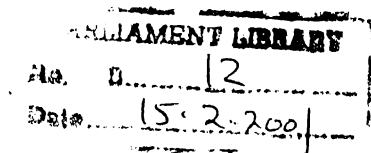


LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Third Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. VI contains Nos. 21 to 30)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA

Thursday, May 4, 2000/Vaisakha 14, 1922 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Uniform Norms on Energy Projects

+

*541. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have asked the States to avoid competitive offers on non-traditional energy projects such as concessional infrastructure, incentives and relief in sales and other taxes;

(b) if so, whether the Government have been issuing such guidelines earlier also;

(c) the names of States which are giving such incentives;

(d) whether State Governments have agreed to have uniform norms on concessions to be given to energy projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) A set of Guidelines was forwarded to all the States in 1993-94 and 1994-95 towards a uniform policy to encourage private sector participation in power generation from non-conventional energy sources such as wind electric generators, small hydro plants, biomass combustion and cogeneration, etc. The Guidelines included aspects of grid interfacing and provision of facilities for such projects by State Electricity Boards including wheeling, banking, purchase of electricity by the Electricity Boards or a third party, annual escalation in purchase price, etc. The Guidelines also suggested sales tax benefits and other concessions, and provision of suitable infrastructural facilities for such projects.

(c) to (e) 14 States have announced policies for power generation from non-conventional energy sources. These States are Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The policies vary from State to State. Where there are variations, the concerned States have been requested to bring the policies in consonance with the Guidelines, so that there is uniformity throughout the country. Other States have been requested to introduce policies as per the Guidelines. The policy announced by the Gujarat Government expired on 31st March, 1998, and is yet to be renewed.

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : In the statement, the hon. Minister has stated that guidelines have been forwarded to all the States. But many States have been following their own policies for power generation from non-conventional energy sources. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Please give us an opportunity to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : Today, opportunity will be given to those sitting on back benches would you like to sit on back bench.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ADHI SANKAR : Sir, it is a serious issue affecting Tamil Nadu. Some secret dialogue is going on between Sri Lankan Government and our Government. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We will take up this matter during Zero Hour, not now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand. You came to me and I told you about this.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can raise this matter after Question Hour, not now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will permit you in the Zero Hour, not now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

11.03 hours

At this stage, Shri Adhi Sankar and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Not now. Please go to your seats.

11.04 hours

At this stage, Shri Adhi Sankar and some other hon. Members went back to their seats

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please understand. There is a procedure in the House. You cannot talk like this and do anything you like. Please go to your seats first.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except Shri Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy's supplementary.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : The State Governments have been agitating for providing concessional infrastructure. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Adhi Sankar, you have not given any notice also. Please understand. Please go to your seats. You are asking me to suspend the Question Hour.

SHRI ADHI SANKAR : We have already given the notice. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seats. It is too much on your part.

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : The incentives which are given in the form of relief from sales tax and other taxes show that there are no concrete guidelines adopted by the Union Government. Besides this, they are also offering to protect the investors from foreign exchange variations or inputs.

MR. SPEAKER : Now the hon. Minister will reply.

SHRI M. KANNAPAN : The supplementary question is not yet completed.

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : I want to bring this matter to your kind notice.

I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that the Tata Energy Research Institute has developed a high rate digester. . . .*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, I appreciate the concern of the hon. Members of the House. . . .*(Interruptions)*

DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN : We do not want any appreciation.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : If you do not want any appreciation, it is all right.

DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN : You may please continue. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, I have to phrase a sentence. I cannot say 'Yes' and sit down.

I appreciate the concern of the hon. Members about the situation in Sri Lanka and the talks between our Prime Minister and the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister. Today, during the course of the day, the Minister of External Affairs will make a statement, which the hon. Members are asking for, on the situation. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, he has already asked the Supplementary.

SHRI M. KANNAPAN : No, Sir. The Supplementary is not over.

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Besides all the incentives and lower taxation, some investors are being protected from the foreign exchange variations.

Non-conventional energy has a lot of potential. Even the Tata Energy Research Institute has developed a high rate digester for semi-solid municipal waste with the promise of revolutionising the waste disposal industry. The bio-gas generated from these units, which has a methane content of about 70 per cent, could be used either for thermal application or for power generation. Apart from this, the National Institute of Secondary Steel Technology organised a Workshop on Conservation of Power Requirement in the Re-rolling Mills. The US Trade and Energy Development Directorate has also identified forty

projects in South Asia, of which 24 projects belong to India.

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask your Supplementary.

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : I want to know from the hon. Minister what are the uniform guidelines being laid concerning the various States for promotion of the important sources of energy.

MR. SPEAKER : What are the uniform guidelines ?

SHRI M. KANNAPAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the uniform guidelines have already been placed on the Table of the House.

Secondly, the Ministry, since the issue of the guidelines by the Ministry in 1993-94 and 1994-95, is taking continuous follow-up action with the State Governments. In respect of States that have already announced the policy guidelines, there were some variations from the MNES guidelines. They have been requested to modify the policies to bring about uniformity in all the States. Letters to all the States were sent at the level of the Secretary in 1996 and at the level of the MoS (NES) in 1997 and high level meetings were held at the level of Secretary, NES with Chief Secretaries of eight major States in 1998 and 1999 to correct variations in the provisions of the policies announced by them. This will again be discussed in the meeting of the State Secretaries to be held in May 23-24, 2000 in Delhi.

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : The development of non-conventional energy is affected by frequent changes in the policies of the State Governments and the guidelines formulated by the Union Government. There has to be a proper co-ordination with the State Governments to follow uniform guidelines throughout the country so that the production levels will be consistent.

MR. SPEAKER : What is the follow-up action ?

SHRI M. KANNAPAN : I have already said that follow-up action is being taken by the Central Government to ensure that all the States announce policy guidelines. The guidelines issued by the Ministry are not mandatory but they are only recommendatory in nature. Therefore, they have been introduced in varying measures in different States depending upon their conditions like availability of resources and power requirements.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : May I know whether the Ministry of Rural Development has framed and circulated to the States, draft regulations and bye-laws for installation of solar-assisted water heaters in functional buildings to facilitate and encourage the use of solar energy as part of the strategy to reduce pressure on regular power

supplies from the State Electricity Boards ? May I also know whether the Centre has told all the State Governments and the Union Territories to adopt them and ensure that the urban local bodies modify their building bye-laws, incorporating the provisions contained in the draft regulations, at the earliest, which would enable installation of solar energy heaters in accordance with the stipulated norms ?

SHRI M. KANNAPAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not related to the main question. Let him please give a notice for a separate question.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We have adequate potential with regard to non-conventional energy sources. We have 45,000 MW of wind energy potential, but we are harnessing only a very small quantity of this potential. Last year, the target was fixed for 100 MW and our achievement was only 56 MW. Enough attention and assistance are not being given to the various projects under non-conventional energy sources. There is also a differential rate in customs duty. The Central Government is asking the State Government to allow concession in regard to non-conventional energy whereas the Central Government is increasing the excise duty. The Central Government has increased the excise duty on silicon material and silicon wafers used in the manufacture of solar cells and solar cell materials. Previously it was only eight per cent, which has been increased to 16 per cent.

May I know from the hon. Minister whether he will take up this matter with the Finance Minister so that (a) the customs duty on plant and machinery, which are required in the manufacture of windmill and other non-conventional energy sources is reduced, (b) the customs duty on spares, which are required in the maintenance of windmill is reduced, and (c) the excise duty on silicon materials and silicon wafers is reduced ? This will encourage indigenous manufacturers. Now, we are importing a large number of plant and machinery as a result of which this has not become cost effective.

May I know from the hon. Minister whether he will take up this matter with the Finance Minister so that customs and excise duties are reduced ? . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Sir, is there no need for a separate notice for this question ?

SHRI M. KANNAPAN : Sir, accelerated depreciation has been a major incentive for investment by such companies in wind power generation. The slow pace of this during 1997-98 can mainly be attributed to the following facts :

- Slow down in general economic and industrial activities;
- Introduction of minimum alternate tax;
- Reduction of corporate tax;
- Extended benefit from accelerated depreciation;
- Inadequate power evacuation facilities in major potential areas;
- Delays in land allotment;
- Forest clearance; and
- Several other approvals.

I will take up this matter with the hon. Finance Minister so that he considers Minimum Alternate Tax and some other relief in customs duty and other taxes. He may consider reduction in taxes.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Sir, I asked him a question on non-conventional energy sources and he is asking me to put a separate question. What is the need to put a separate question? This is coming under this Ministry only.

You protect us. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I called Dr. C. Krishnan to put the question.

(Interruptions)

DR. C. KRISHNAN : What are the estimated potential and achievements of Renewable Energy Sources in the country? . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI M. KANNAPAN : Sir, the estimated potential and cumulative achievements of Renewable Energy Sources in the country are : Wind Power, potential-20,000 MW; achievement-1,200 MW; Solar Photovoltaic, potential-20 MW; achievement-43.5 MW; Biomass power, potential-17,000 MW; achievement-222 MW. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except the Minister's reply.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI M. KANNAPAN : Bagasse-based cogeneration, potential-3,500 MW, achievement-34 MW; Small hydro power, potential-10,000 MW; achievement-217 MW. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If anything is there, you can come to me and discuss with me.

(Interruptions)

SHRI M. KANNAPAN : Energy recovery from wastes, potential-1700 MW; achievement-15 MW. This is the situation as on 31.3.2000.

11.17 hours.

At this stage, Shri Vilas Muttemwar left the House.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Sir, the hon. Minister did not give proper reply to his question. So, he has walked out of the House.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : May I ask the hon. Minister to state the State-wise generation of non-conventional energy sources? What is the percentage of non-conventional energy that we have harnessed in comparison to the target that we have set for all these years?

SHRI M. KANNAPAN : Sir, States where policies have been announced and their generations are : Andhra Pradesh-156 MW; Gujarat-174 MW; Haryana-0.1 MW; Himachal Pradesh-12 MW; Karnataka-104 MW; Kerala-6 MW; Madhya Pradesh-40 MW; Maharashtra-99 MW; Orissa-21 MW; Punjab-21 MW; Rajasthan-7 MW; Tamil Nadu-870 MW; Uttar Pradesh-83 MW; and West Bengal-8 MW. States where the policies have not been announced and their non-conventional energy generation are : Arunachal Pradesh-21 MW; Assam-2 MW; Bihar-0.1 MW; Goa-0.1 MW; Jammu and Kashmir-9 MW; Manipur-4 MW; Meghalaya-2 MW; Mizoram-12 MW; Nagaland-4 MW; Sikkim-9 MW; Tripura-1 MW. . . .(Interruptions)

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : Sir, the Minister has not given proper reply to his question. You must give protection to us. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Our country has not made much headway in the generation of non-conventional energy sources. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, please take your seat. Shri Adi Shankar, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Sir, our country has not made much progress in creating non-conventional energy sources, particularly wind power. Though the Union Government has taken a decision to give Income-Tax rebate and other rebates, the generation of non-conventional energy has not increased. Various places have been identified, but generation of wind power has not improved. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, what is this cross talking?

(Interruptions)

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Please allow me to ask an important question.

Wind power is the important source of energy in our country. . . . (Interruptions) Several places have been identified to harness wind power. . . . (Interruptions)

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : Sir, why are you protecting the Minister ? . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Buta Singh, you are a senior Member of this House. You are disturbing the entire House. Please take your seat. This is too much.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except Shri Murthi's question.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam) : Sir, wind power is an important source of energy in our country. In East-Coast along coast of Bay of Bengal, several places have been identified to harness the wind power. This could be a major source of alternative source of power for our country. Several places have been identified in Andhra Pradesh, but so far not even 1 MW of power has been harnessed in East-Coast. Will the hon. Minister think of putting up a national grid, on the lines of NTPC, so that wind power could be harnessed in Andhra Pradesh West Bengal and Orissa in the East-Coast ?

SHRI M. KANNAPAN : Sir, in Andhra Pradesh the wind power potential is 2,200 MW; and the achievement is 88.04 MW. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, he has asked a specific question. You should understand. You should give a comprehensive reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI M. KANNAPAN : Sir, during Seventh Plan, Andhra Pradesh was provided Rs. 6.52 crore for generating non-conventional energy. During the Eighth Plan, we provided Rs. 46.27 crore for the renewable energy programme. Up to 31.12.99, in the Ninth Plan, Rs. 18.41 crore have been provided.

Monuments in the Country

*542. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of monuments in the country which attract foreign and Indian tourists;

(b) the expenditure incurred on the upkeep and proper maintenance of these monuments, monument-wise;

(c) the income earned annually from them, from domestic and foreign tourists;

(d) the measures taken to increase the income from these important tourist spots; and

(e) the facilities available to the domestic tourists at such places ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of Sabha.

Statement

(a) Tourists visit a large number of monuments in the country including 72 centrally protected ticketed monuments.

(b) Details of expenditure incurred by the Archaeological Survey of India during the last three years for upkeep and maintenance of the monuments in the country are as follows :-

1997-98	Rs. 2339.39 Lakhs
1998-99	Rs. 2437.34 Lakhs
1999-2000	Rs. 2848.00 Lakhs

(c) and (d) Due to restructuring of entry fees to 72 centrally protected ticketed monuments, the annual income has increased. Details of income earned during the last three years are given below :-

1996-97	Rs. 3,21,08,515
1997-98	Rs. 4,77,90,139
1999-2000	Rs. 5,02,55,834

(e) Proper pathways, signage's, illumination, cafeteria, public conveniences have been provided in tourist places.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has given details of expenditure incurred by ASI on upkeep and maintenance, but it is not satisfactory. Through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister, whether the Government would also like to promote private sector in the field of maintenance and development of monuments as it is doing in other areas ? Along with it, I would also like to know whether the increase in ratio of foreign tourist is proportionate to expenditure incurred in promoting Indian tourism in foreign countries during the years 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, to develop Archaeological Survey of India and upgrade it, we have a fund called National Culture Fund. Through this Fund, we are mobilising funds from private and public sector industries. We are getting a very good response. The National Culture Fund is donor-specific. It gets 100 per cent Income-Tax exemption and it provides for joint management of the donor, the representatives of the National Culture Fund as well as the Archaeological Survey of India.

Donors can utilise it for corporate advertisements also. I am happy to inform the august House, Sir, that we have already completed the development and upgradation of Humayun's Tomb Complex in New Delhi through Agha Khan Foundation, Oberoi Hotel and Indo-British 50th Anniversary Trust. Through an MoU with Pune Chinchri Municipal Corporation, Shaniwar Wada Project, we are taking up the beautification of Kanheri Caves and Bassein Fort near Mumbai, preservation of Radak Monastery, Setting up of a Buddhist Centre at Chennai and Jantar Mantar in New Delhi. One more very heartening news for the entire House is, IOCL has come forward to form Indian Oil Foundation with an allocation of Rs. 25 crore. IOCL is having a tie up, an MoU with National Culture Fund. Other than Rs. 25 crore, we will be giving them Rs. 10 crore every year. Eight important heritage sites in the country have been included and these are : Hampi in Karnataka; Saranath in Uttar Pradesh; Qutab Minar in Delhi; Vattakoti in Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu; Ranichi in Patan, Gujarat; Elephanta Caves in Maharashtra; Nalanda in Bihar and Khajuraho group of monuments in Madhya Pradesh.

Coming to the second part of the hon. Member's supplementary regarding what 16 Government of India's Tourism Offices in various countries are doing, I would inform the House that we are spending nearly Rs. 16 crore on various advertisements and maintenance of the Government of India's Tourism Offices in foreign countries. Last year, the foreign tourists' arrival was 2.36 million which was an increase by 5.2 per cent. We have earned foreign exchange revenue of Rs. 12.52 crore which is an increase of 8 per cent compared to last year. This is despite the Kargil war and elections in India.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in its 37th report, the Standing Committee had recommended the increase of 20% in its budgetary allocation for the year 1999-2000, but according to my knowledge, it is less than the allocation made earlier. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the measures taken to increase the

facilities for domestic tourists and how these facilities would be made available to them. Alongwith it, the Standing Committee has given a suggestion in its 37th report that if the tourist centres are developed near places of pilgrimage, it will boost our income. The hon'ble Minister has stated in his reply that the Government had selected eight such places. I would like to know the process of selection. The hon'ble Minister wants to develop pilgrimage centres as tourist places in Mumbai, Delhi and Karnataka. I would like to know whether he would also like to include the sacred place of 'Gautam Rishi' on the banks of Saryu river near Viviganj in Bihar among these monuments ?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : We have not only included Mumbai and Bangalore. I said Hampi in Karnataka, Saranath in Uttar Pradesh, Vattakoti in Kanyakumari and Nalanda in Bihar. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Please tell us about the sacred place of Gautam Rishi.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : We will consider your suggestion about upgradation of the sacred place of Gautam Rishi.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it appears that most of the hon. Member are not fully satisfied by the reply and they have not been able to fully express their sentiments. Through you, I would like to raise two-three points. Rajasthan is most important and leading State from the point of view of Tourism. I would like to know the percentage of foreign and domestic tourists in the country during last three years. As far as question of new tourist spots is concerned, the Archaeological Department is creating problems in its path. We ask for Toilet and Cafeteria facilities at those places, but it has been observed that in 80-90% cases your department is not giving permission for cafeteria, and Toilets. What steps are you taking to provide airlines, road and rail facility to the tourists, so that domestic tourists may be able to reach those places ?

I am sorry to say that nothing has been said about Tourism in hon'ble President's Address. Many things are said about Information Technology and other topics, but nothing has been said about tourism. If there is anything which can make this country progress, it is tourism. Mr. Speaker, Sir, therefore, I request you to grant the permission to the House to hold Half-an-Hour discussion on it.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, I agree with the concern expressed by the hon. Members.

MR. SPEAKER : I have at least 29 names in the list. Do you have objection to having a Half-an-hour discussion on it ?

[Translation]

SHRI ANANTH GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker. Sir, first, let some questions be discussed, then afterwards Half-an-hour Discussion may be taken up.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I am ready for a Half-an-hour Discussion. But I wish to answer her question.

Firstly, there has been a marginal increase in foreign tourists arrival in India by 5.2 per cent and it is 2.37 billion now.

Secondly, in one year there has been a tremendous increase in domestic tourists in the entire country from 168 million to 175 million. This is the highest human movement anywhere in the world.

Thirdly, regarding the functioning of the Archaeological Survey of India, much needs to be done. I entirely agree with the hon. Member. There has been a very small Budget allocation of Rs. 28 crore for the upkeep and upgradation of Archaeological Survey of various monuments that come under the Archaeological Survey of India, which are approximately 3606. Recently, I have appointed a Review Committee of renowned archaeologists with Terms of Reference of restructuring the Archaeological Survey of India organisation, restructuring the Institute of Archaeology, Reviewing the recruitment rules of Group 'A' officers, recommending ways and means to improve the working of technical and academic activities and any other item. You may now see the composition of the Review Committee : Padma Bhushan Prof. B.B. Lal, Shri M.M. Deshpande, Dr. S.R. Rao, Dr. S.P. Gupta and Shri O.P. Aggarwal. Three of them are the world renowned archaeologists and former Directors-General of the Archaeological Survey of India. Management Guru Shri M.V. Atre, Dr. N.S. Raja Ram, Dr. A. Sunder, Shri Ravi Boothlingam of CII and Shri R.C. Aggarwal, Director-General of Archaeological Survey of India have been put on the Committee. I have said that they should come back to me. . . .(Interruptions)

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : How often the Committee meets ?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I have said that within two months of their appointment they should give the Report.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has agreed to have a Half-an-

Hour discussion on it, but it would have been better, if before that some questions would have been discussed.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He has already agreed to have a Half-an-hour Discussion on it.

[Translation]

Achievements made under Rural Development Schemes

*543. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the achievements made under the Rural Development Scheme-JGSY, IAY, EAS and SGSY during 1999-2000 have been far less in comparison to those during 1998-1999; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the decline in achievements ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA) : (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Rural Employment Generation Schemes were restructured with effect from 1st April, 1999. The Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) was launched by restructuring the erstwhile Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) and the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) replaced the erstwhile schemes of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDPP), Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Ganga Kalyan Yojana (GKY), Supply of Improved Tool-kits to Rural Artisans (SITRA) and the Million Wells Scheme (MWS).

2. The physical achievements under the JGSY, SGSY, Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) schemes during the year 1999-2000 (upto January-February, 2000 only) show some decline, compared to the performance under JRY, IRDP, EAS and IAY during 1998-1999.

3. It is noteworthy that for the Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY), the Village Panchayats (VPs) are the implementing agencies and the scheme is relatively new for the States/Village Panchayats. Some time is required by these agencies to fully acquaint themselves with the restructured programme. The Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) was a demand driven scheme till 31.3.1999 and no target was fixed for the same. The Scheme has been restructured with effect from 1.4.1999 to make it

allocation-based. The figures of physical performance (in 1999-2000) are based on the monthly progress reports of the State Governments received upto the month of January/February, 2000. During the first six months of 1999-2000, the pace of employment generation was relatively slow owing to factors such as the time involved in finalisation and circulation of the Revised Guidelines and inability to take up new works, till the end of October, 1999, following the announcement of the Lok Sabha elections. The Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) is also a new scheme whose implementation necessitated finalisation of Guidelines and sensitizing the various agencies concerned.

4. The performance in 1999-2000 (upto February, 2000) under the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) showed an improvement, over the performance in 1998-99, for the corresponding period.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to discuss the reply of hon'ble Minister because I have performance budget with me. Reply to the question which I have asked, and the information given in the performance budget vary. The hon'ble Minister has stated in his reply that there is some decline in physical achievements. Whereas in the year 1998-99, 16.77 lakh families have been benefited under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana but upto December 1999-2000 only 2.40 lakh people were benefited. In year 1998-99. Under Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana, 376 million man days were generated, but in year 1999-2000 only 122 million man days were generated. In year 1998-99, 8.36 lakh houses were allotted under Indira Awaas Yojana, but in year 1999-2000, upto December only 4.5 lakh houses were allotted. According to the reply of hon'ble Minister, the physical achievements have shown decline, but the performance budget is indicating something else. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether he has set up a monitoring system? Whether elected MPs or MLAs will also participate in it. Approximately Rs. 700 crore are allocated in budget for the development of rural areas. The MPs should also be involved in it. The MPs should be appointed as Chairman of different Committees and should also be involved in it, then only hon'ble Minister would be able to have effective monitoring. At the time of Shri Rajiv Gandhi's Government only 10 to 15% of allocated funds were able to reach the common man, now in the wake of corruption, what percent of it reaches the common man? What is the opinion of Hon'ble Minister in regard to participation of elected representatives.

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member has asked that in case of Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana Village Panchayats are directly. . . .
(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he should tell something about the announcement made by Shri Patwa in the House. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : The scheme was started on 1.4.99. This was new scheme for us. It was restructured after decline in employment generation. In the year 1999-2000, this scheme was. . . .(Interruptions)

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : Shri Patwa himself should have been present in the House to answer such an important question.

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : In the year 1998-99 the employment for 4279.26 lakh man days was generated. In the year 1999-2000 the employment generation was for 2024.74 lakh man days. The figures of yearly performance for the year 1999-2000 are based on figures notified upto January-February, 2000 in their monthly report by the State Government. . . .(Interruptions) The Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana replaced the erstwhile Integrated Rural Development Programme, TRYSEM, SITRA, DWCR, Ganga Kalyan Yojana, and the Million Wells Scheme. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing would go on record except the Minister's reply.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : The hon'ble Minister should at least tell whether he is considering to involve elected representatives.

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : I would like to say in reply to the question asked by Shri Vijay Goel that the programme which are being run to improve the quality whether these programmes are of State Government or of our Monitoring Committees, whether the Committees are of district or blocklevel or monitoring committees the MPs are often called and their opinions are heard. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is this? Let the Minister reply.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do you not want to listen anything from the Minister? What is this?

(Interruptions)

*Not Recorded

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the procedure. If you do like this, I will go to the next question. Please go back to your seats. You are not listening to the Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the involvement of MPs and MLAs is concerned, they are being assigned important role in this task. The MPs are permanent Members of State level and District level Committees. The money allocated by Parliament is spent according to the desire of MPs on the district level committee of State Governments. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir before asking second question I would like to say that in the report of U.R.D. Grants there is no mention about role of elected MPs in monitoring committees and how this monitoring will be done. Last time Shri Patwa had given assurance in the House that so far the issue of the Chairman of DRDA and other Committees are concerned. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is your supplementary ?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member has asked about Chairmanship of DRDA, the matter about role of MPs is under consideration and action will taken on it. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is too much.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If you behave like this, it would be very difficult to conduct the Question Hour. If you have any doubt, you can get it clarified from the Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second supplementary is regarding Employment Assurance Scheme launched for poor people of rural areas. It has been stated in your report that there are no rural areas in Delhi and Chandigarh. I would like to say that there are 195 villages in Delhi and my question is as to whether these villages will be included in Employment Assurance Scheme ?

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir Employment Assurance Scheme has been launched for

rural areas all over the country. The hon'ble Member has told that rural areas of Delhi and Chandigarh have not been included in it. These will be included in this scheme definitely after collecting complete information about it.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is really sad that. . . .(Interruptions) I am raising a question and the Minister will reply to it, you can take your seat. Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is really very sad that hon'ble Minister has given such reply three weeks after presentation of the report of the Standing Committee which was prepared unanimously by the committee. It means that he is ignoring the local committees. This report was prepared after reaching consensus. It was clearly stated in the report that in comparison to last year only 50 percent work has been done during this year and at some places this performance is 1/3 and 1/4 and no where it was done with the consensus. Shri Geeteji is present here and this report was presented under his chairmanship. It is being stated in the House that performance of this scheme has declined to some extent which is an attempt to mislead the House.

[English]

I am just answering. My Supplementary is as follows. I have to give the fact before I ask the Supplementary.

[Translation]

We are being misled that in comparison to last year performance of Indira Awaas Yojana has improved. His Secretary has told in the local Committee that during last year 8.5 lakh houses were constructed whereas by the end of November only 4.5 lakh houses have been constructed and now onward about one lakh more houses can be constructed this year. So the total will be 5.5 lakh houses only. My question is that whether the hon'ble Minister has read the report of the Standing Committee or not ?

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has asked that in Indira Awaas Yojana. . . .(Interruptions) I have read the complete report. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : He has not read the report of Standing Committee, how he can reply to the question. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, 6,00,532 houses were constructed under Indira Awaas Yojana. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Ask for a slip from your officials. You have not read the report, have you can reply. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : Sir, I have read the report and on that basis I am replying to the questions. . . .(Interruptions) By February 1999-2000 total 6,55,769 houses were constructed under the Indira Awaas Yojana. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : He has seriously misled the House.

[Translation]

Sir, you can compare these figures with the figures given on page seven of performance budget about Indira Awaas Yojana. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : By February 1999-2000. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He is not yielding. Let him complete.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : 6 lakh 56 thousand houses were constructed by February 1999-2000. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : You must refer it to the Privilege Committee.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : What reply is being given. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : Sir, the report of the year 1999-2000 is yet to come. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete. Mr. Minister, would you like to say anything?

[Translation]

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : Sir, the report for the year 1999-2000 is yet to come. The report given has been prepared on the basis of the old report. As the hon'ble Member has asked that for Indira Awaas Yojana. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Have you read the report or not?

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : The old report is with me. Please try to listen to me. . . .(Interruptions) I have

read the report and only then I am able to reply to. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister has already answered that he has read the report.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is matter of great regard. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that he has categorically said that he has read the report and that is how he has given the reply.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the promise regarding rural development has not been fulfilled by the Government. I would like to say that our progress in this direction has come to a standstill. In comparison to 1998-99 the progress of this scheme has declined in 1999-2000. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except Shri Sunil Khan's supplementary.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : As IRDP Programme has been changed after Golden Jubilee Celebration. Earlier a loan of Rs. 12 to 15 thousand was provided to individual but now this loan is provided to a group and it is not easy for a poor person to constitute a group.

Thus poor people are not getting loan and in 1999-2000 they have not made progress to the desired extent :

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is your supplementary?

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : My supplementary is, that what steps are taken by the hon. Minister to improve the performance of the IRDP which was initiated by the earlier Government? The present Government has already dismantled the IRDP and the rural people are not getting any individual loans from Gram Panchayats. What steps are going to be taken by the hon. Minister to help the weaker sections of our society.?

*Not Recorded

[Translation]

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the scheme have been restructured after 1.4.1999 so that Union Government could directly allocate the work to 'Gram Panchayats'. Their implementation is going on. Performance of these schemes have declined after their restructure and its reason is holding of election during this period. In spite of it we have tried to complete the number of labourers engaged in all the schemes whether these are Gram Smridhi Yojana or Swarna Jayanti Gram Smridhi Yojana for youth. As you have asked about other schemes, I would like to tell that Union Government has made provision to provide the required amount for these schemes as per the information received from the State Governments.

[English]

Functioning of P.D.S.

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*544. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL :
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :

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

- (a) whether Tata Economic Consultancy Service was engaged in 1997 to assess the extent of diversion of foodgrains, sugar and edible oils from P.D.S. in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the assessment made by TECS; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

[Translation]

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

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Tata Economic Consultancy Service (TECS) was engaged in the year 1997 for a study to assess the extent of diversion of foodgrains, sugar and edible oil from Public Distribution System (PDS) in the country. At the national level the diversion is estimated at 36% in case of wheat, 31% in case of rice, 23% in case of sugar and 55% in case of edible oils.

The TECS study identified major causes of diversion and suggested remedial measures to curb diversion. The major causes for diversion cited in the study are bulk diversion from godowns, bogus units in ration cards, underweighting at various levels, illiteracy of consumers,

low profit margins for Fair Price Shops (FPS) owners, floating population, fictitious distribution agencies, non-availability/irregular supply and variation in entitlement and inferior quality with foreign particles. The study also suggested certain remedial measures to curb diversion like avoiding monthly variation in allocations, minimising storage and transit loss, avoiding distribution by agencies other than FPS, weeding out bogus units in ration cards/ bogus ration cards, improving communication between FCI and State Governments/FPS, increase in profit margins of FPS, excluding the affluent sections from the purview of PDS gradually.

(c) Public Distribution System is implemented under the joints responsibility of the Central and State Government/UT Administrations. The central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and transportation of the PDS commodities up to the central godowns and making them available to the States. The responsibility for distribution to the consumers through the Fair Price Shops and administration of the PDS rests with the State Governments and UT Administrations. The matter of diversion of PDS commodities was taken up with the State Governments. Many States, while disagreeing with the estimates of diversion brought out in the study, recognised that leakages do take place. Following steps have been initiated by the Government to check leakages and curb diversion of foodgrains.

- (i) State Governments have been requested to closely monitor PDS at the fair Price Shops (FPSs) and other levels and to make arrangement for distribution of PDS commodities in a transparent and accountable manner by involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) etc. in implementation of PDS. It has also been impressed upon the State Governments that publicity regarding allotments to FPS should be given through the local media. The fair price shops should be asked to display on the notice boards the allotments they have received for the month alongwith closing balance. They have also been asked to eliminate bogus ration cards and initiate action against erring FPS owners under Section 3 of Essential Commodities Act, 1955.
- (ii) State Government have been advised that they can provide for obligations under Section 3 of Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to penalise the violation of the procedure relating to display of information by the FPS owner. The fair price shops should open on all prescribed days and complaints regarding closure during working hours should be addressed seriously. Ration cards should be issued in a time bound and

transparent manner by the authorities and the administrative system should be accountable to the public bodies in this regard. All efforts should be made to weed out the bogus ration cards in the States.

- (iii) The Government of India has set up Public Grievances' Redressal Cell in the Department of Public Distribution to attend to the complaints relating to any aspect of the Department's functioning including the Public Distribution System. The Public Grievances' Redressal Cell has been provided with an independent telephone, fax and e-mail facilities in addition to a facilitation counter to receive public complaints. In order to attend to public complaints on priority, the Department has also designated the senior officers of the Department as members of flying squad for conducting immediate and prompt enquiry whenever the need for it is felt. The Government of India also has appointed Area Officers to States/UTs to monitor the functioning of Public Distribution System including the complaints of diversion.

[English]

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : The Minister, in his answer, has said that the Tata Economic Consultancy Service has revealed that there is a national level diversion of all PDS commodities, particularly wheat to the extent of 36 per cent, rice to the extent of 31 per cent, sugar to the extent of 23 per cent and 55 per cent in the case of edible oils. The Minister has also agreed that it is in coordination with the State Governments. The Centre has the responsibility of only procurement, storage and transportation. Therefore, most of the responsibilities are lying on the State Governments. The Central Government takes care of only monitoring and coordinating through certain complaints under the Essential Commodities Act or the Public Grievances' Redressal Cell. If so much pilferage is experienced in the PDS, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether there have been cases of violation in the PDS and out of those, how many persons have been penalised under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act ?

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have told that Union Government as well as State Governments both are jointly responsible for this system. It does not mean that Union Government is shrinking its responsibility. This is not the intention of the Union Government. Union Government as well as State Governments should work collectively to stop this diversion or theft. We have taken

several steps in this regard which I have already stated in this House. He has asked whether any action has been taken under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act. State Governments take definite action in such cases. I do not have information with me about the number of such cases registered in various States. A Grievance Cell has been set up in our own Ministry for this purpose and so far 32 complaints have been received by it. But main complaints are received and disposed of at State levels only. Besides, we have also set up a Grievance Redressal Cell and it has just started receiving complaints but redressal of such complaints is done at State level. I do not have complete information about it.

[English]

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Sir, the Minister has replied that there are only 32 cases which have been experienced at the national level. It is very very less. In fact, as it was said in reply to the earlier question, a lot of money has already been given by the Central Government for various schemes. But there is no coordination or monitoring system between the Centre and the States. Due to this, I find that there is a lot of pilferage in the implementation of such schemes. Therefore, I would like to know from the Minister as to whether he is thinking of giving the responsibility to the Members of Parliament regarding the schemes which are controlled by the States Governments.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Members concern over this diversion and theft is but natural. The House has already expressed its concern over it. The Government is trying its best to check it. A meeting of officials of all the five zones of the country was convened to discuss this issue. Some new instructions have been issued in this regard. Right to information is included into it so that poor people of village could know about it. The important point in these instructions is that it has been made compulsory to inform the public by giving information on notice board of Fair Price Shops that how much quantity received during that month and it should be brought under Section 3 of Essential Commodities Act so that providing information to poor people should be made obligatory. I have already stated that it is the joint responsibility. We have discussed the matter with State Governments and taken them in confidence. Members of Lok Sabha are included in this joint responsibility. The Government is thinking about the measures to be taken for strengthening and restructuring of the system to check theft of foodgrain and role of Members of Parliament in it. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request you to hold discussion on this subject in this House. Such assurance was given here earlier also. I wish that an open

discussion should be held on it and hon'ble Members should give their own suggestions so that this system could be made more effective.

SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious matter. Corruption has been prevailing everywhere in PDS since its inception whosoever party is in power in any state. There is need to revamp this system. Hon'ble Minister has stated that measures to be taken in this regard are under consideration. I feel that there is no need to deliberate on this point because a lot of time will be wasted in deliberation and theft and corruption can not be checked in this manner. The proposals to check theft of kerosene, sugar and other commodities are under consideration with the Government because the subsidy being provided to the poor is not reaching them. Can we give that subsidy in cash to the poor so that they could purchase things from the open market; whether any such proposal is under consideration of the Government. If it is so then this issue should be discussed in detail in this House. Corruption is rampant there and it brings bad name to the Government and officers. Are you allowing discussion on this subject too?

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, neither me nor the Government is frustrated or disappointed to that extent. I am not ready to accept that it cannot be checked. We can check it if there is will power to do so. I would like to say that after holding discussion with State Governments we have already issued new instructions in which they have been asked to take action under Section 3 of Essential Commodities Act.

12.00 hrs.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with application of all these instructions diversion and corruptions will be checked. I believe that it can be checked.

Other suggestions given by hon'ble Member will be considered.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev, you have to ask a pointed question.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Is it a fact that the original allotment made to the poorest of the poor of the drought affected States has been stopped? If this is so, what is the reason?

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, though it does not relate to the original question but I would like

to say that in reality drought is not normal situation. In normal situation distinction is made between BPL and APL and subsidy is not provided for people APL, food for work and community kitchen. But now the situation is a abnormal and thus new provisions have been made and there is no question of its withdrawal.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now the Question Hour is over. The Minister may send the reply to the hon. Member later.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Security Standards at Kathmandu Airport

*545. DR. S. VENUGOPAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the extent to which the Kathmandu airport meets the standards of security as set by the International Civil Aviation Organisation;

(b) whether prior to hijacking of Indian Airlines flight to Kandahar, Indian Government had ever checked with the Nepalese Government that the Kathmandu International Airport conforms to the aforesaid norms; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) It would not be appropriate to comment on the security standards of an airport located in the capital of another country. However, the need for enhanced security and immigration controls at the Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) in Kathmandu as well as security measures required by Indian Airlines were taken up by Government of India with His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMGN) on several occasions. HMGN have assured us that on their part they are taking necessary steps to strengthen security at TIA on a priority basis.

Move to Counter Pak Troops in High Altitude Warfare

*546. SHRI R.L. BHATIA :
SHRI ABDUL HAMID :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Pakistan is building underground shelters for aircraft, an elongated air base and giving training for high altitude

warfare to Pakistani troops in northern areas as reported in 'Hindu' dated March 13, 2000;

(b) if so, the details of the information gathered on that account; and

(c) the measures taken to counter the move ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) There are no confirmed reports about the building of underground shelters for aircraft and elongation of airbases in the northern areas by Pakistan.

Though the said news report has not referred to the training of Pakistani troops in high altitude warfare, such training is an on-going process. No abnormal activity has been noticed in this regard.

All developments having a bearing on India's national security are constantly monitored and necessary steps are taken from time to time to maintain appropriate defence preparedness to thwart any attempt at misadventure by Pakistan.

Improvement of Infrastructures

*547. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have provided Rs. One crore to some selected cities for improving infrastructures in order to promote tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have reviewed the work undertaken under this grant; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) For the Integrated Development of Tourist Centres/Pilgrim Centres, Ministry of Tourism asked the State/U.T. Governments to send one project proposal each in respect of Tourist and Pilgrim Centres located in their States for Central Assistance of Rs. 50 lakhs during 1998-99 and another 50 lakhs during 1999-2000 with matching contribution by the State/U.T. Governments.

(b) During 1998-99 and 1999-2000, an amount of Rs. 1917.01 lakhs has been sanctioned for the development of infrastructure at 51 tourist centres and pilgrim centres identified under the scheme.

(c) and (d) Review of project/schemes is an on-going process. Implementation of the projects is undertaken by the respective State Governments/U.T. Administrations.

[Translation]

Import Duty on Foodgrains

*548. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

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

(a) whether the Government have raised import duty on wheat, rice and fruits, etc. to 80% to discourage import of these items;

(b) if so, whether the imported foodgrains are likely to be costlier due to imposition of this duty thus depriving the consumers of the benefits of globalisation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : (a) The import duty (basic + surcharge) on the following foodgrains and fruits has been increased :-

- (i) Fresh Grapes from 27.5% to 38.5%
- (ii) Apples from 38.5 to 50%
- (iii) Wheat from 'free' to 50%
- (iv) Spelt from 'nil' to 50%
- (v) Maize (corn) seed from 'nil' to 50%
- (vi) Rice in the husk (paddy or rough) from 'free' to 80%
- (vii) Husked (brown) rice, from 'free' to 80%
- (viii) Semi-milled or wholly milled rice, whether or not polished or glazed, from 'free' to 70%
- (ix) Broken rice, from 'free' to 80%
- (x) Grain sorghum from 'free' to 50%
- (xi) Millet from 'free' to 50%

While duty was imposed on wheat with effect from 1.12.99, in all the other cases the duty was imposed or increased with effect from 5.4.2000 by the Ministry of Finance.

(b) and (c) The imposition of import duty has made the import of wheat and rice costlier. The import duty on foodgrains has been imposed in view of the excessive stock position of wheat (205 lakh MTs. As against the buffer norm of 116 lakh MTs as on 1st October, 1999) and the comfortable stock position of rice (149.29 lakh MTs as against the buffer norm of 118 lakh MTs as on

1st April, 2000). This has been done to protect domestic producers and in the overall interest of maintaining food security.

Development of Railway Stations

*549. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to develop about 114 railway stations as model railway stations in the country;

(b) if so, whether this plan is a part of modernisation programme for improving passenger amenities;

(c) if so, the names of such railway stations, State/zone-wise;

(d) the funds earmarked and estimated expenditure likely to be incurred on each station;

(e) the time by which development work is likely to be started and completed;

(f) whether the Government are considering to develop more railway stations as model railway stations; and

(g) if so, the details thereof, State/zone-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) to (c) In order to provide upgraded passenger amenities at stations, 123 stations have so far been selected as model stations. Statement-I indicating the names of stations railway-wise is attached. The thrust areas identified for improvement at these stations include :

(i) Provision of Signages, National Train Enquiry System (NTES), Automatic Vending Machines, Modular Catering Stalls and Self Printing Ticket Machines;

(ii) Improvement in Waiting Rooms, Retiring Rooms, Booking Offices and toilets;

(iii) Development of the Circulating Area;

(iv) Making good of the deficiencies of infrastructure facilities/passenger amenities;

(v) Extension of Foot Over Bridge upto circulating area; and

(vi) Computerisation of complaints.

(d) There is no specific allocation of funds for each model station as the facilities specified are improvement in customer interface systems. The railways are authorised to spend money for the purpose of providing upgraded passenger amenities out of the total allocation of funds under the Plan Head "Passengers and other Railway Users Amenities" and "Computerization".

(e) Action has been initiated by the Railways to provide the upgraded facilities at the selected model stations. In fact, certain facilities, like signages, National Train Enquiry System (NTES), computerisation of complaints, modular catering stalls, etc., have already been provided at many stations.

(f) and (g) It is proposed to bring 63 more 'A' Class Stations Statement-II within the ambit of model station concept during the current financial year thereby the total number of stations selected as model stations will be 186. With this, all 'A' Class stations will be covered under the scheme of model stations.

Statement-I

Railway-wise List of Stations Selected for Development as Model Stations

Railway	Name of Stations
1	2
Central	Agra Cantt., Bhopal, Bhusaval, Faridabad, Jabalpur, Jhansi, Mumbai CST, Nagpur, Pune, Solapur.
Eastern	Asansol, Bandel, Bardhaman, Dhanbad, Gaya, Howrah, Malda Town, Mokamah, Nalanda, Patna, Sonarpur, Sealdah.
Northern	Allahabad, Ambala Cantt, Aligarh, Amritsar, Anandpur Sahib, Ayodhya, Bikaner, Chandigarh, Delhi, Dehradun, Firozpur, Haridwar, Hazrat Nizamuddin, Jammu Tawi, Jullundhar city, Jodhpur, Kalka, Kanpur Central, Ludhiana, Lucknow, Moradabad, New Delhi, Shimla, Varanasi.
North Eastern	Barauni, Chhapra, Darbanga, Gorakhpur, Kathgodam, Muzaffarpur, Sonpur, Motihari.

1	2
Northeast Frontier	New Alipurduar, Dharamanagar, Dibrugarh, Guwahati, Katihar, Kokrajhar, New Jalpaiguri, New Tinsukia, New Bongaigaon, Silchar.
Southern	Bangalore, Chennai, Chennai Egmore, Coimbatore, Ernakulam, Mangalore, Mysore, Madurai, Palghat, Shimoga, Trichur, Tiruchchirappalli, Trivandrum.
South Central	Guntur, Guntakal, Hyderabad, Hospet, Hubli, Madgaon, Nanded, Rajahmundry, Secunderabad, Tirupathi, Vijayawada, Warangal.
South Eastern	Bhubaneswar, Balasore, Berhampur, Bilaspur, Byree, Badakhanda, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Durg, Golantra, Kapilas Road, Kharagpur, Khurda Road, Midnapore, Puri, Rahama, Ranchi, Raipur, Rourkela, Surla Road, Tatanagar, Visakhapatnam.
Western	Ajmer, Ahmedabad, Bhavnagar, Chittaurgarh, Dadar, Indore, Jaipur, Kota, Rajkot, Surat, Udaipur, Vadodara.

Statement-II*List of "A" Class stations proposed to be selected as Model Stations*

Railway	Name of Stations
Central	Thane, Kalyan, Satna, Mathura Jn., Dadar, Kuria, Chandrapur, Habibganj, Gwalior, Nasik Road, Akola Jn., Katni Jn., Gulbarga.
Eastern	Durgapur, Mughalsarai, Danapur, Bhagalpur.
Northern	Saharanpur, Pathankot, Bareilly, Faizabad, Meerut City, Bhatinda.
North Eastern	Basti, Samastipur, Izzatnagar Jn., Manduadih, Gonda Jn., Deoria Sadar, Siwan Jn., Hazipur Jn., Rawatpur, Mau Jn.
Northeast Frontier	Kamakhya, Lumding, Alipurduar Jn., Dimapur.
Southern	Salem, Quilon, Kanyakumari, Kottayam, Chengannur, Tiruttani, Cannanore, Pondicherry, Calicut, Chennai Beach, Mambalam.
South Central	Nellore, Vasco-de-Gama, Kacheguda.
South Eastern	Chakradharpur, Sambalpur, Adra.
Western	Vapi, Bandra, Bharuch, Valsad, Mumbai Central, Ratlam, Agra Fort, Gandhidham, Badshah Nagar.

*[English]***Development of Rural Roads**

*550. SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal to earmark funds under the merged schemes of "Roads in Special Areas" and Rural "Connectivity through all weather Roads" will be extended to Naxalite infested regions in the States like Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for not considering the development of rural roads in the Naxalite areas;

(d) whether any new Centrally sponsored scheme is on the anvil for development of rural roads on priority; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) to (e) The Central Government are currently in the process of formulating a National Rural Roads Programme (NRRP), in which context a National Rural

Roads Development Committee has been set up. The question of allocating a proportion of funds for Special Problem Areas, (including Naxalite threat perception) would receive attention, as part of the proposed Programme.

Backward Districts

*551. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the backward districts of the country are situated in the Marathwada, Raigad, Kalahandi, Bolangir, Koraput, Bidar, Gulbarga, Raichur and Telangana regions;

(b) if so, whether the Government have analysed the causes and consequences of backwardness in these regions;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the programmes implemented by the Government for the development and upliftment of backward areas so far, have not shown desired results;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government are going to take up a series of time bound action plans to root out the backwardness of these regions; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) to (g) A Committee (headed by Principal Advisor, Planning Commission) was constituted in 1997 to, inter-alia, identify the 100 most backward/poorest districts in the country. The broad parameters adopted by the Committee to analyse the causes of backwardness, included indicators of deprivation (poverty ratio) and social and economic infrastructure. The 100 most backward/poorest districts identified by the Committee included 38 districts in Bihar, 19 districts in Madhya Pradesh, 17 districts in Uttar Pradesh, 10 districts in Maharashtra, 4 districts each in Orissa and West Bengal, 2 districts each in Rajasthan and Sikkim and 1 district each in Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

2. The Ministry of rural Development are implementing programmes pertaining, inter-alia, to poverty alleviation, employment generation, infrastructure development, watershed schemes, social security and land reforms, with a view to improve the quality of life in the rural areas and assist people below the poverty line. These programmes are being closely monitored and are being evaluated from time to time. The programmes implemented for the

development of backward areas have helped in improving the living conditions in these areas.

Encroachment of Railway Land

*552. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether large parts of Railway land in and around the capital are under encroachment;

(b) if so, the details of Railway land illegally encroached by unauthorised persons/firms;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to get back the land from such unauthorised encroachers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. About 425 Hectares of Railway land is under encroachments in Delhi area.

(c) and (d) Removal of encroachments from Railway land is a continuous process, which is undertaken as per extant rules with the help of the State Government.

As a result of these efforts, about 4000 encroachments have been removed from different locations in Delhi area during the last 3 years.

Schemes to Honour Railwaymen

*553. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways have formulated any scheme to honour deserving Railwaymen;

(b) if so, the awards and honours instituted therefor;

(c) whether Railwaymen dealing with passengers will also be eligible for such honours;

(d) if so, whether any scheme has been formulated by Railways to identify and reward such employees who show concern for passenger; and

(e) if not, the steps taken to institute such awards and honours ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Railway employees are honoured individually as well as in groups at Divisional, Zonal and Ministry levels by grant of cash awards, Shields, Merit Certificates, Medals, Commendation Letters, insignia etc. in appreciation of their contribution meriting recognition

in the fields of new innovations, processes, procedures, leading to economy in expenditure, improvement in production, import substitution etc., acts of bravery, exemplary work to improve operations, better maintenance and utilisation of assets, security and safety, contribution in the field of sports leading to international/national recognition etc.

(c) and (d) Railwaymen dealing with passengers are also eligible for such honours in a similar manner. Due consideration is given to special and meritorious services of Railway staff especially when they show special concern, compassion and innovation in dealing with the problems of passengers. Such employees are awarded at various levels right from the Divisions upto Ministry of Railways based on the merits of each case.

(e) Does not arise.

Setting up of Railway Infrastructure Development Fund

*554. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up Railway Infrastructure Development Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard;

(c) the amount of the fund and the sources from which the funds are likely to be generated; and

(d) the sectors in which the funds are proposed to be utilised ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) There is no proposal to set up Railway Infrastructure Development Fund at present.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Outstanding amount of Railways Against SEBs

*555. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of Railways outstanding against the State Electricity Boards as on March 31, 2000 for carrying coal, State Electricity Board-wise; and

(b) the details of steps taken by the Government to realise the outstanding amount ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) The position as on 31-03-2000 is as under :

(Rs. in crores)

Names of State Electricity Board/Power Houses	Outstanding as on 31/3/2000
1. Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board	12.06
2. Assam State Electricity Board	-
3. Bihar State Electricity Board	0.37
4. Delhi Vidyut Board	118
5. Gujarat State Electricity Board	9.54
6. Haryana State Electricity Board	88.74
7. Karnataka Electricity Board	0.02
8. Maharashtra State Electricity Board	6.58
9. Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board	2.21
10. Punjab State Electricity Board	74.00
11. Rajasthan State Electricity Board	20.65
12. Tamilnadu State Electricity Board	6.66
13. Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board	0.01
14. West Bengal State Electricity Board	6.49
15. Badarpur Thermal Power Station	955.00
16. National Thermal Power Corporation	16.12
17. Damodar Valley Corporation	4.92
18. Private Power House Sabarmati	0.44
Total	1321.81

Note : The figures of Outstanding are provisional as accounts for 1999-2000 are yet to be closed.

(b) The steps taken by the Railways to realise the outstanding dues from State Electricity Boards and Power Houses include.

1. Implementation of various schemes of 'Prepayment of Freight' for carriage of Coal booked to Power Houses w.e.f. 01.10.1996.
2. State Electricity Boards and Power Houses which fail to observe the conditions of 'Prepayment of Freight' as also payment of current freight are closely monitored by the Zonal Railways and regular meetings are held with senior officials of State Electricity Boards and Power Houses.
3. Pursuant to Government's decision on 07.02.1997 that the outstanding dues from State Electricity

Boards and Power Houses as on 31.12.1996 would be adjusted from the Central Plan Assistance of the State Governments subject to certain limits, an amount of Rs. 116.93 Crores has been received by Railways upto 31.03.2000.

4. Adjustment of outstanding amounts from State Electricity Boards against traction bills in respect of Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board, West Bengal State Electricity Board, Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board and Haryana State Electricity Board.
5. Ministry of Railways has approached Ministry of Power, Minister of Finance and Govt. of NCT, Delhi at various levels for clearance of outstanding dues of Badarpur Thermal Power Station. Based on indications given by the Ministry of Power, a target of clearance of Rs. 500 Crore has been provided for in the Budget Estimates 2000-2001.

[Translation]

Utilisation of Funds on Rural Development

*556. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL :
SHRI C.N. SINGH :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Grameen Vikas per Pura Paisa Bhi Nahin Kharch Kar pai Sarkar" in 'Jansatta' Delhi edition dated April, 2000;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) to (c) The Press Report in question refers, interalia, to performance of the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), the Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY), the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) and the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP). The position in respect of release of Central share for these schemes, during the year 1999-2000, is shown in the enclosed Statement.

2. The SGSY and JGSY schemes came into operation during the year 1999-2000, after restructuring of earlier programmes, despite which the release of funds by the Ministry of Rural Development has been satisfactory. There is usually a time lag in reporting of figures of physical/ financial achievement by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations who execute various programmes and schemes. Concerted efforts are being made to further accelerate the progress of the programmes being implemented in the States/Union Territories and monitoring arrangements have also been set up.

Statement

Central Release of Funds under JGSY, SGSY, EAS, IAY and NSAP during 1999-2000

Sl. No.	Name of the Programme	Revised Estimate (RE) 1999-2000	Release			Release as % of RE
			Centre	State	Total	
1.	JGSY	1689.00	1685.28	306.01	1991.28	99.78
2.	SGSY	950.00	930.68	221.81	1152.49	97.97
3.	IAY	1451.00	1441.05	449.74	1888.14	99.31
4.	EAS	2040.00	2037.97	579.43	2315.85	99.90
5.	NSAP	710.00	710.00	0.00	710.00	100.00

[English]

Radars in the Country

*557. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made in providing radar coverage to the Air Space in the country;

(b) the year by which the entire air space would be provided with radar coverage; and

(c) the airports where radars have been installed for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Monopulse Secondary Surveillance Radar (MSSR) have been installed at Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai, Thiruvananthapuram, Hyderabad.

Guwahati, Ahmedabad and Nagpur airports and expected to be installed at Varanasi, Behrampur, and Mangalore airports by March, 2001. With the installation of these MSSRs, the entire air routes over Indian territory would come under radar surveillance.

Carrying of Inflammable Articles in Trains

*558. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that people are carrying inflammable articles while travelling by rail;

(b) if so, the number of cases of fire reported in trains due to these inflammable articles during the last three years; and

(c) the steps being taken to check, that these articles are not carried in trains ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some cases have come to notice. During the last 3 years, six cases of fire in trains on account of carriage of inflammable articles were reported.

(c) Checks are conducted by the railway staff at stations as well as in trains to prevent carriage of inflammable articles. Besides this, extensive publicity is launched through media, public address system and by putting up notices at stations as well as in trains on the subject. The provisions of the Indian Railways, Act regarding carriage of inflammable articles were made more stringent when the new Railway Act was brought into force in the year 1989.

[Translation]

Production of Sugar

*559. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of sugar produced in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise.

(b) whether the Government propose to withdraw the levy imposed on sugar; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : (a) A statement showing yearwise and Statewise production of sugar during the last 3 sugar seasons (October-September) is enclosed.

(b) There is proposal to withdraw the levy on sugar produced by the sugar factories.

(c) Question does not arise.

Statement

State-wise Production of Sugar

(Figures in Lakh Tonnes)

State	Sugar Season 1996-97	Sugar Season 1997-98	Sugar Season 1998-99*(P)
1. Punjab	6.13	3.29	2.94
2. Haryana	4.90	3.82	4.03
3. Rajasthan	0.23	0.29	0.26
4. Uttar Pradesh	40.84	39.22	37.23
5. Madhya Pradesh	0.87	0.68	0.85
6. Gujarat	9.67	8.90	10.07
7. Maharashtra	34.46	38.46	53.43
8. Bihar	3.62	2.99	2.67
9. Assam	0.05	0.03	0.04
10. Orissa	0.78	0.57	10.74
11. West Bengal	0.05	0.03	0.05
12. Nagaland	-	-	-
13. Andhra Pradesh	7.72	7.82	11.20
14. Karnataka	8.70	9.59	13.76
15. Tamil Nadu	10.50	12.22	17.20
16. Pondichery	0.33	0.37	0.44
17. Kerala	0.05	0.06	0.09
18. Goa	0.15	0.10	0.20
All India	129.05	128.44	155.20

*(P) Provisional

[English]

Additional Allocation of Foodgrains due to Cyclone

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

(a) whether the Government have allocated additional quantity of foodgrains on subsidised rates to the cyclone-affected States, particularly Orissa;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to extend the subsidy till the end of 2000-2001 financial year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) In the recent past there have been two incidents of cyclone calamity which hit Orissa only in quick succession in October, 1999. In the wake of large scale devastations caused by the cyclones in that State the following quantities of foodgrains have been allotted at BPL rate to the State for cyclone relief.

RICE	Quantity in tonnes
1. For distribution to all cyclone affected families in 14 affected districts	
(a) for a period of 5 months from November, 1999 to 31 March, 2000.	2,93,038
(b) for the period of 7 months from April, 2000 to October, 2000.	1,28,982
2. For running community kitchens in the cyclone affected districts by the N.G.Cs/PSUs.	2,000
3. Against the quantity of rice distributed by the State Government as gratuitous relief (free rice) during first 15 days of the super cyclone	51,663
4. Allocation for rice at BPL rate for Food for Work Programme in the 14 affected districts.	90,600
5. Total	5,66,283

WHEAT

6. For conversion into atta and distribution amongst the cyclone affected population in the affected coastal districts.	50,000
7. Allocation of wheat for distribution in the affected areas	90,000
8. Total	1,40,000
9. Total quantity of rice and wheat	7,06,283

(c) and (d) The special allocations of rice at BPL rate for cyclone relief has been extended by Government of India on the request of Orissa Government upto October, 2000.

Travel Circuit in Kerala

5900. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is only one approved travel circuit that passes through Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to sanction a travel circuit, namely, Mangalore-Bekal-Kannur-Calicut-Tirur-Wayanad-Ooty-Mysore for North Kerala; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) Cochin-Thekkady-Madurai-Rameshwaram travel circuit passes through Kerala. Bekal Beach in Kerala is identified as a travel destination. Bekal has also been declared as a Special Tourism Area by the State Government.

Requests from State Governments for additional travel circuits are considered on merit. No proposal for additional travel circuit in Kerala is under consideration at present.

Subsidy to Haj Pilgrims

5901. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the total loss suffered by Air India on account of subsidy to the haj pilgrims during each of the last three years;

(b) the percentage of loss to Air India on this account out of total losses during the above period;

(c) whether the Government propose to reduce the subsidy; and

(d) if so, the details thereabout?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) The haj movement is undertaken by chartered aircraft and the cost per pilgrim for haj charter operation is established on "No-profit no-loss basis". Therefore, no loss is suffered by the Air India on account of Haj operations during last three years.

(c) and (d) No such proposal is presently under consideration.

[Translation]

**Allotment of Car Passes to
Private Airlines**

5902. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Airport Authority of India has allotted the hangers and also land to the Private Aviation Companies at Bhopal Airport for their planes;

(b) if so, whether the Airport Authority of India is contemplating to allot car passes to the owners of Private Aviation Companies; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Airports Authority of India has allotted land to M/S. Yash Air Ltd., a private aviation company at Bhopal airport for construction of a hanger.

(b) Reasonable number of passes will be issued to the personnel of the company, subject to assessment of the actual requirement of the company.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

**Implementation of ACP Scheme In
Defence Ministry**

5903. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether 'Assured Carrier Promotion' Scheme (ACP) is applicable to the employees working in the Ministry of Defence especially at Armed Forces headquarters like that of Central Government employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the aforesaid scheme is also applicable in respect of promotion from the grade of Private Secretaries working in Armed Forces headquarters;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to implement the Scheme so as to bring Private Secretaries of Armed Headquarter at par with their counterparts in Government of India ?

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

(b) The ACP Scheme envisages grant of first financial upgradation after completion of 12 years of

regular service and second financial upgradation after 24 years of regular service based upon the conditions as specified by the Department of Personnel and Training.

(c) Yes, Sir. Private Secretaries of AFHQ Service who have earned only one promotion in their career are eligible for grant of one financial upgradation under the ACP Scheme.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The benefits of the ACP Scheme are to be extended to the Private Secretaries of AFHQ in accordance with the clarifications/advice rendered by Department of Personnel and Training.

**Job Provided to SCs/STs and
OBCs**

5904. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of SCs/STs and OBCs provided with jobs in his Ministry/Departments/autonomous bodies and subordinate Offices during each of the last three years, category-wise;

(b) the number of posts reserved for SCs/STs and OBCs lying vacant in each of the above Offices as on March 31,2000; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken for filling up these vacant posts ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) The number of SCs/STs/OBCs provided with jobs in the Ministry of Tourism/autonomous bodies and sub-ordinate offices under its control during the last 3 calendar years i.e. 1997, 1998 and 1999 is as follows :-

SCs	55*
STs	6*
OBCs	24*

(b) The number of posts referred for SCs/STs/OBCs but lying vacant as on 31.3.2000 are as follows :-

SCs	11*
STs	6*
OBCs	13*

(c) For filling up the vacant posts, action is taken as per rules.

* This does not include information in respect of the Institutes of Hotel Management at

Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Bhopal, Calcutta, Chennai, Goa, Mumbai and Delhi (Pusa). This information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

Strength of Armed Forces

5905. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the strength of Armed forces in view of increased incidents of terrorism and also the strategic needs of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are considering to bring about some vital changes in the traditional method of training of armed forces keeping in view the present circumstances of Guerrilla warfare and 'shoot and scoot';

(d) if so, the details of the action plan chalked out therefor;

(e) whether during his visit to Vietnam he had made a statement to get the services of experts for providing this type of training to armed forces;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government are aware of the tribes living in hillv areas within the country itself, who are traditionally well-versed in the art of guerrilla warfare; and

(h) if so, the special steps being taken or proposed to be taken to recruit people of these areas in Armed forces ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The process of review of the strength of Armed Forces is a continuous one. There is no proposal to increase the strength of regular Army. However, this Ministry has recommended to the Ministry of Home Affairs an increase in the strength of Rashtriya Rifles, which is a para military force under the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence. Further details of the proposal cannot be divulged for reasons of national security.

(c) and (d) The training requirements of the Armed Forces are properly matched to the needs of freshly recruited officers, Other Ranks (ORs), officers requiring advanced and specialised training. The Counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School (CIJWS) is presently training officers and men in fighting Low Intensity Conflict Operations (LICO). The School motto 'Fight the Guerrilla

like a Guerrilla' is unique and is symbolic of the CIJWS techniques imparted at the School.

(e) and (f) During the recent visit of Raksha Mantri to Vietnam in March 2000 the two sides agreed to a number of measures to enhance defence cooperation between the two countries. These measures include cooperation in the areas of training, Coast Guard activities, Naval activities, and the establishment of a periodical dialogue between the Ministries of Defence of the two countries. Vietnamese side has agreed to consider the possibility of training Indian Armed Forces personnel in the field of Jungle Warfare.

(g) Yes, Sir.

(h) In order to improve the representation in the Army of people from remote, border, hilly and backward areas, a dispensation in educational qualifications from class-X to class-V has been given to all persons from Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Lahaul, Spiti and Kinnaur districts of Himachal Pradesh and tribals from all the States to join Army as General Duty (GD) soldiers.

[English]

Introduction of Military Training In Schools/Colleges

5906. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering in consultation with Ministry of Human Resource Development and Education Ministers of the States to have a compulsory military training from Class XI to Degree courses throughout the country to preserve the reserve of trained youth force;

(b) whether the Government propose to revise the syllabus of N.C.C. training and provide more budgetary support for the allowances of the cadets for their further motivation to Indian Armed Forces; and

(c) if so, the details of the action plan worked out therefor ?

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

(b) and (c) There are no such specific proposals at present.

[Translation]

Railway Reservation

5907. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the passengers going to Bihar in summer and during festivals are facing a lot of problems in getting railway reservation; and

(b) if so, the measures being taken to augment the system and resolve the problems of the commuters ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) During rush period such as summer, festival season etc., the demand outstrips the availability of accommodation in popular trains for various directions including Bihar. In order to bridge the gap between the demand and supply, various steps have been taken which include running of special trains, augmenting the load of the existing trains etc. In addition, waiting list position is monitored on day to day basis and additional coaches are attached, wherever justified and feasible.

[English]

Use of Pathankot Army Airfield for Civil Flights

5908. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to allow to civilian flights to and fro the Pathankot Army Airfield; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be allowed ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Pathankot Airport belongs to Indian Air Force. There is no Civil Enclave at this airport to facilitate civil operations. The development of Pathankot airport for civil operations is dependent upon the availability of resources, traffic potential, and also on willingness on the part of airlines to start services, subject to availability of aircraft and commercial viability. The proposal is at preliminary stage.

CAPART

5909. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria for selecting and nominating the members of Regional Committee of CAPART;

(b) the duties, responsibilities and functions of the members of regional committees;

(c) the honorarium, stipend or any other allowance payable to such members;

(d) the present composition of the Chandigarh Regional Committee including the qualifications and background of its members; and

(e) the details of projects sanctioned under CAPART for the States of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Union Territory of Chandigarh respectively ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) and (b) Criteria for selection of the members of Regional Committees are not laid down in the Rules of CAPART. Regional Committees comprise of official and non-official members from the geographical area of operation of the concerned Regional Committee. As per the Memorandum of Association and Rules of CAPART, the Regional Committees are constituted by the Executive Committee.

The functions of the Regional Committee are as under :-

- (i) to consider project proposals upto an outlay of Rs. 10 lakhs in its area of jurisdiction. These would be examined with the assistance of panels of experts/reputed voluntary organisations and then placed before the respective committee for consideration and approval.
- (ii) Monitoring of projects sanctioned within the Zone with the assistance of panels of experts/monitors.
- (iii) Identification of Institutions for training of functionaries of Voluntary Organisations.
- (iv) To maintain liaison and coordinate with the State Governments and district authorities.
- (v) Promotion and development of small informal groups.
- (c) The members are not paid any honorarium or stipend. However, they are paid travel expenses for attending meetings as per CAPART's norms.

(d) The composition of the Regional Committee, Chandigarh is at Statement-I. The qualification of the members are not laid down in the Memorandum of Association and Rules of CAPART.

(e) The details of the projects is enclosed at Statement-II.

Statement-I

Composition of the Regional Committee, Chandigarh.

1. Prof. R.D. Garg — Chairman
Udyog Bharati
13, Sakshar Apartments,
A-3 Block, Pashchim Vihar
Delhi-110063.

2. Dr. Rajneesh Arora Vikram Vidyalyaya, Khooh Kodian Amritsar, Punjab-143006.	- Member	8. Shri Umendra Dutt 13-B, Firozshah Road New Delhi-110001.	- Member
3. Shri Satpal Raizada 2/4, Lower Bazar, Shimla-1	- Member	9. Secretary Rural Development Govt. of Punjab, Chandigarh	- Member
4. Shri Ajoy Jambabal Buddh Kalyan Singh Leh, Ladhak	- Member	10. Secretary Rural Department Govt. of Haryana, Chandigarh	- Member
5. Shri Ajaib Singh Helpage India Chandigarh	- Member	11. Secretary Rural Department Govt. of Himachal Pradesh	- Member
6. Dr. (Ms.) S.M. Parija Shivaji Nagar, Distt. Gurgaon Haryana.	- Member	12. Secretary Rural Development Govt. of J and K, Srinagar	- Member
7. Shri Man Mohan Sharma Director VHAI, Chandigarh	- Member	13. Representative of DG, CAPART	- Member
		14. Member-Convenor, CAPART	- Member Convenor

Statement-II

Details of Projects Sanctioned Under CAPART in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Union Territory of Chandigarh (Since inception till 31.3.2000)

Scheme	State				
	Haryana	Himachal Pradesh	Punjab	Jammu & Kashmir	Chandigarh
ARTS	11	92	7	12	8
ARWSP	50	15	-	1	-
CRSP	54	8	7	6	2
DWCRA	43	14	1	17	4
Library	-	1	-	-	-
IRDP	5	3	1	2	-
ORP/SAT	48	45	6	11	2
PC	68	19	5	12	3
Social Forestry	5	1	-	-	-
TM	39	23	3	4	-
JRY + Housing	11	15	3	-	-
WSD	1	2	-	3	-
Total	335	238	33	68	19

Conversion of KELTEC Into a Defence Unit

5910.SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has made any request to the Union Government regarding conversion of KELTEC into a defence unit under the Ministry of Defence; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Based on the request from the Government of Kerala to revive KELTEC, a committee of experts studied the possibility of converting KELTEC into a division of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). After analysis, the committee did not recommend the conversion. Thereafter, it was agreed to provide Rs. 10 crore each from Defence Research and Development Organisation and Indian Space Research Organisation as advance against fabrication orders to be finalised on competitive basis.

Private participation for Manufacturing Army Vehicles

5911. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have signed some MoUs with private companies for manufacture of army vehicles at Central Vehicle Depots of the country;

(b) if so, the names of companies alongwith the CVD location-wise; and

(c) the terms and conditions laid down therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) The Government have entered into Transfer of Technology agreements with M/s Ashok Leyland and M/s Telco. The scope of agreement includes transfer of technology to Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur and not Central Vehicle Depots, for all aggregates other than Engine Assembly from M/s Ashok Leyland in respect of 5/7.5 Ton Stallion MK-III vehicles and from M/s Telco in respect of 2.5 Ton LPTA 713/32 vehicles.

[Translation]

Railway cases Pending in Courts

5912. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Railway cases lying pending in the courts in various districts of Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra, State-wise;

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

(c) the measures taken to expedite the disposal of such cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) The

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

Recommendations of R.C.P.A.C.

5913. SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railway Catering and Passenger Amenities Committee, constituted by the Government has recommended that catering services at the stations, to run on no profit no loss basis in view of the passenger facilities;

(b) if so, whether the Government have recently changed this age old policy; and

(c) if so, the reason therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The catering arrangements on Indian Railways have been reviewed from time to time. In 1953, a committee headed by Shri O.V. Alagesan, the then Dy. Minister for Railways, had endorsed the principle that the departmental catering should be run on "no profit-no loss" basis. However, subsequently in 1967 Railway Catering and Passenger Amenities Committee headed by Shri Parimal Ghosh, the then Minister of State for Railways, had modified the above principle so as to provide for a small profit which should be ploughed back into the service.

[English]

Privatisation of PSUs

5914. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the public sector undertakings under the railways;

(b) whether the Government propose to privatise some of the PSUs; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) IRCON International Ltd. (IRCON), Rail India Technical and Economic Services Ltd. (RITES), Indian Railway Finance Corporation Ltd. (IRFC), Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR) and Konkan Railway Corporation (KRC) are the Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry of Railways.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Facilities at Aligarh Railway Station

5915. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representation regarding construction of rickshaw and bicycle sheds and improvement of facilities provided at Aligarh railway station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) The representation received does not mention about the need for construction of sheds for rickshaw and bicycles, but calls for improvement in facilities at Aligarh Railway Station with more passenger shelters, drinking water taps, light fans on the extended portion of the platforms, widening of the foot over bridge at East end and the provision of hooking office and circulating area including landscape and beautification of area on city side.

(c) Passenger amenities, as per norms, are already available at the station. As a measure of augmentation of amenities, a work for extension of sheds on platforms No. 2, 3 and 4 by three days each has already been taken up.

[English]

Construction of Over Bridges

5916. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to reply given to unstarred question No. 4330 dated July 16, 1998 regarding construction of over-bridges and state :

(a) the progress made in this regard; and

(b) the time by which the work would be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) The work of construction of foot over bridges at Bijwasan, Pataudi Road, Ichchapuri and Khalilpur is under consideration for being executed alongwith the work of second line between Delhi and Rewari which is already in progress and would be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

(b) Target date for the works has not yet been fixed.

Vigil in Border Areas

5917. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Air Force has reportedly suspended its daily mission to collect information about any fresh development along the Indian Borders;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor with effective date of suspension;

(c) whether the Government propose to restore this activity; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The reconnaissance missions of the Indian Air Force were never suspended.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Nomination of Officers in Consumer Cooperative Societies

5918. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government nominates its officials on the Board of Directors of the Consumer Cooperative Societies in Delhi as Chairman and Directors on part time basis;

(b) if so, the duties assigned to the Chairman and Directors and perks facilities enjoyed by them;

(c) whether such part time Chairman and Directors have powers to interfere in the day to day administration and business of those societies or to chair the meetings of the Board of Directors only; and

(d) the number of cases of abuse of authority of the Chairman and Directors on the Board of Directors of those societies which have come to light during the last three years, year-wise and the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) In terms of Section 41 of the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984, the Central Government or a State Government has a right to nominate on the Board of Directors of such Society where the Central Government or the State Government has subscribed to the share capital of a multi-state cooperative society or has guaranteed the repayment of principal and payment of interest on debentures issued by a multi state cooperative society or has guaranteed

repayment of principal and payment of interest on loans and advances to a multi state cooperative society. The number of persons to be nominated on the Board has to be made as may be prescribed in the bye-laws of the Society.

(b) and (c) The duties of the Chairman and the Board of Directors are also defined in the respective bye-laws of the Multi State Cooperative Societies. Section 42 of the MSCS Act, 1984 also defines the powers and functions of the Board of a Multi State Cooperative Society.

(d) In the case of Super Bazar, Delhi, certain cases of irregularities by the ex-Chairman in to the business and other administrative activities were noticed. These matters are being inquired/investigated by the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies and the C.B.I.

Inconvenience to Balharshah bound Passengers

5919. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether New Delhi-Chennai and New Delhi-Bangalore Rajdhani Express trains stop at Balharshah junction in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether tickets for Balharshah are issued to the passengers in these trains;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government are aware of the inconvenience caused to the people of Balharshah as they have to purchase tickets for the next station where these trains stop and thus have to pay more for lesser distance of journey; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The stoppage is operational and not commercial. Hence, tickets are not issued.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Mumbai International Airport

5920. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are several complaints regarding construction/repair of defects in the newly constructed

terminal number II of the Mumbai International Airport; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Some minor defects were noticed on the commissioning of New Terminal II and action is already at hand to rectify them.

[English]

System of Telescopic Fares

5921. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways had earlier used the system of 'telescopic' fares for passengers wishing to extend their journeys while travelling;

(b) if so, the reasons for discontinuing this system;

(c) whether the Railways are aware that loss is caused to genuine passengers due to the dropping of telescopic fares; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to review this policy and restore the national system in force earlier ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) Prior to 1994, passengers were given the benefit of telescopic rates if they wanted to extend journey beyond the original destination station. However, on receipt of reports about misuse of this facility, the method of charging telescopic fares for extended journeys was revised with effect from 29.7.1994. Under the revised procedure the fare for extended journey is charged at normal tariff rates treating such extended journey as fresh one. Review of the existing rule is not being considered at present.

Losses In Super Bazar

5922. SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT :
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

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

(a) the losses suffered by Super Bazar during 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(b) whether the irregularities relating to functioning of ex-chairman, Super Bazar has been referred to CBI for investigation;

(c) if so, time by which the report is likely to be received by the Government; and

(d) The details of the duties and functions of the Chairman of the Super Bazar and to which perks and privileges he is entitled to.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) The Super Bazar has informed that the losses suffered by Super Bazar in 1998-99 and 1999-2000 respectively are Rs. 706.80 lakhs (audited) and Rs. 1643.50 lakhs approx. (unaudited).

(b) and (c) The irregularities relating to functioning of Ex-Chairman, Super Bazar have been referred to CBI for investigation and the investigation report of CBI is still awaited. However no period has been stipulated for completion of the investigation.

(d) The duties and functions of the Chairman of Super Bazar are as per clauses 24(g) and 28 of the Bye-laws of Super Bazar attached as per Statement. Further, as per decision of the Board of Directors the Ex-Chairman of Super Bazar was provided with official car, rented Guest House cum residence, an honorarium @ Rs. 25000/- per year (paid monthly @ Rs. 2083.34). Further, the Chairman and also elected Members on the Board of Directors were entitled to receive Rs. 1000/- for attending each meeting of the Board of Directors.

Statement

24(g) The Chairman Staff convene meeting of the Board on receipt of requisition from any six members of the Board or from Central Registrar or any person authorized the Central Registrar.

28(a) The Chairman will exercise general supervision over the working of Super Bazar for the fulfillment of its objects under the Bye-laws.

(b) In exceptional circumstances or where prompt decision have to be taken, the Chairman may call upon any member of the Board of Directors or any of the officers of Super Bazar to represent Super Bazar at any meeting/conference or before any authority. The decision taken shall be placed before the next meeting of the Board of Directors.

(c) The Chairman shall be the spokesman of the Super Bazar.

(d) The Chairman shall be competent to decide whether a situation of emergency has arisen. When the decision to this effect is taken by the Chairman, he shall be competent to exercise all powers of the Board of Directors. Any action taken or any action passed by the Chairman in pursuance of this authority shall be placed in the next meeting of the Board of Directors.

[Translation]

Sindhu Darshan

5923. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether a festival in the name of 'Sindhu Darshan' is celebrated in Leh - Ladakh;

(b) if so, the arrangements made for transport and security for the tourists who wish to have Sindhu Darshan;

(c) whether there is any other place where tourist can undertake 'Sindhu Darshan' other than Leh-Ladakh; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government for development of those places ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Indian Airlines and Jet Air have been requested to provide additional flights during the festival. Local transport and security arrangements are being arranged by the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

(c) This Festival is celebrated only at Leh-Ladakh.

(d) Does not arise.

Construction of Road under Bridge at Gorakhpur

5924. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal is pending for approval with the Government for construction of road under bridge and road over bridge on the railway level crossing at Gorakhpur on the Jabalpur meter gauge railway line; and

(b) if so, the time by which the approval should be given to the said proposal ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Deduction from Salary

5925. DR. V. SAROJA :

SHRI D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Fake Note Fallout on Rly. Booking Staff's pay packet" appearing in the Times of India dated March 15, 2000;

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

(c) the measures being taken to tackle the situation; and

(d) the steps taken to reimburse the amount to booking clerks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Currency notes tendered at booking/reservation offices are accepted in good faith. In case, fake notes are accepted then their detection is generally done at a later stage. As per normal practice, the staff is responsible for deficiency in cash collected and such shortages are recovered from them. Since it is difficult to detect fake notes in the normal course, staff are being given training and counselling to detect fake notes. Fake note detecting machines have also been installed at various locations to help in tackling the problem. The reimbursement depends on the merits of each case.

Unmasked IRS Satellite Data

5926. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested to accord clearance to digitize topo sheets and for permitting NRSA to supply Unmasked IRS Satellite Data for the use by consultants for natural hazard mitigation studies to save lives and properties during floods and cyclone; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Government of Andhra Pradesh have approached Ministry of Defence for according security clearance permitting them to digitize topo sheets on various scales covering the entire state to facilitate their project relating to Hazard Mitigation. They have also requested for acquiring unmasked satellite data from the NRSA.

2. The Defence Ministry has since approved the proposal to include Andhra Pradesh State Remote Sensing Application Centre (APSRAC) in the list of Government agencies authorised to digitize topo sheets already published by Survey of India under the existing parameters and conditions.

Strategy to Counter Pak on LoC

5927. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI :
SHRI ABDUL HAMID
SHRI R.L. BHATIA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the newsitem appeared in the *Hindustan Times* dated March 13, 2000, entitled "Army Unveils strategy to counter Pak on LoC";

(b) if so, the details of the strategy reported therein;

(c) whether this strategy is likely to counter the latest aggressive posture adopted by Pakistan's military ruler on the infiltration across the LoC; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) No such strategy, as described in the newsitem, has been chalked out. However, appropriate measures in response to the dynamics of the situation on the Line of Control, International Border and within J&K are undertaken to protect our security concerns and to thwart the designs of our adversaries.

Production of SU-30 Aircraft

5928. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR :
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement to produce SU-30 aircraft in India with Russian assistance was ever made;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made, if any, in that direction ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) To explore the feasibility of licence production of SU-30 MK-1 aircraft by HAL in India, a Price Negotiation Committee constituted by Ministry of Defence has formally concluded price negotiations with Russian authorities. No production contract has been entered into.

Hijacking of Japanese Vessel

5929. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the reported hijacking of Japanese vessel carrying thousand

tonnes of crude oil from Malaysia to Haldia by Sea Pirates at Mallakka Jaldamrumadhyha in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Sea Pirates of Mallakka Jaldamrumadhyha area have been hijacking the foreign vessels in the area on regular basis in connivance with coastal guards of Indian Navy;

(d) whether the Government propose to check such rising terrorism of pirates in Indian Ocean; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (e) The Government is aware of the news item captioned "Ship for Haldia vanishes at sea" that appeared in the Telegraph dated 4th March, 2000. The Indian Coast Guard was first informed of the vessel MT Global Mars not having reached its destination by the Piracy Reporting Centre (PRC) Kuala Lumpur on the 29th February, 2000. The said vessel had departed Port Kelang in Malaysia on 22nd February, 2000 for Haldia with 6000 MT of Palm oil products and it was presumed to have been hijacked. On receipt of the information, CG ships and aircraft were alerted to keep sharp look out for the said vessel while on routine surveillance in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone.

2. The 17 crew members of the missing ship were, subsequently rescued by a fishing boat off the west coast of Thailand on 10th March, 2000. The rescued crew informed the Police authorities in Thailand that the vessel was hijacked on 24th February, 2000 by about 20 masked and armed pirates.

3. The Coast Guard and the Navy, have individually and jointly been conducting regular patrolling of maritime zone to prevent incidents of theft/robbery. There is no evidence of their connivance with the sea pirates.

[Translation]

Import of Rail Grinds Machines

5930. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway have imported Rail Grinds machines from U.S.A. to increase the railway services period, save fuel, maintenance of wagons and coaches and to grind rail lines;

(b) If so, whether these grinds machines are giving results as per the expectations;

(c) If not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken against the guilty officials who take such decisions to import these machines involving huge investment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. One 16 stone Rail grinding Machine was procured from a firm in U.S.A. and commissioned on Indian Railways in April, 1990. In this first attempt of the Indian Railways to adopt rail grinding technology, valuable, experience, has been gained about the practice of this technology and its contribution towards extending rail life. Based on experience gained, procurement of a high out put 72 stone machine is contemplated to fully reap the benefits of rail grinding technology.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Use of ISI Mark

5931. SHRI MANOJ SINHA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints that some firms are using ISI mark on their products without acquiring licence from the Bureau of Indian Standards; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government against such firms ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) The Bureau of Indian Standards has been receiving complaints about the use of ISI mark by some firms on their products without obtaining licence form BIS.

(b) During the period 1.4.99 to 31.3.2000, 30 complaints were received, 16 searches and seizures carried out, 20 legal proceedings launched and 6 parties convicted.

[Translation]

Financial Loss to Military Farm, Meerut

5932. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY :
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the heavy financial loss caused to the military farm at Meerut by certain officers in connivance with the lease contractors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some Members of Parliament have also wrote to him in this regard; and

(d) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against the persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) The complaint from Hon'ble Member of Parliament has been received regarding leasing of Military Farms land at Meerut. The complaint has been investigated by Headquarters, Meerut Sub Area (Central Command) but no irregularity or loss to the State has been detected.

(d) In view of the above, the question does not arise.

[English]

Safety of Fishermen

5933. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of fishermen are reported to be missing from the coastal belt of Kutch and also from some other parts of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the total number of fishermen recorded missing during the last one year and in 2000, till date;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up a Coast Guard post at Jakhau Port in Kutch district of Gujarat so as to ensure the safety of fishermen; and

(d) if not, the other steps being taken to ensure their safety?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected from the State Government of Gujarat.

(c) The Coast Guard have identified 3 pieces of land at Jakhau in Gujarat for setting up a Coast Guard Station. The Government of Gujarat is willing to provide all these three pieces of land provided the Ministry of Environment and Forests' clearance is obtained for one acre of land situated near Jakhau port. The clearance of the Ministry of Environment and Forests has not yet been received.

(d) Coast Guard stations regularly interact with fishing community ashore especially those who operate close to the maritime boundary with Pakistan. Regular instructional lectures are conducted to indicate maritime boundaries and safety precautions to be taken. These issues are brought to the knowledge of respective State

administration and fisheries departments for strict compliance. Coast Guard ships on routine Exclusive Economic Zone surveillance also direct fishing vessels operating close to International Boundary Line to fish well within the Indian waters.

[Translation]

Land Reform

5934. SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH KAUSHAL : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to seepage in the Chambal irrigated area, the land is becoming unfit for agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any scheme has been formulated with the joint effort of Canada to improve this land.

(d) if so, the acres of land improved under this scheme;

(e) the acres of land is still remaining to be improved in the area; and

(f) whether the above scheme has been abandoned; and

(g) if so, the other schemes to be launched for the improvement of the remaining land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Upgradation of Babatpur Airport

5935. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to upgrade the Babatpur Airport located at Varanasi as an international airport; and

(b) if so, the time by which the Varanasi airport is likely to be upgraded as an international airport alongwith the names of the countries proposed to be linked with air routes from this airport and the total expenditure likely to be incurred in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Airports Authority of India has plans to upgrade the existing Varanasi airport by undertaking the following works - at a cost of Rs. 48 crores, subject to acquisition and handing over of requisite land by State Government :-

- (i) extension of runway for operation of AB-300 type of aircraft;
- (ii) expansion and modification of the terminal building; and
- (iii) extension of the existing apron to accommodate five numbers of AB-320/B-737 class of aircrafts and one AB-300 class of aircraft.

International flights to and from Kathmandu were operated through this airport till the same were suspended.

[English]

Construction of Wells under IRDP

5936. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI :
SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI :
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of wells constructed under the IRDP in the country especially in Maharashtra during the year 1999-2000, State-wise;

(b) the total amount spent on these wells during the above period State-wise; and

(c) the number of villages which are to be covered under this scheme during the current financial year, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) to (c) The IRDP scheme is no more in operation w.e.f. 01.04.99. A new self-employment programme known as Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) has been launched with effect from 01.04.99. Development of Irrigation sources including wells, is a permissible bankable activity under SGSY. The number of wells constructed however, is not monitored separately. SGSY is implemented in all the blocks of the country and every family living below the poverty line in all villages is eligible for assistance under SGSY subject to availability of funds.

Linking of Ichalkaranji with Kolhapur by Rail

5937. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Ichalkaranji has no rail link with Kolhapur;

(b) if so, whether any survey had been conducted earlier in this regard; and

(c) if so, when and the present status of the project ?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Delay of Flights on Delhi-Ahmedabad Sector

5938. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRPAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for the delay of flights in Delhi-Ahmedabad sector from January 1, 2000 to April 7, 2000 particularly in respect of IC 861 and IC 862; and

(b) the steps being taken to streamline the flights on this sector ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) During the period 1st January to 7th April, 2000, 36.17% of flights operating between Delhi and Ahmedabad were delayed. The delays in respect of IC 861/862 during this period were 51.1% largely due to consequential reasons.

(b) Indian Airlines constantly endeavours to improve its on-time performance. All delays and cancellations are investigated and remedial action is taken to eliminate the cause which are within the control of Indian Airlines.

[Translation]

Non-Preference to Rail Journey

5939. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any study has been conducted or any committee constituted to ascertain the reasons for giving priority to road journey over the train journey by the people despite rail journey being cheaper and environment friendly; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Railway Fare and Freight Committee (1993) constituted to examine the entire gamut of railway fare and freight structure, had inter-alia made the following observations :

(i) Road transport is more suitable with greater frequency for short distance passengers.

(ii) Roadways more or less give a door to door service.

- (iii) Railways are the preferred mode of transport for long and medium distance travel.

[English]

Swarnajayanti Gram Rozgar Yojana

5940. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any target of beneficiaries under Swarnajayanti Gram Rozgar Yojana has been fixed; and
(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) and (b) The Ministry does not implement any programme with the name of Swarnajayanti Gram Rozgar Yojana. The Ministry has been, however, implementing a new self employment programme namely Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), w.e.f. 1.4.1999. It is expected that depending on the availability of funds, 30% of the poor will be covered under SGSY within next five years.

Representation from FCI Retd. Employees Welfare Association

5941. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have received a representation from the FCI Retd. Employees Welfare Association (Western Zone) requesting for one more option to retired employees of the erstwhile regional director FCI who were transferred from the department of Food to the FCI;
(b) if so, whether their demand is in accordance with the assurance given to such transfers by the Government that their service conditions as Central Government employees would not be miserably affected;
(c) if so, whether they had been denied the option to opt for pension scheme in place of CPF scheme as given to other Government employees; and
(d) if so, the decision taken on the recent representation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Association has requested for one more option not only to the retired employees but also to those who are still in service and had opted for FCI terminal benefits at the time of their transfer to the FCI.

- (b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) In 1990, the FCI Employees Union had filed a petition in the Supreme Court seeking its direction to give further option to these employees for switching over to pensionary scheme instead of the earlier option for CPF scheme. The Hon'ble Supreme Court did not find any merit in the petition and had observed that "The petitioners are not entitled to the benefit of pension since they had already exercised their option for CPF scheme. There is no merit in the writ petition, it is accordingly dismissed." In the light of the above, the request cannot be acceded to.

[Translation]

Manufacturing of Light Aircraft

5942. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) the time by which the light aircraft 'Saras' is likely to be manufactured indigenously;
(b) the seating capacity of the aircraft;
(c) whether the Government are seeking co-operation of private companies in its production; and
(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) 'Saras', India's first light aircraft, is expected to go into indigenous production by the year 2004.

- (b) The maximum seating capacity of this aircraft is 14.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. During the development phase of this aircraft, some of the design work, several of the components and some assembly work is being done by about 20 private companies in and around Bangalore. It is envisaged that due to their experience during the development phase some of them will also be involved in the production phase.

[English]

Transfer of Railway Industries to Multinational Companies

5943. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of industries in Railways have been sold/transferred to foreign multinational companies since the opening of the economy to global competitions so far;

(b) whether any study has been made to find out its impact on employment; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

International Routes from Bangalore

5944. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to start new International routes from Bangalore; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) The Government have recently declared the airport at Bangalore as an international airport. Foreign airlines can now seek access to this airport subject to formal exchange of traffic rights. Actual operations are, however, left to the commercial judgement of the airlines.

[Translation]

Shifting of Administrative Headquarter

5945. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for shifting of administrative headquarter of Railway from Bilaspur in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether this shifting would affect the on-going projects there; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) There is no such proposal.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Allocation of Funds under JRY

5946. DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have allocated more funds under Jawahar Rojgar Yojana during the current financial year in comparison to the funds allocated during the last three years;

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

(c) the number of man days created and number of rural people benefited under the said scheme in various States from the year 1997-98 to till date?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) and (b) Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY), the main objective of which was employment generation in rural areas has been restructured and renamed as Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) w.e.f. 01.4.1999. Primary objective of JGSY is development of infrastructure facilities in rural areas as per the felt need of the local area. Under JRY funds were allocated among the Village Panchayats, Intermediate Panchayats and DRDAs/ZPs in the ratio of 70:15:15 whereas under JGSY entire funds go to the Village Panchayats which are the sole implementing agencies for the program. The funds released (Centre+State) to States/UTs under JRY/JGSY during 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 is as given below:—

(Rs. In crores)

Year	Amount released (C+S)
1997-98	2436.20
1998-99	2571.73
1999-2000	2247.04
2000-2001	2194.00 (Earmarked)

(c) The number of mandays generated under JRY/JGSY from 1997-98 to 1999-2000 is as per Statement-I, II, and III

Statement-I

Employment Generated under JRY during 1997-98

(Lakhs Mandays)

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Annual Target	Achievement	% Age Ach.	Sectoral Achievement			Others	Land Less	Women
					SC	ST	SC+ST			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	336.97	310.98	92.29	95.65	45.09	140.74	170.24	207.68	109.2
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4.94	2.88	58.3	0.00	2.88	2.88	0.00	0.00	1.03

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
3. Assam		110.36	107.89	97.58	18.63	31.99	50.62	57.07	35.12	11.41
4. Bihar		546.64	533.04	97.51	212.91	113.87	326.78	206.26	342.15	150.28
5. Goa		3.32	2.55	0.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.55	0.00	0.19
6. Gujarat		69	82.81	120.01	14.91	39.43	54.34	28.47	28.62	21.41
7. Haryana		16.11	16.01	99.38	9.61	0.00	9.61	6.40	13.64	3.12
8. Himachal Pradesh		8.52	10.11	118.66	4.25	2.04	6.29	3.82	0.00	0.97
9. J and K		22.64	24.05	106.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
10. Karnataka		222.78	265.91	119.36	73.86	28.79	102.64	163.27	108.48	87.54
11. Kerala		66.74	41.82	62.66	13.84	2.22	16.06	25.76	6.22	14.44
12. Madhya Pradesh		329.89	347.15	105.23	87.88	134.55	222.43	124.72	124.15	123.41
13. Maharashtra		524.38	527.74	100.64	142.19	114.48	256.67	271.07	138.89	178.17
14. Manipur		3.15	2.16	68.57	0.15	1.60	1.75	0.41	0.03	0.52
15. Meghalaya		4.87	4.54	93.22	0.00	4.54	4.54	0.00	1.46	1.14
16. Mizoram		1.59	1.91	120.13	0.00	1.91	1.91	0.00	0.00	0.69
17. Nagaland		7.30	9.21	126.16	0.00	9.21	9.21	0.00	0.00	4.34
18. Orissa		299.18	299.82	100.21	92.47	111.72	204.19	95.63	63.71	93.33
19. Punjab		11.95	12.83	107.36	9.73	0.00	9.73	3.10	12.83	0.00
20. Rajasthan		182.03	196.14	107.75	71.61	56.19	127.80	68.34	28.67	67.83
21. Sikkim		1.66	2.65	159.64	0.68	1.12	1.8	0.85	0.12	0.63
22. Tamil Nadu		312.56	388.81	124.4	191.77	8.92	200.09	188.72	300.57	140.42
23. Tripura		5.91	7.31	123.69	1.78	3.19	4.97	2.34	1.62	2.19
24. Uttar Pradesh		561.71	599.49	106.73	296.54	5.32	301.86	297.63	110.34	111.82
25. West Bengal		206.58	154.62	74.85	62.77	20.72	83.49	71.13	88.51	39.68
26. A and N Island		1.04	0.15	14.42	0.00	0.08	0.08	0.07	0.04	0.02
27. D and N Haveli		0.73	0.86	117.81	0.00	0.86	0.86	0.00	0.00	0.62
28. Daman and Diu		0.45	0.56	124.44	0.05	0.35	0.40	0.16	0.20	0.32
29. Lakhshadweep		0.90	1.46	162.22	0.00	1.46	1.46	0.00	0.00	0.44
30. Pondicherry		1.00	0.63	63.00	0.28	0.00	0.28	0.35	0.63	0.19
Total		3864.90	3955.89	102.35	1400.95	742.53	2143.48	1788.36	1613.69	1145.35

Statement-II

Employment Generated under JRY during 1998-99 (Provisional)

(Lakh Mandays)

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Annual Target (tentative)	Achievement	% Age Ach.	Sectoral Achievement			Others	Women	Landless
					SC	ST	SC/ST			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	254.01	224.68	88.45	66.47	27.15	93.62	131.05	76.08	147.71

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
2. Arunachal Pradesh	7.97	3.96	49.69	0.00	3.96	3.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3. Assam	144.36	199.57	138.24	35.91	66.83	102.74	96.83	23.96	77.51	
4. Bihar	688.11	584.91	85.00	233.49	112.85	346.34	238.57	159.55	348.67	
5. Goa	3.32	1.70	51.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.70	0.73	0.00	
6. Gujarat	63.34	59.18	110.95	10.41	28.18	38.59	20.59	15.62	23.03	
7. Haryana	30.49	23.84	78.19	14.18	0.00	14.18	9.66	4.92	22.97	
8. Himachal Pradesh	17.00	15.39	90.53	6.92	2.03	8.95	6.44	0.74	0.25	
9. J and K	27.5	20.59	74.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
10. Karnataka	188.82	222.16	117.66	61.89	27.07	88.96	110.4	67.78	82.51	
11. Kerala	69.77	39.39	56.46	11.00	1.30	12.3	27.09	13.65	4.94	
12. Madhya Pradesh	325.8	319.34	98.02	76.97	127.92	204.89	114.45	109.8	113.34	
13. Maharashtra	541.22	403.81	74.61	109.47	96.65	206.12	197.69	141.19	152.29	
14. Manipur	6.92	5.59	80.78	0.19	3.67	3.86	1.73	0.50	0.00	
15. Meghalaya	10.22	5.91	57.83	0.25	5.66	5.91	0.00	1.89	1.20	
16. Mizoram	1.84	4.36	236.96	0.00	4.36	4.36	0.00	1.54	0.00	
17. Nagaland	9.82	23.73	241.65	0.00	23.73	23.73	0.00	5.46	0.00	
18. Orissa	317.94	296.84	93.36	89.54	107	196.54	1.00	91.55	64.83	
19. Punjab	15.46	13.89	89.84	10.27	0.00	10.27	3.62	0.39	11.75	
20. Rajasthan	149.43	148.3	99.24	52.69	39.42	92.11	56.19	49.17	16.89	
21. Sikkim	2.29	6.13	267.69	1.38	2.40	3.78	2.35	1.94	0.19	
22. Tamil Nadu	230.42	280.97	121.94	137.18	6.40	143.58	137.4	105.36	219.09	
23. Tripura	18.02	34.72	192.67	8.76	17.00	25.76	8.96	9.89	12.63	
24. Uttar Pradesh	626.32	691.39	110.39	365.08	6.82	371.9	319.49	157.25	176.6	
25. West Bengal	220.83	134.45	60.88	52.71	16.33	69.04	65.41	32.02	80.96	
26. A and N Island	1.30	0.19	14.62	0.00	0.10	0.10	0.09	0.04	0.06	
27. D and N Haveli	1.11	0.67	60.36	0.00	0.67	0.67	0.00	0.51	0.00	
28. Daman and Diu	0.57	0.11	19.30	0.30	0.40	0.7	0.5	0.07	0.05	
29. Lakshadweep	1.12	0.42	37.50	0.42	0.00	0.42	0.00	0.18	0.00	
30. Pondichery	1.25	0.03	2.11	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	
Total	3966.57	3766.32	94.95	1345.49	727.90	2073.39	1650.22	1071.78	1557.47	

Statement-III

Employment generated under JGSY during 99-2000
Progress upto January, 2000

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Month Code	Total Mandays Generated (in lakh)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8	34.71

1	2	3	4
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	2.20
3.	Assam	1	99.30
4.	Bihar	12	309.29
5.	Goa	1	0.99
6.	Gujarat	1	26.28
7.	Haryana	1	12.51

1	2	3	4
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	10.19
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	6.20
10.	Karnataka	1	123.46
11.	Kerala	1	23.74
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1	167.61
13.	Maharashtra	1	181.78
14.	Manipur	8	0.54
15.	Meghalaya	8	2.76
16.	Mizoram	1	1.00
17.	Nagaland	10	2.03
18.	Orissa	1	142.11
19.	Punjab	1	4.98
20.	Rajasthan	1	75.12
21.	Sikkim	11	0.82
22.	Tamil Nadu	1	134.50
23.	Tripura	1	12.47
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1	267.33
25.	West Bengal	1	68.76
26.	A and N Islands	1	0.20
27.	D and N Haveli	7	0.01
28.	Daman and Diu	7	0.00
29.	Lakshadweep	8	0.09
30.	Pondicherry	11	0.00
Total			1710.98

Note : No target for employment generation is fixed under JGSY as it is primarily meant for development of rural infrastructure.

[English]

ITDC Sell OFF

5947. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "High Stamp duty may force Government to change modalities of ITDC Sell off" appearing in the "The Economic Times" dated March 12, 2000;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) No such decision as mentioned in the "Newsitem" has been taken by the Government.

Nedumbassery International Airport

5948. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Nedumbassery International Airport has become a safe transit point for several anti-national elements including members of LTTE;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to curb their acts ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Facts in this regard are being ascertained.

Reform in Railway Policing System

5949. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :
SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Call to reform Railways policing system" appearing in the *Times of India* dated April 8, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which these reforms are likely to be carried out; and

(d) the extent to which the new reform in policing system is likely to help in checking the untoward incidents in the trains ?

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

(b) to (d) A High Level Committee on Security on Railways has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Chairman Railway Board with representatives from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs and the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Maharashtra, Punjab and West Bengal. Further reforms in the existing system will be decided on the availability of the report of the Committee.

[Translation]

Liberalised Air Policy

5950. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :
SHRI TARUN GOGOI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the newsitem under caption "Thailand Ne Bharat Se Khuli Aakash Niti Ko Udar Banane Ko Kaha", as published in the Dainik Jagran dated February 2, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon ?

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

(b) and (c) The air traffic rights between India and Thailand have been increased from 8 frequencies per week to 4100 seats per week for each side in each direction during the Inter-Governmental talks held on February 10-12, 2000. Thai Airways has also been permitted to operate services to Mumbai under a Code-share/Block-Space Arrangement with Air India.

Projects Sanctioned by CAPART

5951. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of projects approved by the Council for the Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology during the last three years for the tribal and rural areas under Banaskantha Parliamentary constituency in Gujarat;

(b) the names of agencies to whom has been provided through CAPART and the places where these agencies are located;

(c) the amount sanctioned and released so far to each such agency;

(d) whether the Government are aware that these agencies have committed irregularities; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) to (c) Three projects have been sanctioned by CAPART during the last three years to 3 Voluntary Organisations which are located in Banaskantha Parliamentary constituency. The details are as follows :-

S. No.	Name of Voluntary Organisation	Sanctioned Amount (Rs.)	Amount Released (Rs.)
1.	Pawan Khadi Gramodyog Seva Sangh, District Banaskantha.	2,20,000	2,20,000
2.	Shri Sanskar Khadi Gramodyog Seva Sangh, District, Banaskantha.	1,09,927	1,09,927
3.	M.G. Patel Sarvodaya Kendra, PO Shri Amirgadh Tq. Palampur, Distt. Banaskantha	50,000	50,000

(d) No irregularities have been reported so far about these agencies.

(e) Does not arise.

Theft of Accidental Railway Property

5952. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of locos/coaches/wagons lying abandoned along the railway tracks due to the accidents and other Reasons;

(b) whether these are being theft by the junk dealers in instalment with the connivance of Railway Officers/employees;

(c) If so, the steps taken by the railways to ensure safety of these items; and

(d) the total value of these items lying abandoned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) 8 diesel/electric locomotives, 56 passenger coaches and 1010 wagons (FWUs) involved in accidents are lying off the track in different Zones of Indian Railways. These have not been abandoned but are in the process of being either salvaged or disposed off at site through auction.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The total value of such locomotives, coaches and wagons lying on trackside awaiting salvage/disposal on Indian Railways is Rs. 739.39 lakhs approximately.

[English]

Temple at Tirumanchery in Tamil Nadu

5953. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Archaeological Survey of India propose to take over the temple at Tirumanchery in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Departmental Examinations for Selection of Engineers

5954.DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the departmental examinations of the Section Engineer Grade-II (Electrical) were conducted recently in the Ratlam Railway Division;

(b) whether complaints regarding irregularities in these examinations have been received;

(c) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(d) the number of candidates appeared in these examinations and the number of candidates selected out of them.

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) On receipt of a complaint that, against one vacancy reserved for Scheduled Caste candidates, two Scheduled Caste candidates have been wrongly placed in the panel, the matter was fully examined. Consequently, the name of the junior SC candidate has since been deleted from the panel.

(d) The departmental examination was conducted for 3 posts (2 unreserved + 1 Scheduled Caste). Eight employees (6 General and 2 SC) appeared in the selection. No General candidate cleared the selection. Both the Scheduled Caste candidates who cleared the selection were erroneously placed in the panel against only one reserved vacancy. This has since been rectified.

[English]

Report of NIRD

5955. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a study report published by the National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad that despite a decline in the rate of rural poverty in percentage terms, there is no change in the volume of rural poverty in absolute terms;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to reduce the number of people living below the subsistence level in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been reported in "India Rural Development Report - 1999" published by the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) that despite declining trend, the total number of poor in the country has remained more or less static. This is because of higher population growth rate.

(c) As a measure of remedial steps towards alleviation of poverty, the Government have already started various programmes. Some of the programmes are as follows :-

(a) Restructured self-employment programmes-Swaranjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana;

(b) Employment Assurance Scheme;

(c) Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana;

(d) Prime Minister's Gramodaya Scheme;

(e) National Social Assistance Programme, etc.

Demands of Female Crew Members of Air India

5956. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a discrimination about the age of female and male crew members of Air India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to treat them on equal footing?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Aircargo Complex at Patna Airport

5957.DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Bihar Government has submitted a proposal to set up 'Aircargo Complex' at Patna Airport;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) A proposal was received through the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) in the year 1995-96 for setting up an Air Cargo Complex at Patna Airport. CWC was advised to acquire 1.5 acres of land outside the airport boundary and to send a fresh proposal in the prescribed format alongwith drawings for obtaining No objection certificate from the Airports Authority of India. No formal proposal has since then been received from CWC so far.

[English]

Merger of DGQA and JDA

5958. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to merge D.G.Q.A. (Director General Quality Assurance) and Joint Director of Amendment into a new entity; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) No, Sir. The Directorate General of Quality Assurance has within it a Directorate which deals exclusively with Armaments.

(b) Does not arise.

Extension of Sealdah-Canning Rail Line upto Sonakhali

5959. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plan to extend the Sealdah-Canning Railway line in West Bengal upto Sonakhali;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any plan to introduce "token-less" system between Sonarpur and Canning; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A new Traffic Facility work of Tokenless block working on Sonarpur-Canning section has been included in Budget 2000-2001 at an anticipated cost of Rs. 86.34 lakhs. The work would be taken up after the Budget is passed by the Parliament.

[Translation]

Military Training to Indian Forces

5960. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the countries with which the Government of India have signed agreements on imparting military training to the Indian forces;

(b) the names of the countries in which Indian forces got military training during 1997, 1998 and 1999; and

(c) the expenditure incurred on these training programmes, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Training cooperation exists between India and the USA under the United States International Military Education Training Programme (USIMETP) scheme and with the UK under United Kingdom Military Training Assistance Scheme (UKMTAS). A General Agreement for training Indian defence personnel in military education institutions of the Russian Federation was signed on 22nd March 1999.

2. Indian Armed Forces Officers have received training in the following countries during the last three financial year :-

(a) 1997-98

- (i) USA
- (ii) UK
- (iii) Australia
- (iv) Bangladesh
- (v) Nepal
- (vi) Italy
- (vii) Singapore

(b) 1998-99

- (i) USA
- (ii) UK

- (iii) Nigeria
- (iv) Austria
- (v) Myanmar
- (vi) Bangladesh
- (vii) Singapore
- (viii) Indonesia
- (ix) Argentina
- (x) South Africa
- (xi) Japan

(c) 1999-2000

- (i) USA
- (ii) UK
- (iii) Bangladesh
- (iv) Israel
- (v) France
- (vi) South Africa
- (vii) Nepal
- (viii) Malaysia
- (ix) Singapore
- (x) Sri Lanka

3. The expenditure incurred on these training courses are as follows :-

(i)	1997-98	-	Rs. 89.57 lakhs
(ii)	1998-99	-	Rs. 42.96 lakhs
(iii)	1999-2000	-	Rs. 115.10 lakhs

**Utilisation of Bharwadih-Chirimiri
Rail Line**

5961. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the railway line between Bharwadih and Chirimiri in South Bihar was laid before the independence;

(b) whether the Government are contemplating to operate any rail service after completing the work on this line; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) and (c) A survey for a new line between Barwadih and Chirimiri has been taken up, which is expected to be completed by 31-03-2000. Further consideration of the

project will be possible once the Survey Report becomes available. In case the project is subsequently considered to be taken up, operation of train services on this route can be decided only after the work gets completed in all respects and the line is commissioned.

[English]

**Development of Buddhist Tourist
Centres**

5962. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Japan, Taiwan and Korea have evinced interest in helping in the development of facilities and infrastructure in the Buddhist tourist circuits covering Bodh Gaya, Nalanda, Rajgir, Kushi Nagar and Pirawa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to negotiate with Nepal on a joint itinerary covering Kapila Vastu and Lumbini in Nepal, along with Buddhist landmarks in India to attract Buddhist tourists from all those countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Government of India entered into a loan agreement with the Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund (OECF) of Japan in December, 1998 for the development of infrastructure facilities along the identified Buddhist travel circuits in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. It was agreed that OECF would extend financial assistance to the tune of 7.7 billion Japanese Yen. The major components of the project were strengthening of National Highways, State Highways, landscaping, augmentation of water and electricity supply and provision of wayside amenities, etc. The places covered under the project are Sarnath, Kushinagar, Piprahwa, Sravasti in Uttar Pradesh and Bodhgaya, Nalanda, Rajgir and Vaishali in Bihar. The project has been completed on December 31st, 1998 at the approximate cost of Rs. 251.051 crores.

(c) and (d) No proposal in under consideration as yet.

[Translation]

Hindi Advisory Committee

5963. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hindi Advisory Committee has been constituted under his department;

(b) if not, the time by which it is likely to be constituted;

(c) the details of the celebrations by the department to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Official Language;

(d) whether the use of Official Language has increased; and

(e) if so, the targets of annual programme to be achieved during this year ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) (i) A symposium on the "Necessity of mutual translation in Official Language of India and Institutional Provisions".

(ii) A symposium of "Kabir and his Language".

(iii) A speech competition conducted among officials.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. As per Annual Programme of Department of Official Language, namely :

(i) Concerning Meetings of Official Language Implementation Committee.

(ii) Conducting of Hindi workshop

(iii) Observance of Hindi Fortnight

(iv) Conducting inspection of outlying Offices

(v) Conducting of Hindi Training programme.

[English]

Medical Allowance to Retired Railway Employees

5964. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ex-employees of Railways who have not opted for treatment in the Railway hospitals, are eligible for fixed medical allowance @ Rs. 100/- per month;

(b) if so, whether the Railways have received any representations from the Railway Pensioners Sangham, Chennai, in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Railways there on ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. Railway pensioners/family pensioners residing outside the city/town/ municipality limits of places where railway hospitals/health units exist, are eligible for grant of fixed medical allowance of Rs. 100/- per month subject to fulfilment of other laid

down conditions, irrespective of the fact whether they have opted for treatment in Railway hospitals or not.

(b) Yes, Sir. A representation was received through Hon'ble Union Minister of Environment and Forests.

(c) The representationists have been advised of the factual position on 30.1.2000 through the Hon'ble Minister for Environment and Forests, who had forwarded the representation.

[Translation]

Laying of Railway Lines in Madhya Pradesh

5965. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction work of laying of Beena-Maksi and Sironj-Rajgarh rail lines in Madhya Pradesh has been started; and

(b) if so, the time by which these lines are likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) A survey for a new BG line from Biyavra-Rajgarh-Sironj-Bina was conducted in 1999 and the survey report revealed that 147 kms. long line would cost not less than Rs. 224.75 cr. with negative rate of return. In view of grossly unremunerative nature of the project and acute constraint of resources being faced by the Railways, it has not been possible to consider taking up of the project for the present. BG line already exist between Maksi and Biyavra-Rajgarh.

Construction of Road Over Bridge at Dollyganj

5966. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any action has been taken so far regarding construction of road over bridge on Dollyganj railway level crossing in Lucknow; and

(b) if not, the time by which the construction work of above bridge would be undertaken and completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The work was sanctioned in 1998-99.

(b) Location has not been decided as yet by the State Government. Hence, target for starting the work can not be fixed.

[English]

**Power Generation from NCES
Through NGOs**

5967. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have taken any steps to increase power generation from Non-Conventional Energy Sources through N.G.O.'s;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the schemes and names of such areas in Maharashtra in which non-conventional energy sources are likely to be developed in the coming years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has been encouraging power generation from its various programmes such as wind, biomass/co-generation, biomass gasifier, small hydro, solar, photovoltaic and urban and industrial wastes by providing subsidies/financial assistance. Generally, NGOs are also eligible for availing these subsidies/financial assistance. For the projects/schemes sanctioned by the Government, financial support for installation of projects/systems is directly given or routed through State Nodal Agencies.

(c) No State-wise targets are allocated by the Ministry for its programmes except biogas, improved chulha and solar photovoltaic programmes. During the year 2000-2001, a target of 16,000 biogas plants, 1.20 lakhs improved chulhas has been allocated for the State of Maharashtra. Targets for the photovoltaic programme are being finalized. Other non-conventional energy programmes being implemented in the State of Maharashtra are likely to be continued during the year 2000-2001.

Biomass Power

5968. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of villages taken up so far in Karnataka on a project to provide power by the utilisation of biomass;
- (b) the amount sanctioned during 1999-2000 for this purpose; and
- (c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to cover more number of villages under the above project in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) Seven villages have so far been taken up in Yedavanne and Kodavathi panchayats of Tumkur district in Karnataka for biomass-based energy generation under the project on Sustainable Transformation of Rural Areas (SuTRA).

- (b) An amount of Rs. 92.10 lakhs was sanctioned by the Central Government and an amount of Rs. 24 lakhs by the State Government for the project during 1999-2000.
- (c) Coverage of more villages under the project will depend upon timely and successful implementation in the villages so far taken up.

**Achievements made in Freight
Loading**

5969. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Railways have achieved a record in freight loading during 1999-2000 as compared to the last year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the revenue earned as a result thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the performance of freight loading ?

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

(b) During the year 1999-2000 Indian Railways carried more than 456 million tonnes of originating revenue earning freight traffic. This was over 35 million tonnes more than the loading achieved during 1998-99 registering a growth of 8.4%.

(c) Approximate revenue earned from goods traffic for the year 1999-2000 is Rs. 22024 crores.

(d) During 2000-01, the incremental freight loading is expected to materialise mainly from movement of coal, cement, material to steel plants, finished steel and POL products. In order to create capacity for lifting this incremental traffic, adequate number of open, covered and flat wagons and locomotives have been planned. To tackle the problem of near saturation of the main freight corridors, induction of high horse power diesel and electric locomotives has been provided for in the procurement plan. A special thrust is being given to strictly enforce block rake disciplines, augment capacities of terminals and capturing of piecemeal traffic through containerisation.

In order to retain its competitiveness vis-a-vis other modes, Railways refrained from any price hike despite hike in diesel prices in November, 1999. Further, although in the Budget proposals a general 5 per cent hike has been proposed, the major revenue-earning commodities, namely, coal, steel, petroleum and cement have been given relief inasmuch as freight of these commodities would increase only to extent of about 2 per cent. Moreover, the concessions given earlier to imported coal has been withdrawn with effect from 1.4.2000. Simultaneously, the higher classification of washed coal, which was putting domestic washed coal at a disadvantage vis-a-vis the imported variety, has also been done away with.

Construction of Road Over Bridge in Barmer

5970. COL (RETD) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representation regarding construction of Road Over Bridge on C-325 railway level crossing in Barmer town of Western Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to mitigate the problems being faced by the people; and

(c) the time by which the construction work of above bridge is likely to be commenced?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Development of Ancient Sun Worshipping Centres

5971. DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to develop the ancient worshipping centres of Sun God situated at Dev (Aurangabad) Ular (Patna) Bargaon (Nalanda) and Haria (Nawada) as tourist centres like Buddha circuit;

(b) if so, whether new tourist places will emerge by developing these ancient worshipping centres of God Sun which will help in increasing employment opportunities in local areas; and

(c) if so, the time by which the Government are likely to start developing process for these places?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c)

Development of tourist places is primarily undertaken by State Governments/U.T. Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance for tourism projects/schemes prioritised in consultation with State Governments every year.

No project proposals for development of Dev (Aurangabad) Ular (Patna) Bargaon (Nalanda) and Haria (Nawada) were prioritised for Central financial assistance during 1999-2000.

Discontinuance of Train Service between Thana Beehpur and Mahadevpur Ghat

5972. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI :
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether train service between Thana Beehpur Junction and Mahadevpur Ghat has been discontinued;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government intends to restore the said train service; and

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

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

(b) The train services between Thana Bihpur and Mahadevpur Ghat (M.G.) have been cancelled due to poor patronage and erosion of river bank very close to pile bridge between Latipur and Mahadevpur Ghat.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Special Task Force of Coast Guards

5973. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item published in 'Dainik Navbharat', Mumbai edition dated March 24, 2000 under the caption "Clinton Yatra Ke Maddhenajar Thane Jile Ki Samudri Seema Sir".

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up a Coast Guard Task Force for round the clock vigilance in view of the sensitiveness of these coastal areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which such a Coast Guard Task Force is likely to be set up ?

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

(b) Coast Guard ships were deployed off Mumbai to provide seaward security to the visiting President of the United States of America.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to set up a special Coast Guard Task Force for the vigilance of coastal areas. The Coast Guard ships and aircraft carry out regular patrol of maritime zones of India and make regular surveillance of the coastal areas and the Indian exclusive Economic Zone.

[English]

Sole selling Rights to Book Stall Contractors

5974. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per Ministry's letter No. 75 TG.III/461/19 dated November 15, 1975, the sole rights of all the bookstall contractors including M/s A.H. Wheeler and Co. (for conducting sale of books and periodicals etc.) were restricted to the platforms existing up to December 31, 1975;

(b) whether as per Ministry's letter No. 75 TG.III/461/19 dated November 24 and 25, 1976, the bookstall contracts at platforms constructed/added on or after 1st January, 1976, at stations where M/s A.H. Wheeler and Co. having contracts would be awarded to unemployed graduate categories only; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Previously, M/s. A.H. Wheeler and Co. had exclusive rights for running bookstalls over large portions of railway. From 1.9.1960, these exclusive rights were reduced to only sole rights at stations, where they were already holding bookstalls. This clause was further modified in 1975 and 1976 under which railway can allot bookstalls to any other eligible categories including unemployed graduates at platforms constructed after 1.1.1976 at stations where M/s. A.H. Wheeler have sole selling rights. This rule was again modified in 1988, thereby allowing M/s. Wheeler to operate at new platforms on stations where they have sole selling rights subject to surrender of stall at other station in lieu thereof.

Procurement Policy for Defence Equipments

5975. SHRI BHIM DAHAL :
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering the desirability to review the procurement policy for defence equipments to make it simplified and transparent; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) To ensure requisite flexibility, higher levels of efficiency, accountability and optimal utilisation of resources allocated to the Ministry of Defence, the Government continuously endeavours to further improve the defence procurement procedures through periodical in-house review.

Doubling of Trivandrum-Cape Comerin Rail Line

5976. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Trivandrum-Cape Comerin broad gauge line has not been doubled and electrified so far; and

(b) if so, the time by which the Trivandrum-Cape Comerin broad gauge line is likely to be doubled and electrified ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. Doubling of single line section is taken up when their carrying capacity is saturated, freight intensive sections being given priority. Traffic on Trivandrum-Cape Comerin section has not yet reached this level to justify doubling. Doubling will be considered once the traffic warrants the same subject to availability of resources.

(b) Due to constraint of resources and relative priority for other high density routes, there is at present no proposal to electrify Trivandrum-Cape Comerin broad gauge line.

Excavation of Indus Civilisation

5977. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plans to excavate to archaeological sites pertaining to the Indus Civilisation and iron Age Culture; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Archaeological Survey of India has a plan to continue further the on-going excavations at three Indus civilisation sites viz., Dholavira, District Kachchh, (Gujarat); Rakhigarhi, District Hissar, (Haryana) and Dhalewan District, Mansa (Punjab). Dholavira has revealed about 1500 years history of the rise and fall of the Indus civilisation, approximately covering a period from C. 3000 B.C. to C. 1500 B.C., through its successive settlements, fortifications, houses, reservoirs, stadia and other features, potteries and antiquities such as seals, sealings, weights, measures, items of jewellery, weaponry and household use; Rakhigarhi has, besides Early Harappan structures and antiquities, yielded houses, platforms and other structures, wells, drains, in addition to one cylindrical and several square seals, objects of weaponry, jewellery and ritualistic use; Dhalewan has produced a proto-Harappan, Harappan and Kushan-Gupta structures, potteries and antiquities including chert blades and weights, terracotta cart frames, bangles, etc. of the Indus period.

The excavation at Chichali, in District Khargaon, Madhya Pradesh which is being concluded has brought to light a large number of Megalithic cairn circles sites, some containing human bones, black and red wares associated with other Iron sites. Ubharia, other Megalithic Iron Age site, yielded chisel, adze and a carpentry implement of Iron and associated pottery.

Solar Energy for Cultivation and Street Lightening

5978. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages or rural centres where Solar Energy System for cultivation and street lightening are used specially in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the number of such systems set up in Trivallur District;

(c) the number of centres/villages proposed to be adopted in the above district for Solar Energy (Electrification) during the financial year;

(d) whether NGOs/private companies will be granted financial loan/assistance if they are willing to carry out such projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has been implementing programmes for the installation of water pumping systems for agriculture and related purposes and installation of solar street lighting systems in unelectrified areas. A total of 3,323 solar pumps and 38,916 street lights have been installed so far under these programmes in the country. The programmes in Tamil Nadu are implemented by the Tamilnadu Energy Development Agency (TEDA). The water pumping programme is also implemented through the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) under which manufacturers and intermediaries are allowed to market such systems directly. According to information furnished by TEDA and IREDA, a total of 681 pumps and 194 street lighting systems have been installed so far in Tamil Nadu. Three pumps are reported to have been installed by TEDA in Tiruvallur district. No street lights have been installed in this district by TEDA.

(c) The Ministry has not received any proposal for installation of solar energy systems in the above district during the current financial year.

(d) and (e) The Ministry provides financial assistance to NGOs with a good track record for implementing solar energy programmes. Financial assistance is not available to private companies. Such companies may however, seek loans from IREDA for implementing specific projects.

Development of International Airports

5979. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has decided to invite private sector participation to develop two international airports and some domestic airports;

(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 SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) As per available information the Government of Andhra Pradesh plans to have feasibility studies done for all airports to identify the possibility of private sector participation. Union Government has already approved, in principle, construction of a new airport of international standards at Shamsabad near Hyderabad on joint venture basis.

Jobs to SCs/STs/OBCs

5980. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of SCs/STs/OBCs provided with jobs in his Ministry/Departments/autonomous bodies and subordinate offices during each of the last three years, category-wise;

(b) the number of posts reserved for SCs/STs and OBCs lying vacant in each of the above offices as on March 31, 2000; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken for filling up of these posts ?

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

[Translation]

Army Regiments

5981. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of different regiments in Indian Army as on date;

(b) whether only the people of a particular caste and class are recruited in a particular regiment;

(c) whether the Government propose to give equal recruitment opportunities to the people of all the communities;

(d) if so, the reason for not recruiting the people of other communities in a regiment named under a particular community;

(e) whether the Government have received any complaints in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to remove this imbalance;

(g) whether the Government have also received any proposals to raise some new regiments;

(h) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(i) whether in the past, there had been a regiment named as "Ajmer Regiment"; and

(j) if so, the reasons for disbanding the same ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) A list of names of 29 regiments of the Indian Army is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) No, Sir. The regimental vacancies are filled up based on the class composition of the regiment which need

not be confined to a particular caste or community. Besides, the class composition of the regiment does not include officers, clerks, cooks, washermen, barbers, safaiwalas and other tradesmen who are recruited on all-India all class vacancies.

(c) and (d) Recruitment to the Army is open to all Indian nationals irrespective of class, caste, creed, religion or region subject to educational qualification and physical fitness. Recruitment to regiments is restricted based on operational and logistical factors and because the regiments embody certain military traditions which are being continued.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) and (h) Yes, Sir. Requests have been received from time to time to raise new regiments on the basis of a particular class, creed, community, religion or region. However, the policy of the Government since independence has been not to raise or name any new regiment on the above basis.

(i) Yes, Sir.

(j) Based on the policy decision taken by the Government then, about 8000 Army units including Ajmer Regiment were disbanded after World War II.

Statement

Names of Regiments

- (a) Guards
- (b) Parachute
- (c) Mechanised Infantry
- (d) Punjab
- (e) Madras
- (f) Grenadiers
- (g) Maratha Light Infantry
- (h) Rajputana Rifles
- (i) Rajput
- (k) Jat
- (l) Sikh
- (m) Sikh Light Infantry
- (n) Dogra
- (o) Garhwal Rifles
- (p) Kumaon
- (q) Assam

- (r) Bihar
- (s) Mahar
- (t) Jammu and Kashmir Rifles
- (u) Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry
- (v) Ladakh Scouts
- (w) Naga
- (x) 1st Gorkha Rifles
- (y) 3rd Gorkha Rifles
- (z) 4th Gorkha Rifles
- (aa) 5th Gorkha Rifles
- (ab) 8th Gorkha Rifles
- (ac) 9th Gorkha Rifles
- (ad) 11th Gorkha Rifles

Linking of District Headquarters in Bihar

5982. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government of Bihar has submitted any proposal to provide rail link to all district headquarters in the State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which rail links are likely to be provided ?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Grants to Cultural Organisations

5983. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of the grants sanctioned to various cultural organisations during the last three years, organisation-wise and year-wise;
- (b) whether the amount has been released to such organisation;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the time by which such grants are likely to be released ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Charging of Sales Tax on CSD Items

5984. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Army Headquarters (CSD) Canteen, New Delhi has been charging sales tax from the civilians paid from Defence Estimates on purchase of certain items from the canteen though these categories of entitled class of employees were earlier being treated at par with the armed forces and ex-service personnel; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The civilian employees, paid from Defences Services Estimates, are permitted to make purchases of stores from Army HQrs (CSD) Canteen, New Delhi, except liquor. They are, however, not exempted from payment of Sales Tax on certain items as per the Delhi Sales Tax Rules.

Sales Tax from eligible civilians has always been charged by Army HQrs (CSD) Canteen, New Delhi as per Rule 11 (III) of Delhi Sales Tax Rules.

Implementation of Sitra in Andhra Pradesh

5985. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of districts where the Centrally sponsored scheme Supply of Improved Toolkits to Rural Artisans (SITRA) is being implemented in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the number of beneficiaries under the scheme during 1998-99 and 1999-2000, district-wise and
- (c) the time by which this scheme is to be implemented in all districts of Andhra Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) Supply of Improved Toolkits to Rural Artisans (SITRA) was being implemented in all the 22 districts of Andhra Pradesh till 31.3.1999. W.e.f. 1.4.99. SITRA is no more an independent scheme. It has been merged with the newly launched Swaranjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) w.e.f. 1.4.99.

(b) The number of beneficiaries district-wise in Andhra Pradesh under SITRA during 1998-99 is given in Statement enclosed.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to Part (a) above.

Statement

S.No	State/UTS	No. of beneficiaries
Andhra Pradesh		
1.	Adilabad	1400
2.	Anantapur	2409
3.	Chittoor	2415
4.	Cuddapah	1786
5.	East Godavari	1808
6.	Guntur	625
7.	Karim Nagar	1088
8.	Khammam	518
9.	Krishna	2802
10.	Kurnool	1200
11.	Medak	1733
12.	Mehboobnagar	862
13.	Nalgonda	1820
14.	Nellore	2068
15.	Nizamabad	564
16.	Prakasam	1368
17.	Rangareddy	969
18.	Srikakulam	750
19.	Visakhapatnam	1526
20.	Vizianagram	1000
21.	Warangal	844
22.	West Godavri	1472
Total		31027

**Non-Acceptance of Poor Quality
Rice by Karnataka**

5986. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka had expressed its reservations over accepting the 'below fair/average' quality of rice procured from Punjab for public distribution within the State as better quality rice is available in the open market almost at the same price;

(b) if so, whether as a result of non-acceptance of the TPDS rice by the card holders, the State Government is saddled with unsold stocks;

(c) whether the State Government has suggested to the Union Government to approve either increase the per family quota for below poverty line card-holders from 8 to 15/20 kgs. per month or alternatively effect a reduction in the selling price by Rs. 2.00 per kg so that the unsold stock is disposed off; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) No Sir, no such complaint has been received from the State Government of Karnataka. However, the State Government had made a proposal in March, 1999 for issue of rice procured under relaxed specification (URS Rice) which is fit for human consumption and conforms to Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA) norms with non-URS rice in the ratio of 80:20. Alternatively, they requested for issue URS and non-URS rice on alternate months. Accordingly, the FCI issued URS and non-URS rice in the ratio of 80:20 upto May 1999 and, thereafter, URS and non-URS rice are being issued on alternate months basis.

(b) No such report has come to the notice of the Government.

(c) The State Government has suggested to the Union Government to increase the entitlement of BPL families to 25 Kgs. foodgrains per family per month.

(d) With a view to streamlining the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), the Union Government has increased the allocation of foodgrains for BPL families from 10 Kgs to 20 Kgs per family per month w.e.f. 1st April 2000.

**Violation of LoC by Militants
in Jammu and Kashmir**

5987. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of incidents of crossing of LoC by the militants in J and K noticed during 1999 and 2000 till date, date-wise;

(b) the details of casualties inflicted on both sides, incident-wise;

(c) the estimated number of militants present in the State of J and K at present;

(d) whether a large number of militants have entered the Indian territory from points other than LoC after Kargil conflict; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to flush them out ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) During the period 1.1.1999 to 28.4.2000, 92 infiltration attempts along the Line of Control and International Boundary in J and K were foiled by the army, in which 165 terrorists were killed. Army suffered casualties of 7 killed and 9 wounded.

(c) to (e) Estimates about the number of militants present in the State range between 2400 to 3500. Most of the infiltration is still taking place from across the Line of Control. Some portions of the International Boundary in Jammu are also susceptible.

Relentless operations in the hinterland are carried out by the Security Forces to flush out the terrorists who have infiltrated.

[Translation]

Historical Monuments in U.P.

5988.DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of historical monuments situated in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the details of expenditure incurred on the maintenance of these monuments during the last three years;

(c) whether many monuments are in dilapidated condition; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to preserve these monuments ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) There are 785 centrally protected monuments under the Archaeological Survey of India in Uttar Pradesh. The details are available in the Parliament library.

(b) The following expenditure has been incurred on the maintenance of these monuments in the preceding 3 years :-

1996-97	Rs. 2,11,35,918/-
1997-98	Rs. 2,71,34,964/-
1998-99	Rs. 2,90,16,000/-

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Repairs to monuments are an on-going process, subject to availability of funds and resources.

Electrification of Jhansi-Kanpur Rail Line

5989.SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether railway line from Jhansi to Kanpur is proposed to be electrified;

(b) if so the details thereof and the amount allocated for the purpose; and

(c) the time by which the said work would be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Discontinuance of Train Service on Rupsa-Banglriposhi Route

5990.SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have discontinued train services on the Rupsa-Banglriposhi route in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to reintroduce the train services on this route; and

(d) if so, the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Strength of TTEs in Jhansi Railway Division

5991.SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the strength of TTEs in Jhansi railway division of Central Railway;

(b) the number of TTEs against whom departmental enquiry is being conducted; and

(c) the number of TTEs out of them belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) The strength of Ticket Checking staff in Jhansi Division of Central Railway is 1337 which includes Senior TTEs, Head TTEs, Conductors etc. Departmental enquiry is being conducted against 62 Ticket Checking Staff including 8 belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

[English]

Speedy Trial of Corrupt Officers In Super Bazar

5992. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether proceedings for major disciplinary proceedings against the Dy. G.M. in Super Bazar on corruption charges have been pending for a number of years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether despite financial constraints NCCF is arranging supply of items through manufacturers/distributors/dealers when the suppliers make supplies direct to the Government departments concerned on credit and NCCF does not maintain any stocks on their shelves; and

(d) the steps the Government propose to take to root out the corruption and dispose of the cases speedily ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Major penalty proceedings against Shri Vijay Kumar, DGM, in three cases on corruption charges are in progress;

(i) Charge sheet was issued on 22.1.96. Inquiry has been completed and further action is being taken on the report of the Inquiry Officer.

(ii) Charge sheet was issued on 13.5.98. The inquiry is in progress.

(iii) Charge sheet was issued on 8.4.2000. Charged Officer has been given time to accept/deny the charges against him.

(c) NCCF is arranging supplies to the Government Deptts. after procuring from manufacturers/distributors/dealers on most competitive terms which Govt. Deptts.

may not be able to obtain directly. There is no necessity to maintain buffer stock in anticipation of supply orders from the Govt. Deptts.

(d) There is a full fledged Vigilance Cell which looks into complaints of any nature and Initiates action where necessary.

Diversion of Kargil Fund by Gujarat

5993. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has diverted the Kargil fund to Chief Minister's fund as reported in the *Hindustan Times* dated March 17, 2000 under the caption "Kargil Fund Gujarat Government in the Soup";

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have asked the State Government to send a detailed report thereon;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the response of the State Government thereto; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) The Government of Gujarat has been requested for a detailed report.

Rail-Bus Accident near Dalhousie Road Station

5994. SHRI R.L. BHATIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a rail-bus accident took place at a level crossing between Nurpur and Dalhousie Road Station on March 7, 2000;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the loss of life and Government property therein; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to stop recurrence of such type of accidents ?

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

(b) The cause of the accident has been attributed to the negligence of bus driver who failed to observe safety precautions before crossing the unmanned level crossing.

(c) In this accident, 10 bus passengers lost their lives and 35 bus passengers were injured, out of which 10 were grievously injured. Damage to Government property was estimated as Rs. 13,400/-.

(d) A Statement is enclosed.

Statement

(d) The following steps are being taken to prevent recurrence of such accidents :

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 reminded 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 drives are launched for checking whether drivers are actually whistling from such whistle boards.
4. Road users have still not got used to the faster speeds of Mail/Express trains. A train travelling at 90 KMPH covers 25 m/second. 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 by various publicity measures.
5. 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.
6. Since accidents at unmanned level crossings take place due to negligence of road users, the Statements 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 cooperate in educating road users.
7. 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.
8. Involvement of village Panchayats in the railways public awareness programs is also being done.

Comprehensive Civil Aviation Act

5995. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE :

SHRI SAHIB SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Comprehensive Civil Aviation Act; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) No comprehensive Civil Aviation Act has been enacted so far.

(b) Does not arise.

Derailment at Kalahasti

5996. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a derailment at Kalahasti in Andhra Pradesh on March 13, 2000.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether traffic is being disrupted by such frequent derailments;

(d) if so, whether even slow moving trains are getting derailed;

(e) if so, whether the existing tracks have deteriorated rapidly; and

(f) the steps proposed to reduce the number of derailments in Andhra Pradesh ?

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

(b) 4 wagons of empty Jet Goods derailed at about 17.20 hrs. on 13.03.2000 between Kalahasti and Yellakuru stations on Gudur-Renigunta-Tirupathy section of Guntakal Division.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir. Even slow moving trains sometimes get detailed.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) The following important steps have been taken :-

- (i) Safety activities such as inspections, surprise checks, ambush checks, etc. have been intensified and are being monitored at all levels.
- (ii) Vulnerable areas such as track and wagon, etc. requiring attention are being attended systematically.
- (iii) Safety drives are being ordered regularly based on the feed back obtained from the accident inquiries.
- (iv) Checks on stations are carried out to pin point lacunae in the working and to curb use of shortcut methods.

Land Acquisition Process

5997. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the land acquisition process in different States is intricate and basically dilatory resulting in inordinate delay for launching and execution of central projects and in the process witnessing heavy cost escalation;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken fresh initiatives in consultation with the State Governments to simplify and streamline the existing procedure and system to make it more acceptable and pragmatic; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. The Central Government is in the process of amending Land Acquisition Act, 1894 comprehensively with the following objectives.

- (i) to give liberal compensation, increase solatium and empower the Collector to make consent award;
- (ii) to reduce total time taken in land acquisition process; and
- (iii) to increase people's participation and transparency at all levels in the process of land acquisition.

[Translation]

Late Running of Train No. 323 UP and 324 DN

5998. SHRI SUBODH ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether route of train No. 323 Up and 324 Down running between Sahebgunj and Jamalpur stations under the Eastern Railway (loop line) was extended upto Kiul junction;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that the above train always running very late since it was extended upto the Kiul station;

(c) if so, the number of complaints received by Railways from the Members of Parliament and the common people in this regard during last two years; and

(d) the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) No Sir. However, 837/838 (erstwhile 323/324) Sahibganj-Jamalpur Passenger and 823/824 (erstwhile 3JK/4JK) Jamalpur-Kiul Passenger are running with integrated rake link. 837/838 Sahibganj-Jamalpur Passenger train runs late mainly due to miscreant interruption like Angle cock operation and alarm chain pulling. These activities pertain to Law and order problem.

(c) Nil.

(d) 837 Up and 838 Dn are commuter trains and their running is monitored.

[English]

Post Kargil Purchases by Navy

5999. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Naval Headquarters have purchased any of its requirements from USA based company after Kargil war;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) whether the purchase was made through global tender; and

(d) if so, the details of the bidders along with the rates quoted by each of them ?

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

(b) "Fire curtains" for the aircraft hanger of INS Viraat were purchased at a total cost of US Dollar 37,983 (Rs. 16,50,361/-) from M/s Newtex Industries, New York, USA.

(c) and (d) Tender enquiries were floated to two firms of which one did not respond.

Re-Employment of Unqualified Engineers by Indian Airlines

6000. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the retired Indian Airlines Engineers not qualified on Dornier Planes have been re-employed in Dornier division;

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure the safety of the planes and passengers ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The present strength of Aircraft Maintenance Engineers having licence on DO 228 aircraft is not adequate. There are no qualified Engineers on this aircraft in the market also. It is for this reason that the retired AMEs having basic qualification and willing to obtain endorsement on Dornier aircraft have been re-employed.

(c) The Dornier aircraft in the fleet of Indian Airlines are maintained in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Manufacturer and approved by the Director General of Civil Aviation. These aircraft are certified for operation by the qualified Aircraft Maintenance Engineers holding valid licence issued by the Director General of Civil Aviation on this aircraft type.

Bio Fuel Power Plants and Small Power Plants

6001. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Biogas fuel power plants and other small power plants are proposed to be set up along with capacity thereof in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government studied the possibility of these projects and the response from private sector and NGO's in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details of such proposals pending with the Government, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has been implementing small power generating projects under various programmes such as biomass gasifier, small hydro power, solar photovoltaic and urban and industrial wastes throughout the country by providing subsidies/financial assistance. State-wise targets are not allocated by the Ministry for such projects. Two

biogas fuel power plants, one 1.2 MW from poultry waste in Tamilnadu and another 4.00 MW from municipal solid waste in Maharashtra are being set up during the year 2000-2001. A target of 7 MW of biomass gasifier, 40 MW of small hydro power, 275 kW of solar photovoltaic (non-grid connected), 300 kW of solar power (grid connected) and 10 MW of energy from waste has been fixed during the year 2000-2001.

(b) and (c) The Ministry considers such projects depending upon the technical feasibility and economic viability of available technologies throughout the country. The Ministry encourages the participation of private sector and NGOs under its various schemes. The above two biogas fuel power projects are being set up in the private sector. No such proposals are pending with the Ministry.

[Translation]

Decontrol of Sugar in open Market

6002. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA :
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :

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

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to do away with the existing practice of releasing monthly and quarterly quota of levy sugar with a view to decontrol the sale of sugar in the open market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have invited views of the sugar industry and consumers' representatives prior to switching over such a move; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) Government issues monthly release orders for levy sugar. Government is not contemplating to do away with the existing practice.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Functioning of Newly Created Zones/Divisions

6003. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :
SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE :
SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of representations received by the Government for setting up of new zones/divisions, State-wise;

(b) the names of new zones with headquarters/divisions created by the Government so far;

(c) whether the jurisdictions of newly created zones/divisions have been finalised;

(d) if so, the details thereof, zone and division-wise;

(e) whether these newly created zones and divisions have been started functioning;

(f) if so, the funds allocated for their functioning/construction of administrative infrastructures/buildings during the last three years and current year; and

(g) the present status of each zonal headquarter/division regarding construction of buildings/acquiring of land etc, and expenditure incurred thereon so far, zone and division-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) The number of representations received by the Government for setting up of new zones/divisions is given as under (figures for the last 5 years State-wise) :-

Name of the State	No. of representations received for Zonal Headquarters/ Divisional Headquarters	
Andhra Pradesh	3	13
Assam	-	26
Bihar	19	10
Gujarat	5	9
Karnataka	20	1
Kerala	8	5
Maharashtra	1	9
Madhya Pradesh	34	4
Orissa	4	4
Rajasthan	8	-
Tamil Nadu	-	6
Uttar Pradesh	3	3
West Bengal	1	-

(b) The proposed new Zones/Divisions are as under :-

Name of Zones
East Central Zone/Hajipur
South Western Zone/Bangalore/Hubli*
East Coast Zone/Bhubhaneswar
West Central Zone/Jabalpur
North Central Zone/Allahabad
North Western Zone/Jaipur
Bilaspur Zone/Bilaspur

*Headquarter's issue subjudice.

Name of Divisions
Agra Division
Pune Division
Singrauli Division
Rangiya Division
Guntur Division
Raipur Division
Ranchi Division
Ahmedabad Division

(c) The territorial jurisdictions of only two Zonal Railways i.e. East Central Railway/Hajipur, North Western Railway/Jaipur and proposed eight new divisions have so far been finalised. However, the formal notifications have not yet been issued.

(d) The details regarding new zones are as under :-

East Central Railway – Danapur Division of present Eastern Railway, Sonpur and Samastipur Divisions of the present North Eastern Railway and Katihar Division of the present Northeast Frontier Railway.

North Western Railway – Existing Jaipur Division and re-organised Ajmer Division of present Western Railway and the existing Jodhpur Division and re-organised Bikaner Division of the present Northern Railway.

(e) to (g) No, Sir. The issue of re-organisation of Zones/Divisions is presently under review.

Irregularities in the Implementation of RWS

6004. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a mass irregularities in the implementation of Water Supply Schemes in Maharashtra have come to the notice of the Union Government during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to conduct any CID/CBI investigations in the matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) The CAG, after its review of the Rural Water Supply Programme for the years 1992-97 had indicated about diversion of funds to other schemes, expenditure in excess of provisions irregularly met from the Central funds instead of State Plan funds, rush of expenditure, time and cost over-run etc. in respect of Maharashtra. The Action Taken Note in respect of the said CAG Report was got vetted by the Principal Director of Audit, New Delhi and submitted to the Lok Sabha Secretariat, Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Branch on 22nd June, 1999 through the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure (Monitoring Cell).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

BIS Certificate for Escalators

6005. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Escalators still run on 1962 specifications" appearing in the 'Statesman' dated December 18, 1999;

(b) if so, whether BIS issues certificate for a specific escalators;

(c) if so, the details of escalators given certification by BIS are presently installed in the capital;

(d) whether BIS have been adopting outdated laws to check safety and security of escalators; and

(e) if so, the facts and details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (e) In the field of escalators, Bureau of Indian Standards has brought out IS 4591:1968 Code of Practice for Installation and Maintenance of Escalators. This standard, which was brought out in July, 1968 and reaffirmed by the concerned Technical committee of the Bureau in April, 1996, covers design, installation and maintenance of escalators in buildings.

The Certification Marks Scheme operated by the Bureau is voluntary in nature and as on date the Bureau has not issued any licence/certificate for escalators.

International Airport at Bangalore

6006. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether, for the proposed Bangalore International Airport, the State Government has been authorised to raise funds from private sector as well as by way of issue of bonds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government has floated bonds for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps taken so far for raising and providing funds for construction of the airport ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (e) In May, 1999, Government of Karnataka had authorised the Karnataka State Industrial Investment and Development Corporation Limited (KSIIDC) to mobilise resources to an extent of Rs. 150 crores for acquiring land identified and required for the international airport proposed at Devanahalli. In pursuance, KSIIDC forwarded a proposal to raise the required resources through issue of airport bonds. Subsequently, Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) submitted a proposal to extend loan to the State Government for various infrastructure projects. In March, 2000, Government of Karnataka authorised KSIIDC to raise term-loan to an extent of Rs. 150 crores from HUDCO. State Government will extend guarantee for the loan. KSIIDC has initiated necessary action in this regard.

[Translation]

**Increased Military Presence of
China along Indian Borders**

6007. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAOTALA :
 SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :
 SHRI JAI PRAKASH :
 SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
 SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA :
 SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
 SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI :
 KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI :
 SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :
 SHRI ARUN KUMAR :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a U.S. report has charged that China has increased its military presence in Tibet and on India's northern border as part of an attempt to encircle India by a hostile coalition of forces directed and armed by China as published in various dailies on April 8, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the Government have analysed the threat perception for India and formulated any strategy to counter it; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Government are aware of reports regarding a statement attributed to the Chairman of the House International Relations Committee of the U.S. Congress to this effect.

(b) and (c) Government keep a constant vigil on the threat on our borders and monitor all developments having a bearing on our national security. All necessary measures are taken to maintain appropriate defence preparedness.

[English]

**Construction of Bunkers by Pak
Rangers in Indian Side**

6008. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistani Rangers are reported to have constructed bunkers 150 yards inside the Indian side at Satarana in Bikaner;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon; and

(d) the steps taken to avert such situation in future ?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Disposal of Surplus Defence Land

6009. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the area of surplus defence land as on date, State-wise;

(b) the details of the policy framed for allotment/sale of surplus defence land for various social purposes/organisations;

(c) whether the Government have reviewed or propose to review the policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the changes proposed/effected to ensure objectivity and transparency in such deals;

(e) the details of defence land transferred during the last three years, State-wise in general and Maharashtra in particular;

(f) the details of proposals pending for allotment of surplus defence land in Maharashtra and action taken or proposed to be taken thereon; and

(g) the area of surplus land identified by the Government for sale in the near future, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) As per Government policy, no Defence land is to be declared as surplus.

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a). However, allotment/transfer of Defence land is done as per the existing Defence land policy on the merits of each case.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal at present to review the policy.

(e) The details are given in the enclosed statement.

(f) No Defence land has been identified as surplus in the State of Maharashtra. However, some proposals have been received for allotment of Defence land.

(g) No Defence land has been identified by the Government as surplus and for sale.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Details of land transferred
1.	Maharashtra	4 acres of Defence land in Kirkee Cantonment was transferred to Symboisis Institute for Management Studies, Pune on lease basis on payment of an annual rent of Rs. 6,92,418/-, vide Government sanction dated 25.3.2000.
2.	Maharashtra	600 Sq meters of Defence land in Pune was transferred to Maharashtra Water Supply and Sewerage Board on payment of transfer value of Rs. 6,120/-, vide Government sanction dated 22.7.1997.
3.	Uttar Pradesh	200 Sq meters of Defence land at Pithoragarh was transferred to UP Jal Nigam, on lease basis on payment of an annual rent of Rs. 800/-, vide Government sanction dated 12.7.1999.
4.	Uttar Pradesh	10.642 acres of Defence land at Allahabad (Fort) Cant was transferred to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh in exchange of State Government land of equivalent value, vide Government sanction dated 5.8.1998.
5.	Madhya Pradesh	1393.50 Sq meters of Defence land in Jabalpur was transferred to Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board on lease basis on payment of an annual rent of Rs. 17,280/- and premium of Rs. 1,72,800/-, vide Government sanction dated 13.3.2000.
6.	Karnataka	85.10 acres of Defence land in Bangalore valued at Rs. 43.37 crore was transferred to Government of Karnataka in exchange of assets of equal value, vide Government sanction dated 6.1.1997.
7.	Orissa	1770.17 acres of reserve forest land of Ordnance Factory Badmal Project at Orissa was transferred to Principal Chief Conservator of Forest Bhubaneshwar.

*[Translation]***Losses Incurred by Hotel Corporation of India**

6010. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to sell out certain hotels functioning under the Hotel Corporation of India (HCI);

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

(c) the details of the hotels that are incurring losses and also those which are running in profits, separately;

(d) whether the hotels which are incurring losses can be made profitable by bringing certain structural improvements therein; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

(c) While the Centaur Hotel, Delhi and the Centaur Lake View Hotel, Srinagar, have incurred losses, Centaur Hotel Mumbai Airport and Centaur Hotel Juhu Beach have earned profits.

(d) and (e) The management has taken the following steps to make these hotels profitable :-

- (i) Limited renovation/upgradation of properties; (ii) Food festivals, carnivals, special packages, special events are organised; (iii) Changing the ambience of restaurants; (iv) Intensive Sales Campaigns have been conducted in important cities covering corporate houses; (v) Introduction of Centaur Gold Card.

*[English]***Registered V.Os. under CAPART**

6011. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of voluntary organisations registered in the Northern States under the CAPART;

(b) the amount of grant given to these voluntary organisations during 1999-2000;

(c) the number of monitors appointed in each of the Northern States specially in Punjab; and

(d) the number of workshops organised in Punjab ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) The number of Voluntary Organisations (VOs) registered in the Northern States under CAPART is 1988.

(b) The amount of grant given to these VOs during the year 1999-2000 is Rs. 6.01 crore.

(c) A statement showing the number of monitors appointed in Northern States including Punjab is enclosed.

(d) One workshop was organised in Punjab at Amritsar.

Statement

Sl.No.	State	No. of Monitors
1.	Chandigarh	1
2.	Delhi	21
3.	Haryana	5
4.	Himachal Pradesh	3
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	6
6.	Punjab	6
7.	Rajasthan	10
8.	Uttar Pradesh	37
Total		89

Additional Capacity to International Airlines

6012. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :
DR. V. SAROJA
KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have extended the facility for additional flights to international airlines;

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

(c) whether Singapore Airlines has not shown its interest in keeping an alliance with the Indian Airlines; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) With a view to meet the current traffic requirements, the Government had allowed foreign airlines to bring additional flights or bigger aircraft, outside their traffic entitlements, from 15th March to 15th April, 2000. This helped bring the desired relief to passengers.

(c) and (d) Indian Airlines has a special prorate agreement with Singapore Airlines which is valid till 31st August, 2000.

[Translation]

Archives and Museums in Bihar

6013. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up some more Archives and Museums in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details and the places of their location;

(c) whether Government of Bihar has sent any proposal to set up a museum in Vaishali to keep 'Asthalash' of Lord Buddha over there; and

(d) if so, the time by which the said museum is likely to be set up at Vaishali ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Airports Authority of India

6014. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is true that both division of AAI (Airports Authority of India) and National Airport Authority are working independently having different (Recruitment and Personnel) Rules resulting in avoidable expenditure on establishment and lower profits; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) National Airports Division and

International Airports Division of Airports Authority of India (AAI) are not working independently, except that Recruitment and Promotion (R&P) Regulations followed are separate in both the divisions as were before the merger of the two authorities in 1995. This has, however, not lowered the profits of AAI. Action is at hand to have common R&P Regulations for both divisions of AAI.

Transfer Policy in D.G.Q.A.

6015. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether several senior officers at D.G.Q.A. are continuing there despite the completion of their tenure long back and even after the promotion;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of policy laid down for the promotions and transfers of senior officers of D.G.Q.A. ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Excepting four senior Service officers of the rank of Brigadier and above, who are liable and can be transferred, no officer either Service or civilian is kept at the same station. The four Service Officers are being continued in the same station despite completion of their tenure because of exigencies of service.

(c) The Promotion of Service officers is Governed by Special Army Instructions and those of Defence Quality Assurance Service by DQAS Rules, 1979. Officers who have put in prescribed years of service and are eligible for consideration for promotion are considered by the Quality Assurance Selection Board in the case of Service officers, and by a Departmental Promotion Committee headed by a member of the UPSC in the case of civilian officers. For promotion to the post of DGQA the Committee is different. The transfer of senior officers is governed by the Rotational Transfer Policy which was last promulgated in October, 1999. The policy provides for a normal tenure of Heads of Establishments of 3 years, and 5 years for others; extension or curtailment in the organisational interest; and incorporates the instructions of Department of Personnel and Training which are of general applicability. Individual needs including career management are also considered subject to overall organisation interest.

[Translation]

Laying of Rewari-Palwal Rail Line

6016. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether final approval has been given for the project regarding laying of railway tract between Rewari and Palwal;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith estimated cost and expenditure likely to be incurred on the completion of said project;

(c) whether there is any proposal to constitute a Joint Company for construction of said rail line; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Northern Railway had prepared a Project Report for Khurja-Palwal-Rewari-Rohtak line in the year 1995. The estimated cost of the project was Rs. 365.48 crore and the Rate of Return was less than 2%. In view of unremunerative nature of the project and constraint of resources, it was not considered feasible to take up the work till improvement in resource position.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Institutions under ASI

6017. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of institutions maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to include some more institutions in the list;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) The Archaeological Survey of India maintains only one Institution, namely the Institute of Archaeology, New Delhi.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Do not arise.

(d) The Institute of Archaeology under the Archaeological Survey of India, awards a Post Graduate Diploma in Archaeology apart from conducting inservice training. There is no perceived requirement for setting up any other institute under the Archaeological Survey of India.

Privatisation of Indian Airlines*[English]*

6018.DR. NITISH SENGUPTA :
SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI :
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :

Development of Indigenous Defence System

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a sharp deterioration in the functioning of Indian Airlines on account of the prevailing uncertainty about its future;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the privatisation of Indian Airlines is likely to render its employees jobless;.

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to absorb them;

(e) whether the Government propose to consult experts before taking a final decision in the matter; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The process for selection and appointment of a Global Advisor is currently underway.

*[Translation]***Domestic Flights in Bihar**

6019.SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any scheme for allowing domestic flights in Bihar particularly from Tatanagar-Dhanbad-Bhagalpur-Munger-Patna etc.; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Operators are free to operate on any route/to any place in their commercial judgement subject to the compliance with the Route Dispersal Guidelines, which stipulate certain minimum operations on specified category of routes.

6020.SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have drawn up an action plan of achieving 70 percent indigenous defence system by the year 2005, from the present level of 30 per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the active participation of Indian Corporate Sector has been sought to accomplish this task;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government are considering to market India's defence technologies; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) and (b) A ten year National Mission for enhancing self-reliance in Defence systems to increase indigenous content from 30 per cent to 70 per cent has been formulated in 1995. Being research and technology oriented it seeks to achieve the goals of self-reliance by prioritisation of ongoing programmes and fast track implementation of identified new projects.

(c) and (d) Private industry has been the source of non-lethal stores required by the Armed Forces and raw materials, semi-finished products, components and sub-systems required by Ordnance Factories and Defence Public Sector Undertakings both for products based on transfer of technology as well as those developed through indigenous research. It will continue to be associated for such purposes in the quest for self-reliance.

(e) and (f) The aim at present is to achieve self-reliance but a few items and products found surplus are being exported. Sophisticated Defence technologies are not being exported at present.

*[Translation]***Survey for Budni-Indore Rail Line**

6021.SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether survey work for laying railway line between Budni and Indore in Madhya Pradesh has been started; and

(b) If so, the time by which the said work is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) A survey for a new line from Budni to Indore has been taken up and is expected to be completed by 31.7.2000.

**Construction of Bridge Over River
Ganga In Bihar**

6022. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to construct a bridge over the river Ganga between Thana Beehpur Junction and Bhagalpur Junction, under North East Railway;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Constraint of resources.

[English]

Amount Spent by ITDC

6023. SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI :
KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent by ITDC in its establishments in Maharashtra during the last two years, location-wise;

(b) the profit earned and losses suffered from these establishments during the above period; and

(c) the other steps taken by the ITDC for development of its units in Maharashtra ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) ITDC incurred plan expenditure of Rs. 4.19 lacs in its establishments in Maharashtra during the last two years as per details given below :-

Sl. No.	Name of the Unit	Plan Expenditure	
		1998-99	1999-2000 (Prov.) (Rs. in lacs)
1	2	3	4
1.	Hotel Aurangabad Ashok	2.97	1.22

1	2	3	4
2.	Airport Restaurant Aurangabad	-	-
3.	Transport Unit at Aurangabad	-	-
4.	Duty Free Shops, Mumbai	-	-
5.	Transport Unit at Mumbai	-	-

(b) Year-wise details of profit earned/losses incurred by ITDC establishments in Maharashtra are given as under :-

Sl. No.	Name of the Unit	Profit Earned/Losses Suffered (Rs. in Lacs)	
		1998-99	1999-2000 (Prov.)
1.	Hotel Aurangabad Ashok	(-)88.61	(-)89.42
2.	Airport Restaurant Aurangabad	(-)0.33	(-)0.91
3.	Transport Unit at Aurangabad	(-)12.83	(-)11.76
4.	Duty Free Shops, Mumbai	772.52	880.06
5.	Transport Unit at Mumbai	(-)18.86	(-)16.88

(c) It is a continuous process. However, Duty Free Shops at Mumbai were shifted to new terminal of Mumbai Airport and Indian merchandise were substantially increased.

[Translation]

Construction of Airport at Surat

6024. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to construct an airport at Surat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Existing airport at Surat belongs to the State Government of Gujarat. The State Government has plans to make this airport operational for 50 seater aircraft in phase I and for larger aircraft in phase II.

[English]

**Rational Policy Regarding Sugar
Industry**

6025. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a Rational Policy regarding Sugar Industry at national level;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said policy is likely to be laid on the table of the House ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (c) Government is pursuing a Sugar Policy which protects the interest of consumers, cane growers and the sugar industry. Necessary changes in the Sugar Policy are made from time to time depending upon the exigencies of the situation. For example, in the recent past, Government reduced the levy obligation on domestic sugar industry from 40% to 30% w.e.f. 1.1.2000; and also shifted the population base from 1991 to projected population as on 1.3.1999 for levy sugar distribution.

Increase in Fare for Gulf Countries

6026. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Air India has increased its fare to Gulf Countries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Air India has increased its fares from India to Gulf countries by 10.25% effective April 1, 2000. This consists of a 5% increase as per agreement at the IATA Conference and another 5% of the fare so increased owing to rising fuel cost.

Assistance to Strengthen Consumer Protection Mechanism

6027. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to extend Assistance to strengthen the consumer protection mechanism under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986; and

(b) if so, the details of assistance provided to each State and Territory during 1999-2000 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Strength of Research Officers in D.R.D.O.

6028. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the major projects carried out by the DRDO to enhance our Defence potential and the funds allocated for the same during the last three years;

(b) whether the strength of Research Officers in the DRDO is adequate;

(c) if so, the statistical details of the various cadres of Research Officers in DRDO as on date; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government to improve the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The major projects progressed during the last three years are light combat aircraft (LCA) and its engine Kaveri, integrated guided missile development programme (IGMDP), EW system Samyukta for the Army, EW system Tempest for the Air Force, EW system Sangraha for the Navy, battle field information system Samwahaak, remotely piloted aircraft Nishant, multibarrel rocket system Pinaka and composite sonar system Panchendriya. Rs. 1118 crore have been allocated for these projects during this period.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The two cadres of DRDO are Defence Research and Development Service (DRDS) having a strength of 6547 Scientists/Engineers and Defence Research Technical Cadre (DRTC) having a strength of 13524.

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

Losses to AI and IA on Account of Cancellation of Flights

6029. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the total loss to Indian Airlines and Air India due to cancellation of flights during the last three years, year-wise, sector-wise; and

(b) the steps taken to operate the flights effectively and to avoid such last minute cancellation causing much inconvenience to the passengers ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) During the years 1996-1997, 1997-1998 and 1998-99, Air India has incurred an expense of Rs. 12.85 crores, Rs. 11.20 crores and Rs. 11.87 crores respectively on different sectors on delayed flights. For the same

period, Indian Airlines has incurred an expenses of Rs. 11.66 crores, Rs. 15.10 crores and Rs. 16.16 crores respectively.

(b) Both the airlines constantly endeavour to improve their on time performance. All delays are investigated to pinpoint the cause and remedial action is taken where necessary.

DRDO Interaction with Universities

6030. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of building up technological competence, DRDO are likely to increase interaction with universities;

(b) if so, the details of academies, institutions and universities with whom his Ministry is in partnership for undertaking joint defence research in areas applicable to defence technology;

(c) whether any new scheme in this regard has been worked out for more interaction; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) DRDO has already establish and is progressively strengthening close interaction with universities.

(b) DRDO is pursuing joint research programmes/tasks in areas of defence technologies in partnership with reputed institutions, universities and research establishments such as Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Universities of Roorkee, Jadavpur, Osmania, Jamia Milia Islamia and research institutions of other science and technology organisations like Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Indian Council of Medical Research.

(c) and (d) The interaction and academies, institutions and universities has been further strengthened by constituting Armament Research Board, Life Sciences Research Board and Naval Research Board in addition to the earlier existing Aeronautical Research and Development Board.

[Translation]

Land Acquired by Railways in Maharashtra

6031. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the extent of land acquired by the railways in Aurangabad district of Maharashtra during the last three years;

(b) the purpose for which the above land was acquired and the amount of compensation paid in lieu of it;

(c) whether construction work has been started after taking possession of the acquired land;

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to return the acquired land to its original owners;

(e) if so, by when; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No land has been acquired in Aurangabad District of Maharashtra during the last three years.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

[English]

Utilisation of Grants

6032. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether supplementary demands are required to be severely restricted to genuine unforeseen expenditure which could not be anticipated at the time of preparation of Budget Estimates;

(b) whether the obtaining of supplementary funds was resorted to be the Railways without proper assessment of the expenditure incurred or likely to be incurred by them against the funds already obtained;

(c) whether the net result was that the supplementary provisions under various grants amounting to crores of rupees remained wholly unutilised;

(d) if so, the details of all such grants that were sought in supplementary grants remained unutilised during the last year; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against the officials for such a situation ?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Supplementary provisions have been obtained based upon the assessed needs on account of increase in price of fuel, higher pensionary liabilities and

also for taking up new works constituting New Services or New Instrument of Services requiring Parliament's approval. The information concerning their utilisation for last year will be available after finalisation of accounts for the year 1999-2000. "Appropriation Accounts of the Railways" for 1999-2000. Which will be presented to Parliament in due course thereafter, will bring out detailed comparison of actual expenditure vis-a-vis the original and supplementary provisions by sub-heads of grants, as modified by permissible reappropriations duly verified by the C&AG.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Doubling and Electrification of
Calcutta Circular Railway Line**

6033. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have completed the study in regard to doubling and electrification project of Calcutta Circular Railway line;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have fixed any time frame in this regard;

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

(e) the action being taken to issue a white paper in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (e) Techno-economic-feasibility study for doubling and electrification of Calcutta Circular Railway from Dum Dum to Majerhat is in progress and final report is likely to be submitted by September 2000. Presently, there is no proposal under consideration for issue of a White Paper.

[English]

Fear of Sea Attack from Pakistan

6034. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the speech of the Chief of Naval Staff at Pune on April 3, 2000, wherein he had cautioned about sea attack by Pakistan Navy on the lines of Kargil intrusion;

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

(c) whether there is any basis for such apprehension; and

(d) if so, the precautionary measures taken to meet such emergent situations ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The Chief of the Naval Staff stated at Pune on April 3, 2000 that we were facing an uncertain security environment in the region. The Low Intensity Conflict was a cheap option for Pakistan, both on land and sea, and adequate precautions against a Kargil type misadventure at sea were necessary.

(c) The deployment of additional personnel by Pakistan from its forces in the vicinity of Rann of Kutch have been noted.

(d) The Indian Armed Forces and Para Military Forces continue to maintain strict vigilance and surveillance in the Western Sector. Precautionary measures to deal with any contingency have been taken.

Removal of Sugar from PDS

6035. SHRI R.L. BHATIA :
SHRI ABDUL HAMID :

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

(a) whether the Government are considering the removal of sugar from Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, whether the Government are contemplating to make alternative arrangements for people living below poverty line;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Doubling of Transport Capacity

6036. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have any plan to involve private sector investment in doubling the Railway's transport capacity; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

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

has plans to involve private sector investment in increasing the Railways' transport capacity by augmenting Rolling Stock and Sectional Line Capacity.

(b) The details of the schemes to involve the private sector investment in increasing the Railway's transport capacity are as under :-

The Build Own Lease Transfer Scheme (BOLT) :

The scheme seeks to attract participation in building, construction or manufacturing of railway assets through a lease agreement with Indian Railways. Thereafter the asset is taken over by Indian Railways for the remainder of its economic life.

Own Your Wagon Scheme : Under this scheme, a company or a firm can procure wagons directly from the approved wagon builders or through Indian Railways. The owner receives a fixed return on the capital invested by him from Indian Railways. Indian Railways also assures transportation of the consignments of the company on a priority basis.

Public-private partnership for funding Railway projects : Efforts are being made to involve Private Sector and other user agencies such as Ports, Public Sector Undertakings as also the State Governments in raising of resources and execution of Railway projects.

Security at Airports

6037. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY :
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY :
SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA :
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has recently got a survey conducted at airports in the country and found lacuna in the security system as reported in the Hindustan Times dated April 4, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether machines and equipments installed at various airports have been found unreliable and there is urgent need to install latest machines;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) other stringent steps the Government propose to take to provide security including latest machines at airports ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) No such news item could be seen in Hindustan Times dated 4.4.2000. However, survey of 22 airports has been conducted jointly by Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) and Airports Authority of India (AAI) in order to assess the requirements for deployment of CISF in place of State Police personnel for security related functions at these airports.

(c) No, Sir. However, upgradation of equipment installed at the airports is a continuing process.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) After the incident of hijacking of IC-814, following measures have been taken to further strengthen security at the airports :

(i) Deployment of CISF in place of State Police for security duties at the operational airports in a phased manner. The CISF has already taken over the security duties at Patna, Jaipur, Guwahati, Vadodara, Port Blair, Rajkot, Ranchi, Agartala, Bhopal, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad.

(ii) Frisking of passengers and hand baggage at the time of entry into sterile area has been tightened. Ladder point secondary frisking has been introduced.

(iii) Strict control on access to the airports is being ensured by comprehensive review of Photo Identity Cards to restrict the number of pass-holders.

(iv) Deployment of Sky Marshals on flights at random basis as an added safety precaution.

(v) Raising of the perimeter wall to the prescribed height at all the operational airports.

(vi) Replacement of Old X-Ray machines and installation of new colour X-Ray machines are available at every point.

(vii) Modernisation and upgradation of security related technological set up at the airports is being done in a phased manner.

Visit of U.S. President

6038. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government of avail of the opportunity arising as a result of the recent visit of President of United States to India for promoting U.S. tourist in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Various steps were taken by the Ministry of Tourism to enthuse the State Tourism Departments and the private sector to take full advantage of the President of U.S.A.'s visit to India. Printed literature and video films were made available for screening at the various hotels where the Presidential Delegation stayed. The Ministry also arranged a photo competition for getting tourism related pictures of the President's visit to India. Our Tourist Offices, overseas also utilized this opportunity for ensuring wide publicity in their respective markets.

Strategic Alliance with Swiss Air

6039. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Swiss Air has offered the Indian Airlines and Air India for entering into strategic alliance; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) SAir Group which inter alia owns Swissair (SR) had expressed their interest in the disinvestment process in Air India in collaboration with their Indian partner M/s. Cambata Aviation. No interest has been shown in Indian airlines.

Import of Rice from Neighbouring Countries

6040. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether State Governments have sought permission from the Union Government to import rice from neighbouring countries for distribution through PDS;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) A proposal has been received from the Government of Kerala to authorize the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to import not more than 5000 tonnes of boiled rice a month from Burma on behalf of the Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation.

(c) The proposal has not been considered feasible in view of the adequate availability of parboiled rice in Central Pool and, also the actual lifting of rice allocated to the State Government. The State Government has been asked to take necessary steps to increase their lifting of rice.

Passenger Amenities

6041. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have taken into consideration the needs of railway passengers at railway stations like Tenali, Guntur, Bapatle and other busy commercial towns;
- (b) if so, whether many stations on the main line between Howrah and Chennai like Tenali have not been given a facelift for decades;
- (c) if so, the criteria used to identify stations for improvement;
- (d) whether a demand has been pending for a long time to organise sale of tickets at Tenali Railway Station on both ends;
- (e) whether any study has been done by the South Central Railway; and
- (f) if so, the finding thereof ?

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

(b) No, Sir. Necessary works have been taken up at stations on Howrah-Chennai route wherever warranted.

As far as Tenali Railway Station is concerned, works relating to improvements to water supply, replacement of flooring in waiting hall and retiring rooms and computerisation of passenger reservation system have been completed recently. Works for provision of new booking office and waiting hall on platform No.1, extension of platform No.2 and 3, extension of water hydrants on platform line and provision of glow sign Boards have also been taken up at Tenali at an estimated cost of Rs. 57.07 lakhs.

(c) Improvements to railway stations is a continuous process and is taken up wherever so warranted by growth in passenger traffic.

(d) to (f) There is a demand for provision of booking office on western side of Tenali Station. However, due to the existence of a rake siding on western side this request is not operationally feasible. Besides a Booking office on western side is not financially justified and hence the demand has not been acceded to.

Purchase of Wagons

6042. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any recommendation of Parliamentary Committee that 75 per cent requirement of wagons should be purchased through Wagon India Limited and rest through tenders;

(b) if so, whether the Government are now purchasing the total requirement of wagons through tenders;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the total number of wagons thus purchased through tenders during the last three years and the value thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. Standing Committee on Railways in their XIIth Report on procurement of wagons by Railways had recommended that orders for 75% of the wagon requirement of the Railways should be placed with the wagon industry directly (without tenders) from members of Wagon India Limited.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Railways are resorting to 100% procurement of wagons through tender since the orders placed for manufacture during 98-99 to bring in openness, competitiveness, transparency and efficiency in procurement thereby saving cost to the Railways. The House was informed of this decision of the Government to procure 100% quantity through tender on 14.8.97 during discussions on this Ministry's supplementary Demands for Grants. This decision was also conveyed to the Standing Committee on Railways by Action Taken Note submitted to the Standing Committee in January, 98.

(d) Wagon orders placed through tenders during last three years are as under :-

Year	Wagons (Four Wheeler Units)	Value (In crores)*
1998-99	21927.5	472
1999-2000	10365	242
2000-01	21000	418

*excluding free supply items.

Watchdogs for Siachen Soldiers

6043. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in Siachen local dogs have proved more helpful to Indian troops not only in fighting the enemy but also rough weather in the icy winds of Siachen glacier in Sub-zero conditions round the clock;

(b) if so, whether these dogs were also used to deliver mail from a vulnerable post which was under direct enemy observation to the base camp;

(c) if so, whether in view of their usefulness, the Government are considering to use and feed them properly so that they may be more useful to the army in these areas; and

(d) if so, the details of the scheme being worked out in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Assistance of two local dogs was taken by troops in Siachen glacier for delivering mail to certain forward posts. However, one died last year but the other is still providing excellent assistance. In addition, there are four dogs of the Army which are performing the duties of Avalanche Rescue Operations.

(c) and (d) Due to remoteness of terrain, limited population and harsh weather conditions, many local dogs are not available at the heights of Siachen. However, wherever possible, these dogs are being utilised and their upkeep is ensured by the Army.

Autonomy to R.P.F.

6044. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are considering more autonomy for the Railway Protection Force (RPF);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways are considering to modernize the Railway Protection Force;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Railways are also considering to grant better reward package to RPF for the commendable work of passenger safety and better protection and security of railway property; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Modernisation of the Railway Protection Force has already been taken up. Steps have been taken to provide Transport, wireless equipments, modern weaponry, security gadgets, computers, training equipments, gymnasias etc. as part of modernisation programme.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. However, the following awards already exist :-

- (i) President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service.
- (ii) Indian Police Medal for Meritorious Service.
- (iii) Railway Minister's Medal for Bravery.
- (iv) Railway Minister's Medal for Best Investigation.
- (v) Director General's Commendation and Insignia.

[Translation]

**Procurement of Foodgrains from
Adjoining States**

6045. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI :
SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA :

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

(a) whether the Union Government have directed to State Governments to procure foodgrains from their own areas or from the adjoining States;

(b) if so, the reaction of State Governments in this regard;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any requests from the States regarding compensation to the loss suffered by them and their procuring agencies on procuring foodgrains for central pool;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to reimburse the losses ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Some State Governments were requested to submit proposals to undertake procurement of foodgrains under the "Scheme of Decentralised Procurement of Foodgrains", from their own areas.

(b) The Government of West Bengal started procurement of rice under this scheme with effect from the Khariff Marketing Season of 1997-98. The State Government of Uttar Pradesh commenced the scheme from the Khariff Marketing Season of 1999-2000. The Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh commenced procurement of wheat under this scheme from the Rabi Marketing Season of 1999-2000. The State Governments of Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Assam

and Jammu and Kashmir are not in favour of this scheme, and the Governments of Bihar, Gujarat and Manipur have not responded, so far.

(c) to (e) Government of India had received requests from Government of Punjab for reimbursement of losses to the tune of Rs. 8.19 crores and Rs. 10.48 crores respectively for the losses incurred by them due to damage of wheat caused by floods in 1993 and 1995. Similar request was received from Government of Haryana for reimbursement of Rs. 7.54 crores and Rs. 2.50 crores respectively for the years 1993 and 1995 on account of the damage to wheat caused by the floods. These requests were not accepted by this Government as the responsibility for storage and preservation of the procured stocks before handing over to FCI is of the State Government/its procuring agencies, for which storage charges are paid to them. They were advised either to prefer their claim with the Ministry of Agriculture, as the losses suffered due to natural calamities should be made a part of claim under flood relief, or compensate their agencies from their own funds collected through Mandi charges and purchase tax etc.

Claim of reimbursement of losses incurred by Government of Punjab and its procuring agencies in disposing of 1994-95 crop paddy through open sale was also received. The Government of Punjab and its procuring agencies have been paid a sum of Rs. 120 crores on 9th January, 2000 as full and final settlement of their claim.

[English]

Development of L.C.A.

6046. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the stage at which the matter of manufacturing the first Light Combat Aircraft stands at present along with its special features;

(b) whether the necessary tests of this aircraft have been undertaken;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure incurred thereon so far; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be included in the IAF ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Of the two LCA Technology Demonstrator aircraft (TD-1 and TD-2), TD-1 has been fabricated and is undergoing integration testing on ground. TD-2 is under integration. This is a part of Full Scale Engineering Development (Phase-1).

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) A variety of integration tests on ground, including Low Speed Taxi trials of TD-1 have been conducted as part of the test programme to precede its maiden flight. Rs. 1767.64 crores is the expenditure as on 31.3.2000 on the LCA project.

(d) In Phase-2, additional LCA Prototype Vehicles would be built leading to clearance for production. At present, LCA induction in IAF is expected to occur by 2005.

Missile Programme

6047. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the missiles test fired from Chandipur Test Range during 1999 and this year along with their main features;

(b) the results obtained from each of the tests;

(c) whether any other surface to surface and ship to ship missile is proposed to be built and test fired from there shortly; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) 14 flight tests of various missiles were carried out during 1999 and the current year. These flight tests included one test of intermediate range ballistic missile Agni-II, one test of naval version of surface-to-surface missile system Dhanush, eight tests of short range surface-to-air missile Trishul, two tests of medium range surface-to-air missile Akash and two tests of third generation anti-tank missile Nag.

(b) These tests are part of the developmental trial programme. Valuable data has been obtained from the tests to prepare these systems for user trials.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Construction of ROB near Bekol

6048. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from Bekol Tourism Development Corporation of Kerala for construction of Road Over Bridge on level crossing near Bekol in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Late Running of Shramjivi Express

6049. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Shramjivi Express running between New Delhi and Patna generally runs late;

(b) if so, whether the Government are also aware that the Pantry Car Staff in this train sell food items to passengers at arbitrary rates; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) The punctuality of Shramjeevi Express has been affected largely due to various reasons like accidents, agitations/bandhs, miscreant activities, law and order problems, bad weather (dense fog-every year during December, January and February), equipment failures, grid failures, human failures etc.

(b) and (c) Tariff of standard meals, breakfast, tea/coffee, are displayed through the rate list at conspicuous places in Pantry cars, Zonal railway time tables and news papers. No complaint regarding charging arbitrary rates has been received by Eastern Railway. Periodic and surprise checks are also conducted to curb malpractices.

[Translation]

Derailed of Ahmedabad-Jodhpur Surya Nagri Express

6050. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether 13 bogies of Ahmedabad-Jodhpur Surya Nagari Express derailed between Jawal Bandh and Moribera stations in Pall district of Rajasthan on April 3, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total loss of life and Government property due to the accident;

(d) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(f) the preventive measures being considered to check the railway accidents ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 03.04.2000 at about 0326 hours, 4846 Down Ahmedabad-Jodhpur Surya Nagari Express derailed between Jawai Bandh and Moribera stations at Kms. 522/0-521/9 on Palanpur-Marwar Non-Electrified, single line broad gauge section of Ajmer Division of Western Railway.

(c) There was no loss of life but one person was grievously injured and 17 persons sustained simple injuries. The loss to railway property was estimated at Rs. 7,28,000/-.

(d) Yes, Sir. Commissioner of Railway Safety, Western Circle is conducting inquiry.

(e) The commissioner of Railway Safety, Western Circle is yet to submit the final report.

(f) The following important steps are being taken to check the railway 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 Mumbai suburban sections.
- (iv) Walkie-Talkie sets are being progressively supplied to Drivers and Guards on selected routes.
- (v) There has been progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance.
- (vi) For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometers are being progressively used.
- (vii) For detecting rail fractures and weld failures, 96 more double rail Ultra Sonic Flaw Detectors are being procured.
- (viii) In addition to the above, 2 Self Propelled Ultra Sonic Rail Testing Cars are also being procured.
- (ix) Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised and upgraded at many depots.

(x) 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.

(xi) Whistle boards/speed breakers and road signs have been provided at unmanned level crossings and visibility for drivers has been improved.

(xii) Audio-visual publicity campaigns to educate road users on how to make a safe crossing are conducted.

(xiii) Steps have been taken to prevent inflammable and explosive materials from being carried in passenger trains.

(xiv) Periodic Safety Audit of different divisions by inter-disciplinary teams from zonal headquarters has been introduced.

(xv) Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernised including use of Simulators for training of drivers.

(xvi) Refresher courses are regularly organised at specified intervals.

(xvii) Performance of the staff connected with train operation is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for attending crash courses.

(xviii) Periodical safety drives are launched to inculcate safety consciousness among the staff.

Foreign Tour of Tourism Officials

6051.SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether on the eve of U.S. President's visit, most of the senior officials of the Ministry were on tour abroad; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The US President visited India from March 20-25, 2000. From March 10-21, 2000 Hon'ble Minister (Tourism and Culture) and some senior officers of the Ministry of Tourism had gone on tour abroad to participate in some important international tourism related events and meetings. Details of these visits are as follows :-

Sl. No.	Name and Designation	Place of visit	Dates of visit	Purpose
1.	Sh. Ananth Kumar, Minister (T&C)	Berlin (Germany)	March 10-15 2000	To Participate in International Tourism Bourse (ITB), an important fair held annually in Berlin.
2.	Sh. VS Ramachandran, PS to Minister (T&C)	-do-	-do-	-do-
3.	Sh. Atul Sinha, Director General (Tourism)	-do-	-do-	-do-
4.	Smt. Asha Murthy, Joint Secretary (Tourism)	Berlin (Germany)	March 15-17 2000	To attend Fourth Meeting of the Indo-German Sub-committee on Tourism. Smt. Murthy led an official delegation.
5.	Sh. V. Subramanian, JS & FA (Tourism)	-do-	-do-	-do-
6.	Sh. Subhash Angress, Assistant Director	-do-	-do-	-do-
7.	Sh. MP Bezbaruah Secretary (Tourism)	Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur	March 19-21 2000	To participate in ESCAP/TAT/WTO Asia Pacific Seminar. On Public-Private Partnership in Tourism Development in Bangkok and a Seminar on India in Kuala Lumpur.

[Translation]

Shifting of Headquarter of South Central Railway

6052. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some requests have been received by the Government to shift the headquarter of South Central Railway to Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Helicopter Services

6053. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to give a boost to the helicopter services under the New Civil Aviation Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have consulted user industries in formulating new guidelines to use the helicopters; and

(d) if so, the views of the user industries ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Civil Aviation Policy under formulation envisages a fresh look at the policy framework for helicopter operations, and issue of suitable guidelines in this regard. The draft policy has been widely circulated for views/comments before finalisation.

International Hubs at International Airports

6054. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have sought international funding for the development of international hubs at various international airports in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Proper Utilisation of Rural Development Funds

6055. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether despite the launching of a large number of poverty alleviation programme, the number of poors in rural areas have been increased;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto and further steps taken in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) and (b) As per estimates of the Planning Commission, the number of persons below poverty line has declined from 261.29 million in 1973-74 to 244.03 million in 1993-94 despite increase in population. In percentage terms, the number of poor in rural areas declined from 56.44% in 1973-74 to 37.27% in 1993-94.

(c) The Ministry of Rural Development has restructured the poverty alleviation schemes from 1.04.1999 to effect further reduction in the number of persons below poverty line.

Waste Disposal Industry

6056. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Tata Energy Institute has developed a high rate digester for fibrous and semi solid municipal waste with the promise of revolutionising the waste disposal industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the new waste disposal method is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI), New Delhi has developed a process for digestion of fibrous and semi solid municipal wastes at laboratory scale. The biogas yield of process developed by TERI is less in comparison to the processes already known and commercially available in the country.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to parts (a) and (b) above.

Black Listed V.O. by CAPART

6057. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of non-governmental organisations black listed by CAPART during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the extent to which the irregularities have been noticed;

(c) the number of cases referred to CBI and the cases evaluated by CAPART itself; and

(d) the penalties/action initiated against those N.G. organisations who have misused funds ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) and (d) A statement showing the details of blacklisted organisations during the last three years i.e. 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000, is given as under :-

Year	State	No. of VOs black-listed	Amount sanctioned	Amount released	Penalties/action initiated
1	2	3	4	5	6
1997-98	-	-	-	-	-
1998-99	-	-	-	-	-
1999-2000	Bihar	1	1,04,78,980	82,62,706	The Voluntary Organisation (VO) has been placed under black-listed category. VO has represented against the blacklisting and filed a civil suit in the Sub-

1	2	3	4	5	6
					judicature of Patna. Case is under examination for recovery. On assessment of the misutilised amount made by the Project Evaluators (PEs), measures to recover the misutilised amount of Rs. 9.74 lakhs have been initiated.
	U.P.	1	7,52,650	6,18,757	The VO has been placed under blacklisted category. Evaluators assigned to assess the amount misutilised by the VO.
	M.P.	1	1,52,000	1,49,500	The VO has been placed under blacklisted category. The VO has refunded the total amount released.
	Maharashtra	1	51,600	32,700	The VO has been placed under blacklisted category. Case is under examination for further action.
Total		4	1,14,35,230	90,63,663	

(b) Serious irregularities have been noticed not only in misuse of released funds but in documentation for obtaining sanction, such as forged Bank documents, improper implementation of the project, including use of substandard materials, irregular reporting of work done etc.

(c) No case has been referred to CBI during the last three years. The number of cases evaluated by CAPART itself is 4.

Acquisition of Missiles

6058. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a dire need for acquisition of sufficient number of portable surface to air missiles for high altitude areas is being felt by the Army;

(b) if so, whether the Government have decided to provide these missiles to the army to meet the threat posed by Pakistani activities on J&K border; and

(c) if so, the total number of missiles to be developed or acquired and placed under the disposal of the Army ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Sufficient number of portable surface to air missiles for high altitude areas are already held in the inventory of the Army.

Induction of INS-Aditya in Navy

6059. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether INS-Aditya, an advanced fleet replenishment tanker has joined the Navy's tanker fleet;

(b) if so, the main features of this tanker; and

(c) the extent to which it helped the Indian Navy to acquire blue water capability ?

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

(b) This is a 24,612 tonnes Replenishment Tanker capable of replenishing Fleet Ships at sea while underway. It also carries helicopters which can be used for vertical replenishment.

(c) The ship can support fleet operations for extended durations and extended ranges.

Slashing of Financial Package for Indian Airlines

6060. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have slashed the financial package for Indian Airlines to Rs. 115 crore from Rs. 325 crore promised earlier to use as margin money in the purchase of 39 aircraft; and

(b) if so, the main reasons for reducing the amount ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Quality of Food served in Trains

6061. SHRI T. GOVINDAN :
SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI :
SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints regarding sub-standard quality of food items served in trains specially in Rajdhani Express trains during the last three years;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to constitute a high level committee to inspect the quality of food and other facilities being provided to the passengers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the last three years, 87 complaints have been received regarding quality of food served in Rajdhani Express trains. Railways have initiated a number of steps to improve the quality and presentation of catering services including use of branded products, use of eco-friendly packaging material, improved presentation and regular monitoring of catering services.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Apart from Passenger Services Committee and Passengers Amenities Committee, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways, the

Consultative Committee of Members of Parliament and National Railway Users Consultative Committee do inspect various catering/vending units and suggest suitable modifications/suggestions for improvement of catering services.

Debarring of Tax Payers From P.D.S.

6062. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any memoranda from various State Governments with regard to showing their inability in identifying income tax payers to whom the Government have debarred from taking sugar etc. from PDS; and

(b) if so, the details of modalities evolved by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI. V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) A few State Governments did intimate the Central Government their inability in identifying the income tax assesseees and their family members for exclusion from Public Distribution System (PDS) in respect of sugar. However, after a meeting the State Government officers concerned to finalise the modalities, it has been decided to give the State Governments time upto 30.06.2000 to complete the process of identification of all the card holders who are also income tax assesseees and exclude them for the purpose of distribution of sugar under the PDS.

[Translation]

Increasing Flights by Air India on International Sector

6063. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to increase the number of international flights by Air India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of countries disintegrated from erstwhile USSR to which the Air India has no flights; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to connect those countries and also to increase the frequency ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Air India has no plans to introduce more flights in the near future due to constraints of aircraft capacity.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Air India does not operate to any ex-USSR State except Russia.

(d) At present airlines of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Russian Federation are operating services to India.

Air Links for Bhagalpur (Bihar)

6064. SHRI SUBODH ROY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to link Bhagalpur by air services;

(b) if so, whether the Government are entrusting this task to private Civil Aviation Company to provide the air service there;

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be introduced; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) Operators are free to airlink any place in their commercial judgement subject to compliance with the Route Dispersal Guidelines which stipulate certain minimum operations on specified category of routes.

[English]

Computerisation of Block Development Offices

6065. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has requested for funds for computerisation of Block Development Offices; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) and (b) No such proposal has been received from the State Government of Maharashtra.

Arrests of Armymen for sale of Weapons

6066. SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain armymen have been arrested for selling weapons in the market;

(b) if so, the details of such cases came to light in each of the last three years; and

(c) the quantity of arms and ammunition, seized therefrom in each of the last three years and the manner in which it is accounted for together with the details of their disposal ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) One case has been reported in the last three years in which one Army personnel was caught by the civil Police in Meerut in March, 2000 while selling locally-made weapons. Service weapons or ammunition were not involved.

Fixation of Milling Charges

6067. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices has submitted its report on fixation of milling charges;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether the Government have formulated a permanent formula for fixation of milling charges keeping in of view the price index; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) Certain clarification have been sought from the BICP regarding its methodology in arriving at its recommended rate.

(c) and (d) Pending decision on the BICP report, Government has been allowing milling charges provisionally. While doing so, price index is also taken into consideration. Rates of milling charges allowed since 1997-98 are as under :

(Rs./Qtl.)	
Year	Rate
1997-98	12.00
1998-99	13.20
1999-2000	13.20

Appointment of Retired Persons in PSU

6068. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some retired persons have been appointed by Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry of Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total remuneration paid to each of them ?

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

(b) and (c) There are five Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under the Ministry of Railways namely IRCON International Ltd. (IRCON), Rail India Technical and Economic Service Ltd. (RITES), Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR), Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC), Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. (KRC). These PSUs have appointed following retired personnel on re-employment terms :

Name of PSU	Name of re-employed person	Scale
1	2	3
RITES	B.I. Singal	Rs. 20500-26500 (IDA)
	A.K. Somanathan	rs. 20500-26500 (IDA)
	B.S. Popli	Rs. 16400-20000 (CDA)
	P.R. Sircar	Rs. 16400-20000 (CDA)
	M.V. Radha Krishnan	Rs. 16400-20000 (CDA)
	D.K. Anand	Rs. 16400-20000 (CDA)
	E. Sundaraiya	Rs. 16400-20000 (CDA)
	O.P. Kapur	Rs. 14300-18300 (CDA)
	N. Chakrapani	Rs. 14300-18300 (CDA)
	Gr. Capt. Ali Amir	Rs. 14300-18300 (CDA)
	G.G.K. Murty	Rs. 12000-16500 (CDA)

	1	2	3
		S. Samajpati	Rs. 8000-13500 (CDA)
IRCON		K.R. Mehra	Rs. 20500-26500 (IDA)
		S.K. Sood	Rs. 14300-18300 (CDA)
		B.M. Jerath	Rs. 12000-16500 (CDA)
		D.K. Puri	Rs. 10000-15200 (CDA)
		D. Valdyanathan	Rs. 12000-16500 (CDA)
		M.V.K. Rao	Rs. 14300-18300 (CDA)
		R.K. Singh	Rs. 14300-18300 (CDA)
		R.K. Vasisht	Rs. 14300-18300 (CDA)
KRC		T. Madhyavan	Rs. 11182
		S.V. Mahalank	Rs. 22701
		U. Chandran	Rs. 17258
		K.S. Ramamurthy	Rs. 7737
CONCOR	Nii		Nii
IRFC	Nii		Nii

Note : (i) IDA - Industrial Dearness Allowance

(ii) CDA - Central Dearness Allowance

(iii) Monthly remuneration in the above grades is paid after making adjustments of pension, as applicable, from the previous service.

In addition to re-employment after retirement Railway PSUs have engaged some retired Govt. personnel as consultant/sub-consultant/on contract basis on varying remuneration depending upon the last pay drawn. These personnel are not entitled for any of the perks. Number of such people, PSU wise is given as under :-

S.No.	Name of PSU	Number of consultant/sub-consultant/contract appointees			
		Remuneration Rs. 5000 per month	Remuneration Rs. 5000 to Rs. 10000 per month	Remuneration Rs. 10000 to Rs. 15000 per month	Remuneration above Rs. 15000 per month
1.	IRCON	2	6	6	Nii
2.	RITES	65	163	39	11
3.	CONCOR	109	26	Nii	Nii
4.	KRC	22	21	Nii	Nii
5.	IRFC	Nii	Nii	Nii	Nii

[Translation]

Utilisation of Railway Land For Fishery

6069. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the existing rules for giving licence for fishery on railway land;

(b) whether around 10,496.90 hectares railway land is being utilised for fishery and other purposes as on March 31, 1998;

(c) if so, the number of people given licence for fishery during the last three years and current year and income earned therefrom, zone-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) As per extant rules, first preference for the licensing of lakes/tanks for pisciculture is given to the Co-operative Societies formed by the Railway employees. In case, these Co-operative Societies do not come forward, the fishing rights are to be licensed to the Registered Fishermen's Co-operative Society. If they also do not come forth, fishing rights can be given by holding public auction or inviting open tenders. The rights are licensed to the highest bidder/tenderer for a period of one to five years.

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

[English]

Project based on Tidal Waves

6070. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up the projects based on Tidal Waves in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no proposal of this Ministry to set up projects based on Tidal Waves in Tamil Nadu. As per the studies carried out by the erstwhile Central Water and Power Commission in 1975, the Gulf of Kutch and Gulf of Cambay in Gujarat and Sunderbans area in West Bengal are the only potential sites in the country for the development of Tidal Energy Projects.

Financial Loss to Super Bazar

6071. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the former Chairman of Super Bazar caused huge financial loss to the Super Bazar;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to take panel action against him and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The Super Bazar has informed that it is difficult to calculate the exact losses incurred by the Super Bazar during the tenure of its former Chairman (May, 1998 to September, 1999). However, as per the audited annual accounts, the net loss incurred by Super Bazar during the financial year 1998-99 is Rs. 706.80 lakhs and estimated loss from April, 1999 to September, 1999 is approx. Rs. 674 lakhs (unaudited).

(c) and (d) The irregularities relating to the functioning of Super Bazar including the former Chairman, Super Bazar have been referred to CBI for investigation. The investigation report of CBI has not yet been received.

[Translation]

Setting up of Small Power Projects

6072. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has asked for assistance from the Union Government for setting up of small power projects in the State during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources has sanctioned 14 biomass gasifier based small power projects aggregating 1200 kW and one small hydro power projects of 100 kW in the State of Uttar Pradesh during the 9th Five Year Plan period. These projects are based either on proposals received from the State Govt. or on proposals generated by the Ministry. The details of the projects are given in the Statement enclosed.

(e) An amount of Rs. 31.95 lakhs have been sanctioned and a release of Rs. 5.73 lakhs have been made to the State specifically for these projects.

Statement

Details of small power projects sanctioned/set up in Uttar Pradesh during the Ninth Five Year Plan period

S.No.	Small Power Projects	Capacity
A. Biomass Gasifiers		
1.	Shikhar Foods Rice Mill, Adda Bazar, Maharaj Ganj	60 kVA
2.	Sumit Rice Mill, Hardoi	100kW
3.	Co-operative Rice Mill (P) Ltd., Hardoi	100kW
4.	Khaga Rice Mill, Fatehpur	100kW
5.	Saket Foods Ltd., Kalpipara, Bagraich	100kW
6.	Jai Bajrang Rice Mill, Chandauli	100kW
7.	Shri Sita Ram Rice and Dal Mill, Chandauli	100kW
8.	Kurawa, Burhana Muzaffar Nagar	100kW
9.	Deepak Traders, By-pass Road, Fatehpur	100kW
10.	Essa Zip Fasteners (P), Nainital	100kW
11.	M/s Nawabganj Rice Mill Ltd., Bareilly	100kW
12.	Nave Institution Lodhi Pur, Shahjehanpur.	100kW
13.	District Jail, Varanasi	20kW
14.	Shri Ram Garments and Accessories, Kashipur, Nainital	100kW
B. Small Hydro Power		
15.	Choting, U.P.	100kW

kW = Kilowatt.

MW = Megawatt.

KVA = Kilo-volt=ampere

[English]

MESCO Airlines

6073. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
SHRI BHIM DAHAL :
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Director General of Civil Aviation renewed the licence to M/s MESCO Airlines which was valid upto March 31, 2000;

(b) if so, whether any instructions were issued by the Home Ministry regarding not to renew the licence;

(c) if so, the reasons for such instructions for not renewing the licence; and

(d) The date on which the licence has been renewed and upto which date it is valid ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) The operator's permit of M/s MESCO Airlines, valid upto 31st March, 2000, was not renewed initially as the Ministry of Home Affairs had not given the required security clearance in respect of some of the directors on the Board of M/s Mesco Airlines. The operator's permit has been renewed on 20th April, 2000 which is valid upto 19th April, 2001, consequent to the resignation of the directors of the airlines whose names figured in the report from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

[Translation]

Selling of Inferior Quality Goods in Super Bazar

6074. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that inferior quality of goods are being sold in the super bazaar at prices higher than the prevailing market prices; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) No, Sir. The Super Bazar has informed that they are procuring goods from manufacturers/distributors who are registered after requisite quality control. The sale price of the items is fixed with reasonable profit margin keeping in view the market trend for that commodity/item.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Loans to Contractors

6075. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the CONCOR grants loans/advances to the contractors and engage the same contractors on monthly rates also;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the provisions and rules/regulations for granting such loans/advances ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR) does give advances to its existing contractors against their handling bills. These advances are given to modernise the container handling equipment in CONCOR's facilities. Generally contractors are engaged on the basis of rates for various units of work. However, some contractors are engaged on monthly rates also.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) While considering requests for such advances, the following aspects are taken into consideration :

1. The recipient has to be an existing terminal operator with good record of service and a contract valid for a sufficient period of ensure recovery of the advance.
2. The level of activity on the terminal on which the terminal operator is working has to justify additional equipment and it is ensured that the equipment will be used in CONCOR terminal only.
3. CONCOR normally advances 80% of the cost of the equipment at market rates of interest which are much higher than the interest on bank deposits, short-term bonds etc. on which the surplus funds of CONCOR are parked as per the extant guidelines.
4. The advance with interest is recovered from the monthly handling bills of the terminal operator.
5. The equipment procured from the advance is hypothecated to CONCOR till full recoveries have been made.

Statement

The details of Advances given to Contractors since 1995 upto now are as under :

Sl. No.	Name of Handling Contractor	Advance given					Position as on 31.03.2000	
		1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	Total	Recovery
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Kanda Cargo Handlers, 309, Shrikant Chamber, Near R.K. Studio, S.T. Road, Chembur, Mumbai - 400071	-	-	-	7,794,000	3,000,000	10,794,000	Regular recoveries are being made as per scheduled
2.	Punjab Container Services, N.J. 253, Mitha Bazar, Jalandhar.	10,460,000	-	-	-	-	10,460,000	Since recovered fully in August 1997
3.	B. Ghose & Co. Ltd., 19/1, Comac Street, Calcutta-17.	-	13,500,000	-	-	-	13,500,000	Since recovered fully in February, 1999
4.	Deewan Chand Ram Saran, Navaratan, 2nd floor, 60, P.D'Mello Road, Camac Bandur Junction, Mumbai - 400009	-	37,731,000	3,948,000	3,948,000	-	41,627,000	Since recovered fully in January, 2000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
5. Durga Crane Co., D-28, Gyan Shyam Avenue, Sattar Taluka Society, Opp. High Court, Ahmedabad-380 014	10,680,866		-	-	-	-	10,680,866	Since recovered fully in March, 2000
6. Vikram Associations, New No. 27, 1st floor, Madras Bank Road, Bangalore - 560 001.	49,482,128		-	-	26,469,159	-	75951287	Regular recoveries are being made as per schedule.
		9,750,000					9,750,000	Since recovered fully in July, 1998
7. Transport Organisers, 21A, Sagar Dutta Lane, First Floor, Calcutta - 700 073		-	-	-	-	10,800,000	10,800,000	Regular recoveries are being made as per schedule.
Total	80,372,994	51,231,000	3,948,000	34,263,159	13,800,000	183,615,153		

[Translation]

Excavation at Vikramshila University

6076. SHRI SUBODH ROY : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the excavation work is going on at ancient Vikramshila University;
- (b) if so, the details of the various articles and other materials found in the excavation;
- (c) the museum where there articles are to be kept;
- (d) whether the Govt. provide any assistance to the State Govt. for the construction and maintenance of museums;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) There is no on-going excavation at Vikramshila.

(b) From the previous excavation various sculptures of the Hindu and Buddhist pantheon, terracottas and earthen wares were found.

(c) At present there is no proposal for displaying the artifacts.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) Under the scheme of promotion and strengthening of regional and local museums, voluntary organisations and State Governments are provided financial assistance.

[English]

Close Circuit TV Cameras at Railway Stations

6077. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the name of railway stations in the country where close T.V. cameras have been installed to keep an eye on the criminal and other activities;
- (b) the name of railway stations likely to be covered by this facility during 2000-2001; and
- (c) the time by which this work is likely to be completed and expenditure incurred thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) A list is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Jammu Tavi and Attari.

(c) It may take a year to complete the work. Expenditure involved is Rs. 37.36 lakhs.

Statement

Close circuit T.V. cameras have been installed at the following Railway Stations and PRS Centres :-

S.No.	Station	PRS Centres
1.	Howrah Old Complex	Mumbai CST
2.	Howrah New Complex	Bhopal
3.	Dum Dum	Guwahati
4.	Balgachia	MMC Chennai
5.	Shyambazar	Secunderabad
6.	Shovabazar	Jaipur
7.	Girish Park	Ahemdabad
8.	Mahatma Gandhi Road	Borivilli
9.	Central	Mumbai Central
10.	Chandni Chowk	
11.	Esplanade	
12.	Park Street	
13.	Maidan	
14.	Rabindra Sadan	
15.	Netaji Bhavan	
16.	Jatindas Park	
17.	Kalighat	
18.	Rabindra Sarobar	
19.	Tollygunj	
20.	New Delhi	
21.	Delhi Main	
22.	Bangalore City Junction	
23.	Trivandrum Central	
24.	Bhuvaneshwar in Khurda Road Division	

[Translation]

SPTM at Jamnagar and Surender Nagar Stations

6078. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the public and various organisations have requested for providing Self Printing Ticket Machine at the Jamnagar and Surender Nagar booking Offices; and

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

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

(b) Microprocessor based Self Printing Ticket Machines at Jamnagar and Surender Nagar Stations are to be provided in the year 2000-2001.

[English]

VAS - 6310 CPU Season Ticketing System

6079. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that VAS-6310 CPU Season Ticketing System installed in 1989 at Mumbai Suburban Area of Central and Western Railway has outlived its useful life and is due for replacement; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government for its early replacement ?

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

(b) In the Works Programme 2000-2001, Government has approved a work for replacement of VAS-6310 CPU, installed for issuing season tickets in Mumbai suburban area of Central and Western Railways. Adequate funds have been provided to replace the system in the financial year 2000-01 itself.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : I beg to lay on the Table :-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1794/2000]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Delhi Public

[Shri Ananth Kumar]

Library, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Delhi Public Library, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1795/2000]
- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1796/2000]
- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal, for the year 1997-98.
- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1797/2000]
- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai, for the year 1998-99.
(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai, for the year 1998-99, together with Audit Report thereon.
(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the

working of the Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai, for the year 1998-99.

- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1798/2000]

- (11) 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 Punjab Ashok Hotel Company Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 1998-99.

(ii) Annual Report of the Punjab Ashok Hotel Company Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1799/2000]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy of the Railway Passengers (Cancellation of ticket and refund of fare) Second Amendment Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 212 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2000 under section 199 of the Railways Act, 1989.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1800/2000]

- (2) 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 Konkan Railway Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

(ii) Annual Report of the Konkan Railway Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1801/2000]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Mazagon Dock Limited and the Ministry of Defence, Department of Defence Production and Supplies, for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1802/2000]

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-
 - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited, New Delhi for the year 1998-99.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1803/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA) : Mr. speaker, Sir, on behalf of Shri Sharad Yadav I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (Commercial) (No. 4 of 2000)-Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)-Indian Air Lines Limited and Air India Limited for the year ended March, 1999, under article 15(1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1804/2000]

12.02 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that I have received the following message dated the 30th April, 2000 from the hon. President :

"I have received with great satisfaction the expression of thanks by the Members of the Lok Sabha for the Address which I delivered to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 23rd of February, 2000."

12.03 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 sub-rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) No. 2 Bill, 2000 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 19th April, 2000 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

12.03½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Fifth Report

[*English*]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep) : I beg to present the Fifth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.04 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Eighth Report

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, I beg to present the Eighth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the House will take up Zero-Hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Madhavrao Scindia.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : I have also given a notice.

MR. SPEAKER : All right.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna) : The newspapers today are full of the headlines regarding Finance Minister's announcement—'Sinha pulls out fresh set of sops', 'New proposal give the budget a sweet coat', 'Battered stocks get a lift from Pharma', 'Sensex records 488 points', and 'FM rolls back taxes not prices'.

I will not go into the merits or demerits of this. But this is very obvious that this Government is a sensex Government and it is not a sensitive Government. If it was a sensitive Government. . . (Interruptions) I have got the permission of the Speaker. . . (Interruptions) You have no right to interrupt.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : The Finance Bill is being discussed in the House. Why did you not speak in the debate? . . . (Interruptions) This is not proper. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA : He has no right to interrupt. . . (Interruptions) Please behave. . . (Interruptions) You have to behave like a Parliamentary Affairs Minister. . . (Interruptions)

You have no right to interrupt me. I have taken the permission of the Speaker. . . (Interruptions) You should behave like a Parliamentary Affairs Minister. . . (Interruptions)

Sir, talking of sensitivity, where is the sensitivity of this Government towards the Below Poverty Line people where 70 per cent hike has taken place in the prices of wheat and rice and 9 per cent in hike has taken place in the price of sugar? Where is the sensitivity towards the housewives where 100 per cent hike has taken place in the place of kerosene? . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We are discussing the Finance Bill. Yesterday, we discussed it by sitting very late in the night and today also we are going to discuss it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, I want to say that this sensitivity has to be reflected. . . (Interruptions)

Sir, the Congress Party had wanted to move cut motions and you, in your wisdom, disallowed them. We always accept the ruling of the Speaker with respect. So, we demand that, in the Finance Minister's reply today, a satisfactory answer is given and there is a roll back of the increase in the prices of essential commodities supplied through the PDS to the weaker sections, a roll back of the increase in the price of urea for the farmers and a roll back of the increase in the price of kerosene for giving relief to housewives. . . (Interruptions) If they have sensitivity, let them show it towards the weaker sections, the farmers and the housewives. That is our demand. . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho) : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, this is a Government of businessmen. . . (Interruptions) not the Government of the poor. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, you have disallowed our cut motions. So, we demand a satisfactory reply from the Finance Minister on the roll back of the increase in the prices of essential commodities and urea. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Madhavrao Scindia, we have already had a discussion about price rise in the House under Rule 193 and yesterday we have discussed the Finance Bill also.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support him, but I have another important matter to raise. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, they should have participated in the debate on the Finance Bill. Is it a matter to be raised during Zero Hour? . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, you have so many advisors. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We have gone to another subject. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter that I want to raise relates to the Ministry of Civil

aviation and a decision of Air India. Shri Sharad Yadav had requested me to raise it today because he would be here. But I do not find him here; probably he is held up due to his fight with Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, which is going on at Patna.

Sir, I wanted to refer to you and to the hon. Members of this House a very unfriendly decision, to put it very mildly, taken about the availability of international air services for Eastern and North Eastern India, operated through the Calcutta Airport, which is an international airport. They say that the Government of India is investing money for upgrading and further improving the international air services.

There was one flight in a week from Calcutta to Tokyo and back, which is to originate from Mumbai. It was operating on the route of Mumbai-Calcutta-Tokyo. I have got the full particulars with me here that more than 50 per cent of the passengers of that flight board from Calcutta. Though I have got the full particulars, I do not wish to trouble you with that.

So far as cargo is concerned, whatever space was available for cargo was fully loaded from Calcutta. As a matter of fact, the demand for cargo space was three to four times more than what was available. Air India is not providing cargo space, but other airlines have increased their cargo flights from once a week to four times a week.

Singapore Airlines has increased. Royal Jordanian has increased. All other airlines are also increasing. But Air India has withdrawn arbitrarily even without bothering to take anybody into confidence. Discuss it with the people. The MPs from the North-East and Eastern India are here. The Governments are there. What has happened today is that only the Air India flight has been withdrawn. Now, we have to go to Mumbai for the purpose of going to Tokyo. An amazing attitude has been taken. I wrote to the hon. Minister, Shri Ananth Kumar. He was earlier there. I had requested him for an increase in the frequency of flights of British Airways.

Lord Swaraj Paul had assured me that he would help. But he has done good for Bangalore. Instead of that, he has made Bangalore an international airport. I do not mind it. Do it. That was your achievement during your tenure. But why is this step-motherly attitude towards Eastern India and North-Eastern India? How can you have the development of the country? If today, you are talking of international participation-international investment-people are coming here. You are criticising us that the people are not going to Eastern India and North-East India. But how will they come here? The people have said that for coming to Delhi, it takes one day, we can go back from here. Three or four, days have to be spent to come to

Calcutta. This is not only West Bengal but also Orissa, Bihar, Assam and North-East India. Every State is suffering.

I am happy that Shri Digvijay Singh agrees with me. This is a very serious matter. I also wrote to Shri Ibrahim earlier and Shri Ananth Kumar more than once. Singapore Airlines have requested for Government's permission in writing for more flights. But it has not been granted. British Airways requested for more flights. Even this has not been granted. On the other hand, they have asked to increase 16 flights because of the Government's decision not to allow more flights. And they have been asked to operate from Mumbai and Delhi. They have gone there. What will happen to this? That part of the country will not have the benefit of even these simple facilities which will allow us interaction with the outside world and people going there. I have got full particulars. More than 50 per cent passengers have boarded from Calcutta. What is the crime that we have committed there. I hope the House will unanimously support our request to the Government.
... (Interruptions)

It is not a question of any particular area. It is a question of development of the country as a whole. Therefore, I appeal to all the Members. I want every city and every State to develop. I do not mind more flights from Mumbai. I do not mind flights from Bangalore or any other place. Let them come. This country must have equal facilities. ... (Interruptions) Now, you are a leader. I congratulate you on your appointment. Please support us.

I strongly support this request of the House with all humility. Please see that this is restored immediately. The flight which has been abandoned should not only be resumed immediately but also more flights should be allowed through and from Calcutta.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Hannan Mollah and Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev have given notices on the same subject. They can associate in brief.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Sir, on behalf of the North-Eastern seven States, I strongly associate myself with the sentiments expressed by Shri Somnath Chatterjee and also from the Congress Party. But, at the same time, I condemn the step-motherly attitude of Air India and also Indian Airlines towards North-Eastern and Eastern India.

One flight was given thanks to Shri Ananth Kumar. What has happened to him? He gave it sometime back. But now, it is being taken away. Why? What is the harm? The cottage industry in the North-Eastern region has got upset. Now, they can send their products to Japan. These have got a good demand. But by discontinuing this service,

[Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev]

you are doing a disservice to the North-Eastern Region as well as the Eastern Region.

I strongly demand from the hon. Minister – the concerned Minister is not present here – Shri Pramod Mahajan to take it up and see that it is not discontinued. This is irrespective of the demand of the whole Eastern India towards the Government of India.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Hannan Mollah, you can also associate with him. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Sir, it is in the context of the new trend of more investment in West Bengal and the eastern parts of this country.

Sir, non-availability of airlines will create problems and it will harden the way of development in that region. Orissa, Bihar and other neighbouring States will also be benefited if this is restored. So, I would request the Government that this should be immediately restored, the British Airways should not be withdrawn and more flights be given to that region. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have received 50 notices for 'Zero Hour' today.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : I endorse the question raised by the hon'ble Member.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, I fully support the contentions expressed by Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev and Shri Somnath Chatterjee. Unless this is done by the Government quickly, it will give a message that there is a step motherly treatment given by this Government to the North-Eastern Region. So, I demand that it should be restored immediately.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (Vidisha) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, more than one third population of this country is living below the poverty line. Poverty and disease go hand in hand. The poor people are afflicted with numerous diseases and they borrow money to buy medicines. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, the entire House is unanimous on this. The hon. Minister should

respond to the demand made by the entire House. . . .(Interruptions) Sir, the hon. Minister should inform the House why this was withdrawn. We demand that it should be restored immediately. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is necessary that all the Members speak on the same subject.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West) : Sir, this is very important. Regarding this issue, the hon. Minister of Railways, Kumari Mamata Banerjee, had already drawn the attention of the hon. Minister of Civil Aviation. Shri Somnath Chatterjee knows it well.

Sir, Air India has made a loss of Rs. 300 crore in the last three years. They have no imagination actually which routes have to be operated properly. I would like to know why the flight to Japan is withdrawn unnecessarily. The British Airways is also going to take the same type of decision. Sir, the airport at Kolkata is an international airport. . . .(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : Only one flight is operating.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Yes, only one flight is operating.

MR. SPEAKER : Is Kumari Mamata Banerjee speaking or Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay speaking ?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, there is only one flight, it is a fact.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : So, we earnestly urge the Government that these flights have to be restored and good quality of flights have to be given on this route. We fully associate ourselves with the hon. Members who have raised this issue.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, the hon. Members. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Shri Anant Kumarji wanted to speak but you did not allow him. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Actually, he wanted to pay back the left-handed compliment given by Shri Somnath Chatterjee. I thought it would create more problems, so I asked him not to say that. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I supported the Bangalore Airport.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, the Government fully appreciates the concern expressed by all the Members for the additional flights, domestic as well as international, in the North-Eastern sector. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Eastern and North-Eastern sectors.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, next time when I answer, I expect Shri Basu Deb Acharia to give his submission in writing so that it will be easy for me to read it out and satisfy him.

Sir, hon. Member, Shri Somnath Chatterjee has already spoken with the Civil Aviation Minister about this. It is true that even in North-East. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : The Civil Aviation Minister was to be here today.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, the hon. Member should look at the time-table of the NDA before raising a matter in the House.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : At his request, I did not mention it yesterday. He came to me and asked me to raise it on Thursday as he would be back that day. But Shri Ram Vilas Paswan has created more problems for him, what can I do ?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : So, Sir, even in the North-East also I realised that in the seven States Plus Sikkim, the flights have been reduced in the last eight to ten years instead of increasing them. The terrain their needs more air links than any other part of our country, comparatively. So, I will draw the attention of the Civil Aviation Minister on the issues raised here. I am sure that he will take necessary steps.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I would request the hon. Minister to ask him to refer to the points and not about the Rajya Sabha episode.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : So, he will see that the Tokyo flight from Kolkata is continued again and some flights are increased in North-East. I will take this up with him.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I thank the hon. Minister for this.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN : Sir, illegal business of manufacturing and sale of spurious drugs is going on openly in our country. Any poor fellow buy medicine from the chemist shops and gives it to his near and dear with the hope that he will recover but that

medicine proves to be spurious and instead of saving the life of the patient it takes his life.

You can imagine the gravity of the situation. Even life saving drugs, antibiotics and multi-vitamins are spurious. The racket of manufacturing spurious drugs is going on in Delhi, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. In Orissa hospitals, administration, Doctors and Chemists were involved in the racket of manufacturing of spurious drugs. You can gauge the gravity of the situation by the fact that there has been thirty to forty per cent fall in the sale of medicines manufactured by the reputed companies. It is not so that the number of patients have come down but thirty to forty per cent spurious drugs have been purchased and taken by the poor people. I would like to say that manufacturing, import, distribution and sale of medicines are governed by the Drugs and cosmetic Act, 1940 and if any one is found selling spurious drugs he is fined and punished but this Act is not being complied with strictly. Therefore, I would like to urge upon the Government that the mechanism to check the quality of drugs should be implemented strictly and Drugs quality and control organisation at district level should also be strengthened. This is a serious matter and is related to life of the poor People therefore, the Government should pay attention towards this. This is my submission.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri M. Rajaiiah

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur) : Sir, Shri Abdullakutty's name is number one. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jos, I know that. I will also call him. Now, Shri M. Rajaiiah.

SHRI RAJAIH MALYALA (Siddipet) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a very important matter regarding an amendment to article 243 (C) of the Constitution of India for adopting three-tier Panchayati Raj structure.

The provision in article 243 (C) (2) of the Constitution of India has resulted in creation of six elected functionaries in the three-tier Panchayat Raj system. The intermediate and district level functionaries, viz. Member, Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency and Member, Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituency are not having any day-to-day functions except attending the meeting of the Mandal Parishad and Zilla Parishad respectively. There is no organic linkage between the three tiers of Panchayat Raj institutions in the present structure. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Reading from the paper during Zero Hour is not a good practice.

SHRI RAJIAH MALYALA : The amendment to article 243 (C) of the Constitution is required. We are having elections in our State. That is why, we request the Government of India to amend the article 243 (C) (2) of the Constitution of India in order to implement three-tier Panchayat Raj structure. Sir, some Territorial Constituencies like MPTC and ZPTC have been unnecessarily introduced in this. They have no functions except attending the meeting. That is why, I am requesting the Government of India to amend article 243 (C) (2) of the Constitution. I request the Government to take an immediate action in this regard.

SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY (Cannanore) : Sir, I would like to raise an important issue regarding the proposed Kannur International Airport.

It may be recalled that during the tenure of the United Front Government, the proposal for the construction of an international Airport at Moorkanparamb in Kannur District has been approved in principle and this has been announced on the floor of the House. The Airport Authority of India appointed an expert team to study the feasibility of the project and it is understood that a positive report has been submitted. The Government of Kerala has already gone far ahead and started the land acquisition process for this purpose. Hundreds of families in the area are evacuated. Topography of the land is such that 12,000 feet runway can be constructed. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Abdullakutty, you are also doing the same thing of reading from the paper.

SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY : I may also bring to your kind attention that this project will not entail any financial burden on the Government of India since it is proposed to be constructed under BOT scheme.

In this connection, I may also draw your attention to the recent reply given to the Question raised in the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha in respect of this project. The reply does not appear to be correct. The fact is that there is no International Airport within 300 kilometres of the proposed site. The two International Airports, namely, Bangalore and Trivandrum, are more than 300 kilometres away from the proposed site.

Construction of this Airport will bring in an overall development to this backward area in the State of Kerala. Moreover, this will also enhance tourism development in a big way. Under these circumstances, I request the Government through you to re-examine the matter and give clearance to this project.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor) : Sir, the U.A.E. Government has banned visa to Indian labourers, mostly

unskilled, during the last more than one year. In this situation, thousands of Indian families, thousands of unskilled labourers have lost their employment opportunities and it will also affect thousands of poor families. Majority of them belong to Kerala. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seat. I will call you. Please sit down.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : The ban on issue of visa by U.A.E. Government has put labourers in Kerala in a very pathetic situation. In U.A.E., the Indians are mostly engaged in the semi-skilled labour. Unskilled labourers in India are not getting visa. The U.A.E. Government was always interested in Indian labourers in the past and the Government of U.A.E. was giving special consideration to the Indian labourers and used to recruit them for various posts either skilled or unskilled and other top posts. We sincerely thank the U.A.E. Administration for giving employment opportunities to Indians.

I think the present situation has arisen due to the misunderstanding of the U.A.E. Government. I also sincerely thank the U.A.E. Administration to give employment opportunities and protection to the Indians in the U.A.E. If there is any misunderstanding in the mind of the U.A.E. Government towards Indian labourers, the Government of India, the Ministry of External Affairs should urgently intervene in the matter and resume bilateral discussion between the two countries. Also, the Government of India should pressurise the U.A.E. Government to withdraw the ban on the issue of visa to Indian labourers in U.A.E.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur) : Sir, my subject is related to the Medical Council of India.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Yours is a State subject. You cannot raise State matters in the House. Your notice is on a State matter. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am not going to allow those hon. Members who have given notices on State matters.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH : This is not state matter.

[English]

DR. SANJAY PASWAN (Nawada) : Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a very serious matter. DGFT is a Directorate under the

Ministry of Commerce and it has paid goodwill money to two industrial houses during the pendency of the cases. It is a very serious thing. The cases were won by the DGFT. Despite winning the cases, during the pendency, the two companies, namely Alok Exports and Nirmal Exports, have been given Rs. 70 lakh as good will money. I do not know why. While subsidy cuts and austere measures are being taken by the Government, this goodwill money is being given to the two big houses. What for? I want to know that. Through you, I want to draw the attention of the Government that this nexus between the bureaucracy and the business houses should be exposed and the guilty officials should be punished.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rashid Alvi, we have already discussed the demands of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha) : This is a very important matter. It is about the security of the entire country.

[Translation]

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the entire House towards this matter. Khalistan K.Z.F. Supremo Ranjit Singh Alias Neeta has come to India four times after crossing the international border during the last five months. He is entering Jammu and Kashmir as and when he wishes to do so and recruit his people there. Such people move freely in the entire country and when they desire, they go back. I do not know whether the Government are aware of it or not. I am in possession of a newspaper published from Kashmir and three months ago on 18th it was reported in this newspaper that he is entering into India on a certain date but despite this no action was taken by the police in this regard.

Sir, this man is reported to be responsible for the bomb blasts in the Sealdah Express and Pooja Express on 10th November and 19th March respectively. There is grave danger to the security of the country. This country has witnessed Kargil incident but Home Ministry is inactive. The Home Minister is unaware of the movements of the terrorists. Sir despite appearing news in newspapers to this effect the Ministry of Home Affairs is totally unaware of it. No action is being taken in this regard. I have been told that ISI agents have been nabbed who have anyhow managed to intrude in the security force deployed to provide security cover to the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir. This is the State of affairs and when ISI agents have intruded in the security cardone of the Chief Ministers, I am pained to say and it is a matter of profound regret that any citizen in the country is not safe. The terrorists nabbed in Kashmir has been reported to have links with Khalistan and the ISI.

Sir, I would like to ask from the Government as to why it is so inactive despite the situation having turned so grave. News is appearing in the newspapers and the Government are even not aware that the terrorists are intruding in to our country through Nepal border and going back after roaming in the country. Stringent action should be taken in this regard. Through I have given the notice regarding the arrest of dalits in Firozabad and the Minister gave a statement in the House but despite this action has not been taken in this regard. No police personnel has been put under suspension in Firozabad. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Yogi Aditya Nath.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand, I have got 50 notices today.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are not allowing your own member.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Sir, no action has been taken against any one. I would also like to make a point in this regard. . . .(Interruptions) The Government should take some action in this regard.

YOGI ADITYA NATH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a direction issued by the Medical Council of India due to which all the Medical Colleges in Uttar Pradesh have come on the verge of closure. Due to arbitrariness of the Medical Council of India all the seats in post graduation course in Medical College at Gorakhpur has been scrapped. The BRD Medical college at Gorakhpur is the only Medical College in the eastern Uttar Pradesh. Besides the four crore population of Eastern Uttar Pradesh it is also catering the need of the people of northern Bihar and Terai region of Nepal. Due to arbitrariness of the Medical Council of India the Medical colleges are certainly on the verge of closure.

Sir, I would like to request the Government of India to issue necessary directions to the Medical Council of India and the Government of Uttar Pradesh so that the Medical Colleges in Uttar Pradesh particularly in Gorakhpur may not be closed and the seats in post graduation course which have been scrapped. . . .(Interruptions) may be restored. The seats in MBBS course which have been curtailed to half be restored upto the prior level. Necessary

[Yogi Aditya Nath]

direction should be issued to Medical Council of India and Government of Uttar Pradesh in this regard.

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk) : Sir, the Calcutta Port and the Haldia Port are lifeline of the economy of West Bengal. But, now, Calcutta Port and Haldia Port are facing an alarming situation because they had already spent about Rs. 477 crore for dredging of the shipping channel. The Government has only given Rs. 233 crore. Rest of the amount of the Reserve Fund has not been given by the Ministry.

12.36 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

As per the decision of the Cabinet in the year 1994, it is the duty of the Government of India to dredge the shipping channel, which is the national waterway of our country. If the fund is not given, then the dredging work will be stopped. The Calcutta Port Trust has spent Rs. 477 crore of the Reserve Fund for the dredging purposes. The rest of the amount, namely, Rs. 244 crore is not given by the Ministry of Surface Transport and the Ministry of Finance. The employees of the Calcutta Port Trust will not get the salary and also the development works will be stopped. The Port is a very important infrastructure for the development of the industry.

This year the Calcutta Port including Haldia Port, as a whole, achieved the fourth position among the eleven major ports in respect of handling traffic, in spite of so many hurdles and in spite of being riverine port. Also, at the time of signing an accord on sharing of Ganga water between Indian and Bangladesh, the Government promised to provide adequate funds for dredging the shipping channel.

So, I request the hon. Prime Minister, hon. Minister of Finance and hon. Minister of Surface Transport to allocate the rest of the amount, namely, Rs. 244 crore to the Calcutta Port Trust immediately, which is outstanding during the period 1999-2000. This is my humble submission.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Muraleedharan, this matter has already been raised.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (Calicut) : Sir, it is a new matter. I am raising an important matter regarding certain difficulties faced by the air-travellers travelling from Calicut to abroad. . . .(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have already allowed him. How can all of you talk ? I have allowed him.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Arrah) : MR. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not get a chance even after repeated requests.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You, please have patience, you will also get a chance. You should not make noise.

[*English*]

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN : Sir, I would like to raise a very important matter.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not get a chance to speak. What shall I do ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are a senior member, you should be well acquainted with the procedure. All will get a chance, you please sit down.

[*English*]

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN : Sir, I would like to raise an important matter regarding certain difficulties faced by the air-passengers travelling from Calicut to other countries.

The Airport Authority of India, Ministry of Civil Aviation had issued an Order No. AV 200 3/6/8/91NB dated 22.9.1994, in which they have decided to collect users' fee from the passengers travelling from Calicut to abroad. For the last five years, the Ministry of Civil Aviation got Rs. 32 crore by way of users' fee. The extension work of this airport is going very slowly.

Sir, you must have also received so many representations from the people and passengers from that area. The runway extension work is going on very slowly.

So, my humble request is that users' fee charges from the passengers travelling from Calicut to abroad should be stopped with an immediate effect. The runway extension work should be completed within two months and Instrument Landing System should be introduced as early as possible.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the opium cultivation in India. More than half of the total opium production of India is done in my Constituency. At

the time of weighting of opium, the officials of the Narcotics department perform the testing of opium by machine and accordingly grading is given, as per its quality. One day when the weighting of opium was being carried in Chittorgarh district, some cultivators expressed their resentment because proper grading could not be assigned when the samples of opium were put into machine. Due to resentment of the cultivators, the officials present there called on the police. The police started lathicharge on the cultivators without any reason. They neither talked to the cultivators nor did they listen to their problem. The photograph of this incident of lathicharge have also been published in the newspapers. One and a half dozen people were brutally beaten up but no action has been taken against the guilty police officers. In spite of all these happening the farmers are being implicated in false cases.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What do you expect from the Government of India ?

SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI : My submission is that the weighting and testing of opium should be done again and this job should be started from a new level after replacing that faulty machine. It will give a relief to the farmers of that area.

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Sir, the Chota Nagpur region is a source of revenue for the railways. The facilities which should be provided especially in regard to the maintenance of Dhanbad and Mughalsarai railway station and in the trains which run from there, are not available. I urge you to increase the number of trains running in Dhanbad and Mughalsarai division and particularly in Chhota Nagpur region, beautify the railway station and more trains should be stopped at stations. Alongwith it, the developmental work should be undertaken in proportion to the receipt of revenue from a particular rail mandal and basic amenities should be provided to the passengers.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani) : Sir, the work of laying the underground cable by the telecommunication department is going on throughout the country especially in Maharashtra. But the quality of the cable which is being laid is not good. Moreover that is not being laid as per the normal prescribed depth. The security belt is not constructed properly over the laid cable. The job of laying underground cable should be undertaken properly. The work of laying cable is not satisfactory even in my Constituency. There is possibility that telephone system might go way wire. As has happened during the time of Sukhrarnji that the telephones which were supplied became put of order, it should not be the case now. A lot of Government money is being spent over it. I urge that

the job of laying Cable should be done properly. You should issue instructions to the concerned officers of the Central Government.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through you, to a very important issue which is concerning the Gulf War victims.

During the last Gulf war, thousands of people lost their belongings and their property. . . . (Interruptions) The Ministry of External Affairs had set up a Cell in the Ministry to look into the various aspects of this issue. The Kuwait Cell, which has been constituted in the Ministry of External Affairs, had received hundreds of applications from the victims who had returned from there after the Kuwait War. Now the situation is that the Kuwait Cell is sleeping on the issue and they are not taking decisions on the applications which were received, I think, one year back. The victims are suffering because of this.

I would like to urge upon the Government to take urgent and immediate action on the applications received by the Ministry of External Affairs in the Kuwait Cell. I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister of External Affairs to take this issue very seriously and give justice to the people who returned from the Gulf.

Thank you. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please resume your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN (Banda) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, You are calling everyone, you did not call my Name.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You go to your seat, I will call you. It is not the way that you keep on coming here.

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, why does not my turn come ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have said that I will call everyone turnwise.

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, There is an important matter, it is my turn now, hence you should listen to me first.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You must go to your seat, I will call you.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the MPs get a quota of 50 coupons

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

every six month for distributing them in their rural areas, for making available the gas connection. I want to say that there is no problem in urban areas but many people in rural areas are eager to get the gas coupons. The presently available quota of 50 gas coupons is very less. I had even talked to hon. Speaker Sir in this regard. He had also agreed that the quota is very less and it should be increased. I had also talked to the concerned Minister in this regard. He was of the view that he do not have any objection. The standing committee on Petroleum has also submitted its report in which it has been recommended that 200 coupons for each three months should be given while the hon. Minister has agreed to the demand of 100 coupons. Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister of State for Petroleum who is sitting here, that when the hon. Speaker, has given his consent, the concerned Minister has agreed and the Standing Committee has also recommend therefore, this quota should be increased.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Pramod Mahajan ji is sitting here, he should request the Government to increase the quota of gas coupons so that the people in rural areas could be provided the gas connections. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister is sitting here, you please instruct the Government in this regard.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, are you reacting to this ?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our Ministry is very actively considering this issue and it has been decided to do away with the waiting list pending till date. As far as the question of increasing the quota of gas connections for MPs is concerned, we will try to provide maximum quota as per the availability of the gas connection.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, the Government is planning to bring a legislation regarding marriage and divorce of Christians. Sir, a lot of discussion has taken place in this regard. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR (Dadra and Nagar Haveli) : Sir, Please allow me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please resume your seat.

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR : Sir, I have been giving notice for three days.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your matter is disallowed by the Speaker. So, I cannot allow you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : I am speaking on the point of divorce. Please allow me to speak. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Delkar, please resume your seat. Your matter is disallowed by the Speaker and therefore, I am not calling you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR : Sir, you should allow me. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your matter is allegatory and therefore, it is not allowed by the Speaker. I cannot allow you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, the Christian marriage laws and laws regarding divorce are going to be codified, and the Government is going to bring a legislation in this regard. The draft legislation which has been prepared by the Government with regard to Christians' marriages. . .

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Thomas, please be brief. I have to accommodate everybody.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, I am ready to speak within a minute, but I am not allowed by other Members to speak.

Sir, the draft, which has been circulated, shows that there are so many infirmities which are to be very seriously discussed amongst different denominations as well as between different denominations of the Christians. Sir, there are so many customary ways of solemnising the marriages and also other aspects relating to marriage. So, I would submit that some serious discussion should be further ensured before the law is presented before Parliament. I would quote one example. The priest who is to conduct the marriage can be punished up to 10 years for a small flaw on his part. That is seen in the draft legislation. Again, the Christian, who wants to marry in the Church, can marry only when both the persons are

Christians. That is also a very serious infirmity on which the Christians have got a lot of opinions. I would submit that this is a matter relating to personal law and so, further discussions must be held with different denominations and also the customary aspects have to be considered, before the legislation is brought here. I am happy that the codification is going to come. I would like to have some response from the Government in this regard so that any apprehension in the minds of the community can be taken away.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, the hon. Member gave every information except a small one, which I would like to share with the House, that the hon. Law Minister is already holding discussions with various Christian organisations and only after the discussions, the Government will come out with the legislation. The Government has no intentions to take away rights or traditions of any minority belonging to different religions and communities in this country. So, after a full discussion, it will come here and then, we will also have a discussion thereon.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki) : What about suitable changes to be made in the law itself ?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : As I said, the discussions are on and based on the discussions, we will make suitable changes. Even during the debate in Parliament, everybody will have an opportunity to express his views. But I have said that the Government has no intention to take away any rights of minority groups, religious, linguistic or otherwise. So, a full discussion will take place. . . .
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You cannot dictate the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Pune Nasik rail line is a very important one. The line connects the important industrial towns like Pune, Chinchwad, Pimpri and Nasik which is also a metropolitan area. The survey of this rail line has already been done. Through you, I would submit to the hon. Minister to give permission for laying a new rail line for this region.

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR : Sir, I want to know why I am disallowed. . . .(Interruptions) Sir, Dadra and Nagar Haveli is a tribal area and I am the only Member coming from there. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I know that it is a tribal area. Since the matter to be raised is against the

administrative officers, the hon. Speaker has disallowed it.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, I am not expected to give an explanation here.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR : Please allow me, Sir. This is a very serious matter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, I will not allow you. Now, I am giving the floor to Shri V.S. Sivakumar.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR : Is there no democracy, can't we speak here ? Why have we been sent here after being elected. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record expect Shri Sivakumar's speech.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR (Thiruvananthapuram) : Sir, I would like to bring to the kind notice of the Government the indescribable delay in commissioning the 65 kilometres double-line between Kollam and Trivandrum Central Railway Stations. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Speaker has disallowed it because it goes against the rules, and I cannot review it. Please cooperate with the Chair. You can meet the hon. Speaker. Nothing will go on record. Shri Mohan, do not interrupt like this.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR : A host of obstacles, including labour problems and the reluctance of the Railway Safety Commissioner to certify the 15-kilometre stretch between Kadkkavoor and Murukkumpuzha, are the reasons for this. The doubling works ought to have been completed on 31st March, and the new line should have been commissioned, as announced earlier, by 14th April. But the Railway authorities have twice postponed the commissioning of this newly laid 65-kilometre railway line. The non-commissioning of this railway line has become a major bottleneck in the railway network in Kerala.

Therefore, instructions should be given to the authorities to complete the railway line on a war-footing

*Not Recorded.

[Shri V.S. Sivakumar]

basis, and dedicate the second line to the nation by May 30, 2000. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Mohan, I am on my legs. You are a senior Member, please resume your seat. I am on my legs.

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR : Sir, it is a very serious matter. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If you do not behave properly, then I will have to take action against you.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have to take it very seriously.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR : What should we do ?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : As per the rules, it has been disallowed. So, you are not going to raise that matter here. I cannot allow you to raise it.

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR : I want to know the reasons.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am not expected to explain to you as to why it has been disallowed. I have told you that you should go and meet the hon. Speaker and explain the position to him. It is against the rules and, therefore, we cannot allow that matter to be raised.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Kulaste, the issue that you wanted to raise is a State subject. Therefore, you are not allowed to raise that matter now.

Shri Basu Deb Acharia, your issue is related to the Supreme Court. It has already been raised. Now, you are not allowed to raise that matter.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record because I have not allowed him.

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is disallowed. Nothing should go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The matter is related to the Supreme Court. Now, I give the floor to Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Railway Department had announced to construct four bridges one in Malviya Nagar, second in Gopalpura, third at by-pass and fourth in Jhotavara to streamline the transport system of Jaipur city. The construction of two bridges have been completed but no bridges have not been constructed at Gopalpura and Jhotvara. In the absence of it, traffic scenario is deteriorating in Jaipur city. The people are facing lots of problem while travelling. Therefore, I request from the Minister of Railways that bridges at Gopalpura and Jhotvara should be constructed at the earliest.

The other demand is that a bridge should also be constructed at label crossing number 81 at Savai-Madhopur line of Jaipur only.

13.00 hrs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is also very necessary to construct a bridge at label crossing No. 79. Similarly, there is a need to construct a bridge at label crossing No. 224 on Jaipur-Bandikui railway line which goes towards Jaipur Railway Station Yard. It is also very necessary to construct a bridge at label crossing No. 219 situated at Jaipur-Phulera railway line.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a need to construct bridge over Jaipur Railway line. With the grace of hon'ble Minister of Railways and Government of India, the decision was taken to construct four bridges in Jaipur with a view to streamline the traffic system in Jaipur city. The construction of two bridges at Gopalpura and Jhotvadra has not been completed. The bridges have been constructed at Malaviya Nagar and Bain Godam. I would like to thank the hon'ble Minister for the construction of these two bridges and I would also request the hon'ble Minister to make arrangements for the construction of remaining two bridges at earliest.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Phoolan Devi ji, your complaint has been sent to the State Government. No reply has been received yet in that regard. When reply will come then you can ask question, not now.

SHRIMATI PHOOLAN DEVI (Mirzapur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have given the full details in writing and I have brought full details here also. Please allow me to express my views. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You cannot raise this matter in the House, till the Government give its report in regard

to your complaint. You will get an opportunity only after the comment of State Government is received.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record now.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad ji the information has been received in regard to your letter. That letter has come from the Speaker of Bihar Assembly. It has been sent to Home Minister, Government of India for his comment.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, that letter is related to Industries policies and Promotion Department of Government of India. It has nothing to do with Home Ministry. I have mentioned very clearly in my letters that Shri Uma Dhar Singh is sitting on hunger strike for the last 17 days. His condition is very serious. The joint Secretary of Industry Department has filed wrong affidavit in the Supreme Court. The matter should be investigated. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, the letter received in this regard from Speaker, Bihar Legislative Assembly, has been forwarded to the Ministry of Home Affairs for necessary action.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he has given the wrong affidavit. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna) : Mr. Deputy speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have given opportunity to Mishraji, Rawatji, please see, he is standing in front of you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : The Government should be informed of the matter. . . .*(Interruptions)* He is sitting on 'dharma' for last 17 days. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity

to speak about solutions to the problems of sugarcane growers. . . .*(Interruptions)* The sugarcane growers of Uttar Pradesh are very distressed. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The letter of Speaker received from there has been sent to Home Ministry for action.

(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : This matter is related to Ministry of Industry. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this matter is related to Department of Industry. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, they have filled a wrong affidavit. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this matter is related to Industry. . . .*(Interruptions)* The then secretary has filed a wrong affidavit. . . .*(Interruptions)* The Ashok Paper Mill is in Darbhanga. . . .*(Interruptions)* It is adjacent to my area. . . .*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Uma Dhar Singh a MLA is sitting on hunger strike for the last 17 days for this. . . .*(Interruptions)* His condition is serious. . . .*(Interruptions)* The then Secretary has filed fake affidavit. They are demanding an inquiry in this matter. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The Government should take some action in this regard. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I would like to say that Government should seek information in this matter. . . .*(Interruptions)* This matter is not related to Home Ministry, but to the Department of Industry. . . .*(Interruptions)* The Government should seek information in this regard. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The Government should take some action in this regard. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, how can I compel them ? This is connected with the hunger strike of an MLA from Bihar, and the hon. Speaker of Bihar assembly has written to us. Now, it has been referred to the Home Ministry.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You do not like me even to complete ?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : How will it go to Home Ministry. . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

The affidavit was filed by the former Secretary, Industrial Policy Promotion Department. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, will you please listen to me ? The Hon. Speaker has written to the Home Ministry and the appropriate action is to be taken by the Home Ministry.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : He has given a false affidavit. . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : No, Sir. It is connected with the Industry Ministry. . . *(Interruptions)* Industry Ministry will have to take it up and not the Home Ministry. . . *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the matter should be referred to the appropriate Minister. . . *(Interruptions)* It should have gone to the Ministry of Industries, but it was referred to the Home Ministry. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAHIB SINGH (Outer Delhi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he is privileged to occupy the chair in the House, even then he creates disorder. . . *(Interruptions)* he should atleast maintain the dignity and decorum of the House. . . *(Interruptions)* He is a very old member. . . *(Interruptions)* he always keeps rising on his seat. . . *(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The matter should be referred to the Industry Ministry. . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please co-operate with the Chair. Still a large number of Members are there to speak. Yesterday also, a number of Members could not get chance to speak during 'Zero Hour.' Let us give chance to everybody who has given notice.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SAHIB SINGH : The MPs who create such disorder, should not be given chance to speak. . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia and and Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please hear me. The issue is regarding false affidavit. If it is a false affidavit, it can be taken up with the court as 'a contempt of court.'

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This matter was about false affidavit. The procedure for this is that if anybody has given false affidavit, the matter comes under the ambit of contempt of Court.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : How does it come ? . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

it is not the contempt of court. The false affidavit was filed by the former Secretary. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Will you please hear me ? I am on my legs.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The Government should take notice of this. . . *(Interruptions)* Whenever anybody speaks from that side, he responds. But he does not respond on our submission. . . *(Interruptions)* It is a clear cut charge levelled against him that when we speak, he keeps sitting without taking any notice of any submission made by us. . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, whatever is raised here, the Government always takes note of it. The appropriate action is also taken whatever necessary. But I would like to request the senior Members that the 'Zero Hour' in the Lok Sabha is not making decisions on-the-spot on the issues which are not known. Any Member can raise his issue during 'Zero Hour', and you cannot take a decision on-the-spot.

If the senior Members start taking 15 minutes, 20 minutes, 30 minutes to speak on one issue, the other Members will not be able to get any chance to speak. We should accommodate everybody. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Raghuvansh Prasad ji, you take your seat only when I rise to speak that's why I rise to speak. Both of you take your seat upon my rising to speak, Now I rise to speak, please take your seat and let others speak. . . .(Interruptions)

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : For the last two three days, many Members could not get chance to speak. As we had to adjourn the House. Please let the list be completed today. Please Raghuvanshji.

[English]

if any false affidavit is filed, it can be taken up in the court. Whatever letter we have received from the Hon. Speaker has been forwarded to the Home Minister for proper action. What more can you expect ?

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga) : This is a matter a part of which is in a court of law. I want to bring one thing to your notice. There are two questions. One is that this matter will be taken up as a contempt of court proceeds. Another is, as you rightly said, the Government will initiate action against the person who is stated to have filed this false affidavit. If false allegation is made, the Government should take action against it.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : In order to verify the facts, we have written to the Hon. Speaker. Hon. Speaker has written to us and on the basis of that, it is to be forwarded to the Home Ministry for whatever action is to be taken.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Hon. Deputy Speaker is repeatedly telling you that Home Ministry is inquiring into this. He has said this ten times. What else you want ?

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD : Hon. Member may be persuaded to break his fast into death. Hon'ble Member may be informed about this so that he could be persuaded to break his fast.

[English]

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, you are wasting the time of the House unnecessarily.

(Interruptions)

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is already there. I have called Shri Ram Nagina Mishra.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India towards the miserable condition of Sugarcane growing farmers of Uttar Pradesh. I do not know the condition in the rest of the country, but the sugarcane growers in Uttar Pradesh are facing hardship, their condition is really pitiable so much so that the reply sent by the Uttar Pradesh Government to the Central Government is very disappointing. Crores of rupees of sugarcane growers are outstanding against sugarcane mills. In my constituency alone, 75 crores of rupees are outstanding. 18 crore is outstanding against the Kanpur Sugar factory, Kathkuian, Padrauna and Gauriganj, 14 crore rupees against Kaptanganj, 22 crores of rupees against Sardar Nagar, 5 crore rupees is outstanding against Government mills thus a sum of 75 crores of rupees is outstanding. The reply sent by Uttar Pradesh Government to the central Government is also very disappointing for the farmers of Uttar Pradesh as it has been stated that out of 35 sugar factories under the Uttar Pradesh sugar corporation, 29 have been declared as sick. BLFR has declared that these mills are economically not viable. Out of them six have been closed, rest of them are going to be closed. Besides, the Kanpur Sugar works which is under the control of Government of India, owe an amount of 18 crore rupees as sugarcane arrears. . . . (Interruptions)

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please speak in brief.

SHRI RAM NAGINA : I am speaking in brief only. You have given an opportunity after so many days. Please let me tell the hardships of sugarcane growers. Please listen. Today the situation has come to such a pass that the case of Kanpur Sugar works under the control of Government of India has been lying pending in BIFR for the last four years, but the honourable Judge of BIFR handed over its control to Gangotri Enterprises. 18 crore rupees is outstanding against it in four years and the mill is also not running for the last two years. The State Government has not said anything either about Kaptanganj or about Sardar Nagar and many other mills are also going to be closed, then what would be the fate of Uttar Pradesh farmers ?

I would like to know from you. . . . (Interruptions)

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : Don't say this to me. Say this to the Government.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : You are our protector, we would like to know from the Government through you. I would like to submit all the Members that what is the fault of sugarcane growers of Uttar Pradesh that crores of rupees of these farmers are outstanding against mills, four mills are closed. I would like to request that the Central Government should intervene in this matter. Hon'ble Minister is present here, I would request him to say something about the sugarcane growers.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Minister would say whatever he is to say. You may kindly sit, I am calling Mr. Sajivan.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : The sugarcane growers are dying there.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can bring the matter to the notice of the Government during Zero Hour, but you cannot Compel to give its reply instantly.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : The Government is paying attention to other things, but it is not paying any attention towards the sugarcane growers, who are dying and whose crores of rupees are outstanding against sugar mills.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Damoh) : This is a very serious matter. Crores of rupees of the farmers are outstanding. . . . (Interruptions)

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Parliamentary Affairs Minister would like to say something, please listen to him.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is true that the problem of sugarcane farmers is a big one, especially in the area of Ram Nagina ji. I have myself gone there with him. It is also a problem of the Government that the sugarcane mills are not running properly. The farmers are not getting money properly, I would say this to the Minister for Agriculture.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have said about 75 crore rupees.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Whose amount is outstanding.

[English]

We will find out who has to pay it and see to it that it is paid. . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : You do not want to listen to the Minister even.

[English]

It is impossible to conduct this House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir the 'Zero Hour' is turning into a Question Hour for the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, without even a notice! It is very difficult for me to answer all the questions on the spot.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, seven persons were killed on 2nd May this month in Basai village under the Tundla police station in Firozabad district of Uttar Pradesh. Out of them, four were Dalits, who were killed by the Uttar Pradesh police. The police made a fake case of encounter. This matter was also raised in U.P. Vidhan Sabha which has to be adjourned due to this very matter. I could not get a chance to raise this matter in Lok Sabha, and I am sorry for that. It is demanded that the close relatives of the Dalits who were killed, should be given Rs. 10 lack each as compensation as also the guilty police personnel, should be punished and prosecuted. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You made your submission now kindly take your seat.

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN : In 1990-91 in this very House when a discussion took place on the killings of Dalits Lok Sabha, the then Prime Minister announced an assistance of Rs. 3 lac each to the near and dear of the victims. . . . (Interruptions)

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Ram Sajivan ji, what is happening. You wanted to raise a matter, so you have raised. I have called Mr. Anadi Sahu.

(Interruptions)

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take care of others also. You have drawn the attention of the Government wherever you want to. You have expressed your views, now please listen to others.

[English]

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is rather unfortunate that only persons with lung power are always being allowed to speak in the 'Zero Hour' and those who stand and wait do not get any chance.

The matter that I want to raise is relating to the Doordarshan Kendra, Bhubaneswar. Thirty-six casual

workers have been working there for nine to fifteen years. Thirteen lighting assistants have been working there for about six years. . . . (Interruptions)

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Members, will you please sit down ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANADI SAHU : Sir, I again repeat it. Thirty-six casual workers have been working in the Doordarshan Kendra. Bhubaneswar for the last nine to fifteen years.

Thirteen Lighting Assistants have been working there for the last six to seven years. . . . (Interruptions)

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record. You will not get your chance.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANADI SAHU : Sir, last year, the Doordarshan Kendra Directorate had asked them to opt for taking up regular service in different Doordarshan Kendras of India. They gave their options. But unfortunately, for the last six months, persons who had given options from other Doordarshan Kendras of India are being brought to the Doordarshan Kendra, Bhubaneswar and are being given regular service, to the detriment of those casual workers who had been working there. For the last six months, many of them do not have any work. I appeal to the Government to take up the matter of those 36 casual workers and 13 Lighting Assistants of Bhubaneswar Doordarshan Kendra and provide regular employment . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SAGAR RAWAT (Barabanki) : Seven Dalits have been killed. This Government is silent. . . . (Interruptions) BJP Government wants to hide this incident that is why the Government are not speaking. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have called Shri Mchan Delkar. He is from the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, today I want to put a very serious issue before the

House. There is no democracy in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and the entire executive power are vested in beaurocracy. There some senior officers are Pestering some elected representatives out of the revenge by levelling false charges against them. I had raised this issue in previous session also. So officers tried to pester me by levelling charge against me. They tried to endanger my life. I got this matter inquired and the enquiry proved that the charges levelled against me were false but, I am very sorry to tell you that no action has been taken against them who were responsible for this. Today, there condition is such that the elected representatives, whether Sarpanch or the Officials of District Panchayat all are being pestered by the officials through levelling false charges against them. They are being demoralised. Recently, just 10 days ago, an FIR has been lodged against one Sarpanch and a member of District Panchayat. I have proved in the Home Ministry that a wrong FIR has been lodged. I have demanded for an enquiry against them and action should be taken against them but, till today no any action has been taken against them and till today no any enquiry has been held against them. Those very officers are still there in the office. Our entire elected representatives have served notice to the Government that if the Government does not take any action against the officers involved, then they would resort to agitation and would come to the streets and would resort to hunger strike. I want to tell that if there is any law and order problem in Dadra and Nagar Haveli then the Government will be responsible for this. Dadra and Nagar Haveli is a backward area. Today, I want to record this fact in the Parliament that if tomorrow, Dadra and Nagar Haveli becomes the second Nagaland, second Manipur or the other Tripura, then the Central Government will be held responsible for this. I want that Central Government should intervene in this matter as soon as possible. There public is thinking to demonstrate on the roads. I want that the Central Government should intervene and improve the situation there. I want that the Government should call the meeting of Home Minister's Advisory Committee which is the highest forum. It is my request. I want that a meeting should be called immediately. Pramod Mahajan ji, after all we are your supporters and we are supporting you. The situation there of Dadra and Nagar Haveli is such that the Government should intervene, you should give Statement on it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There is no need to repeat it.

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR : The Government should intervene in it. . . . (Interruptions)

*Not Recorded.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Sahib Singh says.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs towards your problem. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the news item has been published that there is an all round cry in Delhi due to the lack of water. There is possibility of paucity of water. A treatment plant of 40 MGD is ready in Delhi and a plant of 20 MGD is ready in Bawana, but there is not a single drop of water supplied there. There is no water in the wells. The water level of hand-pump has gone down 4 to 10 metres. It will rain in Delhi after two months. The public of Delhi are compelled to face such a big difficulties.

Similarly, 2500 megawatt of electricity is required in Delhi and we do not have more than 2000 megawatt of electricity. We had started a power project of 1600 megawatt in Delhi. The Central Government had also cleared these project. But now it has been informed that the power projects of 600 megawatt and 450 megawatt i.e. a total 1050 megawatt capacity in Bawana for which tenders had been invited, have since been closed. Similarly, a 300 megawatt power project had to be installed in Narela, but it has also been closed down simply because its foundation stone was laid by us. There is going to be acute shortage of water and electricity in Delhi. There is no water in unauthorised colonies and JJ clusters. Water is over and public is worried. I would like that the Central Government should call the Delhi Government and intervene in it and should give them strict instruction, so that this problem could be solved and the people of Delhi may get relief.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, while associating myself with the matter, I want to tell one thing. Sir, while I was Chief Minister, on 12 June, 1994 an accord was signed among five states with regard to the water of Yamuna river. In that accord it was decided that a certain quantity of water would be supplied to Delhi, but that quantity is not being supplied to Delhi. The quantity is being blocked and as a result, there is crisis and cry for water in Delhi. I would like to clarify one thing that by Delhi it does not mean New Delhi alone. The population of Delhi is one crore, out of which

60 lakhs people are residing in Jhuggi jhopari, unauthorised colonies, slums and in 'Katras' and they are not getting water. That is why my request to you is that the agreed quantity of water should be given to Delhi as per the accord of 12 June, 1994 which was signed by the five Chief Ministers.

The second thing is about the electricity. 45 to 50 per cent of power theft is committed in Delhi. There are one and half lakh of factories in Delhi, where 15 lakh of workers work. These factories are on the verge of closure for want of power. It is a question of employment of 15 lakh people. That is why, through you, I want to request both, the Minister of power and the Minister of Water Resources that power should be provided to Delhi and as per the agreement of 12 June, 1994 water should be provided to Delhi.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas Athawale you have already lost your chance. Every time you get up and utter a sentence.

[Translation]

How many sentences you have uttered one by one.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of Government towards a piece of news published in a National Newspaper. In written reply to a question pertaining to the Ministry of Home affairs, it was stated in Rajya Sabha that the incidents of violation of human rights are increasing and Uttar Pradesh is ahead of all. 40,724 cases of violation of human rights had been registered. Out of which half i.e. 22043 cases belong to Uttar Pradesh. The Government of Uttar Pradesh may claim that the law and order situation is improving in the State but fact is that the incidents of violation of human rights recorded during the last three years have discredited all claims of the Government. In 1996-97, 8600 incidents of violation of human rights were registered in Uttar Pradesh which doubled i.e. 17638 in 1997-98.

The number increased to 22043 in 1998-99. This is not only in respect of the matters regarding violation of human rights but the condition of the women in the State is also same. 11,000 cases against the women were registered in the State during 1997, the number increased to 17,000 in 1998 and 14,000 in 1999. . . .*(Interruptions)*

Sir, it is not an ordinary matter. Crime is rapidly increasing in Uttar Pradesh. Incidents of human rights

*Not Recorded.

violation, rapes, and incidents of atrocities on women are on increase. . . .(Interruptions) You please direct the Ministry of Home affairs to keep a check on all these incidents. . . .(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Sir, the Government had started social assistance programme on national level under the Directive Principles provided in Article 41 and 42 of Constitution since 15th August, 1995. Under this programme a national policy was formulated to provide social assistance to poor families, old age persons and to a poor family where an earning member dies and for maternity cases. Old age pension and pension to widows are a part of this policy.

Sir, I am sorry to say that Rajasthan Government has stopped old age pension and pension to widows in the name of financial crisis for the last 3-4 months and it is being propagated that payments were not made due to the non receipt of funds from the Central Government. Through you, I would request the Central Government to direct the Rajasthan Government not to stop the old age pension and pension to widows. These schemes are a part of social assistance and. . . .(Interruptions) they should not be stopped. Payments should be released timely on regular basis.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY (Ranchi) : Sir, in absence of Panchayat elections, Bihar is not getting its share worth billions of rupees from Central Government. Bihar is facing a loss of billions of rupees because Panchayat and corporation elections are not taking place there. In the absence of the elections. Government officials at block level and district level are functioning arbitrarily and none of the schemes launched by the Central Government are running successfully, whether it is Indira Awas Yojana, IRDP or Assured Employment Scheme.

Sir, I request the Central Government to direct the Bihar Government to immediately hold the Panchayat and Corporation elections. Panchayati Raj System should be implemented there, only then all the schemes can be successfully completed on time.

[English]

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to speak on a matter which relates to the developments in Sri Lanka. According to the today's newspaper, the External Affairs Minister of the Sri Lankan Government has come here and has held talks with the Defence Minister and the Prime Minister. Some such details have appeared in the Press. I hope the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs knows it. I am not saying anything about the internal matter of Sri Lanka, regarding the fight

that has gone on for several years between the Sri Lankan Government and the LTTE. It is their internal matter and we do not want to interfere in that. This is our External Affairs policy also. According to the recent report, the Sri Lankan Government has approached the Government of India through its emissary and has held talks in Delhi. They have sought the help of the Government of India in either sending its Army to Sri Lanka for help or supplying arms and ammunitions to them.

We would like to know such whether talks have gone on between the two countries or not. What exactly is the reaction of the Government of India to it? Sir, the matter is so urgent that through you I request the Government of India, to make a statement during the course of the day. In the beginning of the day the Minister of Defence was very much in the House but we do not see him now. He might have gone to the other House. I would press the Government to come out with a statement where exactly the matter stands now. Let the House be informed about the developments; if there are any, in this regard.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, during the Question Hour, the DMK Members have already raised this issue. I did not want to interrupt because the hon. Member, Shri Bangarappa was speaking. The Minister of External Affairs is going to make a statement in this regard in Lok Sabha immediately after lunch recess.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Sir, there is a severe scarcity of drinking water in Orissa. Out of 314 blocks, about 190 blocks are water stressed. Most of the blocks not only in the Western parts of Orissa consisting of Kalahandi, Nuapada, Koraput, Bolangir districts etc. but also the coastal Orissa consisting of districts like Balesore, Cuttack, Puri, Bhadrak, Jajpur, etc. are water stressed. The watershed management programme is virtually a non-starter in Orissa. The money that was given by the World Bank for funding this irrigation project in Orissa was swindled by the previous Government of Orissa. The CBI is going to conduct an inquiry for that.

My request to the Government of India is that it should strictly monitor the watershed projects. I would also request that the safe drinking water projects which were sent to the Central Government by the Government of Orissa should be cleared immediately. The Government of India should provide money and sanction additional grants to the Government of Orissa for sinking tubewells for the ensuring summer season.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw your

[Shri Ramdas Athawale]

attention towards a very important matter. Babri Masjid in Ayodhya was demolished in 1992. Vishwa Hindu Parishad has announced to construct Ram Mandir there. The issue is still with the High Court. Construction work of Ram Mandir should not be started till the announcement of High Court judgement. Therefore, army is required to be deployed there because we do not have faith in the State Government. We have full faith in the Army. Vishwa Hindu Parishad has announced that the construction of Ram Mandir shall be started from 18th June. Therefore, I request hon'ble Pramod Mahajan to clarify whether army is being sent there or not.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is 'Zero Hour'. You have drawn the attention of the Government. I know it is a very serious issue. I understand this. But during 'Zero Hour' you can raise an issue but you cannot compel the Government to respond.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious matter that they are trying to disintegrate the country. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are ready to give full support to construct the Ram Mandir but we oppose its construction at the same place where Babri Masjid was situated earlier. Ram Mandir should be constructed at another site. . . .(Interruptions) Such type of activities should not take place till the judgement of High court. We can allot another site to construct Ram Mandir. Therefore, Shri Pramod Mahajan, I want specific reply whether the army will be sent there or not.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are a very senior Member. Reply is not given to the matters raised during Zero Hour. It is not a question Hour. You have invited the attention of the Government towards it. If the Government intends to react, I have no objection. I cannot compel them.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : I am a junior Member. I have been elected to Lok Sabha for the second time only.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If you come second time, then you are a senior Member.

SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (Yatnal) (Bijapur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. The work of the gauge conversion between Sholapur and Godak in my constituency have been completed upto Sholapur. The work is yet to be completed at Godak. Funds to the tune of Rs. 133 crore 40 lakhs are

required to accomplish this work but a provision of only Rs. 10 crore has been made in the budget for the year 2000-2001. Out of these 10 crores, 5 crores were diverted to Sholapur yard during a review meeting held at Sikandrabad on 6.4.2000. Consequently, the work at Bijapur has been postponed. Bijapur, Gadak, Sholapur and Bagalkot are four districts and are places of tourists interests also. A provision of 50 crore rupees should be there in the budget for the year 2000-2001 and the work should be done as early as possible. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I know Shri Ananth Kumar has prompted you. I have seen it. From The Chair, I cannot compel the Government to give you reply.

[Translation]

SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (Yatnal) PATIL : It would be better if the hon'ble Minister would reply in this regard.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If the hon. Railway Minister wants to react, I have no objection to it.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all formalities have been completed to open Guru Ghasidas Medical College in Bilaspur district of Madhya Pradesh. State Government has sent the recommendation to the Central Government. I request the Central Government to give its approval to open Medical College at Bilaspur.

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the recent spate of attacks on the minority institutions in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana and even in Maharashtra. Mainly these incidents have been reported from Uttar Pradesh. Fourteen cases have been reported. Weeks back hon. Member Shri Sudip Bandhyopadhyay had raised this issue in the House. But, till now no action has been taken; nobody has been arrested; and nobody has been brought to book.

I have myself visited Mathura. I am sorry to say that members of the minority community, especially inmates of convents, are living in fear. The Government has not taken any action so far to protect them. It is a sorry state of affairs that in a great democratic country like ours, a minority community has to live in fear. It is the duty of the Central Government to protect the life and property of the members belonging to minority communities.

In fact, the Government had assured in this House itself some weeks back that proper action would be taken.

These incidents are brushed away as acts of robbery and theft. Actually, these incidents started happening after the Bajrang Dal organised a camp in Mathura. From 8th March to 18th April, 14 cases had happened mainly in UP. But no action has been taken so far which is very unfortunate. I urge upon the Central Government to direct the UP Government to take stringent action to see that occurrences will not happen again and to protect the life and property of all the minorities in the country, especially in UP.

[Translation]

VAIDYA VISHNU DATT (Jammu) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the absence of rains during last few days, Samba, Rajouri and Kandi areas of Jammu are facing acute water crisis. Even after 53 years of our independence, the people are compelled to drink pond water and their live stock go to farflung areas for water. In such circumstances in hilly areas it is quite difficult to get water by boring. Therefore, there is shortage of water. Also there is no river from where can be fetched.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is 300 km. long area where people are distressed due to non availability of water. The people could not get this facility even after independence. Therefore, my request is that the Department of Water Resources should launch a special programme for this area so that the people should not fall ill after drinking pond water even after 53 years of our independence. Besides, check dams should be constructed there to store the rain water and to deepen the wells to get the water under the million wells scheme. This much is my request to the Government.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.50 p.m.

13.48 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till fifty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.54 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at fifty-four minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN in the Chair]

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, let us take up Legislative Business-Introduction of Bill. Shri Rajnath Singh.

MOTOR VEHICLES (AMENDMENT) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Rajnath Singh, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988."

The motion was adopted.

DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN : I introduce the Bill.

14.55 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to declare Dumaria-Areraj-Chhapwa State Road in Bihar as National Highway**

[Translation]

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH (Motihari) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Champaran is the frontier district of Bihar. However, its district headquarters, Motihari has become a centre of activities of ISI these days. The area along the open border of Nepal-India is not easily accessible. One National Highway which passes through Gorakhpur-Piprakoti-Muzaffarpur and further to Roxaul via Piprakoti-Chhapwa and enters Nepal, is also a main highway for entering Nepal. The people of Delhi-Uttar Pradesh and other parts of the country have to enter Bihar through Gorakhpur and then they have to enter Piprakoti and Chhapwa by Serpentine highway before reaching Roxaul and Kathmandu.

Hence, I urge the Union Government to declare the 35 kms. stretch from Areraj near Dumaria bridge to Harshidhi Chhapwa as national highway and start construction work so that Nepal may become easily accessible. It would benefit the people of Champaran who are backward from the point of view of transportation and the people of the country as a whole who go to Kathmandu. The construction of this road would also strengthen the security of the country.

* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II, Section-2 dated 4.5.2000.

(ii) Need to open LPG outlets in certain towns/villages of Gurdaspur district, Punjab

[English]

SHRI VINOD KHANNA (Gurdaspur) : Sir, as per the eligibility for allocation of a LPG Gas Agency, an LPG Gas Agency is allocated to a town/village population of which exceeds 5,000. But the following towns/villages of Gurdaspur district whose population far exceeds 5,000 mark have not been allocated a LPG Gas Agency :

(a) Marara, (b) Harbortman, (c) Dina Nagar/Gharota, (d) Dorangia, (e) Barsola, (f) Kala naur, (g) Bhangla, (h) Dhar Kalan.

I would like to request the hon. Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas to immediately initiate action for opening LPG Gas Agencies in these towns/villages.

(iii) Need to accord early sanction to Lakhunder River Project of Madhya Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Lakhunder River Project has been conceived to cater to the water requirement of Devas Bank note Press located at Devas, Madhya Pradesh. The said project will solve the water problem of Devas Bank Note Press. The said project was approved in principle two years ago. Now, this project has been sent to the Ministry of Finance after preparing its detailed estimates. This has to be approved by the expenditure Committee of the Finance Ministry but as a matter of fact the meeting of the expenditure Committee has not been held since a long time. I have demanded a number of times that this project should be approved. I request the Government once again for the early approval of the said project.

(iv) Need to protect the interests of Indigenous Industries

SHRI BHERULAL MEENA (Salumber) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the present industrial policy has caused resentment among the workers of public undertakings. The workers while realizing their responsibility have tried to make these industries viable which were earlier incurring losses and now these industries have turned into profit making industries. The indigenous industries and public undertakings have to suffer losses as foreign companies have been provided custom-excite concessions and other facilities. I urge the Government not to allow public undertakings earning profits at company level to purchase shares. I can say with confidence that officers and workers have

awakened and now they are realizing their responsibilities and are increasing the production of industries. I also urge the Government that these undertakings may be encouraged so that they may prosper because due to the importance given to privatisation the officers and labourers employed in public undertakings feel that despite working so hard their working ability is seen with doubt which ultimately leads to the decline in their morale. I want that these undertakings should be run as they are in order to boost the morale of workers and management and to increase their production.

15.00 hrs.

(v) Need to advise Chandigarh Administration for effecting Amendments to building by-laws allowing essential Minor alterations in residential units

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Sir, over the years, a very large number of people have effected some minor need-based alterations in the residential units or shops in Chandigarh. This was done not clandestinely but with the full knowledge of the Administration. Now, while the Administration has promised to make necessary amendments in the building by-laws, it has, on the other hand, issued notices threatening resumption, etc., on a massive scale causing widespread harassment to the genuine occupants numbering at least one-fourth of the total population. This exercise has achieved nothing except breeding corruption.

I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to instruct the Chandigarh Administration to urgently effect amendments to building by-laws in tune with today's requirements and regularise the need-based alterations without, of course, compromising with architectural imperatives aesthetics, safety and, in the meanwhile, suspend notices for old actions.

(vi) Need to open a Centrally-sponsored Medical College at Murshidabad district in West Bengal

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (Murshidabad) : Sir, the district of Murshidabad in the State of West Bengal is unique for its demographic features. About 63 per cent of the population of the district belongs to minority community. Over the last 50 years, since Independence, a young and aspirant middle class has developed amongst the minority community with the spread of education and culture in the district.

Now, quite naturally, there is an ever-growing demand for higher education amongst the youth in the district, particularly those belonging to the minority community. But, there is no scope for pursuing medical education as the medical colleges in the State are too few in number and most of them are located at a considerable distance from the district. The demand for professional education, like medical education, is so strong that it warrants efforts on the part of the Government to set up one Centrally-sponsored medical college in Murshidabad. If the Government comes forward with such a proposal, the people of the district would surely respond with great enthusiasm and support in all possible ways.

The Government is, therefore, urged upon to explore the potential of such a venture in terms of existing infrastructure, local resources available and, most important of all, opening up of avenues for fulfilment of aspirations of a community-long denied of opportunities-for developing their skill.

15.04 hours

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*]

(vii) Need to re-route Hyderabad-Cochi Express via Guntakal and also to introduce a new train between Guntakal and Trivendrum via Bangalore

SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU (Anantapur) : Sir, it is unbelievable that the impact of Konkan railway is being felt in the far away Andhra Pradesh's district of Anantapur. Hitherto Anantapur enjoyed a place of pride in the railway map of India. In fact, the district is the gateway to South and North. All trains from Mumbai to Kerala used to pass through Guntakal junction and Anantapur town stations of the district. At least ten to fifteen trains were being operated on this route. Puttaparthi, the abode of Bhagwan Sathya Sai Baba is the special attraction of the district. Devotees from four corners of India visit Puttaparthi throughout the year. Apart from this, Sathya Sai Trust in Puttaparthi also set up a super speciality hospital in the holy town. Being first of its kind in offering ultra modern treatment for all serious ailments free of cost, it is attracting thousands of patients from all neighbouring States. For a common man who wants to visit Puttaparthi, the only access is the train.

So far the trains running between the State of Kerala and Mumbai used to cater to the needs of travellers to visit Anantapur. But after the inauguration of Konkan railway, the trains between Kerala and Mumbai, and Kerala and other North Indian destinations were diverted to newly

established railway line. This snapped the direct relations developed between the district of Anantapur and the State of Kerala. Now the people of Kerala who are living in the district are finding it difficult to go to their motherland. So, I request the Railway Minister to re-route the Hyderabad-Cochi Express via Guntakal and Dharmavaram. It would be of great help if the hon. Minister introduces a new train between Guntakal and Trivendrum via Bangalore.

(viii) Need to review National Security Act with a view to remove defects in it

[*Translation*]

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL (Phulpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of this House and the Government of India towards the rationale behind National Security Act and also its misuse.

Youths belonging to minority community of Chaka, Damgadha and Utaaraon villages under Utaaraon Police Station in Allahabad falling in my parliamentary Constituency Phulpur were arrested on the night of 4/5 March on false charges and on 22nd March, they were booked under the National Security Act by the D.M. of Allahabad which puts a question mark on the very object and rationale of this Act. No FIR was ever lodged against the youths arrested under the National Security Act.

I urge upon the Government to conduct a CBI enquiry in the said incident of Utaaraon Police Station in Allahabad District and punish the guilty officers after getting the innocent youths freed. Besides, the National Security Act should be reviewed to plug the loopholes present in it.

(ix) Need to provide stoppage of Tapovan Express at Roteagaon (Vaizapur) Railway Station in Aurangabad, Maharashtra

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad Maharashtra) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the local residents association under my chairmanship in my constituency in Sambhaji Nagar (Aurangabad) Maharashtra had submitted a representation to the Zonal Collector of Railways to arrange to provide a halt of Tapovan Express Train No. 7617/7618, running between Nanded and Mumbai, at Roteagaon (Vaizapur) Station in the morning for the benefit of daily commuters. The authorities had also conducted a survey in this regard. However, no concrete step has been taken so far.

Therefore, my request to Hon'ble Minister of Railways is that while considering the demand of public, he should issue order, as early as possible for providing stoppage

[Shri Chandrakant Khaire]

of Tapovan Express at Rotegaon (Vaizapur) Railway Station for a minute for the convenience of the people.

- (x) **Need to mitigate hardship being caused to commuters due to closure of roads for construction of a new over-bridge at Tirunelveli Railway Junction, Tamil Nadu**

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli) : Tirunelveli, being a big town has Palayamkottai and Melapalayam as adjacent suburbs. Due to the constant movement of pilgrims and tourists, there is a lot of traffic congestion at the site of the construction of a new bridge. Hence, the people of Tirunelveli town are facing much hardship in commuting to their offices, schools, business places, etc. To avoid the present hardships they have to take a circuitous route to reach their respective destinations. The existing side roads of the bridge have been unnecessarily closed for public traffic in view of the ongoing construction. The people have already requested the district authorities and the Madurai Railway Divisional Authorities to open this existing side road for use of travelling public. As an elected member of Tirunelveli parliamentary constituency, I visited the site personally on 29th and 30th of March, 2000 and came to know the daily problems faced by removing the side walls at the railway junction gate which is presently closed and the road may be opened for public until the construction of the new overbridge is completed. I request the Government to take immediate action and necessary instructions may be issued to the District authorities and Madurai Railway Divisional Authorities in order to overcome the daily problems faced by the people of Tirunelveli town in Tamil Nadu.

- (xi) **Need to run direct train between Jammu (J and K) and Haridwar (U.P.)**

[Translation]

VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA (Jammu) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Jammu and Kashmir State is known as the city of temples. Crores of pilgrims come here every year to have Darshan of Mata Vaishno Devi, Baba Amarnath and visit other tourist spots and on return they like to visit Haridwar. But there is no rail service between Jammu and Haridwar while there is already train route between these two cities. Many rail services from Jammu to Punjab and other places are incurring losses. One of them can be re-routed to Haridwar which will prove to be profit making to the railways also.

15.12 hours

[SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN *in the Chair*]

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Situation in Sri Lanka

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission, may I make the statement.

Recent developments in Northern Sri Lanka are a matter of serious concern to India. The Government is closely monitoring the evolving situation. The Government of Sri Lanka has also been in touch with the Government of India. Our High Commissioner to Sri Lanka was, therefore, called to New Delhi earlier this week for consultations on the developing situation.

Sir, the Government of India will be guided by its continued commitment to a negotiated peaceful resolution of the conflict, within the framework of Sri Lanka's unity and territorial integrity; a united Sri Lanka where all communities can realise their aspirations. It is India's hope that peace will soon return to Sri Lanka, a country which is a close and friendly neighbour.

The Government of India has received some requests from the Government of Sri Lanka in the context of the present situation. Naturally, all these requests are receiving the urgent consideration of the Government.

The conflict in Northern Sri Lanka continues to cause serious hardship to civilians in the area. As the hon. Members are aware, there are nearly 1,00,000 Sri Lankan refugees in India, including about 30,000 outside the refugee camps. On humanitarian grounds, India continues to look after these refugees. In consonance with this, India will work to mitigate the hardship inflicted upon civilians by the conflict and will render such humanitarian assistance as may become necessary. As and when need arises such assistance will be decided upon only in consultation with Sri Lanka.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, according to Press reports, Chief of Air Staff, Shri Tipnis is dashing to the capital of Sri Lanka, Colombo. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria) : In Lok Sabha, there will be no discussion at the time the statement is made by the hon. Minister. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : In the morning, you raised this matter and the hon. Minister has made a statement now. That is the end of the matter. There cannot be any debate now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : Sir, I would like to seek only one clarification. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The rules do not permit for any clarification.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Otherwise, there will be no end to it. . . .*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : It is not provided under the rules. That is the problem. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : Sir, we know the rules. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I cannot give you permission. I cannot go beyond the rules.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : Sir, Chief of Air Staff is dashing to Colombo. I would like to know whether it is a fact or not, and also what exactly his mission is. That is all. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Rule 372 says :

"A statement may be made by a Minister on a matter of public importance with the consent of the Speaker but no question shall be asked at the time the statement is made."

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : It is not a question. It is some information to the House.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : It is some information to the House.

15.15 hrs.

FINANCE BILL, 2000

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the hon. Finance Minister may start the reply.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Is he rolling back ?

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga) : Is he rolling back ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Sir, I rise to reply to the very interesting debate which took place in this House for over eight hours until late into the evening. Last evening, the discussion was initiated by hon. Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari. He set a very high standard for the debate. Shri Vaiko from our side and other Members followed into that tradition. This was one of the best debates, one of the best discussions that I have seen in this House.

With the reply to the Finance Bill and the voting of the Finance Bill, we come to the end of the budgetary business in this House. The Finance Bill follows the presentation of the Budget because the Finance Bill contains the taxation proposals of the Government. Yesterday, therefore, when we were discussing the Finance Bill, while some of the hon. Members did refer to the various provisions of the Finance Bill in whatever light they saw those measures, many of the other Members have referred to certain general issues. Those general issues had already been covered in the general discussion that we had on the Budget in this House, again for many hours. I think it took place on the 15th of March. Therefore, if I am remiss in not responding to some of the issues which were raised yesterday and to which I had responded earlier in my reply, I hope I will be forgiven.

I would like to begin by what hon. Member, Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari said in the beginning. I realise that he was hard put to criticise something which he did not really want to criticise but political compulsions demanded of him to say something. He said that the Budget is dreamy and it is not based on reality. A general impression has sought to be created as if the two years that we have in office have been wasted years in the economic field and that when other formations were in power, then things were much rosier and much better. I have collected some information. I would like to contest that claim, especially, because when the hon. Leader of the Opposition was speaking in this House, she also referred to this and referred to the point that while during the Congress regime, 1991-96, a growth rate of around eight per cent was achieved. She said that the alarming weakness of collapse of growth levels under six per cent was a matter of concern. She said that this was the real issue because she was referring to me and talking about a political consensus for economic reforms.

15.19 hours

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

Now, what are the figures ? I will be very considerate, I will be very honest and, therefore, I am excluding the

[Shri Yashwant Sinha]

year 1991-92 which was a crisis year as we all know. I am taking the average of the next four years of the Congress regime, that is, 1992-93 to 1995-96. I am taking the average of two years of the UF Government and the average of the two years that we were in office. If I could refer to the figures, the average of these four years when the Congress Government was in power, in terms of real GDP growth, works out to 6.5 per cent. So, 6.5 per cent was the growth rate in four years. I have taken the four best years. The highest rate of growth in any one year was in 1995-96, and it was 7.3 per cent only.

It was nowhere near eight per cent, and the average, as I said, was 6.5 per cent. What was the performance of the two years of the UF Government? It was only a shade worse. It was 6.3 per cent for those two years. What has been the performance of two years that we have been in office under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee? It has been 6.4 per cent. So, 6.5 per cent, 6.3 per cent and 6.4 per cent was the highest rate of growth in the Congress regime, as I said. That growth rate not only continued but spilled over into the UF Government regime. It was 7.5 per cent. The highest growth rate, we have ever recorded in 1996-97 dipped to five per cent in 1997-98 and went up again to 6.8 per cent when we assumed office in 1998-99 and it is estimated to be 5.9 per cent. I am going by CSO estimates, I am not raising to 5.9 per cent in 1999-2000. So, these are the figures.

I would like to quote one more figure because this is also something which is being discussed in this House. It was mentioned even yesterday and that is, the performance of the agricultural sector. It was made out as if agriculture has actually suffered. When we came to power agriculture had done extremely well. When others were in power the average in the Congress regime as far as agricultural production was concerned was 3.5 per cent. The average of the two years when the UF Government was in power was 3.9 per cent and the average of the two years that we have been in office is four per cent. So, these are the figures which speak for themselves and, therefore, I will suggest to respected Tiwari that we certainly have our feet firmly planted in reality on the ground and we are not really floating in thin air.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna) : If you can yield. Should you not compare what the growth has been this year compared to the growth in your first year? The growth in your first year and I stand to be corrected, was about 7.2 per cent and the growth this year has been 0.8 per cent. There has been a sharp fall. So, the average shows only a mean level of four per cent or whatever.

But the fact is that this year you have come down to 0.8 per cent.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI (Nainital) : I had mentioned a whole list of major announcements made by the hon. Finance Minister which had not been implemented. I was mentioning the "Dreaming Budget" in that context. Will he please explain why these major announcements regarding the poorer sections of population were not implemented?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : The hon. Tiwari was a picture of dignity yesterday I would like him to hold his patience a little longer because I am going to cover all the points which have been raised. I have just begun. I would like to request hon. Members through you that if this kind of interaction goes on then it will become more difficult for me to touch all the points.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I want to thank you for yielding.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : When hon. Members like you or Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari stands up, courtesy demands that I should yield.

It is true that the GDP rate this year is at 5.9 per cent as Shri Madhavrao Scindia said, because of a decline in agricultural production. It was only 7.2 per cent in 1998-99. It is expected to be around 0.8 per cent in 1999-2000 and that is what despite a strong performance on the industrial front has brought down the overall growth rate. But if you look at the agricultural production over the years--which I have given them when I was replying to the general discussion on the Budget, I had given the annual figures on the First Plan onwards--you will find that it goes down, valleys and peaks. That is how the agricultural production has behaved in this country. That is the trend and therefore, if you look at your figure, for instance for 1995-96, in our case it is 0.8 per cent positive.

It was minus 0.9 per cent in 1995-96. But I am not blaming you because we know that as far as agricultural production is concerned, there are a number of factors which influenced agricultural production including Government's policy and also, for instance, the weather.

This is as far as growth rates are concerned and I do not see any reason why this Government should be apologetic about the performance that we had put in during the last two years. I would like to say that industrial production has picked up; it has turned out to be quite an impressive performance. All the estimates of the current year--whether it is the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, whether it is the Reserve Bank of India or anyone else who is looking at the prospects of growth,

every one is projecting a seven or over seven per cent growth for the current year. I would like to assure this House, Sir, through you, that this is the growth rate that we have targeted in this year's Budget and we are determined to achieve, if not exceed this growth rate.

Now, as I said, the Finance Bill deals with taxes. My friend, Shri Rupchand Pal raised some fundamental issues. I would like to respond to some of those issues. He made the point that tax-GDP ratio was declining. That is a fact because the tax-GDP ratio in 1990-91 was 10.8 per cent. That was a crisis year, but still the tax-GDP ratio was 10.8 per cent, one of the highest that we have seen ever and it declined and it continued to decline for various reasons. But I am happy to inform this House that the ratio has gone up from 8.2 per cent of the GDP in 1998-99 to 8.9 per cent in 1999-2000. We are on the way up and, once again, I would like to say that this ratio will go up. The tax-GDP ratio will go up. I would like to mention some facts here.

Shri Rupchand Pal also referred to the ratio of direct and indirect taxes. I have some figures here. The ratio of direct to indirect tax in 1991-92 was only 19.1 per cent for direct taxes and 78.4 per cent for indirect taxes. However, in 1999-2000, the direct tax share had gone up to 33.5 per cent and the indirect tax share had come down to 65.9 per cent. This is a very healthy trend. This is not an accident, but this is the result of the conscious policies that we have followed.

What are the conscious policies that we have followed? From 1993-94 to 1996-97 – this is a very important fact that I would like to bring to the notice of the House—the number of tax payers in the Income Tax, direct tax side, continued to hover around one crore mark. There was no jump and there was no increase in 1997-98. The credit must be given to the U.F. Government's Minister of Finance, Shri P. Chidambaram, who, unfortunately, is not in the House today. Shri Chidambaram came out with the two-by-four formula and a result of that two-by-four formula in 1997-98, we added 15.24 lakh new assesseees in the year 1997-98. The House will recall that in 1998-99 Budget I changed that formula from two-by-four to one-by-six, and also extended the coverage and made the quotation of PAN compulsory for high value transactions. There were some criticisms even in this House as to why I was doing it.

But I knew that this would have salutary impact on the tax evaders. I am glad to report to this House that in 1998-99, we added 41.11 lakh new assesseees to the income-tax rolls and have crossed the two crore mark in December, and by March, the number of income-tax payers in this country has gone up to 2.15 crore. It is

an exponential increase in two years and that is as a result of the steps that we have taken. I have extended in this year's Budget, this 1/6 Scheme to 79 more cities and I am quite sure that this will show further beneficial results by addition to this year's tax regime.

As far as indirect taxes are concerned, it has been my efforts to simplify and rationalise the Central Excise and Customs Duty structure and simplify the procedures. I am glad that in the 1999 Budget, I was able to reduce the major rates of excise duty and from 11, I brought them down to three. This year we have created the Central VAT of 16 per cent. In effect, it has been brought down to one rate and 86 per cent of the total revenues of excise will be collected in this slab. Similarly, seven major rates of customs duty have been reduced to four this year.

The question of black money was raised. We are doing our best to ensure that the generation of black money in the economy is curbed. To my mind and I am being very honest—the problem of black money cannot be tackled by coming out with one black money immunity scheme after another, year after year, because that breaks the morale of the honest tax-payers, that breaks the morale of the tax enforcement authorities, and therefore, I have eschewed this path in my three budgets.

There was a mention of the *Kar Samadhan* scheme. Let me hasten to add—this is the point which I had clarified in 1998—that the *Kar Samadhan* scheme was not an immunity scheme; it was to settle the disputes between the tax-payer and the Government. Therefore, I have not followed the foot-steps of some of my very distinguished predecessors and I would like to ensure that the entire machinery of the Government catches hold of the black-money fellows. We behave like Kaaldoots for them rather than give in to them and submit to their wishes by having one immunity scheme after another. Therefore, we are doing our best to ensure that all this is taken care of.

A question was raised about the arrears of tax. It is a very important problem. But it is not a problem which got accumulated in the last two years. It has a large backlog of accumulated arrears which I had inherited. I would like to take the House into confidence and say that I and my colleagues in the Ministry, the Ministers of State, have been going out to each major centre in the city, personally talking to the tax officials and making sure that the arrears are reduced to the minimum, and I am glad to inform the House that the rate of increase has been arrested and we are trying to control the situation. Here again, I would like to assure the House that our efforts to ensure that we collect the arrears which are due and the amounts which are due, will continue.

[Shri Yashwant Sinha]

The other issue which was raised was in regard to Permanent Account Numbers. I would like to say that during the last two years, we have disturbed 1.65 crore Permanent Account Numbers to the various assesseees.

In this year's Budget I have already said that the PAN will be the common business identifier and I am also happy to report to the House that the Income-tax Department has set up 33 Computer Centres in 1998 along with three Regional Computer Centres and one National Computer Centre. We are trying to computerise both the Boards in order to ensure that things proceed in a reasonable and taxpayer-friendly manner.

The other issue that was raised here-I think again Shri Rupchand Pal raised that issue-was about the dispute which arose with public sector undertakings in regard to payment of tax. MTNL's case was cited. It was unfortunate that there was a misunderstanding and MTNL went to the High Court. MTNL was told that the Tax Department was in the right and, therefore, they ended up paying the tax which had been demanded.

But the other point which had been made that we were being soft to the multinational companies is not a fair criticism of the Government's tax administration. I would like to say that it was under my leadership of the Finance Ministry that we caught hold of the MNCs who were not deducting tax at source. I ensured that they were surveyed. As a result of that, in 1998-99 we ended up collected Rs. 600 crore from the leading MNCs operating in this country. This is the attitude that we have towards the MNCs.

Here I would also like to refer to another issue which has been raised in this House by hon. Shri N.D. Tiwari and some others and Shri Kirit Somaiya from our side. This is in regard to the Mauritius route of tax avoidance. There is nothing that the Government has to hide in this regard. The avoidance of Double Taxation Treaty was entered into in 1983. It is a very old Treaty. In 1992 Mauritius changed its law and permitted offshore funds to be set up in Mauritius.

From 1st January, 1993 the stock markets in this country were opened for foreign institutional investors. Now, this has almost happened in tandem that we opened our stock markets for foreign institutional investors and Mauritius changed its law to permit the foreign investors to come and set up shops in Mauritius.

Now, what happened this year? I got a letter from the hon. Finance Minister of Mauritius. This is a letter dated

27th March, 2000. I would like to quote this letter. He said in this letter :

"Excellency, my attention has been drawn to a recent development that puts at risk one of the pillars of Indo-Mauritian economic cooperation."

One of the pillars of Indo-Mauritian economic cooperation, according to him, is this Tax Avoidance Treaty. He went on to say in this letter that :

"Companies incorporated under our off-shore regime are residents of Mauritius for tax purposes."

Hon. Member Shri Somnath Chatterjee is sitting here. He will be able to appreciate this point. Other Members who practise law on this side would be able to appreciate this point that they are residents of Mauritius under the Tax Treaty.

Now, I went into this question in some detail – not because I was bothered about their stock market but because the Finance Minister of Mauritius had written this letter of me. I had to give it due weightage and because one of the pillars of Indo-Mauritius economic cooperation was at peril. So, I went into this question and I found a precedent.

What was that precedent? In 1994 the Chief Commissioner of Income-tax in Mumbai had made a reference to CBDT that certain funds had come in through a Cayman Island registered company which was a resident of Mauritius. When that reference was made, then CBDT issued a clarification. CBDT issues clarifications. It is nothing unusual for CBDT to issue clarifications on important issues.

So, When the CBDT issued the clarification, on the 8th of October, 1993, *The Economic Times* carried a news report. What did it say? The headline was 'CBDT stands on capital gains to hit foreign investors'. When this news report appeared, then things moved fast in the Ministry of Finance and the CBDT, which had given one interpretation, changed that interpretation and it was clearly mentioned that as long as they were residents of Mauritius, they were taxable in Mauritius and not in India, according to this Treaty. Now, what is my fault? My fault is that when this matter came to my notice, the CBDT examined this issue, brought it to my notice, decided to issue a clarification and the only clarification that has been issued is that in respect of a company which is resident in Mauritius, we will go by the certificate of the Mauritian authority whether it is resident in Mauritius or not for tax purposes and we will not go and make inquiries whether those companies are following Mauritius' laws or not and

whether the Government of Mauritius has issued, rightly or wrongly, those residence certificates. That was the simple clarification which was issued by the CBDT to put to an end to the issue which had been raised by the Finance Minister of Mauritius.

Sir, while I am on this subject, I would like to say that much was made here yesterday in the discussion as if I am the Finance Minister for Mumbai Stock Exchange. I am not. I would not say that I do not care for the stock market. I do not think, any Finance Minister in any modern economy can say that he does not care for the stock market. But I must confess that the manner in which the stock market has been behaving has left much to be desired. I think – if I am permitted to use that expression – it is a very silly behaviour on the part of the stock market. I can imagine the stock market responding to the fundamentals of the economy, I can imagine the stock market responding to the company results, but I cannot imagine a stock market which is only responding to rumours. Bombay Stock Market has become a market which is driven by rumours. This is why, it is behaving in a manner which is very silly. I will hope that some sanity will dawn on those who are operating in the stock market and that they will behave more responsibly as they must.

Sir, another issue was raised here. I think, Shri Rupchand Pal made much of it. I was very scared because I do not know where he has caught me, and Shri Somnath Chatterjee was also nodding violently in agreement with him. What was it? It was about clauses 100 and 101 of the Finance Bill. Now, what do Clauses 100 and 101 of the Finance Bill say? The earlier arrangement was that the Department could employ a chartered Accountant to carry out the audit of the accounts of a company which we wanted to be audited, and the law was that we will not only collect taxes on the basis of those audited accounts, but we will also charge the fees of the Auditor from that company. Now, I have made it a little more user-friendly. I have said that we will not charge that person or that company the fees for the Chartered Accountant. If the Department employs a Chartered Accountant, then the Department itself will pay that fees. So, there is absolutely nothing here to. . . .

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Then, why was it changed?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : It was changed because it is more user-friendly. If I want some accounts audited, I must pay for it. Why should somebody else pay for it? Therefore, we have said that if the Department wants, we will appoint an Auditor and they will be charging.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : There was a court case at Kolkatta of Paharpur Cooling Towers who got a

stay on this particular provision and subsequently others followed, and the Government, instead of contesting that, just subjugated themselves to such a position under pressure from the industrial houses. This is what I said.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I have said this before in the House. Shri Rupchand Pal, you also raised the question of sovereignty.

Every time we do something, it is the sovereignty of the country with which we are compromising; every time we do something, we are doing it under the pressure of industrial houses.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We have been very patiently listening to the very lucid exposition of what the picture is, which is not a true picture of the country; he is doing it very ably and we appreciate it. But the question is, what has bothered this Finance Minister, about payment of fees by the auditors, that he made conscious changes in the Finance Act? That is why, we said, "How much money have you saved for these people?"

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, the issue which was raised was a different issue. The issue which was raised was that we have amended this particular provision in order to take away the independence of the auditors. That was the point which was made that the auditors will no more be independent. Now, I cannot understand this logic; if the company is paying for those auditors, then they will act independently; if the Government is paying for them, then they will act partially. It does not make sense.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Even the records will be kept by the industrial houses and not by the Government.
.. (Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Yes, he will become more independent. That is the point which was made.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You have got a very good supporter.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I think, you are referring to the former Revenue Secretary.

These were all the issues that were raised on the tax side, and I have exhausted all the issues that were raised on the tax side. There were some other general issues which were raised.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : What about zero tax companies?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : If the hon. Member had studied the Budget proposals that I have made, he would have realised that MAT, the Minimum Alternate Tax, is

[Shri Yashwant Sinha]

something which is now applicable at 7.5 per cent across the board. The Minimum Alternate Tax was devised to prevent companies from evading tax. . . .(Interruptions) All of them will have to pay at 7.5 per cent because I have done away with all the exemptions. Except for charitable institutions, I have done away with all the exemptions because exemptions were spoiling the statute book.

Sir, NPA was one of the issues that was raised. I remember, during the Question Hour, I had answered a question here in this House. I had covered the point of NPAs during that time. So, I would not like to take the time of the House in that regard.

Then the question of external debt was raised, and a point was made as if external debt has gone up exponentially in the last two years. I have been holding this view that external debt is well within the control. This is an information that we share with Parliament; every six months, a status paper on external debt is brought before the House. As far as the external debt is concerned, we are in a very, very comfortable position. There is nothing to worry about. We have brought down the short-term external debt from 5.3 per cent, which is what it was when we came into Office, to 4.4 per cent in March 1999. It will go down further. And all students of economics would know that it is the short-term debt which has played havoc with economies the world over. This is one area where we have been extremely cautious, and we are continuously bringing down the short-term debt.

It is actually the internal debt that we have to bother about. It is the internal debt which as a result of the rising fiscal deficit has been going up. Shri Tiwari is quite right in worrying about it, in feeling concerned about it. But I would like to say that it is not our policy to borrow money and drink ghee. He has said, .That is not our policy. My colleague, Shri Kirit Somaiya, has contested that point. I have always taken this House into confidence by stating that the fiscal deficit problem has to be tackled by all of us together. You referred to the finances of the State Governments. Now, the State Government finances have indeed collapsed.

Why did they collapse? They collapsed because— and I will just share this information with the House — the total expenditure of the Central Government on salaries and pension increased from Rs. 37,401 crore in 1996-97, prior to the Fifth Pay Commission, to Rs.73,646 crore during the current year. This is the problem. It has added a huge burden, an unbearable burden, a devastating burden on the States finances. This is the problem that we have

landed ourselves in. Therefore, when I am asked as to why I do not reduce Government expenditure, I have to quote these figures to prove how difficult it is to do this. Still, we have not given up.

I am very happy to report that cutting across the political lines, we are in touch with each State Government on this. I am very happy to report to this House that each Chief Minister, whether he belongs to the Congress Party, to the Left Parties, to our party or to our alliance Parties, is today acutely aware of the problem of payment of wages and salaries and the impact that it is having on his finances. Therefore, we have sat down with them, we have devised in consultation with them certain formulas as to how we can bring the fiscal house into order. I am very happy that each one of them is going ahead. Whatever a Chief Minister might say outside politically, let me tell you that when we have a one to one meeting, we are in complete agreement in regard to the steps which have to be taken. If I had not worked out this kind of understanding with the Chief Ministers of the State Governments, I would not have been able to achieve what I did in November last year, namely, a complete consensus of the State Governments in regard to the minimum floor rates of sales tax.

[Translation]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It has created a big problem for us.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : There is no problem. I will tell you.

[English]

Everybody has fallen in line. It is a major advance towards rationalisation of taxes in the States and at the Centre. I had mentioned in my reply to the Budget debate that from the 1st of April, 2001, this country proposes to move to a VAT regime with sales tax and central excise all put together. So, that is the most important thing.

Another issue, the issue of disinvestment, was raised. I will not go into a general discussion on disinvestment. Much had been made of the fact that Modern Foods Limited has been sold for a song. On behalf of the Government it is my duty to clarify that the case of Modern Foods Limited was not a case of asset sale. It was the sale of the shares of Modern Foods Limited. We have not sold Modern Foods Limited one hundred per cent; we retained 26 per cent of Modern Foods Limited. Despite all the objections raised, the Twelfth Lok Sabha had approved what I had said in my 1998 Budget speech, that in a generality of cases Government equity in non-strategic industries would be brought down to 26 per cent. Modern

Foods Limited was a non-strategic industry. So, in line with that policy, we have disinvested up to 74 per cent.

A point was made here by somebody that we have sold Rs. 2,000 crore worth of assets for a song. We got everything evaluated. Valuation of everything was done. The market value of the total assets including land, buildings, flats, etc., of Modern Foods Limited came to Rs. 109 crore. We got much more than that. For the share whose face value was Rs. 1,000, we got a value of Rs. 11,489. This is the value that we got for our shares.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha) : By whom did you get the evaluation done ?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : We did not utilize your services for this purpose. It was done by the experts in the field. It was not got evaluated by those who said its value was Rs. 2000. I invite them also to come and evaluate it and tell me thereafter.

[English]

Sir, the question was raised about the agricultural sector as if this Government is neglecting it. I will refer to it briefly. I would like to say that in the three Budgets that I have presented, I have taken a number of path-breaking steps in order to promote the agriculture. In this regard in my Budget Speech last year, I had used that expression that

[Translation]

"What does the farmer need, he needs water and money". . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

Today, we are talking about drought. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan) : Fertilizer is also needed. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : If he has money he will buy fertilizer as well as seed. I had said that if we provide facilities such as irrigation, required loan etc., then the farmer will become prosperous. I would like to tell you that whenever I visit my constituency farmers ask me to make arrangement for irrigation. They say if irrigation facilities are provided land can be turned into highly fertile land but there is no water and today we are discussing drought in this House. I would like to remind that. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : In Orissa and Gujarat livestock population has been destroyed.

[English]

The population has been destroyed. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Let us not spread panic. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, please, let him complete.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : We are facing a difficult situation but there is no need to spread panic because whatever we say has an impact on other people. . . .(Interruptions) It is not like that. I do not know. . . .(Interruptions) We had also sent teams to Gujarat both official as well as from the party and this is not the picture that we have got. . . .(Interruptions)

Sir, about the agriculture credit, we have distributed 50 lakh Kisan Credit Cards. What is the target for this year ? The target for this year is 75 lakh Kisan Credit Cards. I had come out with the Watershed Management Scheme last year. I had increased it by 31 per cent. Shri Narayan Datt Triwari was asking me, ' what happened ?' in regard to every scheme including your *Kutir Jyoti Scheme*, we take follow up action. When a scheme is introduced in the Budget – Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari-ji, you have been one of my distinguished predecessors – you know that everything is followed up. I have personally called meetings of the Secretaries of the concerned Ministries and discussed with them the issue of implementation of the Budget announcements, not only for last year but also for previous years. I follow, and I will follow up on them when I am through with this Budget. But every scheme is being implemented. Let us not entertain any doubt in regard to the efficacious of the schemes that I have announced in the Budget, including the scheme of micro credit.

Sir, RIDF has been increased to Rs. 4,500 crore in this year's Budget. Rs. 4,500 crore of NABARD money will go to rural areas to buttress what is being done by the banks.

Sir, I would like to say that whether it is poverty or whether it is unemployment, we have taken a number of steps to make sure that these issues are taken care of through the budgetary support. And, we have requested the State Governments to ensure that they also fully participate in this. I would like to say that for the first time we are taking the State Governments fully into confidence in regard to our economic policies and in regard to the reforms programmes. Have I not, Sir ? . . .(Interruptions) I am not dealing with the Finance Minister of West Bengal on a most friendly and cordial basis. If you see the Convenor of the Standing Committee of the State Finance Ministers which is looking into all these issues, we are

[Shri Yashwant Sinha]

sharing our responsibilities, and therefore, we might take political position in this House. It is very easy for us to make political points in the cut and thrust of the debate but the fact remains that all of us, cutting across political party lines, all of us who are in power in the State, at the Centre, somewhere we are acutely aware of what the problems are, where the shoe is pinching. And, therefore, it is a common approach that we have brought to bear upon this.

16.00 hrs.

Therefore, it is a common approach that we have brought to bear upon this. This is the political consensus about economic policies and economic reforms which I am sure, is going to hold this country in good stead in the years to come.

This is the last point that I am making and I will be done. We have gone out of our way under the dynamic leadership of the Prime Minister in the last two years to promote knowledge industry in this country and even some other concessions that I announced yesterday are primarily meant to promote knowledge industry. I came across a very interesting article which was published in the *Business World* of 17th January, 2000. The heading is "Knowledge is God". This is a hand-written text on a parchment which they discovered in Daulatabad. This was known as Devangiri in the past. This is a conversion of Shri Bhaskaracharya who told his disciples then, among other things, that :

"I have seen in a dream that many centuries from now, the world will be run by great computing machine. Our people will be uniquely placed to dominate this era."

It was in 12th century A.D. edict of Shri Bhaskaracharya on a parchment. He says :

"Our people will be uniquely placed to dominate this era."

He goes on to say that :

"When the problem of zero threatens to disrupt the world, it will run to our people for help. They will solve the problem and, in the process, prove their genius in the era of knowledge. The land will prosper. Our people will once again discover the *Upanishadic* dream *Pragya Brahma*, knowledge is God."

This is Shri Bhaskaracharya in 12th century B.C. which has been left to the Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari

Vajpayee to bring that dream to ground reality. This is exactly what I have done.

Thank you very much. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Has the Prime Minister accepted the description ? What about the main issue which is concerning the country today ? The Finance Minister is very ably giving a picture and I say it is not a true picture of the country. That is a fact. Whatever you may say, it is a temporary majority here which they are having. All of them are glum faced except Dr. Nitish Sengupta who is always happy. The Finance Minister talked about the recovery of income-tax. What about the fertiliser amount that was drawn by fertiliser company by gold plating their nameplates ? Rs. 2,000/- crore are outstanding from them and if this was not recovered, you would not have to make any cut in this subsidy. Fertiliser subsidy is being paid. The amount which is reduced is really paid by the farmers. Unfortunately, the Leader of the other House says that the dues of the fertiliser companies have been reduced. I am sorry to say that it is totally misleading because the selling price has been increased. Fertiliser selling price has increased and the entire burden has gone to the farmer about whom you are shedding some tears. Therefore, I want to know from you, with all humility, what you propose to do with regard to fertiliser subsidy.

I would like to know what you propose to do with regard to the PDS prices. Here, I am sure, as in the morning, every section of the House would join me. A major section of the House would join me, including Shri Murasoli Maran, the Commerce Minister who is feeling the pinch of it in his own State. I would like to have a categorical answer from the hon. Minister of Finance.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, I would like to fully associate myself with Shri Somnath Chatterjee on the crushing burden that has been put on those below the poverty line, on the farming community and on the housewives. We were expecting some relief, some way by which their burden could be lightened, especially the burden of the farmers who are reeling today under a drought. I was very much surprised to hear the hon. Minister of Finance saying that he had visited Gujarat and that no such dire situation existed. He said that no such dire situation existed there. I have been to Gujarat yesterday. The sort of suffering that is taking place there is unbelievable – the total disorganisation in the relief camps and the way the people are not being paid their daily wages. . . .(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : Sir, it is not correct.

... (Interruptions) I am from that State. I can say that it is not correct.

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister is there. He can reply. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : The Minister should not interrupt. . . . (Interruptions) I request the hon. Minister not to interrupt. This does not look good.

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

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I do not think that we are desiring to dictate what the hon. Minister of Finance should say; and, I think that we require the minimum courtesy that they should not expect to dictate what we are going to say. Parliament is a forum where everyone should freely express his views without being shouted down. The example set, unfortunately, by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs this morning should not be emulated by the rank and file. This is my earnest request.

We were all waiting to hear what relief you were going to give to the economically weaker sections, to the farming community and to the housewives from the crushing burden of prices.

The second clarification I wanted was on Modern Foods. You referred to Modern Foods and referred to the shares being revalued. What I would like to know is, when the revaluation of the Modern Foods share was done, was the real estate value taken at the depreciated, written down value ? Or, was the real estate value also taken at market value to be then included in the revalued share price that your auditors or whoever calculated it arrived at ? Was the market value of the real estate taken ? Or, was it taken on written down value ? Then, Hindustan Lever Limited, apparently, had said that out of the workforce of approximately 4,500 people, only 700 people would remain employed and that 3,800 would be retrenched over a period of time. I think, this is the responsibility of the Government. We do talk of the safety net. We want to see this safety net operating. Can you ensure that these people do not lose their jobs ? If they do, is there any opportunity or any occasion where redeployment or retraining could take place ? If all this fails, how much would the safety net offer so that there is a real golden handshake at the end of the rainbow for those people who will be thrown on to the streets ?

[Translation]

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI : Sir yesterday I sought clarification. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We are not opening the subject for discussion. At this stage, only clarifications are sought to be allowed by the Leaders.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan) : He has simply ignored what I said yesterday. I want a reply.

MR. SPEAKER : You have participated in the discussion yesterday. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI : Sir, yesterday, I gave figures about rising pressure of poverty. It is not a party issue or a political issue. The Government is paying attention to the employment in the knowledge based industry with regard to rising unemployment of educated youths. But where from will employment opportunities come as knowledge based public schools or computer schools are not there at all places. I also drew the attention of the Government towards framing a policy for reducing the unemployment and enhancing the employment opportunities and also towards the fact that the poor and backward sections of the society are lagging behind and the regional imbalance is increasing in the country. In five states, i.e. Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan there is acute poverty. In 13 States there is less poverty and in 5-6 states there is acute poverty and this gap is increasing. About this I had asked clarification with regard to Government policy. I would like to know whether the R.B.I. in its Reserve currency and Finance Report and other reports have hinted towards this ? This is not a question of party. This is a burning question before the country. I want clarification of this question, unfortunately I did not get a clarification.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Only a small clarification is allowed now. Shri Pandeyan.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : I can understand senior leaders seeking clarifications. Otherwise, we have discussed it for nearly nine hours.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli) : Sir, the Government has notified that milk and milk products are importable freely without any restriction and at the same time, indigenous manufacturers are subjected to restrictions, contained in Milk and Milk Products Order 1992. Will it be abolished or will it be intact, to preserve the interests of indigenous manufacturers? I want an answer from the hon. Minister.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : I am on a specific point. I said during the course of my speech that there are some companies, which are considered to be the most profit-making companies of the country. They are paying, as a provision of Minimum Alternate Tax, only 7.5 per cent while others are paying the stipulated 35 per cent. What steps the Government proposes to take against those profit-making companies, which are depriving the Government of their dues in terms of revenue?

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : The matter relates to the import duty on certain items that we are importing. Take the example of newsprint. Actually there is no import duty on newsprint. In our country, as far as the production of newsprint is concerned, the factories in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and somewhere else are completely hit. All the godowns are completely full and there is no buyer at the rate that is available in the market, as far as our domestic newsprint production is concerned. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would like to think of imposing import duty on newsprint that we are going to import so as to see that our newsprint production is kept at a higher rate and also it is made available at a lower price. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : When we were discussing the Budget, I addressed the point, which has been raised by Shri Madhavrao Scindia. I had said then that I could understand Shri Somnath Chatterjee raising the issue of prices.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Your own allies are threatening.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : But they have not raised it now; you have raised it now. I had said in my reply to the Budget discussion that I could understand if they raise this issue. But I really cannot understand the Congress Party raising this issue. I am totally at a loss to understand that. I was quoting some figures. I will take the averages. Shri Madhavrao Scindia was saying ' . . . crushing burden of rising prices on the poor.' I repeat - ' . . . crushing burden of rising prices.'

When the Congress Party was in power in 1992-93 - I am excluding 1991-92, - the rate of inflation was seven

per cent, 10.8 per cent in 1993-94, 10.4 per cent in 1994-95.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : You are by-passing.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : What is by-pass? You need a by-pass. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Are you happy following them? Are you happy emulating them?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : 8.2 per cent is the average price increase of those four years. This is what happened. . . .(Interruptions) It was 6.1 per cent when the United Front Government was in power for two years. It is 4.5 per cent in the two years that we have been in power.

[Translation]

You are talking of prices. Here, Congress Members are raising the issue of fertilizers and P.D.S. and are saying that crushing burden has been imposed.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : It is not only the Congress Members who are saying this. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Congress has increased the prices of P.D.S. and fertilizers four times between 1991 to 1996.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : The Urea price was rolled back.

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : In 1991, prices were slightly rolled back. My friend Shri Shanta Kumar ji is sitting here. Giving reply to the debate which lasted 8-9 hours, in this House he had said that when Congress Government laid down office in May 1996, at that time what was the price of wheat in P.D.S. Do you know that, if you know then tell. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Therefore, it was removed.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : At that time wheat used to be sold at four rupees and two paise in P.D.S. My friend Shri Devender Prasad Yadav is sitting here. When he became a Minister in the United Front Government he introduced the difference of A.P.L. and B.P.L. and prices were reduced for B.P.L. Besides it was decided that 50 per cent of the economic cost would be charged to B.P.L.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : This was not the decision.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : You are speaking without going through the file. At that time you were supporting the Government. Therefore about prices the House has the right to direct me whatever it wants to. But Members of the Congress party do not have this right. . . . (Interruptions) Shri Somnath Babu was talking about tears. I want to ask him whether he is shedding crocodile tears or I . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : There has to be some logical end to the augments. . . . (Interruptions) I have moved an amendment to roll back the fertiliser prices. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rajesh Pilot, let me clarify the position. Please take your seat.

The Notice of Amendment to the Finance Bill, 2000 was given by Shri Rajesh Pilot on 3 May, 2000 at 15.26 hours. The amendment, in the form in which it was tabled, was inadmissible under rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha as it did not fit in any of the Clauses of the Bill.

Moreover, the Notice was time barred under the rule 345 of the Rules of Procedure.

The amendment was, therefore, disallowed and withheld from circulation.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, this is no argument. The Government have increased the price through an Executive Order. Please listen to me. The Government have increased the price of fertiliser through an Executive Order. There is no clause in that. How can I amend the Executive Order? This is not correct.

MR. SPEAKER : This is the rule.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : They have increased the price through an Executive Order. How do you amend the Executive Order?

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Sir, we are discussing the Finance Bill. Please allow me to speak for one minute.

MR. SPEAKER : We have already started the procedure part.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : On behalf of all the allies I would like to seek just one clarification.

MR. SPEAKER : What is your clarification?

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : While discussing the Vote on Account last time, the hon. Finance Minister had

categorically stated, "I shall look into the sentiments expressed by the allies and whatever is possible, I shall keep in mind". Please elaborate its meaning.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, there was a Paper on subsidy which was prepared when the United Front Government was in power. The Paper was presented to Parliament. We have just appointed the Expenditure Commission. One of the Terms of Reference of the Expenditure Commission is to look at subsidy because that is a very important part of the Government expenditure. According to that Paper, which was prepared in your Government's time, something like over 14 per cent of the GDP is today being consumed by subsidy at some time or the other. What I have told the Expenditure Commission is to give a very quick report in regard to food and fertiliser subsidy. How we can better target it? There are various examples which are available in various other countries about better targeting of subsidy and this is the direction in which we want to take the policy.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 2000-2001, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, we are walking out in protest. . . . (Interruptions)

16.22 hours

(At this stage, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and some other hon. Members left the House.)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, we are walking out in protest.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, this Government has betrayed the poor people. So, we are walking out in protest.

16.22 hours

(At this stage, Shri Madhavrao Scindia and some other hon. Members left the House.)

16.22 hours

(At this stage, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and some other hon. Members left the House.)

MR. SPEAKER : The House shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 Income Tax

MR. SPEAKER : There are Government amendments to Clause 2. Shri Yashwant Sinha.

Amendments made :

Page 2,—

for lines 31 to 41, substitute—

“(a) in the case of a person other than a company being resident in India, by a surcharge for purposes of the Union, calculated at the rate of ten per cent of such tax;

(b) in the case of a domestic company, by a surcharge calculated at the rate of ten per cent of such tax.” (12)

Page 2,—

for lines 45 to 53, substitute—

“(a) in the case of a person other than a company being resident in India, by a surcharge for purposes of the Union, calculated at the rate of ten per cent of such tax; (13)

Page 3,—

for lines 1 and 2, substitute—

(b) in the case of a domestic company, by a surcharge calculated at the rate of ten per cent of such tax.” (14)

(Shri Yashwant Sinha)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

“That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 3 and 4 were added to the Bill.

Clause 5**Amendment of Section 10**

MR. SPEAKER : There are Government amendments to Clause 5.

Amendments made :

Page 5,—

after line 23, insert—

“(ba) in clause (23), in the third proviso, after item (c), the following item shall be inserted with effect from the 1st day of April, 2001, namely :—

“(d) applies the amount received by way of donations referred to in clause (c) of sub-section (2) of section 80G for purposes of development of infrastructure for games or sports in India or for sponsoring games and sports in India.” (15)

Page 6,—

omit lines 28 to 30.

(16)

(Shri Yashwant Sinha)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

“That clause 5, as amended, stand part of the Bill”.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 6**Amendment of Section 10A**

MR. SPEAKER : There is a Government amendment to Clause 6.

Amendment made :

17. Page 6,—

for clause 6, substitute—

Substitution of new section for Section 10A.

Special provision in respect of newly established undertakings in free trade zone, etc.

“6. For section 10A of the Income-tax act, the following section shall be substituted with effect from the 1st day of April, 2001, namely :—

“10A(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, a deduction of such profits and gains as are derived by an understanding from the export of articles or things or computer software for a period of ten consecutive assessment years beginning with the assessment year relevant to the previous year in which the undertaking begins to manufacture or produce such articles or things or computer software, as the case may be, shall be allowed from the total income of the assessee.

Provided that where in computing the total income of the undertaking for any

assessment year, its profits and gains had not been included by application of the provisions of this section as it stood immediately before its substitution by the Finance Act, 2000, the undertaking shall be entitled to deduction referred to in this sub-section only for the unexpired period of the aforesaid ten consecutive assessment years.

Provided further that where an undertaking initially located in any free trade zone or export processing zone is subsequently located in a special economic zone by reason of conversion of such free trade zone or export processing zone into a special economic zone, the period of ten consecutive assessment years referred to in this sub-section shall be reckoned from the assessment year relevant to the previous year in which the undertaking was first set up in such free trade zone or export processing zone.

Provided also that the profits and gains derived from such domestic sales of article or things or computer software as do not exceed twenty-five per cent. Of total sales shall be deemed to be the profits and gains derived from the export of articles or things or computer software.

Provided also that no deduction under this section shall be allowed to any undertaking for the assessment year beginning on the 1st day of April, 2010 and subsequent years.

- (2) This section applies to any undertaking which fulfils all the following conditions, namely :-
- (i) it has begun or begins to manufacture or produce articles or things or computer software during the previous year relevant to the assessment year-
 - (a) commencing on or after the 1st day of April, 1981, in any free trade zone; or
 - (b) commencing on or after the 1st day of April, 1994, in any electronic hardware technology park or, as the case may be software technology park;

(c) commencing on or after the 1st day of April, 2001 in any special economic zone;

- (ii) it is not formed by the splitting up, or the reconstruction, of a business already in existence;

Provided that this condition shall not apply in respect of any undertaking which is formed as a result of the re-establishment, reconstruction or revival by the assessee of the business of any such undertaking as is referred to in section 33B, in the circumstances and within the period specified in that section;

- (iii) it is not formed by the transfer to a new business of machinery or plant previously used for any purpose.

Explanation – The provisions of *Explanation 1* and *Explanation 2* to sub-section (2) of section 80-I shall apply for the purposes of clause (iii) of this sub-section as they apply for the purposes of clause (ii) of that sub-section.

- (3) This section applies to the undertaking, if the sale proceeds of articles or things or computer software exported out of India are received in, or brought into, India by the assessee in convertible foreign exchange, within a period of six months from the end of the previous year or, within such further period as the component authority may allow in this behalf.

Explanation 1. – For the purposes of this sub-section, the expression "competent authority" means the Reserve Bank of India or such other authority as is authorised under any law for the time being in force for regulating payments and dealings in foreign exchange.

Explanation 2. – The sale proceeds referred to in this sub-section shall be deemed to have been received in India where such sale proceeds are credited to a separate account maintained for the purpose by the assessee with any bank outside India with the approval of the Reserve Bank of India.

- (4) For the purposes of sub-section (1), the profits derived from export of articles or things or computer software shall be the amount which

bears to the profits of the business, the same proportion as the export turnover in respect of such articles or things or computer software bears to the total turnover of the business carried on by the assessee.

- (5) The deduction under sub-section (1) shall not be admissible for any assessment year beginning on or after the 1st day of April, 2001, unless the assessee furnishes in the prescribed form, alongwith the return of income, the report of an accountant, as defined in the *Explanation* below sub-section (2) of section 288, certifying that the deduction has been correctly claimed in accordance with the provisions of this section.
- (6) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other provision of this Act, in computing the total income of the assessee of the previous year relevant to the assessment year immediately succeeding the last of the relevant assessment years, or of any previous year, relevant to any subsequent assessment year –
- (i) section 32, section 32A, section 33, section 35 and clause (ix) of sub-section (1) of section 36 shall apply as if every allowance or deduction referred to therein and relating to or allowable for any of the relevant assessment years, in relation to any building, machinery, plant or furniture used for the purposes of the business of the undertaking in the previous year relevant to such assessment year or any expenditure incurred for the purposes of such business in such previous year had been given full effect to for that assessment year itself and accordingly sub-section (2) of section 32, clause (ii) of sub-section (3) of section 32A, clause (ii) of sub-section (2) of section 33, sub-section (4) of section 35 or the second proviso to clause (ix) of sub-section (1) of section 36, as the case may be, shall not apply in relation to any such allowance or deduction;
- (ii) no loss referred to in sub-section (1) of section 72 or sub-section (1) or sub-section (3) of section 74 in so far as such loss relates to the business of the undertaking, shall be carried forward or set off where such loss relates to any of the relevant assessment years;
- (iii) no deduction shall be allowed under section 80HH or section 80HHA or section

80-I or section 80-IA or section 80-IB in relation to the profits and gains of the undertaking; and .

- (iv) in computing the depreciation allowance under section 32, the written down value of any asset used for the purposes of the business of the undertaking shall be computed as if the assessee had claimed and been actually allowed the deduction in respect of depreciation for each of the relevant assessment year.
- (7) The provisions of sub-section (8) and sub-section (10) of section 80-IA shall, so far as may be, apply in relation to the undertaking referred to in this section as they apply for the purposes of the undertaking referred to in section 80-IA.
- (8) Notwithstanding anything contained in the foregoing provisions of this section, where the assessee, before the due date for furnishing the return of income under sub-section (1) of section 139, furnishes to the Assessing Officer a declaration in writing that the provisions of this section may not be made applicable to him, the provisions of this section shall not apply to him for any of the relevant assessment years.
- (9) Where during any previous year, the ownership or the beneficial interest in the undertaking is transferred by any means, the deduction under sub-section (1) shall not be allowed to the assessee for the assessment year relevant to such previous year and the subsequent years.

Explanation 1. – For the purposes of this section, in the case of a company, where on the last day of any previous year, the shares of the company carrying not less than fifty-one per cent. Of the voting power are not beneficially held by persons who held the shares of the company carrying not less than fifty-one per cent. of the voting power on the last day of the year in which the undertaking was set up, the company shall be presumed to have transferred its ownership or the beneficial interest in the undertaking.

Explanation 2. – For the purposes of this section,–

- (i) "computer software" means, –
- (a) any computer programme recorded on any disc, tape, perforated media or other information storage device; or

(b) any customized electronic data or any product or service of similar nature, as may be notified by the Board,

which is transmitted or exported from India to any place outside India by any means;

46 of 1973.

- (ii) "convertible foreign exchange" means foreign exchange which is for the time being treated by the Reserve Bank of India as convertible foreign exchange for the purposes of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973, and any rules made thereunder or any other corresponding law for the time being in force;
- (iii) "electronic hardware technology park" means any park set up in accordance with the Electronic Hardware Technology Park (EHTP) Scheme notified by the Government of India in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry;
- (iv) "export turnover" means the consideration in respect of export of articles or things or computer software received in, or brought into India by the assessee in convertible foreign exchange in accordance with sub-section (3), but does not include freight, telecommunication charges or insurance attributable to the delivery of the articles or things or computer software outside India or expenses, if any, incurred in foreign exchange in providing the technical services outside India.
- (v) "free trade zone" means the Kandla Free Trade Zone and the Santacruz Electronics Export Processing Zone and includes any other free trade zone which the Central Government may by notification in the Official Gazette, specify for the purposes of this section;
- (vi) "relevant assessment year" means any assessment year falling within a period of ten consecutive assessment years referred to in this section;
- (vii) "software technology park" means any park set up in accordance with the Software Technology Park Scheme notified by the Government of India in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry;

(viii) "special economic zone" means a zone which the Central Government may by notification in the Official Gazette, specify as a special economic zone for the purposes of this section."

(Shri Yashwant Sinha)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 6, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 6, as amended was added to the Bill.

Clause 7

Amendment of Section 10B

MR. SPEAKER : There is a Government amendment to Clause 7. Shri Yashwant Sinha.

Amendment made :

18. Page 6,—

Substitution of new section for Section 10B.

Special provision in respect of newly established hundred per cent export-oriented undertakings

for clause 7, substitute—

"7. For section 10B of the Income-tax Act, the following section shall be substituted with effect from the 1st day of April, 2001, namely :—

"10B(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, a deduction of such profits and gains as are derived by a hundred per cent. export-oriented undertaking from the export of articles or things or computer software for a period of ten consecutive assessment years beginning with the assessment year relevant to the previous year in which the undertaking begins to manufacture or produce articles or things or computer software, as the case may be, shall be allowed from the total income of the assessee.

Provided that where in computing the total income of the undertaking for any assessment year, its profits and gains had not been included by application of the provisions of this section as it stood immediately before its substitution by the Finance Act, 2000, the undertaking shall be entitled to deduction referred to in this sub-section only for the unexpired period of the aforesaid ten consecutive assessment years.

Provided further that the profits and gains derived from such domestic sales of articles or things or computer software as do not exceed twenty-five per cent. of total sales shall be deemed to be the profits and gains derived from the export of articles or things or computer software.

Provided also that no deduction under this section shall be allowed to any undertaking for the assessment year beginning on the 1st day of April, 2010 and subsequent years.

(2) This section applies to any undertaking which fulfils all the following conditions, namely :-

- (i) it manufacture or produces any articles or things or computer software;
- (ii) it is not formed by the splitting up, or the reconstruction, of a business already in existence;

Provided that this condition shall not apply in respect of any undertaking which is formed as a result of the re-establishment, reconstruction or revival by the assessee of the business of any such undertaking as is referred to in section 33B, in the circumstances and within the period specified in that section;

- (iii) it is not formed by the transfer to a new business of machinery or plant previously used for any purpose.

Explanation – The provisions of *Explanation 1* and *Explanation 2* to sub-section (2) of section 80-I shall apply for the purposes of clause (iii) of this sub-section as they apply for the purposes of clause (ii) of that sub-section.

(3) This section applies to the undertaking, if the sale proceeds of articles or things or computer software exported out of India are received in, or brought into, India by the assessee in convertible foreign exchange, within a period of six months from the end of the previous year or, within such further period as the component authority may allow in this behalf.

Explanation 1. – For the purposes of this sub-section, the expression "component

authority" means the Reserve Bank of India or such other authority as is authorised under any law for the time being in force for regulating payments and dealings in foreign exchange.

Explanation 2. – The sale proceeds referred to in this sub-section shall be deemed to have been received in India where such sale proceeds are credited to a separate account maintained for the purpose by the assessee with any bank outside India with the approval of the Reserve Bank of India.

(4) For the purposes of sub-section (1), the profits derived from export of articles or things or computer software shall be the amount which bears to the profits of the business, the same proportion as the export turnover in respect of such articles or things or computer software bears to the total turnover of the business carried on by the assessee.

(5) The deduction under sub-section (1) shall not be admissible for any assessment year beginning on or after the 1st day of April, 2001, unless the assessee furnishes in the prescribed form, alongwith the return of income, the report of an accountant, as defined in the *Explanation* below sub-section (2) of section 288, certifying that the deduction has been correctly claimed in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(6) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other provision of this Act, in computing the total income of the assessee of the previous year relevant to the assessment year immediately succeeding the last of the relevant assessment years, or of any previous year, relevant to any subsequent assessment year –

- (i) section 32, section 32A, section 33, section 35 and clause (ix) of sub-section (1) of section 36 shall apply as if every allowance or deduction referred to therein and relating to or allowable for any of the relevant assessment years, in relation to any building, machinery, plant or furniture used for the purposes of the business of the undertaking in the previous year rel-

- evant to such assessment year or any expenditure incurred for the purposes of such business in such previous year had been given full effect to for that assessment year itself and accordingly sub-section (2) of section 32, clause (ii) of sub-section (3) of section 32A, clause (ii) of sub-section (2) of section 33, sub-section (4) of section 35 or the second proviso to clause (ix) of sub-section (1) of section 36, as the case may be, shall not apply in relation to any such allowances or deduction;
- (ii) no loss referred to in sub-section (1) of section 72 or sub-section (1) or sub-section (3) of section 74 in so far as such loss relates to the business of the undertaking, shall be carried forward or set off where such loss relates to any of the relevant assessment years;
- (iii) no deduction shall be allowed under section 80HH or section 80HHA or section 80-I or section 80-IA or section 80-IB in relation to the profits and gains of the undertaking; and
- (iv) in computing the depreciation allowance under section 32, the written down value of any asset used for the purposes of the business of the undertaking shall be computed as if the assessee had claimed and been actually allowed the deduction in respect of depreciation for each of the relevant assessment year.
- (7) The provisions of sub-section (8) and sub-section (10) of section 80-IA shall, so far as may be, apply in relation to the undertaking referred to in this section as they apply for the purposes of the undertaking referred to in section 80-IA.
- (8) Notwithstanding anything contained in the foregoing provisions of this section, where the assessee, before the due date for furnishing the return of income under sub-section (1) of section 139, furnishes to the Assessing Officer a declaration in writing that the provisions of this section may not be made applicable to him, the provisions of this section shall not apply to him for any of the relevant assessment years.
- (9) Where during any previous year, the ownership or the beneficial interest in the undertaking is transferred by any means, the deduction under sub-section (1) shall not be allowed to the assessee for the assessment year relevant to such previous year and the subsequent years.
- Explanation 1.* – For the purposes of this section, in the case of a company, where on the last day of any previous year, the shares of the company carrying not less than fifty-one per cent of the voting power are not beneficially held by persons who held the shares of the company carrying not less than fifty-one per cent. of the voting power on the last day of the year in which the undertaking was set up, the company shall be presumed to have transferred its ownership or the beneficial interest in the undertaking.
- Explanation 2.* – For the purposes of this section, –
- (i) “computer software” means, –
- (a) any computer programme recorded on any disc, tape, perforated media or other information storage device; or
- (b) any customized electronic data or any product or service of similar nature, as may be notified by the Board,
- which is transmitted or exported from India to any place outside India by any means;
- (ii) “convertible foreign exchange” means foreign exchange which is for the time being treated by the Reserve Bank of India as convertible foreign exchange for the purposes of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973, and any rules made thereunder or any other corresponding law for the time being in force;
- (iii) “export turnover” means the consideration in respect of export of articles or

things or computer software received in, or brought into India by the assessee in convertible foreign exchange in accordance with sub-section (3), but does not include freight, telecommunication charges or insurance attributable to the delivery of the articles or things or computer software outside India or expenses, if any, incurred in foreign exchange in providing the technical services outside India;

- (iv) "hundred per cent. export-oriented undertaking" means an undertaking which has been approved as a hundred per cent. export-oriented undertaking by the Board appointed in this behalf by the Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred by section 14 of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, and the rules made under that Act;

65 of 1951.

- (v) "relevant assessment year" means any assessment year falling within a period of ten consecutive assessment years referred to in this section;

(Shri Yashwant Sinha)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 7, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 7, as amended was added to the Bill.

Clause 8 to 10 were added to the Bill.

Motion Re : Suspension of Rule 80 (i)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I beg to move :

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No.19 to the Finance Bill, 2000 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment

shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No.19 to the Finance Bill, 2000 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 10A

Amendment of Section 17

Amendment made :

Page 7,—

after line 46, insert—

'10A. In section 17 of the Income-tax Act, in clause (2), with effect from the 1st day of April, 2001,—

- (a) in sub-clause (iii) but before the Explanation, the following proviso shall be inserted, namely:—

"Provided that nothing contained in this sub-clause shall apply to the value of any benefit provided by a company free of cost or at a concessional rate to its employees by way of allotment of shares, debentures or warrants directly or indirectly under the Employees' Stock Option Plan or Scheme of the said company.";

- (b) Sub-clause (iiia) shall be omitted. ('19)

(Shri Yashwant Sinha)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That new clause 10A be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 10A was added to the Bill.

Clause 11

Amendment of Section 24

Amendment made :

Page 7,—

for clause 11, substitute—

'11. In section 24 of the Income-tax Act, in sub-section (2) in the second proviso, with the effect from the 1st day of April, 2001,—

- (i) for the figures, letter and words "1st day of April, 2001", the figures, letters and words "1st day of April, 2003" shall be substituted;

- (ii) for the words "seventy-five thousand rupees", the words "one lakh rupees" shall be substituted'.
(20)

(Shri Yashwant Sinha)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 11, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 11, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 12 to 14 were added to the Bill.

Motion Re : Suspension of Rule 80 (i)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I beg to move :

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No.21 to the Finance Bill, 2000 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No.21 to the Finance Bill, 2000 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 14A

Amendment of Section 35

Amendment made :

Page 8,-

after line 18, insert-

'14A. In section 35 of the Income-tax Act, in sub-section (2AB), in clause (1), for the words "a sum equal to one and one-fourth times of the expenditure", the words "a sum equal to one and one-half times of the expenditure" shall be substituted with effect from the 1st day of April, 2001.'
(21)

(Shri Yashwant Sinha)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That new clause 14A be added to the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 14A was added to the Bill.

Clauses 15 to 18 were added to the Bill.

Clause 19

Amendment of Section 47

Amendment made :

Page 8,-

for clause 19, substitute-

'19. In section 47 of the Income-tax Act,-

- (a) after clause (iii), the following proviso shall be inserted with effect from the 1st day of April, 2001, namely :-

"provided that this clause shall not apply to transfer under a gift or an irrevocable trust of a capital asset being shares, debentures or warrants allotted by a company directly or indirectly to its employees under the Employees' Stock Option Plan or Scheme.;"

- (b) in clause (vic), in sub-clause (a), for the words "at least seventy-five per cent of the shareholders", the words "the shareholders holding not less than three-fourths in value of the shares" shall be substituted. (22)

(Shri Yashwant Sinha)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"The clause 19, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 19, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 20

Amendment of Section 48

Amendment made :

Page 8,-

for clause 20, substitute-

'20. In section 48 of the Income-tax Act,-

- (i) after the third proviso but before the Explanation, the following shall be inserted with effect from the 1st day of April, 2001, namely :-

"Provided also that where shares, debentures or warrants referred to in the proviso to clause (iii) of section 47 are transferred under a gift or an irrevocable trust, the market value on the date of such transfer shall be deemed to be the full value of consideration received or accruing as a result of transfer for the purposes of this section.";

- (ii) in the Explanation, for clause (v), the following clause shall be substituted and shall be deemed to have been substituted with effect from the 1st day of April, 1993, namely :-

'(V) "Cost Inflation Index", in relation to a previous year, means such Index as the Central Government may, having regard to seventy-five percent of average rise in the Consumer Price Index for urban non-manual employees for the immediately preceding previous year to such previous year, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify, in this behalf.' (23)

(Shri Yashwant Sinha)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 20, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 20, as amended, was added to the Bill

Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80 (i)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I beg to move :

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No.24 to the Finance Bill, 2000 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No.24 to the Finance Bill, 2000 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 20A

Amendment of Section 49

Amendment made :

Page 8,-

after line 48, insert-

20A. In section 49 of the Income-tax Act, sub-section (2B) shall be omitted with effect from the 1st day of April, 2001. (24)

(Shri Yashwant Sinha)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That new clause 20A be added to the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 20A was added to the Bill.

Clauses 21 to 23 were added to the Bill.

Clause 24

Insertion of new Section 54 EC

Amendment made :

Page 9, line 27, for "five years", substitute "three years". (25)

Page 9, line 45, for "five years", substitute "three years". (26)

(Shri Yashwant Sinha)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 24, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 24, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 25 to 27 were added to the Bill

Clause 28

Amendment of Section 80G

Amendment made :

Page 10, for lines 15 and 16, substitute-

"(c) any sums paid by the assessee, being a company, in the previous year as donations to the Indian Olympic Association or to any other association or institution as notified by the

Central Government under clause (23) of section 10 for —. (27)

(Shri Yashwant Sinha)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : I beg to move :

"Page 10, line 16,—

after "Indian Olympic Association" insert—

"or to any other reputed Sports organisation at the National level, State level, District and Zila Parishads"" (1)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"Page 10, line 16,—

after "Indian Olympic Association" insert—

"or to any other reputed Sports organisation at the National level, State level, District and Zila Parishads"" (1)

The motion was negatived.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 28, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 28, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 29 to 32 were added to the Bill

Clause 33

Amendment of Section 80HHE

Amendment made :

Page 12, after line 23, insert—

'(d) in the Explanation below sub-section (5), for item (b), the following shall be substituted.—

"(b) "computer software" means,—

- (i) any computer programme recorded on any disc, tape, perforated media or other information storage device; or
- (ii) any customised electronic data or any product or service of similar nature as may be notified by the Board,

which is transmitted or exported from India to a place outside India by any means;" (28)

(Shri Yashwant Sinha)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 33, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 33, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 34 and 35 were added to the Bill.

Clause 36

Amendment of Section 80-1B

Amendment made : Page 13,

after line 2, insert—

(ca) after sub-section (8), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely :—

"(8A). The amount of deduction in the case of any company carrying on scientific research and development shall be hundred per cent of the profits and gains of such business for a period of ten consecutive assessment years, beginning from the initial assessment year, if such company—

- (i) is registered in India;
- (ii) has its main object the scientific and industrial research and development;
- (iii) is for the time being approved by the prescribed authority at any time after the 31st day of March, 2000 but before the 1st day of April, 2003;
- (iv) fulfils such other conditions as may be prescribed;" (29)

(Shri Yashwant Sinha)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 36, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 36, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 37 to 42 were added to the Bill.

Clause 43

Amendment of Section 88

Amendment made :

Page 14, after line 29, insert—

'(c) in sub-section (6), in clause (ii), for the words "fourteen thousand rupees", the words "sixteen thousand rupees" shall be substituted with effect from the 1st day of April, 2001.' (30)

(Shri Yashwant Sinha)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 43, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 43, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 44 to 48 were added to the Bill.

Clause 49

Insertion of new section 115 JB

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : I beg to move :

"Page 15, line 16,—

after "relevant previous year shall" insert—

"not" (2)

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put Amendment No.2 moved by Shri Rupchand Pal to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

Amendments made :

Page 15, line 49, for "section 10B", substitute "section 10B or section 11 or section 12". (31)

Page 16, line 8, for "section 10B", substitute "section 10B or section 11 or section 12". (32)

(Shri Yashwant Sinha)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 49, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 49, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 50 to 53 were added to the Bill.

Clause 54

Insertion of new chapter XII-F

Amendment made :

Page 17,—

for clause 54, substitute—

'54. After chapter XII-E of the Income-tax Act the following chapter shall be inserted with effect from the 1st day of April 2001, namely :—

'CHAPTER XII-F

SPECIAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO TAX ON INCOME RECEIVED FROM VENTURE CAPITAL COMPANIES AND VENTURE CAPITAL FUNDS

115U. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other provisions of this Act, any income received by a person out of investments made in a venture capital company or venture capital fund shall be chargeable to income-tax in the same manner as if it were the income received by such person had he made investments directly in the venture capital undertaking.

Tax on income in certain cases.

(2) The person responsible for making payment of the income on behalf of a venture capital company or a venture capital fund and the venture capital company or venture capital fund shall furnish, within such time as may be prescribed, to the person receiving such income and to the prescribed income-tax authority, a statement in the prescribed form and verified in the prescribed manner, giving details of the nature of the income paid during the previous year and such other relevant details as may be prescribed.

(3) The income paid by the venture capital company and the venture capital fund shall be deemed to be of the same nature and in the same proportion in the hands of the person receiving such income as it had been received by, or had accrued to, the venture capital company or the venture capital fund, as the case may be, during the previous year.

(4) The provisions of Chapter XII-D or Chapter XII-E or Chapter XVII-B shall not apply to the income paid by a venture capital company or venture capital fund under this chapter.

Explanation :— For the purposes of this Chapter, "venture capital company", "venture capital fund" and "venture capital undertaking" shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them in clause (23FB) of section 10'. (33)

(Shri Yashwant Sinha)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 54, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 54, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 55

Amendment of Section 139A

Amendment made :

Page 17, line 48, for "for the time being in force", substitute " for the time being in force including importers and exporters whether any tax is payable by them or not". (34)

(Shri Yashwant Sinha)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 55, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 55, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 56 was added to the Bill.

Clause 57

Amendment of Section 194A

Amendment made :

Page 17,-

For clause 57, substitute-

'57. In section 194A of the Income-Tax Act, in sub-section (3), in clause (i),-

(a) for the words "two thousand five hundred rupees", the words "five thousand rupees" shall be substituted with effect from the 1st day of June, 2000 :

(b) in the proviso, in clause (c), for the words "for residential purposes", the words, brackets and figures "for residential purposes and which is eligible for deduction under clause (viii) of sub-section (1) of section 36" shall be substituted.' (35)

(Shri Yashwant Sinha)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 57, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 57, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80 (i)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I beg to move :

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No.36 to the Finance Bill, 2000 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved." (53)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No.36 to the Finance Bill, 2000 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved." (53)

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 57A

Amendment of Section 194L

Amendment made :

Page 17,-

after line 57, insert-

"57A. In section 194L of the Income-tax Act, after the proviso, the following proviso shall be inserted with effect from the 1st day of June, 2000, namely :-

Provided further that no deduction shall be made under this section from any payment made on or after the 1st day of June, 2000." (36)

(Shri Yashwant Sinha)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That new clause 57A be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 57A was added to the Bill.

Clause 58 to 89 were added to the Bill.

Clause 90

Substitution of new section for Section 4

Amendments made :

"Page 23,-

For lines 36 to 39, substitute-

4. (1) Where under this Act, the duty of excise is chargeable on any excisable goods with reference to their value, then, on each removal of the goods, such value shall—

- (a) in a case where the goods are sold by the assessee, the delivery at the time and place of the removal, the assessee and the buyer of the goods are not related and the price is the sole consideration for the sale, be the transaction value;". (37)

Page 23,—

for lines 47 to 56, substitute—

'(b) persons shall be deemed to be "related" if—

- (i) they are inter-connected undertakings'
 (ii) they are relatives;
 (iii) amongst them the buyer is a relative and a distributor of the assessee, or a sub-distributor of such distributor, or
 (iv) they are so associated that they have interest, directly or indirectly, in the business of each other.

Explanation.—In this clause—

- (i) "inter-connected undertakings" shall have the meaning assigned to it in clause (g) of section 2 of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969; and (4 of 1969)
 (ii) "relative" shall have the meaning assigned to it in clause (41) of section 2 of the Companies Act, 1956; (1 of 1956)
 (i) (c) "place of removal" means—
 (ii) a factory or any other place or premises of production or manufacture of the excisable goods;
 (ii) a warehouse or any other place or premises wherein the excisable goods have been permitted to be deposited without payment of duty,
 from where such goods are removed;". (38)

"Page 24,—

for lines 1 to 6, substitute—

- (d) "transaction value" means the price actually paid or payable for the goods, when sold, and

includes in addition to the amount charged as price, any amount that the buyer is liable to pay to, or on behalf of, the assessee, by reason of, or in connection with the sale,; whether payable at the time of the sale or at any other time, including, but not limited to, any amount charged for, or to make provision for, advertising or publicity, marketing and selling organisation expenses, storage, outward handling, servicing, warranty, commission or any other matter; but does not include the amount of duty of excise, sales tax and other taxes, if any, actually paid or actually payable on such goods. (39)

(Shri Yashwant Sinha)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 90, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 90, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 91 and 92 were added to the Bill.

 Clause 93

Amendment of Section 11 A

Amendment made :

"Page 24,—

for lines 20 and 21, substitute—

- (a) in the opening portion for the words "erroneously refunded" the words "erroneously refunded, whether or not such non-levy or non-payment, short-levy or short payment or erroneous refund, as the case may be, was on the basis of any approval, acceptance or assessment relating to the rate of duty on or valuation of excisable goods under any other provisions of this Act or the rules made thereunder," shall be substituted and shall be deemed to have been substituted on and from the 17th day of November 1980;
 (b) for the words "six months", wherever they occur, the words, "one year" shall be substituted;
 (c) after the proviso and before the *Explanation*, the following provisos shall be inserted, namely :— (40)

(Shri Yashwant Sinha)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 93, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 93, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 94 and 99 were added to the Bill.

Clause 100

Amendment of section 14A

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 25, line 36, -

for "omitted" substitute -"

"reviewed after one year to ensure independence of auditors."(10) (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put amendment No. 10 moved by Shri Rupchand Pal to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 100 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 100 was added to the Bill.

Clause 101

Amendment of Section 14AA

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 25, line 37, -

for "omitted" substitute -"

"reviewed after one year to ensure independence of auditors."(11)(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No. This is not the practice.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the amendment No. 11 moved by Shri Rupchand Pal to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 101 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 101 was added to the Bill

Clauses 102 to 106 were added to the Bill.

Clause 107

Validation of exemption given to diplomatic or consular, missions with retrospective effect

Amendment made :

"Page 27,-

in line 25, for "11th day of May, 1999" substitute "2nd day of December, 1997". (41)

(Shri Yashwant Sinha)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 107, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 107, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 108

Validation of the denial of credit of duty paid on high Speed diesel oil.

Amendment made :

"Page 27,-

for lines 33 to 37, substitute-

"108. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any rule of the Central Excise rules, 1944, no credit of any duty paid on high speed diesel oil at any time during the period commencing on and from the 16th day of March, 1995 and ending with the day, the Finance Act, 2000 receives the assent of the President, shall deemed to be admissible." (42)

(Shri Yashwant Sinha)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 108, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 108, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 109 to 111 were added to the Bill.

Clause 112

Amendment of Act 32 of 1994

Amendment made :

"Page 28,—

in lines 11 and 12, for "1st day of August", substitute
"16th day of October". (43)

(Shri Yashwant Sinha)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 112, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 112, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 113 to 118 were added to the Bill.

First Schedule

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 32, line 4, —

for "35 per cent"

substitute "40 per cent" (3)

Page 32, line 12, —

for "30 per cent"

substitute "35 per cent" (4)

Page 32, line 20, —

for "35 per cent of the total income"

substitute "40 per cent of the total income" (5)

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the amendment Nos. 3, 4 and 5 moved by Shri Rupchand Pal to the vote of the House.

The amendment 3 to 5 were put and negatived.

Amendment made :

"Page 35, for lines 3 to 10, substitute—

- "(i) item 1 of this Part shall be increased by a surcharge, for purposes of the Union calculated at the rate of ten per cent of such income-tax; and
- (ii) sub-item (a) of item 2 of this Part shall be increased by a surcharge calculated at the rate of ten per cent of such income-tax. (44)

(Shri Yashwant Sinha)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the First Schedule, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The First Schedule, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Second Schedule

Amendment made :

"Page 39,

for line 5, substitute —

(2) in Chapter 2, —

(i) for the entry in column (4) occurring against all sub-heading Nos. (except sub-heading Nos.0207.13 and 0207.14), the entry "35%" shall be substituted.

(ii) in sub-heading Nos.0207.13 and 0207.14, for the entry in column (4), the entry "100" shall be substituted. (45)

Page 39,—

after line 35, insert —

(8A) in Chapter 9,—

(i) for the entries in column (4) and column (5) occurring against sub-heading Nos.0901.11, 0901.12, 0902.21, 0901.22 and 0902.90, the entries "35%" and "35% less 13 paise per kg." shall respectively be substituted;

(ii) for the entries in column (4) and column (5) occurring against sub-heading Nos.0902.10, 0902.20, 0901.30 and 0901.40, the entries "35%" and "35% less 26 paise per kg." shall respectively be substituted. (46)

Page 40,—

for line 34, substitute—

(15) in Chapter 16,—

(i) for the entry in column (4) occurring against all the sub-heading Nos. (except sub-heading Nos. 1601.00 and 1602.32), the entry "35%" shall be substituted.

(ii) in sub-heading Nos. 1601.00 and 1602.32, for the entry in column (4), the entry "100%" shall be substituted. (47)

Page 41,—

for line 19, substitute—

- (i) in sub-heading No. 2701.11, for the entry in column (4), the entry "25%" shall be substituted;
- (ia) in sub-heading No.2701.12, for the entry in column (4), the entry "55%" shall be substituted;
- (ib) In sub-heading No. 2701.19, for the entry in column (4), the entry "25%" shall be substituted;
- (48)

(Shri Yashwant Sinha)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Second Schedule, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Second Schedule, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Third Schedule

Amendment made :

Page 56,—

in lines 32 and 33, for "Rs. 30 per square metre", substitute "16%";

(49)

(Shri Yashwant Sinha)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Third Schedule, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Third Schedule, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Fourth Schedule and the Fifth Schedule were added to the Bill.

Sixth Schedule

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 63, line 14,—

for "Twenty per cent ad valorem" substitute "Five per cent ad valorem" (6)

Page 63, line 15,—

for "Twenty per cent ad valorem" substitute "Five per cent ad valorem" (7)

Page 63, line 19—

for "Twenty per cent ad valorem" substitute "Five per cent ad valorem" (8)

Page 63, line 21—

for "Twenty per cent ad valorem" substitute "Five per cent ad valorem" (9)

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put amendment Nos. 6, 7, 8 and 9 moved by Shri Rupchand Pal to the vote of the House.

The amendments 6 to 9 were put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Sixth Schedule stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Sixth Schedule, was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister may now move that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

16.52 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, May 5, 2000/ Vaishakha 15, 1922 (Saka).

**Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates
(English Version)
Thursday, May 4, 2000/Vaisakha 14, 1922 (Saka)**

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Col./line	For	Read
(i)/8	546	545
10/16 (from below)	1999-2000	1998-99
69-70/2 (from below)	207.68	207.69
71-72/18 (from below)	191.77	191.17
73-74/22 (from below)	1.00	100
73-74/8 (from below)	3766.32	3766.22
131/12	(c)	(e)
135/2	(a)	delete (a)
159/1	(e)	(c)
159/19 (from below)	100 KW	20KW
161-162/7 (from below.)	3,948,000	-

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