) has carried out during the last three years a number of explorations for basemetal, gold and manganese ore besides preliminary investigations of dimensional stones, platinum group of elements, rare earth of elements and coal.

The significant achievement are as follows :

1. Established continuity of Manganese Ore body for 210 Mts. and 600 Mts. strike length in Parsoda Block and Bolda-Junevani area of Nagpur district respectively.

2. 0.7 million tonnes of ore with 1.2% of Copper has been estimated in Gorara Block, Bhadara district in Maharashtra.

3. Small gold deposits have been established in Parsori West Block, Nagpur district with an estimated reserve of 0.137 million tonnes of gold ores average grade of 5.23 gm/tonne and in Kitari Block with 1.2 million tonnes of gold ores of average of 0.5 g/t.

4. Regional assessment has established commercial grade dimensional stones in Nagpur, Bhandara, Gadchiroli, Chandrapur and Nanded districts in three Blocks, covering an area of 30 Sq Kms.

5. GSI has conducted regional exploration for coal in Wardha valley coalfield, Chandrapur and Wardha districts and estimated 158.00 million tonne coal in Rajpura-Manikgarh and 300.00 million tonne Coal in Palashban areas.

Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) have, on behalf of Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL) and Ministry of Coal conducted exploration of coal in Chandrapur and Nagpur district during last three years and established reserve of 131.40 million tonnes.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Questions does not arise.

Black-Listed NGOs

3321. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Non-Governmental Organisations;
- (b) the number out of them have been black-listed;
- (c) whether they were formed to fulfil a crying social need;
- (d) the quantum of funds allotted and utilised for the development of the poorer sections of the society by these organisations;
- (e) the quantum of funds siphoned off by a handful of people who control these NGOs; and
- (f) the action taken against them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) which provides assistance to the Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) for implementation of various rural development projects, has assisted 6401 NGOs since its inception and till, 31.3.1998.

(b) CAPART has reported as on 31.3.1998, 248 NGOs were on their blacklist.

(c) The Government has no role in the formation of NGOs. However, assistance is provided by CAPART to such NGOs whose objectives include rural development and eradication of poverty in rural areas.

(d) Since inception and upto 31.3.98 CAPART has sanctioned Rs. 475.04 crore for implementation of various schemes of this Ministry through NGOs. Out of this amount, Rs. 349.75 crore has actually been released to the NGOs.

(e) and (f) For various omissions and commissions, including feared misutilisation of funds to the extent of Rs. 2.42 crore by some of the NGOs, CAPART has blacklisted 248 NGOs to whom financial assistance is being given besides launching departmental investigation and referring cases to C.B.I. Also no assistance is being given by CAPART to 128 NGOs who have been blacklisted by other Government agencies.

[Translation]

Utilisation of Wooden Sleepers

3322. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Railways has made any assessment of the large number of wooden sleepers after their replace-

ment by concrete ones are lying along the railway tracks for years together and are now decaying and being pilferaged;

- (b) if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to utilise these wooden sleepers in Poorvanchal area; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these sleepers are likely to be used ?

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, some of the wooden sleepers released from track renewals remain along the track due to various reasons. However, these are sorted out subsequently for the use of casual renewals and accordingly these are transported to respective stations/depots wherever required.

(b) As mentioned above, some time it remains at site of work for sorting out and transportation the same to depot.

(c) Yes, these wooden sleepers are used depending upon the requirement, in the Indian Railways including Poorvanchal area.

(d) Serviceable released sleepers will be utilised within one year.

Construction of Over-bridge at Ayodhya

3323. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representation regarding construction of over-bridge at level crossing in Ayodhya;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the time by which over-bridge at above level crossing 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.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Speed of Trains between Ahmedabad -Khedbrahma

3324. SHRIMATI NISHA A. CHAUDHARI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the speed of trains running on Ahmedabad-Khedbrahma railway line in Gujarat is very slow. If so, what is the sanctioned speed of running the trains on this railway line;

(b) whether the Government have received any proposal/representation from VIPs to increase the speed of trains on this line; and

(c) if so, the steps the Government have taken in the matter ?

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. The permissible speed on this section is 50 km, per hour.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Attachment of Coaches

3325. DR. SANJAY SINH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether two coaches for Amethi Railway Station used to be attached with almost all express trains starting from Varanasi to Mumbai which has since been cancelled ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which they are likely to be attached again ?

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.

Availability of Locomotives

3326. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Steam / Diesel / Electric locomotives available in each Loco Shed, zone-wise and gauge-wise;

(b) whether the condition of steam engines are deteriorated due to scarcity of spare parts and not overhauling them periodically; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to replace them with Diesel locomotives ?

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) Yes, Sir.

(c) Steam locomotives are expected to be replaced by 2000 AD depending upon the availability of diesel/electric locomotives on Indian Railways except in some sections of tourist attraction.

Statement

(a) the number of Steam/Diesel/Electric locomotive available in each Loco shed, zone-wise and gauge-wise as on 1.4.1998 are given below :

Railway	Shed	Number of locomotives
1	2	3
<i>Steam locomotives (Metre Gauge)</i>		
Southern	Coonor	8
Western	Mhow	4
Western	Wankaner	11
Western	Jetalsar	5
<i>Steam Locomotives (Narrow Gauge)</i>		
North-Frontier	Tindharia	5
"	New Jalpaiguri	5
"	Kurseong	2
"	Darjeeling	2
<i>Diesel Locomotives (Broad Gauge)</i>		
Central Railway	Itarsi	147
"	New Katni	176
"	Jhansi	77
"	Pune	121
"	Kalyan	50
"	Kurla	76
"	Agra	24
Eastern Railway	Howrah	47
"	Beliaghata	45
"	Burdwan	77
"	Andal	94
"	Patratu	117
"	Mughal Sarai	42
"	Jamalpur	58
"	Bamangachi	34
Northern Railway	Tuglakabad	141
"	Ludhiana	144
"	Lucknow	103
"	Bhagat-Ki-Kothi	50
"	Mughal Sarai	36
"	Shakurbasti	112

1	2	3
North-Eastern Railway	Gonda	109
North-Frontier	Malda Town	53
"	New Guwahati	51
Southern Railway	Erode	143
"	Krishna Rajapuram	65
"	Tondiarpet	64
"	Ernakulam	35
"	Golden Rock	26
South-Central	Kazipet	142
"	Gooty	136
"	Guntakal	77
"	Maula Ali	20
"	Vijayawada	35
South-Eastern	Vishakapatnam	186
"	Bondamunda	123
"	Bokaro Steel City	55
"	Kharagpur	121
"	Raipur	71
Western Railway	Ratlam	139
"	Vatva	108
"	Gandhidham	4
"	Bandra	30
"	Abu Road	60
<i>Metre Gauge :</i>		
North-Eastern	Gonda	53
"	Izatnagar	72
North-Frontier	Siliguri	71
"	Lumding	55
Southern	Golden Rock	150
South-Central	Guntakal	13
"	Maula Ali	35
"	Gadag	9
Western Railway	Sabarmati	150
"	Gandhidam	24
"	Phulera	61
<i>Narrow Gauge :</i>		
Central Railway	Neral	6
"	Gwalior	11
"	Dholpur	3
"	Kurduwadi	13
"	Murtijpur	3
"	Pachora	2
Northern	Kalka	13
"	Pathankot	15
South-Eastern	Moti Bagh	52
"	Raipur	5
"	Ranchi	8
"	Naupada	2
"	Baripada	3
Western	Partap Nagar	22

Railwaywise/Gaugewise Holding of Electric Locomotives

Railway	Shed	Loco Holding as on 1.4.98	
Central	Bhusaval	122	
	Jhansi	129	
	Itarsi	123	
	Ajni	145	
	New Katni	74	
	Kalyan	130	
	Total	723	
	Eastern	Asansol	148
		Mughalsarai	146
		Gomoh	131
Total		425	
Northern	Kanpur	139	
	Ghaziabad	139	
	Total	278	
Southern	Arkkonam	152	
	Tambaram (MG)	20	
	Total	172	
South	Vijayawada	150	
Central	Lallaguda	153	
	Total	303	
South	Tata	147	
Eastern	Bhillai	150	
	Bondamunda	98	
	Waltair	112	
	Total	507	
Western	Tughlakabad	120	
	Baroda	133	
	Valsad	72	
	Total	325	
	Broad Gauge	2713	
	Metre Gauge	20	
	Grand Total	2733	

Development of L.C.A.

3327. SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which the Government began the development of Light Combat Aircraft and the scheduled date of its completion alongwith the reasons for the delay in its completion; and

(b) the alternate Plans proposed to speed-up the project ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The LCA project was sanctioned in 1983.

Based on feasibility studies and detailed project definition the Government accorded sanction in April 1993 for Phase-I of full scale engineering development envisaging induction of LCA into Air Force by 2005. The first indigenous LCA has already been rolled out and is undergoing detailed ground qualification testing to ensure safety of flight. Aircraft is expected to be ready for the first flight in the second quarter of 1999. The project activities are being closely monitored at a very high level so that the development schedule are adhered to and the LCA is inducted into Air Force by the year 2003.

(b) Two additional prototypes of LCA, in addition to technology demonstrators are under build-up during the current phase itself to accelerate flight testing and evaluation so that LCA induction in IAF takes place in the year 2003. In addition, a national team has been constituted to combat recently imposed sanctions.

Bhadravathi Airport

3328. SHRI MANUNATH AYANUR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any request has been made to start all weather Vishwashwarya airstrip/Airport at Bhadravathi in Shimoga district of Karnataka ;

(b) if so, whether said Airstrip is quite appropriate for development as Airport; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Technical suitability is being assessed by the Airports Authority of India.

Construction of over-bridge at Thekeraguri

3329. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a railway over-bridge at Thekeraguri near Nagaon in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it 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) Yes, Sir. Proposal is under scrutiny.

(b) and (c) The proposal to construct ROB at Thekeraguri on cost sharing basis is being examined technically. Plan and Estimate are being prepared. However, target will be fixed only after these are sanctioned.

Acquisition of ABB Locom

3330. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the newly acquired ABB locos (WAP-5) and WAG-9) have been found technically unsuitable for operation and need large scale modifications;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether according to experts, Thyristor locos are more suitable for operations; and

(d) if so, the reasons for placing the orders for AC-3 phase ABB locos ?

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) No, Sir. ABB locomotives are working important mail/express trains including Rajdhani trains and heavier freight trains and have been performing as per the specifications. However, bases on the actual working conditions, certain minor modifications have been considered necessary on these locomotives which will be incorporated by ABB as per the provision in the Contract.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Thyristor locomotives have not been found suitable for universal operations on Indian Railways as they generated higher harmonic currents which had tendency in interfere with signalling track circuit. On the other hand, locomotives with three phase drive are more efficient and have superior features to provide benefits of lower energy consumption due to regeneration and lesser maintenance cost.

Unauthorised Construction in Paharganj

3331. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 2425 on June 11, 1998 regarding Unauthorised Construction and state :

(a) the dates on which the complaints were received and demolition orders were passed under the DDA Act against the persons who carried out unauthorised constructions in the slum area of Multani Dhanda, Paharganj, Delhi;

(b) the dates on which directions were given to DDA and Local authorities including MCD to process these cases and initiate action as per the provisions of the Acts;

(c) whether the property adjoining to Nos. 9854, 9855 are also unauthorised;

(d) if so, the facts thereof ;

(e) whether the owner/original allottees/occupants in this slum area can also carry out similar constructions; and

- (f) if so, the Act under which it can be done ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Cargo Complex at Calicut Airport

3332. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Airports Authority of India has dumped equipments worth Rs. 1 crore for setting up of the Cargo Complex at Calicut for the last one year; and

(b) if so, the time by which the Cargo Complex is likely to be setup ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In response to the request of Malabar Chamber of Commerce, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has set up an Export Centre at Calicut airport, for processing and customs clearance of export cargo to promote exports. The Centre has (i) X-ray Screening machines for screening of export cargo, (ii) Forklift (iii) Weighing Scales and (iv) Hand Trolleys as per security guidelines. AAI has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 73 lakhs (Rs. 60 lakhs for equipment and Rs. 13 lakhs for the building).

M/s. Kerala State Industrial Enterprise which is the Custodian of Cargo is at present operating from an off-airport location. The Export Centre can be used for processing and clearance of export cargo, as and when the Customs Department extends the clearance facility at AAI Export Centre.

Air Flights from Patna

3333. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the places which are currently connected by Indian Airlines flights from Patna;

(b) the average passenger load factor remained on these flights during the last three months;

(c) whether additional flights to other destinations from Patna are proposed to be started; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Patna is directly connected with Delhi, Lucknow, Ranchi and Calcutta.

(b) The seat factor on the existing services of Indian Airlines and Alliance Air to/from Patna is as under:

Flight No.	March 98	April 98	May 98
IC-725	40.8	49.9	66.1
IC-809	70.1	78.6	84.2
IC-411	56.6	55.5	61.4

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Lutyen Zone Area

3334. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to the answer given to unstarred question No. 2406 dated 11.6.98 regarding construction in Lutyen's Zone and State :

(a) the details of the guidelines duly approved by PMO circulated on 12.4.96;

(b) the details of the rules under which CPWD/Director of Estates take action as stated in the reply to part (e) of the question under reference; and

(c) the steps taken to permit the addition of living accommodation in smaller houses ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) The guidelines were circulated vide Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment O.M. No. 11011/2/95-WI dated 12.4.96 and a copy of the same is attached as Statement-I.

(b) The procedure for dealing with the cases relating to unauthorised constructions has been given in O.M. No. 22012/2/90-Pol. III dated 23.12.93 a copy of which is attached as Statement-II. Whenever any unauthorised construction is noticed by the CPWD in the accommodation allotted by the Directorate of Estates, the same is intimated to Directorate of Estates, who issues notices for removal of unauthorised construction/cancellation of allotment after expiry of the notice period, in terms of the Allotment Rules (S.R. 317-B-21) and the executive instructions issued thereunder. A copy of O.M. No. 12035/8/91-Policy-II dated 19.1.96 is attached as Statement-III.

(c) No proposal is under consideration at present to permit the addition of living accommodation in smaller houses.

Statement-I

Government of India
Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment
(Works Division)

No. 11011/2/95 W.I.

New Delhi, the 12th April, 1996

Office Memorandum

Sub : Guidelines for upgradation of Ministers/Supreme Court Judges/Secretaries to the Govt. bungalows in Lutyen's Bungalow Zone.

The undersigned is directed to say that, at the instance of Prime Minister's Office, guidelines for undertaking construction in the Lutyen's Bungalow Zone (LBZ) in New Delhi have been formulated. A copy of the guidelines as approved by the Prime Minister's Office, is sent herewith for taking further necessary action.

2. It may please be ensured that all construction works in Lutyen's Bungalow Zone conform to these guidelines.

Sd/-
(Surender Paul)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

To :

1. DG (W), CPWD (Shri K.K. Madan)
2. CE (NDZ)-I CPWD (Shri K.K. Khanna)
3. CE (NDZ)-II, CPWD (Shri Gulzar Singh)
4. CE (NDZ)- III, CPWD (Shri Ravinder Lal), Seva Bhavan, R.K. Puram, New Delhi.
5. Director (DD), Ministry of UA & E.

Need for Preservation of the Original character of Lutyen's Bungalow Zone

Delhi which is the capital of India comprises of areas having three distinctive characters :

1. Walled city, Shahajahanbad.
2. Lutyen's New Delhi
3. Post independence development.

The urban design form of New Delhi, which was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyen when the capital was shifted from Calcutta to Delhi (1911) was fundamentally based on Garden City concept.

After independence, Delhi grew suddenly and enormously in a haphazard and unplanned way inspite of the Delhi Master Plan (1962).

With a view to preserve and maintain the esthetic quality of Urban Design of Lutyen's Delhi, which is still dominated by green areas and bungalows, a separate set of norms were formulated for Lutyen's Bungalow areas with a delineated Bungalow area boundary, comprising 2300 hect. by the Ministry of Urban Development on 8.2.1988.

The need to preserve the original character of LBZ arise because :

- The areas has an unique quality, with a special historical significance.
- The area has a strong identity, clarity and imaginability.
- The visual quality of the low density developments with predominant green areas is not only enriching the overall aesthetic environment but also balancing the ecology of the areas.

Keeping in view the above, the following guidelines for additions and alternations in Bungalows occupied by cabinet/State/Dy. Ministers/Supreme Court/High court Judges/Secretaries to Government of India are to be observed :

1. Front set back shall be maintained as per the existing building line and no additional structures shall be allowed. Likewise, existing height of the building shall not be exceeded while making additions/alterations.
2. However, for the purpose of security, sentry post/guard rooms/frisking sheds etc. shall be provided in the front set back near the entry point. These structures shall be of temporary nature/portable type lasting maximum upto 5 years.
3. The colour scheme shall be decided by the Architects depending upon the site environment.
4. The design of the boundary wall/gate shall be as per security requirements and best suited to the site and surroundings.
5. The existing bungalows can be modernised internally, by means of partitions in the rooms/additional toilets, etc. keeping the exterior facade as it is, by creating additional rooms/spaces depending on the structural feasibility and the requirements of Cabinet Ministers/State/Dy. Ministers/equivalent.
6. If the additional requirements exceed the facilities provided in the existing bungalow, the same shall be provided as per Annexure-A (1, 2) in side and rear set back depending upon site conditions but not in the front set back.
7. There exist different types of bungalows with plinth areas ranging from 3,000 to 8,000 sq. ft. In order to modernise the existing bungalows under the above mentioned guidelines, each and every bungalow shall have to be designed independently with reference to the existing site conditions by the Architects.
8. To keep the tree studded character of the LBZ, no trees shall be cut and emphasis shall be laid on the plantation of more trees of similar varieties as existing in the LBZ.
9. The landscape design of the bungalow plots shall be in consonance with the overall character of the bungalow, and the designs shall be approved by the Chief Architect/Senior Architect concerned.

Statement-A-I

Guidelines for upgradation of Ministers/Supreme Court Judges/High Court Judges/Secretaries to Government Bungalows in Lutyen's Bungalow Zone.

The guidelines for construction in the Lutyen's Bungalow Zone stipulated no additional construction in the Bungalows.

However, to meet the functional demands, certain additional areas are required to be provided in the Ministers/Supreme Court Judges/High Court Judges/Secretaries to the Government of India's Bungalows for additional residential accommodation, office accommodation, office accommodation and accommodation for security personnel in the Bungalows where the plinth area is below the entitlement of Minister/Judge and Secretary to Government of India. To meet such additional requirements, temporary accommodation as shown below may be provided for Ministers/Supreme Court Judges/High Court Judges/Secretaries to Government of India's Bungalows.

Additional Residential Accommodation :

At present, a Minister is entitled to a plinth area of the bungalow as 4498 sq.ft. In case the Minister is allotted a Type VII or below bungalow, additional construction temporary open sheds for multi-purpose usages etc. with a ceiling of 500 sq.ft. plinth area subject to overall ceiling of 4498 sq. ft. may be provided with temporary specifications.

Supreme Court Judges/High Court Judges/Secretaries to Govt. of India.

In case Supreme Court Judges, High Court Judges and Secretaries to Government of India are allotted accommodation below their entitlement additional construction for resi-

dential purposes with a ceiling of 500 sq.ft. plinth area may be provided with temporary specifications.

Office Accommodation :

For upgrading the bungalows to accommodate the Ministers, Supreme Court Judges/High Court Judges, provision of office space as per norms laid down by the Government may be made by erecting semi-portable structure with a life span of 5 years. Accommodation to be provided would be as under :

Cabinet Minister/Ministers of State/Deputy Minister/ Supreme Court Judges/High Court Judges :

Area – 46.45 sq. m/ 500 sq. ft.
Accommodation – 2 rooms with one toilet.

Security Works :

A. Guard Rest Room : To be provided in the following configuration :

- (i) Cabinet Minister : Room for (2 : 8) guards with Bath & W.C.
- (ii) Minister of State : Room for (1 : 4) guards with Bath & W.C.

B. Frisking Room / PSO Shed : One Room

C. Sentry Post : Nos. of sentry post as per security arrangements.

Summary : Addl. Residential/Office Accommodation proposed to be provided to Ministers, Judges and Secretaries to Government of India would be as under :

Type of Addl. Accommodation	Cabinet Minister Minister of State/ Dy. Minister/ Supreme Court/ High Court Judges	Secretary to Government of India	Specification *
Residential	46.45 sq.m. (500 sq.ft)	46.45 sq.m. (500 sq.ft)	Temporary
Office	46.45 sq.m.	–	Semi-Portable
Security (i) Guard	33.75 sq.m. Cabinet	–	Semi-portable
Rest Room	(365 sq.ft.) Ministers (250 sq. ft.) for others	–	
(ii) Frisking Room/PSO Shed	9.2 sq.m. (100 sq.ft.)	–	portable
(iii) Sentry post	2 sq.m. (20 sq.ft.)	–	portable

* For specification refer Annexure A-2

Statement -A-2**Specifications****A. For Temporary Structure with life span of 5 years
(for additional Residential Accommodation)**

Foundation	Brick Work in foundation.
Flooring/Skirting Dado	PCC/Mosaic for office, tiles for toilet, and kota stone for Verandah
Super structure	Brick work in mud mortar with cement plaster.
Windows	Steel Windows With Grill.
Doorses	T-Iron/pressed steel frame with suitable shutter.
Roofing	Sand stone slabs on T-iron frame with suitable water proofing.

OR

A.C. /CGI Sheet roofing with suitable false ceiling.

Cost For above specification Rs. 4000/- per sq. m. (as on Oct. 1995)

**B. For semi-portable structure
(for additional office & security accommodation)**

Structure	Mild steel frame structure placed on plinth.
Cladding	Flexo Board outside & Gypsum Board or Novopan inside with insulation.
Roofing	AC/CGI Sheet roofing with false ceiling. Fibreglass sheets roofing for sitting out sheds.
Cost	Cost about Rs. 6527/- per sq. m. (as on Oct. 1995)

Statement-II

No. 22012/2/90 Pol. III
Government of India
Directorate of Estates

New Delhi, the 23.12.1993

Office Memorandum

Sub : Procedure for dealing with cases relating to unauthorised construction/encroachment in Govt. quarters/public premises.

The responsibility of various authorities for the detection and removal of unauthorised construction/encroachment on land under the control of this Ministry, has been gone dated August, 11, 1992 issued by the Ministry of Urban Development and also in the light of difficulties experienced in the removal of such unauthorised construction/encroachment on Govt. land

2. Since the Govt. buildings standing on the land and the

land underneath and appurtenant thereto, alongwith the land under roads, parks, toilets, playgrounds situated in Govt. colonies, come under the administrative control of CPWD for all purposes, the responsibility with regard to reporting of unauthorised construction/encroachment thereon is that of the CPWD. While the Directorate of Estates would receive reports from the CPWD regarding unauthorised construction/encroachments by allottees of general pool residential/commercial premises and would take steps for cancellation of allotment, the responsibility for the removal of such unauthorised construction/encroachment, as also encroachment by persons, other than the allottees will vest with the CPWD. The CPWD is also entrusted with the responsibility of taking action to remove encroachment/unauthorised construction in common areas such as roads, parks, not handed over to the local bodies or unallotted land in Govt. colonies, which cannot be specifically attributed to an allottee.

3. To summarise, the responsibility for detection, reporting and removal of unauthorised construction/encroachment in Government colonies/on Govt. land would lie on the authorities as laid down below :

S.No.	Type of unauthorised constn.	Area where it takes place	Responsibility for detecting and reporting/removal	Responsibility for cancellation/ eviction proceedings
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Unauthorised construction	Inside a residential quarter shop allotted by the Dte. of Estates	C.P.W.D.	Dte. of Estates to cancel the allotment & proceedings & evict the persons concerned from the premises.
2.	Unauthorised construction	In a lawn/space attached to a specific residential quarter/shop or by an identifiable allottee/ shop keeper	C.P.W.D.	Dte. of Estates to cancel the allotment & initiated eviction proceedings & evict the person concerned from the premises.
3.	Unauthorised construction	On common lawns of residential Qtrs/ markets not attributable to a specific Qtr. or a specific allottee and internal roads not handed over to local bodies.	C.P.W.D.	C.P.W.D.
4.	Unauthorised construction/ encroachment	On open lands which do not form part of open agency space attached to specific Qtrs/ shops or which do not form part of common lawns of Qtrs/ markets	I & DO/ CPWD Land owning	I & DO/ CPWD/ Land owning agency -
5.	Unauthorised construction/ encroachment	Roads/Lands/open spaces declared as public streets handed over to local Board.	Land owning Agency	Land owning agency

(NB : Where it is found that an allottee has aided on abetted any encroachment (e.g. by supplying power etc.) Dte. of Estates shall after due enquiry cancel the allotment and initiate eviction proceedings).

4. This supersedes the Dte. of Estates OM of even number dated 21.5.1990 on the subject.

5. This has the approval of Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development.

Sd/-
(R.D. Sahay)
Dy. Director of Estates

To

1. D.G. (W), CPWD, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi
2. The Commissioner, MCD Town Hall, Delhi
3. The Administrator, New Delhi Municipal Committee, New Delhi
4. The Vice Chairman, Delhi Development Authority, New Delhi
5. Executive Officer, Delhi Cantonment Board, New Delhi
6. Land & Development Office, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi
7. Secretary, Land and Building, NCT Govt. of Delhi, Vikas Bhawan, New Delhi
8. All Ministries/Departments of Govt. of India
9. All State Government.
10. All regional stations under Dte. of Estates.

Statement-III

No. 12035/8/91 - Policy-II
Government of India
Directorate of Estates

Date : 19.1.1996

Office Memorandum

Sub : Unauthorised construction in General Pool Residential Accommodation

As per the provisions of SR-317-B-21, if an officer to whom a residence has been allotted resorts to unauthorised construction/encroachment, in any part of the residence, the Directorate of Estate may without prejudice to any other disciplinary action, that may be taken against him, cancel the allotment after giving a notice to the allottee to remove the unauthorised structure within one month. It has been observed that different allotment sections are issuing notices to remove the unauthorised structures within a period of one month from the date of issue of the notice and cancellation orders are being specifically issued thereafter.

2. It has now been decided that it may be specifically mentioned in the notice that in case the unauthorised structure is not removed within one month from the date of issue of the notice, the allotment shall be deemed to have been cancelled w.e.f. the date of expiry of the notice period of one month. It has also been decided that damages rates of licence fee shall be recoverable from the deemed date of cancellation till the unauthorised structure is removed and the fact is confirmed by CPWD. A revised standard proforma to be used in such cases has been devised as per copy enclosed.

Sd/-
(Mahesh Arora)
Deputy Director (Policy)

- To
1. All allotment Sections/Region Section/All Asstt. Director (A/Cs.)
 2. All Deputy Directors of Estates.
 3. All Regional Offices of Dte. of Estates.
 4. Copy to PA to DE-I/DE-II/DE (HS)

Sd/-
(Mahendra Singh)
Asstt. Director (Po-II)

No.
Government of India
Directorate of Estates

To

The _____ New Delhi. Dated the _____

New Delhi

Sub : Unauthorised construction/encroachment in Qr. No. which is in occupation of Sh./Smt./Km.

It has been reported that Sh./Smt./Km. has made the following unauthorised construction in Qr. No.

- (1)
- (2)
- (3)

2. Sh./Smt./Km. is therefore directed to remove this unauthorised structure within a period of one month from the date of issue of this letter. The fact of removal of the unauthorised structure should be intimated to this Directorate and the CPWD Enquiry Office concerned failing which the allotment shall be deemed to have been cancelled w.e.f. the date expiry of the notice period of one month under the provisions of SR-317-B-21. Damages rate of licence fee should be charged from the deemed date of cancellation till the unauthorised structure is removed or vacation of the house, for which eviction proceedings shall be initiated under the provision of the P.P. Act 1971.

3. Receipt of the letter may please be acknowledge.

Asstt. Director of Estates

Copy to :

1. Section Officer (Admn.)
Min. of/Dep'tt.
2. Asstt. Engineer, CPWD Enquiry Office with the request to inspect the house after one month of the issue of this letter and intimate whether the unauthorised construction has been removed or not, so that necessary action could be taken at our end.
3. Ex. Engineer, CPWD, Division No. New Delhi.

Cancellation of Trains

3335. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given on August 7, 1997 to USQ No. 2571 regarding "Cancellation of Trains" and state :

(a) whether it is compulsory for the press and the broadcasting media to pick up all the Press Releases issued by the Railways;

(b) if so, the names of the leading national dailies and the stations of broadcasting media and picked up the Press Releases issued by the Chief Public Relations Officer, Northern Railway, New Delhi on November 26, 1996; and

(c) if not, the steps taken/being taken by the Government to give information to rail users 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) Does not arise.

(c) Constant efforts are being made by the Railways through interaction with both print and electronic media to ensure maximum publicity of Press releases issued on such occasions.

Allotment of DDA Flats

3336. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been several cases of duplicate allotment of DDA flats;

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

(c) whether any investigation has been made in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. DDA has reported that 217 numbers of double allotment of DDA flats has been made during the last three years as per location-wise details given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) On investigation it has been found that in most of the cases double allotment occurred due to wrong feeding of data by the staff inadvertently. However, in cases where it is noticed after investigation that double allotment occurred due to malafide intention on the part of the concerned official(s) such cases have been referred to the Vigilance Department for disciplinary action. Warning/recordable warnings have been issued in 8 cases. Chargesheets for minor penalties have been issued in 8 cases. In 21 cases investigation is under process.

Statement-I

List of Area where double allotment has been made

S.No.	Localities	No. of cases
1	2	3
1.	Dilshad Garden	06
2.	Rohini	56
3.	Pul Pehlad Pur	05

1	2	3
4.	Dwarka	16
5.	Jahangir Puri	01
6.	Sarai Khalil	02
7.	Jhilmil	03
8.	Kondli Gharoli	103
9.	Pitam Pura	02
10.	Mayur Vihar	01
11.	Jasola	02
12.	Hastsal village	11
13.	Paschim Puri	04
14.	Vasant Kunj	01
15.	Chilla Village	04
Total		217

Aircraft "Saras"

3337. SHRI S.S. OWAISI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Light Transport Aircraft (LTA) 'Saras' is being developed in joint venture with Taneja Aerospace Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this aircraft is likely to be put into operation ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. Light Transport Aircraft (LTA) 'Saras' is being developed in a joint venture with Taneja Aerospace Ltd. Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. and other partners.

(b) and (c) The specifications of the LTA have been drawn up and detailed design is in progress. The type certification is likely to be completed by the year 2001 after which the aircraft could be put into operation.

[Translation]

Encroachment in Parks in Paschim Puri

3338. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the park between Paschim Puri Pocket-2 (Janta Flats) and Madipur village has been encroached upon by the land mafia; and

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

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) The informa-

tion is being collected from M.C.D. and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

Property for Rent

3339. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated percentage of property available for rent in the Union Capital Territory falls beyond the purview of the Delhi Rent Control Act, 1995, by virtue of carrying higher-rent than the upper limit of Rs. 3500 per month;

(b) whether there is any move to raise the upper rent limit to a realistic to make the law meaningful in respect of atleast 50% of the rented property; and

(c) whether Government are aware of the unhealthy practices prevailing under what is called the Pagri system ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) This Ministry does not collect data regarding property available on rent that falls beyond purview of the Delhi Rent Act by virtue of carrying higher rent than the upper limit of Rs. 3500 per month as fixed in Delhi Rent Control Act, 1958 as amended in 1988. However, as per the sample survey (NSS 49th round) conducted by N.S.S.O. in 1993, the percentage of households in terms of monthly rent along with average rentals was as follows :-

Monthly Rent (Rs.)	Average Rents	Percentage of Households
0 - 50	21.00	10.30
50 -100	69.00	24.50
100-250	176.00	07.50
250-500	364.00	23.90
500-800	637.00	13.60
800 & above	1382.00	08.40

(b) There is no proposal at present to raise the said upper limit of monthly rent because the existing limit of Rs. 3500 would include the tenants belonging to EWS, LIG and most of the tenants in the MIG categories.

(c) Practice of PAGRI has been highlighted from time to time in the representations received by the Government.

Setting up of Aviation Safety Directorate

3340. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India has decided to set up an Aviation Safety Directorate to investigate transgressions of air safety; and

(b) if so, the main functions of this Directorate ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The main functions of the Aviation Safety Directorate will be :

i) to undertake accident prevention activities;

ii) to initiate hazard identification and elimination process for achieving better safety standards in aviation;

iii) to initiate safety awareness programmes among the personnel of AAI and at airports;

iv) to investigate in house Airport incidents;

v) to assist Director General of Civil Aviation or any other legally appointed Accidents Investigation Board in the conduct of the investigation.

Rolling Mills

3341. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of rolling mills in the country are on the verge of closure;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to save such rolling mills from closure ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK) : (a) and (b) As per available information, out of 1061 re-rolling units, 396 units are reportedly closed for various reasons, such as rise in input costs, electricity tariffs etc.

(c) As the steel industry has been delicensed and controlled, its fortunes depend entirely on market conditions. Within the industry, fortunes of individual companies depend upon a host of factors including the market strategies adopted to face competition. It is, however, expected that demand conditions for steel would improve consequent upon measures announced in the Budget for 1998-99 relating to import duties, housing and infrastructure sectors.

US invitation to Defence Minister

3342. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI CHANDULAL AJMEERA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the U.S. Defence Secretary has invited the Defence Minister to explore the outlook for bilateral relationship; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Raksha Mantri received an invitation in early May, 1998 from the US Secretary of Defence to visit the United States of America at a mutually convenient time. To dates for the visit have been finalised.

Inquiry into Delhi of a Man during Firework Show of Army

3343. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an investigation has been ordered by the Government into the death of a young man who was hit on his head by a projectile from a firework show at Calcutta Rowing club lawn on April 18, 1998; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Army and Civil authorities are conducting Joint Investigation into the incident of death of a young man at Calcutta Rowing Club lawns possibly due to a firework show on 19th April, 1998. The inquiry is in the final stage and is likely to be completed shortly.

Encroachments on Defence Land

3344. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the ecological imbalances created due to large scale felling of trees, encroachments in various parks and open lands, mushroom growth of multi-storied buildings by civilians within areas under the control of defence;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have issued any directives to the Directorate General of Defence Estates to tackle the problem sternly;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the efforts being made to ensure that periodical monitoring is done for protecting the damaged environment in the Cantonment areas ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) Whenever unauthorised felling of trees, encroachments and unauthorised construction are undertaken within any defence land, prompt action is taken by the concerned authorities. The Ministry has, in addition, issued instructions to various agencies to tackle the problem of encroachments as well as unauthorised construction.

National Capital Region Board

3345. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of National Capital Region Board was held recently at New Delhi; and

(b) if so, the points discussed in the meeting ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The 23rd meeting of the National Capital Region Board was held on 13.6.98 in New Delhi.

(b) Various points relating to the development of the core infrastructure components such as extending efficient telecommunication network, improving highway network, setting up power plants and transmission and distribution of power, development of road rail network etc., which are crucial for the accelerated development of the National Capital Region were discussed in the meeting. The meeting also considered the question of structuring the NCR as a common Economic Zone with the objective of evolving uniform tax and tariff structure for commodities and services throughout the region without any differences among the Member States to facilitate the envisaged balanced growth of the Region.

Indo-US Joint Tactical Exercise

3346. SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state

(a) whether India and the United States of America (USA) had decided to hold joint tactical military exercise;

(b) if so, whether any final discussion in this regard has been reached;

(c) if so, the details thereof ;

(d) whether in view of the US sanctions this programme has since been postponed; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Indian Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Government of India had approved in May, 1998 the conduct of Joint military exercise with the US Army in three phases. The first phase of the exercise was to be held in Hawaii in July/August, 1998. The second and third phase of the exercise were to be held in India in October/November, 1998.

(d) and (e) Consequent upon the underground nuclear explosions undertaken by India on May 11 and 13, 1998 the spokesman of the US Department of Defence announced the cessation of all military exchanges with India. In the light of this announcement, no armed forces or defence-related exchanges with the USA are anticipated in the foreseeable future.

Electrification of Kharagpur Waltair Section

3347. SHRI ARJUN SETHI :
SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the progress of electrification work on Kharagpur-Waltair and Visakhapatnam section under South-Eastern Railway has been slow :

(b) whether the funds earmarked are not enough over the last three years:

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

(d) the specific amounts made available to make the tracks electrified within the revised time schedule ?

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 electrification of Kharagpur-Visakhapatnam section is covered in Kharagpur-Bhubaneswar and Bhubaneswar - Visakhapatnam electrification projects.

The electrification of Kharagpur-Bhubaneswar section was initially sanctioned in 1995-96 with private funding under Build, Operate, Lease & Transfer scheme, but due to high rates quoted by the bidders the work could not be started. The funds earmarked to this project under BOLT scheme could not be utilised in 1995-96 and 1996-97. The project has therefore been taken out of BOLT scheme and approved to be taken up under Railway funding and was included in the Railway Budget 1997-98. So far as Bhubaneswar-Visakhapatnam section is concerned it has also been approved and was included in Railway Budget 1997-98.

(d) The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 602.46 crores. Rs. 40.2 crores were spent during the year 1997-98. Rs. 96.63 crores have been provided in the Budget for the year 1998-99. The target for completion of entire section is March, 2002.

[Translation]

Doubling of Barabanki-Chhapra Railway Line

3348. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal regarding doubling of Barabanki-Chhapra railway line under North-Eastern Railway is under consideration of the Government; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be doubled?

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) Augmentation of capacity on Barabanki-Chhapra is being done partly by doubling and partly by Gauge conversion. Between Muzaffarpur-Gorakhpur, doubling is being achieved by gauge conversion of Narkatiaganj-Khadda-Gorakhpur line which will be completed in 1998-99. Between Gorakhpur and Gonda, doubling is proposed to be achieved by gauge conversion of Gorakhpur-Gonda loop. Between Gonda-Barabanki, doubling has been taken up between Gonda and Jarwal Road. While Gorakhpur-Narkatiaganj gauge conversion is targetted for completion by March, 1999, completion of the other projects will depend upon the availability of funds.

[English]

Provision of Basic Amenities to Slum Dwellers

3349. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has submitted any proposal to provide basic amenities to the slums located on Railway land:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government thereon ?

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) In 1993, Ministry of Railways had agreed to issue no objection certificate to Government of Maharashtra for provision of civic amenities to the slum dwellers on Railway land falling outside safety zone of 15 metres from the centre line of outermost track, provided Government of Maharashtra as a first step, clear the hutment dwellers from the land falling under safety zone and give an undertaking to construct boundary wall to isolate the safety zone from the rest of lands.

Modalities for implementation have not yet been worked out.

Setting up of New Steel Plants

3350. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL :
SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB :
SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN :
SHRI A. GANESHMURTHI :
SHRI VAIKO :

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

(a) the time of the steel plants proposed to be set up in Public/Private sector in the country, State-wise;

(b) the funds allocated to each public sector steel plants during the current financial year and also the provisions made in the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) the total land acquired for the above steel plants, plant-wise; and

(d) the details of progress made in setting up of these steel plants so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a), (c) and (d) The Government have no proposal at present to set up new/green field steel plant in the Central Public sector. However,

as per the available information, twelve steel projects are under implementation, details of which are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The Plan outlay for the current financial year and the Ninth Five Year Plan in respect of the existing Public Sector Steel Plants namely Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) are given below :

(Rs. in crores)		
Name of the Company	Plan outlay for 1998-99	IX plan outlay (1996-97 to 2001-02)
SAIL	2375.00	15000.00
RINL	164.00	1202.00

Statement

New/green field steel projects in Public/Private sector

S.No.	Name of the Unit	Land Required/ Acquired (in acres)	Progress/Status of Implementation
<i>Karnataka</i>			
1.	Jindal V. Nagar St. Ltd.	3695	Under implementation Mill, Commissioned Other Units : Sept. 98 Octo. 99.
2.	Bellary S & A Ltd.	302.04	Under Implementation October, 1998
3.	Mukund Limited	150.54	Under implementation Mid, 1998.
<i>Tamil Nadu</i>			
4.	Southern I & S Co. Ltd.	522	Under implementation Steel Melting Shop : June, 1998 Rolling Mill : Sept. 1998.
<i>Andhra Pradesh</i>			
5.	SJK Steel Corp. Ltd.	640	Under Implementation September, 1999.
6.	Kumar Met. Corpn. Ltd.	NA	Under implementation September, 1999.
<i>Maharashtra</i>			
7.	ISPAT Industries Ltd.	700	Under implementation Ph-I July, 1998 Ph-II April, 1999.
8.	Usha Ispat Limited	600	Under implementation May, 1999.
<i>Orissa</i>			
9.	Neelachal Ispat N. Ltd.	2732	Under implementation Pig Iron – Mid, 1999. Steel – Mid, 2000
<i>Madhya Pradesh</i>			
10.	Rajinder Steel Ltd.	NA	Under Implementation Steel Melting Shop : March, 1995 Hot Rolling mill : Dec.98.
11.	Nova Steels (I) Ltd.	-do-	Under implementation Not Available.
<i>Uttar Pradesh</i>			
12.	Malvika Steel Ltd.	700	Under implementation Ph-I Oct, 98 Ph-II April 99.

Cost Escalation of M.B.T. Project

3351. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANBAKA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the M.B.T. project was approved in 1974 at the cost of Rs. 15.50 crore and latter in 1987 at Rs. 280.80 crore;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any enquiry to know the factors responsible for cost escalation of this project; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof ?

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

(b) We have analysed the causes of cost escalation and these are subsequent changes incorporated in the qualitative requirements such as fire power, protection and mobility; substantial increase in the scope of project by the Army envisaging higher number of prototypes and manufacture of pre-production series tanks. Such changes in the qualitative requirements for a major project like MBT Arjun, which has a long gestation period, are quite normal to guard against obsolescence at the time of completion of development and bulk production.

(c) Does not arise in view of the answer to (b) above.

[Translation]

Airports Authority of India

3352. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government contemplate to make Airports Authority of India a separate commercial unit;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Airports Authority of India has been set up as separate entity under the Airports Authority Act, 1994 which stipulates that the Authority shall act, as far as may be on business principles in the discharge of its functions.

[English]

Production of Bauxite

3353. DR. SAROJA V :
SHRI R.S. GAVAI :

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

(a) the locations of Bauxite mines in the country alongwith the production capacity of each mine State-wise;

(b) whether some new Bauxite mines have been discovered in the country ;

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

(d) the quantity of the estimated Bauxite deposits discovered in each of the new area ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) The State-wise and district-wise location of bauxite mines in the country along with their production is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) No new deposit of bauxite has been established by Geological Survey of India during the last five years.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Statement

List of Mines Processing Bauxite, 1997-98

(Quantity in Tonne)

State	District	Owners Name	Mine Name	Village	Production (P)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Bihar	Gumla	Ashok Kumar Poddar	Narma	Narma	17285
Bihar	Gumla	B.N. Mahendru	Amitapani	Amitapani	17144
Bihar	Gumla	B.P. Agarwala	Amitapani (B.P.)	Amitapani	26599
Bihar	Gumla	Chandrakant T. Papat	Hurup	Harup	13250
Bihar	Gumla	Gyanchand Prasad Agarwal	Kujam	Kujam	28862
Bihar	Gumla	Hindalco Industries Ltd.	Gurdari	Gurdari Ambakona	128560
Bihar	Gumla	Hindalco Industries Ltd.	Jalim And Sahai	Jalim & Sahai	7172

1	2	3	4	5	6
Bihar	Gumla	Hindalco Industries Ltd.	Shrengdag	Shrengdag Tiuku	180900
Bihar	Gumla	Jagmohan Lal Gupta	Chirodih	Sakhanapani	NA
Bihar	Gumla	M.P. Mithal	Lupungpat	Lupungpat	6560
Bihar	Gumla	Madan Mohan Prasad Singh	Chirodih	Jawadih	48700
Bihar	Gumla	Madan Mohan Prasad Singh	Narma	Narma	8350
Bihar	Gumla	Mahuanilan Karanpura Coal Mine	Bimarala	Bimarala	NA
Bihar	Gumla	Majithan Ceramic (P) Ltd.	New Amptipani	Amptipani	NA
Bihar	Gumla	National Cement Mines & Ind. Ltd.	Amptipani	Amptipani	NA
Bihar	Gumla	O.P. Gupta & Co.	Jobhipat	Narma	25400
Bihar	Gumla	P.K. Poddar	Jillingsira	Jillingsira & Mundar	8103
Bihar	Gumla	P.S. Garg	Chirodiah	Chirodiah	19608
Bihar	Gumla	Rajhans Refractories (P) Ltd.	Amptipani	Amptipani	4315
Bihar	Gumla	Sharda Mica Mining Co.	Langratand	Langratand	15
Bihar	Gumla	Shivajee Tiwary	Chirodih	Chirodih	T.O.
Bihar	Gumla	Umesh Prasad Agarwal	Serka & Serangdag	Serka & Serangdag	15177
Bihar	Gumla	V.H. Pathak	Bahagarah	Bahagarah	N.A
Bihar	Lohardaga	Arbind Kumar Singh	Chapi	Chapi	15300
Bihar	Lohardaga	Gandharva Oraon	Pakhar	Pakhar	2461
Bihar	Lohardaga	Hindalco Industries Ltd.	Pakhar (96.25 AC)	Pakhar	89761
Bihar	Lohardaga	Hindalco Industries Ltd.	Pakhar (84.38 AC)	Pakhar	35435
Bihar	Lohardaga	Indian Aluminium Co. Ltd.	Bagru Hill	Bagru & Bhusar	322906
Bihar	Lohardaga	Jaywanti Kumari Bhagat	Pakhar	Pakhar	11150
Bihar	Lohardaga	Madan Mohan Prasad Singh	Bagru	Bagru	3060
Bihar	Lohardaga	Minerals & Minerals Ltd.	Manduapat	Salaiya	1103
Bihar	Lohardaga	Minerals & Minerals Ltd.	Pakhar	Pakhar	35855
Bihar	Lohardaga	Mrs. Beena Pani Agarwal	Tuimu	Tuimu	9516
Bihar	Lohardaga	Smt. Leela Devi	Banobar	Banobar	11801
Goa	South Goa	Pravin Kumar S. Ghosalia	Shakti ML-4	Velim Betul	30821
Goa	South Goa	Pravin Kumar S. Ghosalia	Mahavir ML-5	Cabo-de-Rama	648
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Arun Kumar Gordhan Das Malkan	Virpur	Virpur	1230
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Bharat Abrasives & Chemical Ind.	Kennedy	Kennedy	1445
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Bombay Mineral Supply Co. (P) Ltd.	Karamkund	Mewasa	NA
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Bombay Mineral Supply Co. (P) Ltd.	Nandana I	Nandana	16519
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Bombay Mineral Supply Co. (P) Ltd.	Asota Mewasa	Mota Asota Mewasa	169733
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Bombay Mineral Supply Co. (P) Ltd.	Karanadhar	Mewasa	NA
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Carborundam Universal Ltd.	Mahadevia Sl. No. 24	Mahadevia	410
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Carborundam Universal Ltd.	Mewasa Sl. No. 212/1	Mewasa	873
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Carborundam Universal Ltd.	A.B. Asota 238	Asota	1056
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Carborundam Universal Ltd.	Mahadevia (Kalyanpur)	Mahadevia	3565
			S. 259		
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Carborundam Universal Ltd.	Mevasa S.No. 146/147	Mota Asota	2962
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Carborundam Universal Ltd.	Rajatalab Mevasa	Mevasa-I	200
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Carborundam Universal Ltd.	Mahadevia 259/70	Mahadevia	-

1	2	3	4	5	6
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Gujarat Mineral Dev. Coprn. Ltd.	Mevasa	Mevasa	12351
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Gujarat Calcine Bauxite & Refractories	Mevasa (212/p)	Ran	3015
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Harjivan Purushottam Thanki	Mahadevia (261)	Mahadevia	108
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Harjivan Purushottam Thanki	Mevasa 437	Mevasa	18678
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Imperial Mining Syndicate	Navadra	Navadra	NA
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Imperial Mining Syndicate	Kennedy Navadra	Kennedy	NA
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Imperial Mining Syndicate	Kennedy Pipdi	Kennedy	NA
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Kanti Lal M. Mehta	Mahadevia	Mahadevia	2354
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Kanti Lal M. Mehta	Gandhavi	Gandhvi	-
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Minerals & Minerals Corpn.	Ran (419)	Ran	T.D.
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Minerals & Minerals Corpn.	Nandana (S.No.171)	Nandana	T.D.
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Minerals & Minerals Corpn.	Nandana (529/838)	Nandana	T.D.
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Minerals & Minerals Corpn.	Ran (S.No.421)	Ran	T.D.
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Mrs. Manjulaben R. Thanki	Lusari	Virpur	-
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Naresh P. Nakhecha	Habardi	Habardi	2712
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Naresh P. Nakhecha	Mota Asota	Mota Asota	-
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Natraj Ceramic & Chemicals Industry Ltd.	Pillidhar	Pillidhar	11273
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Orient Abrasive Ltd.	Virpur III	Virpur	20231
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Orient Abrasive Ltd.	Nandana II (431)	Nandana	T.D.
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Orient Abrasive Ltd.	Rathadi (139 Part)	Mevasa	T.D.
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Orient Abrasive Ltd.	Suradhar II (190)	Mevasa	T.D.
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Orient Abrasive Ltd.	Talawadi	Mevasa	2003
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Orient Abrasive Ltd.	Suradhar I (191)	Mevasa	T.D.
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Orient Abrasive Ltd.	Nandana I	Nandana	9155
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Orient Abrasive Ltd.	Mordhar II	Mevasa	T.D.
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Orient Abrasive Ltd.	Mordhar I	Mevasa	T.D.
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Orient Abrasive Ltd.	Mevasa IV	Mevasa	87
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Orient Abrasive Ltd.	Mevasa III	Mevasa	T.D.
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Orient Abrasive Ltd.	Mevasa II	Mevasa	40
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Orient Abrasive Ltd.	Mevasa I	Mevasa	5382
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Orient Abrasive Ltd.	Mevasa V (207/P)	Mevasa	11566
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Orient Abrasive Ltd.	Varda III	Mevasa	1142
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Orient Abrasive Ltd.	Karam Kund Mine II	Mevasa	334
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Orient Abrasive Ltd.	Karamkund I	Mevasa	-
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Orient Abrasive Ltd.	Virpur 4	Virpur	-
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Orient Abrasive Ltd.	Varda-4	Mevasa	27
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Orient Abrasive Ltd.	Lamba (30 Part)	Lamba	-
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Orient Abrasive Ltd.	Kothariya (330 Part)	Mevasa	T.D.
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Orient Abrasive Ltd.	Avariya II	Mevasa	1091
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Orient Abrasive Ltd.	Avariya I	Mevasa	T.D.
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Orient Abrasive Ltd.	Virpur II (72.73)	Virpur	-
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Orient Abrasive Ltd.	Virpur I (17)	Virpur	-
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Orient Abrasive Ltd.	Varda II	Mevasa	111

1	2	3	4	5	6
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Orient Abrasive Ltd.	Varda I (330 part)	Mevasa	297
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Parshuram Pottery Works Co. Ltd.	Mevasa	Mevasa	T.D.
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Prabhu Das Vithal Das	Virpur (Kennedy) II	Virpur	7320
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Prabhu Das Vithal Das	Mevasa (Kennedy)	Mevasa	9411
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Prabhu Das Vithal Das	Kenedy	Kenedy	N.A.
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Raghuvanshi Refractories	Virpur (Rata Kunda)	Virpur	839
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Ramnik Lal Thanki	Sultani	Virpur	-
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Saurashtra Calcine Bauxite & Allied Industries	Mevasa S.No. 396	Mevasa	-
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Saurashtra Calcine Bauxite & Allied Industries	Ran Nala II	Ran	3210
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Saurashtra Calcine Bauxite & Allied Industries	Mevasa 148	Mevasa	13371
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Saurashtra Calcine Bauxite & Allied Industries	Lamba 2	Lamba Bandar	-
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Saurashtra Calcine Bauxite & Allied Industries	Hadmatia 121	Hadmatia	-
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Saurashtra Calcine Bauxite & Allied Industries	Nandana S.No. 199	Nandana	1854
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Saurashtra Calcine Bauxite & Allied Industries	Asota (238)	Asota	-
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Saurashtra Calcine Bauxite & Allied Industries	Mevasa Field (227/228)	Mevasa	908
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Saurashtra Calcine Bauxite & Allied Industries	Mevasa S.No. 214	Mevasa	-
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Saurashtra Calcine Bauxite & Allied Industries	Mahadevia S.No. 119	Mahadvia	-
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Saurashtra Calcine Bauxite & Allied Industries	Lamba I (415/P)	Lamba	2898
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Saurashtra Calcine Bauxite & Allied Industries	Mevasa S.N. 412	Mevasa	-
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Saurashtra Calcine Bauxite & Allied Industries	Kenedy Field (508)	Kenedy	-
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Saurashtra Calcine Bauxite & Allied Industries	Kenedy Lol 505/P	Kenedy	-
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Saurashtra Calcine Bauxite & Allied Industries	Hadmatia Field	Hadmatia	-
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Saurashtra Calcine Bauxite & Allied Industries	Ran	Ran	-
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Saurashtra Calcine Bauxite & Allied Industries	Mevasa S.N. 330	Mevasa	22311
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Saurashtra Calcine Bauxite & Allied Industries	Ran Mala I	Ran	-
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Saurashtra Calcine Bauxite & Allied Industries	Mevasa S.N. 138	Mevasa	67762

1	2	3	4	5	6
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Saurashtra Calcine Bauxite & Allied Industries	Rajatalav S.No. 208/407	Mevasa	7420
Gujarat	Jamnagar			Kenedy	9662
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Saurashtra Cement Ltd.	Ran	Ran	-
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Saurashtra Traders	Bankodi	Bankodi	523
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Shri Nataraj Ceramic & Chemicals Industries Ltd.	Habardi S.No. 186	Habardi	-
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Shri Nataraj Ceramic & Chemicals Industries Ltd.	Habardi S.No. 182	Habardi	-
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Shri Nataraj Ceramic & Chemicals Industries Ltd.	Habardi S.No. 174	Habardi	-
Gujarat	Jamnagar	Vinod J. Pandya	Lamba Bhatia	Lamba Bhatia	NA
Gujarat	Junagarh	Dolar Rai Mulji Bhai Thanki	Tukda	Tukda (Miyani)	1741
Gujarat	Junagarh	Nakhil Kumar R. Thanki	Keshav S. No. 490	Keshav	1077
Gujarat	Junagarh	Naresh P. Makhecha	Vishawada (50)	Vishawada	6153
Gujarat	Junagarh	Naresh P. Makhecha	Vishawada (30)	Vishawada	3195
Gujarat	Junagarh	Saurashtra Minerals (P) Ltd.	Palakhada	Palakhada	7272
Gujarat	Kheda	Arvind Kumar J. Pabari	Amartpura	Amartpura	200
Gujarat	Kheda	Arvind Kumar J. Pabari	Savali	Savali	-
Gujarat	Kheda	Arvind Kumar J. Pabari	Salod	Salod	-
Gujarat	Kheda	Arvind Kumar J. Pabari	Porda	Porda	-
Gujarat	Kheda	Doshi Narehdrakumar Jaisinglal Chintaman	Sorna	Sorna	-
Gujarat	Kheda	J.K. Sadhu	Taiyab Pura	Taiyab Pura	37
Gujarat	Kheda	J.K. Sadhu	Amaratpura	Amaratpura	26
Gujarat	Kheda	J.K. Sadhu	Roadwali (Taiyabpura)	Taiyabpura	36
Gujarat	Kheda	J.K. Sadhu	Porda	Porda	30
Gujarat	Kheda	Manor Investments Co. Pvt. Ltd.	Kapadwanj Kasba	Kapadwanj	N.A.
Gujarat	Kheda	Rajesh Manganlal Patel	Mahendar	Taiyabpura	-
Gujarat	Kheda	Smt. P.H. Joshi	Dakorwada Old	Dakor	28
Gujarat	Kheda	Smt. P.H. Joshi	Matawali	Dakor	29
Gujarat	Kheda	Smt. P.H. Joshi	Naherwali	Dakor	21
Gujarat	Kheda	Smt. P.H. Joshi	P.W.D. Wali	Dakor	57
Gujarat	Kheda	Vinod Kumar J. Pabari	Salod 409/P	Salod 409/P	254
Gujarat	Kheda	Vinod Kumar J. Pabari	Salod 438 (Dungri)	Salod	156
Gujarat	Kheda	Vinod Kumar J. Pabari	Salod 439/P	Salod 439 P	-
Gujarat	Kheda	Vinod Kumar J. Pabari	Havaldar		
Gujarat	Kheda	Vinod Kumar J. Pabari	Sadod (Old)	Salod	-
Gujarat	Kutch	G.M.D.C.	Guniyasar	Guniyasar	-
Gujarat	Kutch	G.M.D.C.	Wandhi		
Gujarat	Kutch	G.M.D.C.	Wandh 2		
Gujarat	Kutch	Gujarat Mineral Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	Naredi II	Naredi II	4226
Gujarat	Kutch	Gujarat Mineral Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	Nandra	Nandra	-
Gujarat	Kutch	Gujarat Mineral Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	Ratadia	Ratadia	175
Gujarat	Kutch	Orient Abrasives Ltd.	Ratatalab	Moti Balachod	6825
Gujarat	Sabarkantha	Smt. Vimala Ben S. Patel	Dharmendra	Ambalara	956
Gujarat	Sbarkantha	Vijay Kumar Ambu Bhai Patel	Vap	Sultanpura	NA

1	2	3	4	5	6
Karnataka	Belgaum	Dal Chand Bahadur Singh	DBS 'A' Boknur	Navege & Hangirge	7070
Karnataka	Belgaum	Dal Chand Bahadur Singh	DBS 'B'	Bijgarni & Boknur	900
Kerala	Kollam	Kaveri Chemicals Pvt. Ltd.	Kaveri		4764
M.P.	Bastar	M.P. State Mining Corp. Ltd.	Keshal	Kuwe	180
M.P.	Bilaspur	Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd.	Phutakapahar	P.P. Forest Area	57200
M.P.	Jabalpur	Laxmi Das Ramji	Tikuri Road side	Tikuri	96529
M.P.	Jabalpur	Prahlad Rai Agarwal	Saikiya	Saikiya	NA
M.P.	Jabalpur	Satyawan Agarwal	Tikariya 28.31	Tikariya	-
M.P.	Jabalpur	Savitri Minerals	Tikariya	Tikariya	NA
M.P.	Jabalpur	Shankarlal Vishwakarma	Padwar	Padwar	-
M.P.	Jabalpur	Sharda Prasad Jaiswal	Mohla	Mohla	299
M.P.	Jabalpur	Smt. Aruna Devi Bajaj	Padwar	Padwar	820
M.P.	Jabalpur	Smt. Shakuntala Gupta	Saraswahi	Saraswahi	NA
M.P.	Jabalpur	Smt. Shakuntala Kohad	Chhapra	Chhapra	NA
M.P.	Jabalpur	T.C. Dunne	Bargawan (2.750H)	Bargawan	8099
M.P.	Mandla	Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd.	Raktidadar	Khurkhuridadar	36359
M.P.	Mandla	Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd.	Monhoodadar	Karanjia Forestrange	38057
M.P.	Rewa	Aslam Hussain	Tikar		15056
M.P.	Rewa	Jailal Bharatlal	Kumhara-Judwani	Kumhara-Judwani	539
M.P.	Rewa	M.P. Mineral Supply Co.	Kumhara - Judwani	Kumhara - Judwani	1925
M.P.	Rewa	M.P. Mineral Supply Co.	Salaiya	Salaiya	2951
M.P.	Rewa	M.P. Mineral Supply Co.	Chaura	Chaura	1366
M.P.	Rewa	Rakesh Agencies	Chutti-Jaggir	Chutti-Jaggir	910
M.P.	Rewa	Rakesh Agencies	Kumlara Judwani	Kumlara Judwani	-
M.P.	Satna	Bansal Khanij Udyog	Bijahri	Bijahri	30
M.P.	Satna	Bansal Khanij Udyog	Kusiyara	Kusiyara	720
M.P.	Satna	Bansal Khanij Udyog	Rasoiya 40 AC	Rasoiya	T.D.
M.P.	Satna	Harris Mineral Supply Co.	Sarbihanga 84. 28AC	Sabhangha	-
M.P.	Satna	Harris Mineral Supply Co.	Sarbihanga 42. 64AC	Sabhangha	-
M.P.	Satna	Harris Mineral Supply Co.	Katharakothar	Katharakothar	-
M.P.	Satna	Harris Mineral Supply Co.	Jokar	Sikar	-
M.P.	Satna	Hiralal Rameshwar Prasad	Khadri 40A Mine	Khadri	560
M.P.	Satna	Ismail & Sons	Kubri No. 2	Kubri	NA
M.P.	Satna	Krishna Das Tikaram	Argat (6.00)	Argat	-
M.P.	Satna	Krishna Das Tikaram	Argat (6.00A)	Argat	174
M.P.	Satna	Kanjital Ishwarprasad Agarwal	Borai	Borai	NA
M.P.	Satna	M.P. Mineral Supply Co.	Ghatania (13.43)	Ghatania	4214
M.P.	Satna	M.P. Mineral Supply Co.	Nowgaon 23.60	Nowgaon	-
M.P.	Satna	M.P. Mineral Supply Co.	Ghatania (11.84)	Ghatania	375
			Now 9.50)		
M.P.	Satna	M.P. Mineral Supply Co.	Moregarh		14883
M.P.	Satna	M.P. Mineral Supply Co.	Mukut	Mukut	NA
M.P.	Satna	M.P. Mineral Supply Co.	Kothara-Kothar	Kothara-Kothar	-

1	2	3	4	5	6
M.P.	Satna	M.P. Mineral Supply Co.	Sidha Kothar	Sidha Kothar	447
M.P.	Satna	M.P. Mineral Supply Co.	Mukat (4.75)	Mukat	30
M.P.	Satna	M.P. Mineral Supply Co.	Ghatania (4.15)	Ghatania	241
M.P.	Satna	M.P. Mineral Supply Co.	Udali	Udali	1188
M.P.	Satna	M.P. Mineral Supply Co.	Nowgaon 19.09		—
M.P.	Satna	M.P. Mineral Supply Co.	Channehara		T.D.
M.P.	Satna	M.P. Mineral Processing (P) Ltd.	Kariadeori	Kariadeori	108 (new)
M.P.	Satna	M.P. State Mining Corpon.	Narad Hill	Madhwajhar	4489
M.P.	Satna	M.P. State Mining Corpon.	Tamar	Tamar	14879
M.P.	Satna	Mekal Minerals	Karigohi (5.24)	Karigohi	140
M.P.	Satna	Mungwari			620
M.P.	Satna	Mukhtar Ahmed Siddique	Sarbahanga (25.00)	Sarbahanga	—
M.P.	Satna	Nisar Ahmad Siddiqui	Sarmaga 25AC	Sarmaga	—
M.P.	Satna	Rajendra Kumar Agarwal	Suron (35A)	Suron	—
M.P.	Satna	Rajendra Kumar Agarwal	Suron (25A)	Suron	—
M.P.	Satna	Rakesh Agencies	Sidha Kothar 30.00	Sidha Kothar	2543
M.P.	Satna	Rakesh Agencies	Pagarkalan	Pagarkalan	T.D.
M.P.	Satna	Rakesh Agencies	Nowgaon 27.50	Nowgaon	—
M.P.	Satna	Rakesh Agencies	Nowgaon 16.13 (8.08)		T.D.
M.P.	Satna	Rakesh Agencies	Sabbhanga K.No. 7		T.D.
M.P.	Satna	Rakesh Agencies	Bawai (Borvi)	Borui	888
M.P.	Satna	Rakesh Agencies	Sarbhanga K.No.7	Sarbhanga	T.D.
M.P.	Satna	Ramchandra Bansal	Pamaria (83)	Naugawan	T.D.
M.P.	Satna	Ramchandra Bansal	Sarbhanga	Sarbhanga	T.D.
M.P.	Satna	Ramchandra Bansal	Amua	Amua	T.D.
M.P.	Satna	Pukhatha			5810
M.P.	Satna	Ramchandra Bansal	Surehati	Naugawan	T.D.
M.P.	Satna	Ramchandra Bansal	Pamaria (81/82)	Naugawan	475
M.P.	Satna	Ramchandra Bansal	Chhoti Pamariya	Naugawan	T.D.
M.P.	Satna	Ramchandra Bansal	Ghatania	Ghatania	210
M.P.	Satna	Ramchandra Bansal	Batahara	Batahara	545
M.P.	Satna	Sheoratanalal Agarwal	Pagarkalla (21.19A)	Pagarkala	NA
M.P.	Shahdol	Hindalco Industries Ltd.	Amarkantak	Amarkantak	51213
M.P.	Sidhi	Krishnan Das Tikaram	Birpur (6.014 A)	Birpur	161
M.P.	Sidhi	Krishnan Das Tikaram	Naikin (10.82)	Naikin	1859
M.P.	Sidhi	Krishnan Das Tikaram	Naikin (2.84)	Naikin	1270
M.P.	Surguja	Bharat Aliminium Co. Ltd.	Mainpat	Kamleshwarpur	152850
M.P.	Surguja	M.P. State Mining Corpn. Ltd.	Mainpat	Barima	110251
Maharashtra Kolhapur		Indian Aluminium Co. Ltd.	Kasarsada	Bhogoli	13473
Maharashtra Kolhapur		Indian Aluminium Co. Ltd.	Inderanj		16
Maharashtra Kolhapur		Indian Aluminium Co. Ltd.	Durghahwandi	Padisali	554907
Maharashtra Kolhapur		Indian Aluminium Co. Ltd.	Nagartaswadi	Avandi, Amboli	—
Maharashtra Kolhapur		Padmavati Mining Co.	Kasarde	Kasarde	826

1	2	3	4	5	6
Maharashtra	Kolhapur	Swati Minerals	Udagiri	Udagiri	253700
Orissa	Koraput	National Aluminium Co. Ltd.	Panchpatmali	Panchpatmali	26616586
Orissa	Sundargarh	Orissa Industries Ltd.	Tantra	Tantra	NA
Orissa	Sundargarh	Rungia Sons (P) Ltd.	San Indpur	San Indupur	-
Orissa	Sundargarh	Surendra Nath Mohanty	KJSI	Jaldih	-
Tamil Nadu	Hamakkal	L. Nagamurali	Gowthan	Airyur Nadu	14380
Tamil Nadu	Nilgiris	R. Muthusamy S/o Rangaswamy	Kamadhenu	Thummanatty	27179
Tamil Nadu	Nilgiris	S. Mohammad Hussain	Alumina	Elada, Kodanad, K. Giri	NA
Tamil Nadu	Salem	Madras Aluminium Co. Ltd.	Shevaroy	Yorcaud	119769
Tamil Nadu	Salem	Madras Aluminium Co. Ltd.	Kolli Hills (1583)	Selur Nadu	74346
Tamil Nadu	Salem	Madras Aluminium Co. Ltd.	Kolli Hills (736)	Vazhavandha Nadu	-
Tamil Nadu	Salem	Madras Aluminium Co. Ltd.	Kolli Hills (408)	Ariyur Nadu	-

P : Provisional

- : Nil Production

N.A. Returns not received

T.D. Temporarily Discontinued

Restoration of Air Service in West Bengal

3354. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to restore the Alliance Air services for Dinhat, Balurghat and Malda in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The traffic on these sectors is not adequate for operations with the existing Jet aircraft fleet of Indian Airlines. Shortage of smaller capacity aircraft and the related operating crew also do not permit operation of service on these routes by Indian Airlines. Private operators are being encouraged to include new stations such as Cooch-Behar, Balurghat and Malda in their network, subject to viability.

Impact of US Sanctions on LCA and M.B.T. Projects

3355. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the US decision to impose sanctions on India is likely to affect already delayed Light Combat Aircraft and Main Arjun Battle Tank.

(b) if so, the extent thereof.

(c) the extent to which the military aid by USA is likely to be cut off; and

(d) its impact on our military systems development?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) These sanctions will not affect the Main Battle Tank ARJUN and the LCA programme. The small impact on schedule of LCA is being overcome by concentrated effort by a national team.

(c) Military sales to India have been terminated. Export licences for commercial sale of items under US Munitions list have been revoked. The military-to-military programmes including certain education programmes and official exchange visits have been suspended.

(d) Certain components, sub-assemblies and test equipment required for on-going Defence R & D programmes may be denied by US Government. Efforts are being made to identify alternate sources. Actions have already been initiated to undertake indigenous development of a number of such critical items.

[Translation]

Passengers in Agra-Nizamuddin Inter City Express

3356. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Inter City Express from Nizamuddin to Agra Cantt. at 7.35 p.m. running with nominal number of passengers:

(b) whether the Government propose to change the departure time of the said train to earn more revenue and in view of the daily passengers' convenience; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and 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 train is very well patronised between Agra and Nizamuddin. As per the last Census the occupations of this train was 95%.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no demand with the Railways to change the Schedule of 4003/4004 Nizamuddin-Agra Inter City Express. Further change in the departure time of this train is presently not feasible due to operation difficulties.

[English]

Vacancies of Engineers in CPWD

3357. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 138 on the 23rd July, 1997 regarding vacancies of Engineers in C.P.W.D. and state :

(b) whether the process of regularisation of ad-hoc promotions made to the grade of Executive Engineers prior to October 29, 1996 has since been completed;

(c) whether the process of filling up vacancies in the grade of Executive Engineer arising from October 29, 1996 has been taken up; and

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

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The process of regularisation of pre- 29.10.96 vacancies in the grade of Executive Engineers has not yet been completed. The Chennai CAT in their judgement dated 4.9.97, in the case of Sh. Anandram & Ors. (OA No. 295/95, 493/95) have directed "the review of regular promotions made in the past as the promotion of Diploma holder AEs has not been made according to the eligibility criteria of "Outstanding eligibility on the record" prescribed in the 1954 Recruitment Rules as amended in 1972 and which criteria has been upheld by the Supreme Court in the judgement dated 14.1.97 in the case of J.N. Goel & Ors. (Civil) Appeal No. 5363 of 1990". The earlier proposal for regular promotion referred to in the reply to USQ No. 138 dated 23.7.97 had to be withdrawn from UPSC. The proposals for review of regular promotions already made to the grade of Executive Engineer (C) after

1980 and Executive Engineer (Elect) after 1977 have been sent to UPSC on 12.5.98. Separate proposals for regularisation of adhoc promotions made from 1994-95 to 28.10.96 have also been forwarded to UPSC in accordance with Recruitment Rules as they stood prior to the amendment. The DPC has not been convened by the UPSC.

(c) and (d) The Principal Bench, CAT, Delhi have directed in its order dated 12.5.98 (MA No., 505/98, MA 591/98 in OA 1461/97) that all vacancies prior to 1996 may be filled in accordance with the 1954 Recruitment Rules, before making any promotion to the vacancies of post 29.10.96 period, which are to be filled up as per 1996 Recruitment Rules. The process of filling up of the post 29.10.96 vacancies will start only after the review of earlier promotions made upto 1993-94 and thereafter the regular promotions to the vacancies of 1994-95 to 28.10.96 is completed.

Bhubaneswar Airport

3358. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Airport Authority is aware that many multiple storied buildings have come up around the Airport of Bhubanswar during the last three years;

(b) if so, whether the owners of the buildings had sought the clearance from the Authority before starting such constructions; and

(c) if not, the action that has been taken against those who violated the regulation regarding safety of the Airport and its functioning ?

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

(b) Yes, Sir. Necessary clearance has also been given in April, 1997 and January, 1998 respectively.

(c) Does not arise.

Ambedkar Awas Yojana

3359. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applicants registered under the Ambedkar Awas Yojana;

(b) the total number of flats allotted to registrants till date category-wise ;

(c) the reasons for not allotting the flats to the registrants expeditiously; and

(d) the time by which the flats are likely to be allotted to all the registrants ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) The number of applicants registered under the Ambedkar Awas Yojana is 20,000.

(b) The total number of flats allotted to registrants till date category-wise is as under :

MIG	-	2111
LIG	-	3192
JANTA	-	2988

(c) and (d) DDA has reported that in view of the constraints regarding availability of land and other essential services like electricity and water which are to be provided by other Government Agencies, it is not possible to indicate at this stage the time schedule for allotment of flats to all the registrants.

Water Shed Projects

3360. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of watershed projects sanctioned during 1997-98, State-wise;

(b) the total cost of each of these projects; and

(c) the number of watershed projects proposed to be sanctioned during 1998-99, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Department of Wastelands Development does not sanction the projects named Watershed, as such. However, forty-five Integrated Wastelands Development Projects under Integrated Wastelands Development Project (IWDP) scheme to be implemented as per the Guidelines for Watershed Development have been sanctioned during 1997-98. Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The number of Watershed projects under IWDP Scheme proposed to be sanctioned during 1998-99, depends upon the viable project proposals submitted by the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs)/Zilla Parishads and their conformity with the Guidelines for Watershed Development and availability of fund.

Statement

Name of the District	Total Cost (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2
<i>Andhra Pradesh</i>	
1. Chittoor (Project-IV)	450.00
2. Medak	496.48
3. Nizamabad (Project-II)	500.00
4. Srikakulam	500.00
5. Cuddapah (Project-II)	500.00

1	2
<i>Arunachal Pradesh</i>	
1. West Kameng	60.00
<i>Assam</i>	
2. Karbi Anglong	245.20
<i>Gujarat</i>	
1. Junagarh	480.00
<i>Himachal Pradesh</i>	
1. Solan (Project-II)	499.52
2. Sirmour	499.00
<i>Haryana</i>	
1. Panipat	478.88
<i>Jammu & Kashmir</i>	
1. Udhampur (Project-II)	500.00
<i>Karnataka</i>	
1. Mandya (Project-II)	500.00
2. Gulbarga	474.00
3. Chitradurga	500.00
4. Bellary	485.60
<i>Maharashtra</i>	
1. Parbhani	381.60
<i>Manipur</i>	
1. Imphal (West)	267.00
2. Senapati	55.72
3. Senapati (Project-II)	400.00
<i>Madhya Pradesh</i>	
1. Guna	243.60
2. Seoni	280.00
3. Narsingpur	280.00
4. Mandsaur	280.00
5. Guna (Project-II)	337.96
<i>Nagaland</i>	
1. Mokochung	480.00
<i>Orissa</i>	
1. Jharsuguda	288.64
2. Kalahandi (Project-II)	493.48
3. Balangir (Project-II)	496.00
4. Koraput (Project-IV)	481.80
5. Mayurbhanj	496.00
6. Dhenkanal (Project-III)	244.64

1	2
Rajasthan	
1. Jhunjhunu	168.00
2. Jhalawar (Project-II)	394.24
Sikkim	
1. East Sikkim (Project-III)	222.76
2. North Sikkim (Project-II)	480.00
Tamil Nadu	
1. Dindigul	200.00
Uttar Pradesh	
1. Unnao	481.64
2. Tehri Garhwal	484.76
3. Sonbhadra	404.26
4. Raibareli (Project-II)	484.00
5. Unnao (Project-II)	482.16
6. Sultanpur	481.56
7. Jhansi (Project-II)	495.00
8. Jhansi (Project-III)	400.00

Advertisement Support by Air India and Indian Airlines

3361. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :
SHRI BIJOY KUMAR "BIJOY" :
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the names of magazines, journals, souvenirs that have been given advertisement support by Air India and Indian Airlines during 1997-98;

(b) the rates at which these advertisements were released ;

(c) the reasons for not supporting magazines promoting tourism industry;

(d) whether the Government have decided to give top priority to such magazines in future; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(c) to (e) Advertisement support is extended to various magazines promoting tourism subject to their fulfilling the circulation/readership requirements laid down by the two air-

lines. However, because of budgetary constraints, it is not feasible to extend advertising support to all the magazines promoting tourism.

Gauge Conversion in Rajasthan

3362. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some proposals for conversion of narrow metre gauge lines into broad gauge in Rajasthan have been pending with the Union Government for the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps so far taken by the Union 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) to (c) The following projects are at present pending in Rajasthan :

1. Gauge conversion of Sriganganagar-Saroopsar.
2. Gauge conversion of Rewari-Sadulpur.

These works are already included in the budget but are to be taken up after obtaining the requisite clearances from Planning Commission and Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs for which action has already been initiated.

Mid Air Collision near Delhi

3363. DR. Y.S. RAJASEKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the stage of the enquiry into air crash which took place more than two years ago in the mid-night near Delhi;

(b) the reasons for the inordinate delay; and

(c) the time by which the enquiry is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The enquiry into the mid-air collision, which took place between Saudi Arabian Boeing-747 and Kazakhstan IL-76 aircraft at Charkhi-Dadri near Delhi on 12th November 1996, (conducted by Mr. Justice R.C. Lahoti of Delhi High Court) is already over. The Report was submitted in July, 1997 by the Court of Inquiry. There was no inordinate delay in the inquiry conducted by the Court of Inquiry.

Ozha Committee Report

3364. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the recommendation made by the Ozha Committee;

(b) whether these recommendations have been implemented by the Konkan Railway Corporation in toto; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PAR-

LIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) The Justice Oza Committee has recommended certain additional inputs such as increase in bridge openings, road crossings, land scaping, fencing etc. while confirming the alignment as adopted by Konkan Railway. The details of recommendations and action taken are as under :

Recommendations	Action taken
1. Increasing of water way by extending viaduct of Zuari and Mandovi bridges to reduce earthwork.	Complied fully.
2. Shifting of old Goa tunnel within the Rly. land as far as possible.	Complied with. A curve was provided and the alignment was shifted to the maximum extent possible and the entire tunnels has been provided with concrete wall and roofing.
3. Stopping of further removal of earth in Deever Island.	Complied with. After the Justice Oza Committee Report, no earth has been excavated in Deever Island.
4. Fencing along the Railway track between Utorda and Madgaon at isolated locations.	Complied with. A Compound wall as been constructed wherever required.
5. Construction of over bridge and foot over bridges at Utorda, Majorda, Kalada, Nuvem, Betul, Ferilam, Duveraliam & Madgaon.	Complied with. Foot-over bridge and Road over Bridge have been provided as recommended by Justice Oza Committee.
6. Provision of adequate water ways for cross drainages.	Complied with. Adequate cross drainages have been provided.
7. Additional clearance for boat movement for the bridges provided in the creek.	Complied with.
8. Adequate passage and path ways for agriculturists for moving their manure implements and cattle.	RCC pipes have been replaced with slab bridges wherever justified.

(b) All the recommendations of the Justice Oza Committee, costing about Rs. 28 crores have been implemented by Konkan Railway in toto.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Sale Target of B.S.P.

3365. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the target set and achieved in sale of various products by Bokaro Steel Plan during the year 1997-98 and 1998-99; and

(b) the total amount due to Bihar Government in the form of taxes and cess ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) The target fixed for homesales and achievements in respect of Pig Iron and Saleable Steel of Bokaro Steel Plant during the years 1997-98 and 1998-99 (upto May, 1998) are as follows :

Item	(unit : 000 M/T)			
	1997-98		1998-99	
	Target	Homesales	Target	Homesales
Pig Iron	101	189.9	18	31
Saleable Steel	2730.0	2422.8	283.2	305.9

(b) There is no amount due to Bihar Government in the form of Taxes and Cess. However, there are some cases in respect of Central Sales Tax/ Bihar Sales Tax pending before different Appellate Authorities.

*[English]***Vikrant Museum Plan**

3366. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK :
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to preserve the war-ship 'INS Vikrant' as a museum of naval memorabilia;

(b) whether the efforts are also being made to dispose it off to junk dealers through auction; and

(c) if so, the details of the final decision of the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) A proposal has been received from the Government of Maharashtra for conversion of INS Vikrant into a maritime museum. This is under consideration of the Central Government.

Crash of MIG-29 in Rajasthan

3367. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Indian Air Force Fighter Plane (MIG-29) crashed near Jaisalmer, Rajasthan on June 4, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the number of civilians and soldiers killed and injured alongwith the extent of loss of property therein;

(d) the compensation paid to each of the victims;

(e) whether any inquiry has been made to investigate the cause of the accident; and

(f) if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) On June 4, 1998 no IAF MIG-29 crashed near Jaisalmer. However, on this date, a MIG-21 aircraft crashed near Jaisalmer when an IAF Pilot was authorised to fly as No. 2 in a 4 aircraft practice over Pokhran Range. While the Pilot was carrying out the third circuit, a huge ball of flame was seen in the attack direction by the other members which was later identified as No.2.

No other civilians/soldiers were killed/injured except the pilot. There was no loss to civil property.

Necessary action to grant Ex-gratia award and other death benefits to the next of the kin has been imitated.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. However, the Court of Inquiry has been unable to conclusively establish the cause of the accident due to lack of evidence as the aircraft was completely destroyed after crash.

*[Translation]***Fraudulent Recruitment in Armed Forces**

3368. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fraudulent recruitments reported to have been made in Armed Forces through a racket in convenience with some Army Officers at Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh ;

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

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the corrective steps taken to check such immoral acts in future ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Some News items had appeared in newspapers 27.4.1998 at Lucknow regarding arrest of seven persons in connection with alleged recruitment racket. Detailed information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]***Level Crossings in the Country**

3369. SHRI BHARATHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of manned and unmanned railway crossings in the country separately, State-wise and zone-wise;

(b) the number of railway accidents that have occurred during the last three years at such level crossings, State-wise;

(c) whether many of these accidents have occurred due to the unmanned level crossings;

(d) if so, the steps being taken to prevent the recurrence of such accidents;

(e) whether the Government propose to set up any more manned and unmanned railway crossings in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and zone-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) There are 16218 manned and 24299 unmanned level crossings in the country. State-wise and Zone-wise data are given below:

State	Number of Level crossings	
	Manned	Unmanned
Assam	385	1040
Andhra Pradesh	1199	1546
Bihar	1345	2027
Delhi	56	5
Gujarat	1490	2928
Haryana	534	519
Himachal Pradesh	45	290
Jammu & Kashmir	16	36
Karnataka	667	1067
Kerala	413	227
Madhya Pradesh	1243	1767
Maharashtra	1135	1538
Manipur	1	1
Mizoram	1	1
Orissa	268	1131
Punjab	744	1053
Rajasthan	1405	2225
Tamil Nadu	1258	1566
Tripura	1	36
Uttar Pradesh	2867	3702
West Bengal	1114	1579
Chandigarh	6	2
Pondicherry	9	9
Goa	14	3
Nagaland	2	1
Total	16218	24299

Railways	Number of Level crossings	
	Manned	Unmanned
1	2	3
Central		
West Central	1809	1665
Eastern	1301	992
Northern		
North Central	3179	4399
North Eastern		
East Central	1528	3254

1	2	3
Northeast Frontier	662	1668
Southern South Western	2194	2560
South Central	1511	2014
South Eastern East Coast	1030	3620
Western North Western	3004	4127
Total	16218	24299

(b) and (c) Accident statistics on Indian Railways are maintained Railway Zone-wise and not State-wise. The zone-wise statistics of accidents that have occurred on manned and unmanned level crossings in the past three years are as follows :

Railways	1995-96		1996-97		1997-98		Total	
	M*	UM**	M*	UM**	M*	UM**	M*	UM**
Central	2	4	4	2	-	1	6	7
Eastern	2	-	4	1	1	-	7	1
Northern	5	9	4	6	3	10	12	25
North Eastern	1	4	1	11	2	8	4	23
Frontier	1	2	-	-	2	-	3	4
Southern	2	11	1	10	1	9	4	30
South Central	2	9	2	8	1	6	5	23
South Eastern	1	2	2	2	4	5	7	9
Western	-	9	2	4	2	9	4	22
Metro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Konkan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	16	50	20	44	16	50	52	144

* M - Manned ** UN - Unmanned

(d) Accidents at unmanned level crossings mainly occurred due to negligence of the road users who failed to observe the road signs available at these gates and also the stipulations contained in the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

The following steps have been taken by the Railway to prevent accident at unmanned level crossings.

1. Proper Road Signs have been provided on approaches to level crossings so that road vehicle drivers become aware of the existence of a level crossing gate.

2. Speed breakers/rumble strips have been provided on approaches to level crossing gates so that road vehicle drivers are remained to reduce their speed.
3. Whistle boards are also provided alongside the rail track on approach to level crossings. Train drivers are required to whistle from the whistle board till such time as the train passes the level crossing gate in order to warn road users about the approaching train. Periodic drivers are launched for checking whether drivers are actually whistling from such whistle boards.
4. For improving the safety at unmanned level crossing gates prototype electronic audio-visual warning devices have been installed on a trial basis at some selected level crossing gates.
5. Road users have still not got used to the faster speeds of Mail/Express trains. A train travelling at 90 KMPH covers 25m/sec. Thus, although to the road user the train appears to be 150 meters away, in terms of time it is only 6 seconds away. This message is being conveyed to them progressively by various publicity measures.
6. To educate road drivers about safety at unmanned level crossings publicity campaigns are periodically launched through various media like quickies on TV, Cinema slides, posters, talks on radio, newspaper advertisements and street plays.
7. Since accidents at unmanned level crossings take place due to negligence of road users, the State Governments can also help by exercising strict checks while issuing driving licences, specially to drivers of trucks, buses and other heavy vehicles. All Chief Secretaries have been requested to co-operate in educating road users.
8. Joint Ambush checks with civil authorities are conducted to nab errant road vehicle drivers under the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and the Railways Act, 1989.
9. Level crossings having very heavy traffic density are being progressively interlocked with signals on a planned basis.
10. In addition to interlocking of level crossing gates, telephones are also being gradually provided at all manned level crossing gates.
11. Surprise checks and night inspections are regularly conducted to check the alertness of gatemen.
12. Involvement of village Panchayats in the railways

public awareness programmes is also being done.

13. Permission has been received from some of the State Governments, for putting up level crossing safety posters at village panchayat offices. These posters are presently under printing and this work will be started in the near future.
14. Permission has also been received from IOC/HPC/BPC for putting up level crossing safety posters at retail petrol pumps. These posters are presently under printing and this work will also be started in the near future.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Proposals for construction of four new manned level crossings on 'deposit' terms have been received and they are under consideration. State-wise and Zone-wise break-up are given below :

State	Number of Level Crossings	Railways	Number of Level Crossings
Assam	1	Northern North Central	1
Kerala	2	Northeast Frontier	1
Uttar Pradesh	1	Southern South Western	2
Total	4		4

Encroachment at Faridabad Railway Station

3370. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway Cycle Stand contractors have encroached upon the whole area of railway land at Newtown Faridabad Railway Station;

(b) since when this railway land is under encroachment; and

(c) what remedial action is being taken by the Railways and the time by which the encroachment will be removed?

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.

Ad-hoc Appointments in Railways

3371. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether ad-hoc appointments are being made in Railways; and

(b) if so, the number of such appointments made from December, 1994 to June, 1996 and July, 1996 to December, 1997, separately category-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) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[Translation]

Appointment of Rail Travellers Service Agents

3372. SHRI RAM SHAKAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have appointed 'Rail Travellers Service Agents' in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the criteria fixed for the appointment of these agents ?

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) At present 645 Rail Travellers' Service Agents (RTSA) are functioning on Indian Railways. Conditions for appointments of an agent under RTSA Scheme are given in the Rail Travellers' Service Agents Rules notified under Gazette notification No. 579 dated 5.12.1985 as amended vide notification No. 301 dated 26.5.1993.

The salient features of the scheme are as under :

- (i) The applicant should be in possession of latest income tax clearance certificate;
- (ii) Applicant should be having office and premises properly maintained with adequate convenience and amenities in the city so as to accommodate the visit of sufficient number of customers; and
- (iii) Applicant should not be convicted in a criminal case involving moral turpitude.

The fees on payment of which the licence shall be issued or renewed shall be Rs. 1200/- and Rs. 600/- for any additional licence for a Railway in the same station.

The security deposit on furnishing of which the licence shall be issued or renewed shall be Rs. 5000/- in cash and

Bank Guarantee for Rs. 15000/-. There shall be no accrual of interest on the said deposit.

The duration of such licence is of 3 years and it is renewable after that.

Expansion of Services by Foreign Airlines

3373. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the names of foreign airlines operating in the country;

(b) whether these airlines propose to expand their service area; and

(c) if so, the details of such airlines alongwith the new air-routes proposed to be linked by the Air Service ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) A list of foreign airlines operating international air services to/from India is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) While some of these airlines have been granted additional traffic rights, the actual induction of more flights is left to the commercial judgement of the airlines concerned.

Statement

Names of Airlines which are operating Scheduled Air services to/from India

1. Aeroflot
2. Air France
3. Air Mauritius
4. Alitalia
5. Air Ukraine
6. Ariana Afghan Airlines
7. Air Lanka
8. air Maldives
9. Air Seychelles
10. All Nipon Airways
11. Armenian Airlines
12. Asiana Airlines
13. Austrian Airlines
14. Bellview Airlines
15. British Airlines
16. Royal Brunei Airlines
17. Biman Bangladesh Airlines
18. CPA (Cathay Pacific Airways)
19. DELTA
20. Druk Air
21. EI AL (Airlines of Israel)
22. Egypt Air

23. Ethiopian Airlines
24. Emirates
25. Gulf Air
26. Iran Air
27. Japan Airlines
28. KLM
29. Kenya Airways
30. Korean Air
31. Kuwait Airways
32. Kyrgyzstan Airlines
33. Lufthansa
34. MAS (Malaysian Airlines)
35. Middle East Airlines
36. North West Airlines
37. Oman Air
38. PIA (Pakistan International Airlines)
39. Quantas
40. Qatar Airways
41. Royal Jordanian
42. RNAC (Royal Nepal Airlines)
43. Scandinavian Airways System
44. Saudia
45. Syrian Arab Airlines
46. Singapore Airlines
47. South African Airways
48. Swiss Air
49. TAROM
50. Thai Airways
51. Turkmenistan Airlines
52. United Airlines
53. Uzbekistan Airways
54. Yemenia

[English]

Charges of Retiring Rooms

3374. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to increase the rate of railway retiring rooms;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have received any letter/representation against this increase; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and the response of 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 IMPLEMEN-

TATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The charges of retiring rooms have already been revised w.e.f. 1.1.1998. The retiring rooms charges were revised keeping in view the status of city, charges prevailing in the hotels around the station etc. While revising the charges, railways were also advised to provide certain additional facilities.

(c) No representation has been received in this regard.

(d) Does not arise.

Defence Land to Andhra Pradesh

3375. SHRI K. P. NAIDU : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are in correspondence with the Government of Andhra Pradesh regarding the Defence land in Secunderabad and Hyderabad cantonments under encroachments;

(b) if so, whether any settlement for exchange of the Defence land with the State Government on 'land to land' basis had been reached; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore ?

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

(b) and (c) As per existing Defence Land Policy, transfer of Defence land is based on the principle of "exchange of land at equivalent value" and NOT on "land to land" basis. The State Government was intimated about this fact in September, 1997.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion

3376. SHRI GAURI SHANKER CHATURBHUI BISEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the foundation stones of gauge conversion from Gondia to Jabalpur and Balaghat to Katangi Tirori was laid in Palaghat (M.P.) and Gondia (Maharashtra) respectively on November 17, 1997 by the then Railway Minister;

(b) if so, the progress made after the laying of foundation stones;

(c) the amount earmarked for the above gauge conversion work during 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(d) whether the above gauge conversion work is included in the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(e) if so, the time by which the above conversion work 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) The requisite clearances for taking up Gondia-Jabalpur gauge conversion including Balaghat-Katangi has since been obtained. Final Location Survey to determine the diversions required to suit broad gauge line has been taken up. Work is now being commenced on those portions where alignment will not change. As regards the extension of line from Katangi to Tirodi (20 kms), a Reconnaissance Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey has since been sanctioned. Further consideration will be possible only after the survey report is available.

(c) 1997-98 Rs. 1 crore
1998-99 Rs. 20 crore

(d) and (e) Work has been proposed in the Draft Ninth Five Year Plan. Work is expected to be completed in about five years' time, subject, to availability of resources.

[English]

Gauge Conversion of Lumding-Badarpur Section

3377. SHRI NEPAL CHAMDRA DAS :
SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any fund was allotted for the conversion of Lumding-Badarpur Section of the N.F. Railway into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the total amount sanctioned and spent thereon during 1997-98;

(c) the amount sanctioned for the above purpose during 1998-99; and

(d) the progress made so far ?

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 1997-98 initial allotment for this project was Rs. 33.84 crores. Subsequently the final allotment was kept at Rs. 2.00 crores of which Rs. 1.16 crores was actually utilised in 1997-98.

(c) Rs. 40 crores.

(d) Contract for earthwork and minor bridges for plain stretch in Badarpur-Silchar has been finalised and work is in progress.

For balance portion of 170 kms. from Lumding to Badarpur, final location survey has been entrusted to M/s RITES.

Recruitment Centres

3378. SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the places where recruitment centres in the country are operating at present;

(b) whether there is any scheme to open such more recruitment centres; and

(c) if so, the locations thereof, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Army : There are a total of 12 ZROs and 58 BROs in the country and one independent Recruiting Office (IRO) in Delhi Cantt as per details given below :

(a) ZRO Jalandhar	Punjab
(i) BRO Amritsar	"
(ii) BRO Ferozepur	"
(iii) BRO Patiala	"
(iv) BRO Ludhiana	"
(v) BRO Jammu	J & K
(vi) BRO Srinagar	"
(b) ZRO Ambala	Haryana
(i) BRO Rohtak	"
(ii) BRO Hissar	"
(iii) BRO Charkhi Dadri	"
(iv) BRO Palampur	Himachal Pradesh
(v) BRO Hamirpur	"
(vi) BRO Shimla	"
(vii) BRO Mandi	"
(c) ZRO Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh
(i) BRO Lansdwone	"
(ii) BRO Almora	"
(iii) BRO Meerut	"
(iv) BRO Bareilly	"
(v) BRO Varanasi	"
(vi) BRO Agra	"
(vii) BRO Pithoragarh	"
(viii) BRO Amethi	"
(d) ZRO Calcutta	West Bengal
(i) BRO Siliguri	"
(ii) BRO Behrampur	"
(iii) BRO Cuttack	Orissa

(iv) BRO Sambalpur	"
(v) BRO Berhampur	"
(vi) BRO Katihar	Bihar
(e) ZRO Danapur	Bihar
(i) Muzzafarpur	"
(ii) BRO Ranchi	"
(ii) BRO Gaya	"
(f) ZRO Ajmer	Rajasthan
(i) BRO Jodhpur	"
(ii) BRO Alwar	"
(iii) BRO Kota	"
(iv) BRO Jhunjhunu	"
(g) ZRO Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh
(i) BRO Raipur	"
(ii) BRO Gwalior	"
(iii) BRO Mhow	"
(iv) BRO Bhopal	"
(h) ZRO Shillong	Meghalaya
(i) BRO Narangi	Assam
(ii) BRO Jorhat	"
(iii) BRO Silchar	"
(iv) BRO Kohima	Nagaland
(j) ZRO Pune	Maharashtra
(i) BRO Mumbai	"
(ii) BRO Nagpur	"
(iii) BRO Kolhapur	"
(iv) BRO Aurangabad	"
(v) BRO Ahmedabad	Gujarat
(vi) BRO Jamnagar	"
(k) ZRO Bangalore	Karnataka
(i) BRO Mangalore	"
(ii) BRO Belgaum	"
(iii) BRO Trivandrum	Kerala
(iv) BRO Calicut	"
(l) ZRO Madras (Chennai)	Tamil Nadu
(i) BRO Triuchirapalli	"
(ii) BRO Coimbatore	"
(iii) BRO Secunderabad	Andhra Pradesh
(iv) BRO Guntur	"
(v) BRO Vishakhapatnam	"
(m) GRD Kunraghat	Uttar Pradesh
(i) BRO Lebong	Sikkim
(n) Indep Recruiting Office (IRO)	Delhi Cantt.

Air Force

Airmen Selection Centres are located in the following places :

1. ASC	Ambala
2. ASC	New Delhi
3. ASC	Kanpur
4. ASC	Barrackpur
5. ASC	Jodhpur
6. ASC	Bombay
7. ASC	Bangalore
8. ASC	Tambaram
9. ASC	Bhubaneswar
10. ASC	Bihta
11. ASC	Guwahati
12. ASC	Secunderabad
13. ASC	Cochin

Navy

The Navy carries out recruitment of sailors from Naval Recruiting Establishment located at :

Calcutta	Chennai	Chilka (Orissa)
Coimbatore	Dehradun	Delhi
Jamnagar	Kochi	Lonavala (Maharashtra)
Mumbai	Port Blair	Vasco-de-Gama (Goa)
Visakhapatnam		

In addition, Naval Recruitment Teams are also utilising the following Airmen Selection Centres for recruitment of Naval recruits :

Ambala	Bangalore	Guwahati
Jodhpur	Patna (Bihar)	Kanpur
Secunderabad		

A proposal for opening of BRO at Gangtok (Sikkim) and Moreh (Manipur) is under consideration. Air Force and Navy have no proposal to open more recruitment centres.

Training and Research Programmes with Foreign Collaboration

3379. SHRI M. RAJAI AH : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Training and research programmes organised in collaboration with the International agencies during 1997-98 at National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad:

(b) the amount of external assistance received by the NIRD, Hyderabad during 1997-98, alongwith the source thereof:

(c) the details of the present Members of General Council of National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad;

(d) whether Executive Council has been constituted; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) The details of Training and Research Programmes organised in collaboration with the International agencies during 1997-98 at National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The Institute has not received any external assistance as such during 1997-98. However, the Institute

charges fees for the International Courses/Training-cum-Study Visits conducted for International agencies/groups. Consultancy, research studies, sponsored programmes, etc. The details of the amount received by the Institute during 1997-98 in this regard and the courses thereof are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) The details of the present Members of General Council of National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad is given in Statement-III.

(d) and (e) The constitution of the Executive Council of the Institute is governed by Rule X of the Rules of the Institute, 1991. The Executive Council consists of official members and non-official members. Official members continue as ex-officio members on the Executive Council whereas non-official members are nominated for a period of three years. Action has been initiated to fill up the vacancies. The details of the present Executive Council are given in Statement-IV.

Statement-I

(i) Training Programmes : The following are the training programmes and training-cum-study visits conducted during 1997-98 by NIRD with international participation :

Sl. No.	Title of the training programme/ Training-cum-study visit	Sponsored by
1.	1st study-cum-visit of Sri Lankan Officers.	Govt. of Sri Lanka
2.	Income Generating Activities for Rural Women : Identification Planning & Implementation	Institute's International Programme
3.	SAARC Workshop on Rural Housing	-do-
4.	2nd study-cum-visit of Sri Lankan Officers.	Govt. of Sri Lanka
5.	Rural Industry Promotion in developing economies (RIPDE)	Institute's International Programme
6.	Sustainable Agricultural & Rural Development in developing countries	-do-
7.	Training-cum-study visit of UNDP officials.	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
8.	Abolition of Child Labour in Rural Areas—Three training Programmes	International Labour Organisation (ILO)

(ii) Consultancy Research Projects :

S.No.	Title of the Consultancy Study Project	Sponsored by
1	2	3
1.	Consumer Consultative Survey	Overseas Development Agency (ODA)
2.	Sustainability issue in Rural Water Supply sectors in Nepal and Myanmar.	Centre for Integrated Rural Development in Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP).
3.	Assessment of NGO support programme of the World Food Programme (WFP) in Karnataka.	World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations.

1	2	3
4.	Socio-economic Impact Assessment of Food-Aid and Assets out of generated funds of WFP.	World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations.
5.	Evaluation of three International Programme Projects on Child Labour in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.	International Labour Organisation (ILO)

Statement-II

The details of the amount received by NIRD during 1997-98 as fees for the International Courses/Training -cum-study Visits conducted for International agencies/groups, Consultancy research studies, sponsored Programmes etc. and the sources thereof are given as under :-

S. No.	Date of Receipt	Title of the Programme/Project	Sponsoring Organisation	Amount (Rs.)
1.	2.5.97	Study-cum-visit of Sri Lankan RD Officers	Govt. of Sri Lanka	3,96,000
2.	4.5.97	Programme on Poverty alleviation and Training for Asia and Pacific (PATAP)	Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation (AARRO)	3,55,000
3.	27.5.97	International Programme on Elimination of Child Labour-Action Programme	International Labour Organisation (ILO)	3,76,000
4.	13.8.97	Consumer Consultative Survey	Overseas Development Agency (ODA)	3,40,000
5.	26.9.97	Strategies for strengthening of PRIs in Karnataka	Ford Foundation New Delhi	54,28,700
6.	12.11.97	Study-cum-visit of Sri Lanka Participants	Govt. of Sri Lanka	2,35,800
7.	3.12.97	Employment of Women	British Council Division New Delhi	66,600
8.	5.1.98	Planning and Monitoring of Rural Development Programmes -Policy (PAMORD)	British High Commission, New Delhi	2,58,100
9.	5.1.98	International Programme Projects on Child Labour in Andhra Pradesh Tamil Nadu and West Bengal	Coordinator International Programme on Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) ILO, New Delhi	3,84,649
10.	18.2.98	SAARC Programme Participants	United Nations Development (UNDP) Hyderabad	3,45,725
11.	26.3.98	Socio-Economic impact Assessment of Food-aid Assets.	World Food Programme (WFP) United Nations, New Delhi	99,000
Total				82,85,874

Statement-III
Members of the General Council

Category	Rule Description	Name of the Member
1	2	3
III (1)	The President of the Institute	(1) Shri Babagouda Patil Union Minister of Rural Areas & Employment, Deptt. of Rural Development, New Delhi- 110001 (As independent charge, Ex-officio)
III (2)	Two Vice-Presidents of the Institute	(1) Vacant (Ex-Officio)
		(2) Dr. N.C. Saxena, IAS Secretary (Department of Rural Development) Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi-110001 (Ex-Officio)
III (3)	Four persons from non-official Institutions in India working in Rural Development/ Reconstructions and allied fields.	(1) Shri N. Ranji, Director General Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) India Habitat Centre, Zone-5 (Core-C), 2nd Floor, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003
		(2) Dr. P.N. Mukerjee, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, P.O. Box No. 8313 Deonar, Bombay-400086
		(3) Prof. S.S. Chakarborty Director, R.K. Mission Lok Siksha Parishad Narendrapur- 743508 South 24 Parganas District West Bengal
		(4) Prof. G. Parthasarthy Director Institute of Development & Financial Studies Mavvalavani Palan, Visakhapatnam- 530017 Andhra Pradesh
III (4)	Nine eminent persons who have made note-worthy contribution in the field of rural development including one or two non-officials	(1) Shri P.S. Appu, IAS (Retd.) 410, 2nd 'A' Cross 11th Main 3rd Block, Koramargala, Bangalore-560034
		(2) Prof. C.H. Hanumantha Rao, Former Member, Planning Commission, 240/B, Road No. 18, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad-500002
		(3) Shri P. Kotaiah, Chairman, NABARD Sterling Centre Dr. Annie Besant Road, Bombay-400018

1	2	3
		(4) Smt. Vanga Geetha Chairperson Zilla Parishad East Godavari District Kakinada-533001 Andhra Pradesh
		(5) Dr. H.G. Hegde President, BAIF BAIF Development Research Centre Dr. Manibhaj Desai Nagar N.H. - 4, Warje Pune - 411029
		(6) Shri Killana Janakiranamaraju Ex-Hony. Magistrate Hayathinagaram Gujaarithipeta Srkkakulum Distt- 532001 Andhra Pradesh
		(7) Shri Kadiyala Raghava Rao Chairman, Zilla Parishad Krishna District Machilipatnam-521001 Andhra Pradesh
		(8) Shri I.S. Rao, IAS (Retd.) Director General Ambedkar Institute of Social Sciences M.H.O.M. Madhya Pradesh
		(9) Vacant
III	(5) One person each from the All India Panchayat Parishad and the National Cooperative Union of India	(1) Vacant (2) Vacant
III	(6) Chairman of the University Grants Commission & President Associations of Indian Universities	(1) Dr. (Mrs.) Armailty Desai Chairperson, University Grants Commission UGC Building Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg New Delhi-110001 (Ex-Officio) (2) Prof. S. Rimpoche President of A.I.U. and Director, Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, Varanasi - 221007 (UP) (Ex-Officio)
III	(7) Secretary, RE & PA and Joint Secretary as well as Financial Adviser in the Ministry, Department of Rural Development, Govt. of India dealing with the Institute and Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture	(1) Dr. P.L. Sanjeeva Reddy, IAS Secretary (RE & PA) Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi-110001 (Ex-Officio)

1	2	3
		(2) Shri Anil Kumar, IAS Joint Secretary (Admn.) Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi-110001 (Ex-Officio)
		(3) Shri M. Shankar, IAS Addl. Secretary (Finance) & Financial Adviser Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi-110001 (Ex-Officio)
		(4) Shri Kamal Pande, IAS Secretary, Deptt. of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi (Ex-Officio)
III (8)	Secretaries in the Ministries of Education and Welfare-Department of Personnel & Training and Planning Commission or their nominee not below the rank of Joint Secretary	(1) Shri P.R. Dasgupta, IAS Secretary Ministry of Education Govt. of India Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi-110001 (Ex- Officio)
		(2) Shri Arvind Verma, IAS Secretary (Personnel) Ministry of Personnel, Grievance and Pensions North Block, New Delhi-110001 (Ex-Officio)
		(3) Secretary Planning Commission Yojana Bhavan, New Delhi-110001 (Ex-Officio)
III (9)	Five Secretaries to State Governments/ Union Territories incharge of Rural Development/ Reconstruction or Development Commissioners by rotation	(1) Shri C. Arjun Rao, IAS Principal Secretary Rural Development/Panchayati Raj Govt. of Andhra Pradesh Andhra Pradesh Secretariat Hyderabad - 500022
		(2) Shri R. Parashuram, IAS Secretary Panchayat & Rural Development Department, Govt. of M.P., Mantralaya, Vallabh Bhavan Bhopal-462004
		(3) Shri Ashok Narayan, IAS Addl. Chief Secretary Rural Development, Panchayats, Rural Housing & Rural Development Department Govt. of Gujarat Block No. 5, 2nd Floor, Sachivalaya Gandhinagar - 382010

1	2	3
		(4) Shri Satyendranath Ghosh, IAS Principal Secretary Rural Development & Panchayat Department Govt. of West Bengal Writer's Building Calcutta - 700001
		(5) Shri I.P. Subrathan, IAS Secretary Rural Development Department Govt. of Himachal Pradesh Shimla - 171001
III (10)	Seven members of the Union State and Union Territory Legislatures, 2 from Lok Sabha 1 from Rajya Sabha, 4 from State & Union Territories (to represent four Zonal Councils by rotation)	(1) Vacant (2) Vacant (3) Vacant (4) Vacant (5) Vacant (6) Vacant (7) Vacant
III (11)	Three Vice-Chancellors of Universities	(1) Vice-Chancellor Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500030 (2) Vice-Chancellor Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) IGNOU Complex Maidan Garhi New Delhi-110068 (3) Vice-Chancellor Manipur University Manipur-795003
III (12)	Three of the Directors of the Institute by rotation fixed by the Director General each are holding office for a period of one year	(1) Dr. B. Sudhakar Rao Director (CRIE) NIRD Rajendranagar Hyderabad- 500030 (2) Dr. D. Sen Director (CETOT) NIRD, Rajendranagar Hyderabad- 500030 (3) Dr. (Mrs.) Asghari Mohiuddin Director (CWD) NIRD Rajendranagar Hyderabad-500030
III (13)	The Director General of the Institute	(1) Shri R.C. Choudhary, IAS Director General National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) Rajendranagar, Hyderabad - 500030 (Ex-Officio)

Statement-IV*Members of the Executive Council*

- | | | |
|--|----|---|
| a) Secretary of the Govt. of India, Deptt. of Rural Development who is one of the Vice-President of the Institute shall be the Chairman of the Executive Council. | 1. | Dr. N.C. Saxena, IAS
Chairman, Executive Council
of NIRD and Secretary
Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment
Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi-110001 |
| b) The Director General of the Institute who shall be the Vice-Chairman. | 1. | Shri R.C. Choudhary, IAS
Director General
NIRD, Rajendranagar
Hyderabad-500030 |
| c) Secretary (RE & PA) Jt. Secretary and Addl. Secretary & Financial Adviser in the Ministry/ Deptt. of Rural Development in the Govt. of India dealing with the Institute. | 1. | Dr. P.L. Sanjeeva Reddy, IAS
Secretary RE & PA
Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment
Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi-110001 |
| | 2. | Shri Anil Kumar, IAS
Jt. Secretary (Admn.)
Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment
Krishi Bhavan,
New Delhi-110001 |
| | 3. | Shri M. Shankar, IAS
Addl. Secretary (Finance) & Financial Adviser
M/o Rural Areas & Employment
Krishi Bhavan,
New Delhi-110001 |
| d) Five eminent persons who have made noteworthy contribution in the fields of Rural Development/ reconstruction and allied subjects, to be nominated by the President of the Institute from among the members of the General Council. | 1. | Vacant |
| | 2. | Vacant |
| | 3. | Vacant |
| | 4. | Vacant |
| | 5. | Vacant |
| e) Two Members to be nominated by the President of the Institute from among the non-official members of the General Council. | 1. | Vacant |
| | 2. | Vacant |

Special Invitees

- | | | |
|---|----|--|
| 1. Shri K.A.H. Subrahmanain, IAS
Commissioner & Secretary
Rural Development Department
Govt. of Bihar, Patna-80001 | 3. | Shri Siraj Hussain, IAS
Secretary
Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
Panchayat Raj Department
Lucknow (U.P.) 228001 |
| 2. Shri R. Parashuram, IAS
Secretary
Govt. of M.P.
Panchayat & Rural Development Department
Mantralaya
Vallabh Bhavan, Bhopal-162004 | 4. | Shri M.R. Sreenivasa Murthy, IAS
Secretary
Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Deptt.
Govt. of Karnataka
Secretariat, MS Building
Bangalore |

5. Sh. Ashok Narayan, IAS
Addl. Chief Secretary, R.D. Deptt.
Panchayats, Rural Housing & RD Deptt.
Govt. of Gujarat, Block No.5 2nd Floor
Sachivalaya, Gandhinagar-382010

Railway Network at Ponnani Town in Kerala

3380. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bring Ponnani town (Southern Railways, Palakkad Division, Kerala) in the railway network;

(b) if so, the steps being taken in this regard; and

(c) 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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Constraint of resources.

Revamping of Defence Services

3381. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chief of Army Staff has recently suggested a revamp of the higher defence organisation in the country and devolution of greater financial powers to the three services chiefs; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Revamping of defence forces and delegation of financial powers is an ongoing process and suggestions/proposals have been received in this regard from the three Services' headquarters from time to time. Delegation of financial powers were made to Navy for Revenue Expenditure under New Management Strategy (NMS) in 1994. Similar delegation of financial powers have been made to Army and Air Force in April, 1997.

SCs/STs Pilots

3382. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of OBC and SC/ST pilots working in the Air India and the Indian Airlines at present;

(b) the total number of OBC and SC/ST pilots undergoing the training at present;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps for the employment of more OBC pilots; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) At present, a total number of 62 SC, ST and OBC pilots are working in Air India and Indian Airlines.

(b) 16 pilots in Air India and 15 pilots in Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademy belonging to SC, ST and OBC are at present undergoing training.

(c) and (d) Special recruitment drives are launched to fill up the vacancies earmarked for SC, ST and OBC pilots.

[Translation]

Army Recruitment Centre in Maharashtra

3383. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to open an Army Recruitment Centre in Amravati district of Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be opened?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Extension of Flights Via Ranchi upto Bokaro

3384. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government contemplate to extend flight number I.C. 809 and 810 of Indian Airlines operating between Patna and Delhi via Ranchi, upto Bokaro (Bihar);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The runway at Bokaro which is under the control of Steel Authority of India Limited is only 5000 feet with low Load Classification Number. This is suitable only for smaller aircraft. Shortage of smaller capacity aircraft does not permit operation of service from this airport by Indian Airlines. Private operators are being encouraged to include new stations including Bokaro, in their network, subject to viability.

Govt. Quarters in Dev Nagar

3385. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have stopped the allotment of Government Quarters in Dev Nagar, New Delhi-5;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the vacant quarters are being converted into rubbish dump; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) There is a scheme for redevelopment of Dev Nagar area and utilisation of vacant pockets of land for construction of general pool accommodation. There were 453 Type-C quarters, (also known as 'E' Type quarters) more than 90% of which have been got vacated by giving alternate accommodation. The vacant quarters and the land are under watch and ward/maintenance of the Central Public Works Department.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to (c) above.

[English]

Dindigul-Trichirappalli Railway Line

3386. SHRI VAIKO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of Dindigul-Trichirappalli railway line;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon; and

(c) the time by which the above line 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) Work on the gauge conversion of Dindigul-Trichirappalli is already in progress. The conversion block is scheduled to commence in August, 1998.

(b) The cost of the project is Rs. 89.36 crores. The amount spent upto 31.3.98 is Rs. 27.85 crores and outlay provided in 1998-99 is Rs. 61.51 crores.

(c) The above line will be completed within the current financial year.

Flights from Chandigarh

3387. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any representation to start more flights to and fro from Chandigarh;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to consider the proposal of introducing daily flights between Chandigarh and Delhi and from Chandigarh to other capitals of the States like Mumbai, Ahmedabad etc.; and

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

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

(b) Indian Airlines/Alliance Air have, at present, no plans to increase its services between Chandigarh and Delhi because of aircraft capacity constraints.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The traffic potential on the sectors Chandigarh-Mumbai and Chandigarh-Ahmedabad is not adequate for operations with the existing Jet aircraft fleet of Indian Airlines. Airlines Operators are, however, free to operate air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by the Government.

[Translation]

Loco Shed At Katni

3388. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the capacity of NKJ loco shed at Katni under Jabalpur Division has not been fully utilized ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial steps 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.

*[English]***Development of Towns in Maharashtra**

3389. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the notified Area Committees and Municipalities in Maharashtra included for development under Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns Scheme so far alongwith the funds provided; and

(b) the new towns of the State are proposed and approved recently for inclusion under the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) 96 towns in Maharashtra have so far been covered under the Scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT) and Central assistance amounting to Rs. 3916.92 lakhs released as per townwise details given in statement enclosed.

(b) No new towns of the State have been proposed and approved during 1997-98.

Statement

Townwise Details of Central Assistance released under IDSMT scheme to State of Maharashtra (from 1979-80 to 31st March, 1998)

(Rupees in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of Town	Amount Released
1	2	3
1.	Manmad	42.94
2.	Barshi	43.90
3.	Parli Vaijnath	41.80
4.	Yavatmal	44.11
5.	Satara	40.00
6.	Rainagiri	40.00
7.	Katol	42.34
8.	Amalner	45.93
9.	Parbhani	42.00
10.	Kampetee	42.22
11.	Kinwat	40.00
12.	Osmanabad	43.03
13.	Morshi	41.77
14.	Hinganghat	42.64
15.	Jalna	40.00
16.	Ambejogai	42.81
17.	Selu	42.59
18.	Digras	42.14

1	2	3
19.	Bhandara	42.70
20.	Washim	44.10
21.	Islampur	42.84
22.	Baramati	42.36
23.	Pandharpur	46.00
24.	Ramtek	43.86
25.	Nilanga	44.88
26.	Chiplun	39.75
27.	Akot	54.00
28.	Tuljapur	48.75
29.	Wardha	52.00
30.	Igatpuri	48.41
31.	Pusad	52.38
32.	Karad	46.00
33.	Beed	49.50
34.	Chandrapur	46.00
35.	Gadchiroli	39.50
36.	Gondiya	46.00
37.	Chopda	46.00
38.	Khamgaon	40.51
39.	Narkhed	39.50
40.	Malkapur	46.00
41.	Nandurbar	46.00
42.	Paithan	38.00
43.	Chalisgaon	38.97
44.	Hingoli	36.00
45.	Buldana	36.00
46.	Nanded	46.00
47.	Savner	46.00
48.	Achalpur	46.00
49.	Jalgaon	99.57
50.	Shrirampur	85.00
51.	Shripur Warwade	40.00
52.	Wani	41.00
53.	Ambad	36.00
54.	Ahmadnagar	101.50
55.	Kopargaon	55.00
56.	Latur	60.00
57.	Plaltan	41.13.
58.	Sangamner	42.00
59.	Sangli	40.00
60.	Dhule	40.00
61.	Mukhed	12.00
62.	Pachadra	48.00
63.	Warora	48.00
64.	Bhusawal	107.00
65.	Deglur	48.00
66.	Gadhinglaj	23.00

1	2	3
67.	Partur	48.00
68.	Basmati Nagar	21.00
69.	Vita	18.00
70.	Manwath	23.00
71.	Mahad	27.00
72.	Kagal	16.00
73.	Ausa	23.50
74.	Dondicha Warwade	35.00
75.	Georai	36.00
76.	Sawantwadi	32.50
77.	Murtijapur	31.50
78.	Shegaon	27.00
79.	Parola	36.00
80.	Tumsar	14.00
81.	Alibagh	8.00
82.	Pulgaon	14.00
83.	Umred	14.00
84.	Vaijapur	14.00
85.	Ichalkaranji	70.00
86.	Wai	30.00
87.	Anjangaon Surji	30.00
88.	Mehkar	30.00
89.	Kalamb	16.00
90.	Daryapur	19.00
91.	Amravati	90.00
92.	Shahada	30.00
93.	Navapur	30.00
94.	Kurundwad	26.00
95.	Sangola	30.00
96.	Ghatanji	16.00
Total		3916.92

Requirement of Wagons in Maharashtra

3390. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of wagons made available for supply of coal to various thermal power plants in Maharashtra during the last three years;

(b) whether these wagons were sufficient to meet the requirement; and

(c) if not, 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 PAR-

LIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Daily average number of wagons (in terms of 4-wheelers) made available for supply of coal to various Thermal Power Plants in Maharashtra during the last three years were as under :

Year	Supply
1995-96	2680
1996-97	2990
1997-98	3135

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Closure of Bharat Gold Mine Limited

3391. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering the closure of loss making Bharat Gold Mine Limited (BGML) in Kolar in Karnatak; and

(b) if not, the steps taken to make the Company profit making one ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML), a Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of Department of Mines, is a sick company and is before the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) since 1992. 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.

[Translation]

Railway Line between Khurja and Rohtak

3392. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have completed the survey for regional bye-bass line from Khurja to Rohtak via Palwal-Rewari ;

(b) if so, whether the proposal has been approved; and

(c) if so, the time by which the construction work of the 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) No, Sir.
(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Reservation Quota for Amethi Station

3393. DR. SANJAY SINH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that passengers have been experiencing a lot of difficulties on account of scrapping of reservation quota for Amethi Railway Station in Varanasi-Dehradoon Janta Express;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to restore the reservations quota for Amethi ; and

(c) if so, by when and 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 (c) The reservation quota earlier available at Amethi Station by Varanasi-Dehradoon Janta Express was withdrawn as the utilisation of this quota was practically nil. There is no proposal at present to restore this quota as the quota at train originating station is being fully utilised and some passengers also remain on the waiting list.

Encroachment of Mumbai Airport Land

3394. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large area of land belonging to the Ministry of Civil Aviation surrounding the Mumbai Airport are occupied by lakhs of slum-dwellers for the last more than twenty years or so;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the total area of land and the approximate number of slum-dwellers presently occupying the same;

(c) whether a meeting between the Housing Ministry of Maharashtra Government and the Union Civil Aviation Ministry was recently held at Mumbai to decide new site for relocation of these slum-dwellers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) Approximately 160 acres of Airports Authority of India land is under occupation of around 80,000 slum-dwellers, in villages, namely Zarimari, Sewa Nagar, Vijay Nagar, Shastri Nagar, Bail Bazar, Kaju Pada, Shahdesh Nagar, Kranti Nagar, Indira Nagar, Azad Nagar, New Agripada, Old Agripada, Gaodevi Nagar, Dr. Ambedkar Nagar, Sanjay Nagar, Gandhi Nagar, Subash Nagar and Asha Nagar.

(c) and (d) Meetings were held between the Housing Ministry of Maharashtra Government and Airports Authority of India at Mumbai in February and May, 1998 for shifting/rehabilitation of slum dwellers from AAI land.

[Translation]

Recruitment in Railways

3395. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had put a ban on fresh recruitment in the Railways some time back;

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

(c) whether some appointments were made in various railway divisions by ignoring the ban during 1996-97 and 1997-98; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, division and category-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) to (d) There is no ban as such on fresh recruitment in Group 'C' & 'D' categories on the Railways. However, direct recruitment to Group 'D' categories wherever necessary, is to be made by the Railway/Production Units after obtaining prior approval of the Board.

[English]

Expenditure incurred on Publicity by PSUs

3396. SHRI S.S. OWAISI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under his Ministry have been incurring huge expenditure on Publicity arbitrarily;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the expenditure incurred by each of them on Publicity during each of the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to minimise this expenditure ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The expenditure incurred by PSUs under the Ministry of Steel and Publicity during the last three years is as follows :

(Rs. in lakhs)

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4
SAIL	1767.00	1927.00	994.00
MECON	40.40	25.83	35.84
MOIL	0.84	0.40	0.20
NMDC	8.35	4.11	4.47
SIIL	1.15	0.82	2.04
BRL	3.22	1.99	1.60
KIOCL	75.48	31.20	67.58
MSTC	22.49	4.05	1.86
RINL	352.00	267.00	Nil
HSCL	8.09	3.49	3.65
FSNL	Nil	Nil	Nil

(c) In an era of severe competition expenditure on publicity is inevitable. Public Sector undertakings have to build up their image per se with the customers, investors, and general public, especially at the time when its competitors are also resorting vigorously to different forms of publicity. However, efforts are made by PSUs to keep their publicity expenditure to the barest minimum and to restrict it to those campaigns and activities which are necessary for sales promotion, image buildings and resource mobilisation.

Coal Depots in DDA Colonies

3397. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to the assurance given to Unstarred Question No. 478 on July, 27, 1994 regarding coal depots in DDA Colonies and state :

- whether the information has been collected;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) to (c) The information in respect of the assurance given to USQ No. 478 dated July 27, 1994 has already been laid on the Table of the Sabha on 1.6.1995 as per Statement enclosed.

Statement

Xlth Session 1994 of Tenth Lok Sabha

Question No. & date	Subject	Promise made	When and how fulfilled	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
USQ No. 478 for 27.7.94 by Shri D.P. Malik	Coal Depots in DDA Colonies Referring to the reply given on August 9, 1982 to USQ No. 4666 and asking for : "The progress made in development of sites for coal depots in DDA colonies particularly site No. 3 as referred in the question under reference?"	The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.	The DDA has reported that Coal Depot site No. 3 Pkt. II Paschimpuri was allotted to Smt. Ratana Devi for running a Coal Depot in the name and style of M/s. Ratna Coal Depot on licence agreement i.e. purely temporary, vide latter No. F.1(382) 81/Impl. dt : 20.2.82. In the Year 1987, it came to the notice that Smt. Ratna Devi had constructed 10 shops unauthorisedly and encroached more area than allotted to her and these shops were given on rental basis. The area adjoining to the plot was required for the construction of SFS Flats and since Smt. Ratna Devi constructed the shops unauthorisedly, action for demolition of the same was taken and Licence agreement in respect of the plot allotted to her for coal depot was terminated. Smt. Ratna Devi requested for alternative site. The request was examined but, keeping in view the fact that the party is unscrupulous, her request for the alternative site was rejected.	The information was awaited from the concerned authorities.

Guidelines for Indian Air Space

3398. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India has approached the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) to evolve new guidelines to reduce the increasing congestion in Indian air space due to a large number of international flights; and

(b) if so, the response that has been received from the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Theft at DDA Store

3399. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
DR. SAROJA V. :

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 "Mysterious theft at DDA store" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated June 4, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts reported therein ;

(c) whether any enquiry have been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against the persons involved therein ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the news item the theft of 49 cast iron pipes each weighing 165 kg and 5.5 mtr. long, from the DDA's Central Store at Azadpur on 8.5.98 has been reported.

(c) to (e) DDA has reported that FIR was lodged with Jahangirpuri Police Station on 8.5.1998 and the police is investigating the matter. Action against the persons involved would depend on the outcome of the investigations.

Air Link to Aligarh

3400. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Aligarh in Uttar Pradesh is not linked by air;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any survey in regard to building of an airport there; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the progress made so far in this regard ?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Recruitment of Safai Karamchari in Lucknow Division

3401. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the irregularities have been committed in the recruitment of 'Safai Karamcharies' held on 19, 20 and 21 March, 1997 in Lucknow division of Northern Railways;

(b) whether the three fourth seats have been filled up from the candidates belonging to upper castes; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard so far ?

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) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Designing of Multi-Role Mini Space Plane 'Avtar'

3402. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Scientists have designed a self fuelling multi-role mini space plane called 'Avtar' ;

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

(c) the time by which the production of the plane is likely to be commenced ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Defence Research and Devel-

opment Organisation (DRDO) have carried out conceptual design of a reusable air-breathing vehicle called 'Hyperplane'. This space plane will take off from conventional runway and accelerate from Mach 4 to Mach 8 with its scramjet engines. The demonstrator version of Hyperplane is named as 'Avtar'.

(c) 'Avtar' is in conceptual stage. Development of certain technological elements has been initiated involving academic institutions to build competence for development of 'Avtar'.

[Translation]

Recruitment of Sportsmen in Railways

3403. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY :
SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways propose to recruit young budding sportsmen through open advertisements with a view to promote sports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Details are being worked out and are expected to be finalised shortly.

[English]

3404. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state the length of rural roads planned to be constructed during the current financial year and the allocation made in this regard, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : The Government of India do not prepare plans on the basis of length of rural roads to be constructed in the State. Construction of rural roads is the responsibility of State Governments. This Ministry has at present no funds for providing assistance to State Governments for construction of rural roads. The Planning Commission has allocated additional Central assistance to State Governments for Basic Minimum Service including construction of rural roads. The

allocation of funds for 1998-99 under Basic Minimum Services has not yet been finalised.

Maithri Housing Scheme

3405. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether HUDCO have a proposal to provide loan for the EWS category of "Maithri Housing Scheme" for construction of houses in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) Maithri Housing Scheme is a State sector scheme launched by the Govt. of Kerala. The scheme which is being implemented through Kerala State Housing Board envisages providing one lakh houses for economically weaker sections and low income group families in the State of Kerala. HUDCO has so far sanctioned 52 projects with a loan amount of Rs. 155.61 crores for construction of 81900 dwelling units under the Maithri Housing Scheme. The financing pattern for a house under the project is as follows :

HUDCO Loan	—	Rs. 19,000
State Govt. subsidy	—	Rs. 9,000
Beneficiary Contribution	—	Rs. 1,000
Contribution by Voluntary Organisation	—	Rs. 1,000
	Total	Rs. 30,000

Use of IAF Planes by Ministers

3406. SHRI KHARABELA SWAI :
SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Air Flights undertaken by various Ministers, Ministers of State and Deputy Ministers of Defence by IAF planes during their tenure from January, 1991 to May, 1998 and the expenditure incurred thereon for official and non-official journeys, separately, year-wise;

(b) the amount of outstanding dues towards former Ministers, including Prime Ministers and other V.I.Ps as on date for use of IAF planes and the dates of their pendency;

(c) the reasons for not recovering the outstanding dues so far and the fresh efforts being made in that direction;

(d) whether some mechanism exists to categorise the visits as official or non-official; and

(e) if not, the manner in which the Government propose to check such misuse ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Defence Minister, Minister of State for Defence and the Deputy Minister of Defence are entitled to use VIP flights of the IAF for discharge of their official duties. Details about the journeys and expenditure are being compiled.

(b) A statement indicating outstanding dues towards former Ministers, including the former Prime Ministers for the unofficial journeys undertaken in IAF aircraft is enclosed.

(c) As a result of concerted efforts, an amount Rs. 121.07 crores has been realised in 1997-98. Special collection drives other than the regular collection process, are undertaken to clear the arrears.

(d) and (e) Except the Prime Minister, no other dignitary is authorised to use VIP flights of the IAF for non-official journeys.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the Minister	Amount Outstanding (in Rs.)	Period of pendency
1	2	3	4
1.	Shri C M Ibrahim Civil Aviation	28,13,333	Aug. 97
2.	Shri Kamalnath Environment & Forest	2,77,692	Jun 95
3.	Km Shelja Education & Culture	2,00,000	Feb 96
4.	Shri B Chaturvedi MOS (PMO)	7,83,333	Feb to Jul 96
5.	Shri PR Kumaramangalam Parliamentary Affairs	3,26,232	Oct 95
6.	Shri Matang Singh Parliamentary Affairs	13,05,000	Feb 98
7.	Shri V C Shukla Water Resources	4,60,336	May 94
8.	Shri P V R Naidu Water Resources	92,083	Nov 95
9.	Shri BS Ramoowalia Welfare	4,67,500	Dec 97
10.	Shri R L Bhatia External Affairs	3,35,849	Oct 95

1	2	3	4
11.	Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi Former Prime Minister	1,86,17,280	Jan to Feb 90
12.	Shri V P Singh Former Prime Minister	2,25,679	Oct 90
13.	Shri Chandrasekhar Former Prime Minister	5,91,31,476	Jul to Sep 91
14.	Shri P V Narasimha Rao Former Prime Minister	5,52,40,647	Oct. 95 to May 96
15.	Shri H D Deve Gowda Former Prime Minister	26,48,164	Dec 96
16.	Shri I K Gujral Former Prime Minister	3,95,986	Mar 98

Introduction of New Sleeper Class Coaches

3407. SHRI RAMESHWAR PAṬIDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government contemplate to introduce Sleeper Class coaches having 4-Berth cabins and 2-Berth coupes with shutters even in day time removing side berths and middle berths from the existing SL class instead of the proposed composite First and SL class coaches; and

(b) if not, the manner in which the Government propose to solve the problem of the clientele of First Class with limited accommodation in the proposed composite class which is already extremely short of the First Class clientele due to phasing out of First Class ?

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. A new design of coach with 2 upper class four berth cabins at one end and 56 sleeper class berths in the remaining II class portion is being developed. Such coaches will be introduced in service after successful development of a prototype coach.

(b) Does not arise.

Kottur-Harihar and Munirabad-Mehaboob Nagar Railway Lines

3408. SHRI H.G. RAMULU :
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount earmarked in the railway budget of 1997-98 for Kottur-Harihar and Munirabad-Mehaboob Nagar railway lines.

- (b) the amount spent thereon. so far;
- (c) whether any diversion of allocated funds had been made; and
- (d) 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) Rs. 5 crores for Kottur-Harihar and Rs. 0.01 crores for Munirabad-Mehaboob Nagar rail lines.

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

Construction of Over/Under Bridges in Rajasthan

3409. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some proposals for construction of over/under bridges at level crossings have been submitted by the Government of Rajasthan for approval;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Union Government thereon;

(c) the details of over/under bridges under construction in the State ; and

(d) the funds allocated for construction of such bridges during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 ?

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 proposals received from the State Government are :-

1) Road Over Bridge in lieu of LC No. 85 & 220 at Baisgodam (Jaipur)	1) Road over Bridge commissioned on 19.1.96.
2) Road Over Bridge in lieu of LC No. 107 at Ringus	2) Railway's portion completed on 31.12.97. Work on approaches also completed.
3) Road Over Bridge in lieu of LC No. 238 at Sewar	3) Work is going on, 10% progress has been made.
4) Road Over Bridge in lieu of LC No. 109 at Kota	4) Detailed estimate sanctioned. Soil investigation work completed. General arrangement drawing is under progress.
5) Road Over Bridge in lieu of LC No. 87 in Dhar Ka Balaji at Jhotwara	5) Detailed estimate sanctioned. Contract for Railways portion of work has been awarded. State Govt. has also started work on approaches.
6) Road Over Bridge in lieu of LC No. 216 at Gateore Jagatpura Gandhinagar (Jaipur)	6) Detailed estimate sanctioned. Contract for Railway's portion of work awarded and work has been started.
7) Road Over Bridge in lieu of LC No. 28 at Kishangarh	7) Preliminary pre-requisites are yet to be fulfilled by State Govt. after which plan will be finalised and work will be considered for inclusion in Railway's Works Programme.
8) Road Over Bridge in lieu of LC No. 71/A at Hanumangarh on Suratgarh-Bhatinda section.	8) State Govt. yet to fulfil preliminary pre-requisites.
9) Road Over Bridge in lieu of LC No. C/209 near Basni station on Basni Salwas Sec. (Deposit Work)	9) State Govt. has not yet accepted the profile sketch and abstract estimate, as work is to be taken on deposit terms.
10) Road Under Bridge in lieu of LC No. C-38 on Jodhpur-Marwar Sec. near Pali-Marwar (Deposit work)	10) Railway has approved the profile sketch. Work to be taken on deposit terms. State Govt. yet to complete necessary formalities.
11) Road Under Bridge in lieu of LC No. C-3 on Poota 'C' Road between Rai-ka-bagh and Mahamandir near Jodhpur.	11) Work sanctioned in 1997-98. Railway portion of work completed. Progress on PWD's portion is 70%.

- (c) 1. Road Over Bridge at Sewar
 2. Road Over bridge at Kota
 3. Road Over bridge at Dhar-ka-Balaji
 4. Road Over bridge at Gandhinagar (Jaipur)
 5. Road Under bridge on Poata 'C' Road between Rai-ka-Bagh and Mahamandir near Jodhpur.

Progress and other details as given at S.No. 3, 4, 5, 6, & 11 of Part (a) and (b) above.

(d)	1995-96	—	30.00 lakh
	1996-97	—	44.13 lakh
	1997-98	—	155.51 lakh

[Translation]

Accident of Sall Aircraft

3410. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Aircraft of Steel Authority of India Limited met with accident during the last three years;

(b) the expenditure incurred on their flights and repairs;

(c) whether any enquiry of these accidents has been conducted;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the details of loss of life and property suffered therein ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) During the last three years, one aircraft of Steel Authority of India Limited i.e. Beechcraft King Air F-90 (VTELZ) of Bhilai Steel Plant met with an accident.

The expenditure incurred on its flights and repairs during the last three years was as follows :

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Fuel	Repairs & Maintenance*	Total
1995-96	22.90	75.19	98.09
1996-97	18.60	55.93	74.53
1997-98	13.44	97.16	110.60

(upto 2.2.98)

* Repair & Maintenance charges include depreciation, insurance premium, salaries and administrative expenses.

(c) and (d) An Enquiry Committee has been constituted by the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Civil Aviation Department, Government of India, New Delhi to enquire into the accident. The final report is awaited from DGCA.

(e) Six officials of SAIL including the pilot lost their lives, the aircraft and the baggage were damaged completely.

[English]

Driverless Trains

3411. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
 SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been invited to the news item captioned "Driverless Trains see Green Light" appearing in The Hindustan Times, dated 6th June, 1998.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which Driverless trains are likely to be started; and

(d) the funds allocated for the purpose ?

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. It is an article for futuristic option that could be made a reality by advanced facilities and developed information system. No such facility has so far been developed in the country.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Construction of Rail Yard at Cuttack

3412. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MEHTAB : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct a railway yard at Cuttack ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the above project 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) to (c) A Railway Yard is already existing at Cuttack. This will be developed further as

part of the Cuttack-Paradeep Doubling Project in the coming years to handle the increased traffic which will move once the doubling is completed.

Porter Facilities at Airport

3413. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether porter facilities are being provided by Air India and Indian Airlines, as provided by the private airlines, at the National and International Airports for helping the senior citizens, patients having ortho problems;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether there is any proposal to introduce the porter facilities at Airports; and

(d) if so, the details of the airports where it is likely to be provided ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) Air India provides porter facilities to Senior Citizens and patients with Orthopaedic problems when a request is made to the airline. While Indian Airlines does not provide porter facilities, the airline has Customer Services Counter at Airports for providing assistance to unaccompanied minors, senior citizens, wheel chair passengers and passenger needing special services. While there are free baggage trolleys at the airports, no other porter facilities are proposed to be provided.

[Translation]

Vacant posts in Defence Ministry

3414. SHRI RAM SHAKAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts lying vacant in the Ministry at present, category-wise;

(b) the reasons for not filling up these posts so far; and

(c) the efforts made to ensure that reservation policy is followed while making recruitment for these posts?

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

[English]

HRA to Defence Personnel

3415. SHRI SUHSIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in pursuance of Fifth pay Commission's recommendations, orders were issued for payment of house rent allowance to defence personnel subject to production of No Accommodation Certificate (NAC) from the competent authority.

(b) if so, whether the competent authorities in Delhi have declined or withheld the issue of such certificates, irrespective of the fact that the personnel concerned are not in possession of Government accommodation, and payment of HRA to such personnel at other stations has already commenced; and

(c) if so, the measures taken or proposed to be taken to remedy the situation ?

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

(b) and (c) The competent authorities in Delhi had asked for certain clarifications which have been issued.

[Translation]

Installation of Manganese Plants

3416. SHRI GAURI SHANKER CHATURBHUI BISEN : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the places in Madhya Pradesh where Ferro-manganese plant have been installed under Manganese Ore India Limited and the capacity of each of them;

(b) the capacity of on-going Ferro-manganese plant of Manganese Ore India Limited at Bharbeli, Balaghat; and

(c) the time by which this plant is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (c) Manganese Ore (India) Limited is in the process of putting up a ferro manganese plant of 10,000 tonnes per annum capacity of Bharveli mine, Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh. The plant is almost completed and is scheduled for commissioning very soon.

N.C.C. Training in Schools/Colleges

3417. SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Universities and Colleges where the N.C.C. training is being imparted, State-wise;

(b) whether the entire-expenditure on the training of N.C.C. Cadets is borne by the Defence Ministry;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is any proposal to introduce N.C.C. and junior N.C.C. training in all the urban and rural schools and colleges of the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) A statement is attached.

(b) and (c) The expenditure on NCC is jointly funded by the Central and the State Governments. The Central Government provides for – (i) pay and allowances of all the service personnel serving in NCC, (ii) civilian personnel serving in the Directorate General of NCC and the State Directorates of NCC, (iii) equipment of NCC units, (iv) training ammunition, and (v) 50% of the expenditure incurred on various NCC camps.

The State Governments provide funds for expenditure on (i) pay and allowances of the civilian employees at the NCC group headquarters and units (ii) training of the Associate NCC Officers, (iii) washing and polishing allowances to NCC Cadets, (iv) expenditure on POL for motor vehicles, (v) rental for buildings occupied by NCC Group headquarters, and (vi) 50% of the expenditure on various NCC Camps.

(d) and (e) No such proposal is under consideration of the Central Government at present.

Statement

Number of Universities and Colleges where NCC training is imparted

S.No.	Name of the State/UT	No. of Universities	No. of Colleges
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8	254
2.	Bihar	5	228
3.	Delhi	4	51
4.	Gujarat	5	219
5.	Diu & Daman	–	–
6.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	–	–
7.	J & K	2	30
8.	Karnataka	7	299
9.	Goa	1	18
10.	Kerala	4	168
11.	Lakshadweep	–	–
12.	Madhya Pradesh	11	242
13.	Maharashtra	14	615
14.	Assam	2	99
15.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	3
16.	Meghalaya	1	9
17.	Mizoram	1	2

1	2	3	4
18.	Manipur	1	12
19.	Nagaland	–	8
20.	Tripura	1	8
21.	Orissa	4	115
22.	Punjab	4	212
23.	Haryana	3	133
24.	Himachal Pradesh	3	40
25.	Chandigarh	1	16
26.	Rajasthan	5	131
27.	Tamil Nadu	11	279
28.	Pondicherry	1	11
29.	Andaman Nicobar	–	2
30.	Uttar Pradesh	20	1154
31.	West Bengal	6	191
32.	Sikkim	–	1
Total		126	4550

[English]

Gauge conversion of Mariyon-Jaunpur Railway Line

3418. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rail line between Mariyon and Jaunpur is metre gauge and all other railway lines around Mariyon in Eastern Uttar Pradesh and broad gauge;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the 58 km track of metre gauge into broad gauge is proposed to be converted ?

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. Mariahu-Janupur is already a broad gauge line.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee

3419. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has sent proposal for revival of centrally sponsored scheme for the development of Agriculture Produce Marketing Committees in the state ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

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

Use of IAF Planes by Former Defence Minister

3420. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given by USQ No. 1314 on 4th Jun, 1998 regarding "Use of IAF Aircraft by Ministers" and state :

(a) the total expenditure incurred on the use of the Air Force aircraft by the Former Defence Minister;

(b) whether the places visited by him have any Defence relevance and if so, the official work transacted there;

(c) whether the Government propose to frame rules to check the misuse of Air Force aircraft by Defence Ministers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the other steps the Government propose to take for the recovery of the expenditure involved in such trips ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The total expenditure incurred on the use of VIP flights of the IAF by former Defence Minister works out to Rs. 41.57 crores.

(b) All the journeys referred to in the reply given have been stated as official.

(c) and (d) The existing instructions which have been issued with the approval of the Prime Minister are considered sufficient to check misuse of the VIP flights of the IAF aircraft.

National Security Council

3421. DR. Y.S. RAJASEKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of composition and terms of reference of the National Security Council and the subsequent Task Force set up therefor;

(b) the number of meetings held so far since their inception and the outcome of the discussions held therein, meeting-wise; and

(c) the time by which the Task Force is likely to submit its report ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Government had set up a National

Security Council (NSC) on August 24, 1990 with the Prime Minister as its Chairman and the Ministers of Defence, Finance, Home Affairs and External Affairs as its Members. The main purpose of the National Security Council was to evolve an integrated approach to policy making as it affects national security, taking into account the linkages between the evolving external situation in the political, military and economic fields and our domestic situation.

2. On April 14, 1998, the Government constituted a Task Force with Shri K.C. Pant as its Chairman and Shri Jaswant Singh, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission as Member and Air Cmde, Jasjit Singh, Director (IDSA) as Convenor to work out the constitution, role and functions of the proposed National Security Council.

3. The NSC met only once in December 1990 and has remained largely non-functional. In the first meeting the NSC discussed general questions on the role and functions of the NSC and matters regarding Task Forces concerned with specific areas of security.

4. The Task Force has already submitted its report to the Government.

Request of Jet Airways

3422. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the licensee Jet Airways has urged the Government to formulate a comprehensive consistent and coherent civil aviation policy and implement it in a transparent manner;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to set up an independent regulatory aviation authority; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) After inviting suggestions/views of aviation experts and the various airline operators, a comprehensive draft National Policy on Civil Aviation is under formulation by the Government.

[Translation]

Export of Defence Products

3423. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a vast scope in the country for increasing the export of defence products;

(b) if so, whether any perspective plan has been formulated for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FER-
NANDES) : (a) India's capabilities and cost advantages and
conducive to expanding exports of defence products and
engineering services. However, export progression is beset
with shrinking defence budgets the world over, and fierce
competition. Nevertheless defence exports have registered
a steady increase as indicated hereunder :

(Rs. in crores)	
Year	Exports
1994-95	76.25
1995-96	96.00
1996-97	143.48
1997-98	186.27

(b) and (c) The Ordnance Factory Board and defence
public sector undertakings have identified products and tar-
get markets to which they have addressed themselves adopt-
ing short and long term strategies. These include participa-
tion in international defence exhibitions, sustained publicity
campaigns, interaction with visiting delegations, organisation
of the Indian Aerospace exhibition, Aero India and promo-
tion of joint ventures.

[English]

Auction of SAIL and VSP advance Import Licences

3424. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of STEEL AND
MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the value of advance import of licences of the
Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Visakhapatnam
Steel Plant (VSP) for the last three years;

(b) whether hitherto the Metal and Scrap Trading
Corporation (MSTC) functioned as the sole selling agents
for SAIL and VSP auctioning their advance import licences;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether his Ministry has mooted any proposal
whereby the MSTC would be divested of the functions of the
sole setting agents of SAIL and VSP;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons there-
for; and

(f) the details of the alternative measures proposed
to make the system transparent and more profitable for SAIL
and VSP ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI
NAVEEN PATNAIK) : (a) The value of advance import li-
cences of the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) and
Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) for the last three years i.e.
1995-96 to 1997-98 was approximately Rs. 1980.43 crores.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) to (e) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

(f) SAIL and VSP are undertaking measures to
make the system of disposing the advance import licences
more transparent and profitable.

Coal Depot in DDA Colonies

3425. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of URBAN
AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of coal depot sites allotted by DDA in
different J.J. Colonies, Janta flat colonies, the colonies
under SFS, LIG and MIG, as on date, area-wise;

(b) the number of sites allotted on permanent basis,
lease basis and licence fee basis, scheme-wise;

(c) whether the allottees are paying dues including
licence fee etc. regularly;

(d) if not, the outstanding balance against each of
them, till date;

(e) the number of sites changed by DDA as per their
own plan an on request of the allottees so far;

(f) whether all the coal depots are functioning
according to their licence agreements;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the details of the show-cause notices is-
sued to licensee and action taken thereafter ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOY-
MENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) The details
of Coal Depot sites allotted by DDA are given below:-

- Coal Depot Plot No. G-J at Naraina to Shri K.C.
Sethi (Licence fee basis).
- Coal Depot Plot at Naraina WHS, Naraina resi-
dential Ph-II to Shri Pradeep Mohan (lease
basis).
- Coal Depot Plot No. 3 at Vivek Vihar to Shri
Ashok Ahluwalia (lease basis).
- Coal Depot at Yusuf Sarai to Shri Surender Nath,
Ex-captain (lease basis).
- Coal Depot plot at Naraina to M/s. Uppal Coal Co.
(licence fee basis).
- Coal Depot Plot at Naraina to M/s. Sherawat Coal
Co Naraina (Licence fee basis).
- Coal Depot at Hauz Khas to Shri Ramesh Chand
Sharma (lease basis).

8. Coal Depot Plot at Paschim Puri Pkt. III Plot No. 3 to Smt. Ratna Devi (cancelled) (licence fee basis).

(c) and (d) Some allottees are not paying licence fee. Demand letters were issued but instead of making the payment they filed court cases against the demand. The outstanding balance against such allottees depends upon the decision of the court.

- (e) No site has been changed by the DDA.

(f) to (h) Due to non-supply of Coal, some allottees have requested to change the site to other commercial use. The Coal Depot at site No. III Paschim Puri was cancelled due to mis-use/unauthorised construction and the possession has been taken by DDA for construction of SFS flats.

Incentives to Indian Airlines Employees

3426. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have directed the Indian Airlines management to submit a detailed report on the Productivity Linked Incentives (PLI) paid to various sections of Indian Airlines employees and its impact on their productivity;

- (b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the Government have examined the same; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the same have been accepted ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) The report has been examined and it has been decided to review the Productivity Linked Incentive Schemes so as to ensure that these are in accordance with the Government guidelines.

Statement

Productivity Linked Incentives to Indian Airlines Employees

With the emergence of Private Operators, there was an exodus of skilled and trained manpower of Indian Airlines leading to extremely low utilisation of aircraft. The result was a decline in market share (reduced to 56% in 1995-96), reduction in the number of passengers carried (from 8.9 million in 1991-92 to 7.6 million in 1994-95) and annual net losses in excess of Rs. 250 crores per annum. Indian Airlines had to formulate and implement a turn around strategy to overcome the situation. "Arrival of settlement with

Unions based on increased Productivity" was one of the ingredients of this turn around strategy.

As a result of the various initiatives taken in the turn-around strategy and the Settlements arrived at, net losses reduced from Rs. 258 crores to a net profit of Rs. 45 crores in 1997-98. Aircraft availability increased and aircraft utilisation is now over the acceptable average of 2600 hours per aircraft per annum.

Average Pilot hours increased from 50 hours in 1993 to 75 hours. This is an extremely high average considering that the Settlement with Indian Commercial Pilots Association has placed a ceiling of 80 hours per month.

The availability of Commanders increased from 17 in 1995 to 59 in 1996 totally wiping out the shortage.

Inclusion of Civil Service Officers in Armed Forces

3427. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Civil Service officers from the Armed Forces Headquarters have sent a detailed representation to the Government to include civilians in armed forces where technical expertise is not required;

(b) if so, whether a large number of armed forces personnel are presently holding administrative and non-technical posts;

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

- (d) the reaction of the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FER-NANDES) : (a) to (d) Armed Forces Headquarters Civilian Officers Association have submitted a representation requesting implementation of the report of the Fifth Central Pay Commission pertaining to decombatisation of appointments in Armed Forces Headquarters and Inter Service Organisations. In Para 33.16 of the report, the Fifth Central Pay Commission have suggested that Ministry of Defence should set up a committee to review the existing civilian-combatant ratios in different wings of Armed Forces and Inter Service Organisations and identify posts for civilianisation on which a view is to be taken.

Direct Flight to South Africa

3428. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have approved a proposal permitting Air India to have direct link with South Africa; and

- (b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Air India already has traffic rights to operate direct air services to South Africa under the India-South Africa Air Services Agreement. The services are, however, not being operated at present due to poor load factor.

Recruitment in Armed Forces

3429. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the strength of soldiers in all the three organs of army is adequate to meet our defence requirement; and

(b) if not, the steps being taken to increase their number ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The strength of soldiers in all the three branches of the armed forces is adequate to meet the defence requirement.

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

Ongoing Railway Projects

3430 SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKER RAWAT :
SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN :
SHRI A. GANESHMURTHI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of ongoing and new Railway Projects being taken up in the country, State-wise and Zone wise;

(b) the allocation of funds made against each project in the Ninth Five Year Plan and amount spent during 1996-97, 1997-98 project-wise; and

(c) the time by which these projects 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) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Derailment of Shramjeeve Express

3431. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of derailment of Patna-New Delhi Shramjeeve Express on the Buxar Mughalsarai section of Eastern Railway on May 21, 1998;

(b) if so, the reasons and details thereof :

(c) the number of persons killed/injured and loss of government property therein;

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

(e) if so, the findings 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. On 21st May 1998, 8 coaches of 2401 Up Shramjeevi Express derailed between Chausa and Gahmar stations of Danapur Division, Eastern Railway. The reason of this accident is track defect.

(c) One passenger sustained simple injury in this accident. The loss of Government property was estimated as Rs. 65,000/-

(d) The accident was inquired into by a Committee of Senior Administrative Grade Officers.

(e) As per findings of Enquiry Committee, the accident occurred due to buckling of track.

Expenditure Incurred on Guests of Railway Minister

3432. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of expenditure incurred on food and refreshment for the Railway Minister and his guests during the period from December, 1994 to June, 1996 and July, 1996 to December, 1997;

(b) the amount of expenditure incurred by Railway Guest Houses, Waiting rooms and restaurants on the Railway Minister's guests in the above said period; and

(c) the manner in which this expenditure is accounted for ?

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 information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

House Rent Allowance to Armed Forces

3433. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the house rent allowance as are admissible to Central Government employees are not payable to the employees of armed forces; and

(b) if so, the full details thereof and the reasons for such discrimination ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) In pursuance of the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission, orders have been issued for payment of House Rent Allowance to the Armed Forces Personnel on the same scales as notified for civilian employees, when accommodation under the existing arrangements cannot be provided and subject to the following conditions :

- (i) No type of accommodation including single accommodation, separated family accommodation, transit accommodation has been allotted to the officer.
- (ii) The officer is not staying in a mess where subsidised rentals are applicable.
- (iii) The officer should not have refused any allotted accommodation including separated family accommodation either allotted to him or hired for him.

2. House Rent Allowance has been introduced for the first time for the Armed Force Personnel. The above mentioned conditions have been stipulated for Armed Forces Personnel because the civilian employees are not entitled to these facilities.

[Translation]

Losses Suffered by Steel Sector

3434. SHRI MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA :

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

(a) the profits/losses earned/suffered by the public and private sector steel companies during the year 1997-98, plantwise;

(b) the reasons for losses suffered by these companies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) The profits/losses earned/suffered by the major steel companies in the public/private sector during 1997-98 are:

Name of the Company	(Rs. Crores)	
	Profit (+)	Losses (-)
<i>Public Sector</i>		
1. Steel Authority of India Ltd.	(+)	149
2. Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.	(-)	419 *
<i>Private Sector</i>		
1. M/s. Tata Iron & Steel Co. Ltd.	(+)	322.08
2. M/s. Essar Steel Limited	(+)	24.70
3. M/s. Lloyds Steel Industries	(-)	58.81
4. M/s. Ispat Industries Limited	(+)	55.17
5. M/s. Jindal Iron & Steel Co. Ltd.	(+)	31.34
6. M/s. Jindal Strips Limited	(+)	73.31

* Before considering financial reliefs granted by Govt. on 27.5.98.

(b) The main reasons for losses include increase in input costs, sluggish demand both in export and domestic markets, high incidence of capital related charges, viz. interest and depreciation and general slow-down of the economy.

(c) The measures taken/contemplated by the Government include :

- i) Introduction of appropriate technologies in critical areas to remove production bottlenecks.
- ii) Improvement of the product mix.
- iii) Restructuring of the capital base of RINL in order to reduce its interest burden.
- iv) Seek enhanced allocation for infrastructure development, housing, power and highways proposed in the budget for 1997-98 to stimulate the demand for steel.

[English]

Railway Projects

3435. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of railway projects which are running behind schedule and its effect on cost and development activities;

(b) the reasons for not completing these projects within time schedule ; and

(c) the details of new projects taken up by the Railways during 1997-98 upto July 1, 1998 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PAR-

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

[Translation]

Utilisation of Services of Retired Officers by SAIL

3436. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the retired Directors and other Senior Officers whose services were taken and are being taken as advisors by Steel Authority of India Limited during the last two years;

(b) the subjects on which advice was taken and are being taken from these officers;

(c) whether these officers have got the expertise in the subjects on which they are giving advice;

(d) if so, whether these works are remained incomplete; and

(e) the amount paid to them for taking their services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a), (b) and (e) A table showing the names of the retired Directors and other senior officers (Additional Director/General Manager/Executive Director) whose services were taken and are being taken by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) during the last two years along with the subjects on which advice was taken and is being taken from these officers as also the amount paid to them for taking their services is given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) The concerned officials have worked on similar subjects at some time during their long service tenure and have relevant experience on the subjects on which advice has been sought. They were/are engaged in specific assignments mainly because of their familiarity with the organisation, help in continuity of specific initiatives in the area and cost effectiveness vis-a-vis engaging an external agency. The assignments involved utilising the vast experience of these officials in augmenting and providing thrust to some specific areas of ongoing operations which were/are not taken up in a routine manner.

Statement

List of Retired Directors and other Senior officers (Additional Director/General Manager/Executive Director) engaged by SAIL as consultants in the last two years

S.No.	Name of Personnel	Position Held prior to retirement	Period for which appointed	Remuneration	Areas in which services utilised
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	A.K. Roy	ED (Proj), CO	10.3.98 to 9.9.98	Rs. 14,500/- pm	To assist in specific areas in setting up Hot Dip Galvanising Project at Dagaon in Assam
2.	L.A.K. Sinha	ED & CS Corp Office	10.3.98 to 9.9.98	Rs. 14,500/- pm	To advise on : (a) issues pertaining to merger/ acquisitions; (b) amendment of articles of association; and (c) drafting of documents/ developing of procedures for ISO 9002 for shares Deptt. & PDS.
3.	N. Dash	ED (Proj. & Mod) RSP	4.3.98 to 3.8.98	Rs.12000/- pm	Plan for reduction of non-moving/ surplus/sparable inventory and cost reduction in the area of cost of inputs specially high value items.
4.	J.S. Saluja	ED (Salicon) CO	2.8.97 to 30.7.98	Rs. 14500/- pm	Introduction and use of Romelt process for production of Hot Metal in Iron & Steel Industry in India and abroad. Chief Executive of Romelt SAIL India Ltd. a Joint Venture of SAIL

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	P.K. Sinha	GM (Law), CMO	1.11.96 to 3.5.98 Extd. for 1 yr wef 4.5.98	Rs. 15000/- pm	Providing legal advice in settling disputes of CMO, International Trade/Shipping, Arbitration etc.
6.	D.P. Bajpayee	GM (Mines) BSP	2.8.97 to 1.8.98	Rs. 13000/- pm	Advice on all matters pertaining to implementation of Rowghat Project and coordination with Government and other agencies in respect of this project.
7.	R. Narayanan	GM (MM), DSP	19.3.97 to 18.8.97	Rs. 13000/- pm	Contract closure of DSP modernisation packages.
8.	A.C. Mondal	ED (Proj) DSP	23.3.98 to 22.6.98	Rs. 14500/- pm	To assist in strategy formulation in the operation of Blast Furnace of DSP in view of limited coal allocation during first quarter of 98-99.
9.	S. Banerjee	GM (F&A) IISCO	2.6.97 to 1.12.97	Rs. 13000/- pm	Streamlining systems regarding receipts and payments of IISCO, Ujjain.
10.	P.N. Singh	Director (Pers.)	1.11.97 to 30.4.98	Rs. 15000/- pm	Providing consultation in making strategies for productivity and performance linked wages. Study on Management of Contract Labour in SAIL in view of recent Court pronouncements.
11.	G.S. Khuntia	ED (Oprns) CO	1.9.97 to 28.2.98	Rs. 14500/- pm	Coordination for improved imported Coal Movement from Paradip Port to SAIL plants. Coordinate with RMD and RSP on quality of Iron Ore Lumps/Fines from Barsua and Kalta to ensure movement of 3-4 rakes per day. Follow up regarding forestry clearance of RMD mines.
12.	C.D. Chatterjee	AD (By Pro- ducts), CO	1.6.97 to 29.5.98	Rs. 10000/- pm	Projects on solid waste management and steel scrap re-rolling etc.
13.	Dr. P.K. Roy	ED (CET)	12.8.96 to 11.8.97	Rs. 16000/- pm	Monitoring of following packages - Sinter Plant-3 at BSP - Coal Dust Injection at BSP & BSL - JV on Romelt Technology - CHSG System of JVSL.
14.	A.K. Biswas	ED (Proj.)	17.5.96 to 16.10.96	Rs. 54000/- fee Rs. 36000/- for report	Updating the projects manual
15.	Y.P. Sharma	MD, DSP	2.1.96 to 1.6.96	Rs. 12000/- pm	Productivity and Quality improvement plan for ASP

1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	S. Balakrishnan ED (P&A), CO		1.1.96 to 31.12.96	Rs. 10800/- (consolidated)	Study on contract labour
17.	S.C. Suri	ED (Bus. Png.) CO	4.10.95 to 3.10.97	Rs. 9000/- pm	Preparation of SAIL investment plan, coordinate the study on profit and growth through managing interface relationship

pm : per month

[English]

Unsatisfactory Air Service on Mumbai-Aurangabad-Jaipur-Delhi Sector

3437. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air service between Bombay-Aurangabad-Jaipur and Delhi and back to Bombay is satisfactory;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether Government propose to run private air service for Aurangabad in order to attract more tourists; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) Alliance Air operates daily B-737 service on Mumbai-Aurangabad-Udaipur-Jaipur-Delhi and 3 days-a-week B-737 service on Mumbai-Jodhpur-Jaipur-Delhi routes. Indian Airlines operates 3 days-a-week A-320 service on Mumbai-Ahmedabad-Jaipur-Calcutta and back route. Jet Airways also connects Aurangabad with Delhi/Mumbai by a daily B-737 service.

The airlines are free to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance with the route dispersal guidelines.

[Translation]

Retention of Government Accommodation

3438. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to allow the Government servant to retain the accommodation allotted to him/her in Delhi on his/her posting in the North-East States; and

(b) if so, the time by when the proposal is likely to be approved ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) Yes, Sir. A proposal is under consideration for allowing retention of same accommodation on posting to North-East States.

(b) No specific time-frame can be indicated in this regard.

[English]

Signalling System

3439. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have stepped up the safety measures by introducing a modern signalling system;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the extent to which the modern signalling system introduced by the Railways has helped the checking of accidents;

(d) the total signals that were installed between April-December 1997; and

(e) the other proposal of model signalling system to be installed by 1998 ?

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 thrust has been given for introduction of modern signalling systems and other safety measures like Track Circuiting Panel Interlocking, Route Relay Interlocking, Solid State Interlocking, Block Proving by Axle Counter, Second Distant Signal, etc. on the Indian Railways.

(c) Modern Signalling Equipments like Track Circuiting Route Relay Interlocking Panel Interlocking Second Distant Signal, Last Vehicle Check by Axle Counter etc. help in preventing accidents by providing technical support to reduce human failures. However, the extent to which modern signalling have helped in checking railway accidents cannot be quantified.

(d) During April-December, 1997 a number of modern signalling and safety systems were installed i.e. Track Circuiting from Fouling Mark to Fouling Mark on run through lines at 114 stations from Fouling Mark to Block Section Limit on straight portion at 125 stations, from Fouling Mark to Block Section Limit (Turnout) portion at 75 stations and on Loop lines at 75 stations, Panel Interlocking at 92 stations, Route Relay Interlocking at 5 stations, Solid State Interlocking at one station, Last Vehicle Check by Axle Counter at 4 stations and Second Distant Signal at 81 stations.

(e) During 1998, it is proposed to install a number of modern signalling systems on Indian Railways i.e. Track Circuiting from Fouling Mark to Fouling Mark on run through lines at 91 stations, Fouling Mark to Block Section Limit (straight) at 202 stations, Fouling Mark to Block Section Limit (Turnout) at 102 stations and on Loop lines at 60 stations; Panel Interlocking at 100 stations, Route Relay Interlocking at 5 stations, Solid State Interlocking at 2 stations, Last Vehicle Check by Axle Counter at 5 stations and Second Distant Signal at 100 stations.

Defence Lands/Buildings in Delhi Cantonment Area

3440. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the land/buildings in Delhi Cantonment area (Gopinath Bazar) the lease of which has expired alongwith the date and the terms on which the lease been given originally;

(b) the number of families presently residing in these buildings and the terms and conditions of their occupancy;

(c) whether the Delhi Cantonment authorities have issued eviction notices to the residents of the aforesaid buildings;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the residents of the buildings have recently staged demonstrations/dharnas against their eviction;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The details of land/buildings in Delhi Cantonment area (Gopinath Bazar) the lease of which has expired are as under :

Sl. No.	Survey No.	Date of term of lease		Terms/conditions
		Initiated	Expired	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	52/1	1.2.33	31.1.93	As per Schedule VI of Cantonment Land Administration Rule 1925

1	2	3	4	5
2.	52/2	1.2.33	31.1.93	-do-
3.	52/5	1.3.27	28.2.87	-do-
4.	52/7	1.5.31	30.4.91	-do-
5.	52/8	1.9.30	31.8.90	-do-
6.	52/9	1.10.28	30.9.88	-do-
(sub-divided in 2 parts)				
7.	52/10	15.7.30	14.7.90	-do-
8.	52/16	14.11.57	13.11.92	As per Schedule IX of Cantonment Land Administration Rule 1937
9.	52/14	25.5.25	24.5.74	As per Form 'C' of Cantonment Code of 1912.

(b) The number of families residing in the buildings are 225. Out of those, 42 families are unauthorised occupants and the remaining are ex-lessees.

(c) and (d) Eviction notices have been issued to 42 unauthorised occupants of Sy. No. 52/14.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Does not arise.

Disposal of Public Complaints by Railway

3441. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chairman of Railway Board has expressed concern over delays in disposal of public complaints;

(b) whether a conference of Additional General Managers of Zonal Railways was held at New Delhi recently in which it was emphasized to make the grievances redressal machinery effective; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time bound action plan is being made 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) Yes, Sir. Additional General Managers' Conference was held on 21-4-1998 in Boards's Office to review the performance of public grievances redressal machinery at Zonal Railways. Such meetings are held normally two times in a year to monitor the disposal of references received from Cabinet Secretariat, Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare and complaints received from VIPs such as Minis-

ters, MPs, MLAs, other high dignitaries and general public. Chairman, Railway Board exhorted all the additional General Managers especially Northern and South Eastern Railways to take necessary steps to dispose of all the old cases without further delay.

(c) During the course of the meeting, the main stress was to make the grievances redressal machinery more effective. To make the public grievances machinery effective, following measures have already been taken in order to solve the complaints/grievances quickly.

- (i) Officers and staff are given training on regular basis with regard to the courteous behaviour towards the passengers and other rail users.
- (ii) At Divisional levels and Zonal levels days have been nominated on which general public can meet the public grievances officers for redressal of their grievances on the spot.
- (iii) In Board's office Executive Director, Public Grievances who is working as Public Grievances Officer in the Ministry, is maintaining an open door policy. Any member of the public can see him at any time on any working day.
- (iv) Telephone numbers of the Public Grievances Officers have been published in Zonal Railway Time Tables on which complainant can contact Additional General Managers at Headquarters Office and Additional Divisional Railway Manager in Divisional Offices. Monitoring Cells have set up in Zonal Headquarters and Divisional Offices to monitor the complaints. The complainant can give their complaints through telephone and fax besides in writing.
- (v) Complaint Register and Public Complaint Books have been provided at stations, in trains and all other important installations dealing with public.
- (vi) Names and telephone numbers of the officers dealing with public grievances at Zonal Headquarters and in Ministry of Railways are published in all leading Newspapers time to time to benefit the public at large.
- (vii) Computerised Facilitation Counter has been opened in Rail Bhavan for the benefit of the general public, which is functioning effectively since June, 1997. Zonal Railways have also been advised to open Computerised Facilitation Counters in all Zonal Headquarters and Divisional Headquarters for the benefit of the general public.

Time bound programme has been finalised for disposal of public complaints and Zonal Railways have been advised to dispose of grievances within specified time for each type of complaints.

Impact of US Sanctions on Sale of Aircraft to India

3442. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Boeing Company of US has stated that the sanctioned imposed by the US Government will not affect the sale of Aircraft to Airlines in India; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) According to reports which have appeared in the Press, the Boeing India President has stated that the US sanctions against India following nuclear blasts will have no impact on Boeing's plans to sell aircraft in India. He has further stated that while US Export-Import Bank loan will not be available because of the sanctions, alternative sources of financing will be available.

Employment Schemes in Urban Areas

3443. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKER RAWAT :
SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB :
SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI :
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :

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

(a) the name of on-going employment schemes in the urban areas of the country, State-wise; and

(b) the funds provided and the total number of mandays created during each of the last three years and till date, state-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) This Ministry was implementing Nehru Rojgar Yojana (NRY) and Prime Minister's Intergrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMI UPEP) from October, 1989 and November, 1995 respectively. These two schemes were subsumed in "Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana" (SJSRY) launched in the country w.e.f. 1.12.97 with the objective of generating self-employment and wage-employment opportunities for the urban poor living below the poverty line.

(b) The State-wise details of Central funds released under NRY and mandays of work created thereunder during last three years are given in Statement I and II respectively. No mandays were created under PMI UPEP as there is no wage employment component. The state-wise release and allocation of Central fund under SJSRY during 1997-98 and 1998-99 is given in Statement-III. As per available information 1.74 lakhs and 0.20 lakhs of mandays were created by the Government of Madhya Pradesh and Dadra & Nagar Haveli respectively under wage employment component of SJSRY till March, 1998.

Statement-I*Nehru Rozgar Yojana*

S.No.	Name of State	Funds Provided (Rs. in lakhs)		
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98 (upto 30.11.97)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	463.50	443.85	248.02
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	57.20	28.20	45.53
3.	Assam	147.20	135.70	110.97
4.	Bihar	471.45	454.80	178.61
5.	Goa	18.30	11.39	14.83
6.	Gujarat	215.90	77.72	76.61
7.	Haryana	111.99	84.75	59.99
8.	Himachal Pradesh	66.15	60.15	28.14
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	77.88	62.70	43.46
10.	Karnataka	252.06	147.72	135.04
11.	Kerala	154.60	149.25	92.88
12.	Madhya Pradesh	508.25	396.95	371.35
13.	Maharashtra	521.33	608.20	312.30

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Manipur	62.91	47.60	43.65
15.	Mehgalaya	31.80	29.30	29.33
16.	Mizoram	27.58	21.85	31.81
17.	Nagaland	3.50	-	-
18.	Orissa	156.60	90.05	71.48
19.	Punjab	105.60	103.60	83.67
20.	Rajasthan	330.37	271.25	208.28
21.	Sikkim	28.46	22.70	17.15
22.	Tamil Nadu	563.49	478.00	223.31
23.	Tripura	26.41	21.75	34.21
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1138.89	1025.45	519.33
25.	West Bengal	441.00	179.00	99.39
26.	A & N Islands	16.70	15.00	9.38
27.	Chandigarh	12.03	9.35	7.18
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	9.65	6.07	5.23
29.	Daman & Diu	22.60	12.65	9.59
30.	Delhi	22.00	-	-
31.	Pondicherry	18.60	-	9.05
Total		6084.00	4995.00	3119.97

Statement-II*Nehru Rozgar Yojana*

*Targets & Achievements for the years 1995-96 to 1997-98
(Scheme of Urban Wage Employment)*

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of State	1995-96		1996-97		1997-98 (upto 30.11.97)	
		(T)	(A)	(T)	(A)	(T)	(A)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2.18	1.95	2.18	1.59	1.87	12.43
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.26	0.53	0.18	1.47	0.20	-
3.	Assam	1.13	1.36	1.13	0.85	0.85	0.57
4.	Bihar	2.80	-	2.80	-	1.20	-
5.	Goa	0.09	0.73	0.05	-	0.08	0.71
6.	Gujarat	1.22	0.78	0.65	0.38	0.46	0.30
7.	Haryana	0.69	0.09	0.48	-	0.42	-
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.36	0.53	0.36	-	0.08	-
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.45	1.01	0.31	1.80	0.19	-
10.	Karnataka	1.38	-	1.48	0.70	1.21	-
11.	Kerala	0.94	0.49	0.94	-	0.79	-
12.	Madhya Pradesh	3.42	-	2.38	0.30	2.06	11.04
13.	Maharashtra	1.81	20.02	3.62	-	1.61	-
14.	Manipur	0.47	-	0.33	-	0.20	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15. Meghalaya		0.16	-	0.16	0.11	0.10	-
16. Mizoram		0.17	-	0.12	-	0.17	0.30
17. Nagaland		-	-	-	-	-	-
18. Orissa		1.08	3.91	1.08	1.50	0.47	1.54
19. Punjab		1.01	3.08	1.01	-	0.87	0.35
20. Rajasthan		2.76	1.93	1.92	1.15	1.69	1.20
21. Sikkim		0.13	-	0.09	0.78	0.06	0.50
22. Tamil Nadu		3.72	2.19	2.59	2.52	1.09	-
23. Tripura		0.17	0.12	0.72	-	0.18	0.41
24. Uttar Pradesh		7.53	9.69	7.53	7.72	3.35	5.75
25. West Bengal		2.00	5.95	2.00	1.99	0.85	0.33
26. A & N Islands		0.03	-	0.04	0.02	0.01	0.03
27. Chandigarh		0.06	0.10	0.07	-	0.02	0.11
28. Dadra & Nagar Haveli		0.01	-	0.03	0.01	0.01	-
29. Daman & Diu		0.09	0.25	0.10	-	0.01	3.33
30. Delhi		-	-	-	-	-	-
31. Pondicherry		0.10	-	-	-	-	0.09
Total		36.22	54.71	34.35	22.89	20.10	38.99

T = Target

A = Achievements

Statement-III*Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY)*

S.No.	Name of State	Urban Self Employment Programme & Development of Women and Child in Urban Areas			Urban Wage Employment Programme
		Amount released 1997-98	Tentative Allocation 1998-99	Amount released 1997-98	Tentative Allocation 1998-99
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	537.13	812.40	265.17655	544.40
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	39.99	39.82	Nil	17.50
3.	Assam	306.37	469.45	171.51315	323.03
4.	Bihar	321.71	463.67	136.13304	310.62
5.	Goa	12.44	16.64	3.00074	11.18
6.	Gujarat	310.42	469.51	189.43795	314.49
7.	Haryana	70.73	79.92	11.54022	58.44
8.	Himachal Pradesh	45.04	43.44	Nil	20.50
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	52.54	50.66	Nil	18.60
10.	Karnataka	435.88	659.32	282.38034	441.98
11.	Kerala	147.49	223.08	55.50229	149.57

1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	Madhya Pradesh	598.28	897.40	291.39860	601.86
13.	Maharashtra	806.85	1220.38	467.37257	795.60
14.	Manipur	70.71	108.35	39.73950	74.79
15.	Mehgalaya	47.15	72.22	26.09331	46.75
16.	Mizoram	47.15	72.22	22.48032	47.74
17.	Nagaland	38.60	54.17	3.72732	31.82
18.	Orissa	141.99	214.78	70.92211	144.00
19.	Punjab	63.73	79.92	Nil	53.73
20.	Rajaasthan	243.81	368.79	68.90170	247.24
21.	Sikkim	15.01	14.48	Nil	5.50
22.	Tamil Nadu	579.53	876.59	339.97198	587.75
23.	Tripura	58.93	90.27	31.04640	60.47
24.	Uttar Pradesh	780.42	1180.42	345.50885	791.56
25.	West Bengal	321.98	486.99	174.15306	326.48
26.	A & N Islands	34.06	22.35	33.10	75.78
27.	Chandigarh	48.42	55.88	—	—
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	5.59	7.00	13.78
29.	Daman & Diu	34.05	11.18	16.00	34.44
30.	Delhi	29.70	164.61	—	—
31.	Pondicherry	5.86	25.39	16.80	31.00
Total		6240.97	9350.00	3018.90	6170.00

Cost of DDA Flats in Motia Khan Area

3444. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

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 "DDA's bolt from blue for 84 allottees in Motia Khan area" appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated 15.5.98;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The grievances highlighted by the allottees of Motia Khan are broadly of these categories, namely :

i) Pricing of the flats;

ii) Delay in construction; and

iii) Non-functioning of lifts.

It has been reported by DDA that allottees of these flats have approached Delhi High Court regarding pricing of the flats and the matter is sub-justice. The construction of the flats was delayed on account of jhuggi cluster at site and due to difficult sub-soil condition. Two blocks (8 storeyed) comprising of 84 SFS flats have been completed since 31.8.96 and all services provided. As regards non-functioning of lifts, it has been reported by DDA that the requisite clearance for operation of two lifts in one block has been obtained and the same for remaining two lifts in another block is awaited from GNCTD. Clearance from Delhi Fire Services is likely to be available by August, 1998.

Inauguration of Railway Projects

3445. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Shilanyas/inauguration functions held for the railway projects which were not included in the current Budget; 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.

Retirement age of Air-Hostesses

3446. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI BHIM DAHAL :
SHRIMATI USHA VERMA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether as a sequence to the enhancement of retiring age for Government and public sector employees to 60 years, Government also propose to raise the retirement age of air-hostesses with Air India and Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken in the matter ;

(c) whether air-hostesses are not allowed to fly as cabin crew member after a certain age; and

- (d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Air India and Indian Airlines have raised the age of retirement of their employees including air-hostesses from 58 to 60 years.

(c) and (d) Indian Airlines allows its air hostesses to fly as Cabin Crew member till the age of retirement. In Air India air hostesses are given flying duties upto 50 years subject to medical fitness and thereafter they are given ground duties.

Price of Aluminium

3447. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI :
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR :
DR. SAJOJA V. :

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

(a) whether the buyers of unwrought Aluminium in India have to pay a price equivalent to about US-\$1700/t as against the ruling average price of US-\$1400/t on LME;

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is attributable to the extra high cost of

unwrought Aluminium metal that Indian manufacturers of semifabricated products have had to pay;

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

(e) whether the domestic demand growth for semifabricated Aluminium products like steel, foil and extrusions fell in 1997-98 only to 15% over 1996-97; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor and corrective measures taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) The average LME price of unwrought aluminium was US\$ 1308 per Metric Tonne (MT) in June 1998. Importers of unwrought aluminium have to incur additional costs in the form of freight, insurance, customs duty, countervailing duty, special countervailing duty and terminal handling charges. As a result, the landed cost of imported unwrought aluminium to the Indian manufacturer of semi-fabricated products at an LME price of US\$ 1308 works out to approximately US \$ 1842 per MT. As against this, the price of domestically produced unwrought aluminium by the National Aluminium Company (NALCO) during June 1998 was Rs. 73166 per MT (equivalent to approximately US \$ 1702 @ exchange rate of US \$ 1 = Rs. 43). Thus, the price of domestically produced unwrought aluminium is lower than the landed cost of imported unwrought aluminium.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The price of domestically produced unwrought aluminium is lower than the landed cost of imported unwrought aluminium. However, market forces, fluctuations in LME prices, demand-supply situation, taxes and other commercial factors decide the price of unwrought aluminium to be paid by domestic semi-fabricators.

(e) Since most secondary producers/re-rollers/extruders are in the unorganised sector, complete information is not available. However, the three major secondary producers, viz. Bharat Aluminium Company (BALCO), Indian Aluminium Company (INDAL) and Hindustan Aluminium Company (HINDALCO), who account for a substantial market share in rolled sheets, foils and extrusions, recorded a growth (provisional) of 16.2% in rolled sheets, 7.4% in foils and (-) 8.9% in extrusions in 1997-98 over 1996-97.

(f) Growth rate in the aluminium industry is largely dependent on the general growth in the economy.

SAIL COR

3448. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for withdrawing orders for SAIL COR by the Railways from Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur;

(b) whether both the Steel and Wagon Industry in West Bengal is suffering for withdrawal of orders by the Railways; and

(c) 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) There has been no withdrawal of orders placed for SAIL COR by the Railways from Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Defence Delegation to Russia

3449. SHRI MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI M. RAJAI AH :
SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN :
SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a High Level Indian Defence Delegation visited Moscow on June 14, 1998 for extensive talks on Indo-Russian Defence Co-operation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the delivery of Russian SU-30 Aircraft is reported to have been delayed indefinitely;

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

(e) the specification of the newly acquired Russian submarine for the Indian Navy and the expenditure incurred thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) At the invitation of the First Deputy Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation, a high level delegation headed by Defence Secretary visited Russia from 15-19 June, 1998 and held discussions in Moscow, in the context of furthering and enhancing all-round defence co-operation with Russia including issues related to defence procurements. During the visit the draft text of the Agreement on the Long-Term Programme of Military Technical Co-operation between the two countries up to the year 2010 was also finalised. It will not be in the interest of national security to disclose details of activities under the Military Technical Co-operation between the two countries.

(c) and (d) There has been some delay. Efforts are being made to minimise this delay.

(e) It will not be in the interest of national security to disclose details in this regard.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

12.00 hrs.

Annual Report and Review by the Government of the working of the Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : I beg to lay on the Table —

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :—

(i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1996-97.

(ii) Annual Report of the Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 942/98]

(3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Mazagon Dock Limited and the Department of Defence Production and Supplies, Ministry of Defence for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 943/98]

A copy of the Delhi Development Amendment Rules and Memorandum of Understanding between the National Building Construction Corporation Ltd. etc.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Delhi Development (Grant of Allowance to Non-official Members of the Advisory Council) Amendment Rules, 1998 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 103 in Gazette of India dated 23rd May, 1998, under section 58 of the Delhi Development Act, 1957

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 944/98]

(2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) :

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 945/98]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 946/98]

The Railway passengers Amendment Rules and the Railways Red Tariff Rules, 1997. Annual Report and Review by the Government of the working of the centre for Railway Information system

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR):
I beg to lay on the Table —

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 199 of the Railways Act, 1989 :

- (i) The Railway Passengers (cancellation of tickets and refund of fares) Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S. R. 340 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th June, 1998.
- (ii) The Railways Red Tariff (Amendment) Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 728 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 1997.
- (iii) The Railways Red Tariff (56th Amendment) Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 90(E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th February, 1998.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 947/98]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Railway Information Systems, New Delhi for the year 1992-93 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Railway Information Systems, New Delhi for the year 1992-93.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 948/98]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Railway Information Systems, New Delhi for the year 1993-94 alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Railway Information Systems, New Delhi for the year 1993-94.

- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 949/98]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Railway Information Systems, New Delhi for the year 1994-95 alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Railway Information Systems, New Delhi for the year 1994-95.

- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 950/98]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Railway Information Systems, New Delhi for the year 1995-96 alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Railway Information Systems, New Delhi for the year 1995-96.

- (9) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (8) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 951/98]

- (10) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) on the progress made in the intake of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes against vacancies Reserved for them in Recruitment and Promotion Categories on the Railways for the year ending the 31st March, 1993

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 952/98]

- (11) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) on the progress made in the intake of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes against vacancies

reserved for them in Recruitment and Promotion categories on the Railways for the year ending the 31st March, 1994

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 953/98]

- (12) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) on the progress made in the intake of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes against vacancies Reserved for them in Recruitment and Promotion Categories on the Railways for the year ending the 31st March, 1994.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 954/98]

Annual Report and Review by the Government of the working of the National Institution Rock Mechanics etc.

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 National Institute of Rock Mechanics, 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 National Institute of Rock Mechanics 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 955/98]

- (3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 956/98]

- (4) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 957/98]

- (5) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 958/98]

12.0½ hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha.

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 7th July, 1998 agreed without any amendment to the Lotteries (Regulation) Bill, 1988 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 4th July, 1998."

12.01 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Tenth and Eleventh Reports

[English]

SHRI K. YERANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM) : I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture :-

- (1) Tenth Report of the Committee on the Demands for Grants (1998-99) of the Ministry of Water Resources.
- (2) Eleventh Report of the Committee on the Demands for Grants (1998-99) of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

12.1½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE

First and Second Reports

[English]

SN. LDR. KAMAL CHAUDHRY (HOSHIARPUR) : I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Defence :-

- (1) First Report on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Fifth Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for 1997-98.
- (2) Second Report on Demands for Grants (1998-99) of the Ministry of Defence.

12.02 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND
CHEMICALS

First, Second and Third Reports

[English]

SHRI P.S. GHATOWAR (DIBRUGARH) : I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals:-

- (1) First Report on the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report (11th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants 1997-98 relating to the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Department of Fertilisers.
- (2) Second Report on the action taken by Government on the Recommendations contained in the Tenth Report (11th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants 1997-98 relating to the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals.
- (3) Third Report on the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Ninth Report (11th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants 1997-98 relating to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

12.02½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

Thirty-fourth Report

[English]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (MEERUT) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Thirty-fourth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Commerce on Demands for Grants (1998-99) of the Ministry of Textiles.

12.03 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY
Twenty-third Report

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (KOLAR) : I beg to lay on the

Table a copy of the Twenty-third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Industry on Demands for Grants (1998-99) of the Department of Steel (Ministry of Steel and Mines).

Twenty-fourth Report

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL (ERANDOL) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Twenty-fourth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Industry on Demands for Grants (1998-99) of the Department of Mines (Ministry of Steel and Mines).

Twenty-fifth Report

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH (NARASARAOPET) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Twenty-fifth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Industry on Demands for Grants (1998-99) of the Ministry of Industry.

12.04 hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE
Rehabilitation Council of India

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : Sir, on behalf of Shrimati Maneka Gandhi, I beg to move :

"That in pursuance of sections 3(3) (h) and 4(1) of the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves, to serve as members of the Rehabilitation Council of India, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That in pursuance of sections 3(3) (h) and 4(1) of the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves, to serve as members of the Rehabilitation Council of India, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

The motion was adopted.

12.05 hrs.

MOTION RE : THIRD REPORT OF BUSINESS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND

MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) :
Sir, I beg to move :

"That this House do agree with the Third Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 7th July, 1998."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do agree with the Third Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 7th July, 1998."

The motion was adopted.

12.06 hrs

RE: ISSUE OF RESERVATIONS FOR SCHEDULED
CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (BARAMATI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue.... *Interruptions...*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. I have called Shri Sharad Pawar.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mohan Singh, please take your seat. The hon. Leader of the Opposition is on his legs. After him I shall call you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will call you, Madam, after him.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue which concerns the Scheduled Castes and The Scheduled Tribes of the country. Shri Jethmalani, a member of the Union Cabinet and a renowned Constitution expert, had addressed a Press Conference yesterday. If you see *The Hindustan Times* of today, the heading is : "Jethmalani : Need to review quota policy". It says :

"Defending the BJP's desire to undertake Constitutional reform, Union Urban Affairs Minister Ram Jethmalani said that there was an urgent need to amend Article 356 as well as review the Constitutional provision for reservations'.

(Interruptions)

It further says :

"The Minister observed that reservations had been

meant for the first 50 years of the Republic, and that the country's half century had come to an end." We have to examine if reservations have to continue", he said."

Sir, here the important problem is that the Minister is saying...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please, let him complete. Your own Leader is already raising the matter. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHUNDURI AVSM (GARHWAL) : Kindly read out the next two lines also. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

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

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Sir, the important line is : "We have to examine if reservations have to continue". This is the most important section. Sir, why this reservation has been kept in the Constitution? *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (JHABUA) : The leader of Opposition is speaking. You may please listen to him. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI AJIT JOGI (RAIGARH) : Let the leader of Opposition speak..... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Sir, if you see the Constitution, the Preamble says :

"We, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC and to secure to all its citizens :

JUSTICE, social economic and political ;"

It also says :

"EQUALITY of status and of opportunity"

Sir, fifty years of our Independence have passed.

Is it true that we have reached to that stage where these depressed castes, especially the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are in a position to get social justice today ? Are they getting equal treatment today in this country ? I do not think that there are two opinions in this country and time has definitely come to take some definite view about this. I know that 50 years are over. This is the time to

amend the Constitution and give extension. Instead of suggesting about extension, he has said "we have to review". He also said "we have to examine if the reservations have to continue." This is a very serious thing. I think, the Government has to make its position absolutely clear. There might be the hidden agenda of the BJP of scrapping these reservations, but this country will never accept this. I demand that the Government should make its position very clear.
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, I will allow you. Shri Mohan Singh, I will allow you.

Shri Ram Vilas Paswan.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will also allow you and also the Parliamentary Affairs Minister. You please speak one by one.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, I have allowed Shri Paswan.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, I have called Shri Paswan. Shri Jogi, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Paswan.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do you want to speak ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): Yes, (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (HAJIPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the supreme power widing Parliament House of India where parties keep on coming and going. The Government is always a Government. That belongs neither to Congress nor to Bhartiya Janta Party. The Government is the Government of India which takes an oath to the Constitution that it will act in accordance with its provisions but a Government which acts against the Constitution has no moral right to continue in office.

Sir, when Bhartiya Janta Party used to say that we will review the Constitution, then there was an apprehension in our mind that they wanted to deprive the people belonging to the weaker sections of the society of their rights but when the Prime Minister said the other day that National Agenda was the only agenda he recognised and there was no other agenda for him, we were satisfied because it is not a party

affair. Recently, a meeting of SC/ST forum was held and Parliamentarians from all the parties were present in it. In that meeting, concern was expressed that the reservation in promotion has been done away with which is not proper. People belonging to all parties agreed on the fact that everybody will raise above the party-politics in this regard and will talk to the Prime Minister.

Sir, the statement given by Shri Ram Jethmalani is not correct. Shri Ram Jethmalani is not a junior Minister; he is a very senior Minister and a renowned constitution- expert who interprets the constitution everyday. If he had talked about the constitutional review, it would not have caused us grief, but the way he has directly referred to the reservation, that makes the intentions of the Government clear. These lies only one remedy to this and that the Prime Minister should come here and give a clarification in this regard.

Sir, reservation is not a creation of independent India. It has been continuing since British rule. It was implemented in 1935. This system was started under Poona Pact. The reservation in independent India is political reservation which is revised after every 10 years and is then extended up to 10 more years. As far as the question of job-reservation is concerned, nobody has any right to stop it and now even Mandal Commission has been added to it. I want to tell all the members of this House that nobody has any right to play with the Constitution. Therefore, I demand that either Prime Minister should have to demand the resignation of Jethmalaniji. Today, the Government of India itself has become answerable, to the belonging to SCs, STs, OBCs and weaker sections of the country.

Therefore, we would like to tell the Government that the issue does not concern the Parliamentary Affairs Minister at all... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, it is an important issue. I will allow all of you. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been facing inhuman treatment for thousands of years..... (Interruptions). These exploited people have been given reservation to bring them at equal footing (Interruptions). My Government is in favour of continuing reservation till these castes come to the level of equality, the question of removing reservation clause does not arise.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will call Shri Vaiko also.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Let the Prime Minister come here and give his clear view about it.... (Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Election of Deputy Chairman in Rajya Sabha is taking place.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Mohan Singh. Let him complete his submission.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA) : Mr. Speaker, the real face of the Government has been imposed. We have been accusing the Government right from the beginning. (Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : There is an excess.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Mohan Singh. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (MADURAI) : Government has no case at all. You should apologise.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, I will call you. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : The true face of this Government has been exposed. From the very beginning we have been accusing them of being the protector of the caste system..... (Interruptions). They have given Rajya Sabha membership to a person who wrote a book in which he called name to Dr. Ambedkar..... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete first. Shri Ajit Jogi, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Government has a collective responsibility in Parliamentary form of Government. If this

Government is serious then Shri Jethmalani should immediately resign, it is our demand.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vaiko, I will call you also. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : In a Parliamentary democracy, the statement made by a Minister is considered as the statement of the whole cabinet. The intention of this Government, has been exposed.... (Interruptions). We have come to know about their intentions. Therefore, we want to say that if the Prime Minister and the Government are really going to scrap this Constitutional right, which was given to us by the Father of the Nation after great sacrifices to do away with caste system prevalent in the country and to provide justice to the social forces then either Hon'ble Prime Minister should discuss Shri Jethmalani from the Cabinet or otherwise I would like to demand the resignation of this whole Government (Interruptions). This is an anti-Dalit and pro-castism Government who wants to deprive the Dalits of their rights. I accuse the Government of this charge and demand the dismissal of Shri Jethmalani from the Cabinet.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not good.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, Please be brief as many hon. Members have already raised this matter.

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Government which has completed 106 days in office has proved our apprehension correct that this is an anti-Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribes Government and.... (Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Anti-Dalit and anti-Adivasi Government will not be allowed to function (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : This we have already said and now it has become clear.... (Interruptions)

[English]

They have already said that this Government would review the Constitution. They want to review the reservation which is there in the Constitution. That reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBCs should continue or not (Interruptions)

[Translation]

If their Cabinet Minister has given an irresponsible statement.... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

*(Interruptions) ***[Translation]*

SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA : You should apologise for what you have said.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Is there any collective responsibility in the Government or not ?.... *(Interruptions)*. One Minister is making one statement and another Minister is making another statement.... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): They are making a mountain out of a mole-hill. They should listen to other people also. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Nitish Kumar.

*(Interruptions) ****12.24 hrs.**

(At this stage Dr. Ravi Mallu and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please resume your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bhuria, this is too much. Please go to your seats.

12.26 hrs.

(At this stage, Dr. Ravi Mallu and some other hon. Members went back to their seats)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sharad Pawar, please ask you Members to take their seats.

(Interruptions)

* Not Recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bhuria and Shri Jogi, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASH DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the Prime Minister should make the stand of the Government clear in regard to the reservation for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the Backward classes..... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Shri Naidu, please take your seat. Shri Khanduri, please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Prime Minister is present in the House. Shri Ram Jethmalani had given policy statement on reservation in a press conference. The Government's stand on this matter should be known to countrymen. The Prime Minister should clarify whether the Government have any different view on this important issue and whether a responsible Minister who is known as a constitutional expert can make such a statement?

[English]

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a question to ask the Prime Minister. You may please allow me. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will call you. Please take your seat first.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Sir, I have only a short point to make.

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO (SIVAKASI) : Sir, we should be allowed to place our views.

MR. SPEAKER : Okay, please take your seat.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Sir, I have a short point to make. On the matter of 69 per cent reservation, whether a Constitution (Amendment) Bill is being brought before the Government or not, one has to see the mindset of the Government. The person who called Dr. Ambedkar a British stooge has been given a Rajya Sabha ticket recently by the B.J.P. — I am talking about Shri Arun Shourie. This shows that they really believe in the 'Chatur Varna' system. Let the Prime Minister clarify about the Government's thinking on this 69 per cent reservation.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN (DINDIGUL) : Sir, what about giving a chance to the AIADMK ?

MR. SPEAKER : I will call them also. I am allowing all the leaders. Please take your seat.

SHRI VAIKO : Sir, the hon. Leader of the Opposition, Shri Sharad Pawar has raised the correct issue at the appropriate time..... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It is not good. Please understand. What is this ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : On the issue of social justice, an objection was raised by Shri Ram Vilas Paswan about the Judgment of the High Court in Uttar Pradesh.

The same day, Shri Sharad Pawar and Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, leaders of political parties, also expressed the same view.

On that day, the hon. Home Minister Shri L.K. Advani categorically stated the policy of this Government and the policies adopted in the National Agenda which are signed by the allied parties, that is, this Government is committed to the policy of reservation of the backward classes and Scheduled Castes. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ajit Jogi, this is not good.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ajit Jogi, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : This is my view. I know your policy. What have you done for reservation. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except Shri Vaiko's speech.

*(Interruptions) **

SHRI VAIKO : Anyhow, it is very unfortunate that a member of the Cabinet, Shri Ram Jethmalani expressed such a view which raises doubts about the policy. Of course, it may be stated that this is his personal view.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not go. Let him complete. I allowed Shri Vaiko to speak.

*(Interruptions) **

SHRI VAIKO : Even if it is his personal view, Shri Ram Jethmalani should not have expressed such a view.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. You must hear other speakers also.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. You must hear the other side also.

SHRI VAIKO : We know that to secure reservation and to get social justice, tremendous sacrifices have been made. The other day, the Government also categorically stated that it shall protect the existing reservation of 69 per cent also. *(Interruptions)*. But when you made your ruling, you did not take steps to protect the existing reservation. Therefore, if Shri Ram Jethmalani does not make a denial of his statement as appeared in the press, it will be very unfortunate.

I support Shri Sharad Pawar on this issue. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I want to hear all the leaders. Please have some patience.

(Interruptions)

SHRI R. MUTHIAH (PERIYAKULAM) : The reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is a must. The Government's national agenda is also insisting to extend this provision to all other backward classes too. It should be extended to the level of State Governments which are implementing this reservation policy. This Government is committed to the National Agenda.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (KOTTAYAM) : Who are you to say that ?.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, this is not good. I have allowed Shri R. Muthiah to speak. Please take your seats. You must see the other side also.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI R. MUTHIAH : If he has spoken anything against our National Agenda. I think he should not be allowed to continue. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seat. I have called you. You have also raised the point. Now, I have to hear the other side also. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Kawade, please take your seat. This is too much.

(Interruptions)

SHRI R. MUTHIAH : I think our hon. Prime Minister will clarify the position. A Minister can speak anything against our own National Agenda. But this question should be answered by our hon. Prime Minister. If Shri Ram Jethmalani has spoken anything against our own National Agenda, he should not be allowed to continue in his post. That is my view. That is my request. I want a clarification from the hon. Prime Minister in this regard.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, two issues are there. As per the National Agenda of the present Government, they have given an assurance to the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe people that the Government would continue to protect the reservation policy. *(Interruptions)*. Shri Ajit Jogi, please wait. I am more interested than you. We are for the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe people, not for you.... *(Interruptions)*. Please sit down. Why are you in a hurry ? My party is more committed than you. Please wait and hear me. That is why, I say that there are two issues. One issue is this. In the same Council of Ministers, Shri Ram Jethmalani yesterday expressed his views regarding review of the reservation policy. But in the minds of the people of the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribes throughout the country, there is a big doubt. So, the Leader of the Opposition Shri Sharad Pawar has asked for a clarification from the hon. Prime Minister and the Prime Minister must give a clarification. Now, the Prime Minister is here. I think he will clarify the position. That will end the matter. My request, through you, Sir, is that the hon. Prime Minister should give a clarification on this issue..... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Surender Singh.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDRA SINGH (BHIWANI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are no two opinions about it.... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing all go on record except the version of Shri Surender Singh.

*(Interruptions) **

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bhuria and Shri Jogi, you are wasting the time of the House. Please take your seat. This is not good. What is this ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ajit Jogi, please take your seat. What is this ?

(Interruptions)

* Not Recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Kantilal Bhuria, please take your seat. I have called Shri Surender Singh to speak now.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOTILAL VORA (RAJNANDGAON) : Sir, I am on a point of order. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Motilal Vora, this is Zero Hour. Please understand it. Shri Surender Singh to speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDER SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are not two opinions about it. All Members and political parties present here are in favour of reservation. The country has completed 50 years of independence. Shri Paswan and Shri Ajit Jogi are also present here. Don't they know that the poor 'harijans', labourers, who are not having their own land, and are engaged in other works have one thinking. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

I may not be misunderstood.

[Translation]

But 'harijans' feel that only a few families are getting the benefit of reservation. It has become their political right.

Because of reservation, one IAS and one IPS officer join service from one family. This is how they are manipulating. It should be reviewed. They should speak for the poor people, who have not received any benefit of reservation so far. There are some Members, who have been contesting from reserved seats even after 30 years in Parliament.... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Surender Singh is speaking .

*(Interruptions) **

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDER SINGH : There have been Harijan M.Ps who used to contest from open seats. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, nobody is against reservation and the government is also not having such intention. But the way an uproar is being created in this House with a political angle..... *(Interruptions)*

* Not Recorded.

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : This is not a political matter. This is a constitutional provision. The constitution has given this right. There is no need to speak all these things.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : I request the Hon'ble Members of the Congress Party that we do not interrupt anybody's speech. *(Interruptions)*. If you won't let me speak, I will also not let your leader speak in the House. *(Interruptions)*. Otherwise, please listen patiently while I am speaking. ...*(Interruptions)*

(English)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Prabhunath Singh is speaking.

*(Interruptions) **

(Translation)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : If you don't let me speak, I will also not let you speak. *(Interruptions)*

(English)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. I am on my legs. What is this ? Shri Jogi, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

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

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Prabhunath Singh, please conclude.

(Translation)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in these 50 years of independence, the policy of previous governments and present government is that people should get the benefit of reservation. In reality, the provision of reservation is being misused. The people like, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan are being elected from reserved constituency. In the matter of jobs also, the son of Shri Ram Vilas Paswan gets the job. This matter should be definitely reviewed. The poor should get the benefit of reservation. That is why there is a need for review of the Constitution and it should be done. This is my submission.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, because of the statement of the hon'ble Minister Shri Ram Jethmalani, Crores of poor people in the country have become apprehensive about the communal character of the government. They are against dalit and backward classes. This is a conspiracy to do away with the reservation by changing the Constitution. The people holding ministerial posts are trying to create unrest in the country. The Prime Minister is present here. He should immediately

* Not Recorded

dismiss that Minister. The right given in Constitution to crores of poor dalits and backwards should be protected. They should have participation in the government. No power on earth can stop it. Crores of people are having apprehensions in their minds that this government is conspiring to do away with the reservation by changing the Constitution. This should be made clear.... *(Interruptions)*

(English)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, every observation or action or demeanour of any Cabinet Minister has implication over the collective responsibility of the Council of Ministers. So, I request the hon. Prime Minister to give a brief clarification regarding the Government's position on the issue raised by the hon. Leader of the Opposition and others. Now, the hon. Prime Minister may speak.

(Interruptions)

12.48 hrs.

(At the stage, Shri T.R. Baalu and some other Hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, I have called the hon. Prime Minister. Please go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Your resume your seats first.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri T.R. Baalu, you cannot compel the Chair to allow you to speak. This is not the way.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You please go to your seat first and then ask.

12.49 hrs.

(At the stage, Shri T.R. Ballu and some other Hon. Members went back to their seats)

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

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (BARAMATI) : Sir, we have a request from DMK. Please give an opportunity to a representative of DMK and the Republican Party of India which has been established by Babasaheb Dr. Ambedkar.

MR. SPEAKER : I request the hon. leaders also to think whether this is the way to compel the Chair to give opportunity to an hon. Member to speak.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (TENALI) : We are sorry about it..... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Baalu, I have been observing you so many times. This is not the way to compel the Chair to give you a chance. You must know the procedure also.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I request you to please sit down. Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Resume your seats, please.

SHRI T.R. BAALU (MADRAS SOUTH) : It is an emotional issue. *(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, this is an emotional issue.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR (MUMBAI NORTH-EAST) : Is this the way in which an hon. Member should behave in the House ? *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (CHANDNI CHOWK) : Just listen for a minute..... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : If this is the way they are behaving here, you can imagine how they would behave in Tamil Nadu.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Baalu, please continue

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Mr. Speaker, I am very much thankful to you for giving me the opportunity to take part in the discussion on an emotional issue which our hon. Leader of the Opposition has raised today..... *(Interruptions)*

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : He should apologise.

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Baalu speaks.

*(Interruptions) **

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have got the highest regard for the Chair. *(Interruptions)*

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

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Sir, this is not the way to behave in the House.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, the observation made by the hon. Minister of Urban Affairs and Employment, while he was on tour, is very much condemnable. The Minister has gone on record saying that the issue of reservation required to be thoroughly reviewed and reversed. It is very unfortunate that after fifty years of Independence anybody should try to reverse the Statute. It will tear apart the fabric of the unity and integrity of the country..... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : The House only wants that before making his statement he should apologise and then make his submission..... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (HAJIPUR) : He has already said that he has great regard for the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER : He has already apologised.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : This is not the way one should behave in the House.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Sir, your honour is our honour. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : In order to protect the interests of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, the oppressed and the depressed, the provisions enshrined in the Constitution of India should be extended and safeguarded. Such a review would not be allowed by the Government. *(Interruptions)*. The public will not allow them..... *(Interruptions)*

13.00 hrs.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : He has apologised, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, this Government has dared to review and reverse the provisions of the Indian Constitution which deal with safeguarding the interests of the SCs and STs and OBCs to keep up the spirit of social justice. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You are not hearing anything.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Everybody wants to speak only and nobody is interested in hearing what others say.

(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : The Opposition and the people at large would not allow to permit this particular policy of the Minister concerned. This shows the mindset of the BJP Government. I request the hon. Prime Minister to come forward with a categorical reply and say, whether they are going to review this or to extend the reservation provided to the SCs and STs.

I also demand action against the Minister concerned who has gone on record to say that the reservation system would be reviewed. This is a shame on the part of the Minister concerned. I demand that the Minister should resign; and the hon. Prime Minister should make a categorical reply to this. Thank you.

SHRI R.S. GAVAI (AMRAVATI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say only relevant things. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot call all the Members of all the parties. We have to keep in mind the time also. Please understand this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Sir, the hon. Leader of the Opposition had brought up the issue at the appropriate time. At the same time, I should also say that the statement made by Shri Ram Jethmalani is unwarranted, untimely and not in keeping with the spirit of the Indian Constitution; and it is unconstitutional.

The Leader of the Opposition has emphasised the point about the Preamble to the Constitution. He said that the Preamble is a part of the Constitution and we are supposed to maintain justice — social, economic and political. As a matter of fact, the review of the Constitution which is being incorporated in the agenda and which is irrelevant because the Chief Arbiter of the Indian Constitution, Dr. Babasahib B.R. Ambedkar had already provided a provision by way of Article 368 of the Constitution, for the purpose of amending the Constitution. We have been amending the Constitution till today. There is much difference between 'review' and 'amending procedure' of the Constitution. The amending procedure provided in the Constitution is in keeping with the spirit of Directive Principles, the Fundamental Rights and the Preamble to the Constitution.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Gavai, you need not make it a discussion. Please conclude.

SHRI R.S. GAVAI : I am not doing that. It is a vital issue. I never stand up unnecessarily; I never come to the well of the House; I am a disciplined Member I am sorry that you are not allowing me to clarify on this point.

Sir, I say that the statements of Shri Jethmalani is unconstitutional. Nobody can touch the Preamble, the Directive Principles and the Fundamental Rights of the Constitution which are the basic structures of the Indian Constitution.

The third point that I want to make it clear about the parliamentary system. The Government or the Cabinet is collectively responsible. But the statement made by the Shri Ram Jethmalani is in the nature of a breach of that joint responsibility of the Cabinet system; and it is irresponsible statement also. I want to urge upon the Prime Minister to see that Minister should make his statement responsibly. So, I demand a statement from the Prime Minister regarding suitable action against the Minister. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY (KHAGARIA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the government has clarified in its national agenda that reservation will continue. Through you, I want to tell the hon'ble Prime Minister that the benefit of reservation is not available to the backward people having income of more than Rs. One lakh. It means, the persons having income of more than one lakh will be debarred from getting the benefit of reservation. Similarly, the Harijans who have already availed of maximum benefit of reservation and are paying income tax should be debarred from the benefits of reservation so that poor Harijans could be benefited.

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (QUILON) : I thank you for giving me this opportunity to express the views of the my party regarding this matter.

This matter involves two questions. The first question is the policy of the Government. At the time of the Confidence Motion itself, we had apprehensions that there are some hidden agenda. The hidden agenda are coming out of the bag. This is one of the items of the hidden agenda which has been hidden by the BJP in the national agenda. I would like to know from the Government, whether the Government is having a collective responsibility or not. The statement made by a Member of the Council of Ministers should be owned by the Government itself. So, as Shri Vaiko has said, it is not the personal view of a particular Minister. The Government is having a collective responsibility. So, the Prime Minister should come out with a categorical statement as to whether the policy of the Government is to discontinue the reservation policy. I would like to reiterate that the reservation policy has to be continued. To question is, whether the Government is having an opinion that it has already saturation. That point also should be clarified in the House.

The second question is that this particular Minister is always making statements outside the House when the House is on. The privilege of the House is involved here. Yesterday, he was making a statement in the Press when the House is on. He had made it regarding the policy of the Government. He could have come to the House and made that statement. This also should be taken into consideration. Let the Prime Minister clarify the position. I also urge action against that Minister..... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Chandumajra.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Prof. Chandumajra to speak. I have not called your name.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

(Interruptions) *

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (PATIALA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the question of providing social, economic and political protection to the poor people, is concerned it is a matter of concern, if they are deprived of such rights. It is only apt if the House is concerned about it. However, this issue needs some consideration. Firstly I would like to mention about the statement of Shri Jethmalani. Secondly, I would like to submit that any Government which is having the support of Shiromani Akali Dal can never harm any poor or dalit person. Their rights will always be protected. It has been our history. There is nothing to laugh about it. We have sacrificed ourselves for the sake of poor and distressed people. Our reverend Guru Teg Bahadurji became martyr when Government was committing atrocities on people during emergency, we bore the brunt. Therefore, I would like to state that dalits and poor need not be afraid of the Government who has the support of Shiromani Akali Dal. The poor and dalits need not fear it. Their rights will be fully protected.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Chaudhary Surendra Singh has mentioned about the condition of the people for whom reservation policy was framed. In this regard, I would like to state that it is only by chance that this issue has come up in the House otherwise we would not have taken up this matter for discussion here. If we want the poor people who are without food, clothes and shelter to get the benefit of reservation, they must be informed about the number of people benefited by it during the last 50 years. They should be old as to who are the people who have benefited from reservation. It should also be taken into consideration what type of policy should be formulated in this regard and what efforts should be made to provide this facility to the people in a proper way.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, now I would like to submit about Shri Ram Jethmalani's statement. According to the statement read out by the Leader of the Opposition here. Shri Ram Jethmalani has stated that he will review the issue of reservation. He might be saying about extending the reservation. Why we should discuss that ? The Prime Minister will give clarification in that respect. That is all I want to say.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (PANSKURA) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I thank the Leader of the Opposition for raising this issue. While the Prime Minister replies, I hope, he

will not only reply about the actual policy which they want to follow regarding this issue but he will also reply what action will be taken against the person..... (Interruptions)

Along with this, I want to raise another question of reservation which, in my opinion, is no less important than this.... (Interruptions)... There is no question of spoiling it. I fully support this. I expected you people also to give full support because the hon. Prime Minister has called the leaders of different parties tomorrow to discuss 33 per cent reservation for women. That is why I am clubbing. Otherwise, I would not have clubbed (Interruptions)

We have seen in the newspapers that some objections to this effect have already been raised that 33 per cent be reduced to 15 per cent. In *The Hindu* of today, there is a big news.... (Interruptions). You can read it. While the Prime Minister answers, I will request him to assure us that this 33 per cent reservation will not be diluted and the Bill will be placed for discussion in this very session of the House.(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. SUSHIL INDORA (SIRSA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am a member of Haryana Lok Dal and my Party is supporting the Vajpayee Government from outside. You might be knowing that I am the Leader of that Party whose leader Shri Devi Lal has always raised his voice for the poor, and dalits. This is the right time when hon'ble Prime Minister should express his views as to what extent he favours dalits as even on an earlier occasion, even it has been stated that he is simply a mask.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Indora, this is not a discussion. What is your point ? You please express that.

[Translation]

DR. SUSHIL INDORA : Our leadership has to think over it. We will support Shri Vajpayee as long as he raises his voice in favour of the welfare of the poor people. However, if any voice is raised against Dalits, we will certainly raise that matter in the House.... (Interruptions)

SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH (PHILLAUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter raised by the Leader of the Opposition, Shri Sharad Pawar is very serious and the statement given by Shri Ram Jethmalani in this regard has created apprehensions in the minds of the people belonging to Scheduled Castes, backward and minority communities. I would like to state that it has been stated in the national agenda of the Government that reservation will continue for SCs, STs and OBCs. Government should give a clarification in this regard. I strongly condemn that statement. The Prime Minister should make a statement to remove apprehensions in this regard.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA) : Sir, I would like to very strongly express that the Government should make a statement to this effect clarifying the position. In fact, we thought that the Government would come to the House and make a statement before the House even before the matter was raised by the Opposition. It is a policy matter and keeping in view the seriousness of the matter – Shri Jethmalani also has said that he was reiterating the policy of the BJP – I think, the statement should have come even prior to the matter was raised in the House by the Opposition.

Sir, the Constitution is very clear and the intent of it is also very clear. Our Party strongly resents the statement made by the Minister and urge upon the hon. Prime Minister to make a statement and clarify the position very clearly.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE (JADVAVPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Members of this House are very agitated at the moment. We all know that we must give protection to the classes who have been deprived for ages. But, at the same time I also agree with Shri Singh, who made a point that for 50 years a particular section of that class had taken all the fruits and advantages and rest of the people have been deprived. If the Government wants to have a review of the matter in this context then, I do not see anything wrong in that(Interruptions)

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BHISWMUTHIARY (KOKRAJHAR) : Sir, the condition of the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes category would have to be developed.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let him finish first. I have not called you.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : We are not depriving anybody. The people who have been deprived so far would have to be looked after. Let me finish first.(Interruptions)

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BHISWMURTHIARY : The percentage of reservation for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes would have to be increased. (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : I am not supporting Shri Jethmalani wholly but only to the extent that some people have been deprived.

I would also like to extend my support to what Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee said here. May I raise the feeble voice of a woman supporting the cause of the Women's Reservation Bill ? The hon. Prime Minister has called an All Party meeting tomorrow to discuss the issues of the other backward classes. Who are they ? Fifty per cent of the Indian women are backward. The women are the most backward class in this country. So, I would like to urge upon the Government to pay some attention to them. For my fellow parliamentarians who are speaking for reservation within reservation, I

would like to submit that when we are speaking on behalf of the women, we mean women of all castes and religions. We, as a whole, are a backward class. I would like to request the hon. Prime Minister to please keep this aspect in mind. Like a broken record, we have heard the assurance of the hon. Prime Minister that 'the women's Bill will be passed in this session'. How many times should we have to hear that ? Let us not have to hear such broken records again. There were headlines in today's newspapers as well.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Nitish Kumar, please.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding this question. (Interruptions) all right, he can speak after me. (Interruptions)

[English]

KUMARI KIM GANGTE (OUTER MANIPUR) : Sir, I would like to say something. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

KUMARI KIM GANGTE : Sir, I want to say something on this point.....Interruptions....

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Be patient.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was going to say something about the question raised before the arrival of hon'ble Prime Minister but due to the.... (Interruptions) by Shri Ajit Jogi I could not say.

[English]

SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH (INNER MANIPUR) : Sir, she represents a reserved Constituency and so she should be given a chance to speak on this subject... (Interruptions) Kindly allow her to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA (KOTA) : Why an opportunity is not being given to the members who have been elected from reserved constituencies. I request to protect their rights.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not a regular discussion.

SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA : In this regard this house is.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will call her. Please take your seat now.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I could not express my views previously. Shri Ajit Jogi did not let me speak at that time. Now, hon'ble Prime Minister will present Government's opinion on the whole subject, but I think that *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (MUMBAI NORTH-CENTRAL) : Anti-Dalit Shri Ram Jethmalani should be suspended.*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Athawale, everytime you are disturbing the House. This is not a good practice. You must know the procedure. I have allowed Shri Nitish Kumar to speak and you are unnecessarily disturbing him.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is necessary for me to put forward my opinion in this regard. Therefore, I have taken time and permission from you and the hon'ble Prime Minister. A question has been raised here in the House about the statement made by Shri Ram Jethmalani in the Programme 'Press se Miliye'. In my view, no one can stop the reservation for SC/ST and OBCs in this country. As far as the question of discussion on this issue is concerned, the Prime Minister will give statement on behalf of the Government. I have been forced to speak to clear the apprehension created in the House due to the statement made by two of our party members. As far as reservation is concerned for SC and ST, the Samta Party is not in favour for any change in the existing provisions. Our fellow member has given statement without going into its implications. While extending the benefit of reservation to OBCs, a Committee was set up to separate the creamy layer. It was done by the Congress Government.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : We opposed that also.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : There should be no creamy layer for OBCs. We opposed it number of times from opposition benches. But that reservation was implemented with creamy layer which was a mistake. However, there should be no such creamy layer with SC and ST reservation and no other opinion should prevail in this regard.

SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY : It is our request that the creamy layer should be removed.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Therefore, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I felt it appropriate to clarify the situation. Therefore, I intervened with the permission of the Chair and the Prime Minister. It has been clearly mentioned in the National agenda and we all are bound by it that there should be no difference of opinion in this regard and whole House and the nation is unanimous over this issue. I would also like to state that political mileage should not be taken on such matters.

[English]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN (BAHRAICH) : Thank you, Sir, I am sure, the hon. Prime Minister must be equally concerned about the statement of the hon. Minister, Shri Ram Jethmalani, which has appeared in the newspapers today. But, Sir, the problem today is, this Government's shots are not being called by the hon. Prime Minister. The shots are being called from some other remote source located at Nagpur. That is the reason, Sir, since the day this Government has assumed the Office, we have been hearing about the review of the Constitution. And, now there is a review of the measures which have been taken under the Constitutional provisions, as we are under obligation as far as provisions of the Constitution are concerned. These measures have been taken in response to that obligation in order for the advancement of the backward classes of citizens, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. But, those who want to perpetuate the hegemony of the old social order which wants to treat 70 per cent of the population of the country worse than animals and lesser than human beings, have made this statement in order to push this hidden agenda. They want to do away with the Constitution which was drafted by Babasaheb Ambedkar and approved by the Constituent Assembly. They want to do away with the Constitutional provisions which have given a sense of equality, a sense of dignity, a sense of respect, and a sense of honour to the people belonging to the depressed communities.*(Interruptions)*

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

(Interruptions)

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, I wish you could direct them to be as inaudible as they are unintelligible ! I am witnessing this phenomenon for the first time in this House wherein hooliganism is being resorted to by the Treasury Benches. They are trying to silence the Opposition. This is happening for the first time.*(Interruptions)* Sir, this is very important.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Arif Mohammad Khan, we have to discuss a very important issue, the issue of price rise, today.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, with your permission, I would make one more remark. An hon. Member of this House, while speaking, used the term *harijan*. Let this august House know that the depressed classes in this county resent the use of the term *harijan*. Instead, some other term like depressed classes, backward classes, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes can be used. When you say *harijan* you sound to be sanctimonious and patronising. We do not want this sanctimonious and patronising behaviour. We do not want this term to be used.*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAYASHANKAR (MYSORE) : Harijan Word can-

not be used but this word is being used repeatedly here. ...
(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Let the lady member be given a chance to speak.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : You may please give directions that word Harijan should not be used.

(*English*)

KUMARI KIM GANGTE : Since the commencement of this Lok Sabha session I individually have never disturbed any Member while he is speaking because I believe in consultation and reasoning. I would like to reiterate this time again that we are not given a chance to speak in this august House. A person like me who does not believe in shouting, does not get a chance to speak. I thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for providing me this opportunity.

On the issues of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs and women, we have no political barriers and dividing lines. Both the ruling party and the Opposition will agree with me on this because we all have been elected to this august House because of these people. As far as their political and social rights are concerned, all of us are trying to say something. But then, are we really sincere or concerned?

Sir, I would like to say in this august House that the north-eastern region has been suffering for many years. Even today we cannot travel to that part of the country on all days of the week. We have only two direct flights in a week for Manipur. If one wants to go by train, it takes four-five days for him to reach the destination. You cannot go by land because of so many problems.

I would request the Opposition as well as the Government to pay more attention to this instead of wasting so much time. I would request them to pay attention to women because they have also been deprived of so many of their rights.

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

KUMARI KIM GANGTE : I will conclude but let me say a few more words.

I would request the Ruling and the Opposition to pay attention and give privilege to the neglected lot of the backward classes instead of discriminating them. I would say discrimination whether you agree or not. Such remarks should never be heard again in this House. Equal treatment should be given to the backward classes as well as other weaker sections. So, I would request the hon. Prime Minister to make his stand very clear so that the reservation is never stopped. It should continue till these backward classes are brought on par with other people. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, many leaders have

been given very good information. They also made one observation.

(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE (CALCUTTA SOUTH) : I would just take one minute to record my party's views. (*Interruptions*) I will be grateful to you. (*Interruptions*)

AN HON. MEMBER : How can you allow her ? (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, she is a senior Member, in the House. Please allow her.

(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE : Actually I want to express my party's views. (*Interruptions*)

AN HON. MEMBER : She was already spoken. (*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE : This is a very serious matter. I do not want to differ. I am sorry. Some hon. Member have spoken but I was not here. That is why, I apologise to you. (*Interruptions*)

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

(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE : This is a very important matter. Cabinet has a collective responsibility. I respect each and everyone. But this type of message from an individual can create disaster for the country. So, I would urge the hon. Prime Minister, whatever be his stand, according to the Constitution, reservations should continue. We should see that Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes reservation should be there. Only the poor people are not getting the advantage. One section of the people are not getting the advantage. We have to see that actually the poor people from the Scheduled Castes and Schedule Tribes for whom the reservation is meant, should get the opportunity. This is our view.

Secondly, the reservation for SC/ST should continue. Please also see that there is reservation for minorities and OBCs. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : I would like to make a small clarification to the hon. Members. The word 'Harijan' may not be used. Instead they may be referred to as SC/ST.

Now, I would request the hon. Prime Minister to respond.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : No, Shri Acharia, Let him clarify.

(*Interruptions*)

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

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Prime Minister will reply later. Shri Ram Jethmalani is concerned with the matter. Please allow him.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, please.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : Sir, after I have spoken for five minutes, all the hon. Members who think I have said something atrocious will unahimously get up and give me a reward for what I have said. But kindly have the patience to hear and explain what I have said yesterday, you will all appreciate it and as I have said, after that I will deserve a prize.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No, please let him complete

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Sir, before explaining, what I have said yesterday, let me say two things by way of a pure personal observation of mine. I normally hate to use the first person singular in any stage of mine but I depart from my own self-restraint.

Sir, I am a respectful and a reverential student of Dr. Ambedkar and I revere the Constitution which he made as holier than any other Book that has been available in this country ever.

Sir, this hon. House is aware of my credentials. I have been the supporter of Mandal when people who subsequently started talking about Mandal had not talked about its non-implementation. Hon. Members are present here, who know my role in support of the backward classes of this country. Now, with this background, yesterday at a Press Conference, the usual charge was made that "Your party and your Government wishes to tinker with the Constitution."

What is this amendment of the Constitution that the hon. Members are talking about ?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : To which party do you belong ?..... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Please, for God's sake, listen.... *(Interruptions)* Sir, I have said that with all my reverence for that Constitution, the Constitution still ultimately remains the document made by frail human being and the document made by frail human being must be reviewed from time to time as indeed it has been because the Parliament has already amended the Constitution hundred times during the last fifty years.

Now, let me make it clear. I want the reservation. And I have said at the Press Conference that these reservations

have to be continued for the next thirty years or forty years at least. The reservations will not come to an end until the last member of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe has achieved the level of dignity, status and economic prosperity of the high class people.

But, when I am being charged with tinkering with the Constitution, I have said that the reservation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is now coming to an end because you have prescribed it in the Constitution as you have been doing every ten years. We raised it from fifteen to twenty, twenty to thirty, thirty to forty and now to fifty. But this fifty is coming to an end. If you want to make it sixty, seventy, eighty, you have to amend the Constitution.*(Interruptions)* Therefore, some amendment of the Constitution is compulsory every ten years.

I was explaining this and this is how the newspapers have reported it. But in some newspapers due to the faulty reporting, things get a little distorted. The entire Press was present and the whole of my speech yesterday was on the Doodarshan and it has been videotaped. Hon. Members are free to see. I am next to none in my support of the rights for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and all other backward classes and people sitting here know of my record. I am surprised that anybody should even raise a whisper against my intention about this harassed part of humanity: I believe that until and unless this part of the humanity is raised to the highest levels of the best of us, the reservations shall continue..... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there has always been unanimity in this House on the matter of reservation and my friend, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan will agree with me on this issue. Whenever time limit of reservation used to come to an end, it was extended and whole House supported that move. Therefore, it is not good that this House may get divided on this issue. Everyone knows pitiable conditions of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and the reasons thereof. For centuries, they have remained oppressed. Reservation is needed in a society where there is no equality and where there are disparities. If we cannot change the society immediately, and it seems it will be difficult to do that at the moment, then we have to continue with reservation. We will support continuance of reservation and I am sure that you will also support the same.

Our policy is clear in the National Agenda. Besides, Supreme Court fixed 50% as the limit of reservation. But some states have given more than 50% reservation. The Congress Party was in power at that time. Mr. Chauhan had called a meeting of all parties. We supported at that time that where reservation was more than 50%, that should continue and the Constitution should be amended accordingly.

It is mentioned clearly in our manifesto that wherever there is more than 50% reservation that should continue Shri Jethmalani has already given his clarification.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We are not satisfied with it.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : You will never be satisfied. I think it would be better to let the matter rest.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : You have referred to Supreme Court's decision. Let me tell you that in Delhi University and in many other places, reservation has already been done away with. I raised this question earlier also. You may please look into that.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : There are no two views on this and the matter will be looked into. House should not get divided on this issue. I can understand agitated feelings but that should be within limits. Therefore, I request that..... (Interruptions)

As far as reservation for women is concerned, let me clarify that we will not agree to less than 33%. They must get 33% reservation. We have called a meeting of all parties tomorrow. I am fully confident that a consensus will emerge and we will be able to bring this bill in the House.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : This Bill should be passed.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : That will be passed only when it is brought (Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : We want the Bill providing reservation for women in Parliament is put to the vote of the House because the nation should know who are against this Bill. Even if there is no consensus, let it be put to the vote of the House..... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : We have talked about 15 per cent (Interruptions) I agree that the Bill should be passed and I am confident that everybody will support it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.30 p.m.

13.45 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Thirty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.38 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Thirty-Eight minutes past Fourteen of the clock.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDY in the Chair]

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMED (MADHUBANI) : Mr. Chairman Sir, Has the government resigned ? There is not even a single minister of government present in the House..... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Bandaru Dattatreya is present here. Shri Madan Lal Khurana is here.

Now, the House will take up Matters under Rule 377.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS (MUKUNDAPURAM) : Sir, I am seeking your permission. I want to raise a very important matter..... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No other matter, please.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please be seated. This is not a 'Zero Hour'.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : We are taking the issue of price rise at 3 o'clock.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have not permitted you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, I am seeking your permission. About six lakh postal employees, comprising of two Federations, have gone on strike from today onwards. They have submitted a memorandum containing ten points before the Government. The Government never negotiated with them. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, no other matter other than Matters under Rule 377.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seats. Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is making a statement.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : I want to say that before coming here, the Minister of Communications informed me that she is going to meet union leaders at 3 o'clock in connection with this strike.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : No other matter except Matters under Rule 377 will go on record.

Shri Chandresh Patel.

(Interruptions) *

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have called Shri Chandresh Patel. Nothing else will go on record except the matter being raised by Shri Chandresh Patel.

(Interruptions) *

14.41 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) **Need to Improve the Telephone Services in rural areas in Jamnagar Gujarat**

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL (JAMNAGAR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission I submit the following matter of urgent public importance under Rule 377.

On 1st June, 1998, cyclone lashed Jamnagar and various other parts of Gujarat and as a result thereof, 90% telephones became dead. Telephone poles and wires were damaged and communication system was disrupted. Microwave towers of village Virnar Taluka also got heavily damaged. Therefore, local people are angry with telephone department and have started agitating against the Department.

Telephone department officers never listen to the complaints of the consumers.

Optical fibre cables have not been laid in all talukas with the result that outgoing and incoming calls do not materialise and one has to wait for hours to talk from district centre to Taluka centres.

I, therefore, strongly demand that action should be taken immediately to start telephone services of Rural Department again.

(ii) **Need to set up a rock based factory in Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh to utilise minerals in the region.**

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (SAGAR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in my Parliamentary Constituency of Sagar district contiguous to Bundelkhand region, there are large reserves of various minerals such as Rock Phosphate, Granite, Dolomite etc. but in spite of this, the Central Government has not established any industry in this region to utilise these minerals.

* Not Recorded.

Small traders export these minerals to other states within the country where these are used in many ways. If Central Government establishes a large Rock phosphate factory in this region, then the economic development of the area can take place. It will also make large number of opportunities of employment available to people there.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to undertake this work as early as possible and initiate action for establishing factories there to utilise minerals.

(iii) **Need to ban Pan Masala and Gutkha**

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (CHANDNI CHOWK) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the damage caused to the health by the use of gutkha and Pan Masala.

Like lottery, this addiction is also spreading like wildfire throughout the country. The youth, the children, the old and even the ladies are no exception to this addiction. The Government had itself admitted in the House during the last Lok Sabha that the Pan Masala and gutkha industry which had a turnover of two hundred crore rupees in 1992, churned up one thousand crore rupees in 1997.

While this Government deserves congratulations for imposing a ban on lotteries throughout the country, I appeal to it to do the same in case of gutkha and Pan Masala also.

It has been proved by various health reports that the use of Gutkha and Pan Masala is injurious to health. The Report goes to the extent of revealing that it can even cause cancer. What further proof is required to substantiate my point than the fact that its packing itself carries the message that, "Gutkha and Pan Masala is injurious to health."

The House would like to know the fate of the report presented by the Expert Committee constituted under the chairmanship of the Director, General of Health Services on 17th August, to look into the ill-effects of the use of Gutkha and Pan Masala in pursuance of the order of Hon. High Court of Rajasthan dated 27 March, 1997 and the action taken thereon.

The Government of Goa, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh have already expressed their concern over the increasing use of gutkha and Pan Masala. I would like to know whether the Government of some other states have also written to the centre demanding imposition of ban on its use ?

I, therefore, appeal to the Government to impose a total ban on Gutkha, Pan Masala and tobacco by enacting a legislation in this regard as has been done in the case of lottery.

(iv) **Need to provide adequate funds to state Government of Bihar for completion of irrigation projects in Palamu region of Bihar**

SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM (PALAMU) : Sir, In the Palamu

division of Bihar which has constantly been in the grip of perennial drought since 1991, hundreds of people have been dying of starvation and cattle too have been dying due to scarcity of fodder and water. In fact, this region which is dominated by the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribes has witnessed more severe drought than Kalahandi in Orissa. In 1993, the then Prime Minister had visited the Palamu region to have an overview of the drought-affected area and had also announced several relief measures but all in vain. None of his announcements was implemented. In this situation, I urge upon the Government that in order to resolve the drought problems of the region, assistance should be provided to the state Government for completing orange Irrigation Project and Kanhar Irrigation Project and a proposal demanded from the State Government for constructing small checkdams, besides providing them appropriate relief package.

(v) Need to introduce new Crop Insurance Scheme to cover all crops and farmers

SHRI VITHAL TUPE (PUNE) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Crop Insurance policy floated by the Government fails to fulfil its objectives because only those farmers have been included in this scheme who have availed a loan from a Bank or a financial institution and this scheme is limited to a few crops only. Those farmers, who have not availed any loan from a bank or a financial institution, are devoid of the benefits of this scheme. Secondly, this scheme covers a loss up to ten thousand rupees only, whereas it is a universal truth that damage caused to a crop due to any reason in a particular state is assessed in lakhs of rupees. The recent damage caused to the crops in many states is a glaring example of this which forced several farmers to take extreme steps like suicide. Therefore, I request the Government to enforce a new crop insurance scheme at the earliest which covers all farmers and all crops.

(vi) Need to formulate programme of action for providing safe drinking water to all the people in the country

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (VISAKHAPATNAM) : Sir, India has attained the status of a nuclear power, but still more than one crore Indians across the country do not have access to potable water. This is despite the fact that thousands of crores of rupees have been earmarked for the purpose in Plan funds. Last year, the allocation was Rs. 2,800 crore and it covered 90,000 habitations.

One habitation on an average comprises about 50 families in habitations which are not covered and where there is no source of potable water. The Government's norm for providing drinking water to villages is at least four litres of safe drinking water per capita per day.

Recently, about 130 blocks in the country have been identified as suffering from over extraction due to irrigation

done, mostly hand pump dug to the depth of 30 to 35 metres. But at times, even the bore-wells dug to depth of 100 metres or more run out of water. Another problem is that drinking water system like tube-well and bore-well is not maintained properly.

Even after completion of 50 years of our Independence, we have not been able to provide drinking water to more than one crore people across the country. Therefore, there is an urgent need and the present Government has mentioned that within two years, safe drinking water will be provided to all the people in the country. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to specify the programmes of action so that necessary steps are taken right not for its implementation on a war-footing.

(vii) Need for completion of Digha-Tamluk railway line and introduction of air taxis to reach Digha, a sea resort in Midnapore district West Bengal

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (CONTAI) : Digha on the Bay of Bengal in the district of Midnapore, West Bengal is a beautiful sea resort adjacent to Orissa. Hundreds and hundreds of tourists from all over India visit the sea resort. But there is not other transport except buses and private cars. To beautify the tourist spot, an aquarium has been built up there by the Central Government, but it is yet to be opened for the tourists' visit. People do not get opportunity to visit Digha due to inadequate transport system.

Under the circumstances, the Government is urged upon to complete the Digha Tamluk railway line construction and arrange for air taxis so that tourists, daily commuters and other people can visit Digha without sufferings.

(viii) Need to take steps for effective implementation of Operation Blackboard Scheme

SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK) : Sir, Operation Blackboard is considered crucial for realising the Government's goal of universalisation of elementary education by 1999. But inability to utilise the funds has resulted in a considerable reduction in the money allocated for this scheme in the 1998-99 budgetary proposals. A total of Rs. 135 crore was earmarked for it in the 1997-98 budget, but less than Rs. One crore has been spent. Consequently, only Rs. 60 lakh has been budgeted for this scheme in the 1998-99 proposals. Unless effective remedial measures are taken immediately to strengthen and improve these key schemes, "Elementary education for all" may well remain a slogan. Operation Blackboard was launched in 1987 to improve the infrastructure in the primary school sector, but the Ministry of Human Resources Development admits that it has yet to meet its objective of providing at least two room all weather buildings for each primary school... Only 65 per cent of the school rooms targeted have been completed while many States show huge backlog of unspent funds meant for teaching and learning materials.

This scheme is suffering from delay in construction of

classrooms and recruitment of teachers, under utilisation of funds and poor management of the programmes by the States. I draw the attention of the Government to take appropriate steps at the earliest.

(ix) Need to exempt indigenous paper industry from excise duty and increase customs duty on imported newsprint

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (MADRAS NORTH) : Sir, I want to raise the following important matter under Rule, 377.

Sir, with the liberalisation of Indian economy, the domestic paper industry is handicapped by lack of 'level playing field'. Indian paper industry is a highly power intensive and capital intensive industry with long gestation period. So, the Indian paper manufacturers are at a disadvantageous position as compared to foreign manufacturers. Hence, protection to the domestic newsprint and paper industry is imperative.

The Techno-economic study is newsprint industry by BICP in 1994 has recommended a reasonable protection to the domestic newsprint industry. BICP has also recommended levying of 20 per cent customs duty on imported newsprint. The Ministry of Commerce have recommended levying of anti-dumping duty to protect the Indian newsprint industry.

The Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Limited (TNPL) with IDBI as its co-promoter is a unique plant environment-wise as it utilises bagasse instead of scarce wood pulp. Exemption from excise duty is a pre-requisite to enable these mills survive, particularly in the current recessionary situation.

The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Kalaignar has already written a letter to the Hon. Finance Minister urging him to consider this fact and to give tariff concessions to the domestic industry and to levy customs duty on imported newsprint.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India, to exempt excise duty on paper produced from bagasse based units and to increase customs duty on imported newsprint in order to save the domestic industry and to protect it from becoming sick.

(x) Need to enact legislation on convention of Bio-diversity to give effect to the provisions of the Conservation of Biological Diversity

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (BARAMULLA) : Sir, India is one of the few countries in the world which possesses a vast variety of bio-diversity. India is a situation of a Mega-Biodiversity with 80,000 known animal species and more than 49,000 plant species. It is therefore, necessary to conserve and protect this vast bio-diversity.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) which has

been in force since 1993 is a significant landmark among international agreements, since for the first time it incorporated the principles of equity and ethics in both access to genetic wealth and sharing benefits.

The CBD's triple goals are conservation of bio-diversity, sustainable use of biological wealth and equitable sharing of benefits.

At present, there is no law to keep India's biological resources safe. It is now common knowledge that many a time precious plant species and medicinal herbs are taken away outside the country. Some of the species have become endangered.

Some time ago, a high level committee of experts under the chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Swamynathan was constituted to go into various aspects of the important question. The committee made several recommendations and prepared a draft legislation.

I wrote to the Prime Minister on 1st April this year urging him to enact law on conservation of bio-diversity but no action seems to have been taken.

I would urge the Government to accord priority to enact legislation on Convention of Bio-diversity and give effect to the provisions to the convention on Biological Diversity.

(xi) Need to take steps for desilting of Soheli river so as to save the Dudhwa National Park

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (KHERI) : A serious situation has emerged in the Dudhwa National Park situated in district Kheri due to silting in the Soheli river which has resulted in heavy water logging as the river water has spread to reserved forest area and surrounding agricultural areas. Consequently, the perennial floods caused in the sanctuary during the past several years have devoured thousands to rare stags due to drowning in the flood water and devastated the habitat of several protected species of animals. Thousands of acres of cultivable land situated in the surrounding areas has turned into a marshyland which has spelt disaster for the farmers.

Therefore, I expect the Central Government to quickly formulate and implement a distilling project for cleaning the silt deposited in the Soheli river, otherwise the very purpose of (protecting stags of) the Dudhwa National Park will be defeated.

(xii) Need to direct the National Textile Corporation to clear the outstanding dues payable to the Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Federation

[English]

SHRI MADAV RAO PATIL (NASIK) : Sir, the matter

regarding outstanding dues from the National Textiles Corporation to the Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Federation was taken up both with National Textile Corporation and Government of India. The then Chief Minister vide his letters dated 29th December, 1992 and 2nd January, 1996 had taken up for discussion with the then Prime Minister. The same issue was taken up for discussion with the Prime Minister at New Delhi on 9th January, 1996. Thereafter, this matter was reiterated again in the meeting of the Union Minister of Textile with the Chief Minister in Mumbai on 4th August, 1996. The State Government is requesting the Union Government to look into the matter for early payment of defaulted amount by N.T.C.

Sir, the N.T.C. has to pay outstanding dues to the tune of Rs. 174.19 crore to the Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Federation for purchase of cotton from time to time. Thereafter, I request the Union Government to direct the N.T.C. to clear the outstanding dues at the earliest.

(xiii) Need to open computerised reservation centres at Meerut and Mawana

[Translation]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (MEERUT) : The Railway Commuters of my constituency have been facing a lot of difficulty in the absence of computerised Railway reservation facility. Only three counters at the Meerut city station have computerised reservation facility. This is also a very big cantonment area. Therefore, I would like to make the following two submission to the Railway Minister :

- (i) Two computerised reservation centres in the private sector may be opened in Meerut city.
- (ii) Mawana being Tehsil Headquarters, permission regarding opening of a computerised reservation centre in the private sector there may be granted.

15.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI INDRANATH BHAGAT (LOHARDAGA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the MLAs, former MLAs, the MPs the former MPs and the office bearers of the regional Congress Party belonging to the Jharkhand area have been sitting on a Dharna at Jantar Mantar in support of their long standing demand for the creation of a separate Jharkhand/Vanachal state. This demand is related to the development of three crore people of Jharkhand. Even after the completion of fifty years of our independence, the people of Jharkhand region which is abundantly rich in mines, minerals, forests wealth and enormous resources, have been suffering from unemployment and starvation. The vital sectors like education and health are also in a pathetic state. There is rampant economic, social cultural and political exploitation of the people

of this region which has given rise to a lot of discontentment among the tribals and the miners of this region. The language, culture and customs of this region are different from those prevalent in other parts of Bihar.

Therefore, drawing the attention of the Government towards this matter of urgent public importance, I demand that a separate state of Jharkhand may be created without further delay.

15.01 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Rise in Prices of Essential Commodities

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we will take up the discussion under Rule 193.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I must thank you for allowing me to raise a very important subject, that is, regarding rising prices of essential commodities. In fact, I tabled one Adjournment Motion on 'rising prices of essential commodities' on the very first day of the second phase of this Session. I thought that this a fit case to ensure this 106 days old Government. Within 106 days of this Government coming into power, the prices of almost all the commodities, particularly essential commodities, are rising everyday. If you want to purchase any commodity which you might have purchased yesterday, then you will have to pay a higher price or at least one rupee more. It is the case not only in regard to vegetables but also in regard to all the commodities.

When this Government came to power, what was the price of one kilogram of mustard oil ? It was Rs 35 and, today, its cost has touched Rs. 60 per kilogram. Yesterday, I was listening to the interview given by the hon. Minister of Food and Consumer Affairs, Shri Barnala, who was pointing out as to why the prices have been rising. It is because of the fall in the production of agricultural commodities. Indeed, Sir, there has been a fall. Our growth in the agricultural sector is lack-lustre. We could never achieve more than two per cent. Our population growth is much more than our growth in the food production.

There has been a fall, particularly in the last year. The Government knew about it. The Government was aware, when it came to power, that there would be a shortage in oilseeds production, edible oil and in wheat production also.

The hon. Minister has said that this year because of bumper production, our wheat stock is all right. The stock is all right. But the price of wheat has already crossed double digit and if it remains in this way, it will touch Rs. 20 a kg. What is the price of ordinary rice ? I am not talking of

Basmati rice. Common people, even upper middle-class people, cannot use Basmati rice. What is the price of ordinary rice? It is Rs. 15 a kg.

Same is the case with sugar. A Committee was appointed by the previous Government, the Mahajan Committee, to control the sale of sugar. What is the purpose of constituting that Committee? It was to take away sugar from PDS. That was the main recommendation of Mahajan Committee. I have gone through the recommendation. I have tried to find out whether a copy of that Report is available in the Library. I could not find it. I have not seen the stand of the Government in regard to Mahajan Committee recommendation. They have not rejected it nor have they accepted it. What is the stand of this Government? Does this Government want that sugar should continue to be distributed through PDS in our country? They have not made their stand clear as regards Mahajan Committee report. Our apprehension is that this Government has come to power with the help of big traders, speculators, hoarders, black marketeers and big industrialists and they found their own Government at the Centre. That is why, they are free and they are increasing the prices of all the commodities. They are not realising the plight of our common people, the workers. They are not realising what will happen to the people belonging to Kalahandi and Koraput areas of Orissa. What will happen to the poor people and to the agricultural labourers of Chattisgarh area? Such a situation as of now never existed before. The inflationary trend in CPI and WPI was never so high. Is it because of fall in production? Why was there fall in production? Sardar Surjit Singh Barnala is not only the Minister of Food and Civil Supplies, he is also the Minister of Fertilizers and Chemicals. At least six fertiliser units of Gorakhpur, Barauni, Durgapur, Haldia, Namrup and Talcher are now closed. The hon. Minister knows it very well. We have been fighting here in this House that these fertiliser units should be revived. We are importing urea by spending Rs. 2,300 crore.

A package was prepared and finalised by the previous Government. The Cabinet gave the approval for the revival of the units of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation at Baruni, Durgapur and Namrup.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (AONLA) : Shri Acharia, you were also in the Government for two years. At that time you enjoyed and did not speak. Now only in three months you are feeling trouble.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The ex-Minister of Food is present here. He knows the role our party played at that time. We raised our voice to revive the fertilizer industry.... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Were you a bonded labour as you were speaking with him. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Rajveer Singh do not interrupt him.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Please try to revive the Fertilizer units. I am talking as to why there is a fall in production.

[Translation]

Why there is fall in foodgrains production. We are importing fertilizers and our own fertilizer industry has been closed down.

[English]

We cannot spend Rs. 2200 crore. But we can spend money to import urea. Even one tonne of urea did not arrive but we have spent Rs. 133 crore.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (AONLA) : What happened to Rs. 133 crores?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We have also exposed. Let me speak..... (Interruptions) Do not speak like this. Please do not say the wrong things.... (Interruptions) He is not aware. You must stand while speaking.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Rajveer Singh, please do not interrupt him. He is not taking your name.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : I am helping him.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : The Government is not at all serious. This is due to the fall-out of the recent explosion of the bomb. This is because of the fall-out of the WTO. This is because of the fall-out of all these things

I have with me the figures about the annual rate of inflation in respect of the essential commodities. Without potato, we cannot have *subji*. For the preparation of every *subji*, you need potato. This is so at least in respect of West Bengal and Bihar also.

[Translation]

Shri Raghuvansh Prasad, we are from the neighbouring state. Why are you sitting silently, please raise your voice in this regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Acharia, please do not ask anyone else to intervene otherwise members from other parties will also start speaking.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : What is the inflation rate in respect of potatoes ? The inflation rate in respect of potato is to the extent of 325.8 per cent. How will you eat potato ?

We need onions also for the preparation of almost every *subji*. Without onions, we cannot have our *subji*. What is the increase in the rate of inflation of this item ? It is 32.9 per cent.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : He does not eat onions.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Who.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Shri Som Pal.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : He is vegetarian like me. Earlier I was also not used to eat onions, but now we eat it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please address the Chair.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : In the morning, we need a cup of tea. What has happened to tea ?

The inflation on tea is 26.6 per cent. Sir, you also take tea at least six times a day. Whenever I am in my constituency, I take tea at least ten to fifteen times a day. Again, after the presentation of the Budget, where there was an increase in the excise duty of 8 per cent, they have reduced the Customs Duty by 50 per cent. They have reduced the excise duty on blended tea. If you purchase *Rasgulla*, you will have to pay eight per cent excise duty.

[Translation]

Buy a *Rasgulla* from K. C. Das market. These days diabetes patients also eat it.

[English]

You have not reduced it. I do not know whether the Finance Minister will come out with a proposal to reduce the excise duty at the time of the Finance Bill or not. My request is not to increase the excise duty.

The Finance Minister in his Budget speech had announced about the increase in the petroleum price only by one rupee. Immediately after his Budget speech, we found that the price of petrol had gone up by Rs. 5 in Delhi, in Calcutta it was up by Rs. 4.50 and in Kerala it was up by Rs 5. The price of urea was increased and then reduced by fifty paise. I have never seen the increase in the price of urea by one rupee on per kilogram basis

[Translation]

I had never heard an increase in the prices by one rupee on per kg. The prices should be increased on per bag or per quintal..... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : This is objectionable. Hon'ble Member is stating about a commodity whose prices have not been raised. By saying so, he is misleading the House and the country. Members of C.P.M. are misleading the country. Please keep away from them. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Now I come to mustard oil.

[Translation]

It will not be a balanced diet if fish is not included in it. Fish can not be cooked without mustard oil. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please address the Chair.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I will address you.

[English]

I am talking to these price as on 9.5.98. What was the rate of inflation on mustard oil ? It was 16.65 per cent. Now the increase is 100 per cent. Now, one kilogram of mustard oil is being sold at Rs. 60. Can you imagine, how the poor people will be able to purchase mustard oil ?

What about all the pulses ? I am not talking of fish, but salt. What is the percentage ? It is 10.7 per cent. Prices of pulses like Arhar, Moong and Masar were raised. And the rate of increase is not less than 25 to 30 per cent.

What about vegetables ? I told about potatoes and onions. Even brinjal is Rs. 30 a kilogram. Tomato is out of reach of the MPs. what to talk of poor people, agricultural labourers and workers, the common people and the down-trodden people can not afford it. Who can purchase them at the rate of Rs. 40 kg. What will be the rate of this Govt. ? They cannot control the price. How can they control the price? What is their priority ? Their priority is to appease their allies. All the time is spent in appeasing their allies, AIADMK, Trinamool Congress and Samata. All the time is wasted to placate them and to send Central teams. They do not have any time to call the Conference of Chief Ministers on such a burning issue. They are like the Emperor of Rome; when the Rome was burning, Nero was fiddling. They are fiddling. They do not have time. At least the UF Government had introduced a scheme which was a very good scheme to provide foodgrains at 50 per cent price.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : How can I conclude ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already spoken for twenty-five minutes.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I have to initiate the debate..

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, I know that. Please be brief.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I have not yet come to the basic problem.

At least the UF Government had introduced a very good scheme. There is no mention about that either in the hidden agenda or in the open agenda called the National Agenda for Governance. Have they said anything about the continuance of a good scheme ?

Yes, it was a good scheme, and because of our insistence it was introduced. He knows this very well and his predecessor also knew very well that because of the pressure and insistence from the Left Parties that UF at least had started the scheme to provide foodgrains like wheat and rice at 50 per cent price to the people living below the poverty line. Now they are out to destroy that scheme.

They are out to destroy the public distribution system. Since 1980, we have been demanding that the PDSs should be expanded. When Shrimati Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister, we made a very good suggestion. We submitted a memorandum. What was that suggestion ? It was to distribute 14 essential commodities to the common people at cheaper rates. What was the calculation ? At that time, we worked out that by spending Rs. 850 crore, 20 crore to 25 crore of our people would have got at least 14 essential commodities at cheaper prices. But that scheme was not accepted.

In the name of Revamped Public Distribution System, the Government prior to the United Front Government were out to destroy the public distribution system. The present Government is also out to destroy the public distribution system. There is enough scope for expansion. It is time now to think over how to provide essential commodities at cheaper prices to the common people of our country.

Our industries are being closed down. A number of industries have been closed down. Every day, I receive five to six telephone calls from all over India that workers have not received their salaries for the last two or three months. The Hindustan Cables Limited is an important public sector undertaking. Around 4,500 employees and workers of this undertaking at both Rupnarayan Pur and Hyderabad have not received their salaries for the last two to three months. From the time this Government came to power, workers are not getting their salaries. MAMC is another important Central Public sector undertaking. The workers and employees of MAMC are not getting their salaries for the last four months. They are out to destroy not only the public distribution system but also the public sector undertakings. They have announced a reduction in the share of the Government from 100 per cent. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please come to the subject matter, we are talking about price rise.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The public sector is related to price stability. There was a discussion on a White Paper on administered prices, which was presented to the House in the year 1986. In his Budget speech, Dr. Manmohan Singh said and I quote :

"There has been a healthy debate in the country regarding the impact of administered prices on the inflationary situation. When all other prices are changing some changes in the administered prices are necessary and inevitable. But the Government accepts the view that as far as possible there is need to stabilise the prices of critical and essential commodities." (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : 30 minutes have been passed.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : You have no right to interrupt even if 50 minutes are passed you are not letting me to speak. (Interruptions) You are responsible for price rise and even then you are not letting me to speak. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please speak. Half an hour has been passed since you have started speaking.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I will speak for an hour. I have come with full preparations. Many papers are here with me.. (Interruptions) Such a Government has come to power and we are helpless. (Interruptions)

15.30 hrs.

[SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD IN THE CHAIR]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : All right. Our ex-Minister of Food has come. Please listen to me patiently.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mover of the subject should not be given more than 10-15 minutes to speak.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : You are talking about the rules. Both of us are in panel.... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : A member in panel should be abide by the rules more than other members.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I will abide by the rules but will take a little more time than other Members. Syeed Sahib speaks very less however he will also take some more time when he will speak.. (Interruptions) All my time has been taken by Shri Rajveer Singh .. (Interruptions)

[English]

It Says :

"In order to clarify the issues involved and to initiate an

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

open debate on the appropriate approach, the Government will present a policy paper on administered prices to the Parliament."

They had presented it and there was a nationwide debate; I know about that. But the result is nil. I would like to quote the last paragraph of this report. I quote :

"The issues involved are complex and the Government hopes that a wider discussion on these issues will lead to the introduction of policies which will help in reducing inflationary pressure..."

[Translation]

Where the Finance Minister has gone..... (Interruptions) He did not like it.

[English]

He did not like this. This shows the seriousness of this Government.

It further says and I quote :

".... which will help in reducing inflationary pressure on the economy while at the same time generating sufficient resources for development."

There are two issues. One is to contain inflation. At least during the tenure of the United Front Government, inflation was contained. What is its real picture during the 106 days of this Government ? Everyday, inflation is increasing.

In 1985, one Committee was appointed namely Chakraborty Committee which made a recommendation about the quantum of money supply. It recommended that the money supply should be restricted to 15 per cent. What is the situation now ? The money supply is much more than what was recommended by the Sukhomoy Chakraborty Committee appointed by the Reserve Bank of India. The Government is not able to contain inflation and they are allowing exports.

I do not know whether the Minister of Food and Civil Supplies would be able to inform this House about what I am going to ask, because the help of the Minister of Commerce is also required for this. The essential commodities are allowed to be exported ; the pulses are allowed to be exported. My demand is that there should be a temporary ban on export of essential commodities. What is the price of *mirch* now ? What is the price of *pastu* now ? We call *kaskas* as *pastu* in Bangla. The Bengali families take *kaskas* or *pastu* everyday. What is its price in Delhi and Calcutta ? Raghuvanshji, it is Rs. 225 per kilogram.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : There will not be price rise in West Bengal.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Your Government is in power. How it is possible that there will be no price rise. You have the power, and are formulating the policy. If B.J.P. forms the Government, then traders, black-marketeers .. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please be quite, regular .. (Interruptions) create hinderance in the functioning of the House.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (SHAJAPUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, why do not you accept that it is a State Government's matter.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : While moving for consideration to amend the Essential Commodities Act, the entire Opposition objected. There was opposition even from their allies... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

Shri Prabhunath Singh is always ready to fight. Today also he raised his voice but his party leader made his silent. We have never seen that two members of same party have difference of opinion.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : You should not worry about the opinion of our party but everyone has the right to speak. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please speak when you will get the time to speak... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please speak when you will get the time to speak .. (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : They wanted to amend the Essential Commodities Act. While moving for the consideration of the Bill, the Minister stated that in his State, Punjab, that houses of 2000 traders were raided. And how many were prosecuted ? Only 200 to 300 traders were prosecuted. How many were punished ? Only 12 traders were punished. Hundreds of traders were prosecuted but only 12 were punished. Why do they want to decontrol sugar ? They want to decontrol sugar because they have taken crores of rupees from the sugar mill owners. They want to deregulate sugar and take away sugar from the PDS. They are out to allow the sugar mill owners and traders to sell sugar at any price. They have taken money from the traders, black-marketeers and speculators. That is why, particularly when this Government has come to power, there is stupendous increase in prices of all the essential commodities. It is not the case of only one or two or three commodities. There is rise in prices of all the commodities which include sugar, mustard and edible oil.

Yesterday I was listening to the Minister's interview. He

said that they are now planning to import edible oil to the extent of 1.5 million tonnes. What was the Government doing? Earlier it was paying deaf ear to the problem, now it was awakened. Now, because of festival season, the Government has decided to import edible oil I do not know – from Indonesia or Thailand or Malaysia. They are producing palm oil. We have been proposing to increase production of palm oil in the Island from where Shri Manoranjan Bhakta comes. I had visited and also recommended, when I was the Chairman of the Committee on Government Assurance, that Government should take steps to increase production of palm oil in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep if it is possible and also in Kerala.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : How can I conclude, it is just the beginning, it will continue.

[English]

What was the Government doing for so long? Our foodgrains production is reducing. The production of edible oils is also reducing. We are allowing imports.

[Translation]

We have opened our doors for importing goods, how many items can come under O.G.L.

[English]

For how many items? There are 345 items.

[Translation]

We have to import vermilion, chilly etc. from foreign countries. Swadeshi Governments, Swadeshi Budget.

[English]

They have reduced the customs duty. They have increased the excise duty. Shri Yashwant Sinha, what is the percentage of increase in indirect taxes and direct taxes? Mr. Finance Minister, you are following the same footpath. You are following the same policy that was started in 1991. At the time, you opposed the policy of liberalization. You had opposed the policy of reforms. You had opposed the policy of opening our doors to the multinationals. Now, you have opened the door.

[Translation]

Earlier it was slightly closed but not it has been completely opened... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Shri Joyti Basu has allowed multi-National in West Bengal, isn't it... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The policy is decided here. West Bengal is not a sovereign country.

[Translation]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (CALCUTTA NORTH WEST) : Pepsi cola company takes water from the villages and the farmers do not get water.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : A Minister, before becoming the Minister, announced openly that he would not accept a berth in the Cabinet. But he has accepted it. He announced what he did in 1977... (Interruptions) He supported the Janta Party regime. He again repeats to throw away 'Coca Cola' and 'Pepsi Cola'. I have seen in the newspapers that they are not using Coca Cola and Pepsi Cola in their Ministry.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please wind up now.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I have seen a photograph of one of the leaders. He was on fast for two days.... (Interruptions) But I have seen his photograph taking a big banana – not a small one. He was on fast but taking so much fruit and milk but not cereals. We can also continue without cereals if fruit and milk are available in such abundance.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (TENALI) : For months.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Yes, for months. Not for a day, but we can fast everyday. It was against whom? It was against his own Delhi Government. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi is incapable, inefficient and also impotent to provide basic amenities to the citizens of Delhi. I have seen newspaper reports that with the help of mobile vans, onions will be distributed at chapter rates. I enquired about it. You are an efficient Minister of Food.

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : They have to be sent to Ranchi and Agra also..... (Interruptions) Ranchi was the summer capital of India..... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

Is it unparliamentary to mention Ranchi and Agra... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (KUTCH) : What you have stated earlier, that is unparliamentary.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Shri Basu Deb Acharia is related to Bareilly. Bareilly suits him more. (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I said, it is in the Agra and Ranchi also. What is unparliamentary in it? It is in your's Ranchi.

[English]

He should understand that. The Government of Delhi has failed to provide the basic amenities to the citizens of Delhi. He went against his own Government. He is not an ordinary Member. He is an important leader. He is the General Secretary of the Party.

[Translation]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Have you said Ranchi or Karachi? (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : This is known as democracy, it is not dictatorship.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE : Sir, I thought that Shri Basu Deb Acharia was starting a discussion on price rise. But I do not know what we are discussing now.

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Why are you spoon-feeding like kids are spoon fed -you are feeding like that.... (Interruptions)

[English]

I am very much saying the relevant things.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (IDUKKI) : Shri K.L. Sharma was on fast to protest against the issue of price rise. Whatever Shri Acharia is saying is very much relevant here.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, he was protesting against the issue of rising prices of the essential commodities. His fast was against his own Government. He said that this type of democracy exists in their party.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Please do not make this debate a farce.

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Shri Khuranaji has also arrived. He will also observe fast and eat fruits, curd and milk only. Shri Khurana will also. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, please conclude.

(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : He should talk seriously. One should not view this from this angle. This method

was adopted by Gandhiji. It has not been taught to you people, but it has been taught to us. We do fast for some demand, or some thing. It should not be viewed like that. (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : He is not inspired by India, but by Russia... Interruptions....

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : You have allied with the * of Gandhiji you don't speak about Gandhiji... (Interruptions)

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (MADHUBAN) : * You are following the footsteps of Gandhiji, how is it possible ? They say that Gandhiji ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir I am on a point of order. Just now, hon'ble Basu Deb Acharia has made an objectionable allegation..* I want to say that this is a very serious allegation. I am sorry, but no court has ... (Interruptions)

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : This has been proved. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : His words are highly objectionable. These should be expunged from the record. His remarks are very objectionable.

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (BILHAUR) : Please give orders to expunge these words from the record.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whatever is objectionable will not go in the proceedings please maintain peace. I have given the orders.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHAKEEL AHMAD : Ga..dhiji * ... (Interruptions) brothers were involved, it is known to the whole world.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER FOR TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): Shri Acharya, who called * Gandhiji in 1945 ? (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This debate is on the price rise. You should stick to that subject. Now please conclude... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, in the latest summary report of the CII, they have concluded that within a short span of 106 days, the Government has made India more vulnerable to the pressures of the Imperialist and multinational corporations. They are imposing newer and greater burdens on the common people of this country.

This is the fall out of the policy being followed by the

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

Government which is also reflected in the Budget proposals presented by the Finance Minister. All this has led to a rise in prices. As the situation is very serious and people are agitating, we had to sit on *dharnas* since the first day of the second phase of this Session. I have also tabled an Adjourned Motion, because I thought it to be fit case, to censure this inefficient and incapable Government which is not capable of providing even the essential commodities to the common people, the middle class, the working class, the agricultural labourers, the peasants and the upper middle class people at a cheaper price. As the situation is very serious, I would suggest that immediately a conference of the Chief Ministers be called to discuss the ways and means to control the inflationary situation and thus contain the prices.

The Government should expand the Public Distribution System. The PDS is ideal in the State of Kerala. The Government should not only revamp but expand and strengthen the PDS. But again, in the name of revamping it, please do not destroy the Public Distribution System. The PDS is the best in Kerala. So, I would suggest that the Government should expand the Public Distribution System and all the essential commodities should be distributed through it.

Why has there been an increase in prices? It is because of the increase in the Support Price. This affects the prices of essential commodities also. Therefore, before deciding on the increase in the Support Price, the Government should take into consideration the impact of this increase on the prices of the essential commodities.

My fourth suggestion is that there should be a temporary ban on the export of the essential commodities. And if the Government has to import, they should import well in advance so that the speculators, hoarders or black marketeers do not come in the way. Pandit Nehru had said that after Independence these black marketeers, speculators and hoarders should be hung from the lamp post. This Government is thriving with the assistance and help of the traders and the black marketeers. What can be expect from it? I would conclude by making reference to a poem of Rabindra Nath Tagore.

There is a poem in Bengali, *Joota Avishkar*, which depicts the invention of the shoe. The poem tells the story of a king who wanted to save his feet from dust. He called a meeting of his Ministers to discuss his wish. Nineteen tonnes of snuff was finished but the Ministers could not come to a conclusion as to how to protect the king's feet from dust. Ultimately, they suggested that all dust should be removed from the roads. No pukka roads were there at that time. People started sweeping the dust off the roads. As a result of that, the entire city was covered with a cloud of dust. There was darkness during the day. The king became furious at it. Then, a humble cobbler came and suggested the king to cover his feet with a piece of leather. That solved the whole problem.

Within 106 days of this Government's rule, the problems of rise in prices of essential commodities, unemployment,

corruption, strained relations with neighbours, have become prominent. This Government must go. Only then the problems can be solved. With this Government in power, we cannot hope to bring down the prices of essential commodities.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA) : Sir, My name is there in the list.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have already called the names. Right now you will not get an opportunity. It does not mean that you won't get an opportunity. You will get an opportunity by turn. It is not like that. Many members have given their names. There is no such rule, that all movers will speak at a time.

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL (HINGOLI) : Sir, first of all, I want to correct the spellings my name. My name is Shrimati Suryakanta Patil, but sometimes it is written as Suryakanta Patil.

Sir, I was listening to the speech delivered, at the beginning of this serious debate. Crores of the people in the country are facing hardships. I am speaking on behalf of the common man. The trouble of common man, proletariat, who lives in slums, the man who works in second, third and fourth class and pays tax to the Government, is how to make meet both ends. This discussion is very important for the household who can't afford salt with 'roti', or can't afford chillies with salt. Potatoes and Onion dishes are eaten daily in such households. I am here to convey the worries of common man in the country's supreme House.

16.00 hrs.

Sir, please listen seriously to me. You also represent that poor man and I too represent the poor man. The Member of Parliament who wins by the margin of lakhs of votes also represent those people. The entire country's concern is whether a poor man can make his both ends meet in these trying conditions. If the Members sitting in this Supreme House and the Government which has been elected because of the votes of common man will not consider the poor man's problems, then who else will do it. Can't we ever think of poor man?

Sir, I am sorry to say that - I have not got my education from Harvard University. A daughter of poor farmer can't talk about wholesale price index and inflation, but after winning election, we have to consider this problem. I am raising the issue of price rise, cutting across the party lines. If we rise above the party lines and try to find solution to this problem, then probably, I, the daughter of a farmer will get an opportunity to speak on behalf of common man, otherwise, we will remain busy in leg pulling and will lose sight of the common man.

Sir, while contesting election in our respective constituencies members of all the political parties whether it was BJP,

[Shri Surya Kanta Patil]

Congress, CPM, CPI or Trinmul Congress of Mamataji, we all have promised to common man that prices of essential commodities would be controlled, stringent action be taken against hoarders and capitalism be discouraged for making the life of poor persons easier. But so far this minority government has failed to do so. Perhaps we also raised this issue very late. Today, the poor section of society is on the verge of starvation due to rapid increase in prices of essential commodities. What to talk of vitamins, the poor people are not getting even to modest food. You may not be knowing the actual position of those poor people who cannot afford to buy salt and chilly for their food. The vegetables like bittergourd and others which are considered as cheaper vegetables and lemon used by poor persons for beverage have become costlier. Potato is consumed in large quantity in Bihar. You all may be knowing about the political leader of Bihar Laluji but not about the price of potato in Bihar. I would like to give some figures in this regard. In July, 1997 the price of potato was Rs. 2.98 per kg. In May 1998 price of potato was Rs. 4.21 and today on 9th July potato is being sold at Rs. 16 per kg. The price of desi potato is Rs. 12 per kg. and Himachali potato Rs. 18 per kg.

Tomato is used in every dish and in 1997, it was sold at Rs. 12 to Rs. 14 per kg. but in May 1998 price of tomato increased to Rs. 16 to 18 per kg. and good quality tomato is being sold at Rs. 22 per kg. But after the presentation of budget this price increased upto Rs. 35 to Rs. 40.

One's eyes may get watered while cutting onions but one's eyes also get watered while eating the vegetable dish prepared without onion. In 1997, the price of onion was Rs. 2.38 which increased to Rs. 10 in May, 1998 and now in July 1998, Onion is being sold for Rs. 15 to 16 per kg.

I would discuss the issue of vitamin 'C' later on. Lemon water is served as beverage in every part of the country. The Children who are deficient in vitamin 'C' are given lemon water. Lemon is considered as fruit by poor people and used commonly. Now the price of lemon has increased to Rs. 3 or 4 which was earlier sold for 10, 20 or 25 paise. Now lemon is being sold at Rs. 60 to Rs. 90 per kg. which consists of 25 or 30 lemons and thus one lemon costs Rs. 3 to 4. Now a days lemon has become an item to be consumed by affluent class and children of poor cannot afford to have lemon and in coming times poor people would not be able to afford lemon beverage in their houses.

What is the price of cauliflower and cabbage today? In 1997 price of cauliflower and cabbage was Rs. 8-10 per kg. in May 1998, it increased to Rs. 20 and now this price has increased further upto Rs. 40 to 50 per kg. and in Mumbai it is being sold at Rs. 47 per kg.

Green peas was considered as a seasonal and vegetable of affluent class and even during the lean period it used to be sold at Rs. 20 or 22 per kg. but now it is being sold at Rs. 65 to 70 per kg.

In context of red chilly I would like to say that life

becomes incipid without chilly. Whether one is rich or poor, farmer or labourer their diet become imbalance if chilly and salt is not served with food. Very few people know about this aspect of life. In villages if a housewife does not serve chilly with food, the husband starts scolding her saying that had they become so poor that even chilly has not been served. How poor this country has become that chilly is being sold at Rs. 70 per kg. I have collected these figures with great efforts. I am not reading out the printed rates of these commodities.

Thereafter comes foodgrains. I am not talking about the basmati rice which is consumed by rich people. They are fortunate enough who can afford to eat it. I am not talking about 'Permal' rice but the coarse rice cooked in earthen pot by my sisters and not in glass wares. In 1997 its price was Rs. 6.75 per kg. These figures do not belong to big shops or departmental stores. These figures are of Fair Price Shops which are under government control. In May 1998, the ordinary rice was sold at the rate of Rs. 9/- per kg but today, the same coarse rice is being sold at the rate of Rs. 14-15 per kg.

In Maharashtra, millet is widely eaten, we call it staple food. We do not eat wheat. We eat millet. The millet which used to be available at the rate of 2-3 per kg is now being sold at the rate of Rs. 11 per kg. I am giving these figures in Kilograms, so that it becomes easier for you to understand. In Maharashtra, millet would not be available in future to the families of poor farmers and to middle-class families like us. Now, we will have to depend on wheat coming from the State of Shri Barnala.

Now, I would like to say something on pulses.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, please conclude.

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : This is an important issue. I have just started. Please have patience. You are facing difficulty even in listening to these problems. You might be aware of the grave and poor condition of the housewives and their families who are bearing the burden of price rise. That's why I say you may please have patience and have courage to listen to me.

Now, I am coming to the topic of pulses. 'Moong Chilka Dal' which contains vitamins is eaten by the poor. I am not talking about 'Rajma' and 'Missi Roti' which are served in five star hotels. When the women folk return to their homes after day long work, they prefer to cook this dal because it takes less time. In 1997, it was sold at the rate of Rs. 12 per kg. In 1998 it was Rs. 13 per kg. Now, it is being sold at the rate of Rs. 28 per kg. In 1997, the rate of Urad Dal was Rs. 14 per kg. In 1998, it was Rs. 12 per kg. Presently, its rate is Rs. 25.25. The State of Masoor Dal is also the same. The cost of Rajma is Rs. 35/- per kg. These days, sugar tastes bitter. It would be good if all persons become diabetic because sugar is available at the rate of Rs. 19-50 per kg. Jaggery is eaten by common man. Earlier, in rural areas when sugar mixed with lemon water was not in vogue.

jaggery with water was offered to the people. My brothers from Konkan are listening to this. They might be aware that this was our tradition. In 1997, the price of jaggery was Rs. 8 per kg. In May 1998, it was Rs. 9.45. However, the same is now being sold at the rate of Rs. 15 per kg. Now, I would like to speak about oils and not about fast foods or Chinese foods. The country which used to boast of producing oil from the sand is at present not in a position to provide edible oil to its people.

Just now, one hon'ble Member has stated that in 1997, the ground nut oil was available at the rate of Rs. 36. In May, 1998, the rate was Rs. 42.48 paise per kg. Today, the same ground nut oil is being sold at the rate of Rs. 65 per kg. The mustard oil is eaten in abundance in North India. It is used in preparing pickles also. Presently, its rate has gone up from Rs. 48 to Rs. 60 per kg. In Haryana and Punjab, people can afford pure ghee, but we people cannot afford pure ghee, but do not fatten by eating hydrogenated oil. Probably, this has been arranged by Shri Barnala and Shri Sinha. Today, Vanaspati, ghee is available at the rate of Rs. 48.50 per kg. In 1997, the rate was Rs. 38.50 per kg and upto May 1998, it used to be Rs. 38.20 per kg. But after the Budget, its price has gone from Rs. 50 to Rs. 55 per kg. I have clarified earlier also, that I am not an economist, but I am elected to this House to represent, the common man, the poor and trouble housewives who neither can hear such discussions being held in Parliament nor are able to express their views. Therefore, I am discussing this issue here on their behalf. We study many economic surveys; we witness strange things happening in the House. We come in this House to appeal in the name of the poor but the actual state of the poor is very pathetic. Nobody has a time to think about the poor.

Mr. Chairman, today, it appears that the ruling party is under the impression that it has got the mandate, but it is not so. I can understand its limitations. It has not got full mandate. It is trying to please its allies but in the process, it is overlooking the urgent issues being faced by the country. Just divert the attention of the common man from price rise, or from the needs of the country, the Prime Minister sometime orders nuclear blast in the Pokhran and sometime he makes the statement in the newspapers that these blasts will not affect the prices. It is as much related to price rise as to the issue of temple or mosque. They have not been able to provide food, clothes and houses to the poor, but have carried out nuclear test. To divert the attention from the basic problems of the people living below the poverty line and the poor voters, the issue of Temple-Mosque is being raised.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, lastly, I would like to say that women in our country have to suffer a lot. I have been elected to this House when there was not even 3% reservation for the women what to talk of 33%. I was first elected for this House in 1974. Sometimes, my party did not give me ticket for contested but whenever I have contested the elections, people have elected me.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the prime task of this Government is to divert attention of the common man from his problems. I would suggest the government, not to do so. Hon'ble Prime Minister has made the weapons for self-defence, but coming generations may rise up in arms. Whenever you try to divert the attention of the people from different problems of the country like price rise etc. by taking such false measures, the prices will shoot up. Today, your sympathies are with the capabilities. You are answerable to the people. The common man is asking you as to what was the need of this drama ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Have you finished ?

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Sir, I am not begging for time just because I am a woman. It is my right to express my views on the happenings in the country. I am demanding my right. You have to give me my right. I was saying that we have kept aside all the priorities and have forgotten our path. Sometimes we concentrate on nuclear blasts sometimes on temple and some other time on the issue of mosque.

I entered the politics in 1972 as a student leader. At that time, a poem by Shri Atal ji influence me much. I am a born congress worker clad in khadi, but I have a heart of a poet. Before concluding, I will conclude by reciting a poem by Shri Atalji. He said :

*"Sabh Kuchh Apne, Desh mein hai, roti nahin to kya.
Vade tan se lapait lo, Langoti nahin to Kya."*

The sobbing people of the country are asking Mamta, Samta, Jai Lalitha and Shri Barnala about the fate of the promises they had made to win the elections. They are also seeking reply for the poor state of the country. If you do not give them proper reply, and do not give right to live to common man, then keep in mind that these are the same people.... and in the end you will have to say "Ham Kahan thai aur kahan se kahan Aa Gaye".... (*Interruptions*)

I have spent 25 years of my political career abiding by that poetical ideology of Shri Atal ji about the poor. My father died during freedom struggle. I was not born at that time. I, the daughter of a poor farmer, want to ask the government, whether this is the value of lives of lakhs of people who died during the struggle for freedom? Lakhs of people had shed their blood during the freedom struggle. The crores of children like me, were orphaned, which were brought up by the society. I represent all those people and I would like to ask the government: to what you had wished, and what you have achieved. I do understand your limitations. Shri Atalji who is caught between Samta, Mamta and Jayalalitha, may not be able to reply, but, Shri Barnala you represent the farmers, you hail from the land of martyr Bhagat Singh. If you do not take strict action against hoarders and capitalists, then these Pokhran tests will not be able to save your skin very long.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (KANPUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, today Shri Basu Deb Acharia, started discussion on price rise under Rule 193 in this House. We have to think above party politics and irrespective of who is in power and who is not in power. Things have to be evaluated properly. He should have focussed the discussion to the main theme because he is a senior member of Parliament but his full speech was political and in his 57 minutes speech nothing concrete came out. Whereas during Basu Deb Acharia's speech hon. Members of Congress Party and other parties kept on laughing at every word because he was deviating from the subject. I am thankful to Shrimati Suryakanta Patil who reverted the attention of the House to the main subject, thus enabling us to restrict ourselves to the discussion on the prices of essential commodities.

Myself being from the ruling side does not mean that I deny the fact. We all know that the prevailing prices of essential commodities, have become inaccessible not only to the poor people but also to common people though Shri Basu Deb Acharia or Suryakanta Patil ji might have exaggerated this fact. We are all concerned about it and it is but natural. Mr. Chairman, Sir, during the last 11 weeks wholesale price index rose to 2.3, this causing increase in inflation from 5.3 in March to 6.65 at present in the country. It is a matter of concern but if we study the problem deeply then we come to know that in essential commodities, the steep price hike of only fruit and vegetables, which grow in particular season, has caused at higher rate. This Government took over in March, statistical figures are available here. We all know which Government was there in May 1997, and at whose support it was there. The fulfilment of our present needs of essential commodities like fruit and vegetables for our daily life should have been planned earlier.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, during the tenure of previous Government, you were the Minister of Food and Supply. In the month of February when we were going towards election process, you gave one statement regarding onions which I would like to repeat here—the unseasonable rain in November, December 1997 in Rajasthan, Maharashtra, and Gujarat have destroyed the onion crop. The delayed onion crop is likely to come late in market. There is no point in holding the present Government responsible for the error committed at that time and it is also natural that the Government have to face criticism and opposition. Last time when we were sitting there I remember the speech delivered by Sushmaji on price rise and while referring to the availability of onions she said that common man who could not afford to buy vegetables, used to fulfil his requirement with onion. But he is no more in a position to get onions today. Our concern, today, is that potato production is less today. Why farmers have not produced potatoes? Can the august House forget that last time farmers were forced to keep their potatoes rotten in fields due to the non availability of cold stores. In May 97 the price of potatoes was Rs. 2.58 per kg rupees, obviously when farmers could not get their reasonable prices they preferred not to grow potatoes this year. Onion crop was destroyed. The essential commodities which you mentioned make it evident that there has been a steep hike in price of

consumer goods like fruits and vegetables. It is because they are seasonal and sometimes the crops are therefore damaged due to natural calamities unseasonal rain, lack of incentives by the Government to farmers also causes decline in production create many problems such as price rise due to which the commodities become inaccessible to common man, that is what is happening today. I mean to say that it is a fact that there is price-rise. However, this Government should be given time to tackle the problem. There is a need to think over it. Government over on 19th March. In such a short period this Government cannot grow and fulfil the needs of common man.

I can count the number of fruits and vegetables in the list from up to down but it will take time and I do not want to take much time of the House. But this is a fact that the Government can make interference in it only to some extent. It is not in the capability of the Government to grow and do supply these commodities to people because there is no time for it. These are seasonal fruits and vegetables. Secondly, import of these commodities cannot fulfil the shortage. But there are certain other commodities such as – wheat, rice, sugar and edible oils, and out of those items the rate of wheat remained stable at Rs. 6.50 per kg. throughout the year the tenure of this Government. I would like to mention how the rates of some commodity vary from one place to another in the same city. I would quote the example of Delhi. Vegetables were like this. On 26th June the rate of potatoes in Khan Market was Rs. 16/- in mother dairy, Rs. 12/- and in Paharganj it was 13/-. The price of onion was rupees 16/- in Khan Market, Rs. 14/- in mother dairy and Rs. 10/- in Paharganj. It means the same commodity was sold at different rates at different places. Shrimati Patil, it is necessary to mention the places where the rate of the some commodity vary. Tomatoes in Khan Market were sold at Rs. 40/- where as in mother dairy they were sold at Rs. 26/- and in Paharganj at Rs. 30/- per kg..... (Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Yesterday, I bought tomato at the rate of Rs. 40/- per kg. from Paharganj market.... (Interruptions)

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (KANPUR) : Madam, I do not want to argue with you. I am just quoting from a very recognised newspaper of India, namely, the *Indian Express*.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : I was referring to 8th July.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Hon. Member, I did not say that you have lied but just asked from where you have verified the rate. I am talking about Delhi only.

SHRI LALU PRASAD (MADHEPURA) : You verify yourself by going to different places. (Interruptions)

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : We will go to Bihar and verify the rates there. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Your Government is in power you should enquire the rates.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, If you give me permission I would submit to Shri Bhuria that I never interrupt when any member speaks. Everybody in the House knows this, this is my third session. I never interrupt anyone. You may be helpless due to your temperament.... (*Interruptions*)When you have decided not to understand a thing of wisdom then I will not try for it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon'ble Member Shri Drona, you please address the Chair.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : It is my nature that I don't interfere when somebody is speaking but his nature is such that he cannot do without interfering. 'Pattagobhi' which is called cabbage in English was selling at Rs. 30 in Khan Market, Rs. 12 at Mother Dairy, and Rs. 12 in Paharganj. I am not reading all these rates, for I do not want to take much time of the House. But I want to tell that the rates differ in different places. There are three different rates in Delhi. P.D.S. is controlled and monitored by the Central Government. But the actual responsibility of making available the essential commodities in time and at proper prices, lies with the State Governments. It is their duty. Delhi Government has made an attempt in this direction. You must have seen that when Delhi Government found that the essential commodities have become quite costlier and the people have been suffering, then the State Government pressed into service 48 mobile vans which would cover the whole of Delhi to make available the essential commodities to the people so that they do not have to buy these at the increased rates. There is no question of Central Government making unnecessary interference in the marketing of fruit and vegetables. In case of edible oil it is true that compared to last year, production of edible oil as also the production of coarse grains and sugarcane was lower. I am saying so on the basis of statistics. In 1997-98, compared to the preceding year, production and come down. Even otherwise, during the last few year, have been meeting the shortfall through import of edible oil and by making a balance between demand and supply.

This time, these has been an increase in prices and these is a reason for that. Palmolein oil was being imported from Malaysia. This times, the free on board prices in Malaysia have frequently changed from week to week during December 1997. In the last week of December, 1997 it was Rs.567, in January it was Rs. 595, it was Rs. 641 in February, it was Rs. 671 in March it was Rs. 704 in the third week of April, it was Rs. 732 in May 1998, it was Rs. 625.50 in 3rd June. 1998 and on 18th June, the price was in the range of Rs. 645 to Rs. 662. If for certain reasons the exporting country has increased the price, then we can import it on that price only. But the price increase has taken place and it is not a welcome one but there is a compulsion because the production of foodgrains and oilseeds did not match the demand.

The prices of potato, onion, tea and edible oil have gone up Shri Acharia was referring to the price of fish. Shrimati Suryakanta Patil has mentioned about green chilli saying that its price has gone up to Rs. 70 per kg. This is essential for a common man. It is also my habit that I take food with one green chilli and a vegetable of the green chilli is not available. I too complain to my wife that if even a green chilli is not available, then what will be available. These are essential commodities, but these not available easily. Their prices have gone up. But we must also think that this price increase is only seasonal. As the prices of mangoes have started coming down with fresh arrivals as compared to their prices fifteen days ago. It is pertinent that after the season, the impact of price rise on certain commodities will vanish. But for a certain period, the people have to face the price-increase and we will have to think as to what plans we should formulate in future so that such a situation does not recur and the people, the poor in particular, are able to steer themselves out of economic difficulty.

Coming to price-rise, the prices of foodgrains remained stable in April-June, 1998. It is indisputable. Vegetables registered on increase of 29 percent. You have said, perhaps 30-32 percent which is true. During these eleven weeks, the increase in edible oils has been 10.7 percent, and in tea the increase has been 5.4 percent. The reasons for price rise have been the lower production of sugar, pulses, coarse grains and oilseeds as I mentioned before and, as a result a sort of pressure is generally created on prices due to scarcity. Shri Basu Deb Acharia and Shrimati Patil stated that the price-increase had been due to Budget and Pokharan. I cannot understand which provisions in Budget they were referring to (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : I had said that to divert the attention of the people from the increasing prices or from the food, clothing and housing, which are the prime needs of a poor man, the Pokharan explosion will not prove to be very helpful for you.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (KANPUR) : Pokharan explosion took place on 11 May and we are now talking in July. You have clarified it, all right. But today we are discussing it on 9th July. Two months have since passed. Only you can imagine that we will conduct nuclear explosion simply for diverting the attention of the people from these things. Secondly the Budget which Shri Yashwant Sinha presented doesn't carry even a single provision which has resulted in price rise in these essential commodities. Yes, one of my suggestion here is that we should import under open general licence edible oil, pulses, sugar or broken rice which we procure for flour mills.

At present custom duty on oil is 25 percent. In case of the increase in the prices of edible oil the Government should reconsider it and reduce the custom duty so that imports are cheaper.

As regards the price-increase since January, 1998 sugar is stable at 16 rupees per kg. Statistics for every month are

[Shri Jagat Vir Singh Drona]

available with me. Ground nut oil has gone upto Rs. 50 per kg. thereby registering an increase of 25 per cent. Mustard oil is at Rs. 47 per kilogram with an increase of 38 percent. The ordinary variety of rice which is also called 'Parmal' rice is at Rs. 12 per kg. with an increase of 20 percent. Wheat has been stable, however only in Mumbai, due to certain reasons 30 percent increase has been registered for some period.

As far as the resentment and concern of the people is concerned, as recently as on 24 June, 1998, the legislators of West Bengal had garlanded the Food Minister with vegetables on the floor of Legislative Assembly. This clearly shows how much worried the people of West Bengal are. At what rate are the prices increasing there.... (Interruptions). I will take 2-3 minutes more at the most.

[English]

SHRI PRAMOTHÉS MUKHERJEE (BERHAMPORE) (WB) : You may please speak in English because I cannot follow you in Hindi.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : The newspapers report reads as follows :

"On 24th June, 98 in West Bengal Assembly, the Congress members were so agitated on price rise of essential commodities that they made *halla gulla* and entered the well the garlanded the Food Minister by a vegetable garland."

That was the report which causes concern.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH (BEGUSARAI) : Do you want that we should also act in the same manner..... (Interruptions)

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : It is an evidence that Members are so much agitated and concerned in this regard, because we are the representatives of people. The Members in the West Bengal Assembly agitated, the Members in the Parliament forced to hold a discussion on the matter under Rule 193 today in which they express their views and also offered certain remedial measures, and thus they have acted in a justified names.

The situation is deteriorating not only in our country but in the other countries like Indonesia as well. Prices are increasing everywhere. However, the price rise in other countries should not be an excuse for us to allow a similar trend in our country too. Rather we should make efforts to keep a check on this trend. I have urged the Central Government (Interruptions) I am already submitting that I would speak in brief. Otherwise also I do not speak vaguely.

First, I would urge the hon. Minister of Finance to reduce the existing import duty of 25 percent on edible oils.

For, it would be an act of wisdom if the quantum of about 30 thousand tonnes of edible oils extra to the estimate of 1.5 million tonnes is imported to fulfil the demand of the consumers. This is my first suggestion. Secondly, I would like to submit that we do not have proper storage facilities to store the foodgrains to be supplied under Public Distribution System. We have been raising this point quite after irrespective to whether we were in ruling party or in the opposition. As a representative of my constituency I have always been concerned and stressed upon the need to have well equipped store ware-houses to prevent the commodities from being rotton and this making their supply possible in the season when they do not grow. I would also like to submit that storage is equally important for the commodities which grow only once in the year but remain in demand throughout the year.

Our Public Distribution System will also have to be streamlined a little so that poor people get food articles of good quality and at reasonable rates. I do admit that the Central Government has no interference in this matter. However, in many states this system has become totally meaningless and futile. Therefore, the Government should pay attention towards this. The matter regarding Open General Licence is also of a great concern. OGL is misused by importers at large scale for making profit in importing things from Malaysia. But the same importers resisted to import when the prices increased in Malaysia. This attitude is of great concern.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, before I express my gratitude to you I would like to express my gratitude to the august House for listening to me quietly and seriously. I am also thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, during the discussion my friends presented the statistical figures of the price rise of various commodities quoted either from books or newspapers. However, I would like to submit that there was a marriage ceremony on 28th June in one of my friends' house in the constituency I represent. In my presence the things purchased that day included tomatoes at the rate of Rs. 40/- per kg. green chillies at Rs. 52/- per kg., onions at Rs. 16/- per kg., and Arhar Dal at Rs. 36/- per kg. The trader from whom the eatables were purchased admitted that he bought four trucks of onions from Nasik in Maharashtra on 4th June. The day when onions were purchased, they were being sold at Rs. 4/- per kg. In Deoria he sold them at 16/- per kg. thus gaining a total profit of Rs. 1 lakh 35 thousand on four trucks of onions. The same day I moved a notice for discussion on price rise. We are discussing the same matter today. Prices are increasing. The statements of the hon. Minister of Finance appeared in newspapers. He issued the same statement as that given by Shri Drona on behalf of the ruling party during the discussion today it causes due to seasonal valuation and that the prices of mangoes will come down within a few days. I would like to submit to him that after a few days the supply of mangoes in the open market will stop and not increase. Therefore, it would not be available anymore. The problem is not

that of non-availability of commodities in the market. We regret that the things are available in adequate quantity but their prices are increasing.

My complaint to the Government is that not a single Minister in his statement has observed that the Government is determined and would take stringent measures to check the price-hike. Rather they tended to send a message that everyone could make profit as much as he could. All the strict laws have been made liberal. The State Chief Ministers and the leaders of Bhartiya Janta Party were pleased by the traders. This is my grievance.

I regret to say that excise duty on tea has been increased. While the Government have increased 80 paise on Rs. 10/- the tea sellers have increased Rs. 5/-. Have the Government warned to take strict action against profiteering in this regard? Similarly, the members in the House unanimously raised objection to the increase in petrol prices, owing to which the Government immediately restricted the increase from Rs. 3/- to Rs. 1/- per litre. The Government have increased not only the prices but also the excise duty on it. In Uttar Pradesh the prices of petrol have increased by one rupee and twenty paise per litre while what of diesel by 80 p. per litre sales tax on it has also been increased. Do you feel that the prices of other commodities will remain unaffected despite the increase in the prices of diesel. My complaint is that the Government is content to consider the price rise as a seasonal valuation and taking no measures to control prices. Inflation has taken place and an economist would easily predict that when there is inflation the prices of edible oils imported from other countries would automatically increase. However, the Government have not taken any measures to check the trend of increasing prices. Delhi has yet not got the status of state, and the Delhi Government has assured to bring down the prices of vegetables. It means that the Government would buy at higher prices in the market and provide them at cheaper rates.

I would like to know what is all this? There is a law to control the subsidy on food grains. Are the State Governments not bound to give subsidy? In view of all this, the Government should apply every type of machinery or adopt policy and make efforts to control the price rise. However, I regret to submit that so far, the Government have totally failed to control the price rise.

Secondly, our borders with the neighbouring countries are open. The Government may not be aware of the fact that the essential commodities like rice, wheat etc. are smuggled into Nepal through the borders of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. They are smuggled from East Bengal to Bangladesh and then to Bhutan and Tibet. Rice, wheat and edible oils in our country are being smuggled to other countries on a large scale.

The Government has made no efforts to contain it. An Unstarred question was put to know about the action taken

by the Government in this regard, but no statement was made by the Government in this connection. Furthermore, there is a large scale smuggling of foodgrains prevalent in our country. I am grieved to note that many politicians, from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, are largely involved in this heinous smuggling which is going on unabated. The Government of India has made no assessment, no effort in this regard.

Sir, it is said that a Member of Parliament is granted a daily allowance of Rs. 200 during the Session. Now-a-days pure ghee is sold at Rs. 170 per kg. In other words, a Member of Parliament can buy a kilo ghee with one day's daily allowance amount. An employee of the organised sector or the one serving the Government of India gets his enhanced D.A. installments in proportion to the rising price index as per rules. A person belonging to the organised sector is not affected by cost escalation on large scale and he rules the roost in the society. But we are least disturbed by the adverse affect the price rise leaves upon the weaker and poor sections of our society. A worker of the unorganised sector of this country is forced to have a dry meal devoid of even the cheapest vegetable – the potato. The price of salt is also ever increasing. Once upon a time, Gandhiji had led a movement against the British in protest against raising the prices of the salt and, see, what is the price of salt today? Look at the daily wagers working in the pavements. What minimum wage has been fixed by July for the 35 crore people living below the poverty line for when you claim to have fixed a reasonable minimum wage to lift them above poverty line? Has the Government over pondered upon it?

Sir I expect from a sensitive Government to be concerned and anxious about the plight and predicament of the workers of the unorganised sector, the unemployed and the one living below the poverty line. But it is deplorable that this Government is no more a sensitive Government.

Sir, I urge upon the Government to show some dynamism to check the galloping inflation which is not seasonal as is revealed in the assessments brought out in various journals depicting that the rate of inflation is going to touch a new high of 9 percent. The method of preparing the whole sale price index lacks in scientific precision. No precautions are taken while preparing that index and that is why the Government does not remain circumspect and cautious. Foodgrains are subject to cost-escalation. The Government claims that the prices are stable. The programme implemented by the United Front Government of providing foodgrains to the people living below poverty line after fixing the minimum prices has contributed its mite to their upliftment. The Government should further initiate such programmes and curb the activities of the hoarders, the black marketeers and those responsible for voluntarily raising the prices.

Sir, with these words, I vehemently denounce the inaction on the part of the Government, term it as an anti-poor Government and conclude.

[English]

DR. SAROJA V. (RASIPURAM) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is my maiden speech in Parliament though I have earlier spoken many times as an MLA in the Tamil Nadu Assembly. At the outset let me thank the people and the party functionaries of my constituency Rasipuram but for whose cooperation and coordination I would not have been here to be with you as a Member of the Twelfth Lok Sabha. I express my sincere gratitude to my party leader Idaya Daivam Puratchi Talaivi Dr. Jayalalitha who has been a tower of strength not only to me, but to all the AIADMK party workers. Her unadulterated dedication and devotion towards the people of Tamil Nadu has today vindicated her stand and the people have shown their admiration through the ballot box.

17.00 hrs.

All along, I was hearing various speeches regarding price rise. I only expected some positive suggestions and solutions for this problem. It is not only a problem facing the Ruling Party. It is the committed responsibility of the Opposition also to the people. I am surprised that no suggestion has come yet. So, cutting across party lines, I would pray and expect Leaders of the Opposition parties also to find a permanent solution to price rise.

Let me congratulate the Government for coming out with a three-pronged strategy to solve this crisis. All the hon. Members who spoke so far, spoke only about the price rise. Most of the time, it was a repetition and I am surprised that everyone missed a news item which appeared in yesterday's *The Hindustan Times*, it says that the Government has taken some positive steps to solving the crisis.

The first positive step that the Government has taken is to promote vegetable cultivation in the off-season so that seasonal variation in the prices could be controlled. Secondly, efforts are on to promote the cultivation of vegetables in the hitherto non-traditional areas so that they could be distributed throughout the year. Lastly, efforts are to be made to store vegetables for a longer duration.

I want to point out that the Government has proposed that during the Ninth Five Year Plan fifteen lakh tonnes of vegetables would be stored and all the infrastructure necessary would be created. I would request the hon. Minister of Food to take a positive step in consultation with the Department of Agriculture to store vegetables for sixty days and for ninety days. This would require coordination with the Department of Civil Supplies also. This Ninth Plan proposal of storing fifteen lakh tonnes to vegetables should be taken up to a war footing. I would request the hon. Minister of Finance, who is present here to give all possible assistance by allotting more fund for storing vegetables so that we will be able to find a solution to some extent.

Here in Delhi there is a proposal to distribute vegetables through vans. This will solve the problem only temporarily. Till the time we find a permanent solution it will be helpful. So, I appreciate this step.

I being a MP from Tamil Nadu, let me continue my speech in Tamil because we have declared that Tamil should be made a national language.

[Translation]

* Hon'ble Chairman, the agricultural produce of the farming community and the agriculturists must have the prices fixed in the same place where they have been obtained. I request the Government to procure all their agricultural produce then and there. I urge upon both the Union Government and the State Government to take necessary steps to procure all such agricultural produce in the very place they have been raised. The growers and cultivators must get the procurement price in the same spot where the procurement is made. Instead of storing the finished products later in storages and godowns, all the agricultural produce be it grains or vegetables or fruits or green leaves must be procured from the farmers from the fields itself. It would be better to go on for storing the produce than the products. In order to do this at the same spot where agricultural activity is going on Governmental procurement should be carried on at the Taluk level, I repeat, at every Taluk level through the revenue authorities. Farmers must get the price for their produce then there. Revenue administration must set up and administer cold storages and godowns required for the purpose.

At a time when we are facing an imminent economic crisis after exploding atomic devices as part of our atomic research, we must have to take up very seriously the need to procure and store the agricultural produce as and when they are to be moved away from the fields.

Agriculture is not a Central subject. It is a State subject. It is not the Central Government alone which has to shoulder the responsibility for this price rise. I would request the Leaders of the Opposition Parties to tell us what they have done during their regime in the States, what action they have taken at the State level as this is a State subject.

What is the Government doing? We have responsibility and accountability for this hike in prices. There is no point in showing a finger at the ruling party. Yesterday, they were in the ruling party and today they are in the opposition. We have been trying to do what they have not done. They should also understand their responsibility and accountability. Before they can commit anything, they should think of it twice.

If we are to find a lasting solution to this vexing price rise problem, we must do away with the middlemen. We must enact suitable laws to keep the middlemen at bay. Necessary amendments should be incorporated to curtail the menace of middlemen meddling in between giving rise to price escalation. I urge upon the Finance Minister to make amends to ensure that price escalation is stalled by way of doing away with these middlemen.

For instance, a mango procured from me from my orchard at the rate of Rs. 2/- is sold at the rate of Rs. 5/- or

* Translation of speech originally delivered in Tamil.

even 10/- in the market. I who had grown the mango would not get that kind of margin. I who had toiled and milled am not entitled to that remunerative price. But who gets the benefit and reap the rich dividends. The middlemen who have not incurred any expenditure towards the inputs needed for the cultivation, pass on the inflated price burden on to the consumers. The customers or the clients bear it. I would like to point out that it is only these middlemen who are responsible for any kind of price rise in the market.

To obviate the menace of these middlemen, all of us must put our heads together. Cutting across the party lines all the leaders be they from the opposition or be they from the treasury benches, they all must sit together and arrive at a decision to curb the activities of these middlemen. We must convene an all party leaders meeting to find a lasting solution to this ever escalating problem of price rise.

Hon'ble Chairman, I rise to raise my voice on behalf of the vast millions of the farming community and agricultural community. To curb price rise we must attend to the problem faced by the cultivators. I would like to impress upon the Government through this august House that we must meet all the demands that come from the agriculturists. Non-remunerative procurement price, non-streamlined procurement methods, non-availability of remunerative price even in the open market, non-availability of fertiliser-subsidy, unbearable burden of loans and commitments, insurmountable problems leading to suicidal deaths resorted to by certain growers, inadequate supply of electricity are the problems that are being faced by the Indian farmers. All these would result in cost escalation and price rise.

Not only the ruling party but also the opposition must come forward to improve the lot of the farmers. We all must unitedly strive with a committed responsibility to ward off the problems faced by the farming community. Every demand that come from every farmer must be heard by the respective State Governments. With a deep sense of commitment and whole hearted involvement the State Governments should be on the reach out to the farmers to help them overcome hurdles and their hardships. Only then they can go about producing foodgrains and other agricultural produce. Then alone we may stride towards self-sufficiency.

It is not good for the country if we cannot unitedly evolve a solution in this august House to put an end to price rise that is there even after fifty years of independence.

We are on the verge of losing the benefit of getting more foreign investments ever after our venturing the 'atomic tests'. An imminent economic crisis is staring at us and is looking large.

At this juncture, every State Government needs to be responsible and responsive ensuring accountability. Respective State Governments must attend to the needs and problems of the farmers of their States. If need be they must seek the Central assistance and must pool the resources to extend benefits to the farming community. Union Government

should also be watching the performance of the State Governments in this regard. They must come forward to help farmers overcome their problems. This would help curbing price rise to a great extent.

In Tamil Nadu, when our beloved leader Dr Puratchi Thalaivi (Revolutionary Leader) was in office as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu from 1991-1996, essential commodities like rice were sold at cheaper price through the fair price shops and was still cheap in the open market too. Fine variety rice was available at the rate of Rs. 5/- per kilo in the open market. Fair price shops were selling rice at the rate of Rs. 2.50 per kilo. Now the price of the same rice has gone upto Rs. 16/- or 18/- per kilo. We have a State Government that has not taken steps to curtail price rise and has not implemented prohibition. Even after holding elections to the local administration bodies, the basic minimum needs have not been met as yet. The Government of Tamil Nadu must take immediate steps to overcome these lacunae. The ruling party there had assured the farmers through their party's election manifesto that procurement price for the sugarcane would be enhanced and fixed at Rs. 1000/- per quintal. But they have failed to implement the same and they have failed to keep their promise. So I urge upon the Union Government to dismiss that Government that cannot attend to the problems faced by the agriculturists and the farming community.

With this I conclude, thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD (MADEHPURA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member Shri Mohan Singh has done a favour to the down trodden and middle class families of the country, who are faced with the crisis of inflation, by initiating this debate under Rule 193. There is an unabated trend of inflation. The prices do not remain stable and keep on changing day in and day out. The hon. Members of this august House from both the sides should deliberate on the issue because they are directly responsible. The Ministers may come and go but it is we who are accountable to the people.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today, a fine quality lemon costs Rs. 2, potato Rs. 55 per 5 kgs. and what to talk of the prices of onion. The meat-eaters cannot afford to buy onion. A Kanodia factory in Rajasthan produces mustard oil on a large scale. Barnala ji is aware that the people of Bihar and eastern U.P. living in Punjab consume mustard oil. It has nothing to do with any party. Once Acharya Vinoba ji told Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayana that when a person feels tired, he should apply mustard oil to his skull and massage it in order to relax his body. Even today, the downtrodden women use mustard oil not only for edible purposes but also to massage their children. Today, the situation is such that even mustard oil is not available in pure form. There is chaos on every side.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shrimati Patil is not present in the House right now. I was happy to note that she was a student leader. I was also a student leader and also the President. Women are the worst affected by inflation because they

[Shri Lalu Prasad]

have to shoulder the burden of the household. This is only a three month old Government and the prices of cement have registered an increase of Rs. 40 per sack. A poor man gets Rs. 20,000 under Indira Awas Yojna but the galloping increase in the price of cement has rendered the money worthless. There is nobody to look into it. There was an old maxim - bread, clothing and brick work. The brick price has increased from Rs. 1100 to 1600. Why this situation today? The country's profiteering, hoarding and black marketing syndicate is aware that they have their own Government in Delhi. There is a saying - "Sainya bhaye kotwal, ab darr kahe ka." The policeman is with them now. There is no fear in their heart. There is loot everywhere. The poor man's bread is snatched. There is no concern for it. Some day it was said during a discussion that the export sector should get more concessions. The Government of India should conduct an assessment as to what goods do we need. The Government should assess the consumption of vegetables, grains - rice or basmati, date-palm, cashewnut, raisin, spices or pickles in the country. The inflation in the prices of rice and vegetables has led to large scale malnutrition. The poor man has no access to milk, green vegetables, eggs, meat and fish today. A pregnant woman's food intake largely contributes to the physical development and blood of the foetus developing in her womb. What kind of progeny are we going to produce if the Indian people crushed by malnutrition and inflation have no access of food, milk and pulses and we are dreaming of confronting China. We are only patting on our back by claiming that by exploding the atomic device, we can downsize China. The current inflation will have its repercussions in producing weak and feeble physically handicapped children. We shall have to curb the inflationary price index. The Government has conceded that there is inflation. The Delhi Police officers and other civil officers and employees are getting a salary upto Rs. 40,000. The dearness allowance is granted in proportion to the price rise but the market price is the same for all. Compare the messenger of a Cabinet Secretary the latter earning a salary of Rs. 40,000, going for marketing against a rickshaw puller. How can you create an equitable society, remove discrepancy? Therefore, I suggest, as we had referred the matter to the select Committee that day, the black marketeers should be awarded ten years' punishment rather than seven year imprisonment. The laws should be made stringent in this regard. We are ready to extend every cooperation. Today the poor and common man is devastated under the burden of inflation.

You will say that what could be done by me, someone speaks something and someone speaks another thing. When Hon. Members of Parliament will go to their constituencies at the time of elections. Then see what will be published in the newspapers regarding the prices of essential commodities. You go to your own constituency and conduct a meeting. Ask them if they are getting everything easily. Then you will be welcomed with a garland. Whether we people or some other person is there. You should not think that we have formed our government and we are doing nothing in this regard. Who knows whether tomorrow this government will be there or not ?

Therefore I have decided that I will not made much of a speech. We come from those classes who don't have clothes on their bodies, and see their plight; the people clad in 'Lungis' underwears, with bags and cartwheelers which belong to the proletariat class, their blood is being sucked. Therefore you must think over what programmes you would chalk out to check the price rise. We asked you, raised a question here in parliament but you don't pay any head to our views. The whole country is bearing the burnt of price rise. Therefore, we have decided and I want to tell you that on 29th in Pataliputra and on 3rd August in Lucknow there will be an agitation with the title, "Roko Mahangai Band Hoga. Nahin to Hoga Chakka Jam, Jab se BJP Aai Hai Kamartod Mahangai Hai". We have decided to fill the jails. You cannot escape these things. Everybody knows that your government is for profiteers, black-marketeers and for benefitting the rich people. The M.Ps. with self respect in their party should come forward to join the movement against them. You better get yourself liberated from them. The members of BJP are directed by their party to suppress the voice of Shri Lalu Yadav, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, Shri Sharad Pawar and Basu Deb Acharia. When the expansion takes place, we will consider making you the minister. Do not expect this, you will remain waiting in this hope. We too remained waiting in the same hope, we too kept on hoping for several days. Until you struggle and make revolt, nobody will bother to ask you. You will remain playing "Tabla" and will come back after losing two-third. Therefore you must think over. When the proletariat class, middle class, a small journalist, a person with helmet and a scooter goes to the market with a bag, he spends all his money in buying pulses, vegetables and other commodities. Stop the exports. You export only whatever is surplus. The day you put the thieves and profiteers behind the bars, then we will think that your intention is clear, Shri Mulayam Singhji and our party have decided that we do not want to see the county and the poor of the country dying with hunger at their hands. Therefore now we will not plead but we shall fight. We shall defeat them in the battlefield through a mass movement. The public of this democratic country is great. We are public servants. Mohan Singhji has done a very good job by giving all Hon'ble Members a chance to speak by raising this question under rule 193. We hope that parliamentarian will be having some concern for poor class. The Hon'ble Minister, the son of Biju Babu is sitting there. At least he must be concerned about the poor people and tribals of Orissa. What the conditions of Somalia is, going to happen there. The people like you should not sit there for long period, you should move from there over this question. Thank you.

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK (ASKA) : It has passed fifty year since we got independence and since then Congress has been in power.....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (DAUSA) : Shri Baju Patnaik was in the Congress for 25-30 years.....

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir, it should be my turn now.

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (CALCUTTA-SOUTH) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me a chance to speak about price rise. I had also given a notice to participate in this discussion and had hoped that this problem would be discussed with quite seriousness and a solution will emerge. But I was pained to hear when someone said that because Samta, Biju Janta Dal, Mamata all are with each other, therefore the prices have increased. Someone said that it is a question of becoming the Prime Minister. But no one can say that we want to be Prime Minister. Can anybody not give the suggestion by which this problem could be solved. I will definitely give a suggestion but before that I would like to say that Samta Party, Trinamul Congress, B.J.P., A.I.D.M.K., whatever the allies are, will remain united. Nobody should try to divide us, because nobody will be successful in doing so.(Interruptions). It is a fact that the prices are increasing. This is true that today common public is facing maximum problem. The problem is there in every state but is not the responsibility of Central Government only. We all should share that responsibility. There must be some reasons for the situation prevailing today. The problem of the common public is that it does not understand any reason. What has been going on behind the curtain. Nobody is taking note of that. It is true that the government does not have any control over market price. There are different price in different markets. You go to the market in Bihar, there is a different sort of price situation.

[English]

If you go either to Orissa, Bengal, Rajasthan, or Madhya Pradesh, everywhere you would find different prices for the same commodities. There is no uniformity in the market price at different places. There is no uniform system.

[Translation]

I do not want to speak as to why it has happened. I want to speak on behalf of the public.....(Interruptions)

[English]

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : What is your suggestion ?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I would let you know about my suggestion.

[Translation]

I would like to say that the prices of essential commodities have increased due to inflation. Someone has mentioned about the nuclear tests conducted at Pokharan but nuclear tests were also conducted during the regime of Shrimati Indira Gandhi. National Security should not be linked with any other issue. But sometimes such a peculiar situation arises that the Government has to seek opinion of Opposition. On the very first day I had stated that the Government should convene a meeting of Chief Ministers. This can also be meeting of National Council.

[English]

Then should call a meeting. The Central Government can discuss with the State Governments regarding the measures to be taken to control the price rise. The Central Government have the Essential Commodities Act but it is pending with the State Governments. Why cannot the Central Government call for a report from the State Government on the implementation of this Act ? By doing this, they can find out which States are implementing this Act and which are not doing so; how many black-marketeers are arrested and how much of de-hoarding has been done so far.

[Translation]

This problem cannot be solved easily without checking hoarding and black-marketing. I would like to oppose the hoarding and black-marketing because sometimes artificial crisis is created in the market, which will keep on increasing in absence of vigilance. It should also be checked as to whether the persons involved in creating artificial crisis are trying to run a parallel economy to fail the Government.

Secondly, Central Government should discuss this issue with the State Governments so that inflation rate should be uniform in all the States. Why price rise is not uniform in all the States? Take the example of West Bengal. This government came to power 106 days ago but the Government of West Bengal is ruling there for the last 7700 days. What is position of price rise there? Here Chillies are selling at Rs. 35 per kg but in my State Chillies are being sold at Rs. 110 per kg. What a poor person will eat if price of Chillies and salt are roaring. Poor people, somehow afford to eat rice with boiled potatoes mixing chillies and salt but now he is not even able to do so.

Whether the life saving drugs are meant for GATT, WTO and Patent law only. You can see the position of life saving drugs. Their prices have increased manifolds but we are not paying attention towards it. Today poor people are not getting life saving drugs in hospitals. I have heard several such incidents. It has become difficult to get life saving drugs and attention should be paid towards it. It is necessity of life. How a person can buy chillies at a rate of Rs. 110 per kg. What a person will do in such circumstances who earn just Rs. 1000/-. But why if so happened ? This was due to ratio of demand and supply. There is large gap in the demand and supply of essential commodities. A plan should have been formulated for it. Our country has not become self-sufficient in foodgrains in one day, but we planned for it. Andhra Pradesh produces maximum quantity of Potatoes. West Bengal is number two in this field but last year we have seen that farmers sold potatoes for just 50 paise per kg, because proper procurement system and cold storage facility was not provided for it. In absence of proper procurement system, farmers are compelled to sell the vegetable at throw away prices. They are not getting remunerative prices for their produce. I, therefore request the Government that proper attention should be paid towards procurement and cold storage system.....(Interruptions) I am saying this for every veg-

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

etable. I know that and that is why I am speaking for it. Farmers have suffered a lot and no attention was paid towards it. Onion is supplied to my State from Nasik. But what happened today that—

[English]

After death comes the doctor.

[Translation]

You cannot improve the situation if corrective measures are not taken in the beginning itself. Proper attention should be paid on priority basis towards procurement and cold storage system while formulating a plan for it. I would like to give a suggestion if the government face any financial problem in this regard.

[English]

The Finance Minister is here, we have very important Schemes. One of which is the VDIS.

[Translation]

VDIS means unearthing the black money. It was a proposal for self declaration of black money after paying taxes for it. A huge amount was collected as taxes under the VDIS scheme. Rs. 800 crore was collected from my State. A big share of this fund was proposed to be given to States which can be utilized for setting up cold storages. We will not have to face the problem of price rise. We will be able to improve procurement system with this money. Public face problem of price rise because essential commodities produced during the year could not be utilized properly. I would like to make a submission that in the Ninth Plan priority should be given for setting up cold storages. Priority should also be given for encouraging vegetable cultivation in non-traditional areas. It should also be seen that essential commodities Act should be properly implemented. The system of de-hoarding should be made functional. Union Government should convene a meeting with State Governments. United Front Government had started a scheme of distributing essential commodities to people living below poverty line.

[English]

The programme is good but the implementation is very poor. In my State, there is a report to the effect that people living below the poverty line are not available.

[Translation]

Two types of ration cards – red and green were issued but the funds allocated under this scheme under PDS remained unutilised because people living below poverty line were not available.

[English]

If you visit any Fair Price Shop you will see that nothing

is available there. Why are the commodities not reaching the Fair Price shops in time ?

[Translation]

That should also be checked. The rates of vegetables, sugar, edible oils and baby food have also increased, attention should be paid towards it. Something should be done with regard the 14 items included in the list of essential commodities. A large number of people in our country do not have drinking water facility and proper arrangement for food. Instead of paying attention towards their welfare, politics is played in such matters. We all know as to what happened during these last three months. I request you not to politicize such matters.

[English]

The centre and State Governments should sit together to decide and chalk out a plan of action so that the same is stopped as early as possible.

[Translation]

We should formulate a plan of action to increase the production of essential commodities and vegetables. Vigilance system should be strengthened. Instability at centre also causes price rise. Inflation rises if government changes frequently – stability at centre is must as instability conveys a wrong message among the public.

[English]

We want that this Government should be assertive, more effective, and should deliver the goods for the country. There should not be any hesitation to take an important step. If anybody is responsible for this, please investigate the matter throughout the country and take drastic action so that the wrong message should not go to the people that this Government is only indulging in black-marketeering and hoarding. This is what the Opposition parties have said. We want to say that this Government should fulfil its responsibility in a time-bound manner. It should be done in a forceful manner so that a message should go to the country that whoever is responsible for this would be punished. People should not suffer because of a political party or political persons.

[Translation]

We politicize almost every issue and thus proper attention is not paid towards problems of common man. I would like to request the Government that it should accord first priority to check price rise. I would request you that hon. Prime Minister should convene a meeting of all the political parties and Chief Ministers of the State and a decision should be taken with coordination of the concerned department so that public can be relieved from their sufferings.

With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (BERHAMPUR) (ORISSA): Sir, with 106 days of the present ruling Government, our worst fears have come to be true because the Government is not capable to contain the prices and give relief to the common man.

Sir, we have seen that the poor people are the worst affected with the price rise and it hurts mostly in the case of prices of essential commodities like vegetables, edible oils and foodgrains and the prices of all items which are used daily, like potatoes, onions, tomatoes, edible oils, pulses etc., by the people. The increase of price on all commodities has already been mentioned by the previous speakers, so I need not mention them again. But the thing is that this affects not only the poor but also the middle class who cannot afford to pay such high prices for vegetables of different types. They rather go for cheaper vegetables like *tori*, *gheeya*, etc. The common and ordinary items like potatoes, onions have become unaffordable and chillies have become a precious commodity touching Rs.70 per kilo.

I would like to know from the Government how much average consumption has come down during this price rise period and how the recent definition of poverty will take into account. This lower consumption by the poor people because poverty had been defined on the factors of consumption. I would like to know from the Government, if consumption becomes low, whether it is taken into account or not.

The Government attributes the reason for the price rise to damaged crops due to bad weather, etc. But I must say that the signals were well known and the Government should have anticipated the pressure and should have devised strategies to warm them off. Instead the Government underplayed the threat of inflation, though the Economic Survey categorically warned that the new fiscal year would require special efforts at supply management in order to offset the possible shortfall in the foodgrains, sugar, etc.

The inflation management should be there if the Government wants to ensure a modicum of stability in the economy.

What is disturbing is the functioning of the Government, its total unconcern for the need to deal with the price rigging at the retail level and deliberate slow downs of the supplies at the level of the big traders. The PDS has become nonfunctional in most of the States. In Delhi, the ration shop owners, many of whom are the grain traders, have made a mockery of the PDS by diverting the supplies meant for the shops to their own godowns.

Sir, the Government has lost all the political and administrative will to check the price rise leaving the people at the mercy of the market. The cause of this problem must surely lie with the Finance Minister's Budget proposal. The surcharge on petrol is bound to trigger off down the line inflation and its new duties on the items of daily consumption like packaged tea, burden the salaried consumers' monthly bills.

The rate of inflation based on retail prices has crossed double digits touching 10.5 per cent for the first time in the 14 months. This is much higher than the average inflation rate of 6.5 per cent projected by the government this year with a growth rate of four to five per cent. One can understand that if inflation rate is accompanied by a higher growth. But what we see is that we are witnessing high prices at this time of slow growth and stagnating income, making it doubly difficult for the consumers and the country at large. There is also a growing concern that the economic sanction may further impose economic hardship on the people. The latest figures for the month of May show the consumer prices up by 10.5 per cent over prices in May 1997 and 8.2 per cent over prices in April 1998. When the Budget was presented by the Finance Minister, there had been a warning that it would be an inflationary Budget. There are many reasons given. According to the latest Economic Survey, one reason is that the foodgrains production along with the agricultural production has come down by 3.7 per cent over the previous year. The impact of this has been a sharp rise in the whole sale price of primary articles and food products. There is 108 per cent increase in the potato price in April 1998 over the previous year. At the retail level, the impact of this has been manifested with prices of daily necessities like fruits, vegetables and edible oils showing a phenomenal increase.

Secondly, the hike in import surcharge and excise duty is yet to make its effect felt on prices.

Thirdly, the increase in money supply at 17 per cent is well over the targeted rate of 15 to 15.5 per cent.

Fourthly, the Government's huge borrowing target for the year is clearly putting upward pressure on interest rates. Fifthly, the depreciation of the rupees is sure to push up the price of imports. All this is bound to impact the prices adversely. Inflation which is based on the Whole Sale Price index, has already risen from 4.5 per cent during the first week of April to 6.8 per cent in the week ended 20th June. In such situations, hoarders and speculators will definitely take advantage by aggravating further shortfall.

The important question is why the Government failed to anticipate this shortfall and arrange for imports. Given its claim for a comfortable foreign exchange position this should have been the obvious solution. But in the case of edible oil, I must point out to the Government, the prices have been escalating for over four months now and the Government had been during that period, by and large, a mute witness. It is only lately that the Government has begun a fire-fighting operation and asked the STC to import Palmolein.

We are very much agitated by the price rise and would like to know how the Government is going to manage the situation and how it proposes to control the sky-rocketing prices, as early as possible.

Along with this, my suggestion is that the matter should be discussed with the State Governments. Representatives of the State Governments should be called to discuss mea-

[Shrimati Jayanti Patnaik]

sures to control the price situation. At the same time, the Government should have a very strong bumper stock out of which they can lend the material, or goods, to poor States like Orissa in sufficient quantities.

The Public Distribution System should be strengthened. Especially it should help the poor people and our farmers. Our cultivators are very good in producing vegetables throughout the year. We used to get cauliflower only in the winter. But now they are producing cauliflower during the whole year. But the only problem is storing them. We do not have many cold storages. Even private parties are not coming forward to construct cold storages for the benefit of the cultivators. This should be taken up by the Government, they should give more subsidy so that they can come forward and construct cold storages.

I feel that there should be a temporary ban on the export of essential commodities so that the Government can seriously consider and tackle the price situation.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : What she is saying about the agricultural situation and the PDS is not correct..... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO (BOLANGIR) : What is the hon. Member talking? Let her talk about the price rise in Orissa and the PDS. (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Price rise is not only in Orissa ; is it not there in Delhi and Gujarat, Rajasthan and in other States also. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (MANDSAUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir right now we are expressing concern regarding the increasing prices of essential commodities in the country. It is true that prices have risen to some extent. However, it is not an unusual happening for which a Government which has been in power only for the last three months could be held responsible. The trend of price rise will continue until some effective and long term measures are taken to check it. I would like to cite the example of previous Government. Previous Government's economic policies were responsible for the economic crisis in the country. A discussion also took place in this very House on the sharp increase in the prices due to the economic crisis. All political parties whether Leftists or other parties had expressed their concern and stated that uncontrolled price rise is not good. It should be checked and appropriate prices should be fixed. Many factors affect prices. While presenting the Budget price fluctuation takes place due to speculation. It affects the general market. Some decisions of the government have long term effects. The prices of tea have not been raised this time. They were increased during the tenure of the previous Government. The prices of petroleum products were also increased during the tenure of that Government but its results have been reflected now. It is not appropriate to blame the present Government for this.

I have some newspapers cuttings here with me. The prices of 86 commodities rose sharply when Bharatiya Janata Party was not in power. I would like to quote something from a newspaper '*Rashtriya Sahara*' dated 18th October, 1997 :

"During the second quarter of current financial year a sharp rise in prices of 86 commodities including petroleum products, shirts and thread made of coconut coir was registered. Out of it prices of 53 commodities increased by more than 5%. The prices of 22 commodities increased by 5-10%. The prices of 4 commodities increased by 10-15% and the prices of 2 commodities rose by 15-20%. Prices of one commodity shot up by 20-25%. 3 other commodities rose by 25-30% and more commodity registered an increase of 35-40%."

Just now, an hon'ble Member was saying that the present Government is responsible for this. I would like to quote again :

"During the last quarter the prices of the commodities increased by 30% and in the group of manufactured goods, the price index of food items increased by 6.3 point and rose to 325.6 points."

In these circumstances, it would be wrong to blame the present government for the price rise. It is correct that prices should be controlled. Hon'ble Finance Minister will certainly look into it.

I have a cutting from '*Pioneer*' dated 27th November, 1997. I would like to quote it because people are blaming this Government without going through the facts.

[English]

"Minister flouted norms, Left attacks FM over oil price hike. The Left parties on Tuesday had an attack against Union Finance Minister for hinting at a petrol price hike."

[Translation]

Prices rose at that time also. It should not have been linked with the nuclear explosion or anything else. Price rise is caused due to the increase in inflation. All these things should be considered seriously.

I would like to quote something from '*Rashtriya Sahara*' dated 22nd September, 1997. At that time we were not in power. It has been clearly stated in it that :

"During the said week, 0.38 % increase in the prices of fruit, vegetables, egg, ragi, arhar, moong and masoor was registered due to rise in inflation."

Just now, Arhar, moong and masoor were being discussed here. Shri Acharia mentioned about fish. During the tenure of the Government to which his party was extending support, the price index had registered an increase of 38%

It is natural to be worried about it. Price rise should be checked. It is a matter of concern for the common man. Goods should be easily available in the market. Kumari Mamata has given some suggestions to revamp the PDS and to run it effectively so that goods are available to common man easily.

18.00 hrs.

A few days ago, I had seen the statement made by Shri Barnala regarding control on prices. He had stated that Sugar will not be imported rather its additional stock will be kept. Same is the position of edible oils. Just now, it has been stated here that the Government wants to import but we have no such intention. We will make efforts to improve the situation and sugar will be made available to people at reasonable prices. Oil will also be available.

It has also been mentioned here that the prices of tea have increased by 1½–2 times. These prices have not increased during the tenure of present Government. Prices of onion and potatoes have also been discussed here. Prices of all these commodities have increased during the tenure of the previous Government. Though some increase has taken place during the time of this Government also. Concern has also been expressed regarding the production of these commodities (Interruptions) I have stated in the beginning that it is a matter of concern for all if prices of essential consumer goods increase. Concrete efforts should be made in this regard. Today, the present Government is held responsible for price rise and to clarify the position, I have to state all this. My friends from the Congress Party and Left parties can state anything but I would like to quote something that was published in Business India regarding the situation during their tenure :

[English]

"The prices of a majority of the 447 commodities in the wholesale index basket rose in the fiscal year 1995-96 with about 100 commodities witnessing a price rise of over ten percent."

[Translation]

It had happened at that time also. That is why, I had stated to view it in international context. The difference which is there..... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time of the House can be extended with the consensus of all.

SHRI RAJO SINGH : How much time will you extend every day ? What will you achieve by extending the time for discussion when the prices keep on increasing every day.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is the decision of the Business Advisory Committee to run the House till 8 o' clock.

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, all parties should be all allowed to take part in the discussion whether it is eight o' clock or whatever it is.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was submitting that we all are very much worried about the price rise. We want to improve the system. We are making efforts to keep control over the market. However, in this whole perspective, farmers interests should also be taken care of.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the House may continue till he completes his speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is the decision of B.A.C. Many party leaders could not get chance to speak. I have a list of 30 hon. Members and I think it will be done till 8.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was saying that we all are thinking on this problem. We are extremely worried about it and we definitely want control over prices so that consumer goods are available at reasonable prices. In this regard I would like to quote the order passed by the Prime Minister in the previous Government.

With a view to overcome the shortage of onions the Prime Minister, Inder Kumar Gujral ordered that NAFED be directed to buy onions and distribute the same through capitals Super Bazar and other outlets at fixed price. The Union Minister of Food and Consumer Affairs, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh has also ordered to take strict action against hoarders of onion."

Even then prices had increased and onions were not available in the market. Therefore we want to improve this condition. Holding the Government alone responsible will not do. Where ever there are defects in the system, improvements have already been suggested. This needs to be corrected. The economic policy which we have we have implemented will definitely help in controlling the prices. Restrictions will help improve the position. What is happening today is that the people are encouraging the tendency of hoarding by talking of shortage time and again.

I would not blame any government because in some States there are Congress governments. in some other there are left front governments, other governments are also there in some other States. Just now Mamata ji said as to what happened in Bengal. Why there was no control in Orissa and Madhya Pradesh? What are the reasons for it? Therefore the system which is there can be improved under the existing arrangement. Besides all these factors, changes in International area also influence prices. What happened in Indonesia and Thailand—state of affairs deteriorated to such an extent there that government had to be changed there. Due

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey]

to price rise people came in the roads. This is such a matter for which we should definitely pay attention so that the system could be improved. But right now there is no crisis. An attempt is being made to frighten the people through baseless fears. Things are available in the market and there is no crisis as such at present.

With these words I conclude.

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on a point of order. All countrymen and commonmen are suffering the torture as they are caught between the two sides..... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not a point of order. By raising the point of order, one should not say what is there in one's mind.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGLY): Mr. Chairman, Sir, what actually has blasted, of course not in Pokhran, is the BJP's claim of its ability to provide a stable and good Government. How else can I describe this Government? It is because in the face of this multi-voiced Government led by BJP, I find everywhere instability and incapability writ large. Price stability was one of the promises made by this Government in its NAG, National Agenda for Governance. What is happening on the price front is awfully unprecedented. It has never happened. High price has been a phenomenon of the economic and social life of the people of this country since some sort of capitalist path was undertaken for development, and that is the inalienable evil of this particular path of development. But I call what is happening today as awfully unprecedented because what is happening in the price has never happened in the past.

The consumer prices have risen by 10.5 per cent since May, 1997. The price of almost every item and essential commodity of daily use, be it wheat, dal, edible oil, vegetables, potato, onion, lifesaving drugs or clothes have increased. Who is responsible? In respect of the Wholesale Price Index, we find that in April, 1998 the inflation as a whole was 4.58 per cent. Respected Dr. Pandey was referring to the earlier regime. It was 4.58 per cent in April, 1998 and 6.98 per cent as on 20th June, 1998. What is accepted throughout the country is that the overall price stability characterized the UF regime of 18 months. The price of wheat had come down and also many other items. Although the administered prices of petroleum products and electricity had been increased, yet there was price stability. In spite of that the Government had undertaken some serious steps to feed the poorer sections of the people by proposing to give them cereals at half the usual prices in the Public Distribution system.

It was started in West Bengal even before the Central Government had started it.

Sir, there was a reference by Dr. Pandey to the performance of the earlier regime on the price front. So, I cannot but make a reference to it. Was this Government unaware of the situation? I am referring to the Economic Survey. There was a warning in the Economic Survey in the month of May itself that there would be scarcity of essential commodities and the Government needs to take adequate steps to protect the common people from the onslaught of inflation and price rise. That was the warning given by the Economic Survey of this Government. But how have this Government reacted to this warning given by its own Economic Survey? Instead of paying attention to this warning, several steps were taken in the Budget in the form of hike in indirect taxes, hike in customs duty on selected items, levying of special surcharge, and excise duty was imposed on almost every article of daily necessity like food products, tea, branded products, agro products etc. The net result of all this was that it has fuelled inflation although warning given in the Economic Survey itself.

The fiscal deficit, the desperate borrowings by this Government, the hike in indirect taxes, the fluctuation in the capital market, the depreciation of the rupee, the imposition of sanctions and the overall uncertainty, all these things taken together have caused this situation. But this directionless Government, with its instant roll back philosophy in a cavalier fashion is not attending to the serious problem facing this country. Actually, the bomb was not ticking in Pokhran, but it is ticking on the price front and the Government can ignore it only its own peril.

Sir, this Government had promised that it would be watchful with regard to the price front. But has it been watchful? Had this Government been watchful of the situation that has developed in the last six to seven weeks, this situation would not have arisen at all. The Government knowingly and willingly has contributed to the development of this current disastrous situation on the price front. Some hon. Members were referring to hoarding, black marketing, seasonal factors, crop failure etc. Of course, these are all some of the factors. But this time, it is the willing and knowing contribution of this BJP-led Government which has created this situation.

Sir, sermons have been given to stress that this is not so and a few hon. Members were mentioning about the very serious difficulty in getting chillies. Leaving aside all other things, only chilly has become important for them and the price that was referred to is also not at all true. They said that in comparison with many other cities, things are cheaper in West Bengal and they were saying that the State Governments also have a role to play in checking the prices. But what has the Government proposed to do? They were going to reward to black marketeers and the hoarders through the Essential Commodities Bill. This Government has given a signal to these people that they are their friends, they need not get disturbed and that they would bring down or dilute the punishment, the quantum and everything. But fortunately, because of the pressure from this side, this Government had to back out, withdraw, and refer the Essential Commodities Bill to the Joint Select Committee.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKER PRASAD JAISWAL (VARANASI) : Mr. Chairman Sir, there is nothing like this. What he is saying is not true.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, the Essential Commodities Bill is very much related to this subject.

Sir, there have been several reasons apart from wilful collaboration of this Government which has miserably failed to take care of the price rise. There is a decline in foodgrains production. Of course, it is true. But what steps are you going to take to increase the production? There is stagnation all round. There is hike in the import surcharge and the excise duty. It has not come to have its impact felt till now. But if the Government does not withdraw, it will take place only after the Finance Bill has been adopted. So, in such a situation, the Government should not proceed further with the several anti-people provisions in the Finance Bill like the hike in excise and the selected customs levy.

There is a rise in money supply which is also contributing to inflation. The Government's target was 15.5 per cent but it has already gone beyond that. It is 17 per cent or something like that. There is huge reckless borrowing by the Government. What will happen? It will add pressure to the interest cost which will increase the cost of production. This milieu where there is continuous industrial slow down coupled with this rise in inflation and other factors, all these have been caused by the Government's policies itself.

As regards depreciation of rupee, the Government, it seems, is quite unconcerned. It is not prepared to lose its sleep over what is happening to the external value of rupee. If you look at the difference between the Wholesale Price Index and the Consumer Price Index, there is a huge gap. The inflation based on WPI has come to 6.8 from 4.8.

Now, I am coming to the suggestions. My suggestion is that if the Government is at all serious, it should withdraw from the Finance Bill, that is there for the consideration of this Government, all such levies that are contributing to the rise in prices, viz., excise and customs. When petrol was selected we had opposed it. They said that there will not be any cascading effect. Their argument was that they had spared diesel. It is just like the argument of a lawyer who is holding a brief for a person who is accused of murder that he has killed the younger brother but he has spared to the elder brother. The diesel has been spared. So, it is the Government's argument. Everywhere, throughout the world, the price of oil is coming down. In such a situation, the hike in petrol price has contributed to the present situation. So, the Government should withdraw all such measures.

As regards money supply, the Government's own target has gone beyond that. Then, there is the question of hoarders and black marketeers. The Bill is with the Select Com-

mittee. Meanwhile, I agree to certain suggestions that have come. This Government will see to it. The State Governments, several consumer fora at the national level as also all other concerned agencies are trying to find a way out to save the nation, the poorer sections of the people and the industrial workers.

Lastly, if this Government is at all serious, it should come out with a programme of strengthening the PDS. But the Government is trying to dilute it. They are trying to bring out sugar and bring down the subsidy portion of it. The UF Government had come out with a very effective programme to protect the people living below the poverty line but they could not implement it fully because they did not have the opportunity to do that as they had to go before them. So, my suggestion will be that this Government should come out with a very effective programme to strengthen the PDS and to protect particularly the lower middle class and the people living below the poverty line.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, a discussion is being held in the House on a very important subject. All the members from the ruling as well as the opposition parties more or less agree that prices have shot up. The price-rise has affected the rural as well as the urban areas and it has spared none. This coalition Government has been in power for three to three and a half months and the way the prices have been rising all this while, is a sort of record. I am unable to comprehend the reasons for such an unprecedented rise in the prices. It is difficult to comprehend as to whether the prices are rising due to wrong policies of the Government or due to low production in the country or there is a well-planned conspiracy behind it. I believe that the production is not low and compared to the past, it has been increasing year after year.

18.22 hrs.

[SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY *in the Chair*]

It is quite possible that achievement has not been made in the same measure as was expected with the increase in production. In the agricultural sector, at times irrigation facilities are not available or there is crop failure due to natural calamities, but the production is certainly increasing. In spite of increase in production, prices are skyrocketing. Hon'ble Members have quoted the prices of all the commodities, hence I do not find it appropriate to repeat the same, but I would surely like to submit that a Government known as Morarji Desai Government was formed in our country. Our Hon'ble Prime Minister was in charge of the Ministry of External Affairs in that Government and perhaps our Minister of Food was also included in the Cabinet of that Government. The people in the villages still talk about that Government and they never forget to mention two achievements made during that time. The villagers say that during the tenure of that Government, some attention was paid towards damaged roads and the potholes were at least filled with

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

earth. That Government also controlled the price-rise and at that time, foodgrains were available in the villages at cheaper rates. We would like to ask our Food Minister about the formula used at that time. If the hon'ble Minister of Food has in mind some of the measures adopted at that time, he should put them into use to check the spiralling prices. I am not aware of the reasons due to which the prices are rising but such a view is being expressed in our villages that ever since the BJP led coalition Government has come to power, the prices have been rising. This is what is being said there. Although, the Union Government alone is not responsible for this state of affairs. The State Governments are also responsible for it. The State Governments cannot shirk their responsibility. I do not wish to say anything from political point of view. A good suggestion has been given that a meeting of the State Governments should be held. The issue of controlling the prices should be considered from a fresh angle and a decision should be taken in this regard after serious deliberations.

A bill was introduced in this House and I am unable to comprehend the intention behind relaxing the laws framed for keeping a check on the traders. On one hand, prices are shooting up and the villagers and especially the middle class and lower class people are affected by rise in prices. On the other hand, if the Government shows lenience towards the blackmarketeers instead of keeping a check on them, how will it be able to control prices. Hence I would request the Minister of Food to frame as strict laws as are required to check the price rise. The House will support you in this regard and you are in power, hence you should take strict action against the traders indulging in blackmarketing because the prices are rising due to these very people.

Just now Laluji was saying all the self respecting people should quit the party. He is right and he has had such an experience also. When Samata party was formed, it had two types of Members. One type of members comprised such persons who were expelled by Laluji and the other type comprised those who opposed the dictatorship of Laluji and quit the party. All self respecting people of Bihar quit his party to form a party known as Samata Party. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit that all those self respecting people are not likely to quit this alliance. If such a thing were to happen at a later stage, they won't join the party of Laluji and would instead be known in Bihar and all over India as a third power. Laluji was saying that a rally is going to be held at Gandhi Maidan in Patna on 29th protest against the price-rise. Others may or may not be aware but we are aware of the intentions behind holding such a rally. The administration is being threatened before-hand that it will be a massive rally and if the workers were touched or put behind bars, they would bring the wheel of the industry to a grinding halt. But if there remained no industry, how would they succeed in doing so? Only politically motivated statements are made in this House and Members refrain from speaking the truth.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the system. In my opinion, the prices are rising due to adoption of dual price policy with regard to some items.

The previous Governments fixed two different prices for sugar. Sugar is being distributed through P.D.S. at one rate and it is being sold through the free sale shops at a different rate. Similarly dual price of kerosene was fixed. The kerosene sold through the P.D.S. outlets was cheaper as compared to the stocks available in the open market which was costlier. There is considerable difference in the prices and dual pricing encourages blackmarketing. We would like this issue to be considered seriously and uniform price should be fixed for such commodities for which dual prices were fixed by the previous Governments and which has given rise to blackmarketing. Prices should be controlled to keep a check on the price rise. The commodities being sold through P.D.S. are sold at much higher rates in the open market. You should allow free sale and fix the prices and this will help in checking the price rise.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Does that mean that P.D.S should be scrapped?

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : There should be uniform price for the commodities sold through the P.D.S. outlets and free sale shops. This won't make much of a difference to the Government.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Same steps will have to be taken with regard to wheat rice also.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : I am talking about sugar and kerosene. I am not suggesting that P.D.S. should be scrapped. Uniform prices should be fixed for such commodities presently having dual prices. If free sale is allowed in the market, the prices will automatically be arrested. The government won't face any problem in this respect and that is why I am giving this suggestion.

Sir, I would like to give one more suggestion. The State Governments have the control over the commodities being sold through P.D.S. outlets but they are unable to ensure proper distribution of commodities. The State Government are unable to distribute the commodities and consequently the consumers do not get things at fair prices. The commodities are sold in the black market through free sales shops. If it is brought under control, the poor, the lower class and middle class people will be benefited. Commodities are being distributed in states on production of red cards but these items do not reach the poor and are being sold in the black market. If the need arises to make a provision in the law to deal with this situation, steps should be taken in this regard and vigil should be kept. When the consumers do not get the commodities, they get agitated and start doubting the intentions of the Government. Hence I demand that this Government should control this situation so that price rise is arrested.

With these words, I thank you and conclude.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (CHAIL) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me a chance to take part in discussion under Rule 193 on rise in prices of essential commodities.

Sir, Hon. Members said many things in the House regarding price rise and has given figures. Through you, Sir, I would like to say that price rise have taken place from time to time irrespective of any party in the Government. It is a fact that price rise has varied in the regime of each party. The prices of foodgrains, vegetables and fruit etc. have been rising whatever may be the weather it is inadequate facilities to farmers, damage to crop due to natural calamity hail-storm or for other reasons. There is a need to pay rapt attention towards the whatever facilities such as improved seeds, fertilizers, water and electricity are provided to the farmers in the states. I would like to say that Members of all the parties should hold a meeting and try ponder over the reasons of price rise. We should take it seriously. I understand that by making counter allegations against each other will not solve this problem. Hon. Minister is sitting in the House, I would like to make submission regarding his department. We have been biased in providing essential commodities to the persons living in cities and in villages. A family consists of 4-5 members whether he is a labourer or farmer we provide 2 kg. wheat to each card holder. Similarly, we provide 2 kg. foodgrains per unit in urban areas. However essential commodities do not reach the rural areas.

This is a matter of utmost importance and I have raised this matter in the House earlier also. Therefore Hon'ble Minister must look into it. We have to ensure proper distribution of essential commodities and should strictly follow to the provisions of essential commodities Act so that essential commodities are available to the people at reasonable prices. We should pay attention towards this also.

Sir, there was spurt in the prices just after the presentation of Budget. We must keep it in mind that right now Bhartiya Janata Party is in power and whichever party forms the Government has certain limitations and a particular section of people is attached to the influences the Government.

Government has imposed duty on packed tea, branded butter, cheese, ghee and branded spices. This is not proper if they would like to increase the prices, these should have been nominal increase if the prices of essential commodities. But there is high rise in prices. Due to price rise and communal tension our foreign policy and economy has shattered. We can not remain unaffected due to this. This is the most serious problem our country is facing at present.

Sir, today Central Government as well as State Governments have entirely failed to provide electricity, water, sanitation, transport, medical facilities, etc. Sir, there was a trend when we take pretext of population increase for every problem of ours. And we cannot get economic facilities, this is also one of the reasons for price-rise. To this we should pay special attention. We should not linger it on further. The prices of daily used commodities e.g. flour, rice, potatoes, onion, vegetables, oil, ghee etc. are rocketing. Hon. Members have placed this issue before the House in great details. The jaggery (ghur) which is said to be sweet meat of poors is being sold at the same prices as that of sugar. There is no difference between the prices of jaggery (ghur)

and sugar, how we can sustain day-to-day life of poor farmers. Prices of coarse foodgrains are also going high and generally the coarse foodgrains are also being taken by poors. Foodgrains are not available at the ration shops in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. When foodgrains are not available then poors have to make both ends meet and they have to resort for eating other things. There are many problems of this nature.

Sir, there are number of many poor people who make both ends meet with vegetable and roti, but now the prices of vegetables have gone up so we should also pay special attention towards this. Rise in prices have made the life of poor people miserable. Shortage of green vegetables in wholesale market is a matter of great concern. Retailers differ with wholesalers in this matter, they differ with each other on this aspect. Prices of edible oil have increased. We should pay special attention towards this. In our daily life edible oils occupy an important place, special attention should be paid to it.

Sir, Laluji has just said about lemon and cucumber that prices of lemon and cucumber, which are used in salad have also gone up. The Government have introduced Mother Dairy Scheme so that the essential commodities are available on reasonable rates. But the prices have also increased there. Therefore the special attention should be paid to it. I have been elected from Allahabad. Guava is the main fruit crop of Allahabad and are famous in the entire India. A variety of Guava called Sukha Guava is produced mainly. Its nutritious value is as good as that of an apple. It also looks pretty. I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister to set up a Food Processing Institute or Research Centre in Allahabad, so that the study may be conducted on product for Guava. With the increased production we can export it. So that our country would be highly benefited and we can progress well in the field of export-import.

Farmer mainly depend on fruits, vegetables, pulses and other crops which are produced by them. We have to think about it. On the other hand we have find out the reasons why the farmers in Punjab and Andhra Pradesh have committed suicide? We should provide them loan and other things which are used in agriculture at subsidized rates. Government should also pay attention towards it. Ministry of Agriculture has set up a control-cell in Krishi Bhawan to control the price-rise. Which is a good thing. Through you, I would like to suggest the Government that merely setting up such a cell in Delhi will not help to control the price rise instead underlying factors should be evaluated at state and district level and such cell should be set up in every. Besides, the prices of commodities should be uniform at every place. In Delhi commodities are sold at different rates in different places. Whether fruit or vegetable its price should not be determined at one place only. Its price should be determined in a state and in a district.

I would like to give one more suggestion that the Government should have strict control over black-marketeers, hoarders and there should be a provision of strict punish-

[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

ment for such people. Today whole market is dominated by commission agents. Whether it is a matter of hoarding or blackmarketing or price rise, commission agents have their special influence in this regard. Therefore the Government should have especially control over the commission agents also. Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would liked to urge upon the Hon. Minister to pay adequate attention to suggestions I have given and control the price-rise.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (RATNAGIRI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the public of this country is distressed and is suffering from price increase and this price increase is being discussed in this house. Basu Deb Acharia had started this discussion in the House under Rule 193 and afterwards a speech was made by Mrs. Suryakanta Patil from opposition side. She made a very fervent speech regarding price rise here. Her speech was extremely exhorting for she was in the opposition. Public should be thanked for this. I have mentioned this thing because I was the member in 11th Lok Sabha and today I am the member of 12th Lok Sabha too and every time the issue of price rise is discussed in the Lok Sabha. When the issue of price rise was discussed in the 11th Lok Sabha, I was in the opposition and at that time too. I had expressed my views about this price rise. Today I am in ruling side and expressing my views on price rise. Whenever the price increase is discussed in the House, the allegation are hurled at the government and the ruling side and efforts are made to be political advantage of price increase. Suryakanta Patil ji made a very vibrant speech here but, that whole area is lying vacant now and our Sultanpuriji is sitting there.

No concrete suggestions to control the price rise are given except deriving political mileage and discussing only for the sake discussion. Today the common man is suffering from price rise. Everyone has to bear the brunt of price rise. On the first of every month, there always erupts a quarrel between me and my wife. Our budget fails every month. We too have to face the severity of price rise. When the first date of the month comes, a list is given to me. The prices increase every month. In this situation, the budget of every house wife, goes haywire, then the peace of the home is also lost. Every person is victim of price rise. We must think about the ways to stop this price-increase. We should do something in this regard so that we can be successful in checking this price hike.

I come from Maharashtra. There government of Shiv Sena and BJP is there in power. Our government had announced that the prices of five essential life supporting commodities will remain stable. These five commodities were wheat, rice, sugar, oil and pulse of gram or Arhar. That announcement is being implemented. Even today, their rate have been maintained. This is true that these things are not available in PDS shops at the proper time. The Government has to bear the burden of Rs. 240 crores every year. The rates of these have been fixed for five years.

I remember that when the vote of confidence was brought here, the Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji had said that our government would give priority to drinking water and will try that within five years and the people in every village and areas would get drinking water. The way the drinking water has been given priority, like that, the check on price rise should also get a priority. Today prices are increasing day by day. Whoever may be in the Government, it is not an easy task to control the price rise. This has gone out of the hands of the government whether it be the central government or a government of my party in states. We hurl allegations against each other and pass remarks over this problem. Efforts are made to derive political mileage. That is why we are unable to stop price increase. The ruling party as well as the opposition have to fight unitedly against this price rise and have to find some solution to it. When the state governments try to provide some facilities to the public, the centre should extend its full support to them. If the central government does not provide support, no state government would be able to achieve its target. When the State Government makes an announcement to provide a facility, the centre should provide assistance.

We must fix the prices of some essential commodities taking in view the fact what does a common man want? A common man does not eat fruits. An ordinary labourer eats dry bread, pulsed and rice. If he can afford, he takes vegetables, otherwise he is satisfied with onions. The Government should try to stabiles the prices of things which are essential for the survival of a poor man. The Government should atleast make such an arrangement that every citizen of the country should get meals two times a day, however poor he may be, he may be living under poverty line, but he must get meal. Poor man does not eat salaad. However, the prices of vegetables increase in every season. The Government should do such that a farmer who is cultivating the vegetable, should get the remunerative price of his produce. Today tomatoes are selling at Rs. 40 per kilogram but the farmer is not getting even Rs. 4 per kilogram government should try that he should get at least Rs. 8 or 12. Besides it, the farmer cultivates grains, fruits etc. and the prices of these too is not given to him but the prices of those commodities increase in the market. We should try to stop it. For it you should seek assistance from the state governments. The Central Government too should remain vigilant. The middlemen create an artificial scarcity. Government should monitor that no artificial scarcity is created. Strict action should be taken against such people.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when the country became free, then every citizen had thought that he would get two square meals but the situation kept on deteriorating. I would make only this request that both the ruling and the opposition must rise above politics to take proper steps for checking price rise and the government should provide a right direction.

With these words, I conclude my speech. I thank you for giving me the time to speak.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (PANSKURA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I shall not go into the details of prices of different commodities because they have been adequately covered by other hon. Members. But I would like to point out one thing. At no point of time, there was such a big jump in prices within such a short period of time. This is really what is agitating the minds of everybody which the Government should understand.

What are the main reasons for this? Apart from the fact that there are some losses in production due to foul weather, certain policies of the Government are also responsible for this kind of a very big jump in prices and that jump is going on and on. Firstly, there is this ever increasing inflation. *The Economic Times* had pointed out that inflation has crossed the double digit and has touched 10.5 per cent this is for the first time in 14 months that it has touched this figure. And inflation is going to be more according to all calculations. Then comes big fiscal deficit and no serious attempt to extend the direct tax base. It is the other way round. More direct tax base means more will be the price rise. There is no serious attempt of saving the farmers, particularly, poor farmers, from the clutches of middlemen. There is no attempt at all to curb black-marketing. There is no attempt to stop smuggling to neighbouring States. That apart, there are wrong priorities. For example, when the price was rising at this rate, the first priority become nuclear explosion and not the measures to bring down the prices. So, these are some of the main reasons for this ever-increasing and most disturbing price rise.

Keeping these things in mind, I shall make a few suggestions. The first suggestion is to make reduction of prices of essential commodities as number one priority of the Government. Otherwise, everything else will go astray because of cost escalation of everything under the sun, apart from the trouble that people will be in and are in. This must be made as number one priority by not only the Department of Food Production but all the Government Departments which can do it. There must be compete collaboration on this point. Then you should abolish or drastically reduce the excise duty which had been imposed on food products including branded food products and other food products like tea, etc. There should be re-examination of Finance Bill to suit this priority. For example, why so much of money has been allotted for atomic research? Why not divert a big part of that amount immediately at the moment for food subsidy so that prices can be brought down to some extent?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are not bothering about the threat from Pakistan.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (PANSKURA) : You have already done a lot on it. Moreover, you have yourself declared moratorium. That is what you are saying. In that case, this is complete. If that will be the situation at the moment, which item will be given the priority? Is it the atomic research or bringing down the prices? You may think over seriously.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If there is a threat to the nation, even the poor agricultural labourer will suffer.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Then why is the Government saying that they have declared moratorium on tests? You cannot have both ways. They are self-contradictory things, I am no less patriotic than anybody else here. Let me clearly declare it. At a very young age, in 1939, I had joined politics. I come from an upper middle class family but I went to the villages to share their life. I had spent weeks together without eating anything. Please do not try to teach me patriotism. I am sorry. I would not have said this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not teaching patriotism. I am stating the reality.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Yes, if the reality is this that all of us must now go for atomic weapon competition, then where shall we land ourselves?

19.00 hrs

I do not think that can be the priority. Then, invigorate the rationing system everywhere and start supplying essential commodities through Fair Price Shops without delay. Also supply essential commodities through cooperative stores and Super Bazars wherever these exist.

Then, immediate dehoarding drive should also be undertaken in all the big cities and in the villages. There is also hoarding of commodities in the villages. This should be done in cooperation with all-party citizens' committees. The Government alone will not be able to do dehoarding unless they mobilise all the parties and all the people of the area very seriously. That is why the question of citizens' committee comes in.

Another important thing is that special attention has to be given to the States and those areas which are far from the centre of the country. Take for example, a State like Manipur. I heard from a colleague of mine that lifesaving drugs are not only scarce but are also not even available. So, in certain distant areas, it is very difficult to get the supply due to various reasons. Naturally, the prices go up there. So, those areas, which are far distant and, for some reason or other, are very poor—like a part of Orissa should be paid special attention. In each State, there would be such areas. So, special attention should be paid to these areas.

As everybody has said, there is no question of calling a meeting of the Inter-State Development Committee immediately to discuss this particular point so that there could be full cooperation between the Central Government and the State Governments over these things. In this connection, I would just like to say one thing about West Bengal and then conclude. Unfortunately, despite having stocks of sugar and rice in the godowns of the FCI, sometime back no sugar was sent to the ration shops. And rice was also withheld. Surely, at that time, the FCI godowns had it. But it was sent. This type of things must be prevented immediately.

I would like to say one more thing. Our Government sought cooperation of the Enforcement Directorate of the

[Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee]

Central Government. That Directorate has, somehow or the other, got full knowledge where the hoarded commodities are kept in Calcutta and adjoining areas. Naturally, our Government is also trying to get all the information. They sought cooperation of the Enforcement Directorate to start a dehoarding drive.

It has to be done by the Enforcement Directorate together with our State Government. But unfortunately, the Enforcement Directorate has not extended the cooperation. I do not know for what reasons. I do not know, why were they reluctant to do so? There might be some phenomenon involved in it. That is why, I would like to suggest that these things need to be taken into consideration very seriously and whoever are responsible for such things should be given due punishment. It is because the people now are really fed up with the rise in prices and attempts must be made for bringing down the prices of the essential commodities immediately.

[Translation]

SHRI H.P. SINGH (ARRAH) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, earlier there were godowns of Food Corporation of India in which sugar, wheat and rice etc. were stored but since when the government has formed Food Corporation for providing cheap and good ration, it has gone in jeopardy and the system is not working in proper order. This job is being undertaken by the agents in West Bengal. Agents are the owners of the godowns and the shops, the vehicle and the conductor of the whole business, while it is not so elsewhere in India. Our former Food Minister is sitting here. Information can be sought from him. He was pressurised to handover the whole business of supply and Food Corporation of India to state government. But Rs. 228 crores were given for conducting it after segregating it..... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister will say these things in his reply. You please take your seat.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (BASIRHAT) : Have you been entrusted to reply on behalf of the Government? .. (Interruptions) Who are you to speak like this? Have you been entrusted .. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Arif Mohammed Khan.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN (BAHRAICH) : Thank you very much for permitting me to take part in this discussion on price rise.

Sir, this discussion strongly reflects the mood of the country and the concern which the people are feeling about this unprecedented increase in price of essential commodities, including vegetables and fruits. The Members of this august House, from both the sides, have equally felt concerned about it and have acknowledged the fact that during

the last three months, since this Government has taken over, there has been an unprecedented rise in prices of the essential commodities.

19.08 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

Sir, when this matter was raised in this august House on the very first, I had made this point that it is not enough for the Government to give its consent to hold a discussion in the House, but what is needed is that the Government should give confidence to the Members of this august House in particular and to the country in general that the Government will do their duty and would try to bring down the prices. The Government could bring down the prices only if they decide to act against the forces and elements who are responsible for this price rise.

Sir, when the newspapers started writing about the rise in prices and the matter was mentioned in the House, I made it a point to go through the speech of the hon. Finance Minister one's again. It is because immediately a thought comes to ones mind that, may be, something has been done by the Government, maybe, some new policies have been announced or some new proposals have been made which have led to the rise in prices. But I could not find anything to which this sort of a rise in prices could be attributed to. If no proposals have been made; if no new policies have been announced, how has it happened? What is most strange is the fact that at the beginning of this Session, this House discussed about the plight of the farmers in various parts of the country who committed suicide for not getting remunerative prices for their products. On the one hand, we know that farmers are being forced to commit suicides since they are not getting the remunerative prices for their products and on the other hand, we are now being told and we are witnessing it also, the consumer is also on the verge of doing something drastic. I would not say that he is going to do the same thing. The farmers are not getting remunerative prices. The consumer is not getting things at fair price. Who then is hogging all the profit? Who is talking away the money which is coming as a result of the increase in prices?

I have already told that basically I cannot find fault with the policies of the Government. I cannot find any proposal in the speech of the Finance Minister to which I can attribute this increase in prices. Then, who is responsible? I do not want to offend the Treasury Benches, particularly when this Ministry is being headed by Shri Surjit Singh Barnala, who himself has an agricultural background. He belongs to a State which is a premier agricultural State of the country. But, Sir, I cannot help saying that this Government has an image of being middlemen-friendly. This Government has an image of being hoarders-friendly and of being trader-friendly. The Government has not done anything. They have not announced any policy which could have given rise to this price rise. But the traders, the hoarders and the middlemen know that there is a Government in the country which is nothing but friendly to them. That is why they are the people who

are ruling the roost today. Certainly, the Minister who is in charge of the Ministry must not— I am not saying may not be knowing, I am saying must not— be knowing about it. He certainly cannot be personally held responsible for anything. He is an agriculturist. He cannot be held responsible for things which are anti-farmer and at the same time anti-consumer. But, I am talking of the overall image of the Government.

I have heard the hon. Members, particularly, the Members of the Government allies. I am happy to see the Members had the courage to say it openly. They have a conscience which bothers them but they do not have enough conscience to force the Government to act against the middlemen and the hoarders.

The hon. Member, Shrimati Patil had referred to one of the poems of the hon. Prime Minister. Why should one refer to only one poem of Shri Vajpayee? I would say that all the speeches of the Prime Minister. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Arif Mohammed, what about the price rise? You have not said anything about the price rise.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN : This was said only while speaking on the price rise. If you want, can start repeating the figures which have already been quoted by the hon. Members. Basically, Sir, the question is, who is responsible for the price rise.

As far as rise in prices is concerned, that is a fact of life. Some of the Members from the Treasury Benches have tried to say that since the farmers did not get the remunerative prices last year, the production had been lower. But here, I have a news item with me. This is based on an official report. The data which has been collected by the Delhi Agricultural Marketing Board says that the prices have gone up by 200 per cent, whereas the shortfall in the supply is only of the order of about 17 per cent. So, the defence which was being given is not based on reality. I am saying this because we must be able to identify the forces which are responsible for this price increase. I am not holding this Government responsible; I am not saying that they have, by announcing some new policy or by making new proposals, caused the price increase. What I am saying is, it is basically their image which is the reason. They cannot live down their image. Their image is that of middlemen-friendly, hoarders-friendly and profiteers-friendly. That is the reason why the prices are increasing.

I am constrained to make this point because a reference was made by hon. Member Shrimati Patil to one of the poems of *Mananiya Pradhana Mantriji*. I would say, why only one poem, if one goes through dispassionately all the speeches that have been made, one can painfully say that these speeches have been made because of the certitude that they will never be called upon to form the Government and deliver what they have been promising. That is the reason why they were promising the sky. They were promising heavens but now when they have come to occupy the

responsible position today, they have come to know about the reality. The argument being made from the Treasury Benches is, one of the reasons why prices cannot be controlled is that everybody is trying to take political advantage of this price rise. Nobody is trying to take political advantage. If they decide to shake their middlemen-friendly image, if they act against the hoarders, if they act against the profiteers, there is no reason why the prices will not come down. And if the prices will come down, there will be nobody to try to take advantage of it. The advantage will be taken by the common man of this country. This is the least that the common man expects from them.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to conclude with the remark to the Government - "Enough is enough. You have allowed the prices to increase for the last three months. Now, for God's sake, act and bring down the prices. Take action against those who are responsible for this price increase. Otherwise, those who are the victims of this price rise will have no option but to say that they are the victims of the price rise and you are the cause of the price rise."

SHRI T.R. BAALU (MADRAS SOUTH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to deliberate on the Discussion regarding rise in prices of essential commodities.

What could be the reason for this hike in the prices of essential commodities? It may be due to the vast gap between the supply and demand; it may be due to increase in the cost of production; or it may be due to escalation of inflation, because of unchecked fiscal deficit. I would quickly go through the per-kilogramme prices of essential commodities. They are : potatoes Rs. 15; onions Rs. 14; green chillies Rs. 40; Tomatoes Rs. 40; low-grade rice Rs. 17; gingle oil Rs. 75; tuvar dal Rs. 35. Take any green vegetable, its price would range from Rs. 18 to Rs. 25 per kg. Tea is costing Rs. 75 per kg; coffee is at Rs. 200 per kg. .. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI C. GOPAL (ARAKKONAM) : Are these the prices prevailing in Tamil Nadu or in Delhi?

SHRI T.R. BAALU : I am mentioning the prices prevailing throughout the country.

When compared to May, 1997, the Consumer Price Index went up by 10.2 per cent. The increase in the price of rice counts to 7 per cent, *gur* 9 per cent, *vanaspati* 25 per cent, groundnut oil 10 per cent, mustard oil 28 per cent, soyabean oil 30 per cent, black peeper 75 per cent, red chilly 53 per cent; turmeric 20 per cent; *dhania* 9 per cent and ginger 28.7 per cent.

My observation is that prices of food items, vegetables, edible oils, fruits and pulses are skyrocketing. But the Government is not at all taking any due corrective measures to see that the prices are kept under control. In the Budget, the Government has underplayed the threat of inflation. Whereas the Economic Survey has warned very much in advance about the threat of inflation. The Budget that has been pre-

[Shri T.R. Baalu]

sented by the Finance Minister has not at all taken this into account. Economic Survey warned that the present fiscal year would require special effort at supply management to offset the possible shortfall of edible oils, food grains as to the effect of two per cent negative growth of agriculture. They have not taken any corrective measures. The Government is running on a day-to-day account. At present, the attention of the BJP Government is focussed towards its allies, to cajole and compromises and to interact with their allies to be in office. The day-to-day affairs of the Government are run on a daily wages basis. In the present scenario, I would not be surprised if a Minister could be appointed for the purpose of compromising and cajoling their allies. But the only requirement or prerequisite qualification is that the Minister who could be appointed should be free from selective amnesia.

The Government has not taken into account any inflationary measures consequent to the sanctions imposed by the USA and Japan. In this Budget, the fiscal deficit that was contemplated is Rs. 91000 crore. The Government has rolled back the urea price, we welcome it: the Government has reduced the duty by four per cent, we welcome it. But at the same time, the Government expect inflation of 6.5 per cent. Here, I differ. According to the eminent economists and experts, inflation will be of the order of nine per cent. But, the Opposition expect, and I expect that there will be a double digit inflation. During the tenure of the United Front Government, the inflation was all along kept under check. It was not more than 4.8 per cent. If you go through the records during the tenure of the United Front Government, you can find that the inflation was at the lowest comparing to the preceding six years, that is 1992 to 1997.

While calculating the arithmetic of the Budget, you would have taken that the rupee value when compared to the dollar was Rs. 36. Now, what is the rupee value in dollar terms? It is Rs. 43. The Finance Minister expected a debt service of Rs. 75000 crore. Now, at the present value of Rs. 43 per dollar, definitely it will go up to not less than Rs. 87000 crore. There is an increasing pressure of payment of Rs. 12000 crore more in terms of debt service. I would say that under the FCNR account deposit, they have to return this amount on maturity. There is a tremendous amount of resource drain, if you take into account the value of the rupee in comparison to dollar. Taking all this into account, there will be a definite increase in inflation. It will neither be 6.5 per cent nor nine per cent, it will be in double digit.

Coming to the production, I would like to say that the prices may increase because of the reduction in production.

Our farmers are not trained to the level of using the fertilizer according the proportion. The farmer have to use nitrogen, potassium and phosphate at a certain per-centage. But our farmers are not trained to the level of using the correct proportion of these phosphate, nitrogen and potassium. The farmers should be properly informed to use the fertilizer in proper proportion.

The Government has introduced crop insurance to some districts of a State but at the same time it restricts the crop insurance to rice, wheat, millets, oil seeds etc. and is not extended to all the commodities. It covers only the loan amount. It is not extend to the loss due to natural calamities. It is not extended to the loss caused by insects. Our agriculturists should be trained in such a way that they should use proportionate chemicals.

Before I conclude, I would like to make some suggestions. Supply management of edible commodities is a must. High increase in duties should be restructured and reduced. Revenue expenditure should be cut off to a minimum of Rs. 10,000 crore. The export of essential commodities to be banned for the time being. Money supply should be controlled to a minimum to check the inflation. Farmers should be advised to use nutrients in proper proportions; and 67 per cent of the wasteland available should be brought under irrigation.

Lastly, my beloved sister Dr. Saroja has requested the Tamil Nadu Government to give thousand rupees per tonne to sugarcane growers. I would like to tell this House that a time will come to pay Rs. 1000 per tonne of sugarcane as promised by my leader Dr. Kalaingar and the Government of Tamil Nadu will long last for five years, i.e. up to 2001. But at the same time the AIADMK, which is giving support to the BJP Government on day to day basis, will not support this Government for ever. ... (Interruptions) I warn the BJP Government to beware of the AIADMK, they may pull the rug under your feet at any time. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bikram Deo to speak now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Except Shri Deo's speech, nothing more will go on record.

SHRI T. R. BAALU : Sir, with this, I thank you for having given me the opportunity.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (KALAHANDI): Sir, at the outset I thank you for admitting this Motion under Rule 193. I also thank the hon. Member who gave notice for this Motion because this Motion has been given to discuss the burning problem which the whole country is facing today. I am sure, the people of the country will appreciate this debate which is taking place in the House as the BJP Government, headed by Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee, has also agreed for a discussion.

It has been seen that this Government has realised the gravity and the seriousness of the price rise problem. That is why, we are still debating the matter. But the reasons have to be seen why this price rise has taken place. If you go deep into it, you will see that the price rise has not been an issue of one day, it is a long drawn out issue. It has been seen that today the price rise is there because the farming sector or the agricultural sector has totally failed.

You will see that this year the vagaries of nature against the farmers have been there, thereby leading to loss of crop, loss of paddy crop, loss of vegetable crop and loss of horticulture crop. Sir, you see, there is no mango crop this year.

This year, there are no potatoes. They are the common vegetables of the masses. Therefore, a long drawn-out agricultural policy is to be formulated. I thank the Finance Minister because this year he has provided a budgetary provision of the order of 58 per cent for the rural sector. This clearly indicates that this Government is very serious about implementing the schemes for farm sector, agriculture sector and the rural sector whereby the backward and the poor economic conditions of the farmers and the rural people are removed. Therefore, on this subject, this Government is serious.

You are aware that the fiscal year of 1997-98 was a very bad year. As per the Economic Survey, the inflation rate has been steadily going up. There is an abnormal increase, from 34 per cent to 80 per cent, in the prices of vegetable like onions and potatoes, which was registered in the market. You cannot blame the BJP Government. We have come just three months back. The crop takes three months to yield from the date of plantation. So, how do you expect the Government to immediately control the prices? The producers have not come to the market in total. Besides, the cold storage or food preservation plants have been very poor in various States. The Agriculture Departments in the Congress ruled States like Orissa have totally neglected the farmers. In Orissa, the Agriculture Department is under the control of the Chief Minister. There is a scam of Rs. 200 crore. How do you expect the farmers to improve and get the right produce? Today, as you are aware, substandard paddy seeds are supplied to the farmers. The farmers could not get their yields. Therefore, I am sure in the coming days, this Government will definitely solve the problem of abnormal price rise which has taken the Government by surprise.

A new Agriculture Policy is going to be announced shortly. It has already been delivered here. The hon. Prime Minister has made a mention of it in the House.

Before concluding, I would like to say something about the PDS. PDS has totally failed. According to the DRDA survey, 80 per cent of the people are living below the poverty line (BPL) in the State but according to the Central Government's survey, it is only 46 per cent. Based on BPL percentage, whatever paddy or rice and other commodities that are being supplied to the State of Orissa are not sufficient. There has always been a clamour that the BPL commodities supplied to the State of Orissa should be according to the DRDA survey. According to the DRDA survey, 80 per cent of the people are living below the poverty line.

Another thing that should be attributed to the rise in prices is rug-pulling affair. It has been seen that this Congress Party has twice pulled rug from under the Governments. During the Prime Ministership of Shri I.K. Gujral, they have pulled the rug from under thereby paving the way for

another election. This surely indicates that the Congress wants to destabilise the country. It is because of this instability, there has been a price rise. Therefore, it is not the BJP to blame. It is the Congress Party and the parties that are supporting the Congress to blame.

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Please give me some time. I am coming from a very backward State, that is Orissa. Let me give vent to my feelings. I come from Kalahandi. As you know, my district is one of the KBK districts which are the most backward districts in the country.

I am happy that this year, the Government has announced a very big programme for that. We hope things will change. Therefore, the problem of price rise will definitely be solved in future. I would request the hon. Speaker to set up a House Committee on this matter so that they could study the actual price rise problem which has taken the country unaware.

With these words, I conclude. Thank you.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (BERAHAMPORE) (WB) : Thank you for the opportunity given to me to express our views on the Motion moved by Shri Basu Deb Acharia on the rise in prices of essential commodities.

Day before yesterday an important Bill to amend the Essential Commodities Act was recommended for referring to a select committee for a fresh appraisal by a consensus decision of the House; and by that way the House had also expressed its deep concern about the grave situation arising out of the rise in prices of essential commodities. Today in the discussion held under Rule 193 we have heard many valuable speeches and there is no denying the fact that the unprecedented price rise is not confined to the Kitchen houses of the countrymen. It indicates the failure of the Government's economic policy and it indicates the failure of the Government machinery to control the market system.

Yesterday I was watching the television while our hon. Minister Shri Surjit Singh Barnala was speaking about the effect of the priced rise of essential commodities. It was his opinion or view that the natural calamities, climatic conditions and the shortage of foodgrains were the primary and basic reasons for the price rise of essential commodities. I beg to differ with his statement. The climatic conditions and shortage of foodgrains were not the reasons for rise in prices of essential commodities. It is the socio-economic system which can be held responsible for rise in prices of essential commodities.

I am not a good student of economics. But our hon. Minister of Finance is a good student of economics. He is not here. But it is better known to him that the market economy is the main reason for the hike in prices of essential commodities. We are living in an age of sophisticated metropolitan capitalism. It is an international phenomenon

[Shri Pramothesh Mukherjee]

and that capitalistic phenomenon gives us only a brief account of market economy. What is the main object of the market economy? The important object of the market economy is to make individual profits. And we are the victims of the individual profit making of the market economic system. We have to depend upon the middleman, we have to depend upon the hoarders, we have to depend upon the entire dishonest trading community for our daily requirements.

What is the basic solution? The basic solution to this problem is the introduction of the STC. But it is unfortunate that the Government did not think of introducing the STC for essential commodities. That is why, we are victims of the circumstances, we are victims of the system of market economy and as a result the actual producer, or the actual farmer does not get any benefit, does not get the value of the produce and we the consumers do not get the actual benefit of the fixed prices of the essential commodities. It is only the middleman, it is only the hoarder, it is only the speculator who gets the benefit and gets the benefit of this market economic system.

With your kind permission, refer to the answer to an unstarred Question given by the hon. Minister of Finance, Shri Yashwant Sinha to Unstarred Question No. 495 on 29-5-98 about the inflation rate. The most important price stabilising system is the PDS. But the Government could not generate the PDS for controlling the inflation rate and price rise or the essential commodities.

Here is the statement or reply given by the hon. Minister of Finance on the 29th May. What was the question? The question was : "Whether there is a steep increase in the inflation rate in the recent months, particularly during the month of May 1998?"

In response to this question, our hon. Minister of Finance was making the reply. What was the reply? Let me quote:-

"The annual inflation rate has increased by one percentage point from 5 per cent to 6 per cent in the month of May, due mainly to an unusually large seasonal rise in the price of vegetables, especially potato and onion, fruits, tea and to some extent edible oils."

This was the answer given by the hon. Minister of Finance on the 29th May. What did the Government do since then? Thirty-five or forty days have passed since the Government could not check the inflation rate in respect of the price rise of essential commodities.

Again, I want to quote parts (c) and (d) of the question. I quote:

"The Government keeps a constant watch on the price situation specially with regard to essential commodities such as rice, wheat, sugar, edible oils and pulses. Public Distribution System/Targeted Public Distribution System is the principal Price stabilising system operated by the Central and State Governments."

Is the hon. Minister ready to answer to this question that the Government have adequately supervised and monitored the Public Distribution System? The answer is 'no'. That is the main reason and that is the failure of the Government to control the market economic system and that is the reason for the price rise of essential commodities. It is unfortunate to mention here. ... (Interruptions) I will be concluding.

We have heard about the theories of privatisation and globalisation. We have heard of *swadeshi* and good governance by consensus. But I want to quote, with your permission, one reference though I never quote from any newspaper. This information has been supplied by the Observer and it gives us the comparative study of the price rise on the 1st of June and again they have made a study of the price rise on the 29th June, within a month. What is the increase of the prices of essential commodities? It can be seen from the figures which I will mention just now. On the 1st of June, the price of wheat per quintal was Rs. 527 and on the 23rd June, within three weeks, the price per quintal was Rs. 671. It indicates the absolute failure of the Government to tackle the situation. There are a lot of things which can be quoted from the Observer in respect of the comparative study of the price rise from 1st June to 29th June.

Again, besides these papers or media remarks, we can say that Budget Inflation is another important factor contributing to the price rise. Can the Government deny this fact that the Budget itself is an inflationary Budget? If the Budget itself is inflationary, then the prices of essential commodities must go up very high. The inflationary Budget, nuclear test, Exim Policy and the devaluation the rupee are the contributing factors for the price rise. No one can deny it. I may remind the Government that we are living just in an age of Asian debacle of rupee. In the period of Asian debacle, the Government and the Indian people are suffering from the system of devaluation of rupee in respect of dollar and foreign exchange. Can you say that this Government has done anything to check this devaluation? Can the Government do anything? The Exim Policy and the Export-Import Policy are also responsible for such a devaluation in respect of dollar and other things. These things can be said when the Finance Bill will be discussed here in this House.

There are many reasons that can be cited here in support of the price rise of essential commodities or why the prices of these commodities have gone up. But a few suggestions or notes can be placed here. We have heard of the Green Revolution in the hon. Minister, Shri Surjit Singh Barnala's State of Punjab.

MR. SPEAKER : No Please conclude.

SHRI PRAMOTHESH MUKHERJEE : Yes, Sir, I am concluding.

Sir, we have heard of the Green Revolution. We have also heard of the White Revolution in Gujarat, that is, plenty of milk production. But in spite of the Green Revolution and in spite of the White Revolution, the country suffers from the

hike in prices of essential commodities. Why is it so ? This is because of the fact that there is no cooperative farming, this is because of the fact that there is no cooperative trading system, and this is because of the fact that there is no abolition of middlemen in our trading system or in our marketing system. So, I would urge upon the Government to make necessary arrangements for the supply of fourteen essential commodities, the items of daily requirement, at fixed price through a modified rationing system. I would urge upon the Government to immediately introduce or try to introduce the State trading system. I would also urge upon the Government to complete the unfulfilled task of land reforms, cooperative farming and cooperative trading.

With these words, I once again thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE (CHIMUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, keeping in view the trend of increasing prices both the ruling party and the opposition participating in the serious discussion agree that the prices of essential commodities are on increase. The Government has not been taking steps to check this price-rise. Rather the Government is not making any efforts in this direction. This Government has been in power for about 106 days and during this period the prices of essential commodities have increased to such an extent that the common masses in the country have been facing many hardships and problems. All these problems have been created during the tenure of this Government. This is a matter of serious concern.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will not take much of your time. I will conclude after making 2-4 submissions because the Hon. Members have already said a lot regarding price-increase. These include special mention to vegetables, pulses, grains and rice. What is the reason that Government is unable to check the increasing prices ? It is not that prices did not increase in the past. But after the present Government took over, the prices have increased to such an extent that it have become a matter of concern. Now, we have to see who is running the Government of this country the profiteers, the black marketeers, the adulterators, the persons creating the artificial scarcity or Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. This is a matter of great concern. We have been observing it. Today there is no control over the rising market-prices of commodities. I do not want to waste your time by repeating the names of these things.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, some of our colleagues also tried to support the Government over the issue of price-rise. Our Finance Minister had read out a few lines of a poem during Budget speech. He had said,

*"Maine Chand Aur Sitaron Ki Tamanna ki thi,
Mujhko Raton Ki Siahni Ke Siva Kutch Na Mila."*

The incessant increase in prices have created a feeling of terror in the poor people of our country.

We are sorry for it and it is a very serious matter. Since the Government is unstable, that is why the prices have been increasing. The Government is concerned only about how to maintain the support of the allying parties. Therefore the Government is not paying attention to check the increasing prices. They have been engaged only in adopting various tactics for saving their Government. It is matter of great regret.

Through you, I would like to give a suggestion. It should be implemented if found suitable. People living below the poverty-line constitute about 55 per cent of our total population. Separate provisions should be made under the Public Distribution system for the two categories. Potatoes are available at the rate of Rs. 14 per Koligram to a person earning a sum of Rs. 7000/- per month and also to a person who earns Rs. 400/- per month. Is it not injustice? Therefore I would suggest the Government that there should be a double price system. Under the Public Distribution system the people living below the poverty line, should be provided essential commodities at cheaper rates through fair price shops while those having adequate income resources should be allowed to buy these commodities from open market.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Kawade, please take your seat...

[Translation]

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE: Kumari Mamata Banerjee has suggested that the essential commodities should be enlisted and their prices should never be allowed to increase at any cost. If the Government take this measure I think there is no force in this country which can prevent them from achieving their motive. The Government capable to conduct a nuclear explosion in Pokharan, can not check the price-rise. It is our claim that if the Government restrict themselves from doing favours to profiteers, and hoarders, they must be determined to stop price-rise.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri S. Mallikarjuniah.

[Translation]

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : before I conclude I would like to refer to what the Hon. Minister of Finance had said:-

*"Maine chand Aur Sitaron ki Tamanna ki thi,
Mujhko Raton ki Siahni ke siva Kutch Na Mila"*

Besides, this I would only like to submit that-

*Hai Tumahara Andhere se Shikva Galat,
Tumhin Ne to Shama ki Roshni Bech dee,
Ab Baharon Mein Phool Khilenge Nahin,
Bagban Ne Phoolon ki Hansee Bech Dee.*

[English]

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH (TUMKUR) : Sir, I rise to speak a few words about price rise. So far as the medicines are concerned, prices are too high. It is very difficult for the ordinary man to purchase medicines. So, I wish that the Government should apply its mind and try to revise the rates in consultation with the manufacturers. This is absolutely essential.

Secondly, so far as consumer goods are concerned, they can be divided into foodgrains and vegetables.

So far as foodgrains are concerned, during the harvest season, the agriculturists have no capacity to stock the foodgrains and wait for a good price. They shall have to take them to the *mandi* and they are forced to sell them at a low price. The merchant class purchase the foodgrains, hoard them and they create an artificial scarcity in the market. Therefore, the Government should have a control over these things.

Then, in our State, this is a rainy season now and paddy is sold at Rs. 300/- per quintal. The traders wait for some time, purchase in bulk at a lower rate, hoard it and sell at a higher rate later on. This is a common feature in our area, particularly in Tungabhadra area. Therefore, the Government shall have to make special arrangements like providing godown facilities. The agriculturists should be in a position to stock their produce, pledge them, and take money for their immediate needs.

As far as Fair Price Shops are concerned, they are under the control of the State Governments, and it is the State Governments which manage them. Whenever the State Governments want rice, oil or any other article, the Central Government supplies them and with that their job is over. But the proper distribution of the food articles is in the hands of the State Governments.

So far as vegetables are concerned, transportation facilities are not available to the farmers. In our area, a lot of vegetables are grown, but for want of good market, the farmers sell them at a lesser price. Therefore, facilities for cold storage and transportation should be made available to the farmers, so that the price level can be maintained. Then, remunerative prices shall have to be assured to the farmers for all times to come because very often there are variations in price in the market. Sometimes, they get a very good price and sometimes, they get very low price for their produce. As a result of this, the agriculturists are fed up with growing of vegetables and other items. When most of the agriculturists stop growing vegetables, the rates go up to a very high level in the market. Therefore, the Government should have a control and should have a regulated system as to what vegetables should be grown and what is the need of the society. If such a regulation is there, then, I think, probably the prices will be under control.

DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL (JALGAON): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this issue of rise in prices of essential commodities.

Sir, I think, it has become necessary for the Government to take steps to see that there is no inflation and there is no hike in prices. Nobody will allow the Government to say that this is not their responsibility. Probably, they are not going to say that this is not their responsibility. But if a Member of the Government stands up and says that they have enough foodgrains, enough resources in the country and at the same time, if these foodgrains are not available to the consumers at acceptable prices, then the responsibility of the Government becomes more onerous. So, if they do not discharge this responsibility, everybody will say that they have not anticipated these things and they have not taken any measures to prevent such rise in prices of essential commodities or they have not applied their mind to it.

Sir, while we are discussing this issue today, the main issue which we have to discuss on this occasion, first of all, is the population control. But we are not discussing this issue. We are not concentrating on family planning programmes and we are not paying our attention to population control measures. Then, now-a-days there are many environmental calamities and when such environmental calamities occur, they should think of price rise also.

20.00 hrs.

In the context of price rise, unemployment is also another question that has to be addressed. Actually the rise in prices affects the destitute people and the whole population of the country. To solve this problem the farmers should be encouraged to produce more. They should be provided adequate credit facilities. But now-a-days, the credit facilities are being given more to the hoarders. That is why, this type of situation has arisen in the country. There should be adequate facilities for the transport of the material in different States. There should be coordination between the Transport Minister, the Railway Minister and the State Chief Ministers. They should discuss the issue of transporting foodgrains and other materials to different areas.

Sir, in spite of the fact that goods and commodities are available in adequate quantities, somebody is hoarding them. They are hoarding them because there is inadequate law. They are not being charged as this is not considered as a crime. That is why they are daring to blackmail. That is why such things are occurring and the hoarding capacity is increasing. Secondly, the hoarders are being given bank credit. Those facilities should be stopped. Thirdly, we have to increase the facilities to provide fertilizers to the farmers. The farmers should be given more credits. They should be provided with new technologies. They should also be given remunerative prices. The Government should take anticipatory measure to prevent such things. There should be coordination between the public distribution system and transport system. I think this Government should take all this into account.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Sir, the House was extended till 8 o'clock. Now the time has to be extended.

MR. SPEAKER : The time is again extended till the completion of this subject.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (BADAGARA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for this opportunity. A very serious discussion had gone in this august House regarding the rocketing price hike in the whole country. I would like to raise here two points. What is the reason for this hike in such a short period? The inflation rate is coming nearly to two digits. What are the suggestions for resolving this problem? In this context, I am reminded of the Marie Antoinette of the French history, the queen who suspended Louise XVI which had been responsible directly for the French Revolution of 1789. When the people were starving, they went to the royal household complaining that they had no bread. The answer of Marie Antoinette was that you can have cake if you do not have bread. This is the attitude taken by this Government. During 106 days of this Government's regime, they are doing a balancing act. I am reminded of a circus tent where the trapeze is going on and everybody is keeping the hands across the heart and just watching anybody is going to fall. So, this is the type of balancing act of governance that this Government has been doing. That act is directly responsible for this price hike. As Shri Arif Mohammad had said, during these days of suspense when the balancing act of a trapeze is going on in this country with the B.J.P. as the leader, what is going on is that the black marketeers, profiteers and hoarders are running a parallel Government in this country. No wonder the price is rising in such a manner. Most of the Members of the Treasury Benches has also agreed that there is unprecedented and unique price rise during the 106 days. I hope you will remember the significance of the day, the March 19. I am not going to say what the significance is as you know it much better than me.

From that day onwards, one Party is taking the nation for a ride. The coalition partners are actually hijacking, which we only see in an aeroplane. Each party is taking the Government and the entire nation for a ride. During this period, the prices have gone high, and this trapeze is going on. Naturally, during this sort of an act, I am sure, the Government will not be able to do anything. I would like to know as to what the Government is doing to bring down prices. This has already been pointed out during the Question Hour and several answers were given about the price hike. In spite of the fact that the Government is aware of all these things, it has not done anything at all.

I will just mention one small example. Even the common salt, which is very cheap, is denied to the entire nation. With one stroke of this Government, the common salt which was costing two rupees plus is now denied to the people of this country. The skyrocketing of price is going to take place in the case of common salt also. Why? It is because the multinational companies had not been producing to their full capacity. In order to make the multinational companies to produce to their full capacity, this Government had imposed

a ban on the common salt with retrospective effect, that is, from 27th May onwards. That is how, the salt of life is denied to the people. I am sure that the people are not going to forgive this Government. This is the starting point and everywhere they are discussing as to what this Government is doing to cut down the prices.

I suppose, the Mahajan Committee recommendations are going to be enforced by this Government. It means that sugar will be decontrolled and, therefore, the price of sugar will be hiked. I am not going into the statistics, which I have collected yesterday and the day before, because of lack of time and also because it has already been mentioned.

There was a suggestion from the Treasury Benches and also from Kumari Mamata Banerjee saying that the Central Government should take the State Governments into confidence. But does this Government have any such idea of taking the State Governments into confidence? If it had been there, then the Eleventh Finance Commission would not have been announced in this unilateral manner without consulting the State Governments. Without taking the State Governments into confidence, the hon. Finance Minister has announced the constitution of the Eleventh Finance Commission. In spite of all these things, this Government expects the cooperate of all the State Governments. I am not going into other political issues and I am not going to make this a political speech.

An appeal to the Government to pay attention to the difficulties of the ordinary people. This Government will do good to remember Swami Vivekananda's words. I am sure, you will respect his words, if not my words, that is, "the best way to the heart or the brain of a starved, poverty-stricken man is through his stomach". What are you going to do about this? It will do very well to remember these words of Swami Vivekananda.

As far as the suggestions are concerned, it also will do good to follow the example of the Kerala State. Thousand needy stores were constituted within the last two years by the LDF Government in Kerala to strengthen the PDS. Here, you are thinking of destroying the Public Distribution System. If you want the details, I can give them to you. If you take the example of how the public Distribution System in the Kerala State is being managed, how it is being strengthened, then you will get the answer. How can you control the prices? If it is necessary, I can give the price level in Kerala and also the price level in Delhi. The price level in Delhi is much higher than in Kerala and, remember, it is a consumer State. We get things from other States, but still the Government is giving subsidy. Year before last, the Government gave Rs. 50 crore to strengthen the Public Distribution System. From the starting point of the present Government, they gave subsidised rice to the people below the poverty line. These examples can be taken up by the Central Government, the State Governments can be taken into confidence and implement these measures which will definitely bring down the price level.

[Prof. A.K. Premajam]

The last point is Essential Commodities Act. I cannot just stop without mentioning this point. The Essential Commodities Act has been a farce. At least, the introduction of that has become a farce. It is actually an Act which was proposed to help profiteers, black-marketeers and hoarders. Of course, it is now being sent to the Select Committee and I hope it will become consumer friendly Act. Of course, the Select Committee will think twice before giving suggestions. Import is no solution. Some of the members of the Treasury benches mentioned this point. With the current value of rupee in terms of dollar, how are you going to bring down the prices with imported goods? It will add to the price rise. I am just posing these questions to the Government. It is up to Government to think in terms of some remedial measures. We all will support you if you think in terms of ordinary man, the poverty-stricken half-starved man, of this country.

[Translation]

SHRI HARPAL SINGH SATHI (HARIDWAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir please wait for two minutes.

I want to make a suggestion. Food Corporation of India was formed in 1970. Prior to this, the prices in Calcutta increased to extent that the maize-floor sold at Rs. 6/- to Rs. 7/- per kilogram. The Food Corporation was set up to provide subsidised, clean and good quality ration. It was divided into various sections having private storing agent, truck owner, ration shop owner, store owner, transport incharge etc. which ultimately resulted in adulteration and black marketing of commodities. Secondly Central Warehousing Corporation proves to be extremely cheap. Under the prevailing distribution system commodities are kept in the godown of Food Corporation which works under the State Government the Government of Bengal took over the change in their hands. The former Minister of Food Shri Raghuvansh Babu got an amount Rs. 228/- crores sanctioned in the name of Food Corporation. But how much was procured and how much sold? Recently, again there was a hue and cry that commodities should be supplied from the godown of Food Corporation. When the Food Corporation works, it must be given priority and the commodities should be packed in the packets of 1 kg to 5 kg and 10 kg supplied to the State Governments.

Recently, our senior leader Shri Krishan Lal Sharma was forced to observe a fast over the issues related to electricity and ration. When big corporations take the ration shops into their own hands, blackmarketing is likely to take place and slum dweller, in these ration shops are deprived of commodities available there. All the slum dwellers are usually unemployed and poverty stricken. Therefore, they are those who really deserve to be supplied foodgrains from these ration shops. All the hon. Members belonging either to the ruling or the opposition side agree to this.

There is no doubt that price-rise has taken place, but the reason for price-rise is not the shortage of foodgrains. Food grains in adequate quantity are available in the Food Corporation but the cheap and good quality ration has not been available to the people .. (Interruptions)

[English]

DR. RAVI MALLU (NAGAR KURNOOL) : Now I will take only two minutes. You may please allow me to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : No. The Hon. Minister will now speak. Nothing will go on record except the speech of Hon. Minister.

(Interruptions) *

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Ravi Mallu, many members from your party have spoken. You can ask some clarifications. Please take your seat now.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir this was a very good subject and a very good debate has taken place over it. Many hon'ble Members have got a chance to speak over it. Many Hon. Members from various parties have spoken about it had a very nice debate took place.

The thing which I have noticed, that except one or two nobody spoke about foodgrains that there is a shortage of wheat or prices have jumped up suddenly. Nobody said that the prices of rice and sugar have gone up or there is shortage of rice and sugar.

No discussion took place about primary items, except one or two Hon. Members. I was observing that they started saying that the price of sugar has become Rs. 19 and half rupees per kilogram which is not true, today the sugar is selling at Rs. 16 per kilogram in the market, somewhere it is costing 50 paise more and somewhere 50 paise less. Likewise the prices of wheat has also been stable, same is the case with rice whether it be rough rice or another one. But there was mention of other items, mostly, vegetables were discussed, like onion and potatoes were talked about.

AN HON. MEMBER : The price of common salt has also increased.

MR. SPEAKER : Do not eat much salt.

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : A few members have said a very good thing that this is the question of supply and demand. Supply has decreased, demand has increased a bit because population has been increasing. It is also right, there is no check on it. Population has been increasing gradually but the supply has decreased. As far as vegetables are concerned, that is a perishable item and can not be hold for long. There are some vegetables which can be stored for seven days otherwise most of them last for only 2-3 days. Why the supply of vegetables has decreased, this fact is known to Hon. Members. This time,

* Not Recorded.

there has been scorching heat. I am quite aged and several other Hon. Members are also quite aged now, they know that there was unprecedented heat this year. Several people died of heat wave in state like Orissa. Those who hail from hilly areas, they know that this time there was very cold during winters. When the elections were taking place in the month of January, I remember lot of potatoes is sown in our region but the entire crop of potatoes was destroyed due to fog. Similarly the Hon. Member from Himachal Pradesh was saying that in our region potatoes are being sold at Rs. three per kilogram. He is quite right, but when the same potatoes arrive here, it is sold at RS. 12-13 to Rs. 16 per kilogramme. That becomes costly and the middlemen make profits in between. That is why the cost of the vegetables has increased quite a lot to the failure of two seasons and production has also been less. Some of my friends said that they are not responsible for these seasons. He is quite right. Vegetables are not grown in five-ten or two months. Somebody has remarked that as you sowed less, so the production was also less. It is a continuing process but a little bit of politics has crept into it, as it has entered in every field. It should be so, because what for we are sitting here. But when we overdo it and look every thing through the glass of politics, then it is not right. This should be seen beyond the petty-politics. It is a phenomenon that sometimes the production is less and some times there is bumper crop. In the last Lok Sabha when we used to sit on that side, we also used to oppose it and the people in benches used to say that price-rise has taken place, but not at that level over which you are crying hoarse. I mean to say that we should find a solution to this problem. We have some items like pulses which are produced in lesser quantity. We are yet to become self-sufficient in the field of pulses. I have been an Agriculture Minister earlier, I have interest in it being a farmer and a Minister and therefore I want to say that pulses are grown here but their production is not taking place at the level it should be. We are 40 lakh tonnes short in the field of pulse production.

From where it will come? Pulses are not imported in large quantities, only four or five lakh tonnes can be imported. Not more than this pulses can be found. Many of the countries do not produce pulses, the before these are not available and their shortage keeps on increasing. Pulses is not such a crop, as many of you are aware that it is not a very sure crop. It is not a sure crop, so it can be easily afflicted with disease. Onset of seasonal disease take place, damage also occurs due to rains. Same is the condition of oil seeds. Oil seeds are also not considered as sure crops. Its flower gets destroyed due to lightening. The mustard flower is a very tender and the lightening and the thunder of the clouds harm it. These not being sure crops, the farmer is reluctant to cultivate them. He prefers to cultivate paddy or wheat. This time too, the crops of oil seeds was less. It resulted in less production of edible oil.

There is a shortage of 14 lakh tonnes of edible oil in the country. Now the question is as to wherefrom the edible oil should come? The mustard oil is not available anywhere. My friend was saying that Mustard oil is necessary for cooking fish. Laloo Prasad ji was saying that until his feet are

massaged with oil he cannot fall asleep. There are different kind of needs. We also massage the children. Mustard oil is also called bitter oil and it is in great demand in the country. But it is not available in large quantity from anywhere. We are lucky if we could find a few, otherwise it is not imported in large quantity. In its place we buy palm oils. Being cheaper, palm oil is easily available and they have a liking for it too. But mostly people insist on getting mustard oil. It is a question of one's liking. In Kerala it is their own liking and in West Bengal it is another necessity and in our region it is something else. In our land people are happy eating ghee. Ghee must be available at any cost. Another situation is that there is shortage of palm oil in international market. The mustard oil comes from two countries, Indonesia and Malaysia. The internal condition of Indonesia is not good. They have stopped export too. Palm oil will not be exported now and due to this the price of import from Malaysia has increased very much and international market has also increased. When the situation in Indonesia become normal and they respond the export but with the imposition of 35 per cent duty. The opening of her market has not much benefited us.

Palm oil is OGL anyone can place an order to import it, but it was not imported in larger quantity because prices in international market were high. After imposing 35 per cent duty the condition did not improve. Just the day before yesterday Indonesia increased duty from 35 per cent to 55 per cent. We were in a fix what to do and what not to do. Now the problem is that the ensuing four months is a festival season and we need palm oil during these festivals. We asked the demand from all the states which came to one lakh 49 thousand tonnes. I asked to order one lakh 50 thousand tonnes. I asked Finance Minister to reduce the imposed 25 per cent duty gradually the deliberations on the same continued slowly, but he did not agreed with me. ... (*Interruptions*) He handed over to me these papers and asked me to read the statement on his behalf.

[*English*]

"In order to ensure the availability of edible oil at reasonable prices, we have decided to reduce the import duty on vegetable oils other than coconut oil, RB palm oil palm karnel oil and palm strain of edible grade in loose or bulk from 25 per cent to 15 per cent. The reduction in Duty will be effective from 10th of July. These oils would also be exempted from special Additional Duty of 4 per cent when imported for trading. A notification to give effect to this change shall be laid on the table of the House in due course."

[*Translation*]

I may inform this House on his behalf that they have agreed to us and have also reduced 10 per cent duty, we wish to improve the position by importing it from other countries. All the same are making some other efforts. As I said that production of edible oil has decreased. There was a decrease in the production of Groundnut oil by 16 lakh tonnes as compared to the earlier production, and a decrease by seven lakh tonnes in Rapeseed oil decreased, sunflower oil decreased by four lakh tonnes, whereas oil

[Sardar Surjit Singh Barnala]

seed decreased wholly. There was decrease in Soyabean. Thus production of edible oil decreased and to fulfill the supply requirements. We have to order palmolein from outside. Therefore there was a rise in prices. This was beyond anyone's control. We have to think on long term basis that such a situation is not repeated again, because this problem is faced by every Government. It is not that it has happened just now. Price rise was there many times during the Congress Government or any other Government. I remember during Morarji Bhai Desai's Government it was the Government of Janta Party the prices decreased for the first time. Otherwise we have observed that prices have fluctuated and it usually happens when Parliament is in session and create opportunity to discuss it in the House.

We have made some efforts for vegetables and I would like to tell you that through Super Bazar of Delhi we did made all efforts which were within our reach, and the prices decreased here. I would like to tell you the prices as on 9th. Now potatoes came into wholesale market for Rs. 9, today onion was sold between Rs. 16 and Rs. 11, we set up about 200 outlets. There are 25-30 or 40 mobile vans utilised for the sale of onions and potatoes. Vans should move in slum areas, so that weaker sections of people can also buy these items. Prices of many commodities have fallen. Price of Brinjal has come down to Rs. 6 from Rs. 20-25. Market price of some commodities have fallen. The current price of Bottle gourd was seven rupees .. (Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (CALCUTTA SOUTH): These prices are of Delhi market. At other places these prices are not there. Prices have increased there. A meeting should be held to deal with this according to policy decision.

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: First you listen, please, then we will agree with your point. Today Tinda was sold between 16 rupees and 11 rupees, spinach between 11 rupees and 8 rupees. The price of capsicum has increased too much. Many people eat it with delight. It's price has come down from Rs. 50 to Rs. 40 Arbi vegetable from Rs. 16-17 has come down to Rs. 15, prices of beans have also decreased. Today, fine quality 'Kagazi lemon' is said at the rate of Rs. 32. Chilly's price from 16-17 rupees has come to ten rupees and regarding tomatoes same is done .. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please listen Hon. Minister's answer, let him complete his speech.

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA (CHURU) : He is giving the rates of Delhi but this is not the Legislative Assembly of Delhi .. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat and listen to the answer of Minister.

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: We request the Government to open a store here and put up this price list.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Minister has been listening to the speeches of all the Hon. Members with patience. Therefore you should listen his speech patiently. He is answering the issues which were raised, please listen attentively.

[English]

DR. RAVI MALLU (NAGAR KURNOOL): This is a discussion on prices all over the country. We are not concerned merely with the price levels in Delhi. There is separate legislative assembly in Delhi, which can very well take care of it. In Parliament, we are concerned about the price situation in the whole country. The prices quoted by the Hon. Minister does not reflect the situation in the country as a whole.

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I bought brinjals at the rate of 20 rupees a kg. this morning.

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: I have not completed my speech yet. First you listen to me. All of a sudden you stand up, while the discussion is going on .. (Interruptions) It is being said that onion and potatoes have become costly due to Pokharan. Potatoes and onions were neither cultivated in Pokharan nor have these items become costlier due to Pokharan. Its reasons is that our cultivations policy is not upto the mark and for this only, it was sown in small quantity and if it was sown, farmers did not get a suitable price. In Nasik, onion is still sold for 3 rupees a kg. Nasik is the area where onion is available in abundance. Although onion is cultivated in other places like Poona, Ahmednagar but onion of Nasik is regarded as the best. There onion is sold at a rate of Rs. 3/- a kilo and here onion is sold at Rs. 16 a kilo .. (Interruptions)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (ULUBERIA): Why don't you speak about middlemen. Speak something about them also.

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: I would like to say that we had a good harvest last year of potato but farmers did not get its valued price. Farmers used to get the price as 50 paise, therefore he left that in market only. When farmers could not get the valued price in year of some crop then he stops to grow the same crop next year. In case of sugarcane you might have seen that if in a particular year sugarcane is produced in surplus quantity then farmer is again hit hard.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What action is being taken regarding potatoes so that potatoes are not get destroyed again?

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: I am going to tell you just now about the efforts being made in this direction. You have been a pioneer in agriculture yourself. In order to same potatoes and from being sold for less price efforts are being made to construct some more cold storages, where farmers can stock their product and can deliver the goods to market. Consumer and farmers should get full price.

MR. CHAIRMAN : C.W.C. has sufficient resources to build cold storages.

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: If farmer gets the valued price for their product then there would be no shortage in our country but this does not happen.

Some Speakers, said again and again that middlemen, blackmarketeers and bad elements want to make fortune through corrupt practices with price rise. It is true to the large extent. There is a law to deal with it .. (*Interruptions*) What is happening underneath it. Laluji is not sitting here. I would like tell him that in Bihar, his party is in power. law is there, how many people have been arrested under the law and how many cases were filed against them? Dareness is there Patna and other places. I would like to tell Bengali friends that law is there, but how it can be implemented? (*Interruptions*) Nothing will come out making noise. It is good if it is implemented. Our policy is to take strict action against persons who are black-marketing are involved in anti-social activities, who are profiteers. No one would be spared. Country is running in loss and if some one does hoarding we will not allow it to happen. For this there is a law for the same. This should be implemented strictly. Those who come from different states should consider it as their responsibility in their states. Different states are governed by different parties.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOGLY) : How many people have been arrested under Essential Commodities Act?

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: I was asking you as to what action you had taken in this matter? I had told you earlier also that I was looking after this work in Punjab. I have been in this profession. Therefore, I know it. In my area 40,000 cases were detected in one year. 200 persons were arrested in 40,000 raids and out of them, cases have been filed against 10 persons. One person was convicted. Almost same thing happened every year. Haryana is adjacent to my area. In Haryana, 500 raids were conducted... (*Interruptions*) I have seen the facts of all states. In every state the condition is same. Bad elements indulge in black-marketing to get benefit. They should not be allowed. There should not be any hoarding and we all should make efforts to check it. For this we have enacted a law. We should implement that law in all states. We will have to evolve a comprehensive policy on production. Unless production of oil seeds, pulses is increased we will continue to face this problem. We will have to make efforts to increase the production of vegetables as was being mentioned by one of my friend. He was saying very good thing in his speech that this process will increase the production of vegetable. If farmers continue to get remunerative prices for their vegetables then the country would not face shortage of vegetables. We should form national consensus over this issue. This problem is not of any one party but it is the problem which relates to everyone. Attention should be paid towards farmers and consumers. Alongwith consumers attention should be paid towards producers also. Besides, I have a third and important point. I may oppose shopkeepers but they are also essential part

of it. I have seen that in this debate consumer and shopkeeper are divided into two classes. Here, shopkeepers were named as traders. Traders is not a small shopkeeper. Small shopkeeper opens his shop by procuring various items from here and there. People purchase from him. His profit is very low which is not even sufficient for his livelihood so he cannot resort to hoarding. We cannot isolate him. Similarly, producers, consumers and salesmen should not be isolated.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have made efforts in Punjab in this regard. I have taken much time but I would like to mention in brief about mandi system. There a farmer's whole foodgrain is sold in a day under mandi system. Farmer takes all his foodgrains to Mandi where he is allotted a space to sell his foodgrains. More efforts and time has been devoted to bring this system. Nothing is sold outside Mandi and no trader can make purchases outside. This year 12.6 million tonnes of foodgrains was procured and out of which traders purchased only 6.5 lakh and F.C.I. and other agencies had purchased the remaining foodgrains. I don't know whether traders were interested in purchasing more or not. In Punjab, we have tried to bring vegetables also under Mandi system. Under this system there is no middlemen because farmer brings his trolley and park it at a place in the Mandi where customer himself comes and purchases vegetables. In this way farmer is able to save some money. Farmer can get remunerative price for his produce under this system because he don't have to pay anything to the middlemen.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is being proposed to sell potatoes and onions under Public Distribution System. From where will it come and where it will be taken? Under P.D.S. it takes months in transportation of foodgrains. But if the same process is followed in respect of potatoes and onions, these will be damaged. For this, only cold storage can be set up. There should be market system for this. It is the responsibility of State Governments to set up all these things.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today a meaningful debate has been held here. We are trying our best to see that prices are controlled and people get goods at reasonable rates..... (*Interruptions*)

20.43 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Rupchand Pal and some other hon.

Members left the House.

(*Interruptions*)

20.44 hrs.

[*English*]

MOTION RE: REFERENCE OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL TO JOINT COMMITTEE

MR. CHAIRMAN: The minister may now move the Motion for referring the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill to Joint Committee.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALIA) : I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1995, be referred to a Joint Committee of the Houses consisting of 30 members, 20 from this House, namely:-

1. Shri Amrik Singh Aliwal
2. Shri N. Dennis
3. Shri Abdul Ghafoor
4. Shri Satya Pal Jain
5. Shri Shanker Prasad Jaiswal
6. Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita
7. Shri Vijay Kumar Khandelwal
8. Prof. Ajit Kumar Mehta
9. Shri Shyam Bihari Mishra
10. Shri S. Murugesan
11. Shri Ajit Kumar Panja
12. Shri Harin Pathak
13. Shrimati Suryakanta Patil
14. Prof. A.K. Premajam
15. Shri Malyala Rajaiah
16. Shri Konijeti Rosaiah
17. Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan
18. Shri Mohan Singh
19. Shri K.D. Sultanpuri
20. Shri Braja Kishore Tripathi

and 10 from Rajya Sabha :

that in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of members of the Joint Committee;

that the Committee shall make a report to this House by the last day of the first week of the next Session;

that in other respects, the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees shall apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

that this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do join the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of 10 members to be appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, be referred to a Joint Committee of the

Houses consisting of 30 Members, 20 from this House, namely:-

1. Shri Amrik Singh Aliwal
2. Shri N. Dennis
3. Shri Abdul Ghafoor
4. Shri Satya Pal Jain
5. Shri Shanker Prasad Jaiswal
6. Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita
7. Shri V. K. Khandelwal
8. Prof. Ajit Kumar Mehta
9. Shri Shyam Bihari Mishra
10. Shri S. Murugesan
11. Shri Ajit Kumar Panja
12. Shri Harin Pathak
13. Shrimati Suryakanta Patil
14. Prof. A.K. Premajam
15. Shri Malyala Rajaiah
16. Shri Konijeti Rosaiah
17. Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan
18. Shri Mohan Singh
19. Shri K.D. Sultanpuri
20. Shri Braja Kishore Tripathi

and 10 from Rajya Sabha :

that in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee, the quorum shall be one third of the total number of members of the Joint Committee;

that the committee shall make a report to this House by the last day of the first week of the next session ;

that in other respects, the Rules of procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committee shall apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

that this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do join the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of 10 Members to be appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now the House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11.00 A.M.

20.46 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the clock on Friday, July 10, 1998/Asadha 19,1920 (Saka)

CORRIGENDA TO LOK SABHA DEBATES
(English Version)

Thursday, July 9, 1998/Asadha 18, 1920 (Saka)

<u>Col./Line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
(iii)/14	Shri Sailendra Kumar	Shri Sailendra Kumar
49/4	Shri A.F.Golam osamni	Shri A.F.Golam Osmani
73/29	10000*	10000*
117/5	Dr.Y.S.Rajsekara Reddy	Dr.Y.S.Raja Sekara Reddy
210/27	SHRI BHARATHARI MAHTAB	SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB
219/23	SHRI NEPAL CHAMDRA DAS	SHRI NEPAL CHANDRA DAS
284/4	29.33	29.53
289/8 (from below)	DR. SAJOJA V.	DR. SAROJA V.
306/6	SHRI BASH DEB ACHARIA	SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA
312/31	Shri T.R. Ballu	Shri T.R. Baalu
319/27	SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BHISWUTHIARY	SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGAR BWISWMUTHIARY
319/35	SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BHISWMURTHIARY	
324/4 324/16 324/22	KUMARI MAMATA BANERJE KUMARI MAMTA BANJERJEE KUMARI MAMTA BANJEREE	KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE
327/3	SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJAPAYEE	SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE
334/LAST	SHRI MADAV RAO PATIL	SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL
348/9	(MADHUBAN)	(MADHUBANI)

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