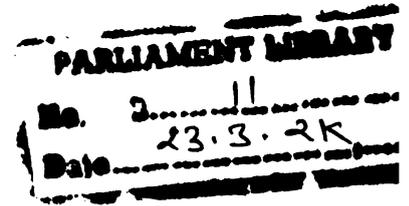


LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)



Fourth Session
(Twelfth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. IX contains Nos. 11 to 20)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, March 15, 1999/Phalgun 24, 1920 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at one minute
past Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCES

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of one of our former colleagues, Shri Damodar Pandey.

Shri Damodar Pandey was a Member of Fifth and Eighth Lok Sabhas representing Hazaribagh Parliamentary Constituency of Bihar from 1971 to 1977 and 1984 to 1989.

Shri Pandey was a well known social and political worker. He was associated with various Trade Unions and Cooperative movements amongst the coal mine workers in different capacities. He was Chairman, Employment Liaison Committee, Government of Bihar from 1980 to 1983.

An able parliamentarian, Shri Pandey was a Member of the Committee on Public Undertakings from 1975 to 1977 and 1987 to 1988 and Railway Convention Committee from 1973 to 1977. Earlier, he served as a Member of the Joint Committee on the Mines (Amendment) Bill, 1972.

A widely travelled person, Shri Pandey represented the mine workers of India at International Labour Organisation Coal Mines Committee meeting held in Geneva and also attended International Labour Organisation Seminars held in Holland, Italy and Thailand.

Shri Damodar Pandey passed away on 26 January, 1999 at Hazaribagh at the age of 66.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

As the hon. Members are aware, about 28 persons are reported to have died and several injured yesterday in a major fire, at the jhuggi clusters near Vijay Ghat in Jamuna Pushta in North Delhi.

We deeply mourn this tragedy too and the House may place on record its deep sense of grief in this regard.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed souls.

11.02 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM
VIETNAM

11.03 hrs.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to make an announcement.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the Hon. Members of the House, I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency Dr. (Prof.) Vu Dinh Cu, Vice Chairman of the National Assembly of Vietnam and other Members of the Vietnamese Parliamentary Delegation who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

The other Hon. Members of the Delegation are :

1. Mr. Nguyen Hoai Bao
2. Mrs. Chu Thuy Quynh
3. Mrs. Dinh Thi Le Thanh
4. Mr. Cao Tien Thu

They arrived Delhi on Saturday, 13 March, 1999. They are now seated in the Special Box. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through them we convey our greetings and best wishes to the President, the National Assembly and the friendly people of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, let us take up the next item, Question No. 261 – Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI C. GOPAL (ARAKKONAM) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are celebrating the International Women's Day whereas the Tamil Nadu Government is harassing our leader.... (Interruptions) Sir, I have given a notice also.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have also seen your notice.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI K.P. MUNUSAMY (KRISHNA GIRI) : Sir, we are celebrating the International Women's Day whereas the Tamil Nadu State Government has registered a false case.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can raise it after the Question Hour please.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am asking you to please take your seats.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except the question put by Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria.

....(Interruptions) *

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. Please understand that this is entirely a State subject; law and order is a State subject. You know the procedure and the rules of this House. Why are you unnecessarily wasting the time of the House ?

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You should not raise all these State matters in this House. Please understand that. This is not the procedure.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If you want to raise it here, you must give a special notice. Please take your seat.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI K.P. MUNUSAMY : Sir, please allow us to raise it after the Question Hour.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : All right.

Now, Question No. 261 - Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria.

11.05 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Joint Authority for Environment Surrounding Taj Mahal

[Translation]

+
*261. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a joint authority for the security and protection of the environment surrounding the Taj Mahal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount proposed to be allocated for the purpose; and

(d) the time by which the authority is proposed to be set up ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) -The Government proposes to constitute an Authority soon under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for protection and improvement of the environment in the area surrounding the Taj Mahal.

The Central Government has envisaged a commitment of upto Rs. 300 crores on a 50:50 percent matching basis with the State Government to cover the estimated cost of Rs. 600 crores to implement various schemes relating to environmental protection of the Taj Mahal.

The proposed Authority shall perform the following functions :

- (i) Monitor progress of the implementation of various schemes for protection and improvement of the environment in the area surrounding the Taj Mahal.
- (ii) Exercise powers under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for closure, prohibition or regulation of any industry, operation or process in the pertinent area.
- (iii) Take steps to ensure compliance of specified emission standards by motor vehicles including proper calibration of the equipment for testing vehicular pollution, ensuring compliance of fuel quality, standards, monitoring and coordinating action for traffic planning and management.
- (iv) Deal with environmental issues related to protection of the Taj Mahal which may be referred to it by the Government.

[Translation]

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir indifferent attitude is being shown towards the maintenance of world famous places of Archaeological importance like the Taj Mahal, Khajuraho etc. These places of Archaeological importance are getting ruined. There have been reports that atmosphere around the Taj is getting polluted. A mission management board has been set up in order to expedite the

work relating to protecting the Taj. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to by when this Board will be set up ? It was stated that an Authority was set up in 1986 and a time limit was fixed thereunder for setting up of a board to improve it, but till date neither any action has been taken in this regard nor any board has been set up for its maintenance. I want to know from the hon'ble Minister as to the time by which action will be taken to set up the said board to improve the atmosphere around the Taj and for its maintenance ?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Mission Management Board was set up by the Government of Uttar Pradesh for proper protection of the Taj and to provide vital information in this regard. It is true that whatever steps have been taken so far are insufficient and a lot more is needed in this regard. I have decided to set up an authority first time to protect other major monuments of the country under a central Act i.e. Pollution Control Act.

I have issued orders after taking this decision. Different agencies are engaged to protect the Taj. Mission control board is one of them which has been set up by the Government of Uttar Pradesh, besides some people from the Natural Gas Commission are also working in this direction. We have set up this Authority under the environment Protection Act to coordinate and issue direction to the state and central Government agencies working in this field. The House will be glad to know that first time such a step has been taken due to which we shall be able to protect it.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Sir, will the hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to who will be the members of the proposed Authority and their field of expertise along with the powers to be conferred upon them ?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Sir, wide powers have been conferred upon the central Government under section 5 of Environment Protection Act, under which we can issue orders through this authority to close down any processing and manufacturing unit. We assumed that the authority set up under section 5 of the Environment Protection Act is a powerful one.(*Interruptions*)

Sir, I was stating that an authority has been set up and separate agencies of the state and central Government are functioning there(*Interruptions*) Please listen to me first. I would like to say that the representatives of the state and central Government agencies have been included in the said authority which are concerned with it like the Archaeological Survey of India, as the maintenance of monuments is their primary function. The Department of Tourism is also involved therein, besides different agencies of the central Government. There is co-operation of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Surface Transport and my Ministry is working as the nodal Ministry therein. In addition to this a large number of employees of the state Government are working therein. Hence this authority has been constituted with the staff from state as well central Govt. agencies.

[*English*]

SHRI KAMAL NATH : I agree with the hon. Minister that we need to set up this authority.

This question has been nagging the Government for some time. It is not a single issue. It is by setting up this authority which will be coordinating between the State and the Central Governments that a viable solution to the problem of the Taj could be found. It is not merely industry. It also concerns transport. Much of the pollution there is because of transportation.

So, what I would like to ask the hon. Minister is what would be the mechanism to have better coordination between the State and Central Governments. There could be various departments of both the Governments involved and coordination will lead to the success or failure of this authority.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Sir, for this very reason my hon. friend and colleagues has been the Chairman of the former Environment Minister's forum which has pointed out that this is one of the lacunae where the State Governments and various organisations of the Central Government were involved. The honourable Supreme Court also has given some directions about these areas. There are multifarious activities and multifarious agencies which are supposed to be looking after the Taj Mahal. It is really necessary that we need to have a coordinated effort. And that is the reason why we had taken a decision to constitute this authority which will consider and obviate many of the difficulties that we are facing.

One of the very important points which he has asked and which I would like to reply is how the coordination would take place. In the absence of the authority there is no single forum at which these different authorities could really meet and there has to be a central authority which can give directions. It is because of the very reason that the efforts are not successful, we have formed this Authority and, I am sure, this Authority will certainly lead to a better atmosphere in and around Taj area.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir so far as getting the Taj Mahal's pollution free is concerned, there cannot be two opinions about it. The Govt. have set up an Authority in this regard which is a welcome step. Whether the Hon'ble Minister is aware that orders have been passed by the courts and the Governments in this country in the name of environment since long due to which thousands of people face hardship to earn their livelihood. You know that the hon'ble Supreme Court has issued such orders some time back as a result of which 30 lakh people have been rendered jobless. They face difficulties in earning their livelihood and one or two persons even committed suicide. I want to know from the Government that while formulating any scheme in the name of protection of environment, forests and the Taj which results in displacement of poor people working around the

Taj, would the Government give an assurance that those people will not be removed without providing them alternatives job to earn their livelihood and place to live so that they are not faced with any difficulties.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Mr. Speaker, Sir this is a genuine problem. We have set up this authority to safeguard the livelihood of the people working around the Taj Mahal. We will spend rupees 600 crore on it out of which rupees 300 crore will be contributed by the Union Government and rest will be borne by the State Government. To safeguard the interests of labourers working in the boundaries established before Shahjahan's rule there and to run the factory we had also decided to supply natural gas to them.

The Gas Authority of India Limited had proposed to supply gas to them by 1987 but there is some problem. In case of their shifting, we will ensure to minimise their difficulties.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Raju Singh, you are always making a running commentary. This is not good. You are a senior Member. There should be some discipline in the Question Hour also. What is this? If you get a chance, you can raise your question. There should not always be a running commentary.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, whenever the question of Taj and environment protection of the Taj comes in this House, the reply being given from Shri Kamal Nath to Shri Suresh Prabhu is the same that the Government is looking into it, the Government is taking steps, the Government is constituting the body and the Government is seriously thinking about it. There is nothing more than that(Interruptions). I have been in this House when Shri Kamal Nath was the Minister, when the other gentleman was the Minister and now you are also giving the same reply. This is nothing but a bureaucratic reply.

We would like to know only one thing as to what concrete steps the Government is going to take to protect this world famous monument. Will the hon. Minister assure this House that the Government will be taking steps expeditiously and seriously to the best interests of the Taj and the protection of the Taj? We want a specific reply, not giving all these things one at a time. Hon. Minister may please do that.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you give only a specific reply.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Firstly, the reply is not the same. The reply is different. That is why, the question was asked because we have decided to set up an Authority, for the first time, utilising the powers conferred on us through Section 5 of the Environment Protection Act. But to be more specific about what we are doing, I will read out, if you permit me.

As far as power supply is concerned, the Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board has already set up a 100 m.w. transformer which has been energised. We have taken a series of measures in the power sector.

As far as water supply for Agra is concerned, we have sectioned a project for Rs. 72.80 crore. It has already been approved by the State as well as by our Government. Twenty-three per cent of intake of well construction has been completed. The work is proposed to be completed by the year 2001-2002. These projects will improve the water supply situation.

As far as scarcity of water in summer months is concerned, Agra will be able to provide more potable water to tourists and others.

As far as Mathura-Vrindavan is concerned, a number of similar steps have been taken. An amount of Rs. 42 crore are proposed to be spent on that area.

On Gokul Barrage, Rs. 74.38 crore are being spent and only Rs. 12.05 crore remained to be spent in the course of next one or two years.

For the solid waste management in the Agra city, which is one of the big components for this, we have already decided to set up a Rs. 7.49 crore project for the purpose of collection and processing of the solid waste. This will definitely help not only the Agra city area but also the area around it. As a result of this, the tourists also will be benefited.

On the storm water drainage system, Rs. 6.59 crore are being spent. As a result of this, the overflow of sewage will be controlled.

Many of the vehicles are not going to Agra but have to necessarily pass through the Agra city. We are undertaking the construction of a bypass which will make sure that the vehicles which are not having their ultimate destination as Agra city, will not be able to go to the city but will be bypassing the Agra city. So, this will also be helpful.

For widening of the Agra Bypass, we have decided to undertake a survey, which will cost Rs. 0.75 crore.

For improvement of the Master Plan for the Agra city, an amount of Rs. 21.22 crore is being spent and the work is already in progress.

The most important is the green-belt development around the Taj Mahal, on which Rs. 8.84 crore is being spent. This will reduce the impact of air as well as control the pollution.

So, these are the various measures being taken. The total cost involved in all these measures is Rs. 600 crore.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have read the details given by the hon. Minister just now on the floor of the House. In the course of his reply, he

has mentioned about the Ministry of Petroleum also. One of the components for the pollution around Agra, which was decided by one of the committees in 1991-92, was the emission from the Mathura Refinery and one of the effects of this emission is that the white marble stone of the Taj Mahal is turning into yellow. May I know from the hon. Minister specifically, since he has mentioned so many things, as to what measures they are going to take to see that the emission from the Mathura Refinery does not affect the Taj Mahal and its white marble stone does not turn yellow ?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Sir, it is a very interesting question, but it is also based on some misconception. The Mathura Refinery is in no way contributing to the pollution of the Taj Mahal monument. As a matter of fact, we have set up one of the most stringent conditions on the Mathura Refinery. Those conditions are so stringent that they are the worst in the world, or rather the best in the world. As a result of these, the Mathura Refinery is now performing in such a way that their emission norms, particularly of sulphur dioxide, which can possibly cause such yellowishness on the Agra monuments.....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Sir, one of his predecessors, while replying to one of the Supplementary Questions in this House, said that this is one of the reasons.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Prakash Ambedkar, let him complete his answer.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Sir, the air monitoring system of the Mathura Refinery is monitoring it on day to day basis. The emission of the Mathura Refinery is the lowest in that region. In fact, the Mathura Refinery has received an award from the World Environment Forum for their performance of that kind, and I really congratulate my colleague, the Petroleum Minister for coming out with performance like this.

Hydel Power Generation from Small Projects

+

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

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

(a) whether the Government have formulated any plan to enhance the power generation from the small hydro power projects ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether all hydel projects up to 25 MW have been shifted from the Ministry of Power;

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

(e) the estimated power likely to be generated from the hydel projects?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources is implementing schemes for power generation from small hydel projects. These include assistance for survey and investigation of small hydro sites, preparation of detailed project reports, interest subsidy for projects in the private sector, capital grants in the North-East in the State sector, renovation and modernisation of old stations and development and up-gradation of water mills.

(c) to (e) In order to provide greater thrust to small hydro power development, the Ministry of Power, while announcing the Policy for Hydro Power Development, has proposed the transfer of the subject of small hydro power between 3 and 25 MW to the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources. The estimated potential of small hydro power projects will be over 10,000 MW.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have read a report and as per this report, so far 80 thousand villages could not be provided with the facility of electricity. We are formulating big plans for generating electricity but 18 thousands villages have not yet been provided with electricity facility. The Government have encouraged power generation by providing assistance to small villages and hilly tracks for setting up small hydro-electric projects. I would like to know the names of the villages where survey has been conducted by the Government and the extent of power likely to be generated by these ?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the small hydro power projects of 3 MW are concerned, I would like to tell that as on date, 183 such projects have been installed and 148 such projects are under installation. I have inquired into it and as per my information, about 3350 such sites have been identified and their total capacity come about 2852 MW. In case of Maharashtra, I would like to say that small hydro project with capacity of less than 3 MW have been set up there at 66 places and these will generate 75 MW electricity. As far as the policy regarding Public Sector Participation is concerned, it has not changed at all. People can participate in private sector. In context of power projects with the capacity of 3 to 25 MW, I would like to state that 12 such sites have been identified in Maharashtra which have power potential upto 120 MW. Six projects of Maharashtra are generating 7 MW. power and 3 MW. power projects are under construction which would have a potential of generating 7.25 MW. power.

SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether there is any proposal to transfer the small hydro power projects with a capacity of less than 25 mw. If so, by when these would be transferred ?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : So far the issue of transfer of small non-conventional power projects with a capacity of 3 to 25 mw is concerned, I would like to tell that the government has taken a decision in the cabinet to this affect and business rules in this regard would be issued soon.

SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the cost of setting up a 25 mw power project alongwith the per megawatt cost of power generation.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : So far the issue of the cost of setting up 25 mw power project is concerned, I would like to state that only an estimate could be made in this regard because cost of one power project may differ from that of the other Project. This issue relates to the site of hydro project. One megawatt power generation costs about Rs.4-5 crore. As regards the issue of setting up a power project in hilly, north-eastern states and in Andman -Nicobar Islands is concerned, I would say that the Government provides 50 percent or subsidy upto Rs. 2.5 crore.

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE : When the hon. Railway Minister was laying the Status Report on the Railways in this august House, at that time, the power Minister said that, in the next Session, the Power Ministry will also lay on the Table a Status Report about the problems faced by the Department concerned and its future plans. I would like to know from the Minister concerned as to when he is going to lay the Status Report on the entire issue of power supply on the table.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, I am at the moment standing here in my capacity as the Minister of Non-conventional Energy Sources. The Member has asked a question with regard to power. We have already come out with a programme as to what is our vision in the Power Ministry for 2000-2012. It is available in the library. If necessary, I shall send a copy to my good friend.

SHRI C. GOPAL : Hon. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy sources has implemented schemes for generation of power by small hydro-electric projects. I would like to know from the hon. Minister if there is any such scheme to be implemented in Tamil Nadu, and if so, the details thereof. I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that there is a power cut in Tamil Nadu which has been going on for two days. Students and labourers are suffering a lot because of this. Tamil Nadu is in total darkness. I therefore, want to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any such scheme for implementation in Tamil Nadu in future. I want a detailed answer for this.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, I shall send him the details of Tamil Nadu. There are four projects now being supported by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources. The capacity in Tamil Nadu is not too little, it is reasonably high. The details are – 131 projects are identified with a potential of 141.92 MW; three projects are set up with a capacity of 4.75 MW; four projects are under construction with a capacity of 6.4 MW.

Sites which we have offered to the private sector is only one of .65 MW. Four of our subsidy schemes of 6.45 MW are under operation. Under MES DPR scheme where DPR preparation is financed by us, six projects of 1 MW are going on. Under the DSI scheme, there is one project of 1 MW. If the Member wants the details, I can send them to him.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : The Member has asked about the black out in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, with your permission I would just complete my answer.

MR. SPEAKER : You can send the information to the Member.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, the Minister is giving a wrong picture.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

.....(Interruptions) *

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, a large number of small hydro-electric projects installed in our country are at optimum generation level. They are even non-functional due to ageing, obsolescent technology, poor maintenance, etc. If not attended to in time, their condition would further deteriorate resulting in further loss of generation. Some of them may deteriorate beyond economic renovation and repair. An allocation of Rs. 147 crore has been made for small hydro-electric programmes during the Ninth Five Plan. May I know from the Minister the amount earmarked for renovation and modernisation of these old hydro-electric projects which are non-functional and which have become obsolete and deteriorated ?

[English]

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, on renovation and modernisation front the situation is not so bad as Basu-da is trying to make out. For renovation and modernisation of old projects, the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy has given Rs. 2. crore per megawatt. We have an allocation of Rs. 5 crore this year. In fact, there is hardly any case coming up to us. About 50 to 60 MW, the capacity is below optimal but not so bad as we see often in Bihar in many thermal plants which are there, for example, in Bihar.

* Not recorded.

[*Translation*]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I could not understand the reply given by the hon'ble Minister. Hon'ble Minister is replying to the questions enthusiastically but I think the precious time of the House is being wasted. Hon'ble Minister has stated(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Laluji you have got your hair cut.(*Interruptions*)

SHRI LALU PRASAD : I have got my hair cut because Bhandarji has been recalled(*Interruptions*) Bhandarji was called back by you so I have got my hair cut. Mr. Speaker, Sir the department of power is not working properly. Hon'ble Minister has stated that as per the policy of the Government, assistance would be given for setting up 25 mw hydel power projects. I would like to know the extent of assistance to be given. Whether any survey has been conducted in states. How much funds have been allocated in the budget for this purpose. It has been stated that project will be formulated in the field of Conventional energy. The useful water of rivers originating from mountains is wasted away in rainy season. Whether any survey has been conducted by the Department of Energy, Government of India or you are making a guess that assistance will be given in setting up power projects having capacity 3 to 25 mw. It was the policy of the Government that areas of coal pit –(*Interruptions*)

I am coming to the question. Please listen to me. Please understand, your party's Government is going to fall. Mr. Speaker the whole country has a right to know this and through you I would like to know whether any survey has been conducted and how much funds have been allocated in this budget for this purpose. Whether the State Governments have to make contribution or cent percent work is to be executed by the Central Government. I would like to know how many projects pertaining to small areas and for utilizing the water of rivers originating from mountains which is being wasted at present have been taken up or will be taken up in the coming years. I would like to seek a categorical reply to this question. Whatever has been given to the hydel sector in Bihar has been withdrawn. Koel Karo project was withdrawn and it is not known the project with what capacity was sanctioned later on. Please clarify whether it is mere a guess so that Hon'ble members should know as to what is being done in their region in their states.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell hon'ble Laluji that I do not make tall claims and make factual statements. The potential of ten thousand Megawatt was identified only after carrying out detailed study by Central Electricity Authority. The figures given by me here have been prepared both by State Electricity Board and Central Electricity Authority. The power projects have been set up on the basis of identified potential.

The total capacity of small hydro power projects with capacity of less than 3 mw comes to 245 MW and their number is 149. People are being offered to take up projects hav-

ing capacity of 861 mw under the private sector. 82 projects are working under subsidy scheme and their capacity is about 100 mw. He is very well aware of the fact that Koel Karo project was closed down by the earlier government of his allies parties. We have revived this project.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, instead of blaming this government, he should be thankful to us. There should be no dispute in matters of increasing power generation. We all should work together for progress of the country.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a fact that such small hydel power projects can work efficiently particularly in the hilly states and these are very much required in these states. Electricity is an object of dream only in Paddar and Marwa – Dachan area under my constituency. People are not even familiar with the lanterns. There people have to burn wood to get light. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to which hydel power projects have been formulated for Jammu and Kashmir especially for Bani, Thathri, Paddar, Marwa – Dachan and Poonchh area which have enough scope for setting up mini hydel projects. I would like to get detailed information as to whether these areas have been identified or not for this purpose and whether work is on in this regard.

[*English*]

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : I have to search for the List now.

MR. SPEAKER : Otherwise, you can send the information to the hon. Member.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : I have not got the papers with me immediately. But I have replied earlier to Q.No. 3765. This question has been replied to earlier in the Lok Sabha itself. The on-going small hydro projects in hilly areas are Haftal, Sarkali, and Marpechoo in Ladakh province, and Sanjak in Kargil, and Igomarcllong and Dunkar in Leh.

MR. SPEAKER : You can send the information to the hon. Member.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : The hydro-projects in Kashmir are Pahalgam, Matchil and Asthannallah. Restoration work is going on in Mohra. I am talking about projects under execution in Jammu & Kashmir.

In Jammu province, there are Sewa Hydroelectric Project Phase III Chennai-3 project. Remodelling of Bhandarwah Power House is going on.

I can also give you the present stage of each project. There are enough details. I will send them to the hon. Member.

I wish to assure the hon. Member that we are aware of the fact that hilly area is the place where hydro potential is there. That is why, the policy provides for subsidy in hilly areas in the North-East and in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Darjeeling is a hill district in West Bengal where there is Rammam hydel power project and at the time of Gorkhaland movement in Darjeeling district, this project was badly affected. There are four units of 12.75 MW each, the total of which comes to 51 MW. Recently the Government of West Bengal have decided to hand over this hill area project to joint sector in order to run this project smoothly. It is a project by which the total hilly area can be provided with power. I want to know whether Central Government has any proposal to make financial assistance to this project so that it cannot be handed over to joint sector by the State Government and whether Central Government can take up this project on their own.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, this actually is a State Government project. I am sorry to say that the Central Government does not get any jurisdiction until they voluntarily and willingly hand it over. If they do so, I can assure the hon. Member that we will not only finance it but we will complete the project and run the project as well.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Thank you very much.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : The hon. Minister has informed this House that the hydel potential of this country is 10,000 MW. I would like to know from him what percentage of it has been tapped and what percentage of it would he like to tap during the current plan.

There was a subsidy and there is a subsidy at present. What is the policy of the Government with regard to this subsidy? Would he continue it or is there a proposal to do away with this subsidy?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, may I just point out that there is no proposal to do away with the subsidy. On the contrary, I would like the help of the hon. Chief Whip of the Opposition, Shri Kurien to campaign with me to improve the subsidy a bit.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : I support you in that.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : The percentage that we have achieved is rather small. Only 1,200 MW have been set up. I would like to achieve all the 10,000 MW because small hydros are really valuable the day the debt is paid back. Then it becomes a cheaper source of power because operation and maintenance is very low.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : What is the target for this year in the current Plan?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Unfortunately, the cost of construction in most of these projects are non-viable in the sense that till the debt is paid back the cost of power is very high. Therefore, the private sector is often reluctant to come into it without enough subsidy being provided. A scheme of subsidy is there but the amount of money that we get has always not been enough over the years to achieve

the objective which we want and I am sure that the hon. Member would help me at the appropriate time.

Conservation Area Surveys

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*263. SHRI KAMAL NATH :
SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO :

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

(a) whether Conservation Area Surveys and/or flora and fauna surveys have been conducted in various National parks and Sanctuaries in the country.

(b) if so, the details thereof, park/sanctuary-wise;

(c) whether about fifty exotic species of weeds are threatening the flora at the Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve and also Rajaji National Park to the West of tiger reserve;

(d) if so, whether the State Forest officials have expressed their inability to tackle this problem owing to money and man power constraints; and

(e) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to help fight this menace?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Forest Survey of India has completed forest cover mapping in 18 tiger reserves using the satellite data and the findings were published in a report "State of Forest Cover in Project Tiger Reserves in 1993". List of these tiger reserves is at Annexure-I to this statement. Forest Survey of India has also published reports regarding forest cover in 2 national parks and 8 sanctuaries. The details are given at Annexure-II to this statement.

Botanical Survey of India has also conducted floral survey around the 18 tiger reserves. 1 national park and 4 sanctuaries, the list of which is given at Annexure-III of this statement.

Zoological Survey of India has carried out faunal survey in respect of 11 tiger reserves. 3 national parks and 10 sanctuaries. The list of the areas is given at Annexure-IV of this statement.

(c) Intensive infestation by weeds like *Lantana*, *Parthenium* and *water hyacinth* does affect the flora and fauna in certain areas of the Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve and Rajaji National Park.

(d) and (e) Uttar Pradesh Government have submitted a proposal for weed eradication in Corbett and Rajaji National

Parks to Government of India for financial support under Centrally Sponsored Scheme. Funds have been allocated to eradicate Lantana and other weeds only where the problem is acute. Wildlife experts have advised against total eradication of Lantana because it has a definite ecological value.

Annexure-I

List of Tiger Reserves where Forest Cover Mapping has been done by the Forest Survey of India

1. Bandipur, Karnataka
2. Buxa, West Bengal
3. Jim Corbett, Uttar Pradesh
4. Dudhwa, Uttar Pradesh
5. Indravati, Madhya Pradesh
6. Kalakad-Mundanthurai, Tamil Nadu
7. Kanha, Madhya Pradesh
8. Manas, Assam
9. Melghat, Maharashtra
10. Nagarjuna Sagar, Andhra Pradesh
11. Namdapha, Arunachal Pradesh
12. Palamau, Bihar
13. Periyar, Kerala
14. Ranthambhore, Rajasthan
15. Sariska, Rajasthan
16. Simlipal, Orissa
17. Sunderbans, West Bengal
18. Valmiki, Bihar

Annexure-II

List of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries where Forest Cover Mapping has been done by the Forest Survey of India

National Parks

1. Rajaji, Uttar Pradesh
2. Great Himalayan, Himachal Pradesh

Wildlife Sanctuaries

1. Naina Devi, Himachal Pradesh
2. Chail, Himachal Pradesh
3. Kugti, Himachal Pradesh
4. Baranwapara, Madhya Pradesh
5. Lao Khowa, Assam
6. Udanti, Madhya Pradesh
7. Sitanadi, Madhya Pradesh
8. Bhairam Garh, Madhya Pradesh

Annexure-III

List of Tiger Reserves, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries where floral survey has been done by the Botanical Survey of India

(a) Tiger Reserves

1. Bandipur, Karnataka
2. Buxa, West Bengal
3. Jim Corbett, Uttar Pradesh
4. Dudhwa, Uttar Pradesh
5. Indravati, Madhya Pradesh
6. Kalakad-Mundanthurai, Tamil Nadu
7. Kanha, Madhya Pradesh
8. Manas, Assam
9. Melghat, Maharashtra
10. Nagarjuna Sagar, Andhra Pradesh
11. Namdapha, Arunachal Pradesh
12. Palamau, Bihar
13. Periyar, Kerala
14. Ranthambhore, Rajasthan
15. Sariska, Rajasthan
16. Simlipal, Orissa
17. Sunderbans, West Bengal
18. Valmiki, Bihar

(b) National Parks

1. Silent Valley, Kerala

(c) Wildlife Sanctuaries

1. Panchmari, Madhya Pradesh
2. Bori, Madhya Pradesh
3. Annamalai, (Indira Gandhi) Tamil Nadu
4. Jaldapara Sanctuary, West Bengal

Annexure-IV

List of Tiger Reserves, National Parks and Sanctuaries where faunal survey has been done by the Zoological Survey of India

Areas where faunal survey has completed :

(a) Tiger Reserves

1. Namdapha, Arunachal Pradesh
2. Palamau, Bihar
3. Valmiki, Bihar
4. Pench, Madhya Pradesh

5. Melghat, Maharashtra
6. Taroba – Andheri, Maharashtra
7. Indravati, Madhya Pradesh
8. Kanha, Madhya Pradesh
9. Ranthambhore, Rajasthan
10. Simplipal, Orissa
11. Sariska, Rajasthan

(b) National Parks

1. Rajaji, Uttar Pradesh
2. Silent Valley, Kerala
3. Borivilli, Maharashtra

(c) Sanctuaries

1. Chilka, Orissa
2. Harika, Punjab
3. Renuka, Himachal Pradesh
4. Annamalai (Indira Gandhi), Tamil Nadu
5. Asolabhati, Delhi
6. Hazaribag, Bihar
7. Mount Harriet, Andaman & Nicobar Islands
8. Govind Pashu Vihar, Uttar Pradesh
9. Campbell Bay, Andaman & Nicobar Islands
10. Sukna, Union Territory of Chandigarh

SHRI KAMAL NATH : We have been concerned about the threat to the tiger till now. There are many reasons for the threat to the tiger. One of the biggest reasons is the shrinking habitat because of biotic pressures.

Now, a new thing is happening, where the habitat is being attacked by weeds. This will create more pressure on the habitat and it would mean a greater threat to the tiger. When we talk of protection of the tiger, we talk about it because the tiger is at the heart of our ecosystem. So, this is a matter of great concern for us. I would like to know from the hon. Minister how much of the Jim Corbett National Park and the Rajaji National Park are infested by weeds like lantana and parthenium, how are we going to address this issue, to what extent will the State Governments be asked to deal with this problem and what will be the component of the Central Government's assistance to the State Governments for dealing with this problem ?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : It is true that some parts of the National parks, particularly the Rajaji as well as Jim Corbett national parks, have been infested with some weeds which are very exotic to India. Though they are very exotic to India, in the case of certain weeds like lantana which have been in India for more than a hundred years now, they are posing a serious threat to the vegetation of the Rajaji Na-

tional Park as well as the Jim Corbett National park. We would like to deal with this problem very carefully because there is already a scientific opinion which has been expressed by persons like Dr. Ulhas Karan, who say that when we want to get rid of such weeds, it could also pose certain ecological problems because these weeds, though exotic in earlier times and have now been in India for more than 100 years, are also playing a useful role in the maintenance of ecological balance in certain areas.

SHRI KAMAL NATH : They are part of biodiversity.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : That is correct. They are part of biodiversity. However, we have to deal with this problem because if it spreads, it might pose a threat to grasslands. Therefore, what we are really trying to do is to make sure that this does not spread beyond a particular point, it is kept at a controllable level and at the same time it is controlled by way of such measures which will not pose other problems. For example, if we use certain chemicals or pesticides, it might damage our ecosystem in that area and destroy biodiversity.

Therefore, we are taking certain very careful steps. It is true that it has been infested. The three major weeds which are really causing this are lantana, parthenium and water hyacinth. These are the three major weeds. In the Rajaji National Park – it has been reported and I have been informed – an area of about 600 sq. km has been infested by this. However, a part of it is also under the periphery. What we really need to do is to ensure that it is taken care of. It is a very important point and as you have very correctly said, this is under serious threat, not necessarily emanating from loss of habitat as a result of deforestation, but also from a natural disaster which could cause this damage. So, I am thinking of constituting a committee to go into this aspect very carefully and take such remedial steps as may be necessary.

As far as offering financial assistance to the State Governments are concerned, we have included this under Centrally Sponsored Scheme. Whatever amount the State Government would be needing, we will definitely be willing to give it to them. But it is not just a matter of financial assistance, but also the type of technical step that we really need to take. For example, when we take out a weed, if you do not destroy it properly, it might cause some other problems. It is really impossible to root it out completely. So, all these steps which are really required to be taken are being taken. I am glad that this question has been raised which is of a very important nature.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Kamal Nath, a very brief supplementary please.

SHRI KAMAL NATH : Yes, Sir. But it is a very important issue.

I agree that it is a sensitive matter because some part of the weed is required as a part of bio-diversity. But one of the

methods by which this can be done is by growing other plant which naturally will attack the weeds. So, within that area if you grow other trees or other kinds of plantations, they will be able to kill these weeds naturally. May I know whether the hon. Minister would consider asking the Zoological Survey of India or the Botanical Survey of India or the Forest Survey of India to get into this to see what other trees etc. can be grown to deal with this problem in a natural way rather than in a chemical manner ?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : That is right. We have already started working on this. Plants like Arjun, Jamun and others are being planted as a counter balancing act to ensure that these do not spread beyond a point. Whenever it is expected, we really try to put some sort of a bund there so that they do not spread beyond a point. But we are really taking the type of steps that are needed. In fact, as I said, the committee that is going to look into this, will also look into which type of alternative plants that are required to be planted. It is a very scientific question and we really need to address it in that fashion.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Sir, the hon. Minister has given details about the survey of flora and fauna that is going on in the National Parks, in his reply. Will the hon. Minister extend this facility to the Sanctuaries in Orissa, especially the Sanctuaries of Karlapat, Ushakoti and Sunabeda in the districts of Kalahandi and Deogarh ?

My second question is this. May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware of the fact that there is heavy forest fire in the Eastern Ghats, in thousands of sq. miles with the result, thousands of acres of forest land is getting destroyed ? What steps the Government is taking to stop this ?

Lastly, I would like to ask this question. To review the Wildlife Act of 1972, an Inter-State Committee was formed; they had come out with a report. What were the findings of the report ?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Having a survey of the variety of flora and fauna in the country is a continuous process. The two major institutions which are involved in the task are Botanical Survey of India and the Zoological Survey of India. There are about 47,000 plants in the country of which about 15,000 are endangered and there are about 81,000 animals of which about 62 per cent are endemic to India. Therefore what we are really doing is taking a survey of the country as a whole. We have already completed about 70 per cent of the survey of the country through Botanical Survey of India and the Zoological Survey of India. I would certainly include the places that he has mentioned into it in the near future as well as will definitely conduct the survey.

As far as forest fires are concerned, we have got a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. Forest fires are posing a serious threat again to our rich forests which we really need to prevent. For that, whatever assistance the State Governments normally ask, we try to provide that.

If the Member has any specific instance in which the State Government is in need of some assistance, we will certainly consider it in an appropriate manner.

As far as amendment of the Wild life Protection Act is concerned, I would introduce the amended version of this Act probably in this Session or surely in the next Session of the Parliament.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, in part 'A' of the question asked to the Minister of Environment and Forests, it has been enquired whether conservation area survey has been conducted in various National parks and sanctuaries in the country. I have been elected from the Junagarh Parliamentary constituency for the third time. I would like to say that Gir forests and Gir sanctuary park have plenty of medicinal plants and there is a need to protect them. I would like to ask whether the Government is proposing to conduct a special survey to formulate a programme to protect these plants. In the answer to Part 'B' of the question, it has not been mentioned that Flora and fauna surveys have been conducted or not. In the National park and Gir forests*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : There is not much time left. Your supplementary should be brief.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : I conclude by making a small point. It is being repeatedly discussed that a proposal is under consideration to inhabitate the Lions of Gir forests at some other place. I would like to be assured in the House regarding the steps to be taken by the Government in this regard. It has been observed that Asiatic lions are no longer inhabited at any other place except Gir forest in Asia. Earlier also efforts were made to inhabitate them in Rajasthan.*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask your supplementary.

SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : It is a very small point. Efforts were made to inhabitate the lions in Rajasthan but all the lions died in the process. I would like to have a concrete reply regarding the steps to be taken by the Government in this regard.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Regarding the first part of the question, I would like to state that every year National Forest and Ecological Board provide some assistance to Gujarat for the conservation of medically sensitive plants and medically useful plants. Any specific assistance if needed will be certainly provided. In the entire world, Asiatic lions exist only in Gir forests. Therefore, a proposal is under consideration to arrange an alternative habitat. It does not mean that the lions of Gir forest will be shifted to some other place.

But to face any eventually the Government is only thinking of an alternative habitat. For that we are making assessment only on technical level, however Government have no such proposal to shift the lions from Gir forests.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister of Forests that whether the forest area in Sixteenth range of district Gonda at Nepal Border is covered under the tiger project. One or two months ago, some cubs were found dead there who were victims of hunting. Hunting is being done there on a large scale. How many tigers are found in the various forests of the country and what is the quantum of increase or decrease in their population? The second point I would like to ask you to whether automatic weapons and wireless sets will be provided to the forest officers to prevent the poaching being done by the Jungle Mafia?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Till date, we have managed 25 national parks and tiger reserves under the Tiger Project. The area you have mentioned does not come under the tiger reserve. There are 25 tiger reserves and one of them is in Dudhwa in U.P. As you have stated, census of tiger population is conducted after every two three years. New census will be conducted now. The number of tigers is increasing now which was earlier on decline. We are celebrating the 25th anniversary of Tiger Project. Efforts are being made to provide more and more economical and technical assistance to various tiger reserves.

12.00 hrs.

If foreign assistance is made available we would try to avail it for this purpose. That is why recently, Deputy Prime Minister of United Kingdom was invited so that we could get some assistance from European Union.

[English]

SHRI N. JANARADHANA REDDY : Sir, the hon. Minister was kind enough to say that he is going to amend the Wild Life Protection Act. This Act is an absurd Act. I brought it to the notice of the hon. Minister personally. To protect, say about 100 pelican birds, they have brought 750 sq. kms. of area under the Wild Life Protection Act due to which no house can be constructed, no agriculture can be operated and no road can be laid there. Whereas, at a distance of one kilometre, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Sriharikota is firing rockets there. How are you going to answer for this? I brought it to the notice of the Minister.

Sir, I would like to know from the Minister what action has been taken in this regard.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Sir, it is true that there are certain contradictions and there are certain apparent conflicts between the man and the animal which we would like to resolve while considering the amendment to the Wild Life Protection Act.

As for the specific point which the hon. Member has pointed out, we are really getting it examined.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Development of Gas and Petroleum Sector

*264. **SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA :**
SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any long term scheme for the development of gas and petroleum sector in the country;

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

(c) if not, the manner in which the Government propose to develop these sectors?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government is progressively adopting an appropriate policy for the petroleum sector. The reforms in Administered Price Mechanism are being implemented in phases for completion by 2002. New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) has been announced to encourage oil and gas exploration. The oil companies in the downstream sector have been allowed to enter E & P sector. Refining is de-licenced. Government is also encouraging direct foreign investment in this sector.

Besides above, Government has proposed to constitute a special Group of Ministers to work out a specific framework for an 'India Hydrocarbon Vision 2020'. Government is considering proposals to set up Regulatory Bodies for the Upstream and Downstream sectors of the petroleum sector including for Gas. The scope of the regulatory bodies could include promotion of investment, removal of entry barriers, prevention of cartelisation, regulation of supply and prices, supervision of transmission and distribution networks, ensuring quality and security, compliance with appropriate standards, dispute resolution, protection of consumer interest and long term optimal development of sectors of the hydrocarbon industry. Further, each oil company has evolved its own long-term corporate strategy for its sustained growth and development.

[English]

Consumption of Gutka and Tobacco

*265. **SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE :**
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the consumption of Gutka causes oral diseases:

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether there is any proposal to enact a legislation for imposing a ban on Gutka, Smoking and consumption of Tobacco;

(d) if so, the details thereof ;

(e) whether the Government have examined the various issues like impact on Labour, Tobacco Industry, Farmers and Exports, in case a ban is imposed on the smoking/chewing Tobacco/Gutka;

(f) if so, the manner in which the Government propose to deal with the situation;

(g) whether according to some studies chewing Tobacco is safer than smoking it; and

(h) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) According to experts, consumption of Gutka is hazardous to health and causes oral cancer.

(c) and (d) A proposal is under consideration to bring forward a comprehensive legislation on Tobacco which is expected to reduce the use of tobacco and tobacco products in the country.

(e) and (f) An Inter-Ministerial meeting has been held with concerned Ministries to examine various implications of banning sale of chewing tobacco and Gutka. Issues like impact on labour and tobacco farmers have also been examined. A policy decision is yet to be arrived at taking into consideration all these implications.

(g) and (h) Available Indian literature shows that risk of developing oral cancer is 3.4 to 10.2 times and 30 times higher respectively among tobacco chewing men and women as compared to non-users of tobacco. The risk of cancer among men and women smokers is respectively 1.4 to 3.5 times and 3.5 times higher as compared to non-users of Tobacco.

Funds for Primary Health Centres

*266. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB :
SHRI N. DENNIS :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated by the Union Government for the opening of Primary Health Centers during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of Primary Health Centres opened so far and the expenditure incurred thereon, State-wise;

(c) the assistance proposed to be given to the States during the Ninth Five Year Plan for this purpose; and

(d) the extent to which these centres have been found successful in the Rural Areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Opening of new Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and their maintenance is the responsibility of the State Governments concerned. Government of India does not extend financial assistance under any centrally sponsored scheme for opening of PHCs.

(b) The number of PHCs functioning in the country is given statewise in the statement laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. Expenditure is incurred on them both in the Plan and Non-Plan for which information is being collected from States.

(c) States are expected to continue to finance PHCs out of their Plan and Non-Plan budgets. No separate assistance to States is envisaged by Government of India during the 9th Plan. Under the Basic Minimum Services Programme, the centre provides additional central assistance for selected sectors, among which Primary Health Care is one.

(d) PHCs are the main agencies for providing health and family welfare services to the rural population in the country. Judging by the improvement in health and family welfare achieved for rural population over the past decades, the PHCs have been very successful.

Statement		
<i>Number of Primary Health Centres as on 30.6.1998</i>		
Sl.No.	State/UT	PHCs
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1335
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	47
3.	Assam	619
4.	Bihar	2209
5.	Goa	18
6.	Gujarat	960
7.	Haryana	400
8.	Himachal Pradesh	322
9.	J & K	337
10.	Karnataka	1601
11.	Kerala	960
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1814
13.	Maharashtra	1699
14.	Manipur	69

1	2	3
15.	Meghalaya	85
16.	Mizoram	324
17.	Nagaland	33
18.	Orissa	1352
19.	Punjab	484
20.	Rajasthan	1646
21.	Sikkim	24
22.	Tamil Nadu	1436
23.	Tripura	58
24.	Uttar Pradesh	3808
25.	West Bengal	1556
26.	A & N Islands	17
27.	Chandigarh	—
28.	D & N Haveli	6
29.	Daman & Diu	3
30.	Delhi	8
31.	Lakshadweep	4
32.	Pondicherry	43
All India		22991

(Figures are Provisional)

[Translation]

Poaching of Lions

*267. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY :
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

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

(a) the number of cases of poaching lions brought to light in various States during the last three years, State-wise,

(b) the steps taken by the Government to check such cases; and

(c) the action taken to enforce these steps effectively?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) During the last three years, six cases of poaching of seven lions have been reported in the State of Gujarat which is the only State where lions are found in the wild.

(b) and (c) Steps taken to protect lions are :

- i) Hunting of wild animals included in Schedules I to IV of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, is banned. Lion is included in Schedule I of the said Act.

ii) Area extending over 1153.41 sq. km. and 258.41 sq. km. have been notified as Gir Sanctuary and Gir National park respectively in the State of Gujarat.

iii) An anti poaching infrastructure equipped with wireless sets, fire arms and appropriate vehicles is operating in the protected area.

iv) International trade in endangered species of animals and articles made thereof is regulated under the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

v) Regional and Sub-regional offices of Wildlife Preservation have been set up mostly at the main export centres of the county to prevent smuggling of wildlife products.

vi) Inter-departmental coordination has been enhanced with other enforcement organisations like Police, BSF, Customs, ITBP, Coast Guards etc. Training programmes on wildlife enforcement and implementation are conducted at Wildlife Institute of India at Dehradun.

Tree Plantation Schemes

*268. SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

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

(a) the details of various tree plantation schemes being implemented in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of funds allocated under each Scheme during the last three years; and

(c) the target set for the plantation of trees during the Ninth Five Year Plan period in the Country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) and (b) Plantation/afforestation activities are carried out under schemes of various Central Ministries and State Governments. An illustrative list of the centrally sponsored schemes under which free planting activities are taken up in forest areas is as follows :

Ministry of Environment & Forests

- (i) Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Projects Scheme (IAEPS)
- (ii) Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Projects Scheme (AOFFPS)
- (iii) Conservation and Development of Non-Timber Forest Produce (including medicinal plants) Scheme (NTFP)

- (iv) Association of Scheduled Tribes and Rural Poor in the Regeneration of Degraded Forests on Usufruct Sharing Basis (ASTRP)

Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture

- (i) Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Projects
(ii) Soil Conservation in the Catchments of Flood Prone Rivers
(iii) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas

Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment

- (i) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY)
(ii) Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS)
(iii) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP)
(iv) Desert Development Programme (DDP)
(v) Integrated Wastelands Development Project Scheme;

Funds Allocated to State Governments under the schemes of the Ministry of Environment during 1995-98 is enclosed in Statement-I. Separate earmarking of funds for tree planting activities is not done under the schemes of the Ministries of Rural Areas and Employment and Agriculture.

- (c) State-wise plantation targets are fixed annually. Targets for 1997-98 and 1998-99 is enclosed in Statement-II.

Statement-I

Funds allocated to States under Plantation/Afforestation Schemes of the Ministry of Environment and Forests from 1995-96 to 1997-98

(Rupees in lakhs)

S.No.	State/UT	IAEPS	AOFFPS	NTFP	ASTRP
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	489.49	422.70	201.36	21.64
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	311.17	27.86	41.78	
3.	Assam	120.25	412.17	65.76	
4.	Bihar	310.04	537.41	28.00	63.52
5.	Goa	9.47	22.68	27.20	
6.	Gujarat	118.19	495.69	297.74	32.03
7.	Haryana	406.21	805.50	132.08	
8.	Himachal Pradesh	292.52	417.38	189.16	
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	736.99	282.22	519.82	
10.	Karnataka	825.83	675.69	129.33	41.99
11.	Kerala	267.40	393.79	75.59	
12.	Madhya Pradesh	730.08	1215.17	196.00	220.96
13.	Maharashtra	290.84	209.52	133.29	96.79
14.	Manipur	720.80	429.00	158.41	
15.	Meghalaya	99.91	214.03	106.20	
16.	Mizoram	158.61	854.12	46.82	
17.	Nagaland	29.10	61.50	10.00	
18.	Orissa	86.78	516.82	551.74	
19.	Punjab	296.14	819.14	212.50	
20.	Rajasthan	1128.05	800.59	253.51	5.93
21.	Sikkim	536.03	217.99	265.00	
22.	Tamil Nadu	64.58	408.29	54.52	
23.	Tripura	245.57	205.61	38.01	

1	2	3	4	5	6
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1869.18	918.26	62.00	
25.	West Bengal	317.65	451.40	164.83	

IAEPS - Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Projects Scheme.

AOFFPS - Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Projects Scheme.

NTFP - Conservation and Development of Non-Timber Forest Produce (including medicinal plants) Scheme

ASTRP - Association of Scheduled Tribes and Rural Poor in the Regeneration of Degraded Forests on Usufruct Sharing Basis Scheme.

Statement-II

Targets for Afforestation Activities under 20 Point Programme During Ninth Plan (1997-98 & 1998-99)

S.No.	Name of State/UT	1997-98 Targets		1998-99 Targets	
		Seedlings Distribution (For planting on private lands) (in lakhs)	Area (Public lands including forest lands) (in hectare)	Seedlings Distribution (For planting on private lands) (in lakhs)	Area (Public lands including forest lands) (in hectare)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1100.00	50000	1100.00	55000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	7.00	10000	7.00	10000
3.	Assam	25.00	27000	25.00	27000
4.	Bihar	500.00	40000	500.00	40000
5.	Goa	30.00	1800	30.00	1800
6.	Gujarat	1900.00	65000	1900.00	70000
7.	Haryana	200.0	32000	200.00	32000
8.	Himachal Pradesh	20.00	30000	20.00	30000
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	60.00	24000	60.00	24000
10.	Karnataka	400.00	65000	400.00	68000
11.	Kerala	180.00	19000	180.00	19000
12.	Madhya Pradesh	450.00	150000	450.00	150000
13.	Maharashtra	1150.00	126000	1150.00	126000
14.	Manipur	25.00	12000	25.00	12000
15.	Meghalaya	40.00	18000	40.00	18000
16.	Mizoram	22.00	19800	22.00	19800
17.	Nagaland	60.00	8000	60.00	8000
18.	Orissa	300.00	79000	300.00	87000
19.	Punjab	52.00	20000	52.00	20000
20.	Rajasthan	400.00	83000	400.00	85000
21.	Sikkim	22.00	11000	22.00	11000
22.	Tamil Nadu	1100.00	85000	1100.00	90000
23.	Tripura	40.00	10000	40.00	10000
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2200.00	110000	2200.00	110000
25.	West Bengal	825.00	44000	825.00	44000

1	2	3	4	5	6
26.	A & N Islands	5.00	4500	5.00	4700
27.	Chandigarh	0.10	500	0.10	500
28.	D & N Haveli	16.00	1000	16.00	1000
29.	Daman & Diu	2.00	50	2.00	50
30.	Delhi	25.00	1000	25.00	1000
31.	Lakshadweep	5.00	75	5.00	75
32.	Pondicherry	5.00	75	5.00	75
	Total	11166.10	1146800	11166.10	1175000

[English]

Projects pending with CPCB

*269 DR. SANJAY SINH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of projects are pending with the Central Pollution Control Board for clearance;

(b) If so, the details thereof ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) No, Sir. Projects do not require clearance from Central Pollution Control Board.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Raids at AIIMS's Stores

*270. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether CBI raided stores of All India Institute of Medical Sciences for the second time;

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

(c) whether any irregularities have been detected in the purchase of medicines, equipment, stores, stationery and other office use/ward use items during each of the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken to ensure that AIIMS and all other Central Government hospitals in Delhi purchase quality medicines, equipment, stores, stationery and other items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Central Bureau of Investigation Anti-Corruption Bureau, Delhi Branch on 30. 10. 98 conducted a surprise check of AIIMS stores on the information regarding irregularities relating to purchase of sub-standard cleaning materials at exorbitant prices and registered a case against some of the officials of AIIMS, National Consumer Co-operative Federation and private suppliers. The case is under investigation.

(c) and (d) (1) On the surprise check on 09.10.97 the CBI seized some samples of bandage and gauze for testing. The matter is presently under investigation, and the details of the cases including the quality of the seized bandages are part of the evidence to be produced before the Court at the appropriate juncture.

(2) On 20th July, 1998 the Medical Supdt. of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi was arrested by the anti-corruption Bureau of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi on the alleged charges of asking and receiving illegal gratification from a supplier. After the arrest, he was placed in judicial custody and subsequently placed under suspension under Rule 10(2) of the CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965.

(3) Subsequently, a Junior Stores Officer (Hospital) was also arrested by the Anti-corruption Bureau on 29.07.98 on the charges of having tampered with evidence in this case. According to the Anti-corruption Bureau, an order of four thousand units of absorbent cotton was given to the supplier on 20th July, 1998 and he substituted the office copy of the above order which contained the signature of the supplier as receipt of the order. He has also been placed under suspension as he was under police custody for more than 48 hours.

(e) AIIMS had set up an internal committee consisting of senior faculty members/officers to scrutinise the hospital stores records/files. The committee after scrutiny of records has suggested remedial measures for streamlining purchase procedures. Central Govt. hospitals in Delhi purchase medicines, equipments, stores and stationery etc. as per purchase procedure prescribed and through authorised purchase committees.

Availability of Doctors in Rural Areas

*271. SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN :
SHRI AJIT JOGI :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is non-availability of qualified doctors in the rural areas;
- (b) if so, whether any study has been conducted in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to stipulate any condition for the doctors to work in the rural areas for a minimum period before registration as medical graduates; and
- (e) if so, the conditions laid down for a doctor to get himself/herself registered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILAMALAI) : (a) According to assessment made in 1995, there are about 45 medical doctors per one lakh population in the country. While availability of doctors is more in urban areas but rural areas are not without doctors. In Government sector every Primary Health Centre for roughly 30000 rural population has one doctor and every Community Health Centre for roughly 1.2 lakh rural population has four doctors in addition to private practitioners.

(b) and (c) While no specific study has been recently made but information is periodically collected as part of health information statistics.

(d) According to Sections 15 and 25 of Indian Medical Council Act, experience of work in rural areas is not a requirement for registration as medical practitioner.

(e) Section 25 of Indian Medical Council Act stipulates registration of persons who have passed qualifying examination of any university or medical institution in India and who have worked for a prescribed period in resident medical capacity.

Combating Malaria and Cholera

*272. SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Malaria and Cholera took as heavy toll of life during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) the central aid sought and provided to States to tackle both the diseases, State-wise and year-wise;

(d) the States covered under the National Malaria Eradication programme;

(e) whether the Government propose to extend the said programme to other States;

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) the Malaria prone areas in the country, State-wise; and

(h) the results achieved in combating both the diseases during the aforesaid period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILAMALAI): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

As per reports received from the State Governments the number of deaths due to Malaria and Cholera during the years 1996, 1997 and 1998 show a downward trend State-wise information for these 3 years as per details given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) National Malaria Eradication Programme (NMEP) is a Category II Centrally Sponsored Scheme on a 50:50 Cost Sharing basis between the Centre and the State Govts. Central assistance is essentially in kind by way of supplying insecticides anti-malarial drugs, larvicides etc. The States are required to meet the cost of staff salaries, operational expenses on spray, freights, vehicles, etc. However, 100% Central assistance is provided to the 7 North-Eastern States since December, 1994 taking into account the high endemicity of the disease in these States. In addition, an Enhanced Malaria Control Project essentially covering 100 tribal predominant districts of 7 peninsular States namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan is being implemented since September, 1997 to supplement ongoing strategies under the National Programme. 19 cities/towns having high endemicity of Malaria area also covered under the project.

Regarding Cholera only technical support for investigation of outbreaks is provided through the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) as and when need arises.

The details of Central assistance provided to the State Government during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 under the National Malaria Eradication Programme are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) to (f) The National Malaria Eradication Programme is implemented in all the States/UTs in the country.

(g) As per the assessment of the Directorate of National Malaria Eradication Programme, all areas in the country below an altitude of 1800 meters are malaria-prone.

(h) With the adoption of strategies under the Modified Plan of Operation (MPO) for controlling Malaria under the National Malaria Eradication Programme, incidence of Malaria is contained around 2-3 million cases in the country annually since, 1984. Incidence of Malaria has been brought down from 1997 onwards and deaths due to Malaria have also reduced since 1996 as per chart placed below:-

Year	Total Malaria cases (in million)	Death due to malaria
1995	2.93	1151
1996	3.04	1010
1997	2.55	874
1998	2.07	642

Statement-I

States/UTs wise Malaria Deaths during 1996, 1997, 1998

S.No.	Name of the State/UT	1996	1997	1998 (P)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15	14	11
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	3	1
3.	Assam	58	27	28
4.	Bihar	100	37	25
5.	Goa	10	57	19
6.	Gujarat	6	37	0
7.	Haryana	26	0	0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	0	0
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	Nil	0	0
10.	Karnataka	13	7	3
11.	Kerala	12	10	8
12.	Madhya Pradesh	55	58	25
13.	Maharashtra	111	98	62
14.	Manipur	3	1	1
15.	Meghalaya	45	11	2
16.	Mizoram	20	41	56
17.	Nagaland	Nil	0	0
18.	Orissa	362	377	327
19.	Punjab	5	0	0
20.	Rajasthan	90	4	0
21.	Sikkim	Nil	0	0
22.	Tamil Nadu	7	1	0
23.	Tripura	16	10	0
24.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	11	0
25.	West Bengal	56	70	74

1	2	3	4	5
U.Ts				
01.	A & N Islands	Nil	Nil	Nil
02.	Chandigarh	Nil	Nil	Nil
03.	D & N Haveli	Nil	Nil	Nil
04.	Daman & Diu	Nil	Nil	Nil
05.	Delhi	Nil	Nil	Nil
06.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil
07.	Pondicherry	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total		1010	874	642

Statement Showing Notified Deaths due to Cholera in States/UTs in India during 1996, 1997 & 1998 (source CBHI)

S.No.	State/UT	1996	1997	1998
1	2	3	4	5
01.	Andhra Pradesh	0	1	0
02.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	-	-
03.	Assam	0	0	0
04.	Bihar	-	-	-
05.	Goa	0	0	0
06.	Gujarat	1	0	0
07.	Haryana	0	0	0
08.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0
09.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0
10.	Karnataka	6	9	2
11.	Kerala	10	1	0
12.	Madhya Pradesh	0	2	0
13.	Maharashtra	13	1	8
14.	Manipur	0	0	0
15.	Meghalaya	0	0	0
16.	Mizoram	0	0	0
17.	Nagaland	0	0	0
18.	Orissa	2	0	0
19.	Punjab	0	0	0
20.	Rajasthan	0	0	0
21.	Sikkim	0	0	0
22.	Tamil Nadu	2	-	0
23.	Tripura	0	0	0
24.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	-
25.	West Bengal	-	0	0
26.	A & N Islands	0	0	-
27.	Chandigarh	0	0	0
28.	D & N Haveli	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
29. Daman & Diu		0	0	0
30. Delhi		0	0	0
31. Lakshadweep		0	4	0
32. Pondicherry		0	0	0
Total :		34	18	10

Statement -II

Statement Showing State-Wise Central Assistance Provided Under NMEP During 1996-97, 1997-98 & B.E. 1998-99

(Rs.in Lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the States	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 (BE)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	634.63	617.00	464.91
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	126.90	297.50	270.42
3.	Assam	1660.83	2618.00	2435.18
4.	Bihar	206.76	348.98	508.90
5.	Goa	3.46	5.18	21.72
6.	Gujarat	471.75	726.77	998.62
7.	Haryana	327.77	291.08	293.13
8.	Himachal Pradesh	118.33	90.84	62.33
9.	J & K	120.62	78.62	48.55
10.	Karnataka	853.62	568.62	494.50
11.	Kerala	53.65	63.60	122.58
12.	Madhya Pradesh	769.35	1072.77	335.81
13.	Maharashtra	2405.71	1028.44	680.47
14.	Manipur	303.28	273.91	435.75
15.	Meghalaya	222.93	196.96	261.44
16.	Mizoram	106.07	132.00	286.17
17.	Nagaland	122.45	212.62	192.53
18.	Orissa	248.15	233.43	392.47
19.	Punjab	282.79	183.26	437.50
20.	Sikkim	39.34	1.77	10.06
21.	Rajasthan	2025.35	1799.74	2015.38
22.	Tamil Nadu	150.39	204.88	268.29
23.	Tripura	300.67	414.05	413.64
24.	Uttar Pradesh	941.71	505.73	825.01
25.	West Bengal	772.70	125.71	454.92
U.Ts.				
1.	Pondicherry	16.12	12.48	11.08
2.	Delhi	117.88	66.04	69.56

1	2	3	4	5
3.	A & N Island	94.04	93.83	99.44
4.	Chandigarh	46.33	48.53	43.15
5.	D & N Haveli	12.73	24.75	24.93
6.	Daman & Diu	8.80	12.37	15.80
7.	Lakshadweep	2.10	3.48	4.96
Total		13567.21	12352.94	12999.20

[Translation]

Expansion of Telephone Exchanges

*273. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA :
SHRI AJAY MUKHOPADHYAY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone exchanges expanded in the country so far, State-wise;

(b) the ratio of population and telephone exchanges in each state, separately;

(c) whether the Government propose to enhance the capacity of the existing telephone exchanges in the country particularly in Madhya Pradesh during 1999-2000;

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

(e) the funds allocated for the purpose during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) Details of number of telephone exchanges expanded in the country so far, State-wise details are enclosed in Statement-I.

(b) A statement of Ratio of population and telephone exchanges for each State is enclosed in Statement-II.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It is proposed to enhance the capacity of existing telephone exchanges in the country by 54.70 Lakhs including MTNL during 1999-2000. It is also proposed to provide 45.5 Lakhs new direct exchange lines, (DELS) in the country. Circle-wise details are enclosed in Statement-III.

(e) Rs. 11258.01 crores have been proposed under Local Telephone Systems during 1999-2000 including MTNL. This includes funds needed for installation of new exchanges, expansion of existing exchanges as well as associated external plant items, other infrastructural works etc.

Statement-I

Details of State-wise Telephone exchanges expanded during 1998-99 (upto 31.01.99)

Sl. No.	State	No. of Telephone Exchanges expanded during 1998-99 (upto 31.01.99)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	425
2.	Andaman Nicobar	9
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	21
4.	Assam	62
5.	Bihar	320
6.	Delhi	27
7.	Goa	20
8.	Gujarat	399
9.	Haryana	151
10.	Himachal Pradesh	84
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	28
12.	Karnataka	890
13.	Kerala	280
14.	Madhya Pradesh	480
15.	Maharashtra	453
16.	Manipur	9
17.	Mizoram	1
18.	Meghalaya	1
19.	Nagaland	4
20.	Orissa	285
21.	Punjab (incl. Chandigarh)	350
22.	Rajasthan	333
23.	Sikkim	13
24.	Tamil Nadu (incl. Pondicherry)	486
25.	Tripura	14
26.	Uttar Pradesh	554
27.	West Bengal	197
		5896

Statement-II

State-wise Ratio of Population and Telephone exchanges (as on 31.01.99)

Sl. No.	State	No of Telephone Exchanges as on 31.01.99	Population as per census (1991)	Ratio (Population/ No. of Telephone Exchanges)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2125	66354559	31226
2.	Andaman Nicobar	28	279111	9968

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	76	860558	11323
4.	Assam	325	22294562	68599
5.	Bihar	864	86338853	99929
6.	Delhi	160	9370475	58565
7.	Goa	71	1169793	16476
8.	Gujrat	1482	41414183	27945
9.	Haryana	798	16317715	20448
10.	Himachal Pradesh	617	5111079	8284
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	255	7718700	30269
12.	Karnataka	2186	44806468	20497
13.	Kerala	824	29084509	35297
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2739	66135862	24146
15.	Maharashtra	2918	78747041	26987
16.	Manipur	31	1827149	58940
17.	Meghalaya	47	1764138	37535
18.	Mizoram	42	689756	16423
19.	Nagaland	35	1200546	34301
20.	Orissa	769	31512070	40978
21.	Punjab	1034	20831520	20147
		(incl. Chandigarh)		
22.	Rajasthan	1694	43880640	25904
23.	Sikkim	28	406457	14516
24.	Tamil Nadu	1557	56445363	36253
		(incl. Pondicherry)		
25.	Tripura	51	2750202	53926
26.	Uttar Pradesh	2186	139031130	63601
27.	West Bengal	887	67981780	76642
		23829	844324222	35433

Statement-III

Details of Circle-wise proposed targets for 1999-2000 in respect of Direct Exchange lines (DELs)

Sl. No.	Circles	1999-2000 Target
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	350000
2.	Assam	55000
3.	Bihar	160000
4.	Gujarat	250000
5.	Haryana	117000
6.	Himachal Pradesh	59000

1	2	3
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	40000
8.	Karnataka	300000
9.	Kerala	400000
10.	Madhya Pradesh	116000
11.	Maharashtra	350000
12.	North East	37000
13.	Orissa	82000
14.	Punjab	240000
15.	Rajasthan	180000
16.	Tamil Nadu	350000
17.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	250000
18.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	193000
19.	West Bengal	261000
20.	Andaman & Nicobar	5000
21.	Calcutta	145000
22.	Chennai	120000
23.	Delhi	240000
24.	Mumbai	250000
		4550000

[English]

Disinvestment in Oil Companies

*274. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether oil companies in public sector have been seriously affected due to the decision of the Government to allow equity swap, to complete the disinvestment programme;

(b) if so, whether the stock market prices of the shares of IOC, ONGC, BPCL, GAIL, HPC etc. have substantially come down consequently;

(c) if so, the percentage fall in the price thereof during January-February, 1999;

(d) whether this move would affect the expansion plan of public sector refineries and oil companies;

(e) if so, the extent to which the expansion would be affected as a result thereof;

(f) whether some refineries in the private sector are also coming up in the country; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY) : (a) and (b) No, Sir,

The arrangement is intended to foster vertical integration in the hydrocarbon sector among Public Sector Undertakings and promote business synergy to enhance their global competitiveness. Current fluctuation in the market prices of the shares of these companies stems from several reasons, the chief of which is the depressed outlook of global oil industry and its impact on the domestic stock markets.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) Refining activity has been delicensed from June 1998. Before delicensing, Letters of intent had been issued for several private sector proposals. Among these, Reliance Petroleum Ltd. (RPL) and Essar Oil Ltd. (EOL) are in advanced stage of setting up refineries at Jamnagar in Gujarat.

Statement

The prices of shares of Public Sector companies in the Petroleum sector have fluctuated during the period of January and February 1999. The fluctuations have not been uniform across the companies. Based on the quoted daily closing prices of shares in the Stock Exchanges in Mumbai, a Table indicating percentage changes in the prices of shares of major oil companies in the public sector is given below.

Name of the Company	Percentage change in the Share Prices	
	January 1999	February 1999
Indian Oil Corporation Limited	(-) 14.37	(-) 14.99
Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.(-)	23.70	(-) 10.55
Gas Authority of India Limited	(-) 21.36	(-) 16.41
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.(-)	3.91	(-) 8.37
Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (-)	10.38	(+) 0.29
Madra Refineries Limited	(-) 6.67	(+) 1.49
Cochin Refineries Limited	(+) 9.69	(-) 5.10

Note :

(i) The monthly percentage change in prices in January '99 has been calculated on the basis of closing month-end prices, as on 31st December '98 and 29th January '99.

(ii) The monthly percentage change in prices in February '99 has been calculated on the basis of closing month-end prices, as on 29th January '99 and 26th February '99.

[Translation]

HIV Positive Cases in India

*275. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA'
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the recent WHO report according to which India has the highest number of HIV positive cases in the world ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been an increase in the number of AIDS patients in the last two years in the country;

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

(e) whether the Government have recently reviewed the action plan launched by the States to intensify the fight against AIDS;

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

(g) the assistance proposed to be provided for fighting AIDS during 1999-2000, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI):
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. WHO/UNAIDS in the report June, 1998 has reported that HIV infection rates in India at under 1% of the total adult population, are still low by the standards of many countries. It is estimated that about 4 million people in India are living with HIV on the basis of which it has been concluded that India is a country with the largest number of HIV infected persons in the world.

(c) and (d) There has been increase in number of AIDS cases in the last two years in the country. The State-wise details is enclosed in Statement.

(e) to (g) All States/Union Territories are in the process of formulating plans for the control of HIV/AIDS to be implemented over the next five years. The main thrust areas include :-

1. Targetted Intervention for high risk groups like Commercial Sex workers, highly mobile persons, intravenous drug users, migrant workers etc. by identifying the groups and providing counselling, condom promotion and treatment of Sexually Transmitted Infections;
2. Intensification of awareness campaigns; provision of voluntary testing and counselling services; and measures to supply safe blood and blood products;
3. Initiatives for home based and community based care;
4. Capacity building at the State level and district level and identified Municipal Corporations to respond to the growing needs in this area; and
5. Enhancing inter-sectoral collaboration to prevent and control HIV/AIDS.

The assistance proposed to be provided for control of AIDS during 1999-2000 is Rs.140 crores. State-wise allocations will be made after finalisation of their action plans.

Statement

Aids Cases in India (Reported to NACO)

Sl.No.	State/Union Territory	AIDS Cases	
		1997	1998
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15	07
2.	Assam	09	03
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	01	00
4.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	00	00
5.	Bihar	03	00
6.	Punjab/Chandigarh	00	00
7.	Delhi	90	13
8.	Daman & Diu	01	00
9.	D & N Haveli	00	00
10.	Goa	00	00
11.	Gujarat	06	02
12.	Haryana	00	00
13.	Himachal Pradesh	00	00
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	00	00
15.	Karnataka	16	39
16.	Kerala	03	01
17.	Lakshadweep (U.T.)	00	00
18.	Madhya Pradesh	68	76
19.	Maharashtra	530	824
20.	Orissa	00	00
21.	Nagaland	06	00
22.	Manipur	147	00
23.	Mizoram	05	00
24.	Meghalaya	08	08
25.	Pondicherry	06	09
26.	Rajasthan	51	25
27.	Sikkim	01	01
28.	Tamil Nadu	521	532
29.	Tripura	00	00
30.	Uttar Pradesh	53	16
31.	West Bengal	07	00
Total :		1547	1556

Disposal of Cases Pending in Courts

*276. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH :

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.229 on November 30, 1998 and state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the disposal of pending cases in various courts in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of pending cases in the Supreme Court of India and High Courts in the country during the last three years and the current year and the number of cases out of these in which hearing has taken place, State-wise; and

(d) the concrete steps taken so far by the Government to simplify legal procedure?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) and (b) The information relating to the pendency of cases in High Courts and District Courts is collected by the Government periodically from the Registries of the High Courts and the State Governments. The detailed analysis of pendency of cases is prepared and circulated among all the concerned authorities.

(c) The pendency of cases in the Supreme Court of India and High Courts in the country during the last three years details are enclosed in Statement. The information regarding pendency of cases for the current year in respect of High Courts is not available as the said information is collected on quarterly basis. The information as regard to the cases in which hearing has taken place is not being maintained by the Government.

(d) A Bill to amend the Criminal Procedure Code has already been introduced in the Rajya Sabha in May, 1994. The Bill, inter-alia, contains a number of provisions envisaging speedy disposal of cases. The Law Commission has also submitted its 154th Report on the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 making a number of recommendations to simplify legal procedure and for expeditious disposal of cases. Similarly, a Bill for the amendment of Civil Procedure Code for simplification of legal proceedings and speedy disposal of cases has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha in August, 1997. Besides, Government has taken steps for establishment of Special Courts/tribunals, appointment of Special Judicial/Metropolitan Magistrates for Speedy disposal of petty cases, adoption of alternative modes of dispute resolution such as arbitration and conciliation. Lok Adalats have been given a statutory base as supplementary forum for resolution of disputes.

Statement*Cases Pending in the Supreme Court and High Courts of India*

Sl.No.	Name of the High Courts	As on 31/12/96	As on 31/12/97	As on 30/06/98
1.	Allahabad	865455	865455*	865455*
2.	Andhra Pradesh	135621	133211	140687
3.	Bombay	234058	237618	242945
4.	Calcutta	264312	282209	285842
5.	Delhi	153537	163430	164405
6.	Gauhati	33018	34165	34205
7.	Gujarat	119827	119383	121932
8.	Himachal Pradesh	17166	13352	14098
9.	J & K	96414	98645	97665
10.	Karnataka	150965	135389	105065
11.	Kerala	217823	250261	270630
12.	Madhya Pradesh	82294	83131	88724
13.	Madras	310640	326619	336633
14.	Orissa	66820	84897	89288
15.	Patna	93310	84666	79482
16.	Punjab & Haryana	161562	170671	166324
17.	Rajasthan	97768	98416	99209
18.	Sikkim	88	95	437
		3100678	3181613	3203026

*Indicates pendency of 31/12/96

Supreme Court As on	No. of cases pending	
	Total	
1.5.96	29043	
1.5.97	21547	
1.5.98	19561	
1.2.99	20306	

Telephone Directories

*277. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the circle and district-wise latest telephone directories have been published in Delhi and other States of the country and distributed among the subscribers;

(b) if so, the details thereof. State-wise including the date upto which these have been amended;

(c) whether the policy of printing of telephone directories has been reviewed recently to ensure their timely publications;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the time by which telephone directories are likely to be published next-time in Delhi and other States of the country; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) Sir, printing of telephone directories is a regular process. While at some places directories were printed and distributed in time, the same has been delayed at some places including Delhi.

(b) The details of printing of telephone directories State-wise is enclosed in statement.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The revised policy for printing of telephone directory was issued during November, 1998. The revised features include vendor pre-qualifications, stringent penalty clause, performance bank guarantee, staged bidding, delegation of powers to Chief General Managers to decide printing of telephone directories on negative royalty basis, directory on Internet and CD-ROM in major cities etc.

(e) and (f) The telephone directory of Delhi is likely to be published and distributed between March and June 1999. The revised policy envisages printing of telephone directory every year between 30th June and 15th September covering working connections as on 1st April of that year. Field offices are making all efforts to publish directories as per schedule.

Statement

Status of Telephone Directories

Name of Circle : Andaman and Nicobar

S.No.	Name of SSA	Year of Print of Current Directory	Amended upto
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	1998	Dec. 1997

Name of Circle : Andhra Pradesh

S.No.	Name of SSA	Year of Print of Current Directory	Amended upto
1	2	3	4
1.	Srikakulam	1997	Mar.1997
2.	Vizianagaram	1997	Mar.1997
3.	Visakhapatnam	1998	Apr.1998
4.	Rajahmundry (E.Godavari)	1997	Mar.1997
5.	Eluru (W.Godavari)	1997	Mar.1997
6.	Vijayawada (Krishna)	1998	Jan.1998

1	2	3	4
7.	Guntur	1997	Mar.1997
8.	Ongole (Prakasham)	1997	Mar.1997
9.	Nellore	1997	Nov.1996
10.	Tirupati (Chittoor)	1997	Aug.1996
11.	Cuddapah	1998	Jun.1998
12.	Anantapur	1997	Mar.1997
13.	Kurnool	1999	Nov.1998
14.	Mahaboobnagar	1996	Mar.1996
15.	Sangareddy (Medak)	1996	Mar.1996
16.	Nizamabad	1996	Aug.1996
17.	Adilabad	1997	Dec.1996
18.	Karimnagar	1997	Mar.1997
19.	Warangal	1998	Aug.1998
20.	Khammam	1997	Sep.1996
21.	Nalgonda	1998	Mar.1998
22.	Hyderabad & Ranga Reddy	1998	Sep.1997

Name of Circle : Assam

S.No.	Name of SSA	Year of Print of Current Directory	Amended upto
1.	Guwahati	1999	Oct.1998
2.	Silchar	1996	Mar.1995
3.	Tezpur	1996	Mar.1995
4.	Bongaigaon	1996	Mar.1995
5.	Jorhat	1998	Nov.1997
6.	Dibrugarh	1998	Nov.1997
7.	Nagaon	1998	May,1997

Name of Circle : Bihar

S.No.	Name of SSA	Year of Print of Current Directory	Amended upto
1	2	3	4
1.	Arrah	1997	Aug.1997
2.	Bhagalpur	1996	Oct.1996
3.	Chapra	1997	Sep.1996
4.	Dhanbad	1997	Aug.1997
5.	Darbhanga	1997	Mar.1997
6.	Dumka	1997	Sep.1996
7.	Gaya	1997	Aug.1997
8.	Hazaribagh	1997	Aug.1997
9.	Jamshedpur	1997	Aug.1997
10.	Katihar	1997	Oct.1996
11.	Motihari	1997	Sep.1997
12.	Muzaffarpur	1994	Dec.1993

1	2	3	4
13.	Munger	1996	Oct.,1996
14.	Patna	1996	Nov.,1996
15.	Ranchi	1997	Dec.,1996
16.	Sasaram	1997	Aug.,1997
17.	Saharsa	1997	Oct.,1996
18.	Deltonganj	1997	Aug.,1997

Name of Circle : Gujarat

S.No.	Name of SSA	Year of Print of Current Directory	Amended upto
1.	Ahmedabad	1997	May,1997
2.	Baroda	1997	Feb.,1997
3.	Rajkot	1998	Jun.,1997
4.	Mehsana	1998	Dec.,1996
5.	Nadiad	1997	Jan.,1997
6.	Surat	1994	Aug.,1994
7.	Bhavnagar	1997	Jun.,1996
8.	Bharuch	1997	Jun.,1996
9.	Bhuj	1998	May,1998
10.	Jamnagar	1997	Nov.,1996
11.	Junagadh	1995	Jan.,1995
12.	Himmatnagar	1997	Dec.,1996
13.	Godhra	1996	Mar.,1996
14.	Amreli	1997	May,1997
15.	Palanpur	1997	Jun.,1997
16.	Surendranagar	1997	Dec.,1996
17.	Valsad	1996	Sep.,1995

Name of Circle : Haryana

S.No.	Name of SSA	Year of Print of Current Directory	Amended upto
1.	Karnal	1996	Sep.,1994
2.	Rewari	1996	Mar.,1996
3.	Rohtak	1995	Jan.,1995
4.	Jind	1996	May,1996
5.	Ambala	1998	Dec.,1997
6.	Hissar	1993	Jun.,1993
7.	Faridabad/Gurgaon	1998	Mar.,1997
8.	Sonipat	1995	Jan.,1995

Name of Circle : Himachal Pradesh

S.No.	Name of SSA	Year of Print of Current Directory	Amended upto
1.	Shimla	1999	Jan.,1999

1	2	3	4
2.	Solan	1998	Nov.,1998
3.	Mandi	1998	Sep.,1998
4.	Hamirpur	1998	Nov.,1998
5.	Dharamshala	1998	
6.	Kulu	1998	Sep.,1998

Name of Circle : Jammu & Kashmir

S.No.	Name of SSA	Year of Print of Current Directory	Amended upto
1.	J & K (Single Directory)	1994	Mar.,1994

Name of Circle : Karnataka

S.No.	Name of SSA	Year of Print of Current Directory	Amended upto
1.	Chickmagalur	1998	Nov.,97
2.	Belgaum	1997	Sep.,97
3.	Shimoga	1997	Aug.,97
4.	Kolar	1997	Jan.,97
5.	Bidar	1998	Dec.,97
6.	Bellary	1997	Sep.,97
7.	Mandya	1998	Dec.,97
8.	Kodagu	1998	Nov.,97
9.	Gulbarga	1997	Oct.,97
10.	Hubli (Dharwar)	1998	Mar.,98
11.	Mangalore (Dakshina Kannada)	1998	Mar.,98
12.	Hassan	1998	Dec.,97
13.	Bijapur	1998	Dec.,97
14.	Karwar (Uttara Kannada)	1998	Dec.,97
15.	Raichur	1997	Sep.,97
16.	Chitradurga	1998	Nov.,97
17.	Tumkur	1998	Dec.,97
18.	Mysore	1998	Aug.,98
19.	Bengaluru	1998	Apr.,98

Name of Circle : Kerala

S.No.	Name of SSA	Year of Print of Current Directory	Amended upto
1.	Trivandrum	1999	Mar., 1998
2.	Kollam	1997	Sep., 1996
3.	Pathanamthitta	1999	Sep., 1998
4.	Alappuzha	1997	Jun., 1996
5.	Kottayam	1998	Dec., 1998
6.	Ernakulam	1998	Sep., 1997
7.	Trichur	1998	Nov., 1997

1	2	3	4
8.	Palakkad	1998	June, 1998
9.	Kannur	1998	June, 1997
10.	Calicut	1997	Mar., 1997

Name of Circle : Madhya Pradesh

S.No.	Name of SSA	Year of Print of Current Directory	Amended upto
1.	Chhindwara	1998	Mar., 1998
2.	Sagar	1998	Jan., 1998
3.	Betul	1998	Nov., 1997
4.	Balaghat	1999	June, 1998
5.	Raigarh	1996	Aug., 1995
6.	Shahdol	1998	Mar., 1998
7.	Rewa	1996	Aug., 1995
8.	Satna	1998	Mar., 1998
9.	Jagdalpur (Bastar)	1995	Aug., 1996
10.	Rajgarh	1996	Dec., 1995
11.	Vidisha	1996	Jan., 1996
12.	Dewas	1997	Aug., 1997
13.	Dhar	1998	Jul., 1997
14.	Ujjain	1996	Mar., 1996
15.	Durg	1998	Jan., 1998
16.	Shajapur	1998	Dec., 1997
17.	Guna	1996	June, 1995
18.	Shivpuri	1996	Dec., 1995
19.	Indore	1999	Dec., 1998
20.	Bhopal	1998	Oct., 1997
21.	Gwalior	1997	Apr., 1997
22.	Jabalpur	1997	Aug., 1996
23.	Khargone	1997	Jun., 1996
24.	Morena	1995	Jun., 1995
25.	Mandsaur	1996	Jan., 1996
26.	Hoshangabad	1998	Dec., 1997
27.	Ratlam	1997	Dec., 1996
28.	Khandwa	1998	Mar., 1997
29.	Bilaspur	1996	Dec., 1995
30.	Chatarpur	1996	Mar., 1996
31.	Narsinghpur	1998	Mar., 1998
32.	Raipur	1998	Nov., 1997
33.	Jhabua	1997	Dec., 1996

Name of Circle : Maharashtra

S.No.	Name of SSA	Year of Print of Current Directory	Amended upto
1.	Satara	1996	Sept., 1995
2.	Goa	1996	June, 1996
3.	Nagpur(TD)	1996	March, 1996
4.	Sangli	1996	June, 1996
5.	Ahmednagar	1996	Oct., 1996
6.	Pune	1997	March, 1997
7.	Kalyan	1995	March, 1995
8.	Aurangabad	1995	March, 1995
9.	Akola	1994	March, 1994
10.	Amaravati	1994	March, 1994
11.	Bhandra	1994	March, 1994
12.	Buldhara	1994	March, 1994
13.	Chandrapur	1994	March, 1994
14.	Wardha	1994	March, 1994
15.	Yeotmal	1994	March, 1994
16.	Raigad	1996	Aug., 1995
17.	Sindhudurg	1996	Aug., 1995
18.	Ratnagiri	1996	Aug., 1995
19.	Solapur	1997	May, 1995
20.	Jalgaon	1996	July, 1995
21.	Nanded (M/A)	1997	April, 1997
22.	Latur	1997	April, 1997
23.	Osmanabad	1997	April, 1997
24.	Jalana	1997	April, 1997
25.	Parbhani	1997	April, 1997
26.	Beed	1997	April, 1997
27.	Kolhapur	1996	Jan., 1996
28.	Nasik	1996	March, 1996
29.	Dhule	1996	March, 1996

Name of Circle : N.E. Circle

S.No.	Name of SSA	Year of Print of Current Directory	Amended upto
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	1998	June, 1998
2.	Manipur	1998	Sept., 1998
3.	Meghalaya	1996	June, 1996
4.	Mizoram	1997	Dec., 1996
5.	Nagaland	1994	March, 1994
6.	Tripura	1999	Dec., 1998

Name of Circle : Orissa

S.No.	Name of SSA	Year of Print of Current Directory	Amended upto
1	2	3	4
1.	Berhampur	1995	Aug., 1995
2.	Sambalpur	1997	Dec., 1996
3.	Balasore	1997	Mar., 1997
4.	Bhubaneswar	1997	Feb., 1997
5.	Cuttack	1998	Mar., 1998
6.	Baripada	1998	Jan., 1998
7.	Bolangir	1998	Aug., 1997
8.	Dhenkanal	1998	Aug., 1998
9.	Rourkela	1991	1991
10.	Koraput	1998	Aug., 1998

Name of Circle : Punjab

S.No.	Name of SSA	Year of Print of Current Directory	Amended upto
1.	Amritsar	1997	Oct., 1997
2.	Bathinda	1997	May, 1997
3.	Chandigarh	1998	Mar., 1998
4.	Ferozepur	1997	May, 1996
5.	Hoshiarpur	1997	Feb., 1997
6.	Jalandhar	1995	Feb., 1995
7.	Ludhiana	1997	Mar., 1997
8.	Patiala	1997	Dec., 1996
9.	Pathankot	1998	Mar., 1997
10.	Ropar	1995	Mar., 1995*
11.	Sangrur	1997	Oct., 1996

Name of Circle : Rajasthan

S.No.	Name of SSA	Year of Print of Current Directory	Amended upto
1.	Ajmer	1997	May, 1997
2.	Alwar	1998	Aug., 1997
3.	Bharatpur	1998	July, 1997
4.	Bhilwara	1996	Dec., 1995
5.	Pali Marwar	1998	Oct., 1997
6.	Sirohi	1996	Sep., 1995
7.	Jodhpur	1998	Sep., 1997
8.	Jaipur	1998	Feb., 1998
9.	Udaipur	1998	Sep., 1998
10.	Bikaner	1998	Feb., 1998
11.	Sri Ganganagar	1997	Sep., 1996

1	2	3	4
12.	Jhunjhunu	1998	Dec., 1997
13.	Kota	1997	May, 1997
14.	Barmer	1997	July, 1996
15.	Chittorgarh	1998	Mar., 1998
16.	Tonk	1995	Mar., 1995
17.	Bundi	1995	Mar., 1995
18.	Churu	1997	Sep., 1997
19.	Banswara	1998	Jan., 1998
20.	Sikar	1998	July, 1998
21.	Sawai Madhopur	1998	Jun., 1998
22.	Jhalawar	1997	Mar., 1997
23.	Nagaur	1997	Sep., 1995

Name of Circle : Tamil Nadu

S.No.	Name of SSA	Year of Print of Current Directory	Amended upto
1.	Coimbatore	1998	Oct., 1997
2.	Madurai	1997	Mar., 1997
3.	Trichy	1997	Nov., 1996
4.	Salem	1998	Mar., 1998
5.	Erode	1998	June, 1997
6.	Thanjavur	1997	Dec., 1996
7.	Vellore	1998	
8.	Cuddalore	1996	Mar., 1996
9.	Pondicherry	1999	Aug., 1998
10.	Tirunelveli	1998	Apr., 1998
11.	Dharmapuri	1995	June, 1995
12.	Nagercoil	1996	Mar., 1996
13.	Tuticorin	1997	May, 1997
14.	Nilgiri	1997	Mar., 1997
15.	Virudhunagar	1997	June, 1997
16.	Karaikudi	1995	July, 1995
17.	Chengalpattu	1995	Oct., 1995

Name of Circle : U.P. (East)

S.No.	Name of SSA	Year of Print of Current Directory	Amended upto
1.	Kanpur	1999	Dec., 1998
2.	Lucknow	1997	Mar., 1997
3.	Varanasi	1994	June, 1993
4.	Allahabad	1997	Aug., 1997
5.	Gorakhpur	1997	June, 1996
6.	Jhansi	1998	Mar., 1998

1	2	3	4
7.	Deoria (Mau)	1996	Jun.,1996
8.	Sitapur	1997	Dec.,1996
9.	Fatehpur	1997	Aug.,1997
10.	Barabanki	1996	Aug.,1996
11.	Faizabad	1998	Dec.,1997
12.	Etawah	1997	Sep.,1997
13.	Farrukhabad	1998	Aug.,1998
14.	Mirzapur	1996	Mar.,1996
15.	Basti	1998	Apr.,1998
16.	Lakhimpur	1998	June,1998
17.	Gonda	1998	June,1998
18.	Shahjahanpur	1998	June,1998
19.	Unnao	1999	Dec.,1998
20.	Banda	1997	Aug.,1997
21.	Hamirpur	1997	May,1997
22.	Raibareli	1997	Aug.,1997
23.	Mainpuri	1997	Dec.,1996
24.	Orai	1997	May, 1997
25.	Ballia	1998	Aug.,1998
26.	Ghazipur	1998	Apr.,1998
27.	Azamgarh	1998	Aug.,1998
28.	Jaunpur	1998	Aug.,1998
29.	Sultanpur	1998	Aug.,1998
30.	Pratapgarh	1998	June, 1998
31.	Bahraich	1999	Jan.,1999
32.	Hardoi	1998	June,1998

Name of Circle : U.P. (West)

S.No.	Name of SSA	Year of Print of Current Directory	Amended upto
1.	Agra	1997	Mar.,1997
2.	Aligarh	1997	Dec.,1996
3.	Almora	1996	Mar.,1996
4.	Barilly	1996	Jul.,1996
5.	Bijnore	1997	Nov.,1996
6.	Dehradun	1997	Jan.,1996
7.	Etah	1995	Oct.,1995
8.	Ghaziabad	1996	Dec.,1995
9.	Meerut	1993	May,1993
10.	Moradabad	1996	Dec.,1995
11.	Muzaffarnagar	1997	May,1997
12.	Mathura	1997	Nov.,1996

1	2	3	4
13.	Nainital	1997	Mar., 1997
14.	Srinagar Gwl	1996	Mar., 1996
15.	Rampur	1996	Dec., 1995
16.	Saharanpur	1996	Dec., 1995
17.	Badaun	1996	Dec., 1995

Name of Circle : West Bengal

S.No.	Name of SSA	Year of Print of Current Directory	Amended upto
1.	Siliguri	1997	Mar.,1997
2.	Jalpaiguri (Coochbehar)	1997	Nov.,1997
3.	Calcutta	1997	Mar.,1997
4.	Berhampore	1997	Aug.,1997
5.	Malda	1997	Mar.,1997
6.	Gangtok	1997	June, 1997
7.	Asansol	1997	Mar.,1997
8.	Bankura (Purulia)	1997	Mar.,1997
9.	Krishnagar	1997	Mar.,1997
10.	Kharagpur	1997	July, 1997
11.	Raiganj	1997	Mar.,1997
12.	Suri	1998	July,1998

Name of Metro District : Delhi

S.No.	Name of SSA	Year of Print of Current Directory	Amended upto
1.	Delhi	1994	Mar., 1994

Name of Metro District : Mumbai

S.No.	Name of SSA	Year of Print of Current Directory	Amended upto
1.	Mumbai	1994	June, 1994

Name of Metro District : Calcutta

S.No.	Name of SSA	Year of Print of Current Directory	Amended upto
1.	Calcutta	1997	Apr., 1997

Name of Metro District : Chennai

S.No.	Name of SSA	Year of Print of Current Directory	Amended upto
1.	Chennai	1997	July, 1997

R & D in Non-Conventional Energy Sector

*278. SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN :
DR. ASHOK PATEL :

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

(a) the details of steps taken to enhance the Research and Development activities in the field of Non-Conventional Energy Sources in the country, so far;

(b) whether any plan has been formulated to set up more energy parks for the promotion of renewable energy sources in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to provide more funds for R&D in this sector;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a), (d) and (e) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has been supporting research and development activities in the field of non-conventional energy sources in the country. A substantial step up has been made in the financial allocation in the Ninth Plan as compared to the Eighth Plan for enhancing research and development activities. The thrust of the R&D programme is to upgrade existing renewable energy technologies and also to promote development, demonstration and commercialisation of new and emerging renewable energy technologies. The Ministry's R&D programmes include inhouse R&D, support to R&D projects in IITs, Indian Institute of Science, leading Universities and R&D establishments. The Ministry also supports R&D in industries with financial support upto 50 per cent. A high level R&D Advisory Committee has been constituted consisting of eminent experts and decision makers in the field of non-conventional energy for advising the Ministry in R&D programmes.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir, The Energy parks scheme has been under implementation since 1994-95 under which parks are being set up in educational institutions and public places for demonstration of renewable energy systems and devices. 140 energy parks have so far been sanctioned in 25 States/UTs of the country.

(f) Does not arise since R&D is an ongoing activity in the Ministry.

[English]

List System for Elections

*279. DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELLA :
PROF. P.J. KURIEN :

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

(a) whether his Ministry have proposed package of electoral reforms including introduction of the list system in addition to the existing first past the post system;

(b) if so, the advantages and disadvantages thereof;

(c) whether a paper in this regard has been submitted for consideration to the Government; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) to (d) Government had discussed with political parties, on 22.05.1998, a set of proposals on electoral reforms which also contained a proposal regarding 'change of present electoral system to Majoritarian system/ List System/Mixed System/any other System'. Government has however not favoured/proposed any one system/combination of systems in this regard and has left the matter for wider debate among political parties. The proposal regarding introduction of list system in addition to the existing first-past-the-post system, in fact, finds place among the proposals contained in the 'Working Paper on Reform of the Electoral Laws' prepared by the Law Commission which has been circulated by the Commission for soliciting views from various political parties, Election Commission, Legislatures, etc. The Law Commission had also sought views of the Government on its Working Paper. Government has, however, decided to wait for the final recommendations of the Law Commission in this regard.

Demand and Supply of Hydro-Carbons in the Country

*280. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA :
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is increasing demand of hydro-carbons in the country;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the production of hydro-carbons to meet the domestic demand and reduce their import;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the target fixed in this regard for the Ninth Plan.

(d) the new projects launched in search of hydro-carbons in the country during the last three years as also in the current year and the result achieved, State-wise;

(e) the total amount spent on each of such project;

(f) whether there are any plans to resume the drilling in search of hydrocarbons in the Jammu areas;

(g) if so, the reasons for the abandoning of drillings halfway in the Sruinsar areas; and

(h) the dates on which these drillings were abandoned and total expenditure incurred thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Steps being taken by the Government to increase crude oil production in the country include application of improved technologies, 3D seismic surveys for better understanding of the fields and reservoir behaviour, improving the recovery percentage, development of new fields, additional development of existing fields, long term reservoir management of Mumbai High field, intensive exploration in the existing basins and inviting foreign and private capital in the upstream sector through early implementation of new exploration licensing policy. The refining capacity is also being increased in the country by expansion of existing refineries in the public sector and setting up of refineries in Joint Sector and Private Sector. The cumulative indigenous production during the IX Plan period is targetted to be 180.82 million tonnes of crude oil and 144.53 billion cubic meters of gas.

(d) The requisite information in respect of ONGC and OIL is given in the enclosed Statements I to VI.

As far as private companies are concerned, contracts were signed for 19 exploration blocks during last 3 years. 13 of the these contracts were signed in 1998 and one in 1999 and exploration activities are in planning stage in these blocks. Exploration activities are in progress in 5 blocks. No discovery of oil/gas has been made yet.

(e) The information is given in the enclosed Statements VII and VIII.

(f) Presently acquisition of 2D seismic data in Poonch-Rajauri area of Jammu & Kashmir State is in progress. Resumption of drilling in this area will depend upon identification of viable prospects based upon data acquired/planned to be acquired.

(g) Two well viz. Surinsar-1 (SNS-1) and Surinsar-2 (SNS-2) were drilled on Surinsar-Mastgarh anticline in Jammu area. Well SNS-1 was abandoned at a depth of 3665 m due to re-activation of high pressured zones and drilling complications. Well SNS-2 was also abandoned at 5448 m on account of super high pressures and drilling difficulties including technical failure of casing.

(h) Surisar-2 spudded on 18.05.1987 was drilled to a depth of 5448 m. No hydrocarbon was encountered and the well was abandoned on 29.08.1989. The total expenditure incurred by ONGC on exploratory drilling etc. excluding expenditure on survey in the State of Jammu & Kashmir up to 31.03.1998 was to the tune of Rs. 97.96 crores.

Statement - I

Details of the Seismic and Drilling Activities of ONGC during the period April '95 to Dec. 98

State	Seismic Surveys		Wells Drilled	
	2D	3D	Exploratory	Development
1	2	3	4	5
1995-96				
Andhra Pradesh	996	1037	25	1
Assam	686	808	18	17
Bihar	228	0		
Gujarat	1916	2330	96	136
Himachal Pradesh	168			
Madhya Pradesh	932		1	
Rajasthan	494		2	
Tamil Nadu	397	791	25	2
Tripura	102		4	
West Bengal	172	502	1	
West Coast Off.	15947	14725	24	52
East Coast Off.	3060	0	3	0
Total	25098	20193	199	208
1996-97				
Andhra Pradesh	1240	987	27	0
Assam	677	1233	15	19
Bihar	255			
Gujarat	1295	2077	89	120
Himachal Pradesh	108			
Jammu & Kashmir	135			
Madhya Pradesh	1641			
Rajasthan	433		2	
Tamil Nadu	98	1849	26	0
Tripura	108		2	
West Bengal	136	685	1	
West Coast Off.	15868	19668	23	18
East Coast Off.	3383	0	4	0
Total	25377	26499	189	157
1997-98				
Andhra Pradesh	635	1649	22	0
Assam	433	628	18	19
Bihar	122			
Gujarat	1146	6638	43	100
Himachal Pradesh	59			

1	2	3	4	5
Jammu & Kashmir	185			
Madhya Pradesh	984		1	0
Rajasthan	692		3	
Tamil Nadu	18	1962	17	3
Tripura	112		3	2
West Bengal	182	867		
West Coast Off.	1460	82232	18	38
East Coast Off.	450	2012	2	0
Total	6478	95988	127	162

1998-99 (as on 1.1.99)

Andhra Pradesh	0	1086	16	2
Assam	329	639	8	6
Bihar				

1	2	3	4	5
Gujarat	493	3773	34	74
Himachal Pradesh	28			
Jammu & Kashmir	60			
Madhya Pradesh	634			
Meghalaya	0.175			
Rajasthan	169			
Tamil Nadu	389	1899	15	2
Tripura	73		1	
West Bengal	76	388		
West Coast Off.	0	38127	14	25
East Coast Off.	394	1107	2	0
Total	2645.175	47019	90	109
Total	59598.18	189699	605	636

(1995-96 to 01.01.99)

Statement-II*New Structure taken up for Drilling during 1995-98 and 1998-99 (upto 1.1.99)*

Region	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 (As on 1.1.99)
MRBC	HW-1, WO-18, WO-19, B-15A, C-45, C-43, C-47, C-39, D-WO, B-27A, B-172B, UMART B-199	B-199, RNE, B-158 B-158A, D-5, MD, BHE-B, B-100-3, B-201, RN-1, B-28	B-23-A, MDS, ED-5A, EDC, BSE, B-201-1A, B-34 KKD-17	C-39, WO-16, C-22, B-22, B-200, KK-1
SRBC	ADIVIPALEM-1, LEMELLAPADU-1, MAHADEVAPATNAM-1, ENUGUPALI, SALAPAKA, MATTAPARRU, SATYAVOLU, NAMAVANIPALEM, LAXMIPURAM, SAKHINETIPALLE, LANKAPALEM, MULKIPALLE, KB-4	ENUGUPALLI, KESANAPALLI-WEST, RANGAPURAM, MULAPARRU, ISUKAPUDI, RAVIPADU, SITARAMPURAM, SIDDAVARM GODI, PULLEETIKURRU, KANDIKUPPA, MANDIPETA-WEST	MANGINAPUDI, VIRAVASRAM, AMBAJIPETA, MAKANAPALEM, LONAPADU, KESAVADASAPALEM, GOKARNAPURAM,	KILAKADDU, MADAPURAM, SAMANTHAKURRU, BANDHARUPETTA, VISWESHARAYAPURAM,
	ANNIYUR, MULLAIVASAL, MELUR JAYANKONDAN, KIZHVALUR, THIRUVIDAIMARUDUR RAJASINGAMANGALAM	KUTHALAM, HARIHARANKUDAL, RETTAIKUDI, KUCHCHIPALAYAM, TULSAPATNAM, VANDAMPALAI, NAGANGUDI, PERIYAPATNAM	RAMNAVALSAI, SIRUVATTUR, KIRANGUDI, KOLUVUR, KERIYAPATTINAM, KALI, UTHIRANGUDI	UMAHAHESHWARAMPU, RAM MANAKKUDI MAYILADUTHURAI CDW-1A
WRBC		UMIAPUR, NENPUR, KARJAN, NAWAMANKA, VATRAK, RANLUJ, MEHSANA, HORST, HIRAPUR SADEWALA	TELAVI, BALASAR, ANKLAV	CHARADA, JANTRAN
ERBC		MEKRANG	PANIDIHING	LONGAI
CRBC			JHARIA, RAJNAGAR	
NRBC		ANHONI		

Statement -III*Areas where Seismic Survey were carried out/are Under Progress During F.S. 1998-99***Onland :**

Region	Surv. Type	Basin	Area	
SRBC	2D	Krishna-Godavari	Bantumilli-Laxmipuram	
		Cauvery	Enadi-Vadatheru	
	3D	Krishna-Godavari	Mandapeta, Vadaparru, Elamanchilli	
		Cauvery	Kuthalam, Tulsapatnam	
ERBC	2D	Assam-Arakan F.Belt	i) Shahbazpur	
			ii) Gopinathkila-Dawali	
			iii) Daldali	
			iv) Kasomarigaon,	
		Upper Assam	v) Kopili Valley	
	3D	Upper Assam	i) East of Geleki	
			ii) NE of Geleki	
			iii) Disangmukh	
			iv) Panidihing	
WRBC	2D	Cambay (Gujarat)	i) N. of Mehsana Horst-Kamboi	
			ii) Asmali-Dholka-across Vatiak rvr.	
			iii) E. of Anandi-Chakkar	
			iv) Ranakpur-Tadkeshwar	
			Rajasthan	i) E. of Maijlar/S. of Manhera Tibba
		3D	Cambay (Gujarat)	i) E. of Sobhasan
	ii) Langnaj-Wadasma			
			iii) Nandipur	
			iv) Gandhar	
			v) Gandhar Phase-X	
			vi) Candhar Phase-IX	
NRBC	2D	Himalayan Foothills	i) Sundernagar ii)Hamirpur	
		Vindhyan	Ranch-Kothi-Amanganj	
		Satpura	Katni-Bawai-Amanganj	
			Gowdi-Delakhari	
	2D (Cont)	HF	Poonch-Rajauri	
CRBC	2D	Assam-Arakan F.Belt	Bamutia	
		Bengal	Gontai-Govindpur	
	3D	Bengal	NE of Ichapur	
Offshore :				
Region	Type	Basin	Area	
MRBC	3D	Bombay Offshore	B-193/22, B-48/188,	
	3D (Contract)	Bombay Offshore	Bombay High., C-22/24, Umrat/C-39	
SRBC	2D	KG Basin	Amlapuram Offshore	

Statement-IV*Hydrocarbon Finds Made by ONGC During April '95 to Dec. '98*

Sl No.	Field Name	State	Basin	Type
1	2	3	4	5
1995-96				
West Coast Offshore				
	1 B-15A	(West coast) Offshore	Bombay Offshore	Oil+Gas
	2 C-43	(West coast) Offshore	Bombay Offshore	Gas
	3 C-39	(West coast) Offshore	Bombay Offshore	Gas
Andhra Pradesh				
	4 Lankapalem	Andhra Pradesh	Krishna-Godavari	Gas
	5 Mulikipalle	Andhra Pradesh	Krishna-Godavari	Gas
	6 Adivipalem	Andhra Pradesh	Krishna-Godavari	Gas
	7 Mahadevpaattnam	Andhra Pradesh	Krishna-Godavari	Gas
Assam				
	8 Bhubandar	Assam	Assam Arakan fold belt	Gas
Gujarat				
	9 Kambol	Gujarat	Cambay	Oil
Tamilnadu				
	10 Pundi	Tamil Nadu	Cauvery	Oil
	11 Kizhvalur	Tamil Nadu	Cauvery	Oil
1996-97				
West Coast				
	12 B-28	(West coast) Offshore	Bombay Offshore	Oil+Gas
Andhra Pradesh				
	13 Enugupalli	Andhra Pradesh	Krishna-Godavari	Gas
	14 Kesanpaalii-west	Andhra Pradesh	Krishna-Godavari	Oil
	15 Rangapuram	Andhra Pradesh	Krishna-Godavari	Gas
Assam				
	16 Mekrang	Assam	Assam	Oil
Gujarat				
	17 Wadasma	Gujarat	Cambay	Oil
	18 Kherwa	Gujarat	Cambay	Oil
	19 Asmali	Gujarat	Cambay	Oil
	20 Hirpaur	Gujarat	Cambay	Oil
Rajasthan				
	21 Sadewala	Rajasthan	Rajasthan	Gas
Tamilnadu				
	22 Kuthalam	Tamil Nadu	Cauvery	Gas
	23 Tulspatnam	Tamil Nadu	Cauvery	Oil

1	2	3	4	5
1997-98				
West Coast Offshore				
	24 B-23A	(West coast) Offshore	Bombay Offshore	Gas
Andhra Pradesh				
	25 Magatpaalli	Andhra Pradesh	Krishna-Godavari	Gas
Gujarat				
	26 Vatrak	Gujarat	Cambay	Oil
Tamil Nadu				
	27 Periyattinam	Tamil Nadu	Cauvery	Gas
	28 Neyveli	Tamil Nadu	Cauvery	Gas
	29 Ramanavalsai	Tamil Nadu	Cauvery	Gas
1998-99				
Andhra Pradesh				
	30 Gokarnpauram	Andhra Pradesh	Krishna-Godavari	Gas
	31 Kesavadaspalem	Andhra Pradesh	Krishna-Godavari	Gas
Tamil Nadu				
	32 Kali	Tamil Nadu	Cauvery	Oil+Gas
Gujarat				
	33 Anklav	Gujarat	Cambay	Oil

Statement-V

In addition to continuing its exploratory effort in the South Bank of river Brahmaputra, Assam and Rajasthan, OIL also started exploratory drilling work in the Saurashtra Offshore in Gujarat and North Bank of River Brahmaputra in Assam during the last three years. Exploratory drilling work was also started in the Ganga Valley Basin U.P. during 1998-99 (current year). Details of exploratory and drilling work carried out by OIL during the last three years and upto February 1999 during 1998-99 are as under :

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 (Upto Feb. '99)
A. SEISMIC SURVEY				
ASSAM & AP				
2D SLKM	2276.50	1016.60	1112	1057
3D SQKM	120.92	82.96	116.35	155
G.V.P., U.P.				
2D GLKM	990.60	0.00	359.60	150.5
B. EXPL. DRILLING (000 M)				
ASSAM & AP				
BVEP, ASSAM	21.296	40.769	34.823	27.40
RAJASTHAN	4.872	1.520	7.236	9.34
SEP OFFSHORE	5.362	2.850	7.498	0.50
GANGA VALLEY, U.P.	—	—	—	—
TOTAL EXPL	31.530	45.139	49.557	3.17
C. IN-PLACE RESERVE				
ACCRETION (OIL+OEG) (MMT)				
ASSAM & AP				
RAJASTHAN	15.75	16.45	16.27	0.02
TOTAL	0.14	0.22	0.02	—
TOTAL	15.89	16.67	16.29	—

Statement-VI

New Finds of Hydrocarbons by Oil during last three years		
Estimated in-place Reserve (Oil+OEG) (in MMT) (Assam)		
1	2	3
1995-96		
1.	Borhajan	1.55
2.	Tamulikhata	1.80
3.	Rongaiting, and	2.80
4.	Rajali structure	0.52
1996-97		
1.	Madarkhat	2.30
2.	Jutlibari	2.08
3.	Bachmatia	3.50

1	2	3
4.	Chabua and	1.29
5.	Sealkati structures	1.15
1997-98		
1.	Deohal	1.35
2.	Bhogpara	3.23
3.	Sapekhata and	3.77
4.	Jeraipathar	0.10
1998-99 (upto Jan., 99)		
	Moran South (Deeper Prospects)	The reserve for the discoveries made during the year are yet to be assessed.
	Kamkhat	
	Khagarijan	
	South Balijan	
	Mohanbari	

Statement-VII*State-wise expenditure on Exploration (Survey+exploratory Drilling)*

ONGC

(Rs./Crore)

Regions	1995-96 (Actual)	1996-97 (Actual)	1997-98 (Actual)	1998-99 (R.E.)
Rajasthan	16.49	16.42	16.14	15.03
Gujarat	170.22	151.83	132.80	164.97
Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Meghalaya	247.98	219.58	160.71	235.00
Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
West Bengal (including Offshore)	25.76	33.78	40.00	42.00
Tripura	49.37	44.04	50.46	46.00
Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Madhya Pradesh	0.92	13.76	0.00	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	18.34	30.56	32.45	28.00
Tamil Nadu (including Offshore)	137.69	113.66	113.59	135.00
Andhra Pradesh (including Offshore)	215.01	199.12	179.56	139.00
Maharashtra	358.68	418.00	444.54	767.00
Total (excluding JVC)	1240.46	1240.75	1170.25	1572.00

Note : 1. Survey Expenditure is maintained region-wise. Hence, the expenditure on the Survey as mentioned above has been shown in the State where the base office of the survey field party is situated.
2. During 1997-98 the figures of Exploratory Drilling in the State of Gujarat include both Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.

OIL

Regions	(Rs./Crore)			
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 (R.E.) (upto Feb., 99)
Assam & AP	82.07	117.05	145.09	156.33
U.P.	8.50	0.97	3.38	16.50
Rajasthan	7.42	4.09	16.40	7.12
Saurashtra Offshore Exploration	45.66	31.28	2.02	1.86

Statement-VIII

Details of Expenditure in Exploration Blocks Signed During Last 3 Years in Respect of Private and Joint Sector Companies

Sl.No.Exploration block	Date of Signing	State	Amount spent till March'98 (US \$ Million)
Onland Blocks			
1. KG-ON/1	16.07.98	Andhra Pradesh	0
2. CR-ON-90/1	30.06.98	Assam	0
3. AAP-ON-94/1	30.06.98	Assam	0
4. GK-ON-90/2	16.07.98	Gujarat	0
5. GK-ON-/4	30.06.98	Gujarat	0
6. CB-ON-/1	17.07.98	Gujarat	0
7. CB-ON-/3	16.07.98	Gujarat	0
8. RJ-ON-90/4	30.10.96	Rajasthan	1.33
9. RJ-ON-90/5	30.10.96	Rajasthan	1.78
10. RJ-ON-/6	30.06.98	Rajasthan	0
11. AA-ON-/3	16.07.98	Tripura	0
12. AA-ON-/7	19.02.99	Assam	0
Sub-Total			3.11
Offshore Blocks			
1. KG-OS-/6	30.07.98		0
2. GK-OS-/6	16.07.98		0
3. CB-OS-/2	30.06.98		0
4. GK-OSJ/1	16.07.98		0
5. CY-OS-2	19.11.96		0.513
6. BB-OS-5	30.10.96		0.5
7. CB-OS-1	19.11.96		12.11
Sub-Total			13.123
Grand Total			16.233

*[Translation]***Investment of Foreign Capital in Private Internet Sector**

2739. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have allowed investment of foreign capital upto 49 percent in the private internet sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Foreign equity, if any, shall be as per existing Government policy. At present maximum foreign equity permitted is 49%.

*[English]***Security Problem Due to Cellular Telephones**

2740. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the introduction of Cellular telephones has given rise to serious security problems in the Country especially in the border States; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to change the policy in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) No, Sir. Enough safeguard for national security have been provided in the licences for operation of cellular Mobile Telephone Service.

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

Non-Availability of Materials

2741. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the optical fibre laying works have been delayed due to non-availability of the required materials in Bhadrak district of Orissa telecommunication circle;

(b) whether the telecommunication Towers at Dhama-nagar, Barikpur, Agarpada and Basudebpur of the circle remained nonfunctional due to non-availability of the materials on time as well; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide required material in the circle?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Narora Atomic Power Plant

2742. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to the reply given to unstarred Question No. 2807 on July 6, 1998 and state :

(a) whether the requisite information pertaining to the serious environmental problem arising out of the dust emanating from the Narora Atomic Power Plant has since been collected;

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

(c) the time by which this information is likely to be collected ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per report received from Department of Atomic Energy, Atomic Power Plants do not emit dust. This has also been confirmed by the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board in respect of Narora Atomic Power Plant, Bulandshar.

Deaths Due to Rabies

2743. SHRI ADITYANATH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of people dying annually due to rabies; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken for the prevention of this disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALA) :

(a) According to the figures provided by Central Bureau of Health Intelligence, the number of deaths on account of Rabies during the years 1996 to 1998 are as follows :-

Year	Deaths
1996	622
1997	386
1998 (prov.)	290

(b) Since the VIth Five Year Plan, States have been provided financial assistance for establishing Canine Rabies Control Units in urban areas for :-

- i. Licensing and compulsory vaccination of all pet dogs;
- ii. Elimination of stray dogs;
- iii. Post-bite treatment of other livestock; and
- iv. Prevention of entry of unvaccinated dogs in the area of operation.

As on today there are 60 such Canine Control Units in the Country. This programme is still under implementation during the IXth plan also.

[English]

Production and Demand of Petroleum Products

2744. SHRI SANDIPAN THROAT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the present gap in the production and demand of petrol, diesel, kerosene and other petroleum products in the country and extent of their imports made during the past three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the production of petroleum during the Eighth Plan was far below the targets set in this regard;

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

(d) the details of fresh policy initiatives taken recently to augment the production of petroleum to achieve self-reliance in this sector in the near future; and

(e) the details of total investment proposed in the petroleum sector including private and foreign direct investment for the Ninth Plan and during 1999-2000.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) During the current year 1998-99 as per revised estimates the total gap in production and demand is estimated to be 16.557 MMT. As per the revised estimates for the year 1998-99 the total gap in production and demand of petroleum products are as under :-

Products	Production (1)	Figures in TMT	
		Demand (2)	Gap (1-2)
LPG (incl. Fract.)	3,448	4,980	(1,532)
NAP/NGL	7,621	6,550	1,071
MS	5,341	5,519	(178)
ATF	2,142	2,146	(4)
SKO	5,325	10,640	(5,315)
HSD : LS (0.25%S)	1,100	3,196	(2,096)
: Regular	25,629	34,619	(8,990)
: Sub-total	26,729	37,815	(11,086)
LDO	1,178	1,275	(97)
FO/LSHS	11,699	11,206	493
Bitumen	2,282	2,280	2
AV Gas	0	3	(3)
Others (Exc. Av. Gas)	1,725	1,392	333
Sub Total	67,490	83,806	(16,316)
LUBES	607	868	(261)
TOTAL	68,097	84,674	(16,577)

Quality of petroleum products imported during last three years and 1998-99 (April-December, 1998) is as under:-

Products	(Quantity : '000' Tonnes)			
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98*	1998-99* (April-December)
LPG	678	1035	1087	1039
Mogas	435	449	331	251
Naphtha	-	-	-	40
NGL	-	-	-	-
SKO	5001	4279	3812	4422
ATF	101	156	59	2
HSD	12852	13608	14075	7868
LDO	-	-	-	-
FO	1209	694	141	514
LSHS	-	-	-	-
Bitumen	-	-	-	-
Lubes/Greases	58	44	25	11
Others	-	-	-	-
Total :	20334	20265	19530	14147

*Provisional

(b) and (c) The crude oil production during the Eighth Plan was 154.28 million tonnes against the target of 197.32 million tonnes. The major reasons for short fall in production

were ageing of major oil fields; reduction in anticipated production from the major oil fields of Western offshore specially Bombay High, Neelam and Heera oil fields; frequent power shut down in the Eastern and Western region; difficult operating conditions in the North Eastern Region etc.

(d) The details of policy initiatives taken to augment production of crude oil and achieve self sufficiency are :-

- (i) Encouragement to private/joint venture companies to participate in exploration activities.
- (ii) Operationalisation of New Exploration Licensing policy.
- (iii) Intensification of exploration efforts in existing basins and its expansion to deep water
- (iv) Better long-term reservoir management of the Bombay High Oil fields through closure of high GOR and high water cut wells, implementation of specialised technologies such as extended reach drilling, horizontal and drain hole drilling infill drilling, re-distribution of water injection, possible application of air injection and WAG.
- (v) Implementation of new projects/additional development of existing fields and development of new fields.
- (vi) Acquisition of equity oil abroad.

(e) The IX Plan approved outlay for the petroleum sector is Rs. 74014.18 crores (Public Sector only). The budget estimates under the plan outlay for petroleum sector for 1999-2000 is Rs. 12,123 crores. The level of private and foreign direct investment depends upon the response of the investors to the existing opportunities available to them in the hydrocarbon sector. The Government have taken a number of measures to promote investments in the hydrocarbon sector.

[Translation]

Telephone Adalats

2745. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV
(JAHANABAD) :
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) the existing norms for organising the telephone adalats ;
- (b) the number of telephone adalats held in the country during the last three years till date, State-wise; and
- (c) the number of cases received in these adalats and the number of cases settled out of them, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) As

per existing instruction, Adalats are required to be held in all Telecom circles/Districts of all States/UTs every three months.

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

LPG Dealers at Satna and Rewa Districts of Madhya Pradesh

2746. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be please to state :

(a) the details of LPG dealers in Satna and Rewa districts of Madhya Pradesh and number of connections with each of them;

(b) whether the most of those dealers are black marketing LPG cylinders by showing the shortage of LPG;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government propose to take any steps in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) There are five LPG distributors in District Satna with a customer population of 26919 and three LPG distributors in District Rewa with a customer population of 22261.

(b) to (d) Oil companies have reported that no complaint has been established against any LPG distributor in the two districts of black marketing of LPG. However, during 1997-98 action as per Marketing Discipline Guidelines had been taken against two LPG distributors one each in District Satna and Rewa for violation of these Guidelines.

In order to curb malpractices, oil companies regularly monitor the functioning of the distributors through regular and surprise inspections.

[English]

Family Planning Programme

2747. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the family planning programme has achieved desired success in the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the States lagging behind the targets envisaged in this regard;

(d) the reasons therefor;

(e) the steps taken to bring them at par with other States; and

(f) the allocation earmarked for each State under the programme for 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) As per Sample Registration System 1997, the birth rate has declined in the country from 28.3 in 1995 to 27.2 in 1997, which is indicative of sizeable impact of Family Planning Programme.

(c) and (d) The national target of crude birth rate of 26 for the 8th Plan at all India level could not be achieved by the States of Assam, Bihar, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh among major States. The factors responsible for indifferent implementation of family welfare programme in these States are limited support by state leadership and community for the programme, slow progress in education particularly of women and weak accountability of field health functionaries for delivery of results. Govt. of India is pressing these States for effecting improvement early.

(e) For stabilising population and bringing down birth rate issues relating to contraception, child survival and maternal health need to be addressed simultaneously. In these States percentage of deliveries in hospitals is very low which contributes to both maternal mortality and neo-natal mortality among children. Assistance is being provided to these States for setting up 24-hour delivery facilities in Government hospitals and cash assistance has been provided to Panchyats for arranging transport of women at the time of delivery to nearby hospitals. States are being persuaded to ensure adequate supervision of ANMS and PHCs so that facility of immunization, oral rehydration, Vit. A, iron folic acid for children and anaemia, facility of tetanus immunization and check-up during pregnancy is provided to pregnant women. Assistance for additional ANMs for remote areas is being provided to these States. Government hospitals at district and sub-district levels are being asked through the State Governments to provide vaccination, contraceptives and oral rehydration packets readily to citizens. State Governments are also being persuaded to ensure that at district and sub-divisional level hospitals must provide sterilization and IUD facility on a regular basis round the year. In addition, ongoing assistance is being continued to these States as to the rest of the country.

(f) There is no State-wise allocation as such of the Family Welfare budget. Provision is made and assistance is extended to States for implementing various programme items.

Guidelines for Revision of Unani Formulary

2748. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether guidelines for the revision of C.G.H.S. Unani formulary were framed in February, 1995 and got approved on February 22, 1995;

- (b) if so, the details of the guidelines;
- (c) whether these are not being implemented properly till date; and
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor and the action proposed to be taken by the Government to get them implemented properly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The requisite guidelines are given in the attached Statement.

(c) No, Sir. These are being implemented properly.

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

Statement

Subject :- Guide Lines for revision of C.G.H.S. Unani Formulary - regarding.

A meeting of purchase Advisory Committee was held on 7-2-95 under the Chairmanship of Dr. Mrs. Saroj Sagar, Addl. Director (MSD) in her Chamber at 2-30 P.M. The meeting was attended by P.A.C. members, all Unani Physicians, working in Delhi (Except adhoc) and Dr. C.P. Gupta C.M.O. I/C. Ayurvedic store as an special invitee. After detail discussions all the members unanimously recommended the following guidelines for revision of CGHS Unani Formulary.

1. The CGHS Unani Formulary may be revised once in two years and will be applicable/implemented to CGHS all over India.
2. The classical Medicines included must be from the authentic reference books approved by Drug Control Authority for manufacture of Unani Medicines.
3. Addition and deletion in the Existing formulary may be made to cover bigger range of diseases.
4. The suggestion for addition and deletion from Delhi and outside Delhi C.G.H.S. Unani should be kept under consideration.
5. Regarding patents/proprietary medicines Part-B of the formulary the existing system of including the medicine with firms name should be discontinued.
6. Requirement of patent medicines should be included by disease group as in Ayurvedic store and selecting by calling tenders.
7. A list of the disease Group should be prepared and revise according to requirement of CGHS Unani system.
8. The proprietary/patent medicines should fulfill following while selectings.

1. A certificate from the D.C.A. should be furnished Stating that the particular medicine is registered under "Unani" which the D.C.A.
2. The clinical trial report of a particular disease category against which the medicine is quoted may be furnished.
3. Complete formula of the medicines should be furnished.
4. The drug for which a scientific clinical trial report is published in any/popular journal may be given reference.
5. The drugs which were consentively supplied to CGHS Unani for more than two years may be given preference.
6. A mid term review of the Formulary may be held for non availability of medicines, if necessary.

[Translation]

Recognised Medical Colleges in Gujarat

2749. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of recognised Medical Colleges in Gujarat;
- (b) the details of criteria laid down for granting recognition to them;
- (c) the dates of granting recognition to them;
- (d) whether the recognition of some of the Medical Colleges of the State has been withdrawn; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI):

(a) to (c) The names of medical colleges and year of recognition are given in the annexed statement. Any University or Medical Institute may apply under section 11(2) of the Indian Medical Council Act to the Central Government for the recognition of the medical qualification granted by it. In respect of colleges permitted by the Central Government after the commencement of the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Act, 1993, this process is taken up only when the first batch of students admitted by the college appears in the final year examination. The Council evaluates medical college to ensure that it conforms to the standard prescribed by the Council. The medical qualifications granted by Universities/Institutions are then recognised by including them in the First Schedule to the Indian Medical Council Act, 1995 as per the provisions of Section 11 of the said Act.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the College/ University/State	Year of Recognition
	Gujarat	
	Gujarat University, Ahmedabad	
1.	B.J. Medical College, Ahmedabad	1951
2.	Municipal Medical College, Ahmedabad	1967
	M.S. University of Baroda, Baroda	
3.	Medical College, Baroda.	1955
	Saurashtra University, Rajkot	
4.	M.P. Shah Medical College, Jamnagar	1968
	South Gujarat University, Surat	
5.	Government Medical College, Surat, Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidyanagar, Gujarat	1973
6.	Pramukhswami Medical College, Karamsad	1995

Starting of new Medical Colleges permitted by Central Government.

Sl. No.	Name of the College	Date of Permission
7.	Govt. Medical College, Rajkot	28.7.95
8.	Govt. Medical College, Bhavnagar	28.7.95

Telephone Connections in Post Offices

2750. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether telephone connections have been provided in all the post offices of Uttar Pradesh ;

(b) if so, the number of post offices yet to be provided with this facility; and

(c) the time by which this facility is likely to be provided to such post offices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The number of Post Offices yet to be provided with this facility is 7547.

(c) The facility of Telephones is provided to post offices based on demand. Justification and availability of resources.

*[English]***Rural Electrification in Rajasthan**

2751. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the MINISTER OF POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether rural electrification has not been carried out completely in Western Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) and (b) : Progress of rural electrification in the districts of Western Rajasthan at the end of January, 1999 are given below :-

S. No.	Name of Districts	Total inhabited Villages (1991 census)	Villages electrified	%age electrified
1.	Barmer	1625	1467	90.3
2.	Jaisalmer	518	244	47.1
3.	Jodhpur	860	860	100

Power Project in A.P.

2752. SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY : Will the MINISTER OF POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal has been received by the Government to set up a 500 M.W. Power Project at Kothapatnam in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the likely time by which the said power plant is proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (c) No Proposal for setting up of a 500 MW power project at Kothapatnam in Andhra Pradesh has been received in Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for Techno-economic clearance (TEC). However, proposals have been received for setting up of thermal power projects at Krishnapatnam and Kathagudam. Details of projects are given below :

Details of Power Projects proposed to be set up at Krishnapatnam and Kothagudam

S.No.	Name of Project	Capacity (MW)	Cost	Status
1.	Krishnapatnam "B" (M/s BBI Power Krishnapatnam Co.)	2X260	US\$ 355.131 million +Rs. 960.614cr.	CEA vide letter dt. 16.6.98 had issued TEC to the projects. The project is proposed to be completed with in a period of 36 months from date of financial closure.
2.	Krishnapatnam 'A' (M/s GVK Power (Krishnapatnam Ltd.)	2X260	US\$ 377.56 million +Rs.1089.729 crores (As per DPR)	DPR is under examination in CEA. As per DPR, the project is proposed to be completed within a period of 39 months from date of financial closure.
3.	Kothagudam St.VI (APSEB)	2X250	Rs.1804 cr.	The DPR submitted by APSEB in April 1997 was returned on 30.7.97 as requisite inputs/clearances were not tied up.

Agreement for Supply of LNG

2753. SHRI S.S. OWAISI :
DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether besides Qatar offers from several other countries were received for the supply of LNG and merits of the Qatar offer;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the strategy chalked out for the supply of this huge amount of LNG; and

(d) the price at which LNG would be imported ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) Yes Sir. Offers were received from 17 international companies for supply of LNG. M/s. Rasgas of Qatar was selected based on the competitive bidding and capability to supply large quantity of LNG. The price of LNG would be determined after the Sale Purchase Agreement has been finalised.

Internet Connections

2754. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT :
SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to connect all district headquarters of Uttar Pradesh with the internet ;

(b) if so, the time by which the said facility is likely to be provided to all the districts of the State;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ;

(d) whether applications have been received by the Department of Telecommunications in Arga for Internet connections of student account;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the number of said connections out to them provided in the city ;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ;

(g) the time by which the remaining connections are likely to be provided ;

(h) whether Internet connections of student account have been given in Delhi also; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 26.01.2000. However, access to Internet on local call basis from nearest Internet node has already been provided.

(c) Doesn't arise in view of (a).

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Ten students have applied for Students Shell Accounts in Agra which are yet to be provided.

(f) The Internet Node presently working at Agra is a Router based Node without any Server and all the Internet Student Shell Accounts at Agra are created by VSNL on their Servers. However these accounts could not be created by them due to technical non feasibility at present.

(g) After upgradation of the existing Internet node at Agra which is likely to be completed by 26th January, 2000.

(h) Yes, Sir.

(i) 2741 Student Shell Accounts are provided by VSNL in Delhi.

Modernisation and Upgradation of Hospitals

2755. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any plan has been drawn up to modernise and upgrade the facilities at Central Hospitals in the Capital and elsewhere;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the hospitals where this modernisation and upgradation plan is likely to be taken up; and

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon, hospital-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI):
(a) to (d) Details of the facilities to be provided to modernise and upgrade of Central Government Hospitals are as follows:-

(1) Strengthening of Cardiac-Theracic Vasular Surgery Department at Dr. R. M. L. Hospital and upgradation of Department of C.T.V.S. and Cardiology at Safdarjung Hospital

The proposal for setting up of the C.T.V.S. in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital at an estimated cost of Rs. 7.82 crores and upgradation of Department of C.T.V.S. and Cardiology at Safdarjung Hospital at an estimated cost of RS. 5.92 crores during the Ninth Plan period has been approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee on 1.7.1997. The proposal to the creation of posts in these Departments has also been approved by the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure).

(2) Augmentation of Accident and Emergency Service in Central Government Hospitals.

A proposal for augmentation of Accident and Emergency Service in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Safdarjung Hospital and LHMC and Associated Hospitals at an estimated cost of Rs. 629 lakhs has been approved by the Standing Finance Committee on 10.2.1998. The proposal for creation of posts in these

hospitals is under examination in consultation with Internal Finance Division of this Ministry.

(3) Arthroscopy and Sports Injury Clinic, C.I.O. Safdarjung Hospital.

A proposal for setting up of Arthroscopy and Sports Injury Clinic in C.I.O., Safdarjung Hospital has been approved by the Standing Finance Committee on 21.5.98. The estimated expenditure would be Rs. 362.70 lakhs during the 9th Five Year Plan.

(4) Burns & Plastic Department, Safdarjung Hospital

Burns and Plastic Department of Safdarjung Hospital has also been taken up for modernisation and upgradation of the facilities.

(5) Accident and Trauma Block in Dr. R.M.L. Hospital

There is also a proposal for setting up of an Accident and Trauma Block in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital on the triangular plot which has been allotted by the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment.

National Forest Policy, 1988

2756. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the States where National Forest Policy, 1988 is being implemented; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to see that the said policy is duly implemented in the remaining States as well?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) :
(a) and (b) The National Forest Policy, 1988 is applicable to all the States and Union Territories. States and Union Territories have evolved their own programmes within the framework of the National Policy and are implementing them.

[Translation]

Production of Crude Oil in Bombay High

2757. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the total production of crude oil in the Bombay High in Maharashtra during the last three years;

(b) whether this production is less than the target fixed;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to extract maximum oil from oil-fields in Bombay High?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) The production of crude oil from Bombay High v/s the targets during last three years was as under :-

(Figs. in MMT)		
Year	Target	Achievement
1995-96	15.740	13.578
1996-97	13.928	12.040
1997-98	10.769	12.434

The main reason for shortfall in production is that the main producing reservoirs of this oilfield have entered the natural declining phase. Some of the wells are flowing with high gas oil ratio and increasing water cut.

(d) In order to improve the performance of the field and increase the recovery factor, a monitorable action plan has been prepared by the expert committee which includes:-

- (i) Reservoir characterisation for better understanding of the complexities of the multilayered reservoir of Bombay High field through the recently acquired 3-D seismic data.
- (ii) Drilling of in-fill wells to exploit by passed/ undrained parts of the giant field.
- (iii) Re-distribution of injection water for improved conformance.
- (iv) Re-completion of poor performing wells.
- (v) Reservoir consultant of International repute have been engaged by ONGC for planning the future development strategy to improve the recovery from the field.
- (vi) Services of the experts hired on application of Gel technology on trial basis in some identified wells for controlling excessive gas and water production and conformance control in injectors.

Improvement in Telephone Facilities in M.P.

2758. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representation regarding improvement in the telephone facility in Rajanandagaon and Kavardha of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the efforts made by the Government in this regard and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following efforts are being made to improve the services.

- (i) Switching equipment, transmission equipment and external plant are being upgraded.
- (ii) Prompt attention is being paid in respect of Maintenance of telephone exchanges and its connecting transmission media.
- (iii) Continuous efforts are being made to repair the faulty VPTS.
- (iv) Solar panels are being provided to all the VPTs on MARR.
- (v) Arranging additional engine alternators for areas where power supply is not reliable.
- (vi) Introducing WLL and TDM/PMP technologies to provide telecom facilities in remote and rural areas.

[English]

Maintenance of Old NHS and Bridges in M.P.

2759. DR. MAHANT CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the total expenditure to be incurred on the maintenance of old National Highways of Madhya Pradesh during 1999-2000;

(b) the position of maintenance of bridges on these National Highways and their expansion Joints Structure Baring Coal;

(c) whether the Government have examined the works being conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the action being taken to streamline the maintenance work and the time by which the maintenance works are likely to be completed? .

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) The total expenditure on Maintenance of National highways of Madhya Pradesh during 1999-2000 shall depend on the availability of funds.

(b) Maintenance of bridges including their expansion joints and wearing coat are taken up as and when required, within the available funds.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Maintenance of National Highways including bridges is a Continuous process and being carried out by the State PWD as per norms laid down by the Ministry.

Poaching Across Border

2760. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether poaching of endangered animals and rare birds has been reported across the border in Dudhwa National Park, Katarniaghat wildlife sanctuary and Valmiki National Parks;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents registered during the last three years, sanctuary-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check poaching across the border ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) :
(a) to (c) The information is being collected from the State Governments and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Earth Summit, 1992

2761. SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain policy decisions and programme were agreed upon at Earth Summit, 1992;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether these decisions have been implemented by the Government ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) :
(a) to (d) The Earth Summit, 1992 resulted in the following :-

- (1) Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, which gives the elements of sustainable development, in the form of a declaration of rights and obligations of governments and individuals.
- (2) Adoption of Agenda-21, which is a set of comprehensive programmes of action for protection of the environment and reconciling it with development.
- (3) The agreement on a non-legally binding authoritative Statement of Principles for a global consensus on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.
- (4) Signing of the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

India's priorities for environmental action, reflected also in the Earth Summit, have formed part of the national policies

and plans. The concerns of Agenda-21 have been internalized in the planning and development process as well as National Conservation Strategy and Policy Statement on Environment and Development, the National Forest Policy, the Policy Statement on Abatement of Pollution, the Environment Action Programme document and the Five Year Plans.

Issuance of Vocabulary of Medical Stores

2762. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Vocabulary of Medical Stores (VMS), a list of essential medicines to be supplied in bulk to various Government hospitals and institutions, both Central and States has not been issued since 1996;

(b) if so, whether this list is supposed to be issued annually to facilitate the bulk purchase of essential drugs;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in issuing it;

(d) whether in the absence of Vocabulary of Medical Stores large scale local purchase of medicines are being made; and

(e) if so, the total amount of local purchases of medicines made during 1997, 1998 and as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI):
(a) to (c) No, Sir. The VMS is only updated from time to time. The last updation of the list of generic drugs in VMS & CGHS formulary has been issued on 20. 1. 99 while the existing list of patent proprietary drugs have even continued, pending the recommendation of a committee set up to comprehensively examine this issue.

(d) and (e) Medical Store Organisation does not maintain record of local purchase of medicines made by the various indentors. However, information in respect of the various agencies in this Ministry will be collected and laid on the table of the House.

Power Projects Along Coast Line

2763. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up some power plants along India's Coast Line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVEN-

TIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMAN-GALAM) : (a) to (c) As per revised policy guidelines for Mega Power Projects issued by Government of India in November, 1998, the following power projects would be set up along Indian coast line:

Eastern Coast

- (i) Cuddalore (1000 MW) in Tamil Nadu.
- (ii) Krishnapattinam (1500 MW) in Andhra Pradesh.

Western Coast

- (iii) Pipavav (2000 MW) in Gujarat.
- (iv) Narmada (1000 MW) in Gujarat to be expanded to 2000 MW.

Besides the above, two or three more projects may be developed on the Western Coast later. The RFQ for Cuddalore and Pipavav projects have been issued and the final developer is likely to be selected by December, 1999.

Availability of Natural Oil in Poraiyar and Tharangambadi Areas of Tamil Nadu

2764. SHRI K. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a large quantity of natural oil is available in Poraiyar and Tharangambadi areas of Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, whether the Government propose to set up a refinery in these areas;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) ONGC has discovered three oil and gas fields in the area viz. Mattur, Kuthalam and Kali. Of these three finds Kuthalam and Kali are near Poraiyar and Tharangambadi.

(b) to (d) Refinery sector is delicensed from June 1998. Any entrepreneur can set up a refinery at any location depending on techno-economic viability. Presently there is no proposal to set up a refinery in these areas.

STD Facility

2765. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to connect Bhagalpur and Banka with STD System;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ; and

- (c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) and (b) Bhagalpur and Banka are already connected with S.T.D. facility.

- (c) Does not arise in view of answer to (a) and (b) above.

Extension of CGHS Facilities

2766. SHRI B. M. MENSINKAI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) the places and services covered under the Central Government Health Scheme in Karnataka;
- (b) whether the Government propose to extend the CGHS to the district headquarters;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to increase the number of hospitals under CGHS in the State;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) The city of Bangalore in the State of Karnataka has been covered under CGHS. There are 10 Allopathic Dispensaries, 2 Ayurvedic dispensaries, 1 Homeopathic dispensary, 1 polyclinic, 1 Dental Unit and 2 labs, at Bangalore. 16 private hospitals have also been recognised under CGHS at Bangalore where the CGHS beneficiaries can be referred for treatment.

- (b) No, Sir.

(c) to (f) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government due to shortage of funds and manpower.

LPG Outlets in Sikkim

2767. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government of Sikkim has urged the Union Government for the opening of additional LPG outlets at various district and sub-divisional Headquarters;
- (b) if so, whether the Government have undertaken feasibility study of the same;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the time by which it is likely to be undertaken;

(f) whether keeping in view the fragile terrain of Sikkim and consequential need for preserving the forest cover Government propose to relax the norms for opening additional LPG outlets in the State; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (g) Requests are received from time to time from various parts of the country for opening of new LPG distributorships. LPG distributorships are opened at feasible locations meeting Oil Industry's viability norms. No new LPG distributorship has been proposed for Sikkim in the LPG Marketing Plan 1996-98.

Presently there are three LPG distributors with 29935 customer population catering to the LPG requirement of the State. As on date there is no waiting list. Instructions have also been issued to the oil companies to release LPG connections across the counter in hilly areas including Sikkim.

Post and Telegraph Offices in Gonda

2768. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Post and Telegraph offices functioning in Gonda District U.P. during the last three years, location-wise;

(b) whether there is shortage of Post and Telegraph offices in the district;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to take any steps to open new Post and Telegraph offices and upgradation of existing said offices in the said district during the current financial year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) Department of Posts :

The information about number of Post Offices functioning in Gonda district of U.P., including those providing full telegraph facilities (CO) as well as those providing phonocom facilities (PCO), during the last three years, location-wise, is given in enclosed Statement-I.

Department of Telecom

The information concerning number of Telegraph offices functioning in Gonda district, during last three years, location-wise, is given in enclosed Statement-II.

(b) to (e) Department of Posts

No, Sir Post Offices are opened/upgraded on norm based justification and availability of resources.

Department of Telecom :

No, Sir. There is no shortage of telegraph offices in Gonda district of Uttar Pradesh. Neither new telegraph offices, nor the upgradation of any existing telegraph office is justified as per prescribed norms and standards. There is no proposal to upgrade combined post and Telegraph offices to an independent Telegraph office as none meet prescribed norms and standards.

Statement-I

List showing the names of Postoffices in Gonda District U.P. Circle.

District Gonda :

Summary of Post Offices

Head Post Office =1

Sub Post Office =39

Extra depl. S.Os =13

Ex. depl. B.Os. =306

S.No.	Name of P.Os	CO	PCO
1	2	3	4
1.	Head Post Office/Gonda	-	PCO
2.	Sub Post Office Balpur	-	PCO
3.	Bankatwa	-	PCO
4.	Bargadikote	-	PCO
5.	Bargaon	-	PCO
6.	Begamganj	-	PCO
7.	B.N. Singh	-	PCO
8.	Balsag	CO	PCO
9.	N.Bairia	-	PCO
10.	Bankatwa Dehat	-	-
11.	Babhan S.F.	-	-
12.	Chandapur	-	PCO
13.	Civil Line Gonda	-	PCO
14.	Colonelganj	CO	PCO
15.	Daduwa Bazar	-	PCO
16.	D.P. Ghat	-	-
17.	Gaura Chauki	-	-
18.	Gonda City	-	-
19.	Katra Bazar	-	PCO
20.	Kauria	-	PCO
21.	Kherasa	-	PCO

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
22.	Khargoopur	CO	PCO	63.	Paindi Ajab Singh	-	-
23.	Itiathok	CO	PCO	64.	Thadakki Patti	-	-
24.	I.T.I. Mankapur	-	PCO	65.	Pathwalia	-	PCO
25.	Mankapur	CO	PCO	66.	Mehrajganj	-	-
26.	Mankapur Bazar	-	PCO	67.	Dukhharannath	-	PCO
27.	Mhaneypur	-	PCO	68.	Ferbisganj	-	PCO
28.	Maskanwa RS	CO	PCO	69.	Tilkadesh	-	-
29.	Motiganj	CO	PCO	70.	Bamera	-	-
30.	Nawabganj	CO	PCO	71.	Baruigondaha	-	-
31.	Nawabganj SF	-	PCO	72.	Durgondwa	-	-
32.	Paraspur	CO	PCO	73.	Hadiagara	-	-
33.	Sadullanagar	-	PCO	74.	Kaithola	-	-
34.	Srinagar	-	PCO	75.	Thakurapur	-	-
35.	Pune Sheedayalganj	-	PCO	76.	Thathia Mathehia	-	-
36.	Tarabganj	CO	PCO	77.	Babhuwa Kota	-	-
37.	Utraula Road	-	PCO	78.	Chitraulia	-	-
38.	Uttar Kumkar Ka Ria	-	PCO	79.	Gobroypurwa	-	-
39.	Bus Station Gonda	-	PCO	80.	Jahangirwa	-	-
40.	Wazirganj	-	PCO	81.	Mauhar	-	-
	E.D.S.Os. Os.	CO	PCO	82.	Lalemau	-	-
41.	Adampu	-	PCO	83.	Gurwalia	-	-
42.	Babhanjate	-	PCO	84.	Gahlopur	-	-
43.	Babhniganeange	-	PCO	85.	Imlia Gurdayal	-	-
44.	Barauli	-	PCO	86.	Aoli Pareauli	-	PCO
45.	Badhaipurwa	-	-	87.	Banuwa	-	-
46.	Dubha Bazar	-	PCO	88.	Semari Kala	-	-
47.	Dhanawan	-	PCO	89.	Sidhauti	-	-
48.	Haldharmau	-	PCO	90.	Gajsinghpur	-	PCO
49.	Keshavpur Pahadwa	-	PCO	91.	Sonauli Mohdpur	-	PCO
50.	Paska	-	PCO	92.	Diksir	-	-
51.	Pandri Kripal	-	PCO	93.	Pure Dal	-	-
52.	Swami Narain Chhapia	-	PCO	96.	Kaudaha Jagdishpur	-	PCO
53.	Rupaideeh E. D. B. Os.	-	PCO	97.	Mauthari	-	-
54.	Banwaria	-	-	98.	Parsa Gendari	-	PCO
55.	Banjaria	-	-	99.	Servabnagar	-	-
56.	Chandwatpur	-	-	100.	Saksaila	-	-
57.	Dhebharai	-	-	101.	Changeri	-	-
58.	Ferozpur Tarhar	-	-	102.	Deorda	-	PCO
59.	Jhauhana	-	-	103.	Gopapur	-	-
60.	Khargeechandpur	-	-	104.	Badnapur	-	-
61.	Madhopur	-	-	105.	Lilsa Kala	-	-
62.	Mekalpur	-	-				

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
106.	Mangura Bazar	-	-	147.	Sakraura	-	PCO
107.	Neerpur Khayala	-	-	148.	Sisamau	-	-
108.	Parsada	-	-	149.	Usrer	-	-
109.	Sounda	-	-	150.	Shapatpur	-	-
110.	Sissi	-	-	151.	Akberpur	-	-
111.	Umrapurhouhan	-	PCO	152.	Daurahraghat	-	-
112.	D.Kalan	-	PCO	153.	Gendsar	-	-
113.	Nagdahi	-	PCO	154.	Ghunahi	-	-
114.	Barnada Ramsingh	-	-	155.	Changeri	-	-
115.	Deoria Alawal	-	-	156.	Rangi	-	PCO
116.	Imlia Roopi	-	-	157.	Sabarpur	-	-
117.	Malari	-	-	158.	Allipur Grant	-	-
118.	Karamdeeh	-	-	159.	Bangawan	-	-
119.	Charu	-	-	160.	Chandradeepghat	-	-
120.	Chuwad	-	-	161.	Daulatpur Grant	-	-
121.	Khamahria	-	-	162.	Parenda Khurd	-	-
122.	Kotkhas	-	-	163.	Fatehpur	-	-
123.	Mandar	-	-	164.	Ghariaghat	-	PCO
124.	Parsa Udaikar	-	-	165.	Heathiagarh	-	PCO
125.	Sabarpur	-	-	166.	Ismaila	-	-
126.	Maharajganj Grant	-	-	167.	Keshvnagar Grant	-	-
127.	Velbharia Buzurg	-	-	168.	Keeknagar	-	-
128.	Parsa Tewari	-	-	169.		-	-
129.	Dalpatpur	-	-	170.	Narharpur	-	-
130.	Domariadeeh	-	-	171.	Sitarampur Grant	-	PCO
131.	Kashipur	-	-	172.	Ahiachet	-	-
132.	Majhawan	-	-	173.	Bangain	-	PCO
133.	Benapur	-	-	174.	Bhartha	-	-
134.	Karnipurdih	-	-	175.	Dewa Pusia	-	PCO
135.	Katha	-	-	176.	Katuwanala	-	-
136.	Naipur	-	-	179.	Pure Nidhi	-	-
137.	Gursadi	-	-	180.	Selahri	-	PCO
138.	Kandree	-	-	181.	Shahjet	-	-
139.	Kurtha	-	-	182.	Urdu Gonda	-	-
140.	Mohammedpur	-	-	183.	Katia Madara	-	PCO
141.	Nahwa Parsaura	-	-	184.	Chauhanpurwa	-	PCO
142.	Malauna	-	-	185.	Bangain	-	-
143.	Pahadapur	-	-	186.	Bhairampur	-	-
144.	Pandey Chaura	-	-	187.	Bachuri	-	-
145.	Parsa Mahesi	-	-	188.	Beerpur Bhej	-	-
146.	Pipri Rawat	-	-	189.	Khairam Daluwachak	-	-

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
190.	Mallapur	-	-	231.	Ailnapur Grant	-	-
191.	Parsia Rani	-	-	232.	Gaighat	-	-
192.	Pipra Bazar	-	-	233.	Gaura Pandey	-	-
193.	Pure Maheri	-	-	234.	Hathini Bhopat	-	-
194.	Ramapur	-	PCO	235.	Mawai	-	-
195.	Sahjanwa	-	-	236.	Surwar Khurd	-	-
196.	Uraina	-	-	237.	Shitalganj	-	-
197.	Mauriha	-	PCO	238.	Majhawa Buzurg	-	-
198.	Shaghar Buland	-	-	239.	Sehila	-	-
199.	Chandipur	-	-	240.	Manda	-	-
200.	Chetpur	-	-	241.	Govindpara	-	-
201.	Darji Kuwen	-	-	242.	Khirai Khirwa	-	-
202.	Mahdeyya Chaksar	-	-	243.	Rajapur	-	-
203.	Madhiapur	-	-	244.	Rajgarh	-	-
204.	Nagwa	-	-	245.		-	-
205.	Narainpur Indha	-	-	246.	Siswaria	-	-
206.	Tejpur	-	-	247.	Sumeripur	-	-
207.	Durjanpur	-	-	248.	Turkadeeha	-	-
208.	Umnedjet	-	-	249.	Sihagaon	-	-
209.	Ramnagar Tarhar	-	-	250.	Mahewagopal	-	-
210.	Andhiari	-	-	251.	Ashokpur	-	-
211.	Ballipur	-	-	252.	Bishnaharpur	-	-
212.	Beiripur Ramnath	-	-	253.	Durjanpur	-	-
213.	Bankasia	-	-	254.	Kishundaspur	-	-
214.	Shitaura	-	-	255.	Lauwabirpur	-	PCO
215.	Deoria	-	-	256.	Manhgeepur	-	-
216.	Dhuswa	PCO	-	257.	Raghurajnagar	-	-
217.	Dinkarpur	-	-	258.	Semsra Saikhpur	-	-
218.	Shilahi	-	-	259.	Tulsipur Manjha	-	-
219.	Harnatyre	-	-	260.	Khargeepur	-	-
220.	Ghunahi	-	-	261.	Akchari	-	-
221.	Jigna Bazar	-	PCO	262.	Aata	-	-
222.	Kunjalpur	-	-	263.	Sahuwanmadar Majha	-	PCO
223.	Lamti Ukrahwa	-	-	264.	Balmathar	-	-
224.	Machhligaon	-	-	265.	Bhauriganj	-	-
225.	Mallipur	-	-	266.	Charsada	-	PCO
226.	Surjapur	-	-	267.	Kundwa Tewaripur	-	-
227.	K.Man	-	-	268.	Jarauli	-	-
228.	Harsinghwa Chaujanpur	-	-	269.	Madhaipur	-	-
229.	Bharahi	-	-	270.	Malaon	-	-
230.	Pachpati Jagtapur	-	-	271.	Marchaur	-	PCO

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
272.	Mijhaura	-	-	313.	Ramadhanpurwa	-	-
273.	Mehna	-	-	314.	Sarawah	-	-
274.	Lalipurwa	-	-	315.	Singha Chanda	-	PCO
275.	Pureajab	-	-	316.	Tewari Bazar	-	-
276.	Pure Bhanauva	-	-	317.	Rampur	-	-
277.	Rajapur	-	-	318.	Achalpur	-	-
278.	Raksadia	-	-	319.	Badhni	-	-
279.	Sarraiyyan	-	-	320.	Bellia	-	-
280.	Utraula	-	-	321.	Birahmatpur	-	-
281.	Teerasi	-	PCO	322.	Karda	-	-
282.	Dehras	-	PCO	323.	Kharidesh	-	-
283.	Bishunpur Kalan	-	-	324.	Naubesta	-	PCO
284.	Subhagpur	-	-	325.	Rampur Kharahtha	-	-
285.	Achalpur Kaithelia	-	-	326.	Rampur Tengraha	-	-
286.	Deoria Inayat	-	-	327.	Manjhara	-	PCO
287.	Golahipur	-	-	328.	Kondari	-	-
288.	Itai Abdulla	-	-	329.	Bankat Suryabalisingh	-	PCO
289.	Kharahna Naudihwa	-	-	330.	Belbharia	-	-
290.	Kishunpur Sagar	-	PCO	331.	Bishambherpur	-	-
291.	Laukiya Tahir	-	-	332.	Duljapur	-	PCO
292.	Rampur Grant	-	-	333.	Duttnagar	-	-
293.	Oberideeh	-	-	334.	Rudragarh Nausi	-	PCO
294.	Mendhwa Buzurg	-	-	335.	Bangai Barwar	-	-
295.	Madda Chaura	-	-	336.	Ayah	-	-
296.	Bhelia Madanpur	-	-	337.	Bishunpur Sangam	-	-
297.	Lakarmandi	-	-	338.	Galauli	-	-
298.	Kharauwan	-	-	339.	Tirremanorama	-	-
299.	Rampur Shagaji	-	-	340.	Parasarai	-	-
300.	Kalhanpur Bisen	-	-	341.	Rampur	-	-
301.	Harbanspur	-	PCO	342.	Binuhani	-	-
302.		-	-	343.	Belwa Bahuta	-	-
303.	Bengawan	-	PCO	344.	Bishunpur Belbharia	-	PCO
304.	Dhanauli	-	-	345.	Jhalidham	-	-
305.	Dhondepur	-	-	346.	Kamrawan	-	-
306.	Garauli	-	-	347.	Pidwartara	-	-
307.	Jamtha	-	-	348.	Sisai Jungle	-	-
308.	Khojanpur	-	-	349.	Bagha Hussainnagar	-	PCO
309.	Kindhaura	-	PCO	350.	Pipra Bhadar	-	-
310.	Taradeeh	-	-	351.	Asidha	-	-
311.	Faras	-	PCO	352.	Bhatpurwa	-	-
312.	Fura Ghisiram	-	-	353.	Deberi Kalan	-	-

1	2	3	4
354.	Mehnewn	-	-
355.	Fure Basalat	-	-
356.	Rajpur	-	-
357.	Retwagara	-	-
358.	Ujainni Kalan	-	-
359.	Bakharawa	-	-

Statement-II*List of Telegraph offices in District Gonda***A. Telegraph Office.**

1. Gonda

B. Telecom Centres.

1. Bargaon (Gonda)

2. Mankapur (Gonda)

C. Combined Posts and Telegraph Offices.

1. Maskanwa

2. Mankapur

3. Belsar

4. Tarabganj

5. Paraspur

6. Colonelganj

7. Itiyathok

8. Khargoopur

9. Nawabganj

10. Motiganj

11. HPO Gonda

12. Gonda City

13. Bus Station Gonda

14. Civil Line Gonda

15. Daduwabajar

16. Utraula road

17. Bargaon

18. Kauria

19. Nawabganj ST

20. Sadullanagar

21. Wazirganj

22. Bishunpur Bairia

23. Sonauli Mohmmedpur

24. D. Kala

25. Nagdahi

26. Niyawan

27. Beli Parsanli

28. Gajsinghpur

29. Kotia Madara

30. Begamganj

31. Adampur

32. Barauli

33. Paska

34. Katra Bazar

35. Bansdikot

36. Dulhabazar

37. Dhanawan

38. Haldharmau

39. Balpur

40. Rupaadh

41. B.B. Singh

42. Padrikripa

43. Khurasa

44. Swami Narain Chhapia

45. P.S. Ganj

46. Babhanjot

47. Barkatua

48. K.P. Pakhwari

49. Kishanpur Pahwan

50. Chauhanpurwa

51. Rampur

52. Sakraura

53. Kaudaha Jagdishpur

54. Salavi

55. Deola Parsia

56. Umrapur Chauhan

57. Parsa Gondari

58. Malari

59. Sarvangpur

60. Bankatisbalisingh

61. Rudragarh Nausi

62. Bishunpur Belharia

63. Dhuswa

64. Bodhipur

65. Kishanpur Grant

66. Jugorabazar

67. Hathagarh

68. Shitalganj Grant

69. Gharighat

70. Mahngoopur

71. Rangi

72. Lawabirpur
73. Majhara
74. Naubasta
75. Marchaur
76. Teorasi
77. Bahuwanmadarmajha
78. Charasadi
79. Dehras
80. Kindhaura
81. Amdahi
82. Deorda
83. Baurjha
84. Singhachanda
85. Paras
86. Babhni Quanungo
87. Forbesganj
88. Pathwalia
89. Dukhharannath

Telegraph offices in Balrampur Newly created District
(Bifurcation of Gonda District)

- A. Telegraph office Nil
- B. Telecom Centres
 1. Balrampur
- C. Combined Posts and Telegraph Offices.
 1. Balrampur HPO
 2. Utraula
 3. Tulsipur
 4. Bhagwatiganj
 5. Shrinagar
 6. Pachperwa
 7. Ganjahwa
 8. Katra Shankernagar
 9. Mudela
 10. Rambanghusra
 11. Sridurtganj
 12. J. P. gram
 13. Mathurabajar
 14. Rehbabajar
 15. Jarwa
 16. Gendas Buzrug
 17. Chandoopur
 18. Itai Rampur
 19. Chanderpur

20. Malda
21. Bargadwa Sharif
22. Jamuni Kala
23. Haraiya Satgharwa
24. Sheopur
25. Gularia Hasanpur
26. Retwagura
27. Ujaini Kala
28. Gomari
29. Gajpur Grant
30. Daultabad Grant

Expenditure for Rest Areas Along NH-5

2769. SHRI SODE RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the funds earmarked for expenditure during 1998-99 by the National Highways Authority of India for building Rest Areas along National Highway-5;

(b) whether certain portion of these funds have been already spent; and

(c) if so, the details of amount allotted and amount spent along National Highway-5 for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No separate funds have been earmarked during 1998-99 for building rest areas along NH-5 by the National Highways Authority of India. However, provision has been made for construction of two truck lay byes in Km. 48-49 of NH-5 in Andhra Pradesh at a cost of Rs. 70- lacs as part of a project for improvement of NH-5 from Km. 3.4 to Km. 75 presently under implementation under the loan assistance of Asian Development Bank.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Kuno Sanctuary Scheme

2770. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated Kuno Sanctuary scheme for Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the amount given for the said scheme;

(c) the number of tribal people displaced from the Kuno Sanctuary border;

(d) whether the displaced persons have been allotted land for agriculture as a relief measure;

(e) if so, whether the allotted land is fit for farming; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. Government have sanctioned a grants-in-aid of Rs.663 lakh under the Centrally Sponsored Beneficiary Oriented Scheme for Tribal Development for the voluntary relocation and rehabilitation of 663 tribal families outside Kuno-Palpur Sanctuary of Madhya Pradesh. So far an amount of Rs. 412 lakh has been released for this relocation programme which is ongoing. As provided in the scheme, each tribal family is being allotted 2 ha. of land suitable for cultivation.

[English]

E-Mail Facilities

2771. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria adopted to provide E-Mail facilities in various States;

(b) the number of cities in the country where said facility has been provided; and

(c) the details of percentage of said facilities available in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) to (c) E-Mail service is available in the country through a number of E-Mail operators since 1994. With the recent Internet Service Provide (ISP) Policy. E-Mail facility is available through Internet also. A few of the E-Mail operators have migrated as ISPs. Department Telecommunications (DOT)/Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL) has established Internet nodes in 53 cities in India. Besides, 82 licences have been issued to companies for offering Internet services. Department of Telecommunications have decided that access to the nearest Internet node will be on local call basis all over the country.

[Translation]

Expansion/Repair of National Highways in Uttar Pradesh

2772. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the National Highways in Uttar Pradesh on which the work relating to their broadening, expansion and repair has been started since February 1997 till date; and

(b) the time by which such work would be started on the remaining National Highways passing through the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) The following National Highways in the State of Uttar Pradesh are being widened since February, 1997, till date :-

(i) Lucknow-Kanpur NH-25 from four lanes to six lanes in km. 0.00 to 4.3.

(ii) Ghazipur-Ballia NH-19 from single lane to two lanes in km. 6 to 11 and km. 73 to 78.80.

(iii) Mathura-Agra section of NH-2 from two lane to four lane in km. 148.33 to 199.66.

Maintenance and repairs of National Highways is a continuous process. This is being done round the year on all National Highways to keep the same in traffic-worthy condition within the available funds.

(b) There is no time frame by which the work of widening of remaining National Highways passing through the State would start as the same depends upon the inter-se priority of works and the availability of funds.

STD/ISD/PCOs Booths in Haryana

2773. SHRI BAIJNATH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of STD/ISD/PCO booths functioning in Haryana particularly in Ambala district at present, district-wise;

(b) the number of booths out of them functioning;

(c) the number of applications lying pending for installation of said booths in the State, district-wise; and

(d) the reasons therefor and the time by which these applications are likely to be processed and approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) and (b) The total number of STD/ISD/PCO booths functioning in Haryana is 5919. The SSA-wise informations including that of Ambala district regarding number of booths functioning is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The SSA-wise informations regarding number of applications pending is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) The applications are due to various reasons like non-availability of spare capacity, STD facility in the exchange etc. These applications are likely to be cleared progressively within the next financial year subject to technical feasibility and the applicants fulfilling other conditions.

Statement**Name of Circle : Haryana**

S.No.	Name of SSA	No. of STD/ISD/PCOs functioning	No. of applications pending
1.	Karnal	1510	1674
2.	Rewari	104	1842
3.	Rohtak	672	2165
4.	Jind	211	30
5.	Ambala	1246	1005
6.	Hissar	871	1112
7.	Faridabad/Gurgaon	1160	1453
8.	Sonepat	145	1251

*[English]***Improvement in Telephone Services**

2774. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any specific programme for the improvement in telephone services, including STD facilities in the North-Eastern States particularly in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the telephone services even in Guwahati are not satisfactory;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following programme have been formulated to further improve the telephone services and STD facilities :-

1. Replacement of fault prone cable by PIJF cables.
2. Replacement of Overhead alignment by Underground Cable.
3. Introduction of OFC and WLL systems in local network.
4. Computerization of Fault Repair Services.
5. Connecting all exchanges on reliable media.
6. Close monitoring of subscribers complaints.
7. Providing satellite base Village Public Telephones.

8. Opening of more telephone exchanges in rural areas.
9. Expansion of telecom network by expanding the existing capacity and installing more RLUs.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

LPG Agencies in Jamnagar, Gujarat

2775. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representation to set up LPG agencies in Jamnagar district of Gujarat during the last three years;

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

(c) the details of LPG agencies set up during the last three years in the said district;

(d) the plan to set up LPG agencies in Jamnagar district during 1999 and 2000; and

(e) the number of persons on waiting list for LPG connections in the district and the time by which those are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Requests are received from time to time from different parts of the country for setting up LPG distributorship. Oil Companies are instructed to conduct feasibility surveys to assess the potential of the concerned areas for setting up LPG distributorship. Feasible and economically viable locations are included in the LPG Marketing Plan for setting up LPG distributorships.

(c) During the last three years, one LPG distributorship has been set up in District Jamnagar, Gujarat.

(d) Five new LPG distributorships have been included in the LPG Marketing Plan 1996-98 for District Jamnagar, Gujarat. Selection of distributors for the location included in the Marketing Plan is in progress as per procedure of issuing of advertisement and selection through the Dealer Selection Boards.

(e) 34754 persons were on the waiting list for LPG connections in District Jamnagar as on 1.1.1999. LPG connections are released in a phased manner depending on various factors such as waiting list, slack available with the distributor, enrolment plan etc.

Power Projects in Tamil Nadu

2776. SHRI KANCHI PANNEERSELVAM : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of total number of power projects functioning at present in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the expected quantum of power generation from these projects;

(c) whether any instance of power mismanagement by the concerned State Government have come to the notice of the Union Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) Total number of power stations functioning in the State of Tamil Nadu at Present is 27 (9 thermal, 1 nuclear and 17 hydro). Of these 3 projects (2 thermal, one nuclear) are in the central sector, 23 in the State sector (6 thermal, 17 hydro) and one (thermal) project in private sector.

(b) The actual Power generation from the power stations located in Tamil Nadu including central sector power stations was 34.20 Billion Units against the target of 36.49 billion units during April 1998 to February 1999. The generation target fixed for the power stations for the year 1998-99 is 40.28 billion units.

(c) and (d) No such instance has been brought to the notice of Ministry of Power.

[*Translation*]

Cases of Violation of Companies Act, 1956

2777. SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of violation of the Companies Act, 1956 registered during each of the last three years;

(b) whether cases have been registered against the first ten top industrial houses of the country under the Companies Act;

(c) if so, the details and nature of complaints received by the Company Law Board thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Company Law Board in this regard and the position of those cases at present?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) During last three years, 14753 cases for violation of the provisions of Companies Act, 1956 were filed and the year-wise details is as under :

Year	Number of cases filed
1995-96	3872
1996-97	4062
1997-98	6819
	14753

(b) Consequent upon deletion of Part A of Chapter III of the MRTP Act, 1969 with effect from 27.9.1991, the large industrial houses are no longer required to be registered with the Central Government under the Act. The data relating to the big industrial houses are, therefore, not compiled separately by the Department of Company Affairs.

(c) The Company Law Board is a quasi-judicial body constituted under Section 10E of the Companies Act, 1956. It is receiving applications u/s 58A(9) of the Companies Act, 1956 and Section 45QA of the Reserve Bank of India, Act, 1934 from the aggrieved depositors of the companies for non-payment of their matured fixed deposits and interest thereon.

(d) The applications as stated above are being disposed of after hearing both the parties in the Court. The details of applications received, disposed of and pending during the last three years are as under :

Period	Opening Balance	Receipts	Total	Disposed of	Pending
1.4.95 to 31.3.96	1072	1000	2072	1017	1055
1.4.96 to 31.3.97	1055	2735	3790	2286	1504
1.4.97 to 31.3.98	1504	26718	28222	15437	12785

[*English*]

Discovery of Virus

2778. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the scientists at the National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases, Calcutta have traced a rare virus which had affected nearly one million people in 1982-83 in China; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) During the course of molecular, epidemiological surveillance of people with diarrhoea admitted to the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Calcutta during the year 1997 to October, 1998, the scientists at National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases, Calcutta detected viruses with double standard RNA genome profiles matching with those of the group B ADRV from 5 severe adult diarrhoea cases. The virus has been confirmed as Group B rota virus on molecular analysis. of the total 53 cases found to be positive for rota virus Group B ADRV was isolated from 5 adults. These cases

presented with acute watery diarrhoea, vomiting and moderate to severe dehydration. The emergence of group B ADRV has been detected outside China after 16 years.

Environmental Degradation

2779. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to the reply given in the Unstarred Question No. 155 on November 30, 1998 and state :

- (a) whether the requisite information has since been collected;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) if not the time by which it is likely to be laid on the table of the House; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to restrict such environmental damages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (d) The information is still being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Separation of Judiciary from Executive

2780. Dr. JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 129 on November 30, 1998 and state:

- (a) whether the requisite information has since been collected;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the information is likely to be laid on the Table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) and (b) A statement is enclosed.

- (c) Does not arise.

Statement

The Provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 provides for separation of judiciary from Executive. These provision do not extend to six States/Regions. The position in this regard is as follows :

- (i) The schedule areas of Andhra Region are in the districts of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavary and West Godavary and erstwhile Bhadrachalam and Noogur taluks of Khammam districts, which were previously in East Godavari District. In the Telangana region, in

the districts of Adilabad, Warangal, Mahabubnagar, and Khammam district (excluding Bhadrachalam and Noogur taluks); Recently the issue was examined in consultation with A.P. Tribes Advisory Council and it was decided to continue the existing system as per the advice of the Council ;

- (ii) Arunachal Pradesh – whole of the State;
- (iii) Assam – In the two hill districts of Karbi Anglong and North Cachar;
- (iv) Meghalaya – The tribal areas of the State. Separation of judiciary from the executive extends only to the cantonment and the 'normal' areas of Shillong town. In order not to disturb the functions of the District Court, it has been decided that the existing system be allowed to continue till alternative arrangement can be made;
- (v) Mizoram – The whole of State. However, the State Govt. is committed in principle to separate the Judiciary from the Executive and a Bill in this respect is under preparation and it will be introduced in the Assembly Session in the near future.
- (vi) Nagaland – The whole of the State – The State Government decided on 5.7.94 to separate the Judiciary from Executive and steps are being taken to implement the decision.

Behaviour of Advocates

2781. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.112 dated November 30, 1998 and state:

- (a) whether the requisite information has since been collected;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the information is likely to be laid on the Table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) and (b) As per the information received from the Bar Council of India, the report under the caption "Vakilon Ke raviye se jyadatar nyanadhish nara]" appeared in the Dainik Jagran dated 25th May, 1998 is a news item blown out of proportion. Bar Bench relation in the country is totally satisfactory and the occasional incidents that take place cannot be attributed to the bad behaviour of the lawyers in general. These are isolated incidents which have no bearing on the issue. The Bar Council of India has laid down detailed code of conduct for the lawyers in the country and any lawyer violating the code prescribed by the Bar Council of India can be booked for professional misconduct. The State Bar Councils are authorised to receive complaints against advocates for their professional or other misconduct and if the complaints

are found to be true, punishments can be imposed on them by way of reprimand, suspension and even removal of their names from the roll of advocates maintained by the Bar councils. The State Bar Councils have a number of Committees called Disciplinary Committees which are statutorily empowered to hear the complaints against advocates on the grounds of professional or other misconduct. The Bar Council of India is the appellate authority in disciplinary matters relating to advocates and this Council has been hearing and deciding appeals against the orders of the State Bar Councils which hear the complaints at the first instance. The Bar Council of India can also decide complaints which are transferred to it from the State Bar Councils if the State Bar Councils are unable to decide the matters within the prescribed period of one year from the date on which the complaint has been referred to Disciplinary Committee. The Bar Council of India during the year 1998 decided a number of such complaints and appeals details of which are given below:

REMOVAL	SUSPENSION	REPRIMAND
9 Cases	20 Cases	4 Cases

Any misbehaviour of the Advocate either in the Courts or outside can be brought to the notice of the concerned State Bar Council in the manner prescribed under Advocates Act and the Rules made thereunder and the matters are dealt with accordingly. Misbehaviour of any advocate in Courts can be brought to the notice of the concerned State Bar Councils by the Courts or any person concerned and the Bar Councils will deal with such matters as per the prescribed manner.

In this manner the State Bar Councils and the Bar Council of India are exercising its disciplinary jurisdiction over the advocates in the Country to maintain the Standards of Professional Conduct and Etiquette by the lawyers.

- (c) Does not arise.

Post Offices

2782. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open Post Offices/Sub Post Offices and Branch Post Offices in Shajapur District in Uttar Pradesh especially in the Garam Barai during 1999-2000; and

- (b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise ; and
(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) to (c) Post Offices are opened subject to norm based justification and availability of resources and targets. The targets for opening Post Offices are allotted Postal Circle-wise at the beginning of each Annual Plan. The proposal for opening an Extra Departmental Branch Post Office at Gram Bharai was examined and found not justified on population and financial norms.

Appointment of Governors

2783. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Chief Election Commissioner has recently made some suggestions in regard to the appointment of Governors;
(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) to (c) Government has not received any suggestion from chief Election Commissioner regarding appointment of Governors.

[Translation]

AIDS Cure

2784. SHRI INDRAJEET MISHRA :
SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any research is being made for curing AIDS through the Indian System of Medicine; and
(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) The Government of Tamil Nadu has been conducting research by administering Siddha drugs to HIV/AIDS patients at Madras Medical College and Government Hospital of Thoracic Medicine, Tambaram. All suspected cases of HIV infection were clinically examined. At present, 135 male and 20 female patients with HIV/AIDS are undergoing treatment with Siddha drugs. All the patients are showing clinical and CD-4 improvements.

[English]

Ayurvedic University in Nagpur

2785. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government have received a proposal for the setting up of an Ayurvedic University in Nagpur;
(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the stage at which it stands at present ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIDALIT EZHILMALAI):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Conversion of Genetic Tools

2786. SHRI R.S. GAVAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Medical Research has identified Some Medical Colleges for conversion of genetic tools for the health purposes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIDALIT EZHILMALAI):

(a) and (b) Indian Council of Medical Research propose to set up a Task Force on Human Genetics under which a network of genetic centres in various medical colleges and hospitals in different States will be created. These centres will be equipped to provide genetic counselling, genetic diagnostic services and refer cases for prenatal diagnosis for various genetic diseases to the referral centres.

[Translation]

Afforestation Scheme on Aravali Ranges

2787. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any afforestation scheme is being run by the Union Government at present to make the Aravali Ranges lush green ;

(b) if so, the area of Rajasthan covered by Aravali ranges alongwith the average of the forest area therein ;

(c) whether a major part of the Aravali ranges has been converted into desert; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check this trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) :
(a) Afforestation activities are being undertaken in the Aravali ranges by the respective State Governments under centrally sponsored schemes and externally assisted forestry projects.

(b) Aravali ranges cover 1.456 lakh sq. km. geographical area in Rajasthan whereas total recorded forest area of the State is 31,700 sq. km.

(c) and (d) Forest cover and the ecology of Aravali ranges are subjected to various biotic pressures including mining in some of the areas. Afforestation activities being undertaken under various schemes help in maintaining the ecological status of Aravali ranges. Besides, restriction under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 on certain activities causing environmental degradation in Gurgaon district of Haryana and Alwar district of Rajasthan also helps in maintenance of ecological status of these ranges. As per the State of Forest Report, 1997, the comparative forest cover in Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana and Rajasthan entailing Aravali ranges, has increased in 1997 assessment vis-a-vis 1995 assessment.

[English]

Vacancies in Income Tax Appellate Tribunals

2788. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies lying vacant in various Income Tax Appellate Tribunals in the country and the time from which these are lying vacant; and

(b) the steps taken to fill up these vacancies alongwith the time by which all the vacancies are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) A statement showing the number of vacant posts in the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal and the dates from they are lying vacant is placed below.

(b) Most of the vacancies pertain to the 15 addl. benches of the Tribunal sanctioned recently. The Selection process for appointment of Members of these Benches has already been completed and the report of the Selection Board is under consideration for the Government. Office accommodation for the newly created Benches at Agra, Jodhpur, Visakhapatnam, Goa and Bangalore have been finalised and these benches are likely to become functional as soon as the partitioning work in these Buildings are completed. As regards vacancies in other grades, the Tribunal has already taken necessary steps for circulation of vacancies in other Central/ State Govt. Departments, nominations of candidates by Staff Selection Commission and for taking candidates through local employment exchanges.

Statement
Vacancy Position as on 9/3/99

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Sanctioned Posts	Filled	Vacant	Vacant Since
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	President	1	1	--	--
2.	Senior Vice President	1	1	--	--

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Vice President	07	6	1	9/2/98
4.	Members	97	62	35	1/4/97
5.	Registrar	1	1	--	--
6.	Deputy Registrar	6	6	--	--
7.	Asstt. Registrar	34	28	6	1/4/97
8.	Sr. P.A.	144	100	44	1/4/97
9.	Hindi Officer	2	--	2	1/4/97 & 1/9/98
10.	Superintendent	5	4	1	1/9/98
11.	Sr. Accountant	2	--	2	1/4/97 & 1/9/98
12.	Assistant Supdt.	11	9	2	1/4/97
13.	Hindi Translator	21	3	18	1/4/97
14.	Head Clerk	44	40	4	1/4/97
15.	Upper Division Clerk	119	91	28	1/4/97
16.	Caretaker	2	1	1	1/4/97
17.	Librarian	2	--	2	1/4/97 & 1/9/98
18.	Lower Division Clerk	186	147	39	1/4/97
19.	Staff Car Driver	45	30	15	1/4/97
20.	Record Sorter	3	1	2	1/4/97
21.	Daftry	34	25	9	1/4/97
22.	Sr. Peon	105	64	41	1/4/97 & 1/9/98
23.	Selection Grade Peon	1	1	--	--
24.	Photo Copier Operator	2	--	2	1/4/97
25.	Chowkidar	29	20	9	1/4/97
26.	Safaiwala	29	22	7	1/4/97
27.	Farash	3	2	1	1/4/97
28.	Gardener	1	1	--	--
29.	Peon	70	44	26	1/4/97 & 1/9/98
30.	Steno Grade 'D'	3	2	1	1/4/97

Import of Equipments

2789. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have granted duty-free import of equipment for the private power projects;

(b) if so, whether National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has also made a request for the grant of similar concession;

(c) if so, whether the Government have considered the request of NTPC; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARA-MANGALAM) : (a) to (d) Under the revised mega power policy announced by the Government in November 1998, certain projects both in the public as well as private sector have been identified as mega power projects, which would cater to the power needs of more than one State. The projects identified for development as mega power projects by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) are Kahalgaon Stage II (1500 MW), North Karanpura STPP (2000 MW), Barh STPP (2000 MW) and Cheyyur (1500 MW). In addition, NTPC would be expanding the four gas based plants, namely, Anta, Auriya, Kawas and Gandhar to an additional capacity of 1300 MW each under revised mega power policy. All the identified mega projects under revised mega power policy, including those being undertaken by NTPC would be exempted from payment of custom duty for import of equipment. At present, Government is

not contemplating extending this dispensation to any project other than those identified under the revised policy announced in November, 1998.

Postal Services in Coastal Districts of Orissa

2790. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether postal services are upto the mark in the coastal districts of Orissa;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the total deposits made in the region in post offices during the last three years, year-wise;
- (d) whether the Government propose to introduce some schemes to attract more investment in the post offices in Orissa; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) The postal services in the coastal districts of Orissa have been generally satisfactory.

(b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

(c) The year-wise deposits made in the region in post offices for small savings during the last three years are as under:

1995-96	Rs. 322.32 Crores
1996-97	Rs. 705.59 Crores
1997-98	Rs. 418.14 Crores

(d) and (e) At present there is no proposal of the Government to introduce any such new scheme in the post offices in Orissa.

[Translation]

Speed Post Facility in Mumbai

2791. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of post offices at present in Mumbai and the number of post offices out of them having Speed Post services; and
- (b) the number of post offices in which the said service is proposed to be provided during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a)

There are at present 266 post offices in Mumbai. The facility for booking Speed Post articles is available at 73 post offices. Delivery of Speed Post articles in Mumbai city is effected through 87 post offices.

(b) There is no proposal to provide Speed Post service at any other post office during the current financial year.

[English]

District Telecom Offices

2792. SHRI UPENDRA NATH NAYAK:
SHRI A. SIDDARAJU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of district telecom offices set up and proposed to be set up in the country during 1998-99;
- (b) whether the Government propose to set up District Telecom offices in Keonjhar and Chamarajanagar region during the said period;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said offices are likely to be set up and the financial allocation for the purpose;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government have taken any steps for modernisation of telecommunication system in Orissa during 1998-99; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) to (d) Department of Telecom so far has created 324 Telecom Districts in the country as per List enclosed as statement. Telecom Districts are generally conterminous with one or more Revenue Districts. As per policy of the Department, Telecom Districts are not bifurcated because of administrative and operational reasons. Keonjhar and Chamarajanagar are Revenue Districts and are under Dhenkanal Telecom District and Mysore Telecom District headed by TDM and GM respectively. However, Divisional Engineer Offices have already been operating there to look after the development of Keonjhar and Chamarajanagar areas.

(e) and (f) Yes Sir, During 1998 Cuttack and Sambalpur Telephone Exchanges have been converted into Electronic Exchanges making all Exchanges in Orissa Electronic. In addition large number of optical fibre systems are being commissioned.

Statement		
<i>List of Telecom Districts</i>		
S.No.	Circle	Telecom District
1	2	3
1.	AN	Port Blair
2.	AP	Adilabad
3.	AP	Anantpur (Guntkal)
4.	AP	Chittoor (Tirupati)
5.	AP	Cuddapah
6.	AP	E. Godavari (Rajahmundry)
7.	AP	Guntur
8.	AP	Hyderabad
9.	AP	Karimnagar
10.	AP	Khammam
11.	AP	Krishna (Vijayawada)
12.	AP	Kurnool
13.	AP	Mahaboobnagar
14.	AP	Medak (Sangareddy)
15.	AP	Nalgonda
16.	AP	Nellore
17.	AP	Nizamabad
18.	AP	Prakasam (Ongole)
19.	AP	Srikakulam
20.	AP	Vijainagaram
21.	AP	Visakhapatnam
22.	AP	Warangal
23.	AP	W. Godavary (Eluru)
24.	AS	Dibrugarh (Lakhimpur)
25.	AS	Guwahati (Kamrup)
26.	AS	Jorhat (Sibsagar)
27.	AS	Kokrajhar (Bongaigaon)
28.	AS	Nagaon
29.	AS	Silchar (Cachar)
30.	AS	Tejpur (Sonitpur)
31.	BH	Arrah
32.	BH	Bhagalpur
33.	BH	Chapra
34.	BH	Daltonganj
35.	BH	Darbangha
36.	BH	Deoghar (Dumka)
37.	BH	Dhanbad
38.	BH	Gaya

1	2	3
39.	BH	Hazaribagh
40.	BH	Jamshedpur
41.	BH	Katihar
42.	BH	Monghyr
43.	BH	Motihari
44.	BH	Muzaffarpur
45.	BH	Patna
46.	BH	Ranchi
47.	BH	Sahasra
48.	BH	Sasaram
49.	GJ	Ahmedabad
50.	GJ	Amreli
51.	GJ	Bharuch
52.	GJ	Bhavnagar
53.	GJ	Bhuj (Kutch)
54.	GJ	Godhra (Panchmahal)
55.	GJ	Himmatnagar (Sabarkantha)
56.	GJ	Jamnagar
57.	GJ	Junagarh
58.	GJ	Mehsana
59.	GJ	Nadiad (Kheda)
60.	GJ	Palanpur (Banaskantha)
61.	GJ	Rajkot
62.	GJ	Surat
63.	GJ	Surendernagar
64.	GJ	Vadodara
65.	GJ	Valsad
66.	HP	Hamirpur
67.	HP	Kangra (Dharamsala)
68.	HP	Kulu
69.	HP	Mandi
70.	HP	Simla
71.	HP	Solan
72.	HR	Ambala
73.	HR	Gurgaon (Faridabad)
74.	HR	Hissar
75.	HR	Jind
76.	HR	Karnal
77.	HR	Narnaul (Rewari)
78.	HR	Rohtak
79.	HR	Sonepat
80.	JK	Jammu

1	2	3
81.	JK	Leh
82.	JK	Rajouri
83.	JK	Srinagar
84.	JK	Udhampur
85.	KL	Alleppey
86.	KL	Cannanore
87.	KL	Ernakulam
88.	KL	Kavaratty (Lakshdweep)
89.	KL	Kottiyam
90.	KL	Kozhikode (Calicut)
91.	KL	Palghat (Palakkad)
92.	KL	Quilon
93.	KL	Tiruvalla (Pathanamthitta)
94.	KL	Trichur
95.	KL	Trivandrum
96.	KT	Bangalore
97.	KT	Belgaum
98.	KT	Bellary
99.	KT	Bidar
100.	KT	Bijapur
101.	KT	Chickmangalore
102.	KT	Devangere
103.	KT	Gulbarga
104.	KT	Hassan
105.	KT	Hubli (Dharwad)
106.	KT	Karwar (U.Kannada)
107.	KT	Kolar
108.	KT	Mandya
109.	KT	Mangalore (Dakshina Kannada)
110.	KT	Merchara (Madikeri-Kodagu)
111.	KT	Mysore
112.	KT	Raichur
113.	KT	Shimoga
114.	KT	Tumkur
115.	MH	Ahmednagar
116.	MH	Akola
117.	MH	Amravati
118.	MH	Aurangabad
119.	MH	Bhandara
120.	MH	Bhir (Beed)
121.	MH	Buldana (Khamgaon)
122.	MH	Chandrapur

1	2	3
123.	MH	Dhulia (Dhule)
124.	MH	Gadchuroli (In Chandrapur)
125.	MH	Jaigaon
126.	MH	Jalna
127.	MH	Kalyan
128.	MH	Kolhapur
129.	MH	Kudal (Sundhudurg)
130.	MH	Latur
131.	MH	Nagpur
132.	MH	Nanded
133.	MH	Nasik
134.	MH	Osmanabad
135.	MH	Panaji (Goa)
136.	MH	Parbhani
137.	MH	Raigarh
138.	MH	Pune
139.	MH	Ratnagiri
140.	MH	Sangli
141.	MH	Satara
142.	MH	Solapur
143.	MH	Wardha
144.	MH	Yeotmal
145.	MP	Ambikapur (Sarguja)
146.	MP	Balaghat (Mahakoshal)
147.	MP	Betul
148.	MP	Bhopal
149.	MP	Bilaspur
150.	MP	Chhatarpur
151.	MP	Chhindwara
152.	MP	Damoh
153.	MP	Dewas
154.	MP	Dhar
155.	MP	Durg
156.	MP	Guna
157.	MP	Gwalior
158.	MP	Indore
159.	MP	Itarsi (Hoshangabad)
160.	MP	Jabalpur
161.	MP	Jagdalpur (Bastar)
162.	MP	Jhabua
163.	MP	Khandwa
164.	MP	Khargone

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

1	2	3
249.	TN	Salem
250.	TN	Thanjavur
251.	TN	Tirunelveli
252.	TN	Trichy
253.	TN	Tuticorin
254.	TN	Vellore
255.	TN	Virudunagar
256.	UPE	Allahabad
257.	UPE	Azamgarh
258.	UPE	Bahraich
259.	UPE	Ballia
260.	UPE	Banda
261.	UPE	Barabanki
262.	UPE	Basti
263.	UPE	Deoria (MAU)
264.	UPE	Etawah
265.	UPE	Faizabad
266.	UPE	Farrukhabad
267.	UPE	Fatehpur
268.	UPE	Ghazipur
269.	UPE	Gonda
270.	UPE	Gorakhpur
271.	UPE	Hamirpur
272.	UPE	Hardoi
273.	UPE	Jaunpur
274.	UPE	Jhansi
275.	UPE	Kanpur
276.	UPE	Lakhimpur
277.	UPE	Lucknow
278.	UPE	Mainpuri
279.	UPE	Mirzapur
280.	UPE	Orai
281.	UPE	Pratapgarh
282.	UPE	Raibareilly
283.	UPE	Shahjahanpur
284.	UPE	Sitapur
285.	UPE	Sultanpur
286.	UPE	Unnan
287.	UPE	Varanasi
288.	UPW	Agra
289.	UPW	Aligarh
290.	UPW	Almora

1	2	3
291.	UPW	Badaun (Rampur)
292.	UPW	Bareilly
293.	UPW	Bijnore
294.	UPW	Chamoli (Kotdwara)
295.	UPW	Dehradun
296.	UPW	Etah
297.	UPW	Ghaziabad
298.	UPW	Mathura
299.	UPW	Meerut
300.	UPW	Moradabad
301.	UPW	Muzaffarnagar
302.	UPW	Nainital
303.	UPW	Pilibhit
304.	UPW	Rampur
305.	UPW	Saharanpur
306.	UPW	Uttarkashi (Srinagar)
307.	WB	Asansol
308.	WB	Bankura
309.	WB	Berhampur
310.	WB	Calcutta (Hawrah)
311.	WB	Coochbehar
312.	WB	Gangtok
313.	WB	Jalpaiguri
314.	WB	Kharagpur
315.	WB	Krishnagar
316.	WB	Malda
317.	WB	Purulia
318.	WB	Raiganj
319.	WB	Siliguri
320.	WB	Suri (Birbhum)
321.	MET	Bombay
322.	MET	Calcutta
323.	MET	Delhi
324.	MET	Madras

Misuse of LPG for Running Cars

2793. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether domestic LPG have been misused for running car in the country particularly in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the various public sector oil companies have issued any warnings in this regard; and

(c) if so, the other steps taken by the Government to check the misuse of domestic LPG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) Public Sector Oil Companies do not have any established instance of motor cars being driven with domestic LPG all over the country including the State of Karnataka. However, Research and Development Organisations may use LPG as automotive fuel for experimental purpose. So far, the use of LPG as automotive fuel in vehicle is prohibited by Motor Vehicles Act, and the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Restriction on use) Order, 1974. With a view to reduce pollution caused by fuels like petrol and diesel, which are currently in use, particularly in large polluted cities, the Government is in the process of making amendments to the existing Acts, Rules and the Regulations to permit the use of LPG in the automobile sector. Action is taken by Public Sector Oil Companies against diversion of domestic LPG for other uses, wherever found and established.

Medical Facility to P and T Pensioners

2794. SHRI VITHAL TUPE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether P and T pensioners at Pune, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Jabalpur and Lucknow are getting Indoor Medical Treatment facility through P and T dispensaries;

(b) if so, whether these pensioners are not getting CGHS facility at these stations;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Department of Post is not ready to transfer P and T dispensaries to CGHS, if so, the details and the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the recommendations No. 140-15 of the Vth Pay Commission regarding extending the Indoor Facility to P and T pensioners had been accepted by the Government;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor, indicating the present position regarding the Indoor Treatment to P and T Pensioners; and

(g) the reasons for making discrimination between P and T Pensioners and other Central Government Pensioners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) At these stations P&T Pensioners are eligible for outdoor treatment from P&T Dispensaries. Hence they are not provided medical treatment through CGHS, as Ministry of

Health & Family Welfare does not permit CGHS facility for those pensioners, who during their service period availed treatment from P&T Dispensaries only.

(d) The question of merger of P&T Dispensaries with the CGHS at these five places where examined but could not be agreed to. However, it is informed by the Director (CGHS) that the existing CGHS infrastructure is not able to cope up with the extra load without diluting its quality of services.

(e) to (g) The matter is presently under consideration in consultation with the Department of Telecommunications and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

[Translation]

Communication System in Ladakh

2795. MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHAN-DURI, AVSM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to link Ladakh with latest communication system;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the estimated amounts to be incurred there on ; and

(d) the time by which this work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(i) There is a proposal to execute a joint project by the Department of Telecommunications and Ministry of Defence to connect Leh with Srinagar Via Kargil to provide reliable media. The project is, however yet to be approved by the concerned Ministries.

(ii) In addition to the above, it has been planned to provide MCPC-VSAT system at 8 stations, namely, Pankhar, Sankoo, Tringspoon, Sukerbachan, Nimu, Batalika, Nyoma and Saspol during next financial year 1999-2000. Apart from the above there is also a proposal to provide IDR facility at Kargil and Leh in Ladakh region during 1999-2000.

(c) The estimated amount for the project at (a) and (b) (i) above, is Rs. 11 Crores (approximately) and for (ii) the estimated amount of the project is Rs. 5 Crores (approximately).

(d) (i) The project of providing optical fibre link is likely to be completed in two years after approval of the project.

- (ii) The installation of MCPC-V SAT and provisioning of IDR facility is likely to be completed progressively during 1999-2000 subject to timely availability of equipments.

Criteria for Nursing Home and Private Hospitals

2796. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) the norms laid down for opening nursing homes and private hospitals in the country;
- (b) whether the rules framed thereunder are in favour of nursing homes and private hospitals;
- (c) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and
- (d) the steps proposed to be taken to make the rules poor friendly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (d) 'Health' is a State subject under the Constitution of India. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the State Governments to frame rules/norms to regulate the functioning of private hospitals/nursing homes in the country.

[English]

Dealership of Petroleum Products to Tribal People

2797. SHRI VIJAY SINGH SOY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to formulate any policy to exclusively reserve the allotment of dealerships of petroleum products to be given in tribal areas for tribal people; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per the existing policy, 25% dealerships/distributorships of petroleum products are reserved for SCs/STs. Keeping in view the predominant ST population in 4 North-Eastern States, higher percentage of reservation as given below has been provided for STs in these States :

State	Percentage
Arunachal Pradesh	- 70
Meghalaya	- 80
Nagaland	- 80
Mizoram	- 90

Import of LNG by ONGC IOC and GAIL

2798. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the ONGC, IOC and GAIL are planning to set up projects to import liquefied natural gas for the power sector;
- (b) if so, whether any concrete measures have been taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the extent to which the imports of liquefied natural gas are likely to materialise during 1999?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) A Joint Venture Company, Petronet LNG Limited promoted by GAIL, ONGC, BPCL and IOC has been constituted to import LNG, by setting up the LNG Terminals at Dahej and Cochin in the First phase. LNG import will not materialise during 1999.

Construction of Ramanattukara -Vengalam-Calicut By Pass

2799. SHRI P. SANKARAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether construction of the Ramanattukara-Vengalam portion of Calicut by-pass has been delayed; and
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the proposed date of its completion alongwith the budget allotted for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) The Calicut by-pass (28.124 Km.) is to be constructed in four Phases. Construction work on, Phase-I (7.254 Km.) only is in progress. Rest three Phases are at the stage of Land Acquisition. As such there is no delay in construction.

(b) Phase-I is targetted to be completed during December, 2000. The funds are allocated for the entire State and not workwise. The total allocation (including Bridge fee fund) for National Highway original works for the State of Kerala for the Year 1998-99 is Rs. 57 Crore.

New Telephone Exchanges

2800. SHRI MADAN PATIL:
SHRI D. S. AHIRE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) the total number of telephone subscribers in Maharashtra, district-wise;

(b) the progress made in laying telephone lines and starting new telephone exchanges in districts Sangli, Khed, Pune, Nasik, Satara and Dhule so far;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide value-added services such as cellular telephones and pagers in these districts;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) if not , the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) The total number of telephone subscribers in Maharashtra, district-wise is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) The details of new exchanges opened and number of telephone connections given during 1998-99 (upto 31-1-99) in district Sangli, Ratnagiri (Khed), Pune, Nasik, Satara and Dhule are given in the enclosed statement-II.

(c) The proposal to establish Cellular Services by DOT is under examination of the Government. The places where to introduce these services will be taken up only when the proposal to establish Cellular Services by DOT is finalised.

(d) and (e) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Statement-I

Details of Total Number of Subscribers as on 31-1-1999 in Maharashtra

S.No.	District	Subscribers
1	2	3
1.	Ahmednagar	60284
2.	Akola	26326
3.	Washim	6296
4.	Amravati	37491
5.	Auranagabad	53609
6.	Beed	15059
7.	Bhandara	18574
8.	Buldhana	19112
9.	Chandrapur	24408
10.	Dhule	21430
11.	Nandurbar	83262
12.	Gadchiroli	3837
13.	Jalgaon	53700
14.	Jalna	11537
15.	Kalyan (Thane District)	454760
16.	Kolhapur	92840
17.	Latur	23090

1	2	3
18.	Nagpur	124313
19.	Nanded	27111
20.	Nasik	108682
21.	Osmanabad	12314
22.	Parbhani	16949
23.	Pune	347482
24.	Raigad	85284
25.	Ratnagiri	26406
26.	Sangli	64848
27.	Satara	49609
28.	Sindhudurg	12948
29.	Solapur	51784
30.	Wardha	15254
31.	Yotmal	15834
32.	Mumbai	1973772
Grand Total		3863305

Statement-II

Details of New Exchanges commissioned and new connections provided during 1998-99 (upto 31-1-99)

S.No.	District	No. of new connections given	No. of new exchanges opened
1.	Sangli	7237	8
2.	Ratnagiri (Khed)*	2522	0
3.	Pune (Khed)*	41604	0
4.	Nasik	11605	2
5.	Satara	6182	2
6.	Dhule	2232	2

* Khed is not a district but it is Taluka of Ratnagiri district and some area fall in Pune district.

[Translation]

Non-Payment of Licence Fee

2801. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons cited by the cellular telephone companies for non- payment of licence fee; and

(b) the reaction of the Government thereto and the estimated number of cellular telephone subscribers in the country upto January 1999?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) The cellular operators have represented that most of the projects are nonviable with reference to their present terms and conditions, as their original projections with regard to demand, no. of subscribers have not proved to be correct.

(b) The Government have constituted a Group on Telecommunications (GOT) to make recommendations on the following ;

- (i) Proposed new Telecom Policy.
- (ii) Issues relating to the existing licences of Basic and Cellular Services and suggest appropriate remedial measures within the frame work of the new Telecom Policy.
- (iii) Issues relating to Telecom Authority of India (TRAI). The number of cellular telephone subscribers in the country as on 31.1.1999 is 10,96,219.

[English]

Integrated Rural Energy Programme

2802. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the blocks covered under the integrated Rural Energy Programme in the country during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the number of blocks likely to be included during the Ninth Plan under this scheme in the country, State-wise?

The MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) State-wise number of blocks sanctioned for implantation under integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP) during the last three years i.e. 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) 500 additional blocks are likely to be included under integrated Rural Energy Programme in the country during Ninth Plan. New Blocks are sanctioned to States and Union Territories based on their demand and provision of counter-part funds in their respective plans for implementing the programme.

Statement

State-wise and year-wise break-up of IREP Blocks sanctioned for implementation of IREP during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98

S.No.	State/UTs	Block sanctioned during		
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	-	-

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	-	-
3.	Assam	1	-	2
4.	Bihar	2	-	40
5.	Goa	1	-	-
6.	Gujarat	3	-	-
7.	Haryana	-	-	9
8.	Himachal Pradesh	10	-	4
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	-	10
10.	Karnataka	5	-	11
11.	Kerala	16	-	-
12.	Madhya Pradesh	9	-	24
13.	Maharashtra	4	-	-
14.	Manipur	2	-	7
15.	Meghalaya	1	-	-
16.	Mizoram	1	-	2
17.	Nagaland	-	-	19
18.	Orissa	5	-	29
19.	Punjab	5	-	5
20.	Rajasthan	12	-	4
21.	Sikkim	1	-	-
22.	Tamil Nadu	4	-	-
23.	Tripura	1	-	3
24.	Uttar Pradesh	15	-	27
25.	West Bengal	5	-	4
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	-	-	-
27.	Chandigarh	-	-	-
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	-	-
29.	Daman & Diu	-	-	-
30.	Delhi	-	-	-
31.	Lakshadweep	-	-	-
32.	Pondicherry	-	-	-
Total		108	-	200

Gas Reserves in Rajasthan

2803. SHRI G.GANGA REDDY :
COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a huge Reserve of natural gas have been detected in Barmer, Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the estimate of natural resource detected; and

(c) the action plan worked out for exploitation of the gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Post Offices in Tamil Nadu

2804. DR. SAROJA V. : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number new post offices, branch/sub-post offices opened and proposed to be opened in Tamil Nadu during 1998-99, district-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to modernise / expand the existing post offices in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated for the purpose during the said period; and

(d) the time by which these post offices are likely to be modernised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) The targets for opening Departmental Sub Post Offices and Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices in Tamil Nadu Postal Circle as a whole during 1998-99 are 2 and 10 respectively. The post offices are opened subject to fulfillment of norms and availability of resources. The district-wise details of Post Offices opened so far are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) to (d) Modernisation of the following eight Post Offices in Tamil Nadu Circle has been taken up during 1998-99.

S.No.	Name of the Post Office	District
1.	Arni HO	Tiruvanna-Malai
2.	Gudiyatham HO	Vellor
3.	Avadi Camp HO	Tiruvallur
4.	Maharajanagar-SO	Tirunelveli
5.	Tirumangalam SO	Madurai
6.	Tiruchirappalli HO	Tiruchirappalli
7.	Ramanathapuram/(CBE)SO	Coimbatore
8.	Lawley Road SO	Coimbatore

Rupees twenty lakhs have been allotted for the modernisation programme of post offices in Tamil Nadu Circle. The modernisation of the above post offices is expected to be completed by 31-3-99.

Statement

Post Offices opened so far in 1998-99 (District-wise)
Post Offices Opened so far in 1998-99

District	DSOs	EDBOs
Kanchipuram	1	-
Tuticorin	1	-
Nagapattinam	-	1
Pudukattai	-	1
Sivaganga	-	1
Salem	-	2
Coimbatore	-	1
Total	2	6

[Translation]

Pending Medical University Project

2805. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJAPE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Department of Medical Education, Madhya Pradesh has sent a proposal for the construction of building of Rashtriya Ayurved Mahavidhyalaya at Jabalpur;

(b) if so, whether the said Department has asked for Rs.70 lakhs and Rs. 8.30 crores as a grant for the construction of the building, purchase of equipments and developing and cultivating plants, respectively;

(c) if so, whether the proposal is lying pending with the Union Government; and

(d) if so, the time by which the Union Government is likely to take action in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (d) A proposal seeking financial assistance of Rs. 70.00 lakhs (Rs.10.00 lac for Eqpt. ,Rs. 20.00 lac each for Construction of Hospital, Library and hostel building) under the scheme for improving and strengthening of the existing Undergraduate Colleges of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy and Rs.8.30 lakhs (and not 8.30 crores) for developing and cultivation Medicinal plants to Govt. Ayurvedic College and Hospital, Jabalpur was received from the Department of Medical Education, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, duly recommended during the 1997-98 grant of Rs.10.00 Lac for equipment and Rs.5.00 Lac for development and cultivation of Medicinal Plants was sanctioned to the college vide Sanction Letter 4th February, 1999 and 17th Dec'98 respectively. The fund will be released after receipt of the undertaking, and other required documents/certificates from the college.

LPG Distributors in Madhya Pradesh

2806. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of L.P.G. agencies functioning in Madhya Pradesh as on 31 January, 1999.

(b) whether the Union Government propose to consider the demand of the State Government to set up more gas agencies;

(c) if so, the number of applications from Madhya Pradesh received for setting up LPG agencies, disposed of and still pending for sanction: and

(d) the time by which pending applications are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) As on January 1, 1999, there were 328 LPG distributorships in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) to (d) In addition to the locations pending from previous marketing plans, 282 LPG distributorships have been included in the LPG marketing plan 1996-98 for Madhya Pradesh. Oil Companies have already advertised a large number of these LPG distributorships. 4 Dealer Selection Boards for Madhya Pradesh have been constituted for selection of dealers/distributors.

Actual commissioning of the dealerships/distributorships depends on various factors such as number of location advertised, interviews held by Dealer Selection Boards for selection of distributors, obtaining of land possession of appropriate licences, and construction of godown, by distributors etc. It generally takes about 6-12 months for commissioning of the dealerships/distributorships from the date of interview.

[English]

Blood Requirement in the Country

2807. SHRI K.PARYMOHAN :
SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA :
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :
SHRI S.S. OWAIISI :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated blood requirement in the country at present and projection made for the next five years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have reviewed the position recently to meet the acute current shortage of blood in

various States and propose to take fresh and effective policy/initiatives to safeguard against the impending threat of AIDS through infected blood donation;

(c) if so, the details of the policy adopted or administrative decision taken recently to ensure adequacy of quality blood to patients;

(d) the details of the Institutions/ Blood Banks black-listed during the last three years, State-wise;

(e) whether the Government propose to provide blood to the patients in case of emergency where no such facility exists; and

(f) if not, the steps taken by the Government to open more Blood Bank in the country deal with the prevalent situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) As per WHO norms, in primary health care unit, the need of blood is estimated at 5-7 unit/bed/year, whereas in a specialised institution, the need may be 25-30 units/bed/year. Therefore, precise, details of blood requirement state-wise is not maintained at Central level.

(b) and (c) Although occasional and seasonal shortage of blood is encountered in the country, no serious shortage has been reported. All State Governments and UT Administrations have been asked to take action to promote voluntary blood donation, to meet the shortage of blood. Further, a draft National Blood Policy has also been formulated which aims at the following strategies for providing safe blood and blood products :

- Strengthening Service National Blood Transfusion Services making it an integral part of the health care system.
- Ensuring adequate supply of blood to all blood centres.
- Ensuring safety of blood and blood products.
- Developing facilities for production of components.
- Developing and strengthening facilities for Plasma Fractionation.
- Strengthening quality control of blood and blood products.
- Undertaking research on Blood Transfusion Services operations to improve safety; efficacy in supply of blood.
- Developing and strengthening effective management, monitoring and evaluation of the blood Transfusion Services.

(d) The number of Blood Banks whose licenses have been cancelled by the State Licensing Authority is; Andhra Pradesh; 10; Gujarat 17; Karnataka 25 (3 have been granted fresh licenses)

(e) There is no such proposal. In case of emergency blood is to be arranged from the nearest Blood Bank.

(f) It is for the State authorities to decide about the need for opening of new blood banks in their respective States.

Requirement of LPG for Uttar Pradesh and Bihar

2808. SHRI DARGOA PRASAD SAROJ :
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated monthly requirement of LPG for Lalganj district in Uttar Pradesh and Darbhanga district in Bihar at present and the supply position thereof;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to meet the full requirement of LPG in the said district with details thereof;

(c) whether rural area of the districts are being neglected in supplying LPG; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the remedial measures propose to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The LPG demand of existing consumers enrolled with PSU Oil Companies in different districts of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar is being met by and large in full. However, whenever LPG backlog develops due to law and order problems, floods or any disruption in availability due to emergency shutdowns at any of the production sources, etc. Oil Companies take immediate measures to meet the demand in the affected markets through maximising LPG imports and by operation of LPG bottling plants during extended hours and Sundays and Holidays to clear the LPG backlogs.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Due to limited availability of LPG from indigenous sources and possible imports, so far the existing marketing plans have been made mainly covering towns having a population of 20000 and above. However, LPG had been introduced in certain environmentally fragile areas and hilly areas below 20000 population also to protect the environment and prevent deforestation.

With the increasing non-availability of traditional fuels and higher availability of LPG, increasing popularity of LPG as cooking fuel due to its convenience in use and to prevent further deforestation, the Government has decided to commence marketing of LPG in the rural areas also, by planning and taking action to open LPG distributorships for supply of LPG in rural areas, on the following basis :-

- i) To cover all urban location with a population of 10,000 and above by including potential of adjoining villages falling within the radius of 15 Kms.
- ii) All urban locations having population of 5000 and above should be surveyed for setting up a distributorship and the viability to be ascertained by taking into account the potential of adjoining villages falling within 15 Kms. radius.
- iii) Cluster villages within 15 Kms radius of nucleus village having a population of 10,000 and above, to be surveyed for setting up rural distributorship and included in the plan depending upon the viability.
- iv) Villages within 15 Kms radius towns having populations of 1 lakh and above to be surveyed for opening of rural distributorship. While identifying rural locations contiguous to these towns, it should be ensured that adequate number of LPG by rural distributorships in urban areas.
- v) All VIP references should be surveyed for development of LPG distributorships by including the potential of adjoining villages falling within the radius of 15 Kms.

Based on the above criteria, Oil Industry has identified 1285 urban/rural and 401 exclusively rural locations in the country for servicing the rural areas under the 1996-98 Marketing Plan.

[Translation]

Ban on the Use of Plastic Bags

2809. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
DR. ASHOK PATEL :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:
SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY :
SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE :

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

(a) Whether the Government have imposed ban on use of re-cycled plastic carry bags and not on the virgin plastic carry bags in States of Haryana; Punjab and Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) Whether there is any proposal to ban the same in other States as well;

(d) if so, the details thereof ;

(e) the manner in which Government propose to rehabilitate the people associated with the industry of re-cycling of plastic bags;

(f) whether the Government have also considered the use of waste coloured/white polythene carry bags; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) :
(a) to (d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests have issued draft rules entitled "Recycled Plastics Usage Rules" on 20th November 1998 inviting objections from the public within a period of sixty days. The rules propose prohibition on usage of carry bags and containers made of recycled plastics for storing, carrying or packing foodstuffs. The rules do not prohibit use of virgin plastic carry bags and are applicable to the whole of India.

(e) There is no proposal to completely ban use of plastic bags. Therefore, question of rehabilitation of people associated with this industry does not arise.

(f) and (g) The draft rules prescribe certain conditions of reprocessing and recycling of carry bags which is to be undertaken in accordance with Indian Standards IS 14534 : 1998 entitled "Guidelines for Recycling of Plastics".

[English]

Primary Health Centres in Tribal Areas

2810. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain primary Health Centres of tribal areas are virtually closed as a result of which the tribal people are in a hapless condition;

(b) if so, whether Government have a plan to revive such Primary Health Centres;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and the time by which these centres will be revived; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI):
(a) to (d) There were 3194 Primary Health Centres in tribal areas as on 31.12.97 as against 3090 on 31.12.96.

Government is, however, aware of the need to improve Primary Health Care services in tribal areas. The position is being reviewed from time to time and the State Governments are requested to improve the Primary Health Care services in rural and tribal areas. The Government proposes to introduce a special tribal Reproductive and Child Health Programme with assistance from the World Bank.

Customs Duty on Private Import of Kerosene

2811. SHRI ABHATSINH S. BHONSLE:
SHRI D. S. AHIRE :
SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation has urged the Government to increase custom duty on the private import of Kerosene to check adulteration of diesel;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the number of cases of adulteration of Diesel detected during this year;

(d) whether any guidelines have been issued by the Government for imposing punishment on those found indulging in the adulteration ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) No, Sir .

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Oil Marketing Companies carry out regular inspections/ surprise checks of retail outlets to check adulteration and other malpractices. Also special drives are launched by Oil Companies from time to time and action is taken in line with Marketing Discipline Guidelines/Dealership Agreement During April, 1998 to January, 1999, 135 cases of adulteration were detected. The revised Marketing Discipline Guidelines came into effect from 12.5.1998. The punishment for adulteration was made more stringent by including imposition of monetary fines on erring retail outlet dealers. However, Delhi High Court has stayed the operation of above guidelines. Therefore action is being taken in line with Dealership Agreement.

Computerization of Post Offices

2812. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of fully computerised post offices at present in the country State-wise ;

(b) the number of post offices proposed to be computerised in the country during 1999-2000, State-wise; and

(c) the estimated funds allocated for the purpose during the said period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) At

present the Parliament Street HPO, New Delhi is the only fully computerised post office in the country.

(b) The annual plan for the year 1999-2000 is yet to be approved.

(c) A sum of Rupees seven crores is expected to be allocated during the year 1999-2000 for computerisation of post offices.

[Translation]

Setting up of LPG outlets at Block Level

2813. SHRI RIZWAN ZAHEER KHAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to set up L.P.G. outlets at block level;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in this regard in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) LPG distributorships are opened at feasible and economically viable locations all over the country including at block level. The LPG marketing plan 1996-98 has been formulated on the following basis :

- To cover all urban locations with a population of 10000 and above taking into account potential of adjoining villages with in a radius of 15 KMs.
- All urban viable locations having a population of 5000 and above taking into account the potential of adjoining villages within 15 KM radius.
- Cluster of villages with in 15 KM radius of nucleus villages having a population of 10000 and above.
- villages within 15 KM radius around the towns having a population of 1 lakh and above for opening rural distributorships.

Accordingly, 2000 locations have been included in the LPG marketing plan 1996-98, out of which 1900 are for Urban-Rural and Rural areas alone. Large number of small towns, including block headquarters are covered in these locations. Large number of the LPG distributorships have been advertised by the Oil companies. Dealer Selection Boards have been constituted for selection of dealers/distributors. Actual commissioning of dealerships/distributorships depends on various factors such as number of locations advertised, interviews held by Dealer Selection Boards for selection of distributors, obtaining of land, appropriate licences, and construction of godown, by distributors, etc. It generally takes about 6-12

months for commissioning of the dealerships/ distributorships from the date of interview.

Panchayat Sanchar Seva Yojana

2814. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDER TIWARI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to extend the Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana during the current financial year ;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including the main features of the said scheme; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There is a target of opening 200 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras during the current financial year. The details of the scheme are given in enclosed statement.

Statement

Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana

Objective of the Scheme :

The objective of the scheme is to provide basic postal and telecommunications facilities to the Gram Panchayat villages which are still without post offices. In this scheme, the panchayats will be the nodal point for retailing some of the basic services like sale of stamps and postal stationery, collection and delivery of letters, booking of registered articles etc.

Functions :

The functions given below shall be performed by the Panchayat Kendra unless otherwise specified by the Department :

- (a) Booking of registered letters except VP and Insured articles;
- (b) Sale of postage stamps and postal stationery;
- (c) Grant of certificate of posting ;
- (d) Collection and delivery of mail including clearance of letters boxes, where feasible;
- (e) Propagation of Small savings Scheme and Rural Postal Life Insurance; and
- (f) Other functions of branch post office as and when the Department is satisfied that Kendras are able to discharge them.

In addition the following optional functions may be given to the Sanchar Kendra In-charge by Supdt./ Sr. Supdt. Post Offices of concerned division.

Conveyance of mail from Account office or nearest post office to Sanchar Kendra and vice-versa.

The Sanchar Kendra Agent under the scheme shall also be entrusted with operation of STD/PCO/ Panchayat phone, subject to fulfilment of eligibility criteria and terms and conditions laid down by Department of Telecommunications, in villages where such facility does not exist at present. The existing PCO holders in villages can also be utilised at Sanchar Kendra Agents.

Salient Features :

Participation of the Gram Panchayats in the Scheme will be voluntary.

An unemployed educated youth from within the Panchayat areas whose minimum educational qualification should be matriculation on being selected by Gram Panchayat with the written consent of the Supdt./ Sr. Supdt. will perform the postal functions within the areas of the Panchayat.

The person so identified will act as an agent of the Panchayat for operating the scheme. However, for the purpose of operation of this scheme, the Panchayat will enter into an agreement with the Department of Posts.

Gram Panchayat will earmark a suitable place, preferably a building owned by it, for locating the Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendra. The location of Kendra will not change with the change of incumbent.

Postal facilities would be made available to the people on all days of the week, except Sundays and Postal holidays. The business hours will be fixed by the Supdt. of Post offices according to the convenience and needs of the local people and shall be duly notified. However, for operating STD/PCO/ Gram Panchayat Phones, working days and hours as specified by the Telecommunication authority shall be maintained.

Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras will be established in Gram Panchayat Headquarters villages.

The Gram Panchayat will be accountable to the Department of Posts for ensuring proper and efficient postal services through Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendra.

The Sanchar Sewa Kendra will also be subject to regular supervision and inspection by the Department of Posts.

Remuneration/Commission:

A fixed allowance of Rs. 300/- per month for providing counter services and for collection, conveyance and delivery of mail wherever permitted will be paid.

The agent of the Panchayat will be compensated for other postal services provided in the Panchayat areas by payment of :-

- (a) A commission of 5% of the value of stamps/stationery will be allowed at the time of purchase in normal rural areas. In hilly areas, commission at the following rates will be allowed :-

(i)	On sale upto Rs. 100	5%
(ii)	On sale upto Rs. 101 to Rs. 200	7.5%
(iii)	On sale upto from Rs. 201 and above	10%
- (b) A commission of 50 paise for booking and delivery of a registered articles.
- (c) Commission at the prescribed rates for handling Mahila Smridhi Yojana Accounts.
- (d) Commission at prescribed rate for propagating Postal Life Insurance and National Savings Scheme.
- (e) Commission at the rates to be prescribed for providing other services.

For operating STD/PCO/Gram Panchayat phone, Commission as prescribed by the Department of Telecom-unicatons shall be paid.

A system of rewarding the best Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendra in a Postal Circle will be introduced in order to encourage and motivate the Panchayat to ensure efficient postal services in the area.

Raids at Petrol Pumps to Check Adulteration

2815. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have conducted raids to check adulteration at petrol pumps during 1998-99;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the punitive action taken in this regard;
- (d) whether complaints from Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh have been received in this regard;
- (e) if so, the schemes being formulated by the Government to check such irregularities in the future?

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) : (a) to (e) Oil marketing companies carry out regular inspection/surprise check of retail outlets, to check adulteration and other malpractices. Also special drives are launched by the oil companies from

time to time, and action is taken in line with Marketing Discipline Guidelines/Dealership Agreement. One special drive was launched during 29.10.1998 to 2.11.1998 all over the country, in which 1364 retail outlets were inspected and supplies to 75 outlets were suspended. In Sonabhadra Distt. of U.P., 12 inspections were carried out and no case of adulteration was detected. To detect adulteration various steps like blue dyeing of kerosene (PDS), furfural doping, filter paper test, stock reconciliation, inspection of retail outlets by mobile laboratories, etc. have been taken by oil companies.

Completion of Building for New Telephone Exchanges

2816. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new telephone exchanges buildings at Jaora, Mandasaur and Pipliya Mandi in Mandasaur and Ratlam districts have been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the cost incurred and the capacity of the said telephone exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) At Mandasaur and Pipliya Mandi the building works have been completed. However building work at Jaora is in progress.

(b) and (c) Mandasaur— This building has been completed at a cost of Rs. 133 lakhs and can accommodate Telephone Exchange equipment of 10,000 lines capacity.

(ii) Pipliya Mandi—This building has been completed at cost of Rs. 31.02 lakhs and can accommodate Telephone Exchange equipment of 2,000 lines capacity.

(iii) Jaora—This building is in progress and a cost of Rs.155 Lakhs has been incurred on it so far. It can accommodate Telephone Exchange equipment of 10,000 lines capacity.

Hydel Power Projects

2817. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJIHARPUR): Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up new hydel power projects in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) and (b) Details of the new hydro-electric power projects proposed to be set up in the country are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement			
S.No.	Name of Scheme	State	Installed Capacity (MW)
1	2	3	4
A. Multipurpose/Hydro-Electric Schemes Under Examination in Central Electricity Authority			
1.	Renuka Dam	Himachal Pradesh	40
2.	Budhil	Himachal Pradesh	70
3.	Parbati ST-II	Himachal Pradesh	800
4.	Uhl III	Himachal Pradesh	100
5.	Kuther	Himachal Pradesh	260
6.	Maneri Bhali -II	Uttar Pradesh	304
7.	Kishnu MPP	Uttar Pradesh	600
8.	Mukerian ST-II	Punjab	12.5
9.	Kanhan	Madhya Pradesh	90
10.	Pulichintala	Andhra Pradesh	60
11.	Tattihalla	Karnataka	-
12.	Balimela Extn.	Orissa	150
13.	Myntdu (Leska)	Meghalaya	84
B. Hydro Electric Schemes Cleared/Appriosed by CEA			
1.	Parnal	Jammu & Kashmir	37.5
2.	Sawalkot	Jammu & Kashmir	600
3.	Chamera St-II	Himachal Pradesh	300
4.	Neogal	Himachal Pradesh	12
5.	Baspa II	Himachal Pradesh	300
6.	Hibra	Himachal Pradesh	231
7.	Parbati St-II	Himachal Pradesh	800
8.	Malana	Himachal Pradesh	86
9.	Vishu Prayag	Uttar Pradesh	400
10.	Marhikhera	Madhya Pradesh	40
11.	Omkareshwar	Madhya Pradesh	520
12.	Maheshwar	Madhya Pradesh	400
13.	Nagarjunasagar Tail Pond Dam	Andhra Pradesh	50
14.	Adirapally	Kerala	160
15.	Purulia PSS	West Bengal	900
16.	Bargarh Canal	Orissa	9
17.	Teesta Stage V	Sikkim	510
18.	Turial	Mizoram	60
19.	Tuivai	Mizoram	210
20.	Loktak D/S	Manipur	90

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
C. Multipurpose/Hydro-Electric Schemes Returned to Project Authorities for Resubmission				39.	Orchha MPP	Madhya Pradesh	90
				40.	Chikhaldara	Maharashtra	400
1.	Ans-II	Jammu & Kashmir	30	41.	Malshej Ghat	Maharashtra	600
2.	Burser	Jammu & Kashmir	1020	42.	Dudhsagar	Goa	30
3.	Kishan Ganga	Jammu & Kashmir	330	43.	Inchampalli MPP	Andhra Pradesh	975
4.	Lower Kalnai	Jammu & Kashmir	50	44.	Lower Jurala	Andhra Pradesh	147.6
5.	New Ganderbal	Jammu & Kashmir	45	45.	Nelakotta MPP	Andhra Pradesh	60
6.	Pakahl Dul	Jammu & Kashmir	1000	46.	Polavaram	Andhra Pradesh	770
7.	Parkhachik Panikar	Jammu & Kashmir	60	47.	Kabini Dam	Karnataka	20
8.	Sewa ST-II	Jammu & Kashmir	120	48.	Katla & Palana Divn.	Karnataka	-
9.	Shitkari Kulan	Jammu & Kashmir	84	49.	Mahadayi	Karnataka	345
10.	Uri-II (Ph-I)	Jammu & Kashmir	280	50.	Mekadatu ST-I & II	Karnataka	180+180
11.	Baggi	Punjab	40	51.	Shivasamudram	Karnataka	270
12.	Allain Duhangan	Himachal Pradesh	192	52.	Upper Krishna ST-II	Karnataka	297
13.	Dhamwari Sunda	Himachal Pradesh	70	53.	Barapole	Kerala	9
14.	Hibra	Himachal Pradesh	231	54.	Kerala Bhawani	Kerala	150
15.	Karcham Wangtoo	Himachal Pradesh	1000	55.	Kuttiyadi Aug.	Kerala	100
16.	Parbati ST-III	Himachal Pradesh	501	56.	Kuriarkutty Karppara	Kerala	84
17.	Bowala Nand Prayag	Uttar Pradesh	132	57.	Mananthawadi MPP	Kerala	240
18.	Dhauri Ganga	Uttar Pradesh	210	58.	Pandiar Punnapuzha	Kerala	70
19.	Gori Ganga ST-I & II	Uttar Pradesh	180	59.	Pambar	Kerala	30
20.	Gori Ganga IIIA & B	Uttar Pradesh	140	60.	Pallivasal Reh on	Kerala	60
21.	Kotlibhel	Uttar Pradesh	1000	61.	Bhawani Kattalai	Tamil Nadu	90
22.	Lohari Nagpala	Uttar Pradesh	520	62.	Chotlipuzha	Tamil Nadu	60
23.	Pala Maneri	Uttar Pradesh	400	63.	Cauvery Power	Tamil Nadu	850
24.	Panchnad	Uttar Pradesh	90	Project Hogenkal			
25.	Srinagar	Uttar Pradesh	330	64.	Pandiar Punnapuzha	Tamil Nadu	100
26.	Tapovan Vishnugad	Uttar Pradesh	360	65.	Shanmukhandi	Tamil Nadu	30
27.	Tulni Plasu	Uttar Pradesh	42	66.	Upper Amaravati	Tamil Nadu	30
28.	Rahughat	Rajasthan	160	67.	Kadwan	Bihar	450
29.	Bhopalapatnam	Madhya Pradesh	1000	68.	Kanhar	Bihar	300
30.	Binauda	Madhya Pradesh	600	69.	Shankh ST-II	Bihar	186
31.	Gandhisagar Ph-II	Madhya Pradesh	160	70.	Rammam ST-III	West Bengal	60
32.	Gopad	Madhya Pradesh	60	71.	Bhimkund MPP	Orissa	393
33.	Gopalpur	Madhya Pradesh	25	72.	Hirakud-B & Chiplima-B	Orissa	408
34.	Kutru-I	Madhya Pradesh	150	73.	Manibhadra	Orissa	960
35.	Kutru-II	Madhya Pradesh	150	74.	Sindol	Orissa	320
36.	Ken	Madhya Pradesh	50	75.	Demwe	Arunachal Pradesh	520

1	2	3	4
76.	Dihang	Arunachal Pradesh	20000
77.	Ranganadi	Arunachal Pradesh	180
78.	Subansiri	Arunachal Pradesh	4800
79.	Karbi Langpi (Lower)	Assam	100
80.	Karbi Langpi (Upper Borpani)	Assam	60
81.	Lower Kopili	Assam	150
82.	Irang	Manipur	60
83.	Tipaimukh	Manipur	1500
84.	Tuviai	Manipur	51

Reservation in Promotions

2818. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has received any memorandum from the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions in regard to reservation in promotions for the employees and officers belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of his Ministry thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) and (b) O.M.No. 36012 /18/95-Estt. (Res.) Pt.II dated the 13th August, 1997 from Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (Department of Personnel and Training) was received. The said O.M. conveys the decision of the Government to continue reservation in promotion for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in services/posts under the Central Government till such time as the representation of these categories reaches the prescribed percentage of reservation. Ministry of Law, Justice & Company Affairs is implementing the above Government decision.

Cross Bar Telephone Exchanges

2819. SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cross bar telephone exchanges functioning in the country at present; and

(b) the time by which the electronic exchanges are likely to be set up in place of the cross bar system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) At present, 41 cross bar telephone exchanges are functioning in the country.

(b) The electronic exchanges are likely to be set up in place of the cross bar system by December 1999.

Family Planning Programme in Rural Areas

2820. SHRI VIJAY GOEL:

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the programmes launched to create awareness about the family planning in the rural areas;

(b) the total expenditure incurred on these programmes during the year 1998-99, State-wise ; and

(c) the extent to which these programmes have been successful so far, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) Information provided in the annexed statement I and II.

(c) Impact of the programme can be gauged from people's especially women's knowledge and awareness of contraceptive methods and choices. State-wise details are provided in annexed Statement-III.

Statement-I

In rural areas Information, Education and Communication activities are undertaken for generation of awareness of family welfare issues and programmes. Such activities are conducted through the use of Mass Media i.e. TV and Radio, the Printed Media. Films, musical programmes interactive panel discussions convey family welfare messages through the TV and Radio. On special occasions, and for highlighting important programmes, Newspaper advertisements are published. Local specific IEC activities are carried out by the Song and Drama division and Directorate of Field Publicity of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Youth Organisations and Mahila Swasthya Sangha. Population Education programmes at the school and college levels are also being conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Involvement of the Zilla Saksharata Samitis in awareness generation programmes is a major new initiative

Statement-II*Statewise IEC Budget Allocation During 1998-99*

(Rs. in lakhs)

States/UTs	Funds released to ZSS for IEC	Funds for MSS maintenance	Funds for HQ. of States/UTs	Total
Andhra Pradesh	41.48	28.22	25	94.7
Arunachal Pradesh		2.31	10	12.31
Assam	21.26	45.53	15	81.79
Bihar		46.42	25	71.42
Goa		2.06	10	12.06
Gujarat	62.92	56.33	15	134.25
Haryana	5.14	41.16	15	61.3
Himachal Pradesh	32.69	18.57	10	61.26
Jammu & Kashmir	4.81	9.2	10	24.01
Karnataka	46.17	65.86	25	137.03
Kerala	3.81	41.04	15	59.85
Madhya Pradesh	86.64	71.8	25	
Maharashtra	10.27	55.54	25	90.81
Manipur		1.67	10	11.67
Meghalaya		5.39	10	15.39
Mizoram		8.68	10	18.68
Nagaland		9.86	10	19.86
Orissa	20.11	59.94	15	95.05
Punjab	8.67	53.67	15	77.34
Rajasthan	49.05	72.84	15	136.89
Sikkim		1.77	10	11.77
Tamil Nadu	40.98	34.76	25	100.74
Tirpura	9.63	10.17	10	29.8
Uttar Pradesh	43.18	42.63	25	110.81
West Bengal	15.08	3.86	25	43.94
Total States	502	822.28	405	1,729
A & N Islands		0.11	10	10.11
Chandigarh		0.23	10	10.23
Daman & Diu		0.28	10	10.28
D & N Haveli		0.41	10	10.41
Delhi		1.26	10	11.26
Lakshadweep		0.32	10	10.32
Pondicherry		0.51	10	10.51
Total UTs		3.12	70	73.12
Grand Total	502	825.4	475	1,802

Statement-III

Percentage of currently married women age 13-49 knowing any contraceptive method by specific method and State, India, 1992-93

State	Any method	Any modern method	Any modern temporary method	Pill	IUD	Injection	Condom	Female sterilization	Male sterilization	Any trad. method	Periodic abstinence	Withdrawal	Other methods
India	95.8	95.5	76.1	66.2	60.8	19.3	58.1	94.6	84.5	39.3	34.9	20.1	3.6
North													
Delhi	99.0	98.9	96.8	94.3	93.4	34.9	93.7	97.5	95.3	59.3	54.6	31.1	5.6
Haryana	99.4	99.4	90.6	76.2	80.0	45.8	75.9	99.2	98.2	58.7	46.5	41.9	4.2
Himachal Pradesh	99.1	98.9	88.4	70.1	73.7	45.6	74.1	98.1	95.7	61.0	49.1	37.3	9.9
Jammu Region of J & K	99.7	99.6	88.5	76.6	74.3	51.1	74.9	99.4	98.0	72.0	59.5	53.5	2.4
Punjab	99.8	99.8	94.0	83.9	87.5	47.2	82.1	99.7	99.1	64.1	56.0	41.5	1.5
Rajasthan	87.5	87.2	58.8	53.1	46.4	23.4	37.7	85.3	70.9	27.5	23.8	14.5	1.4
Central													
Madhya Pradesh	88.1	87.8	57.4	51.3	42.3	12.7	42.3	85.4	76.5	19.7	17.7	5.3	2.6
Uttar Pradesh	95.7	95.2	80.1	64.7	56.2	25.0	67.2	93.7	88.2	36.7	34.3	12.9	2.6
East													
Bihar	94.9	94.9	68.4	57.3	44.1	4.2	54.6	94.5	88.0	29.4	26.0	9.4	1.8
Orissa	92.9	92.5	60.7	52.1	48.0	7.4	34.6	91.7	72.2	33.9	27.4	9.5	7.4
West Bengal	99.1	98.8	90.9	85.6	68.2	42.5	67.6	98.0	84.8	72.5	62.0	55.4	5.0
Northeast													
Arunachal Pradesh	77.7	77.7	62.9	55.2	52.6	28.7	39.6	75.1	47.8	27.2	25.4	17.6	0.6
Assam	97.5	96.9	82.2	72.9	60.8	39.0	59.2	96.2	83.9	79.2	71.0	61.0	9.6
Manipur	93.6	93.0	87.9	77.9	81.0	5.6	60.3	87.7	87.4	72.4	71.2	44.4	3.9
Meghalaya	78.0	76.9	64.7	58.5	49.3	9.7	47.7	71.9	46.5	43.5	35.5	17.7	15.7
Mizoram	98.1	98.1	86.2	70.1	76.2	1.8	61.0	98.0	71.3	43.7	36.2	30.7	0.3
Nagaland	44.4	44.3	36.7	24.9	24.2	15.9	29.0	30.4	20.9	10.7	9.7	9.3	0.8
Tripura	99.7	99.7	95.4	93.9	65.0	42.1	68.1	99.4	89.2	85.7	75.8	68.8	7.8
West													
Goa	98.9	98.8	89.9	80.6	76.3	20.7	73.1	97.7	72.8	45.6	41.6	24.1	2.9
Gujarat	96.6	96.4	77.0	65.9	71.4	22.8	62.7	95.6	78.6	45.9	43.3	24.4	1.7
Maharashtra	97.8	97.8	76.8	67.1	70.7	8.1	57.3	97.3	83.6	23.3	21.3	8.4	2.0
South													
Andhra Pradesh	96.7	96.6	61.2	53.7	43.7	12.8	41.9	95.7	89.7	14.6	11.3	2.9	3.5
Karnataka	98.9	98.8	83.8	75.1	78.0	5.4	50.0	98.6	81.1	41.1	38.8	15.0	6.4
Kerala	99.7	99.7	96.6	87.1	90.3	13.0	91.0	99.3	90.0	72.6	66.1	50.7	2.7
Tamil Nadu	99.1	99.1	85.6	74.5	77.8	12.6	61.0	98.8	86.0	46.2	39.0	23.7	6.6

Source : National Family Health Surveys - 1992-93.

*[English]***Customs Duty Paid by ONGC for Import of Equipments**

2821. SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN :
DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether ONGC is paying large amount as customs duty for the import of equipments and spares per annum;
- (b) if so, whether foreign companies in the country has been allowed tax free import of equipments and spares under the New Exploration and Licensing Policy (NELP) ;
- (c) if so, the reasons for such disparity ;
- (d) whether the ONGC has requested the Government for exemption; and
- (e) if so, the response of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) ONGC is paying customs duty on its imports of equipment and spares as per existing policies of the Government. The customs duty paid by ONGC during the last 3 years was as under :-

	Rs. crores
1995-96	167.87
1996-97	179.60
1997-98	189.92

(b) and (c) The New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) provides for duty free imports to both private sector and public sector companies, domestic as well as foreign companies. As such, there is a level playing field for all.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Specified goods (which are the same as those which can be imported by contractors operating both under the NELP as well as under contracts prior to the NELP) imported by ONGC/OIL or their subcontractors, for petroleum operations under petroleum exploration licenses granted by the Government of India on nomination basis, are exempted from the whole of the duty of customs leviable thereon, subject to certain conditions as per customs notification 20/99 - Customs dated 28-2-99.

Widening of G.T. Road from Delhi to Amritsar

2822. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

- (a) the proposed date of completion of the widening work at G.T. Road from Delhi to Amritsar;
- (b) whether the progress of this work is slow, which needs immediate completion in view of its heavy usage;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that the said work completed with the stipulated time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) The various widening works in progress on NH-1 from Delhi to Amritsar are targetted to be completed as follows:

Sl.No.	Section	Target date of completion
1.	km. 50-212.20	31.7.2000
2.	km. 212.20-252.250	31.12.1999

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The main reasons for the slow progress include contractual problems (balance work had to be re-allotted in the reach from 50 to 130 due to expulsion of original contractors for poor performance), site problems, review of designs and delay in issue of letter of credit by State Govt. for incurring expenditure.

(d) The steps taken to complete the work within the stipulated time include fixing of new agencies for the balance work, sort out site problems and monitoring of works critically at various levels periodically.

Use of Unleaded Petrol

2823. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA :
SHRI BHAGAWAN SHANKAR RAWAT :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether unleaded petrol is being supplied in various States;
- (b) if so, the names of cities to which unleaded petrol is provided;
- (c) the number of retail petrol outlets in each State where this facility is available;
- (d) whether any proposal are pending consideration of Union Government to make the use of unleaded petrol compulsory in the country especially in Agra;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which the use of unleaded petrol would be made compulsory throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The names of cities /towns provided with unleaded petrol in various States as on 31.12.98 are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) The State-wise number of retail outlets having unleaded petrol facility as of 31.12.98 is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) to (f) In accordance with the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority of NCR only unleaded petrol is being sold in National Capital Region, Delhi w.e.f. 1.1.1999. The unleaded petrol was introduced in Taj Trapezium area including Agra effective April' 95. It is planned to introduce unleaded petrol throughout the country effective April 1, 2000. No decision to make the use of unleaded petrol compulsory in the country and in Agra has yet been taken.

Statement-I

State/UT	City/Town Provided with ULP Facilities (as of 31.12.98)
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad, Secundrabad, Vizag, Nellore, Tirupati, Vijayawada and at 4 other locations on Radial routes.
Andaman & Nicobar	Portblair
Arunachal Pradesh	Nahartaganj, Subangiri, Itanagar
Assam	Gauhati
Bihar	Ranchi, Patna, Jamshedpur, Dhanbad, Madhubani, Darbhanga, Begusarai, Muzzaffarpur, Sitamarhi, Nalanda, Motihari, Samastipur, Khagaria Bhagalpur, Lakhisrai, Sahibganj, Monghyr, and at 11 other locations on Radial routes
Chandigarh	Chandigarh
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Silvassa
Goa, Daman & Diu	Goa, Daman
Delhi	Delhi

1	2
Gujarat	Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Kheda, Baroda, Surat and at 4 other locations on Radial routes
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla, Kangra, Mandi, Una, Nahan, Kulu and at 5 other locations on Radial routes
Haryana	Faridabad, Ambala, Hodal, Rewari, Karnal, Kaithal, Jind, Rohtak, Gurgaon, Panipat, Palwal, Hissar, Bhiwani, Kuruskshetra, Sonapat, Kalka, Yamunanagar and at 55 other locations on Radial routes.
J & K	Srinagar, Jammu, Kathua, Katra, Udhampur and at 5 other locations on Radial routes
Karnataka	Bangalore, Mysore, Belgaum and at 7 other locations on Radial routes
Kerala	Ernakulam, Calicut, Trivandrum, Kottayam, Tirchur and at 3 other locations on Radial routes
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal, Indore, Gwalior, Khargone, Jabalpur
Maharashtra	Mumbai, Thane, Raigarh, Pune, Nasik, Ahmednagar, Nagpur, Aurangabad, Jalgaon, Kolhapur, Ratnagiri and at 6 other locations on Radial routes
Manipur	Imphal
Meghalaya	Shillong
Mizoram	Aizwal
Nagaland	Kohima
Orissa	Khurda, Rourkela, Puri, Bhubaneshwar, and at 2 other locations on Radial routes
Pondicherry	Pondicherry
Punjab	Ludhiana, Pathankot, Amritsar, Moga, Patiala, Ropar, Jalandhar, Phagwara, Bhatinda, Sangrur, Hoshiyarpur, Ferozpur and at 57 other locations on Radial routes
Rajasthan	Ajmer, Jaipur, Sriganganagar, Udaipur, Jodhpur, Jhunjhunu, Kota, Jaisalmer, Bharatpur, Sikar, Alwar, Bikaner and at 10 other locations on Radial routes
Sikkim	Gangtok

1	2
Tamil Nadu	Chennai, Coimbatore, Vellore, Salem, Trichy, Pollachi, Madurai, Kodaikanal, Dindigul, Ooty and at 16 other locations on Radial routes
Tripura	Agartala
Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly, Allahabad, Gajraula, Agra, Orai, Ferozabad, Meerut, Bulandshahar, Kanpur, Varanasi, Roorkee, Moradabad, Lucknow, Aligarh, Muzaffarnagar, Etah, Gorakhpur, Badaun, Saharanpur, Mathura, Sitapur, Dehradun, Haldwani, Haridwar, Etawah, Shajahanpur, Bijnore, Naintal, Barabanki, Raebareli, Hathras, Jhansi, Manipuri, Ghaziabad, Udam-singh nagar, Rishikesh and at 37 other locations on Radial routes
West Bengal	Calcutta, Asansol, Kharagpur, Haldia, Howrah, Durgapur, Hoogly, Burdwan, Midnapore, Siliguri and at 9 other locations on Radial routes

Statement-II

State	No of ROs having ULP facilities as on 31-12-98
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	25
Andaman & Nicobar	1
Arunachal Pradesh	3
Assam	5
Bihar	59
Chandigarh	29
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1
Goa, Daman and Diu	12
Delhi	298
Gujarat	35
Himachal Pradesh	18
Haryana	172
J & K	20
Karnataka	40
Kerala	24
M.P.	13
Maharashtra	274
Manipur	2
Meghalaya	4
Mizoram	1
Nagaland	1
Orissa	11

1	2
Pondicherry	4
Punjab	176
Rajasthan	75
Sikkim	1
Tamil Nadu	151
Tripura	1
Uttar Pradesh	299
West Bengal	195
All India	1950

Bridges on National Highways in U.P.

2824. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bridges on the National Highways for the repair of which financial assistance has been provided to the Government of Uttar Pradesh during each of the last three years; and

(b) the amount spent and details of achievements made so far, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) The number of bridges on National Highways in U.P. for repairs of which funds have been provided during the last three years are indicated as under:-

Year	No. of bridges	Sanctioned cost (Rs. in lakhs)
1995-96	3	12.87
1996-97	1	14.21
1997-98	10	417.80

(b) (i) Amount spent year-wise are given below:-

Year	Expenditure (Incurred) (In Rs. Lakhs)
1995-96	8.10
1996-97	2.72
1997-98	71.61
1998-99 (Upto Jan.99)	87.71

(ii) Out of 14 numbers of bridges mentioned in para (a) above, work in respect of 11 bridges have already been completed.

Power Projects in Andhra Pradesh

2825. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "CEA stand puts Andhra Power Projects in trouble" appearing in Business Standard, dated February 2, 1999:

(b) if so, the details of power projects of Andhra Pradesh pending with the CEA for clearance with period of their pendency; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a): Yes, Sir. The completed cost of Jegurupadu CCGT Project (216MW) in Andhra Pradesh has increased substantially from the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) cleared cost. The increased cost can be considered by CEA for approval only after the receipt of recommendations of APSEB/ A.P. Government in this regard which is awaited.

(b) and (c) Presently, only one project viz. Pulichintala HEP (2x30 MW) forwarded by APSEB in 9/97 in the State of Andhra Pradesh is under examination in CEA for accord of techno-economic clearance. The project would be taken up for accord of techno-economic clearance as soon as the pending inputs such as compliance of section 29(2) of Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forests, clearance by Central Water Commission etc. are tied up.

[Translation]

Conversion of Ports to Container Transport Ports

2826. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to convert other ports of Gujarat and Maharashtra besides Kandla and Mumbai ports into container transport ports ;

(b) if so, the estimated amount to be incurred in this regard; and

(c) the details of the ports in these States identified for conversion ?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Targets Fixed for Telephone Connections

2827. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the targets set for providing telephone connections in the country during the last three years till date, State-wise ; and

(b) the achievement made vis-a-vis these targets during the said period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) and (b) The details of targets and the achievements during the last three years and as on 28.2.99, during the current financial year, are as given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Targets and Achievements for Provision of Telephone Connections during the last three years and till date

S.No.	State	1995-96		1996-97		1997-98		1998-99	
		Target	Achvts.	Target	Achvts.	Target	Achvts.	Target	Achvts. upto 28.2.99
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	134000	150021	123000	153606	215000	216487	250000	291915
2.	Assam	10000	20295	18000	18003	35000	36477	50000	30973
3.	Bihar	40000	33115	47000	52368	60000	66294	131000	63025
4.	Gujarat (including Dadar, Diu, Daman & Nagar Haveli)	145000	134832	188000	163053	208000	213824	250000	147741
5.	Haryana	40000	52486	64000	60800	73000	73081	95000	58018
6.	Himachal	20000	30212	27000	31452	40000	40176	59000	19889
7.	J & K	5000	5988	23000	15945	20000	20819	30000	13781
8.	Karnataka	136000	139694	133000	189608	195000	254378	200000	170486
9.	Kerala (including Lakshadweep (U.T.))	200000	154033	228000	172775	262000	230010	325000	189055

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10.	Madhya Pradesh	85000	81275	45000	75541	70000	102692	110000	80137
11.	Maharashtra (Including Goa and Mumbai)	285000	418131	453000	458260	451000	501441	530000	343158
12.	North East (including Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura)	10000	16433	18000	18056	22500	23030	32000	21131
13.	Orissa	25000	31014	27000	32505	35000	67178	60000	51672
14.	Punjab (including Chandigarh (UT))	140000	143569	153000	153560	164000	165969	190000	113662
15.	Rajasthan	110000	100672	123000	113518	147000	147632	163000	111196
16.	Tamil Nadu (including Chennai and Pondicherry (UT))	270000	207452	263000	290082	324000	364546	395000	292814
17.	Uttar Pradesh	145000	151336	155000	216912	194000	313918	272000	239241
18.	West Bengal (including Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Calcutta)	110700	112463	112000	145052	170500	240152	238000	227011
19.	Delhi	260000	200070	250000	203160	214000	180941	220000	48119
Total		*2170700	2183091	2450000	2564256	2900000	3259045	3600000	2513024

* The actual targets of D.E.L.s for the year 1995-96 was 20.00 lakhs.

[English]

Supply of Gas to Private Industries by ONGC in Gujarat

2828. SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether ONGC have been supplying Gas to the private industries in Gujarat ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount earned therefrom during the last three years ;

(c) whether any representation have been received alleging that the realisation of the value is less than the value of actual supply.

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Government of India has recently permitted the ONGC to directly market natu-

ral gas upto 1 lakh Standard Cubic Meters Per Day (SCMD) from its small isolated fields. Accordingly, ONGC has commenced supply of gas directly to the following private industries in Gujarat :-

Name of Industry	Commencement
1. C.G. Glass	August, 1998
2. Prime Ceramics	September, 1998
3. Wellsuit Glass	September, 1998
4. Specific Ceramics	November, 1998
5. Growmore Ceramics	December, 1998

During the last three completed financial years i.e. from 1995-96 to 1997-98, there was no supply of gas directly by ONGC to the private industries.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Power Project in Bihar

2829. SHRI GAURISHANKER CHATURBHUI BISEN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a power plant of 1000 megawatt capacity in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMAN-GALAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the revised mega power policy issued by Government of India in November, 1998, the following thermal power projects are proposed to be set up in Bihar :

1. North Karanpura Super Thermal Power Project (2000 MW) by NTPC.
2. Maithon Right Bank project (1000 MW) by DVC with Joint Venture.
3. Barh Super Thermal Power Project (2000 MW) by NTPC.
4. Kahalgaon St. II (1500 MW) by NTPC.

[English]

Amendment of Major Ports Act

2830. SHRI ANNASAHEB M. K. PATIL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to amend Major Ports Act to allow foreign dredgers to undertake dredging jobs in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether any foreign dredging company is working at present in India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The following are the details of foreign dredging companies working at the major ports :-

S.No.	Name of the Major Port	Name of the Foreign Dredging Co.
1.	Chennai (Ennore)	M/s Jan De Nul, Belgium
2.	Tuticorin	M/s Jan De Nul, Belgium
3.	Calcutta	M/s HAM Dredging and Marine Contractors, Netherlands.
4.	Mumbai	M/s HAM Dredging and Marine Contractors, Netherlands.

Modernisation of Postal Services

2831. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to modernise postal services in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the plan to extend the postal services even to the inaccessible parts of the country; and

(c) the measures being taken to enlist the support of the villages (Panchayats) with a view to extend the postal network ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) and (b) The Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) of the Department of Posts, seeks to expand in a phased manner, the scope and coverage of the programmes of modernisation of Postal services including specific agency functions through induction of new technology initiated during the 8th Plan period. The focus of the programme of modernisation is to improve the quality of postal services as well as to increase revenue generation. Human Resource Development through appropriate training for skill upgradation and streamlining of management function are also priority areas identified to support the modernisation programmes. Scheme wise details of targets proposed under the 9th Plan in order to modernise postal services in the country are at Statement-I and the targets set for such plan programmes in 1999-2000 are at Statement-II. Post offices are opened subject to norm based justification and availability of resources.

(c) During the Eighth Five Year Plan, Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana was formulated as an alternate means for providing basic postal facilities in villages without a post office. Under this scheme, the Panchayats in villages which are without a post office are called upon to establish Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras (PSSKs) for providing some of the basic postal services like sale of stamps and postal stationery, collection and delivery of letters, booking of registered articles etc. The Panchayats thus become the nodal point for rendering such services and for this purpose they appoint a local youth having a minimum qualification of 10th Standard as an agent in Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras. The scheme deepens the reach of postal facilities in far flung areas in the country where the existing norms do not justify a post office. At present 610 PSSKs are functioning in the country and an intensive drive has been undertaken to popularize the Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana.

Statement-I

Ninth Plan of the Department of Post (1997-2002)

Scheme-1 Expansion of Postal Network

Opening of 2500 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices
Opening of 250 Departmental Sub Post Offices
Infrastructural equipment for 24000 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices.

Scheme-2 Upgradation of Technology

Installation of 4000 computer based multi-purpose counter machines, including 2100 machines for Local Area Networks for Savings work computerisation.

Upgradation of existing facilities and extension of Satellite Money Order Service.

- (i) Setting up of one HUB.
- (ii) Setting up 2000 Extended Satellite Money Order Centres.
- (iii) Upgradation of all the existing 75 Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs)
- (iv) Installations of 200 VSATs
- (v) Modernisation of money transfer system in 50 offices.

Supply of mechanical equipment of Post Offices.

- (i) 10000 hand cancellers.
- (ii) 100 stamp cancelling machines
- (iii) 500 electronic franking machines
- (iv) 30 tying and bundling machines.

Modernisation of 500 post offices and 5 major Head Post Offices Materials Management.

- (i) Supply of 4 diesel fork lift trolleys.
- (ii) Computerisation of the remaining 15 Postal Stores Depots and networking of all 46 PSDs with the Directorate.
- (iii) Training in systems operation to 150 officials.

Scheme-3 Human Resource Development

In-service training for 250 Group 'A' officers.

In-service training for 15,750 supervisors.

Computer training to 12000 officials

- (i) Refresher training for Savings work to 20,000 officials.
- (ii) Decentralised training for 1,00,000 Extra Departmental Branch Post Masters.

Scheme-4 Modernisation of Mail Processing

Modernisation of 100 mail of offices

Upgradation of Operational Equipment for sorting

1. Setting up 3 Automated Mail Processing Centres (AMPCs)
2. Provision of Optical Character Reader facility in the existing AMPCs.

Supply of 500 mopeds for delivery of mails.

Computerisation of 25 Transit Mail offices.

Computerisation of 69 Head Record Offices.

Modernisation of registration sorting work in 22 offices.

Modernisation of the delivery system for registered mails in 50 offices.

Upgradation and expansion of Mailnet system at 40 centres. Railway Mail Service Vans.

- (a) Fabrication of 28 RMS Vans.
- (b) Modification of existing RMS Vans.

Purchase of 30 mail Motor Service Vehicles
Modernisation of Foreign Mail Processing

- (a) Computerization and networking of the Directorate and the Head Record Offices for international mail.
- (b) Implementation of the Universal Postal Union project for installation of the international tract and trace system.

Scheme-5 Business Development and Marketing

Computerization of 40 Premium Product cells in nodal offices and networking.

Computerisation of 50 Speed Post Concentration Centres.

Modernisation of 5 business offices for Speed Post.

Mail Networks between the Business Development Directorate and units in the Circles.

Mechanisation of pick up and delivery at 40 centres.

Bagging/containerisation in 5 metros.

Refresher training for 500 employees working with premium products.

Mass mailing, inserting and sealing equipment for 3 centres.

Customer care centres in all Postal Divisions.

Scheme-6 Computerizations of Savings work in Post Offices.

Savings Bank Control Organization computerisation in 500 Head Post Offices.

Computerisation of savings work in 700 important post offices.

Training of 950 officials in systems operation.

Scheme-7 Postal Life Insurance

Computerisation of Rural PLI work in 30 Regions.

Upgradation of computer systems in all Circles.

Training in computers to 200 officials.

Training in marketing to 100 officials.

Training in insurance to Extra Departmental Agents and Departmental officials.

One Market survey.

Scheme-8 Philately

Computerization of 52 existing and 200 new Bureaux.
Training of 500 officials in promotion of philately.

Scheme-9 Postal Buildings and Staff Quarters

Completion of operative office buildings -

- (a) 400 post offices
- (b) 20 mail offices

Completion of 7 administrative office buildings.
Completion of 950 staff quarters.

Scheme-10 Streamlining of Administrative and Financial Management

Development of MIS interlinking all Regional and Circle Head quarters with the Dte.

Computerisation of accounting/budget functions in all Circles.

Computerisation of administrative branches in the Directorate.

Statement-II

Highlights of Annual Plan 1999 - 2000

Scheme -I Expansion of Postal Network

- (i) Opening of Post Offices 500 extra Departmental Branch Offices (EDBOs) and 50 Departmental Sub-Post Offices (DSOs)
- (ii) Infrastructural equipment for 500 EDBOs.
- (iii) Opening of 500 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras (yet to be approved)

Scheme -II Upgradation of Technology

- (i) PC based Counter Machines - 1000 Multi Purpose Counter Machines including 100 Local Area Networks for savings work.
- (ii) Satellite Money Order Service.
Installation of 210 Extended Satellite Money Order Centres.
Installation of 60 Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs)
- (iii) Modernisation of 60 Post Offices.
- (iv) Supply of 100 stamp cancelling machines.
- (v) Supply of 100 Electronics Franking Machines

Scheme-III Human Resource Development

- (i) In-service training for 1800 Group 'C' officials
- (ii) In-service training for 30 Group 'A' officers.

- (iii) Decentralised training to 18,000 EDBPMs.
- (iv) Computer training for 1225 officials.
- (v) Refresher training for Savings Bank/Certificate work for 2500 officials.

Scheme-IV Modernisation of Mail Processing

- (i) Computerisation of 4 transit Mail offices.
- (ii) Registration Sorting computerisation in 4 Head Offices.
- (iii) Computerisation of 5 Head Record Offices.
- (iv) Modernisation of 15 mail offices.
- (v) Modernisation of registration delivery system in 10 offices.
- (vi) Upgradation of Mailnet at 5 centres.
- (vii) Fabrication of 10 Railway Mail Service (RMS) Vans.
- (viii) Modification of 2 existing RMS Vans.
- (ix) Supply of Mail Motor Service Vehicles.
- (x) Supply of 34 mopeds for delivery work.
- (xi) Setting up of Automatic Mail Processing Centre at Calcutta.

Scheme-V Business Development and Marketing

- (i) Computerisation of Premium Product Cells in nodal offices at 22 centres and networking.
- (ii) Computerisation of 30 Speed Post booking offices.
- (iii) Mechanisation of pick up and delivery at 10 centres.
- (iv) Refresher training for 100 officials working in premium products.
- (v) Setting up 2 mass mailing, inserting and sealing centres.

Scheme-VI Postal Life Insurance

- (i) Upgradation of computer systems for PLI in 10 Circles.
- (ii) Training in marketing/sales promotion/publicity to 20 officials.
- (iii) Training in insurance to 5000 officials.

Scheme-VII Modernisation and Development of Philately.

- (i) Computerisation of 6 Philatelic Bureaux
- (ii) Tools and equipment for 4 Bureaux
- (iii) Training of 80 officials.

Scheme-VIII Postal Building and Staff Quarters

- (i) Construction of 16 operative office buildings
- (ii) Construction of 30 staff quarters.

(iii) Construction of 1 administrative office building.

Scheme - IX Streamlining of Administrative and Financial Management

- (i) Computerisation of cash certificate work in Postal Accounts offices in Circles.
- (ii) Computerisation of 4 administrative branches in the Directorate

Scheme-X Public Grievances Redressal

- (i) Computerisation of 55 Customer Care Centres.

Restructuring of CPCB

2832. SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTADAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bring about structural changes in the Central Pollution Control Board to make the Environment Protection Scheme more effective; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) No Sir, Structural changes are not proposed in the Central Pollution Control Board.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up of Telephone Exchanges in Karnataka and M.P.

2833. SHRI A.SIDDARAJU :
SHRI MOTILAL VORA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Electronic Telephone Exchange in Chamrajanagar region in Karnataka and Rajnandgaon district in Madhya Pradesh and also 512 part ILT telephone exchange at Kheragarh in Rajnandgaon district, Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said exchanges are likely to be set up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir. It is proposed to set up electronic exchanges as per enclosed statement.

Statement

Proposal to set up electronic telephone exchanges in Chamrajanagar in Karnataka and Rajnandgaon district in Madhya Pradesh

State	Region/Distt.	Place	Type of Exchange	Time by which likely to be set up
Karnataka	Chamrajanagar	Martalli	256P RAX	1999-2000
		Mangala	256P RAX	2000-2001
Madhya Pradesh	Rajnandagon	Dongargaon	512P CDOT	1999-2000
		Rajnandgaon	2KRSU	1999-2000
		Somni	512 CDOT	1999-2000
		Kheragarh	512P + LMI CDOT	1999-2000

Ban on Outflow of Crude Oil from Assam

2834. SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether United Liberation Front of Assam has announced a ban on the outflow of crude oil from State and on fresh oil exploration in Assam as reported in 'Asian Age' dated February 5, 1999; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure that there is no hamper in laying new pipelines and drilling activities at Moren in Upper Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State Government and the Oil Industry have been advised to tighten security and take necessary precautionary measures.

Post and Telegraph Offices and Telephone Exchanges

2835. SHRI TEJVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post and telegraph offices and telephone exchange opened in the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan, State-wise; and

(b) the target fixed for opening of post and telegraph offices and telephone exchanges in the country during Ninth Five year Plan, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) :

Department of Post

(a) The targets for opening post offices are allotted Postal Circle-wise. The Circle-wise details of post offices opened during the Eighth Five Year Plan are given in enclosed Statement-I.

Department of Telecom

The information concerning number of telegraph offices opened in the country during the Eighth Five Years Plan, State-wise is given in enclosed statement-II. The information about the Telephone Exchanges opened during the said period, State-wise, is given in enclosed Statement-III.

(b) Department of Posts

The circle-wise allocation of targets for opening post office during 1997-98 and 1998-99 the first two years of the Ninth Plan, is given in enclosed Statement-IV.

Department of Telecom

Due to the rapid expansion of telephone network in the country the telegraph traffic is reducing. No specific targets for opening new telegraph offices have therefore been fixed.

The number of Telephone Exchanges proposed during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

Statement-I

S.No.	Name of Circle	Number of Post Offices Opened during the 8th Five Year Plan	
		EBOs	DSOs
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	29	26
2.	Assam	63	12
3.	Bihar	180	21
4.	Delhi	Nil	17
5.	Gujarat	103	33
6.	Haryana	34	20
7.	Himachal Pradesh	137	9
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	29	3

1	2	3	4
9.	Karnataka	62	44
10.	Kerala	33	31
11.	Madhya Pradesh	163	33
12.	Maharashtra	237	42
13.	North-East	124	12
14.	Orissa	94	13
15.	Punjab	43	16
16.	Rajasthan	288	26
17.	Tamil Nadu	57	18
18.	Uttar Pradesh	233	40
19.	West Bengal	133	8
Total		2042	424

Statement-II

S.No.	Name of State	No. of Telegraph Offices	Combined Offices (Telegraphs in Post Offices)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12	Nil
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil
3.	Assam	1	1
4.	Bihar	3	455
5.	Delhi	Nil	Nil
6.	Goa	2	Nil
7.	Gujarat (includes Diu Daman, Dadar & Nagar Haveli UTs)	1	Nil
8.	Haryana	2	Nil
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2	298
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	Nil	Nil
11.	Karnataka	2	1013
12.	Kerala (includes Lakshadweep UT)	5	11
13.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	Nil
14.	Maharashtra	8	7
15.	Meghalaya	Nil	Nil
16.	Manipur	Nil	Nil
17.	Mizoram	Nil	Nil
18.	Nagaland	Nil	Nil
19.	Punjab (includes Chandigarh UT)	3	1
20.	Orissa	6	2272
21.	Rajasthan	12	505
22.	Sikkim	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4
23. Tamil Nadu (includes Pondicherry UT)		14	164
24. Tripura		Nil	Nil
25. Uttar Pradesh		2	Nil
26. West Bengal (includes Andaman & Nicobar UT)		7	Nil

Statement-III

S.No.	State	No. of Telephone Exchange opened during Eighth Five Year Plan	No. of Telephone Exchanges proposed to be opened during Ninth Five Year Plan
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1199	255
2.	Andaman Nicobar	9	9
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	27	32
4.	Assam	121	135
5.	Bihar	509	196
6.	Delhi	93	54
7.	Goa	19	26
8.	Gujarat (including Daman, Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli)	1035	228

1	2	3	4
9.	Haryana	459	241
10.	Himachal Pradesh	391	120
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	230	80
12.	Karnataka	397	487
13.	Kerala (including Lakshadweep)	477	245
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1681	121
15.	Maharashtra	953	1975
16.	Manipur	7	25
17.	Meghalaya	11	31
18.	Mizoram	22	32
19.	Nagaland	2	200
20.	Orissa	602	200
21.	Punjab (including Chandigarh)	625	356
22.	Rajasthan	1147	500
23.	Sikkim	8	39
24.	Tamil Nadu	1004	213
25.	Tripura	8	30
26.	Uttar Pradesh	583	739
27.	West Bengal	500	941

Statement-IV

S.No.	Name of Circle	Target for opening EDBOs during 1997-98	Target for opening DSOs during 1997-98	Target for opening EDBOs during 1998-99	Target for opening DSOs during 1998-99
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10	2	10	2
2.	Assam	25	2	50	5
3.	Bihar	40	5	60	2
4.	Delhi	5	2	17	3
5.	Gujarat	25	2	40	2
6.	Haryana	15	2	15	3
7.	Himachal Pradesh	10	2	10	2
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	15	1	30	1
9.	Karnataka	30	5	10	4
10.	Kerala	10	2	10	2
11.	Madhya Pradesh	37	2	50	3

1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	Maharashtra	35	3	60	3
13.	North-East	25	3	50	3
14.	Orissa	27	2	10	2
15.	Punjab	17	2	15	2
16.	Rajasthan	33	2	30	2
17.	Tamil Nadu	21	2	10	2
18.	Uttar Pradesh	70	6	78	3
19.	West Bengal	50	3	43	4
Total		500	50	598	50

Payment of Licence Fee

2836. SHRI NADEDLA BHASKRA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Association of Chambers of Commerce and Industry has opposed the Government's move towards making 20% of their licence fee arrears by private telecom operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASHTA) : (a) No Communication to this effect has been received.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Legislation for Blood Banks

2837. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plan to execute orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court to "enact a separate legislation for blood banking operations in the country";

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the said legislation has since been enacted;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (e) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India had directed that the Union of India should consider the advisability of a separate legislation for collection, storage, testing and transportation of blood and its components.

A comprehensive legislation has been prepared by amending the Rules under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act dealing with the licensing requirement of blood banks.

The draft notification will be sent for publication shortly.

Energy Production

2838. SHRI GEORGE EDEN :
SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state the details of increase in production of electricity in the country during the year 1998-99 through Non-conventional Sources ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P. R. KUMARMAN-GALAM) : The details of increase in production of electricity through various Non-Conventional Energy Sources programmes during the year 1998-99 are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Details of increase in the production of electricity in the country during the year 1998-99 through various Non-Conventional Energy programmes

S.No.	Name of Programme	Increase in Electricity production
1.	Wind Power	970 Million Units
2.	Small Hydro Power	28 Million Units
3.	Solar Power	1 Million Units
4.	Solar Photovoltaics	11.44 Million Units
5.	Urban & Industrial Wastes	4 Million Units
6.	Biomass Co-generation Power	43.5 Mega watts increase in capacity addition
7.	Biomass Gasifier	416 Lakh Units

Increasing of Existing Waterways

2839. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be please to state :

- (a) whether the Government have any action plan to increase the Existing Waterways in the country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Several potential waterways of the country have been studied for their techno-economic feasibility. Based on the outcome, new waterways would be considered for declaration as National Waterways subject to availability of resources.

[Translation]

Identification of Natural Gas Reserve on Shore of Ganga

2840. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether natural gas reserve has been identified on the shore of Ganga in Anupshahar; and
- (b) if so, the details of the action taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Gas seepage at Rajghat on the banks of Ganga river in Anupshahar near Bulandshahar was reported by District Magistrate, Bulandshar. This was investigated by a team of geoscientists from ONGC. The analysis of the gas reveals that it is 'Dry Gas' consisting mainly of methene and carbon-dioxide.

Telephone Connection after Issuing O.B.

2841. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether telephone have not been installed even after issuing of O.B.;
- (b) if so, the number of such cases lying pending in Delhi till date, exchange-wise;
- (c) whether the Government have reviewed the functioning of Delhi Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited in this regard ; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) Sir, telephones are normally installed within the prescribed period as per norms except for the reasons;

- (i) Some of the areas/pockets being technically non-feasible due to non-availability of cable pairs.
- (ii) Due to subscriber reasons.

(b) The number of such cases pending in MTNL Delhi as on 28.2.1999 are given in enclosed statement exchange wise.

(c) and (d) Sir, the execution of OBs for new telephone connections as per norms is being monitored at various levels. Remedial measures are being taken for speedy clearance of pending OBs in MTNL Delhi through the following perpetual actions:

- (i) Laying of additional underground cables in technically non-feasible areas/pockets of out door plants of various exchange areas.
- (ii) Additional new exchange modes are being planned to minimise technically non-feasible (TNF) pockets.

Statement

*MTNL Delhi
Exchange-wise Details of Pending OBs for new connections
as on 28.2.99*

Area	Total OBs
1	2
Janpath	13
Kidwai Bhawan	81
Sena Bhawan	01
Rajpath	84
Jor Bagh	229
Lodi Road	24
Delhi Gate	337
Idgah	3454
Tis Hazari	755
Laxmi Nagar	1109
Karkardooma	425
Mayur Vihar	1154
Shahdara	1608
Yamuna Vihar	3237
Shakti Nagar	5419
Keshavpuram	845
Rohini-I	3128
Rohini-II	659
Rohini-III	417

1	2
P/Pitampura	12
Saraswati Vihar	311
Badli	1410
Alipur	60
Narela	959
Bhikaji Cama Place	406
Chanakyapuri	1
Vasant Vihar	87
Hauz Khas	1620
Vasant Kunj	412
Chhatarpur	455
Nehru Place	3033
ASIAD	43
Sadiq Nagar	258
Tughlakabad	3857
Okhla	837
Tehkhand	446
Sarita Vihar	1070
Karol Bagh	2706
Janakpuri	2025
Najafgarh	2277
Delhi Cantt.	157
Palam	117
NIT (IGI Airport)	121
Smalkha	19
Dwarka	3554
Shadipur	229
Rajouri Garden	1469
Hari Nagar	222
Paschim Vihar	59
Nangloi	2653
Grant Total	53864

[English]

Pilot Project for Diabetes

2842. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to launch a pilot project to strengthen laboratories for diabetes check up;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the CGHS laboratories in certain dispensaries in Delhi are not providing an efficient testing service

and the diabetes have to wait considerably long to get the blood taste;

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal to strengthen these CGHS dispensaries laboratories;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Pilot project for strengthening of Bio-chemical laboratories and quality assurance under National Diabetes Control Programme (NDCP) is proposed in 5 States namely; Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

(c) to (f) There are 38 Pathology laboratories functioning in CGHS Delhi. List is enclosed as statement.

The Blood Sugar test is done in these laboratories quite efficiently and diabetics do not have to wait for long to the blood sugar tested.

Statement

List of the Laboratory Under CGHS Delhi

North Zone		South Zone	
1.	Ashok Vihar	1.	Kasturba Nagar-I
2.	Dev Nagar	2.	Laxmibai Nagar
3.	Pusa Road	3.	Motibagh
4.	Rajouri Garden	4.	R.K. Puram-III
5.	Shakurbasti	5.	Sarajini Nagar Mkt
6.	Tilak Nagar	6.	Srinivasपुरi
7.	Paschim Vihar	7.	Lajpat Nagar
8.	Nangal Raya	8.	M.B. Road
9.	Naraina	9.	Kalkaji-I
10.	Rohini		
11.	Janakpuri-I		
Central Zone		East Zone	
1.	Faridabad	1.	Darya Ganj
2.	Chitra Gupta Road	2.	Kingsway Camp
3.	Ghaziabad	3.	Timarpur
4.	Central Sectt.	4.	Shahdara
5.	P.H. Annexe	5.	Laxmi Nagar
6.	Gurgaon	6.	Subzi Mandi
7.	Wellesely Rd.	7.	Vivek Vihar
8.	Minto Road		
9.	Noida		
10.	Supreme Court (First Aid Post)		
11.	R.K. Puram (Maternity Hospital)		

Indigenous cure for Diseases

2843. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the tribal community has the knowledge and information about the medicinal plants and shrubs which can cure many diseases including AIDS;

(b) if so, whether a seminar was organised and a workshop on management of incurable disease like AIDS was conducted recently as reported in the Ahmedabad based Times of India dated February 6, 1999 under caption "Seminar on medicinal plants to be held at Saputara";

(c) if so, the details thereof ;

(d) whether the Government are extending their co-operation to encourage the tribal people having knowledge in this field; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI):

(a) It is a fact that tribal communities have the knowledge and information about the use of medicinal plants and shrubs for various diseases. However, no scientifically proved claim has come to notice regarding AIDS.

(b) and (c) A National Seminar on Medicinal Plants and Traditional Medical Knowledge and a National Workshop on Traditional Knowledge and Management of incurable Diseases like AIDS was organised on 12th and 13th February, 1999 at Saputara in Dangs District (Gujarat). It was organised by the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Forest and Environment, Department of Tribal Development Corporation of Government of Gujarat in collaboration with the Gujarat Ayurved University, Jamnagar. At this Seminar about 60 speakers of different disciplines presented papers on the following topics :

1. Present status on Medico-Botanical Wealth and Traditional Knowledge in Gujarat.
2. Assessment of Medicinal Plants requirement by the Pharmaceutical Industry.
3. Intellectual property right in relation to utilization of medicinal plants and their products.
4. Assessment of export potential of medicinal plants.
5. Evolving suitable strategies for conservation and regeneration of threatened and over exploited medicinal plants.

In the workshop the role of Ayurveda and other traditional medicines was discussed on intractable diseases such as AIDS, Cancer, Diabetes, Rheumatoid Arthritis etc.

(d) and (e) As a first step, efforts have been initiated to document and publish tribal medical claims.

Development of Sanctuaries in Maharashtra

2844. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra have sent scheme for development/maintenance of sanctuaries, National Park and forest reserves ;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes sanctioned out of them; and

(c) the details of financial assistance, scheme-wise ?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Financial Assistance provided to the Government of Maharashtra during 1998-99 under the Central Sponsored Scheme "Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries" is Rs. 27,783 lakhs for 11 protected areas. Besides Rs. 14,148 of unutilised assistance released during 97-98 was also revalidated.

Allocation for National Highways Projects

2845. DR. ASIM BALA :
SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :
SHRI VITHAL TUPE :

Will be Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether allocation for the National Highways projects has been declining in each and every plan ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether the Government proposes to hike the budgetary allocation for National Highway projects during 1999-2000;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount allocated to the State Government of Maharashtra for National Highway Projects during each of the last three Five Year Plans ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The share of allocation for National Highways as percentage of the total central plan outlay has been declining in each plan. It has declined from 1.4% in the First Five Year Plan to 0.6% in the 8th Five Year Plan.

(b) Due to overall constraint of resources, and the need to take care of other social sectors, the allocations for the road sector have been declining.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) Allocation to the State of Maharashtra has been as under :

Plan/Period	Years	Amount (Rs. in crores)
6th Plan	1980-85	45.16
7th Plan	1985-90	99.84
Annual Plan	1990-91	27.50
	1991-92	33.58
8th Plan	1992-97	160.11

Improvement in Functioning of Judiciary

2846. SHRI JAYARAMA I.M. SHETTY :
SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU :

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

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Judiciary needs to change with the times" as reported in Statesman, dated February 15, 1999;
- (b) if so, whether a seminar of 'Judiciary in Asia' was recently organised by the world Jurist Association in New Delhi;
- (c) if so, the details of discussions held in the seminar and outcome thereof ;
- (d) whether there is urgent need to bring sweeping changes in the functioning of the judiciary as has been done in the world; and
- (e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

STD/ISD/PCO Booths in Karnataka

2847. SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of STD/ISD public telephone booths functioning in Karnataka at present, district-wise; and
- (b) the number of applications for the installation of said booths sanctioned in the State during 1998-99 and the reasons for non-installation of said booths till date, district-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) The number of STD/ISD Public Telephone booths functioning in Karnataka SSA-wise, is given in the Statement.

(b) The number of booths sanctioned and installed during 1998-99, SSA-wise, is given in the Statement. The main reason for non-installation of remaining PCOs is non-completion of formalities, non-payment of security deposit, delay in procurement of PCO monitors etc.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the SSA	Working as on 31-1-99	Sanctioned during 98-99	Provided during 98-99	Sanctioned but not installed
1.	Bangalore	8566	2745	1625	1120
2.	Mangalore	2145	226	0	226
3.	Mysore	878	485	0	485
4.	Belgaum	1097	850	34	816
5.	Hubli	1316	1301	201	1100
6.	Shimoga	494	183	106	77
7.	Mercara	163	50	26	24
8.	Mandya	239	112	67	45
9.	Tumkur	463	238	101	137
10.	Kolar	347	250	85	185
11.	Davangere	768	300	75	225
12.	Hassan	517	190	13	177
13.	Bellary	400	147	8	139
14.	Bidar	255	60	60	0
15.	Bijapur	297	190	167	23
16.	Raichur	488	81	81	0
17.	Gulbarga	453	0	0	0
18.	Chickmangalur	315	32	19	13
19.	U. Kannada	499	211	100	111

Regulatory Bodies to Monitor and Supervise Functioning of Petroleum Industry

2848. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) the composition of members of the three regulatory bodies constituted to monitor and supervise the functioning of petroleum sectors in the country;
- (b) the reasons for constituting such bodies;
- (c) whether the Heads of various public sector petroleum companies have been consulted before constituting such bodies; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) It is proposed to consider the setting up of regulatory bodies for Upstream and Downstream sectors of the petroleum sector including for Gas. The scope of the regulatory body could include promotion of investment, removal of entry barriers, prevention of cartelisation, regulation of supply and prices, supervision of transmission and distribution networks, ensuring quality and security, compliance with appropriate standards, dispute resolution, protection of consumer interest and long-term optimal development of sectors of the hydrocarbon industry.

[Translation]

LPG Connections in Bhilwara District of Rajasthan

2849. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the date upto which the applications on the waiting list of LPG connections in Bhilwara district of Rajasthan have been provided LPG connection; and

(b) the number of LPG agencies functioning in the said district alongwith LPG connections sanctioned to each of those agencies till date ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Indian Oil Corporation has only one LPG distributor, M/s. Prabha Corporation in Bhilwara district of Rajasthan and the cut off date of waiting list of this distributor is 2.4.92 with a wait list of 297 numbers as on 1.1.99. Since it is already operating above the ceiling limit, only 32 new connections were issued during the current year (April-December 98) on priority category. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. have two LPG distributors in Bhilwara district, namely, M/s. Vimal Distributors at Bhilwara with cut off date of waiting list as 31.12.90 (customer population of 18417) and M/s. Shahpura Gas Distributors at Shahpura with waiting list cut off date as 29.9.93 (customer population of 8210). Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. is not marketing LPG in Bhilwara district.

[English]

LPG Bottling Plant at Chhapra, Bihar

2850. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a LPG bottling plant at Chhapra in Bihar;

(b) if so, whether the land required for setting up the plant has been requisitioned so far;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reason and justification for the delay in setting up bottling plant there ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) There is no proposal to set up an LPG Bottling Plant at Chhapra in Bihar during IXth Plan period. However, the demand of LPG for consumers in Chhapra will be met through the existing bottling plants, new plants being put at Begusarai and Purnea under VIIIth Plan and capacity additions under IXth Plan in Bihar.

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

Oil Reserve at Ichapur, West Bengal

2851. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether oil has been found in West Bengal recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the assessment of oil reserve at Ichapur in Nadia district of West Bengal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Recently, a side-tracked hole was drilled from Ichapur-I (drilled in 1980-81), and it gave an indication of liquid hydrocarbon, without any sustained flow, during testing. The well was declared dry and abandoned on 28.2.99.

Pipavav Power Project in Gujarat

2852. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal of the Gujarat Government for setting up of a 2000 MW power project at Pipavav in Gujarat with private participation is under consideration of the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether some concessions are proposed to be given to this power plant;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the proposed power plant is likely to be commissioned ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMAN-GALAM) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, the Central Government, under its revised mega power policy announced some time back, has identified a 2000 MW mega power plant at Pipavav to be set up through the private sector. The projects identified under this policy are being given certain concessions which include exemption from customs duty for import of capital equipment, deemed export benefit to the indigenous manufacturers of equipment for these projects and tax benefits. A Power Trading Corporation, is proposed to be set up for purchase of power from these mega projects.

(d) Commissioning of the proposed power plant would depend on the various inputs/clearances being tied up and financial closure being achieved.

Farakka and Kahalgaon Plants

2853. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the fixed charges of Farakka and Kahalgaon plants of National Thermal Power Corporation have been hiked recently with retrospective effect from April 1, 1995;

(b) if so, the financial implications of the same on respective State Electricity Boards and consumers;

(c) whether rate of return on equity of these plants has also been raised from 12% to 16%;

(d) if so, the financial implications thereof;

(e) whether the same has the approval of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMAN-GALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. Consequent upon expiry of validity of tariff for sale of power from Farakka STPS stage I (600 MW) on 31.12.1994 and declaration of commercial operation of unit V (500 MW) at Farakka STPS with effect from 1.4.1995 the refixation of tariff for Farakka STPS stage I (600 MW) with effect from 1.1.1995 and Farakka STPS (1100 MW) with effect from 1.4.1995 notified by the Ministry of Power vide notification dated 5.11.1998 has resulted in the increase in the fixed charges of the project. Similarly for Kahalgaon STPS refixation of tariff notified vide Ministry of Power notification dated 10.10.1997, 1.1.1998 and 9.12.1998 respectively with effect from 1.4.1995, 1.2.1996 and 1.8.1996, being the dates of declaration of commercial operation of unit II, III and IV has resulted in the increase in the fixed charges for the plant.

(b) In line with the provisions of tariff notifications for various power stations, the billing of fixed charges from the

date of commercial operation of the respective generating units was done on provisional basis by pro-rata increase of the already notified fixed charges in proportion to increase in the installed capacity. Subsequently, the likely revision in fixed charges was worked out by Central Electricity Authority and communicated to the State Electricity Boards in Eastern Region on 7.8.1996.

The fixed charges of Farakka STPS (1100 MW) based on notification issued on 5.11.1998 work out to Rs. 426.98 crores per year. The variable charges as notified are 32.17 P/kwh with effect from 1.4.1995 and are subject to monthly Fuel Price Adjustment based on actual price and GCV of fuel burnt each month.

The fixed charges of Kahalgaon STPS (840 MW) based on notification issued on 9.12.1998 are Rs. 441.48 crores per year. The variable charges as notified are 50.86 P/kwh with effect from 1.8.1996 and are subject to Fuel Price Adjustment based on actual Price and GCV of fuel burnt each month.

The financial implication of Farakka STPS (1100 MW) tariff compared to what had been intimated by CEA on 7.8.1996 is Rs. 2.06 crores per year and that of Kahalgaon STPS (840 MW) compared to provisional billing is a reduction of Rs. 50.77 crores per year.

(c) Yes, Sir. Revision from 12% to 16% on return on equity is effective from 1.11.1998.

(d) The fixed charges in respect of Farakka STPS (1600 MW) with 12% return on equity is Rs. 621.06 crores per year and with 16% return on equity is Rs. 677.86 crores per year. The fixed charges in respect of Kahalgaon STPS (840 MW) with 12% return on equity is Rs. 441.10 crores and with 16% return on equity is Rs. 477.88 crores per year.

Impact of increase in the rate of return on equity at normative level of generation i.e. 68.49% PLF in respect of Farakka STPS (1100 MW) and Kahalgaon STPS (840 MW) would be 5.92 paise/kwh and 7.30 paise/kwh respectively.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission could consider according approval to such proposals only after regulations for fixation of tariff are notified by it. Till then, the Government of India continues to determine the tariff on Central Generating Companies under Section 43A(2) of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948.

Oil and Gas Reserves in Rann of Kutch, Gujarat

2854. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey to identify the oil and gas reserves in the Rann of Kutch, Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANWAR) : (a) and (b) Geological survey has been carried out by ONGC in the Kutch main land, Khadir island, Pachham island, Bela island, Waghad island and Chorar Hills. The district of Kutch has been under focus for exploration since 1956 and 31420 sq. km. Geological surveys, 8567 stations of GM surveys, 2061 GLK of single fold and refraction survey and 1410 GLK of multifold seismic surveys which includes 367 LKM in Rann of Kutch have been carried out in this basin. Besides, 5 exploratory wells have been drilled which proved dry. Additionally, under Exploration Bidding Rounds, contract for 2 blocks viz. GK-ON-90/2 (Under Fourth Round) and GK-ON/4 (Under Seventh Round) falling in onshore area of Rann of Kutch, Gujarat have been signed in 1998 with Okland International LDC, USA and Phoenix overseas Ltd. India, respectively.

23,730 LKM of Aeromagnetic data covering 48,000 sq. km. has been acquired in Rann of Kutch and contiguous offshore part by Directorate General of Hydrocarbons through NRSA during 1995-96.

(c) Does not arise.

Dues of PFC against SEBs

2855. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the outstanding dues of Power Finance Corporation against State Electricity Boards as on January 31, 1999, State-wise;

(b) the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken to realise them;

(c) whether the Government have received any proposal to reschedule payments to power utilities; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) The borrower-wise details of the outstanding dues of Power Finance Corporation as on 31st January, 1999 are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The Power Finance Corporation has issued "guidelines for applications or remedial steps, in the event of default by the borrowers" which form part of the loan terms and conditions. These, inter-alia, include follow-up through written communication, issue of letter of warning about the impending suspension of further loan sanction and disbursement, invoking escrow account/bank guarantee, issue of legal notice, invocation of State Government guarantee etc.

(c) and (d) Rescheduling, if any, of payments due to Central Power Utilities is done by the utilities themselves with the approval of their Board of Directors. This depends upon merits of the case, terms and conditions of the payments dues, the eligibility criteria etc.

Statement

Borrower-wise details of the outstanding dues of Power Finance Corporation as on 31st January, 1999

		(Rs. in crores)
S.No.	Borrower	Outstanding Amount
1.	DPL	0.56
2.	BSHPCCL	0.65
3.	Govt. of Goa	0.09
4.	Govt. of Manipur	0.03
5.	Govt. of Nagaland	0.45
6.	Govt. of Sikkim	0.53
7.	GRIDCO	1.23
8.	MPEB	24.64
9.	TVNL	0.11
10.	WBPDCCL	8.35
11.	WBSEB	0.15
Total		36.79

Poliomyelitis

2856. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russia has snapped cooperation with India in the field of eradication of Poliomyelitis; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) Bharat Immunologicals and Biological Corporation Limited (BIBCOL) was established as a public sector undertaking under the Department of Biotechnology for production of Oral Polio Vaccine and other immunobiologicals in technical collaboration with the erstwhile USSR. This company is procuring bulk vaccine from Russia for formulating and supplying oral polio vaccine to the National Immunization Programme. BIBCOL is expecting a certain quantity of bulk to be delivered by Russia during March, 1999.

Tiger Population

2857. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government have been drawn to the news-item captioned "Tiger Reserves: Minister

plans 'adoption' by West" appearing in the Hindu, dated January 27, 1999;

(b) if so, whether Government lacks expertise in the tiger management;

(c) if so, whether Government indulge in sentimental exercises to evoke sympathy; and

(d) if so, foreign aids received by the Government in their effort to increase the tiger population so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) India is home to more than 60% of surviving wild tigers in the world. Despite numerous problems tiger habitats in India are being managed in a reasonably efficient manner and there is no lack of expertise in the country.

The proposed 'adoption' is meant to seek financial support from the developed countries.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No foreign aid has so far been received for increasing tiger population in the country.

Anomaly in Salary Structure in CHS

2858. SHRI NEPAL CHANDRA DAS : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether for similar qualifications and experience, the teaching cadre in Central Health Services is getting less salary and other benefits vis-a-vis their counterparts in autonomy institutions under the Central Government;

(b) if so, whether prior to implementation of the Fourth Pay Commission Report, the pay and other benefits of teaching cadre were identical for both CHS and autonomous institutions under the Central Government ;

(c) if so, the reasons for present anomaly; and

(d) whether the Government propose to look into the whole gamut of it and reconsider to remove anomalies in terms of working conditions, research opportunities, pay structure, similar pattern of working infrastructure and promotional avenues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) The pay and allowances of officers of Central Health service is determined on the basis of recommendations of Central Pay Commission whereas the pay and allowances of personnel of autonomous institutions are decided on the basis of recommendations of Committee especially constitute for this purpose. As such comparison between the faculties of these institutions with Central Health Service does not arise.

(b) No, Sir. Prior to implementation of the Fourth Central Pay Commission Report, the pay and other benefits of teaching subcadre of Central Health Service were not identical with that of autonomous institutions under Central Government.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Expansion of Telecommunication Facilities

2859. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL :
SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether programmes for the expansion of telecommunication facilities in the country and also in the rural areas have been finalised for the Ninth Five year Plan;

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

(c) whether ratio of said expansion programme is far below in the villages of west Bengal, Bihar and Orissa as compared to other States;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to remove the disparity;

(e) the amount of investment proposed to be made in the said programme in the country during the said plan period; state-wise; and

(f) the details of the allocation made to the States for said programmes for 1998-99 and 1999-2000, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) to (d) The Ninth Five Year Plan of the Department of Telecommunications including MTNL envisages addition of 230 lakhs of Net Switching capacity and 185 lakh new telephone connections in the country including rural areas. The Statewise details of new switching capacity and Direct Exchange Lines to be provided during the plan period will be worked out after receipt of approval of the plan proposals from Planning Commission.

(e) The anticipated plan outlay for the 9th five year plan is Rs. 83250 crores including MTNL. As the telecom system is an integrated network and "Telecom Circles" may overlap "State" boundaries. It is not practicable to work out the outlay State-wise in a realistic manner.

(f) The circle-wise Revised Estimate for the year 1998-99 are given in the enclosed statement. The Budget Estimate for the year 1999-2000 is Rs.15603 crore including MTNL. The Demand for Grants of the DOT for the 1999-2000 is yet to be approved by the Parliament. After approval, the Telecom Circle-wise allocation of Funds will be finalised.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the Circle	Amount (Rs. Crore)
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	14.18
2.	Andhra Pradesh	732.43
3.	Assam	126.93
4.	Bihar	338.72
5.	Gujarat	562.93
6.	Haryana	182.10
7.	Himachal Pradesh	128.93
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	75.20
9.	Karnataka	598.24
10.	Kerala	765.99
11.	Madhya Pradesh	419.28
12.	Maharashtra	900.61
13.	North East	90.63
14.	Orissa	167.71
15.	Punjab	489.04
16.	Rajasthan	386.36
17.	Tamil Nadu	908.75
18.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	411.41
19.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	415.02
20.	West Bengal	638.92
21.	Other Units & Reserve	1547.12
22.	MTNL	2160.00
		12060.00

Poaching of Elephants and Deer

2806. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA MALLICK :
SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

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

(a) the elephant and deer population in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether incidents of poaching /killing of elephants and deer are still being reported from various States;

(c) if so, the number of elephants and deer killed during the last three years;

(d) whether the ban on sale of ivory is not being effectively implemented; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to ensure deterrent punishment to the offenders in cases of elephant killing ?

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

(a) The estimated population of wild elephants, State-wise, is given in the enclosed Statement-I. Nine species of deer occur in the country. Because of their wide spread distribution in different States, their population is difficult to estimate. However, the population of Manipur Brow-Antlered Deer, which occurs only in the Keibul Lamjao National park in Manipur is estimated at 147.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The number of elephants killed by poachers, as reported by States, during the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement-II. The figures of poaching of deer in the country are not collated and compiled at the Central Government level.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The elephant is included in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, thus providing the highest legal protection under law. Offences relating to the killing of elephants and illegal trade in its derivatives are punishable with a minimum imprisonment of one year, which may extend to seven years and also with a minimum fine of Rs. 5,000. Efforts are being made of effectively control the illegal trade in ivory through intelligence gathering and regular raids at the various suspected sales centres.

For international control, the Indian elephant is included in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered species of Fauna and Flora (CITES), which prohibits international trade in the species and its derivatives. The protection of wild elephant populations and their natural habitats in India is being strengthened through the Project Elephant, which was launched in February, 1992 to provide financial and technical assistance to various elephant range states.

Statement -I*Estimated Population of Wild Elephants in Different States*

S.No.	States	Minimum	Maximum
1.	Andhra Pradesh	46	46
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2000	3000
3.	Assam	5000	6000
4.	Bihar	500	600
5.	Karnataka	5000	6000
6.	Kerala	3000	4000
7.	Meghalaya	2500	3000
8.	Orissa	1500	2000
9.	Tamil Nadu	2300	2500
10.	Uttar Pradesh	750	1000
11.	West Bengal	200	200
12.	Nagaland	140	140
		22936	28486
Mean Estimated Value =			25,571

Statement-II*[English]**Number of Elephants killed by poachers***Allocation of Kerosene to States**

S.No.	States	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	—
3.	Assam	6	4	6
4.	Bihar	1	2	3
5.	Karnataka	10	18	15
6.	Kerala	3	7	2
7.	Meghalaya	10	5	3
8.	Nagaland	8	5	1
9.	Orissa	17	11	7
10.	Tamil Nadu	7	15	6
11.	Uttar Pradesh	19	—	—
12.	West Bengal	3	—	—
		85	68	43

2862. SHRI A.C. JOS :
SHRI RAJVEER SINGH :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala and Uttar Pradesh have requested to increase their allocation of Kerosene;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Kerala have requested to increase their allocation of Kerosene. Kerosene is a deficit product and more than 40% of the country's requirement is being met through imports. However, on account of constraint of product availability, foreign exchange and heavy subsidy involved, it is not possible to meet the demand in full.

During 1998-99, a very high increase of 18.01%, as compared to previous year, has been made in allocation of kerosene to Uttar Pradesh, against national growth of 8.5%, thereby increasing the per capita availability to 10 Kg/annum. Kerala has been given an increase of 3.61%, as compared to previous year, thereby increasing the per capita availability to 10.31Kg/annum.

During the last three years, kerosene allocation to Kerala and U.P. has been as under:-

Year	(figs in MTs)	
	Kerala	Uttar Pradesh
1996-97	279701	1128847
1997-98	289540	1178862
1998-99	300006	1391123

A high number of LPG connections are also being issued in all States including U.P. and Kerala, which reduces the demand for kerosene.

**Telephone Facility by Private Company
in Andhra Pradesh**

2863. SHRI S. SUDHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of telephone exchanges in Andhra Pradesh are blasted by the extremist groups;

*[Translation]***Establishment of Hospitals**

2861. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the clearance has been given for the setting up of a five hundred bed hospital in Bareilly, U.P. ;

(b) if so, whether the required amount has been allocated to the State Government ;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which this amount is likely to be provided ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The proposal was first examined in 1991 when the Government of U.P. was requested to intimate the details of counterpart funding to be provided by them. Thereafter, in June, 1997, in response to a reference from Government of U.P. they were again requested to submit availability of counterpart funding, which is required for posing the proposal to the Ministry of Finance. No response has yet been received from the Government of U.P. to these references.

- (b) if so, the facts in this regard;
- (c) whether the department has given the right to private companies to establish telephone in large number of villages where there are no telephone connections;
- (d) if so, the number of villages given away to Private companies in the State; and
- (e) the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) 109 Telephone Exchanges are blasted/damaged in A.P. circle.
- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) Telecom facility had to be provided in 6080 numbers of uncovered villages by M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd. before 30.9.98 and accordingly the said villages have already been made over to M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.
- (e) So far no VPT has been provided by the said company.

Pending Criminal Cases

2864. SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU:
SHRI JAYARAMA I. M. SHETTY:
SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA:

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

- (a) whether the Supreme Court of India has recently asked all the State Governments to furnish list of criminal cases pending in courts across the country ;
- (b) if so, the details of such cases pending in various High Courts and Supreme Court of India since the last three years ;
- (c) whether the Supreme Court of India has directed High Courts to give preference to criminal cases while disposing of the cases; and
- (d) if so, the time by which pending cases are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M.THAMBI DURAI) : (a) The Supreme Court of India in its order dated 10th December, 1998 in W.P. (Civil) No. 559 of 1994 - R.D.Upadhyay Vs. State of Andhra Pradesh and others, has directed all the High Courts to furnish a list of all pending criminal cases (district wise) in different courts specifying the offences to which they relate and if they are pending

for more than five years as on 31.12.98 the reasons for not being disposed of speedily.

- (b) A Statement is attached.
- (c) No such direction has been issued to the high Courts by the Supreme Court of India in the above said order.
- (d) Question does not arise.

Statement

Criminal Cases Pending in High Courts and the Supreme Court

S.No.	Name of the High Court	as on 31.12.96	as on 31.12.97	as on 30.06.98
1.	Allahabad	140925	140925*	140925*
2.	Andhra Pradesh	3430	5564	6723
3.	Bombay	16254	18514	20315
4.	Calcutta	22593	29181	31970
5.	Delhi	10281	12884	12222
6.	Gauhati	4262	4459	4420
7.	Gujarat	16167	14965	15644
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3005	2604	2497
9.	J & K	4132	3572	3651
10.	Karnataka	6230	5270	4762
11.	Kerala	7520	9204	9706
12.	Madhya Pradesh	29642	32248	34117
13.	Madras	21167	22333	24352
14.	Orissa	5650	6641	7010
15.	Patna	19871	11856	13543
16.	Punjab & Haryana	29056	27963	24293
17.	Rajasthan	21685	19748	18072
18.	Sikkim	4	10	16
		361874	367941	374238

* indicates pendency of 31/12/96.

Supreme Court of India As On	No. of criminal cases pending
01.05.96	4586
01.05.97	3810
01.05.98	3394

Internet Connections on Demand

2865. SHRI T.R. BAALU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to provide internet connections on demand in four Metropolitan cities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For Mumbai and Delhi, MTNL/VSNL are the Government Internet Service Providers, whereas for Calcutta and Chennai, VSNL is the Government Service Provider.

Internet connections are presently being provided by VSNL on demand at all the four Metropolitan cities viz. Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Calcutta, and by MTNL in Mumbai and Delhi.

MTNL has recently started Internet Service at Delhi and Mumbai with a capacity of 5000 customers each. To cater growing demand, MTNL is planning to expand Internet Services from 5000 to 20,000 subscribers each in Mumbai and Delhi.

Government has also awarded a large number of licences to the private ISPs who can also provide Internet connections in these Metropolitan Cities.

Oil Pool Account

2866. SHRI VAIKO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the accumulated amount lying in the oil pool account;

(b) whether the Government intend to cover up revenue shortfall from oil pool account;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the extent to which the pool account has been build up due to fall in international prices of the oil;

(e) whether the Oil Coordination Committee and the Oil Corporates have suggested to make the operation of the oil pool account free in the interest of the consumers;

(f) if so, whether the Government intend to bring out a detailed statement on the position of the oil pool account once a year; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) With a view to contain the deficit in the Oil Pool Account and to enable the Oil Companies to maintain uninterrupted supplies of petroleum products in the country; the Government announced a comprehensive package on September 1, 1997. To end the oil pool deficit, the Government had decided that part of the

liabilities of the Oil Coordination Committee to the Oil Companies shall be cleared through issue of Special Government Bonds by making one time payment to the Oil Companies. Consequently, "10.5% Oil Companies (Non-Transferable) Special Government Bonds 2005" totaling to Rs. 12,984 crores were issued effective 02.03.98. Out of these bonds issued, an amount of Rs. 6382 crores has been sanctioned for redemption of Bonds. Thereafter, "On Account" payment of Rs.1646 crores have been made till 28.02.99.

(e) to (g) The Annual OCC Accounts including the Pool Accounts are audited by independent firm of Chartered Accountants appointed by Apex Body on the advice of Comptroller & Auditor General of India. Thereafter the accounts are approved by Apex Body of OCC.

[Translation]

Loss due to Demurrage Claims

2867. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have been incurring huge loss due to demurrage claim submitted by ship owners at various Indian Ports ;

(b) if so, the extent of loss (in foreign exchange) incurred during the last three years, year-wise ;

(c) the present position in this regard ; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to minimise the loss for upgradation and expansion of ports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No, Sir. No such demurrage claims by ship-owners have been submitted to the Indian Ports.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Special Courts

2868. SHRI MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI P.C. THOMAS :
DR. SUSHIL INDORA :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

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

(a) whether the special courts especially for trying corruption cases against some public figures have been set up in the country during the last three years ;

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

(c) the details of cases transferred back from these courts to regular courts alongwith the reasons therefor during the said period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Constitution of Committees/Boards for Allotment of Petrol Pump and LPG Agencies

2869 SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Boards/Committees constituted for the allotment of Petrol Pumps and Gas Agencies by the Government;

(b) whether the Government have provided adequate representation to the persons belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes in these Boards/ committees; and

(c) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) as per existing policy, selection of dealers/distributors of petroleum products is made by the Dealer Selection Boards. Composition of these Boards is as under :

- | | | |
|-------|--|----------|
| (i) | Retired Judge of High Court or retired District Judge. | Chairman |
| (ii) | An Officer not below the rank of Chief Manager of one/concerned Oil Company. | Member |
| (iii) | An Officer of the rank of Chief Manager of another Oil Company | Member |

Member are nominated by the Director (Marketing) or Executive Director of the oil companies not before three days of the interviews.

53 Dealer Selection Boards have been constituted.

There is no specific provision for nomination of SC/ST members on these Boards. Non-officials have not been appointed on these Boards.

Export of Petroleum Products

2870. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to export the refined petroleum products by the year 2000; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The export of petroleum products by the year 2000 would, inter alia, depend upon the overall demand and supply position in the country and the prevailing market condition.

[Translation]

Attractive Schemes Introduced by B.P.C.

2871. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited has introduced attractive schemes for the customers at its international petrol outlets;

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

(c) whether some schemes are proposed to be introduced in different parts of the country as well; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) As per Corporation's policy, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has been introducing various 'Sales Promotion Schemes' for its customers from time to time at its retail outlets including new generation retail outlets (NGROs). During Christmas/New year time in 1998 BPCL introduced a promotion scheme for the 'convenience store' customers in its 18 Retail Outlets spread over 13 cities in the country as per detail given below:

City	No of Retail Outlets
Delhi	3
Chandigarh	1
Kanpur	1
Agra	1
Udaipur	1
Mumbai	2
Nagpur	2
Indore	1
Goa	1
Chennai	2
Bangalore	1
Hyderabad	1
Coimbatore	1

BPCL has also recently launched a scheme for promoting sale of Lubricants in select markets of North.

Prices of Crude Oil and Gas

2872. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the prices of crude oil and gas in the international market during the last two years;

(b) whether the hike in the international prices have adversely effected the price of Petroleum products in the country; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and measures taken by the Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The average prices of crude oil in the international market and LPG Saudi CP prices for last two years are as under:-

	Brent (\$ / bbl)	Dubai (\$ /bbl)	Oman (\$ /bbl)	LPG Saudi CP (\$ MT)
1997	19.093	18.131	18.538	223.42
1998	12.710	12.160	12.074	143.47

(b) and (c) The international prices of crude oil and petroleum products have shown a downward trend during last one year; and have generally remained depressed. Prices of oil in the inter-national market are highly volatile and are subject to wide fluctuations and any variation in the international prices has an impact on our import cost.

[English]

Buy Back of Shares by Public Sector Oil Companies

2873. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have proposed a scheme whereby various oil public sector units will buy into each others shares and also buy back their own shares:

(b) if so, the details of the scheme; and

(c) the total amount to be released as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Government have permitted buy back of shares by companies from their shareholders. Government have also permitted some

Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) to buy the shares of other PSEs on grounds of synergy and strategic considerations. Accordingly, it has been decided to sell upto 12.5% of Government holdings in Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. and upto 10% each in Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. and Gas Authority of India Ltd. to one another.

(c) The approximate total amount could be around Rs. 4500 crores.

Reproductive Health Service

2874. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Health organisation has called a firm commitment by the developed countries in order to achieve the goal of Universal access to quality and affordable reproductive health service;

(b) if so, whether any concrete world health programme has been chalked out in this regard by WHO;

(c) if so, the main features thereof;

(d) whether the WHO will provide funds for the said plan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) WHO has endorsed the Programme of Action on reproductive Health set before the World by the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, 1994. In her speech before the ICPO + 5 forum at the Hague, Netherlands during February, 1999, the Director General, WHO has called for completing the unfinished agenda in maternal health and addressing the emerging challenge of adolescent sexual and reproductive health. She reminded the developed world of their commitment to provide 0.7 per cent of their Gross Domestic Product by way of aid to the developing countries, as against the current level of 0.2 per cent.

(d) and (e) WHO provides technical support and guidance for implementing reproductive health programmes for improving the member countries' reproductive health services. During the Biennium 1998-99 WHO has committed financial assistance to India for Reproductive and Child Health of 2.3 million US\$.

Maintenance and Repair of NHS in J & K

2875. SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the actual amount released so far for the maintenance and repair of National Highways during 1997-98 and 1998-99 in the country, state-wise; and

(b) the portion of distressed stretches of National Highways in J&K state that remains to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) A statement is given below.

(b) None.

Statement

S.No. Name of State/U.T	Allocation	
	1997-98 (Rs. in lakhs)	1998-99 (Upto 1/99)
1. Andhra Pradesh	3898.00	4025.40
2. Assam	1162.55	2715.51
3. Bihar	3410.77	3348.87
4. Chandigarh	71.00	43.04
5. Delhi	330.20	190.00
6. Goa	450.39	569.08
7. Gujarat	3756.96	3065.94
8. Haryana	772.34	1359.42
9. Himachal Pradesh	2034.32	1981.01
10. Jammu & Kashmir	87.40	119.65
11. Karnataka	3002.90	2611.75
12. Kerala	2268.11	1848.73
13. Madhya Pradesh	3313.78	3678.04
14. Maharashtra	5157.68	4237.67
15. Manipur	277.03	325.59
16. Meghalaya	584.54	608.80
17. Nagaland	37.11	187.90
18. Orissa	2522.00	2201.15
19. Pondicherry	29.96	44.18
20. Punjab	1357.75	1438.81
21. Rajasthan	3641.71	3358.19
22. Tamil Nadu	2981.37	3260.00
23. Uttar Pradesh	4949.19	4987.64
24. West Bengal	3264.94	2257.83
25. NHA	375.00	274.00
26. Other Institutions	13.00	0.00
	49750.00	48738.20

Allotment of Site for Petrol Pumps

2876. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether more than 50 letter of intent (LOI) holders from various oil companies are waiting for the allotment of site for petrol pumps in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether Delhi Development Authority has offered many sites to the Oil Companies but the offers have not accepted on account of location and size;

(c) whether his Ministry or the Oil Companies have been approached by the Delhi Development Authority to accept the available sites in order to reduce the pendency list;

(d) if so, the response of the Government thereto; and

(e) the plans envisaged to tackle the growing demand of Petrol and Diesel in Delhi in the absence of retail outlets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) DDA had offered to the oil companies 25 sites for retail outlets. Most of these sites were not found feasible on account of various reasons such as small size of plots, inside the community centre and no vehicular traffic, encroached, having no approach road, etc.

(c) and (d) Mainly, DDA is concerned with carving out suitable size of plots of the required measurement for retail outlet dealership in Delhi. Oil Companies have approached DDA for increasing the size of the sites for the retail outlets. Oil Company officials and DDA officials had also undertake field visits to assess the requirement of the plots and DDA is reportedly reviewing the matter.

(e) As on 1.10.1998 a total of 294 retail outlets are in operation in Delhi which are catering to fuel requirement of the motoring public. To facilitate the dealers select, they have been permitted to change the site and set up R.O. anywhere in Delhi, including private land.

[Translation]

LPG Agencies at Ranchi in Bihar

2877. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG agencies functioning at Ranchi District of Bihar and quota of LPG connection with each of them;

(b) the number of LPG connections allotted to applicants in the said district so far; and

(c) the time by which pending applications registered for LPG connections are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) As on January, 1999, there were 24 LPG distributorships in Ranchi District with 87654 customer population.

Oil Companies have released 3809 LPG connections in Ranchi from the current year's enrolment plan.

(c) The release of new connections depends on various factors such as waiting list, slack available with the distributor, enrolment plan, etc.

[English]

Theft of LPG Cylinders

2878. DR. SHKEEL AHMAD :
SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation Limited has received complaints for the theft of LPG cylinders in the country for the last three years;

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

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

(d) whether some officials of Indian Oil Corporation are also involved in it; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The number of theft cases reported by the distributors and/or cylinder transporters of IOC (MD) from 1995-96 to 1997-98 statewide is as per statement enclosed.

(c) Action in cases of theft with distributors and/or transporters is taken by IOC (MD) in line with the policy in vogue.

(d) No IOC personnel are reported to be involved in the theft of cylinders.

(e) Not applicable in view of reply to (d) above.

Statement

Details - Number of Theft Cases of LPG Cylinders

Sl.No.	State	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1.	Chandigarh	1	2	0
2.	Delhi	3	8	8
3.	Haryana	6	5	4
4.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	1
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0
6.	Punjab	5	3	2
7.	Rajasthan	5	0	2
8.	Uttar Pradesh	36	29	18
9.	Andaman & Nicobar	0	0	0
10.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
11.	Assam	1	1	2
12.	Bihar	1	2	4
13.	Manipur	0	0	0
14.	Meghalaya	0	0	0
15.	Mizoram	0	0	0
16.	Nagaland	2	1	0
17.	Orissa	1	4	0
18.	Sikkim	0	0	0
19.	Tripura	0	0	0
20.	West Bengal	8	13	16
21.	Goa	0	0	0
22.	Gujarat	1	0	2
23.	Madhya Pradesh	4	9	11
24.	Maharashtra	1	5	1
25.	Andhra Pradesh	3	2	4
26.	Karnataka	11	10	1
27.	Kerala	0	0	2
28.	Lakshwadeep	0	0	0
29.	Pondicherry	0	0	0
30.	Tamil Nadu	5	6	0

Crude Processing Project in Assam

2879. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the project for processing Crude at Numaligarh Refinery, Assam is nearing completion;

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

(c) the estimated cost over-run of the project and the reasons for delay in commissioning the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The commissioning of the Refinery would start in April 1999 and is expected to be fully commissioned by June 1999.

(c) Government have conveyed approval for the Revised cost estimates of Numaligarh Refinery at an estimated cost of Rs. 2489.12 crores (December 1997 prices) with the completion schedule of December 1998. There will be no cost over-run as compared to the above approved estimated cost. Delay in commissioning by few months is mainly due to interruption in work arising out of disputes between contractors and their workmen over various retrenchment benefits as the project work is gradually coming to a close.

Filling up of Vacant Posts

2880. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of posts of Jr. Accounts officers could not be filled up due to non-availability of qualified JAOs in the Department of Telecom since 1990;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, circle-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether there is any proposal to fill up these vacant posts through direct recruitment upto 50 per cent;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether a number of employees who have passed only Part-I examination are officiating as JAOs in the Deptt. of Telecom;

(f) if so, whether there is any proposals to fill up the vacant posts in the Deptt. of Telecom by way of taking qualified JAOs on deputations basis or on regular basis; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to fill up these vacant posts in the Department of Telecom ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The posts were required to manage billing and account functions of a network of telephones which is growing at the rate of approximately 20%.

The year wise and circle wise break up of the vacancies in JAOs are as under:

Year	Vacancy Position	Remarks
1997	701	Circle wise position furnished in enclosed Statement-I
1998	1077(*)	Circle wise position furnished in enclosed Statement-II

Among the above vacancies, approximately (*) 700 candidates who qualified in the JAO Part-I examination are officiating.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. A proposal is being discussed at inter ministerial level.

(e) Yes Sir.

(f) Yes Sir, on deputation basis only.

(g) There is a proposal to take 235 qualified JAOs from the Deptt. of Posts on deputation basis. The Department is taking the following steps to fill up the vacant post of JAOs : (i) by conducting recruitment examination for Department candidates. (ii) by proposing direct recruitment upto 50% of the vacant posts.

Statement-I

Circle wise breakup of the Vacancies of JAOs as on 31-12-97

S.No.	Name of the Circle	Sanctioned Strength	Wkg. Strength	Vacancy Position
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Dte.	78	74	4
2.	A.P.	242	228	14
3.	Assam	45	42	3
4.	Bihar	101	96	5
5.	Gujarat	303	186	117
6.	Haryana	72	62	10
7.	H.P.	34	30	4
8.	J.K.	33	22	11
9.	Karnataka	241	193	48
10.	Kerala	181	179	2
11.	M.P.	157	135	22
12.	MHT	317	204	113
13.	N.E	38	33	5
14.	Orissa	67	62	5
15.	Punjab	115	88	27
16.	Rajasthan	195	182	13
17.	Tamil Nadu	203	195	8
18.	U.P. (East)	162	141	21
19.	U.P. (West)	86	71	15
20.	W.B.T.	76	75	1
21.	CTD	141	140	1
22.	MTD	105	96	9
23.	CGMP By	43	37	6
24.	CGMP MS	52	42	10

1	2	3	4	5
25. CGMP ND		46	43	3
26. CGMP Cal		37	35	2
27. CGMP WTR By		19	16	3
28. CGMP ETR Cal		18	17	1
29. CGMMSTR Ms		22	22	-
30. CGMM ND		31	23	8
31. CGM TS Cal		48	44	4
32. TTC Jabalpur		05	05	-
33. T & D Jabalpur		05	03	2
34. ALTTC Gzb		06	06	-
35. T.F. Guwahati		27	20	7
36. REP Nagpur		12	10	2
37. ITI B'lore		19	16	3
38. QA B'lore		05	05	-
39. CGM TF By		08	07	1
40. CGM TF Cell		14	12	2
41. CGM TF Jbp		14	10	4
42. Data Network		02	0	2
43. NCES		03	02	1
44. MTNL By		339	182	157
45. MTNL ND		296	271	25
46. A & N Island		3	3	-
Total		4066	3365	701

Statement -II*Circle-wise breakup of the Vacancies of JAOs as on 31-12-98*

Sl.No.	Name of the Circle	Sanctioned Strength	Wkg. Strength	Vacancy Position
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Dte.	78	77	1
2.	A.P.	268	221	47
3.	Assam	51	41	10
4.	Bihar	119	98	21
5.	Gujarat	301	190	111
6.	Haryana	84	67	17
7.	H.P.	45	31	14
8.	J.K.	31	20	11
9.	Karnataka	284	194	90
10.	Kerala	203	177	26
11.	M.P.	157	136	21
12.	MHT	390	193	197

1	2	3	4	5
13. NE		42	36	6
14. Orissa		78	69	9
15. Punjab		119	76	44
16. Rajasthan		201	177	26
17. Tamil Nadu		232	206	26
18. U.P. (East)		144	134	10
19. UP (West)		142	89	53
20. WBT		99	70	29
21. CTD		163	163	-
22. MTD		117	103	14
23. CGMP By.		42	34	8
24. CGMP Ms.		61	47	21
25. CGMP ND		44	44	-
26. CGMP Cal.		37	33	4
27. CGMM WTR By.		21	19	2
28. CGMM ETR Cal.		18	16	2
29. CGMM STR Ms.		23	19	4
30. CGMM ND		31	24	7
31. CGM TS Cal.		48	43	5
32. TTC Jabalpur		07	07	-
33. T&D Jabalpur		5	4	1
34. ALTTC GZB.		9	9	-
35. TF Guwahati		26	17	9
36. REP Nagpur		15	11	4
37. ITI Bangalore		25	20	5
38. QA Bangalore		5	3	2
39. CGM TF By.		8	6	2
40. CGM TF Cal.		14	12	2
41. CGM TF JBp		14	7	7
42. Data Network		2	1	1
43. NCES		3	3	-
44. MTNL By.		339	169	-
45. MTNL ND		296	258	208
46. A & N Island		3	3	-
Total		4444	3367	1077

*[Translation]***Transmission line from North Bihar to South Bihar**

2881. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the scheme to connect North Bihar with South Bihar through the transmission line; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) Two 220 KV D/C lines—one connecting Bihar sharif with Begusarai and the second connecting Fatwah with Muzaffarpur had been approved for connecting North Bihar with South Bihar as a Part of Sixth Plan transmission works and Fifth Plan transmission works of Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB) respectively. The transmission line between Fatwah and Muzaffarpur had been completed by BSEB including the Ganga river crossing. Subsequently, a few towers of Ganga river crossing portion collapsed. The line has not been restored by BSEB so far.

Though the Biharsharif-Begusarai line, was approved in September, 1982, BSEB have so far not completed the line due to delay in completion of Ganga river crossing at Hathidah and the line portion North of Ganga river up to Begusarai and the 220/132 KV sub-station at Begusarai. Part of this river crossing work has lately been awarded to POWER GRID to expedite the completion of the line

(b) The Biharsharif-Begusarai line is likely to be completed by June, 1999.

[English]

LPG Bottling Plants in Kerala

2882. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ratio of the LPG bottling plants in Kerala is minimum as compared to the population of the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken for setting up new bottling plants in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) LPG bottling plants are set up on the basis of techno-economic feasibility after taking into consideration the demand potential of packed LPG in the nearby consumption zones.

As on 01.01.99, the total installed bottling capacity in the country with PSU Oil Companies, was 3867 TMTA. In order to meet the future packed LPG demand, plans have been drawn by Oil Industry to augment the LPG bottling capacity in the country from 3867 TMTA as on 01.01.99 to 7558 TMTA by the end of IX Plan (2001-02). The details of existing LPG bottling capacity and new capacity proposed to be developed in the State of Kerala as of 01.01.99, is given as under

(Figures in TMTA)

Bottling Plant	Oil Company	Existing Bottling Capacity as on 01.01.99	Additions under IX Plan (Balance)	Bottling Capacity Planned as on 01.04.02
Cochin	IOC	44	44	88
Trivandrum	BPC	44	—	44
Calicut	IOC	22	—	22
Palghat	HPC	10	24	34
Quilon	IOC	12	—	12
Cochin	BPC	—	22	22
Total		132	90	222

Purchase of Medicines by Various Systems in CGHS

2883. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the procedure adopted by the various systems of medicine for the purchase of Patent medicines in CGHS for their dispensaries/units;

(b) whether these procedures are often changed;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is any prescribed rules for the purchase of medicines for Ayurveda, Siddha, Homoeopathy, Yoga and Naturopathy; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) The procedure adopted by various systems for purchase of patent medicines in CGHS are as follows :-

Allopathic System :- All formulary medicines are procured from MSO (DGHS), a Govt. of India Organisation.

Siddha System :- The purchase of P/P Siddha medicines are being made on the basis of open tender system. All the process calling of tenders, opening of tenders, testing of Samples, and finalising the rate contract of the medicines are being done in CGHS, Chennai and they supply medicines to CGHS, Delhi (Siddha Unit) as per requirement.

Ayurvedic system :- The purchase of P/P Ayurvedic medicines are being made on the basis of provisioning of the medicines every year.

Homeopathic System :- In Homeopathic system, no patent medicines are purchased.

Unani System :- The following procedure is adopted for purchase of patent items in Unani system of medicines in CGHS by constituting four Committees i.e. (1) Purchase Advisory Committee (Unani) (2) Committee for preparation of CGHS Unani Formulary for Delhi and outside Delhi (3) Committees for preparation CGHS provisioning medicines for Delhi (4) Committee for inspection of fresh arrivals of Unani medicines at Unani Medical Store Depot.

(b) No, Sir.

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

(d) and (e) The information in respect of purchase of Ayurvedic medicines may be seen in the enclosed Statement-I.

The information in respect of procurement of Homoeopathic medicines may be seen in the enclosed Statement-II.

The information for purchase of Siddha medicines may be seen in the enclosed Statement-III.

No medicines are purchased for Yoga System.

No medicine is purchased under Naturopathy system by CGHS.

Statement-I

Ayurveda

The purchase of P/P Ayurvedic medicines are being made within sanctioned provisioning. The provisioning of the medicines is being made by the Provisioning Committee constituted for the particular year. The provisioning of Ayurvedic P/P medicines is being worked out on the pattern given by the DPAR i.e. monthly average consumption of last three years is to be taken into consideration of individual medicines. Besides this, the trend of consumption as well as period of availability during last year, stock in hand on 1st April and supply due is also to be deducted from the total quantity required.

Statement-II

Procedure for Inclusion of New Firms/Suppliers in the Approved List Under C.G.H.S. and Procurement and Supply of Drugs

1. Registration of Firms

The advertisement for registration of New Firms is made once in every two years through DAVP in all leading newspapers for prominent display all over the country in English and Hindi inviting applications for supply of drugs to Homeopathic Stores under C.G.H.S.

To maintain complete uniformity in methodology for inclusion of new suppliers of all systems of medicines under C.G.H.S., the procedure for registration of firms are strictly and scrupulously followed according to the norms/standards prescribed in Chapter-IV. Item 17 to 28 of Medical Store Manual, M/o Health & Family Welfare. The application for registration are issued under signatures of Additional Director (Stores) and obtainable from respective stores of different disciplines.

According to a decision taken by C.G.H.S. Homeopathic Purchase Advisory Committee the Firms holding a valid Drug Manufacturing Licence are only eligible for registration for supply of Homeopathic Medicines. The Firms qualifying for registration as approved supplier are registered for 2 years.

After the required documents/informations are received from Firms the C.G.H.S. Purchase Advisory Committee recommends the eligible firms for approval of competent authority.

2. C.G.H.S. Homeopathic Formulary

The formulary is revised once in every 2 years by inviting suggestions for Addition/Deletion from Homeopathic Incharges in Delhi and Outside. The suggestions received are screened by a preliminary committee constituting of all Incharges of Dispensaries in Delhi. The final list of drugs in the Formulary is placed before C.G.H.S. Homeopathic Formulary Advisory Committee for approval.

This formulary is the official schedule appended to Rate Enquiry for purchase of Homoeo. Medicines in C.G.H.S. duly approved by Director, C.G.H.S.

3. Tender Rate Enquiry

The annual tender is sent to registered approved suppliers of Homoeo. Medicines and Sundry Goods. The current formulary is appended as schedule of Rate Enquiry on which the rates are invited. The firms are also required to submit 3-samples of each item specified in the schedule at the time of submission of tender.

The quotations are opened in the Homeopathic Store Depot in the presence of tender opening committee and representative of firms. The terms and conditions are read out of each firm before their representatives and then signed on each page by the members of the tender opening committee. Thereafter the opened tenders are handed over to Officer Incharge Homoeo. Stores for preparing comparative statement.

4. Procedure of Rate Contract and Protocol testing

The Samples received alongwith Tender are opened in presence of committee members. The list of samples of each firm is then made and one set of each item is sent to Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Labs. Ghaziabad, M/O Health & F.W. for quality analysis. One set of each samples is retained in Homoeo. Store Depot as protocol sample/ Technical sample.

The firms whose sample for any item if fails on testing at HPL are not eligible for consideration for the rate contract of such items even if their rates are lowest.

The result of protocol testing of each firm for each group of medicines according to the CGHS Formulary is recorded in the comparative statement. The rates accepted are approved by Purchase Advisory Committee. The Rates Contract are issued to Firms and all CGES establishments all over India.

5. Annual Provisioning

The annual forecasting for CGHS Delhi is made by a Committee according to DPAR forms taking into account average consumption of 3-consecutive years and quantity finalised for 16 months on the basis of prescribed proforma which includes buffer stock of 4-months. *The supply order quantities are placed for 4/6 month requirement of each item on the basis of annual provisioning.*

6. Acceptance of Supply

On receipt of supplies the items are sent for testing again to Homoeo. Pharmacopoeia Laboratory, Ghaziabad. The methodology adopted for collection of samples approved in consultation with Deputy Drug Controller of India is as follows:-

- (i) Random samples may be collected in respect of Homoeo. Dilutions (Group 'A' of CGHS Homoeo. Formulary) exclusively on the direction of C.M.O. (homeopathy).
- (ii) Random samples to the extent of 10% items supplied for Group-A,B,C,D,E,&G as per Formulary.
- (iii) 100% sampling for items under Group 'F'.
- (iv) In case of a New Firm the Homoeo. Dilutions must be tested to the extent of 10% of items supplied and 50% for Group B,C,D,E,& G and 100% for all items under Group 'F' atleast for first two years. On receipt of satisfactory test report, the acceptance of supply is made by issuing the Inspection Note and taking them on charge in Ledgers.

7. Supply of Drugs to Dispensaries

Immediately on acceptance of supply, the store information is circulated to the Dispensaries of fresh arrivals. The dispensaries have been issued the roster of regular indents for their quantity requirement of medicines. In addition supplementary indents are also received from if fresh arrivals are received. The dispensaries also place By Hand indents if medicines are required urgently. A constant monitoring is made to keep on inventory control before stock is depleted to red alert.

8. Patient/Brand Named Medicines

There are no patent or proprietary drugs purchased in Homoeopathy. CGHS has prescribed its own formulations for some items in consultation with Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Committee and Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Laboratory. All Homoeo. medicines are in their generic/ Latin original names of single drug ingredient.

Statement -III

SIDDHA

As per the decision and approval of the Siddha Drug Purchase Advisory Committee the required medicines of the Siddha Unit being purchased on the basis of last year expenditure.

Share of IOC in Lubricant Market

2884. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state

- (a) the market share of Indian Oil Corporation in the lubricant market during the last three year, year-wise;
- (b) whether thirty per cent of the profits of the large national oil companies come from lubricants; and
- (c) if so, the improvement made in technology in view of the fact that the market is technology driven rather than volume driven?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The market share of Indian Oil Corporation in the lubricants market in the last three years is given below:

Year	Percentage Share
1995-96	40.7%
1996-97	38.9%
1997-98	37.7%
April 98 to Jan' 99	42.1%

(b) The profits from lubricant business constitutes approximately 15-20% of the total profits of the oil marketing companies.

(c) The oil companies have been continuously upgrading their lubricants technology specification by specific upgradation of products, process and packaging to meet the international standards.

Oil Exploration in Coastal Area of Guntur and Krishna to Private Companies

2885. SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether an onland block was offered in the eighth falling in the Coastal area of Guntur and Krishna Districts (KG-ON/1) to a group of private companies in 1998;
- (b) if so, whether any drilling work was done by these companies in the said block;

- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
 (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Yes Sir, onland block KG-ON/1 was awarded to the consortium led by M/s Tullow India Operations Ltd., as operator and M/s Larsen & Tubro and Joshi Technologies Inc. as other J.V. partners.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. At present study and review of existing data is underway in this block. Further work can commence after grant of Petroleum Exploration License for which recommendation has been sent to the State Government. The minimum work programme provides for drilling commitment in the second and third exploration phases in case the contractor elects to go into those phases.

Method of Sealing LPG Cylinders

2886. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the present method of sealing the LPG cylinders by various oil companies is satisfactory;
 (b) if so, the fact in this regard;
 (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
 (d) the action taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government to make the present method of sealing adopted by various companies fool proof and ensure uniformity in the method of sealing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. The present method of sealing the LPG cylinders is satisfactory as reported by Public Sector Oil Companies.

- (b) The cylinders after filling at the Bottling plant are sealed and 100% checks are carried out to check the sealing quality.
 (c) Does not arise, in view of (b) above.
 (d) Public Sector Oil Companies carry out elaborate quality checks on each cylinder filled at the bottling plants. After passing all the quality control checks at the LPG bottling plants, each and every cylinder is sealed before it is loaded and despatched to the LPG distributors. Oil Companies use only aluminium and PVC seal to ensue that the LPG cylinders are not tampered with before delivery to the consumers.

Agreement between ENRON and Shipping Corporation of India

2887. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :
 SHRI PRASED BABURAO TANPURE :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether United States power major Enron has signed an agreement with the Shipping Corporation of India to transport liquified natural gas from Gulf to Dabhol power project; and
 (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Mitsui OSK Lines Ltd. (MOL) and Atlantic Commercial Finance Inc., a company organised and existing under the laws of Delaware, USA, (referred as Enron) for formation of a Joint Venture Company to facilitate the financing, construction, ownership and operation of 135,000 cubic meter LNG Tanker which is intended to be utilized by an Enron affiliate in connection with the transportation of LNG to Power Project located at Dabhol in Maharashtra, India. The total equity participation of the three promoters is proposed to be in the following ratio:

- Mitsui OSK Lines Ltd. (MOL) : 60%
- Atlantic Commercial Finance Inc : 20%
- Shipping Corporation of India : 20%

Indian Forest Act, 1927

2888. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have amended Indian Forest Act, 1927; and
 (b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) The Government of India have not amended the Indian Forest Act, 1927.

- (b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Production and Supply of LPG

2889. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) the total production of LPG during the last three years;

- (b) whether this production is sufficient to meet its demand;
- (c) the position with regard to demand and supply of LPG in Maharashtra during the last three years, district-wise;
- (d) whether the Government propose to supply LPG through pipeline in Maharashtra; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

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) : (a) and (b) The actual LPG production in the country during the last three years i.e. from 1995-96 to 1997-98 was 10,053 TMT. The demand for LPG exceeds LPG availability through indigenous production and possible imports.

- (c) The demand of LPG customers who are enrolled with the oil companies in the State of Maharashtra has been met in full. Whenever any normal backlog develops, PSU oil companies take immediate measures to meet the demand in the affected markets by operating LPG bottling plants during extended hours and on Sundays and holidays to clear the LPG backlogs.
- (d) Presently, there is no proposal of the Government to supply LPG to consumers through pipelines in Maharashtra.
- (e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

[English]

Paucity of Funds with IOC to Execute Contracts

2890. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Indian Oil Corporation has no funds to execute contracts for the import of petroleum products;
- (b) if so, the facts in this regard; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government in the matter ?

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) : (a) Imports of petroleum products are made in line with the approved plan to meet the demand. There is no paucity of funds with IOC to execute contracts for import of petroleum products.

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

LPG Connection in Cauvery River Delta Area

2891. SHRI K. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a large number of people are waiting for new LPG connections and for additional cylinder in the Cauvery River Delta Area;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to set up more LPG outlets to reduce the gap of demand and supply in the region;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The number of persons on the waiting list registered with LPG distributors of the PSU Oil Companies in the country as on 01.01.99 was about 133.5 lakhs including 14.31 lakhs in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(c) to (e) New LPG distributorships are set up on the basis of the LPG Marketing Plan prepared based on the feasibility and the economic viability of the distributors. There are about 2000 new locations included in the LPG Marketing Plan 1996-98 to cater to the demand of LPG mainly in the rural areas. The availability of LPG is also expected to increase with the commissioning of new sources of LPG production, imports and liberalization in marketing of LPG. With this the gap between the demand and supply in LPG will narrow down.

Forests of Suhlewa Range

2892. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Forests of 'Suhlewa Range' areas comes under the Project Tiger;
- (b) if so, the funds allocated for the said range during each of the last three years, year-wise;
- (c) the number of tigers in the said range at present;
- (d) whether there has been any increase/decrease in the tiger population;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether any Non-Government Organisation has been directed to record the population of tiger since the start of Project Tiger; and
- (g) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) to (e) According to the quardrennial All India Tiger Estimation carried out in 1997, the tiger population in Suhlewa Wildlife Sanctuary is 42. The tiger population in North Gonda and East Bahriach Forest Divisions of Uttar Pradesh was 40 in 1993. The Suhlewa Sanctuary has been carved out from these two Forest Divisions.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Question does not arise.

Vigilance Inquiries

2893. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many vigilance inquiries have been pending against the senior doctors in the Central Institute of Orthopaedic, Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the date from which those inquiries have been pending, giving the reasons for delay in finalising them; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to finalise them expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (c) In November, 1998, a Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. P.K. Dave, Director, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, to inquire into the complaints received from Dr. V.P. Bansal, on the functioning of Central Institute of Orthopaedics, Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi, concerning corruption and mismanagement. Similarly complaints from eight doctors of Central Institute of Orthopaedics, Safdarjung Hospital against Dr. V.P. Bansal was also referred to the committee.

The Committee's Report is awaited.

[Translation]

Installation of PCO Based on M.A.R.R. System

2894. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of M.A.R.R. PCOs installed in Murena Thyaopur Kalan districts in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the said PCOs are functioning properly;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) and (b) The information is furnished as below :

	Distt. Morena	Distt. Sheopur Kalan
No. of Village Public Telephone (VPT)s provided on MARR)	380	250
VPTs functioning properly	307	173
VPTs not functioning properly	73	77

(c) Some of the MARR equipment is not found to be very stable.

- It takes long time to repair the faulty equipment.

- The incidence of faults is also higher because of lack of attention by some of the custodians and frequent and prolonged power failure in rural areas.

(d) (i) The faulty base stations, equipment as well as SREs of MARR systems are being got repaired by DOT staff as well as by the manufacturer suppliers;

(ii) Solar panels on most of the VPTs of MARR are being installed;

(iii) Monitoring of VPT faults at SSA level and circle level is being done on dally basis;

(iv) All efforts are being made to repair the faulty VPTs and keep them in satisfactory working order.

[English]

Selection Committee for Distributors of Petroleum Products in North-Eastern States

2895. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Selection Committee for selecting the distributors of petroleum products in the North-Eastern States has been constituted;

(b) if so, the composition thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ; and

(d) the time by which the Committee is likely to be constituted?

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) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

Shri Justice (Retd.) Yendrebam Ibotombi Singh has been appointed as Chairman, Dealer Selection Board for North-Eastern States. Besides the Chairman, the Dealer Selection Board includes two Members representing the oil companies. The Members are nominated by the Director (Marketing) or Executive Director of the oil companies not before three days of the interviews.

(c) and (d) : Do not arise.

[Translation]

LPG/Petrol /Diesel Pumps in U.P. and Haryana

2896. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the new diesel/petrol pumps/LPG agencies proposed to be opened in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana during the current year, district wise; and

(b) the number of the new diesel, petrol pumps and gas agencies operating in the said States at present alongwith the locations thereof ?

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) : (a) 169 Retail Outlets and 418 LPG distributorships for U.P. and 17 retail outlets and 42 LPG distributorships for Haryana have been included in the RO and LPG marketing plans 1996-98.

(b) 2289 retail outlets and 680 LPG distributorships in U.P. and 568 retail outlets and 177 LPG distributorships in Haryana were in operation as on 1.10.1998.

Ban on Ships Carrying Toxic Scrap

2897. SHRI MOTILAL VORA :
SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH :

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Jehrela Jalpoton Ko scrap ke liye asia mein bhejne per pabandi ki mang" appearing in 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated January 14, 1999;

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

(c) whether such ships have been coming to India for scrap for a long time and the Government have been asked from time to time to check it; and

(d) if so, the time by which the entry of such ships in India for scrap would be banned completely and the reasons for delay in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the report of Gujarat Maritime Board, steps have been initiated in Alang Ship-breaking yard for modernisation of solid waste management and providing safety equipments like helmets, dark glasses, shoes and gloves to the labourers. There is also a provision for 24 hour medical facility at the yard. An Advisory Committee was constituted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests to advise the Ministry on various aspects pertaining to the regulation of ship breaking activity for the purpose of environmental planning and management including the handling of hazardous waste. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has issued environmental guidelines for ship breaking industries regarding environmental management plans for disposal of solid waste, oil and oil sludge and other wastes and circulated to the State Pollution Control Boards. The status of implementation of the Guidelines is monitored by CPCB on a regular basis.

(c) and (d) The import of ships are under Open General Licence from 23rd October, 1989 and there is at present no proposal to ban ship breaking in the country.

[English]

Establishment of Medical Colleges in M.P.

2898. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a medical college in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have given their clearance for the same; and

(d) if not, the time by which the clearance is likely to be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Solar Energy Programme

2899. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of financial assistance provided for the Solar Energy Programme in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the target fixed for implementation of this programme;

(c) whether the Government have found any irregularities in implementation of this programme; and

(d) the action being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) The financial assistance provided to Madhya Pradesh under various solar energy schemes of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources during the last three years is as follows :

Year	Financial Assistance (Rs. Lakhs)
1995-96	6.17
1996-97	76.61
1997-98	76.09

(b) The following targets have been allocated to Madhya Pradesh for implementation during 1998-99 :

Solar Cookers	7,500 nos.
Solar Lanterns	2,000 nos.
Solar Home Systems	2,000 nos.
Street Lighting Systems	200 nos.

(c) and (d) The Lokayukt of Madhya Pradesh is investigating a case pertaining to the procurement and distribution of solar lanterns in the State during 1995-96. The report of the Lokayukt is awaited.

[English]

Modernisation of National Hydro-Electric Power Corporation

2900. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any plan for the modernization of National Hydro-Electric Power Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Government have not formulated any plan for the modernisation of the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (N.H.P.C.).

[Translation]

Subletting of Licences

2901. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY :
SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of licensees of chemist shops in Delhi have sublet their licences to others;

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

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter;

(d) whether very few chemist shops have the licence to store some vital drugs and vaccines;

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to remedy the situation;

(f) whether some shops are also selling physician samples and expired drugs; and

(g) if so, the action the Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIDALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) No such instance of subletting of licences by the licensed chemist shops has come to the notice of the Drugs control Department of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Retail chemists having required storage facilities for preserving the properties of vital drugs and vaccines as stipulated under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules 1945, have been granted license for stocking and selling these items.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) No instance of selling of date of expired medicines/physician samples was detected by the Drug Control Department, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi during the course of inspections including special programmes/surveys carried out by them during the period 1997-98 and 1998-99 (upto February, 1999).

Allotment of PCOs/STD/ISD Booths in Mumbai

2902. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of PCOs/ STD/ISD booths installed in Mumbai during the last three years;

(b) the number of applications lying pending for sanction of such booths; and

(c) the time by which these applications are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) The number of PCOs/ISD/STD booths installed in Mumbai during the last three years is given below:-

Year	STD/ISD	Local
1995-96	1374	6078
1996-97	1596	5767
1997-98	1852	5897

(b) The number of applications pending for allotment of STD booth are:-

(i)	Local PCOs	-	1479
(ii)	STD PCOs	-	454

(c) The pending applications are likely to be cleared progressively by May 99 subject to technical feasibility and the applicants fulfilling the order conditions.

[English]

Indigenous Cure for Blood Pressure

2903. SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Doctors at Kasturba Medical College in Manipal have invented that Blood Pressure can be reduced by taking plain a day;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to go in for further investigations/research in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including the medical institutes in which further research is proposed to be carried out ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (c) The preliminary work of the scientists of Kasturba Medical College, Manipal suggests that consumption of bananas may prove to be beneficial to hypertensive individuals. However, extensive studies are to be carried out to isolate active antihypertensive principle present in bananas. Further studies are also needed to establish the dosage Schedule.

(d) Does not arise.

Power Projects in Gujarat

2904. SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up power plants in Gujarat in collaboration with the foreign firms from Germany and Italy as reported in the Times of India (Ahmedabad) dated December 19, 1998.

(b) if so, the details thereof including the capacity generation and equity break up; and

(c) the time by which these plants are likely to be made operational?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Coverage of MP Under CGHS

2905. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Madhya Pradesh has been covered under the Central Government Health scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to cover Madhya Pradesh under the said scheme; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) CGHS facilities to the Central Govt. employees/pensioners are available in the city of Jabalpur (M.P.).

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

(d) and (e) A proposal to cover Bhopal, under CGHS has been included in the Ninth Five Year Plan which has not yet been finalised by the Government.

Non-Payment of Licence Fees by Foreign Private Telecom Operators

2906. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are huge arrears of licence fee to be paid by Foreign Private Telecom Licence holders;

- (b) if so, the details thereof, company-wise ;
- (c) whether any plea has been made by licencees for non-payment of arrears;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken to recover the outstanding dues from them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) Sir, Licences have been awarded to Indian Registered Companies only.

(b) Company-wise details of outstanding dues as on 28.2.99 in respect of Cellular and Basic Service are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Sir, The operators have, inter alia, represented that their original projections with respect to viability of these projects have not proved to be correct.

(e) Letters were issued to Cellular and Basic Service operators on 25.1.99 asking them to clear the outstanding dues together with interest thereon immediately. In case of their inability to clear the entire amount in lumpsum immediately, payment of at least 20% to more of the total dues was to be made by 15.2.99. The operators were further asked to enhance the Financial Bank Guarantees to cover the amount outstanding after deducting the amount paid. This date was later extended to 28.2.99. Payments from 14 operators have since been received.

Statement

Statement showing the outstanding dues from cellular and Basic service operators, position as on 28-2-99

Name of the Company	Service	Amount of Licence fee Outstanding (Rs. in Crores)
1	2	3
1. M/s. Aircel Digilink India Ltd.	CMTS	235.22
2. M/s. Birla AT & T Ltd.	"	345.17
3. M/s. Fascel Ltd.	"	288.01
4. M/s. Escotel Mobile Communications	"	44.34
5. M/s. Hexacom India Ltd.	"	57.81
6. M/s. JT Mobiles Ltd.	"	711.98
7. M/s. Koshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	"	366.69
8. M/s. Modicom Network Pvt. Ltd.	"	263.73
9. M/s. RPG Cellcom Ltd.	"	3.09
10. M/s. Reliance Telecom Ltd.	"	80.72

	1	2	3
11. M/s. Tata Communication Ltd.	"		79.80
12. M/s. BPL US West Cellular	"		207.81
13. M/s. Bharti Cellular	"		24.47
14. M/s. BPL Mobile Communications	"		22.82
15. M/s. H. Max Telecom	"		25.00
16. M/s. Modi Telestra	"		9.51
17. M/s. RPG Cellular	"		2.47
18. M/s. Sterling Cellular	"		16.71
19. M/s. Skycell Communications	"		3.98
20. M/s. Usha Martin Telecom	"		0.92
21. M/s. Tata Teleservices		Basic	128.13
22. M/s. Reliance		"	103.70
23. M/s. Bharti Telenet		"	16.35
24. M/s. Hughes Ispat		"	422.33
25. M/s. Essar Comvion		"	141.02
Total			3601.78

Remarks : The above figures include interest upto 31-1-99

CMTS : Cellular Mobile Telephone Service

Basic : Basic Telecom Service

WB Loan for Modernisation of Blood Banks

2907. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government have received any loan from the World Bank for the modernisation of Blood Banks in the country;
- (b) if so, the amount thereof; and
- (c) the manner in which it is likely to be utilized, state-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) National AIDS Control Programme is being implemented with assistance from World Bank to the extent of US\$ 84 million and modernization of Blood Banks is one of the components of the programme. No separate assistance has been provided for this component by the World Bank. However, a total of Rs. 250.02 crores has even allocated during 1992-93 to 1998-99 for modernisation of Blood Banks and supply of safe blood and blood products.

(c) The pattern of financial assistance is indicated in the Statement-I enclosed. So for 815 Blood Banks have been modernised under Blood Safety Programme. State-wise number of Blood Banks modernised so far is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I*Pattern of Financial Assistance Under Blood Safety Programme*

A: Blood Component Separation Facilities:	40
B: Equipments	Rs. 27.69 lakhs (one time)
C: Consumables:	Rs. 12.00 lakhs per annum
D: Salaries of one technical assistant (2000-3000)	Rs. 1.00 lakhs per annum
E: Contingency:	Rs. 1.00 lakhs per annum
Total:	Rs. 41.69 lakhs per annum
Modernisation of Blood Banks:	
(i) Major Blood Banks:	
F: Equipments:	Rs. 3.19 lakhs (one time)
G: Consumables:	Rs. 3.00 lakhs per annum
H: Salary of one technician:	Rs. 0.60 lakhs per annum
Total:	Rs. 6.79 lakhs per annum
(ii) District Level Blood Banks:	
I: Equipments:	Rs. 1.25 lakhs (one time)
J: Consumables:	Rs. 1.25 lakhs per annum
K: Salary of one technician:	Rs. 0.60 lakhs per annum
Total:	Rs. 3.10 lakhs
Zonal Blood Testing Centres:	
L: Salaries of two Technical Assistants per ZBTC 1640-2900 (in lieu of one Technician for each blood bank)	Rs. 1.20 lakhs per annum
M: Consumables:	Rs. 0.30 lakhs per annum
N: HIV Test Kits and Kits for Quality control and ELISA Readers:	As required.

Statement-II*List of Blood Banks Modernised*

Sl.No.	Name of State/U.T.	No. of Blood Banks
1.	Andhra Pradesh	60
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	06
3.	Assam	18
4.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	02
5.	Bihar	51
6.	Chandigarh Admn.	03
7.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	01
8.	Daman & Diu	01
9.	Delhi	14
10.	Goa	03
11.	Gujarat	55
12.	Haryana	18
13.	Himachal Pradesh	09
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	13
15.	Kernataka	52
16.	Kerala	35
17.	Lakshawdeep	01
18.	Madhya Pradesh	49
19.	Maharashtra	71
20.	Manipur	03
21.	Meghalaya	03
22.	Mizoram	04
23.	Nagaland	03
24.	Orissa	45
25.	Pondicherry	02
26.	Punjab	32
27.	Rajasthan	18
28.	Sikkim	02
29.	Tamil Nadu	93
30.	Tripura	06
31.	Uttar Pradesh	68
32.	West Bengal	74
Total		815

Guidelines for Hi-Tech Equipments

2908. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the guidelines prescribed by the Medical Council of India with regard to Hi-tech equipments in the Government hospitals in Karnataka;

(b) whether the Union Government have released any assistance to Karnataka to procure Hi-tech equipments; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) The Medical Council of India has not prescribed any guidelines with regard to Hi-tech equipments.

(b) and (c) 'Health' is a State subject under the Constitution of India and it is the responsibility of respective State Governments to provide equipments in the hospitals under their control. Information regarding assistance given by the Union Government to Karnataka to procure Hi-tech equipments is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Appointment of Special Metropolitan Magistrates

2909. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to appoint 'Special Metropolitan Magistrates' in order to dispose of the minor offences in Delhi speedily;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Amendment to CCS (MA) Rules

2910. SHRI VITHAL TUPE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has been accepted in principle to extend CCS (MS) Rules, 1944 to the Central Government Pensioners residing in Non-CGHS areas;

(b) if so, the reasons for not issuing the necessary amendment to relevant rules so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) The issue of extension of CS(MR) Rules, 1944, to the Central Government pensioners residing in areas not covered by CGHS is still under examination of the Government.

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

Internet Services in Jammu and Kashmir

2911. SHRI CHAMAN LAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) whether the subscribers of the internet services in Jammu and Kashmir are facing difficulties due to the non-availability of such facilities at Jammu; and

(b) if so, the steps taken proposed to be taken for providing the said services at Jammu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) No, Sir. The Internet Node is already working at Jammu.

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

[Translation]

Telephone connections

2912. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) the number of applications on the waiting list for telephone connections in various telephone exchanges under Patan Region of Gujarat, Raigad district in Maharashtra and Asansol region;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide telephone connections at the earliest and for expansion of telephone exchanges in the said regions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) and (b) The detail information is enclosed in Statement.

(c) Necessary steps have been taken for procurement of the equipments and materials wherever required for expansion of telephone exchanges in the said regions. The waiting list as on 28.2.1999 is likely to be cleared progressively during the next financial year 1999-2000.

Statement

For Patan Region of Gujarat

S. No.	Name of exchange	Waiting list as on 28.2.1999
1	2	3
1.	Amarpura	76
2.	Balisana	198
3.	Bhilwan	56
4.	Chandrumana	2
5.	Dudharampura	26
6.	Jangral	101
7.	Kamliwada	150
8.	Kansa	63
9.	Katra	20
10.	Khimivana	26
11.	Kungher	59
12.	Pali	138
13.	Patan	355
14.	Ranuj	125
15.	Sarivad	58
16.	Vayad	50

Raigarh District in Maharashtra

S.No.	Name of exchange	Waiting list as on 28.2.1999
1	2	3
1.	Alibag City	103
2.	Sasawane	12
3.	Thal	08
4.	Zirad	07
5.	Hasware	07
6.	Kurdus	06
7.	Nagaon	03
8.	Parhur	96
9.	Poynad	24
10.	Borlimandla	01
11.	Murud	06
12.	Nandgaon	05
13.	Khopoli	210
14.	Mahad City	32
15.	Birwadi	06
16.	Chimbhave	01
17.	Mahad MIDC	02
18.	Nagaon (Mahad)	01

1	2	3
19.	Nathe	01
20.	Upper Tudil	15
21.	Varndh	01
22.	Vinere	06
23.	Paithan	07
24.	Poladpur	04
25.	Wave	02
26.	Goregaon	07
27.	Sai	01
28.	Mangaon	01
29.	Tala	07
30.	Talsheth	02
31.	Vile	01
32.	Ambet	01
33.	Khamgaon	03
34.	Lipinwave	02
35.	Mazgaon Tamhane	02
36.	Mendadi	05
37.	Mhsala	06
38.	Aravi	03
39.	Bagmndala	01
40.	Pangloli	02
41.	Borlipanchaytan	07
42.	Saigaon	01
43.	Pali	01
44.	Pedali	01
45.	Jite	03
46.	Johe	01
47.	Pen	18
48.	Varsai	01
49.	Ghosala	02
50.	Kolad	06
51.	Meda	01
52.	Roha	14
53.	Suttarwadi	05
54.	Kadav	10
55.	Karjat	05
56.	Kalamb	03
57.	Neral	07
58.	Chirner	03
59.	Palspe	42
60.	Pirkon	34
61.	Barpada	02
62.	Khanavale	10
63.	Patalganga	01

<i>For Asansol region</i>		
S.No.	Name of exchange	Waiting list as on 28.2.1999
1	2	3
1.	Andal	19
2.	Asansol	514
3.	Bahula	20
4.	Barakar	70
5.	Bogra	7
6.	Burnpur	170
7.	Chinchuria	1
8.	Chittaranjan	264
9.	Churulia	8
10.	Domohani	14
11.	Jemuriahat	4
12.	Jhanjra	4
13.	Kajora	12
14.	Kulti	67
15.	Kumarpur	128
16.	Neemaipur	0
17.	Nutandanga	66
18.	Pandaveswar	14
19.	Panuria	35
20.	Raniganj	189
21.	Rupnaryanpur	31
22.	Ukhra	46

[English]

Loan Sanctioned by PFC for Power Projects

2913. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Power Finance Corporation has sanctioned Rs.10,306 crore loan in the first nine months of the current fiscal year in the power sector;

(b) if so, the names of power projects for which this loan has been sanctioned; and

(c) if so, the names of States where these power projects are proposed to be set up and the total power generation likely to be achieved therefrom ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (c) The Power Finance Corporation has sanctioned Rs.2662 crores in the first nine months of the cur-

rent financial year i.e. from April, 1998 to December, 1998. A list indicating the names of the Power Projects/consultancy/study and the name of the States to whom these loans have been sanctioned is given in the inclosed Statement. The total

power generation likely to be achieved from the generation projects for which loans have been sanctioned is estimated about 3040 MW.

Statement

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Name of the Project	State/SEB	Amount Sanctioned
1	2	3	4
(A) Project Loans			
1.	220/132 KV S/S AT NARKATTAPALLY & POWER EVAC. LINES FROM ER	APSEB	57.60
2.	R&M OF NAMRUP TPS UNIT 1 TO 6	ASEB	30.30
3.	R&M OF LAKWA TPS UNIT 1 TO 7	ASEB	53.35
4.	R&M OF CHANDRAPUR TPS UNIT-1	ASEB	4.28
5.	ADD. R&M PHASE-II OF WANAKBORI TPS	GEB	63.00
6.	500 MVAR HT CAPACITOR BANKS	GEB	15.80
7.	220 KV D/C MANGROL-MOBHA, MANGROL-ZAGODIA LINES & S/S	GEB	26.30
8.	REPL. OF CYCLONE DAMAGED 220/132 KV 'TRANS. LINES & EQUIPMENT	GEB	20.60
9.	REPL OF CYCLONE DAMAGED UD SYSTEM EQUIPMENT	GEB	3.56
10.	PANIPAT TPS UNIT 6	HSEB	300.00
11.	RM&U OF PONG HEP	HARY.GOV'T	0.90
12.	71 MVAR CAPACITOR BANKS	HPSEB	2.70
13.	220 KV THEIN-JASSORE S/C LINE	HPSEB	5.70
14.	AUG. OF 220 KV JASSORE S/S	HPSEB	3.10
15.	66/11 KV TRANSFR AT PARWANOO & ASSO.WORKS	HPSEB	1.60
16.	LOWER PERIYAR HEP	KSEB	9.00
17.	PORINGALKUTHU LEFT BANK EXTN. HEP	KSEB	2.60
18.	BANSAGAR TONS HEP (COMMON WATER CARRIER & HEAD REGULATOR)	MPEB	92.00
19.	BANSAGAR TONS HEP PH-II & PH-III	MPEB	93.00
20.	R&M CHANDRAPUR TPS	MSEB	24.30
21.	ADDL. R&M OF BHUSAWAL TPS	MSEB	5.75
22.	ADDL. R&M OF KHAPERKHEDA TPS	MSEB	11.00
23.	ADDL. R&M OF PARLI TPS	MSEB	14.50
24.	EVAC. OF POWER FROM KHAPARKHEDA TPS EXTN. UNITS 3&4	MSEB	50.50
25.	220 KV S/S IN DISTRICT BEED	MSEB	39.00

1	2	3	4
26.	220 KV S/S IN DISTRICT PUNE (PHURSUNGI)	MSEB	32.00
27.	AMBER NATH	MSEB	9.90
28.	BADLAPUR	MSEB	4.80
29.	VASAI-VIRAR	MSEB	5.80
30.	DHULE	MSEB	9.30
31.	KAU-TLABUNG SMALL HEP	MIZORAM	3.43
32.	TEIRI SMALL HEP	MIZORAM	5.00
33.	TUIPANG LUI SMALL HEP	MIZORAM	3.60
34.	METER TESTING LABS AT DIMAPUR & KOHIMA	NAGALAND	3.80
35.	BALIMELA HEP EXTN. UNITS 7&8	OHPC	37.10
36.	JALANDHAR	PSEB	22.40
37.	SURATGARH TPS UNIT-II	RSEB	300.00
38.	RM&U OF PONG HEP	RAJ. GOVT.	3.10
39.	RENOVATION & REFURBISHMENT OF ENNORE TPS	TNEB	239.00
40.	230 KV D/C METTUR-HOSUR MISSING TRANS. LINK & ASSO. WORKS	TNEB	42.00
41.	AMBUR	TNEB	26.60
42.	TRIUPATTUR	TNEB	3.70
43.	VANIYAMBADI	TNEB	3.60
44.	ALIYAR SMALL HEP	TNEB	5.00
45.	MUKURUTHY MINI HEP	TNEB	2.50
46.	PERUNCHANI DAM MINI HEP	TNEB	3.50
47.	THIRUMURTHY DAM MINI HEP	TNEB	6.00
48.	STUDY PHASE-I FOR DMS AT LUCKNOW	UPSEB	1.46
49.	R&M AND LE OF DPL STATION	DPL	286.82
50.	220/33 KV TRANSFR. AT PONDA S/S	GOA	4.40
51.	MAHESHWAR HEP	MAHESHWAR	80.33
52.	NAPTHA BASES CCGT AT KRISHNA DISTRICT	KONDA PCL	216.50
53.	LIQUID FUEL BASED POWER PROJECT AT SIHI	MAGNUM	7.60
54.	BASPA-II HEP	JPHPL	170.00
55.	2X525 MW NORTH CHENNAI TPP STG-II	VIDEOCON	200.00
(B) Consultancy/ Study Loans			
1.	MODEL RESTRUCTURING	GEB	0.54
2.	VSAT COMMUNICATION	TNEB	0.47
3.	RLA STUDIES OF 3 HEP	TNEB	0.67
4.	REFORM/PVT OF DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM	GOA	5.50
5.	WIDE AREA DATA COMMUNICATION NETWORK (PHASE-I)	GEB	9.52
GRAND TOTAL			2662.37

Hindu Succession Act

2914. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any representations from various State Governments have been received by the Union Government in regard to amendments in Hindu Succession Act to give equal rights to women;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) : No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Condition of National Highways 14 and 47 in Kerala

2915. SHRI P. SANKARAN :
SHRI A.C. JOS :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Highways Nos. 14 and 47 passing through Kerala are in a dilapidated condition;

(b) if so, the funds earmarked for the repairs and maintenance in the State for these two NHs during last three years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the actual demand made to meet repairs and maintenance needs of the said National Highways;

(e) whether the Government propose to release additional funds to the authorities for the purpose; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No, Sir. National Highway-47 passing through Kerala, is being maintained in traffic worthy condition within the available resources. National Highway-14 does not pass through Kerala.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) to (f) The State Government of Kerala demanded Rs.26.21Crore for maintenance and repairs of all the National Highways passing through Kerala. A sum of Rs.18.49 Crore was allotted for maintenance and repairs during 1998-99. An additional fund of Rs.6.00 Crore has been provided in the last batch of Supplementary Grant.

Price of Diesel

2916. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether price of diesel has to be revised every month as per the policy of the Government depending on World prices;

(b) if so, the reasons for not implementing the policy; and

(c) the number of times the price of diesel revised during the last ten months?

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) : (a) to (c) Government announced a comprehensive package to end the oil pool deficit on September 1,1997. The Government also decided that henceforth the price of HSD would be on import parity basis to be fixed normally on monthly basis. Accordingly, the ex-storage point price of HSD has been revised during the last ten months as under :

Effective dates	Ex-storage point price (Excluding excise duty etc.) (Rs./KL)
20.05.98	7536.89
09.01.99	6722.37
28.02.99	6621.76

Ongoing Projects in Maharashtra

2917. SHRI MADAN PATIL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing projects in Maharashtra being financed from the Central Road Fund;

(b) the estimated cost thereof, project-wise;

(c) the funds released by CRF so far for these projects till date; and

(d) the amount spent thereon so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) There are a total number of 25 ongoing projects under Central Road Fund (CRF) in the State of Maharashtra.

(b) The estimated cost of these 25 projects is of the order of Rs.1934.06 lakhs.

(c) During the last 5 years a total sum of Rs.1507.00 lakhs under CRF have been allocated to the state of Maharashtra.

(d) The amount spent on these 25 projects upto March '98 is of the order of Rs. 551.59 lakhs.

Independent Power Projects

2918. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have asked the Power Finance Corporation to frame a standardised format documentation to help the independent power producers to attain speedy financial closure; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMAN-GALAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Violation of Rules on Disposal of Hospital Wastes

2919. DR. SAROJA V. : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether cases of violation of rules relating to disposal of hospital wastes have come to notice in Delhi; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) No case of violation of rules on disposal of hospital waste have come to notice in Central Government Hospitals in Delhi. The Central Pollution Control Board carried out inspections of hospitals in Delhi in terms of the judgement of Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of Dr. B.L. Wadhwa Vrs. Union of India and others and the hospitals which have not taken any measures have been asked to undertake the necessary precautionary measures.

Strengthening of Security of Post Offices

2920. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD :
SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether several incidents of looting the post offices in the country have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the number of such incidents that took place in the country during the last three years and the total amount involved therein, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have since contemplated any steps to strengthen the security at various post offices in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) Yes, 483, cases of looting (inclusive of theft, robbery and dacoities) post offices have come to the notice of Government in last three years.

(b) State	No. of Incidents	Amount in Rupees
A.P.	5	4,16,146.00
Assam	39	3,68,443.00
Bihar	72	23,37,556.92
Delhi	2	4,89,078.00
Gujarat	31	3,42,194.00
Haryana	3	12,52,736.05
Himachal	NIL	—
J & K	NIL	—
Karnataka	63	6,39,140.89
Kerala	197	65,421.20
Maharashtra	NIL	—
Goa	NIL	—
North-East	1	4,072.25
Orissa	26	2,06,706.68
Punjab	2	22,883.00
Rajasthan	2	5,04,800.00
Tamil Nadu	NIL	—
U.P.	34	10,55,273.00
West Bengal	6	2,54,091.13
Sikkim	NIL	—
Grand Total	483	79,58,542.12

(c) Yes.

(d) Government have taken adequate steps to strengthen the security of various post offices in the country. CPMGs are in constant touch with higher police authorities and adequate number of police and home guards have been posted at the important and vulnerable post offices. Number of night guards have already been posted by the Department. Frequency of Police patrolling in the vicinity of Post Offices in sensitive areas has been increased.

Police escort is deployed in conveyance of cash from Bank and Treasury to the post offices and vice versa.

In some of the important post offices burglar alarms and siren bells have also been provided. Entry gates of the post

offices have been provided with heavy iron chains by which full opening of the gates is avoided. No outsider is allowed to enter the treasure premises. In some of the post offices, round the clock police guards have been engaged temporarily.

Strict instructions have been given to all the Postmasters to avoid retention of heavy cash over night where security arrangement is inadequate. In some of the States, Post office cash and stamps kept in police stations overnight.

In all cases of theft, robberies and dacoities outsiders were involved and the cases were immediately reported to police authorities who took up investigations promptly.

(e) Not Applicable.

[Translation]

Quacks

2921. SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey to identify the number of quacks functioning in the country;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) No Survey has been conducted by the Government to find out number of quacks functioning in the country.

(c) Penal Provisions already exist in the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 as well as in the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 and Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973 to the effect that no person other than a medical practitioner enrolled on the State Medical Register shall practice medicine in any state and any person contravening this provision shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or with both.

Further, the Government has initiated steps to enact legislation for prohibition of unauthorised Institutions, awarding degrees etc. in Modern Medicine and ISM & H as also practice by unqualified persons in these systems.

[English]

Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme

2922. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:
DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any comprehensive health scheme for the general public;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI):

(a) No, Sir.

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

(c) Health is a State subject. It is for the concerned State Government to formulate any comprehensive health insurance scheme for the people residing in that particular State. However, a number of medical insurance policies are available in the country and any one can purchase those policies from the insurance companies by paying the requisite premium.

Allocations from C.R.F.

2923. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :
SHRI RAJO SINGH :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated from the Central Road Fund during each of the last three years, State and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the name of the projects being implemented with Central Road Fund at present, State and Union Territory-wise;

(c) the funds proposed to be allocated during 1999-2000, State and Union Territory-wise;

(d) whether the Government have received any representation from Maharashtra and other State/Union Territory for additional funds; and

(e) if so, the allocation made/being made, State and Union Territory-wise?

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

ment-I indicating the allocation of funds under Central Road Fund (CRF) during the last three years to the various States/UTs is enclosed.

(b) Statements-II is enclosed.

(c) Demands for Grants for the year 1999-2000 have not yet been passed by the Parliament.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Allocation of funds under CRF is done on lump-sum basis having regard to the accruals on the basis of consumption of petrol in respective States/UTs, schemes sanctioned and the availability of funds. The allocation for the year 1998-99 to various States/UTs is given in the enclosed Statement-III.

Statement-I

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	Name of State/UTs.	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	149.00	177.00	312.00
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Assam	21.00	18.00	39.00
4	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.00	3.00	4.00
5	Bihar	25.00	10.00	10.00
6	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	61.00
7	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Delhi	0.00	104.00	106.00
10	Goa	0.00	7.00	7.00
11	Gujarat	139.00	114.00	116.00
12	Haryana	138.00	112.00	130.00
13	Himachal Pradesh	2.00	1.00	25.00
14	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	5.00
15	Kernataka	110.00	170.00	266.00
16	Kerala	17.00	6.00	321.00
17	Madhya Pradesh	74.00	98.00	99.00
18	Maharashtra	172.00	62.00	63.00
19	Manipur	0.00	0.00	13.00
20	Meghalaya	1.00	0.00	0.48
21	Mizoram	1.00	1.00	10.49
22	Nagaland	6.00	2.00	2.02
23	Orissa	4.00	2.00	2.15
24	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00
25	Punjab	213.00	202.00	343.00
26	Rajasthan	57.00	51.00	133.00

1	2	3	4	5
27	Sikkim	1.00	0.00	0.67
28	Tamil Nadu	129.00	78.00	309.00
29	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.19
30	Uttar Pradesh	111.00	173.00	334.00
31	West Bengal	130.00	108.00	145.00
Total :		1500.00	1499.00	2857.00

Statement-II

S.No.	Name of State/UTs.	No. of on going CRF works upto quarter ending Sept., 98
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	27
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0
3	Assam	3
4	A & N Island	0
5	Bihar	3
6	Chandigarh	3
7	Dadra Nagar Haveli	0
8	Daman and Diu	0
9	Delhi	6
10	Goa	1
11	Gujarat	4
12	Haryana	6
13	Himachal Pradesh	2
14	Jammu & Kashmir	1
15	Karnataka	12
16	Kerala	11
17	Madhya Pradesh	5
18	Maharashtra	25
19	Manipur	0
20	Meghalaya	1
21	Mizoram	0
22	Nagaland	0
23	Orissa	3
24	Pondicherry	0
25	Punjab	3
26	Rajasthan	6
27	Sikkim	0
28	Tamil Nadu	14
29	Tripura	1
30	Uttar Pradesh	4
31	West Bengal	3

Statement—III

Sl.No.	Name of State/UTs.	1998-99
1	Andhra Pradesh	261.31
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00
3	Assam	34.43
4	A & N Island	0.22
5	Bihar	2.31
6	Chandigarh	59.77
7	Dadra Nagar Haveli	0.00
8	Daman and Diu	0.00
9	Delhi	26.25
10	Goa	2.09
11	Gujarat	613.91
12	Haryana	33.12
13	Himachal Pradesh	6.49
14	Jammu & Kashmir	1.52
15	Karnataka	245.67
16	Kerala	187.04
17	Madhya Pradesh	25.27
18	Maharashtra	15.80
19	Manipur	3.11
20	Meghalaya	55.26
21	Mizoram	5.32
22	Nagaland	32.17
23	Orissa	155.75
24	Pondicherry	0.00
25	Punjab	192.81
26	Rajasthan	127.46
27	Sikkim	0.00
28	Tamil Nadu	401.39
29	Tripura	19.39
30	Uttar Pradesh	285.21
31	West Bengal	132.17
Total		2925.24

Performance review of Tiger Projects

2924. SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

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

(a) whether the Government have recently undertaken performance review of Tiger Projects in the country;

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

(c) the details of programme/plans worked out to celebrate "Year of Tiger";

(d) the major problems identified on Tiger Projects and remedial action plan formulated; and

(e) the details of financial allocations for Tiger Projects for the current year and Ninth Plan period with physical targets and plans for expansion/setting up of new projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) :
(a) Monitoring of the tiger population and its prey base for each Tiger Reserve is done periodically.

(b) The figures of tiger population as per the past successive estimations carried out in Tiger Reserves are given in enclosed statement-I.

(c) The details of programmes/plans worked out to celebrate 'Year of Tiger' is given in enclosed statement-II.

(d) The major problems facing the Tiger Reserves and measures taken to resolve them are briefly discussed in enclosed statement-III.

(e) While the budget allocation of Rs.75 crore has been set aside under the Project Tiger Scheme for IX Plan; the annual budget for 1998-99 is Rs.17 crore. Details of anticipated physical and financial targets for the IX Plan are enlisted in the enclosed statement-IV.

Government has decided to establish six new Tiger Reserves during IX Plan, of which Bhadra in Karnataka and Pench in Maharashtra have already been declared as Tiger reserves.

Statement-I*Population of Tigers in the Tiger Reserve Areas as Reported by the States*

S.No.	Name of Reserve	1972	1979	1984	1989	1993	1995	1997
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Bandipur (Karnataka)	10	39	53	50	66	74	75
2	Corbett (Uttar Pradesh)	44	84	90	91	123	128	138

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3	Kanha (Madhya Pradesh)	43	71	109	97	100	97	114
4	Manas (Assam)	31	69	123	92	81	94	125
5	Melghat (Maharashtra)	27	63	80	77	72	71	73
6	Palamau (Bihar)	22	37	62	55	44	47	44
7	Ranthombore (Rajasthan)	14	25	38	44	36	38	32
8	Similipal (Orissa)	17	65	71	93	95	97	98
9	Sunderbans (West Bengal)	60	205	264	269	251	242	263
10	Sariska (Rajasthan)	-	19	26	19	24	25	24
11	Buxa (West Bengal)	-	-	15	33	29	31	32
12	Indravati (Madhya Pradesh)	-	-	38	28	18	15	15
13	Nagarjunasagar (Andhra Pradesh)-	-	-	65	94	44	34	39
14	Namdhap (Arunachal Pradesh) -	-	-	43	47	47	52	57
15	Dudhwa (Uttar Pradesh)	-	-	-	90	94	98	104
16	Kalakad (Tamil Nadu)	-	-	-	22	17	16	28
17	Valmiki (Bihar)	-	-	-	81	49	N.R.	53
18	Pench (Madhya Pradesh)	-	-	-	-	39	27	29
19	Tadoba (Maharashtra)	-	-	-	-	34	36	42
20	Bandhavgarh (Madhya Pradesh) -	-	-	-	-	41	46	46
21	Panna (Madhya Pradesh)	-	-	-	-	25	22	22
22	Dampha (Mizoram)	-	-	-	-	7	4	5
	Total	268	677	1077	1282	1336	1294	1458
23	Periyar (Kerala)	-	34	44	45	30	39	N.R.

N.R. - Not reported by the State

Statement-II*Calendar of Events to be organised during 25th year of Project Tiger*

S.No.	Event/ Programme	Venue	Period
1	2	3	4
1.	Setting up of Tiger Control Room	P.T. Office, New Delhi	20.8.1998
2.	National Workshop to observe 25 years of Project Tiger	Vigyan Bhavan New Delhi	Nov. 19-21, 1998
3.	International Workshop on global cooperation in tiger conservation	New Delhi	March 3-5, 1999
4.	Release of Status Report on Project Tiger	New Delhi	March, 3, 1999
5.	Release of CD Rom on project Tiger	New Delhi	March, 1999
6.	Regional Workshop on Tiger Conservation		
a)	South Zone	Bandipur T.R./ Bangalore, Karnataka	Dec., 1998

1	2	3	4
b)	East Zone	Sunderbans T.R., W. Bengal/ Palamau T.R., Bihar	Jan., 1999
c)	North East Zone	Namdapha T.R. Arunachal Pradesh	Feb., 1999
d)	West Zone	Tadoba T.R., Maharashtra	March, 1999
e)	North Zone	Dudhwa T.R., Uttar Pradesh	April, 1999

Statement - III

Statement showing Anticipated Physical and Financial Targets of Major Activities under Project Tiger Scheme during IXth Plan Period.

S.No.	Activity	Physical Target	Financial Target (Rs. In crores)
1	Habitat Improvement :		
	Eradication of exotic weeds Pasture Development	8000 hec.	1.70
2	Fire Protection :		
	Creation of new fire lines	350 km.	0.60
3	Water Development	Construction of	
		A- Anicuts 50 Nos.	1.70
		B- Tank Pond 100 Nos.	
		C- Water holes 75 Nos.	
4	Constructions of Buildings		
	Office buildings, RFO, Foresters, Forest Guard Quarters, check nakkas, Watch Towers & other boundary walls	400 Nos.	3.40
5	Construction of Roads Upgradation	165 Km	4.00
6	Wireless Network	Wireless Station (50Nos.) Wireless Sets (100Nos.) W.T. Sets (500Nos.)	0.85
7	Replacement & Purchase of new vehicles	Jeep/Cars (80Nos.) Motorcycle (100Nos.) Others (20 Nos.)	2.50
8	Arms/Ammunition	150 Nos.	0.20
9	Research, monitoring & population estimation (for all Tiger Range States)	-	4.75
10	Anti Poaching Activity (Creation of Strike Force specific to each Tiger Reserve)	-	6.50
11	Compensation for human death/cattle killings all over the country	-	1.70
12	Relocation of Non-Tribal families outside PAs including TRs.	200 Nos.	1.70
13	Public Awareness Programme	-	1.70
14	Project Tiger Allowance	-	4.30
15	Salary & usual allowances	-	16.00
16	Maintenance of existing Infrastructure/Assets	-	14.00
17	Creation of 6 new TRs.	-	9.40
			75.00

Statement—IV*Major Problems in Tiger Reserves and Remedial Measures***Major Problems in Tiger Reserves**

- 1 Inadequate infrastructural and protection network.
- 2 Vacant staff positions.
- 3 Man-animal conflicts.
- 4 Delay in releasing central funds to Tiger Reserves by the State Governments.
- 5 Deterioration in law and order conditions and Militant activities in certain identified Tiger Reserves.
- 6 Fragmentation of tiger habitats in the fringers of Tiger Reserves.

Remedial Measures

- 1 The budget allocation of Rs. 75.00 crore has been allocated for IX Plan period which is nearly double of the VIII Plan budget allocation of Rs. 40.00 crore. The increased budget will be instrumental in strengthening the infrastructural and protection network of Tiger reserves.
- 2 The issue of filling up of vacant staff positions in Tiger Reserves has been taken up with the State Governments.
- 3 To resolve the Man-animal conflicts, steps have been taken to ensure adequate and speedy settlement of compensation claims of the local people for the loss of human life and damage of property caused by the wild animals especially, Tiger Support from NGOs is also forthcoming.
- 4 To ensure timely flow of central funds directly to the Tiger Reserves, establishment of a National Park Authority has been envisaged.
- 5 Under major initiatives taken by the Government, deployment of Armed Squads in troubled Tiger Reserves is to be resorted to at 100% central aid to contain unlawful activity there.
- 6 Viable corridors and buffer zones are being identified for better management of the fringe areas.

International Conference and Exhibition on Petrotech

2925. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE:
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an International Conference and Exhibition Petrotech 99 was held recently in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the subjects discussed in the Conference and theme of the exhibition and results achieved therefrom;

(c) the number of countries participated in the said conference; and

(d) the extent to which it is likely to help the Petro Sector?

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) : (a) to (c) The 3rd International Petroleum Conference and Exhibition—PETROTECH 99 was held during January 9-12, 1999 in New Delhi. The Theme of the Conference was "Oil & Gas Industry Outlook in the 21st Century: Challenges and Opportunities." The subjects discussed in the Conference related to all aspects of Hydrocarbon Industry both upstream and downstream including Natural Gas and Coal Bed Methane. These subjects can be grouped in five major areas namely (i) Hydrocarbon Exploration, (ii) Drilling, Reservoir and Production Management, (iii) fuels and Lubricants, (iv) Refineries and Pipelines and (v) Petrochemicals and Petroleum management. In the Conference 38 countries participated.

(d) In the Conference, India was able to successfully highlight the developments made in its petroleum sector and also focused on future investment scenario. PETROTECH-99 successfully fulfilled the objective of bringing together national and international experts, policy makers and strategies, scientists and investors for exchange of knowledge and global cooperation with the ultimate purpose of maximising the benefits and improving the quality of life on mother earth. It is also likely to bring in foreign investment as well as new technologies in the Indian Hydrocarbon Sector.

Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991

2926. SHRI SURESH KURUP:
SHRI T.GOVINDAN:
SHRI A.C. JOS:

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

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to amend the existing Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether certain States have complained against the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons advanced by them for the purpose; and

(e) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government regarding these complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (e) Some of the coastal State/Union Territories had raised issues pertaining to the implementation of the provisions of Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991. Some of the main issues raised by the coastal States/Union Territories were as follows:

- (i) Definitions of terms used in the draft notification.
- (ii) Basis for the delineation of the CRZ.
- (iii) Activities to be prohibited.
- (iv) Activities to be permissible.
- (v) Basis for classification of the CRZ for regulating development.
- (vi) Norms for construction in the CRZ.
- (vii) Status of the CRZ Regulations vis-a-vis the development plans of the State/Union Territories and sanctioned projects in the CRZ.
- (viii) Powers of the State Government/Union Territory Administration in regulated areas/
- (ix) Implementation of the provisions of the Notification.
- (x) Issues relating to rights and livelihood of local inhabitants.

Amendments were made in the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 after examination of various issues brought to the notice of the Government. Recommendations of the following Committees that were accepted by the Government were also incorporated in the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991.

- (i) Shri B. B. Vohra Committee—to examine the issues relating to tourism and hotel facilities in the coastal areas and related issues.
- (ii) Prof. N. Balakrishnan Nair Committee—to look into some of the specific issues regarding coastal areas of Kerala.
- (iii) Father C. J. Saldanha Committee—to advise on withdrawal of groundwater and extraction of sand in selected areas of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

[Translation]

Solar Energy Center

2927. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH :
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state the amount of central grants sanctioned for the development of solar energy during 1998-99, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMAN-GALAM) : A statement showing the central grants released to various States/Union Territories during 1998-99 (till-9.3.99) under the schemes of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources for the promotion and utilization of solar energy is enclosed.

Statement

Statewise Central Grants released during 1998-99 (till 9.3.99) under Solar Energy Schemes of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources

S.No.	State	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	84.50
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	31.20
3.	Assam	46.71
4.	Bihar	245.54
5.	Delhi	0.00
6.	Goa	0.85
7.	Gujarat	55.70
8.	Haryana	180.51
9.	Himachal Pradesh	78.00
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	163.13
11.	Karnataka	0.00
12.	Kerala	107.26
13.	Madhya Pradesh	199.00
14.	Maharashtra	21.05
15.	Manipur	12.15
16.	Meghalaya	18.60
17.	Mizoram	24.92
18.	Nagaland	5.23
19.	Orissa	109.60
20.	Punjab	299.40
21.	Rajasthan	366.21
22.	Sikkim	1.69
23.	Tamil Nadu	41.61
24.	Tripura	86.79
25.	Uttar Pradesh	511.88
26.	West Bengal	168.75
27.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.00
28.	Chandigarh	20.62
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.00
30.	Daman & Diu	0.00
31.	Lakshadweep Islands	51.00
32.	Pondicherry	1.70
Total		2933.60

Asthma Patients

2928. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been increase in the number of Asthma patients in Delhi and other States;

- (b) if so, the steps being taken to tackle it; and
 (c) the future course of action in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI):
 (a) Data related to morbidity due to Asthma and respiratory elements is not routinely collected by the State Health authorities. However, a study carried out by V.P. Chest Institute has found that the prevalence rates of childhood asthma in Delhi are quite high as compared to most of the developing countries .

(b) and (c) Apart from providing health education and treatment facilities for the disease, the Government have launched several measures to control environmental pollution for reduction of pollution related conditions including respiratory diseases.

Some of the steps taken by the Government to reduce pollution have been indicated in the enclosed statement.

Statement

1. The Government has formulated a comprehensive policy Statement for Abatement of pollution which envisages integration of environmental and economic aspects of development planning, lays stress on preventive aspects of pollution abatement and promotion of technological inputs to reduce industrial pollution;
2. Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries;
3. Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and also for the shifting of industries from congested areas. Custom and excise duty exemptions are provided to the industries for pollution control/monitoring equipment.
4. A scheme for setting up of Common Effluent Treatment Plants in clusters of small scale industrial units is under implementation;
5. To promote pollution prevention in small and medium scale industries, the Government has established 15 waste Minimisation Circles in clusters of small scale industries;
6. Emission standards for 79 categories of industries have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Besides ambient air and water quality standards have also been notified;
7. Large and medium scale units falling under the 17 categories of the hazardous industries are being monitored regularly for overseeing their implementation with the prescribed standards.
8. Low lead petrol had been introduced in the 4 metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai w.e.f.

June 1994. Subsequently unleaded petrol was introduced in the above mentioned 4 cities on 1.4.1995; and

9. The Government is implementing a major plan of action for introduction of unleaded petrol and catalytic converter fitted vehicles and introduction of low sulphur diesel for cleaner diesel vehicles in a phased manner. Fuel quality standards for petrol and diesel have been notified.

[English]

STD/ISD/PCO in Maharashtra

2929. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of STD/ISD/PCOs functioning in Maharashtra during the last three years, district-wise;
 (b) the number of applications lying pending for installation of said booths in the State, district-wise;
 (c) the reasons therefor and the time by which these applications are likely to be processed and approved;
 (d) the number of STD/ISD/PCOs sets lying out of order in the State since long time; and
 (e) the steps contemplated or proposed to be contemplated to rectify the faults ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

[Translation]

Supply of LPG in Madhubani, Bihar

2930. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJIHARPUR) : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) the quantum of LPG supplied in Madhubani district of Bihar as compared to demand thereof during the last three years;
 (b) whether there is acute shortage of LPG in the State;
 (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
 (d) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard ?

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) : (a) The quantum of packed LPG supplied by Public Sector Oil Companies in

Madhubani district of Bihar vis-a-vis demand for the last three years is as under:

Year	Average Monthly Demand (MTs)	Average Monthly Supply (MTs)
1995-96	65	74
1996-97	73	83
1997-98	81	83
1998-99 (April.98-Jan.99)	100	105

(b) Presently, there is no shortage of packed LPG in the State of Bihar and the supply of packed LPG is as per demand as reported by the Public Sector Oil Companies.

(c) Does not arise, in view of (b) above.

(d) The LPG demand of existing consumers enrolled with PSU Oil Companies in Madhubani district of Bihar is being met by and large in full. However, whenever LPG backlog develops due to law and order problems, floods or any disruption in availability due to emergency shutdowns at any of the production sources etc., Oil Companies take immediate measures to meet the demand in the affected markets through maximising LPG imports and by operation of LPG bottling plants during extended hours and on Sundays and holidays to clear the LPG backlog.

Law for fulfilling the promises made in Manifestoes

2931. SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to enact a law to make a political party answerable and responsible to fulfil the promises made by that party to the people in its manifesto;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Any law, if enacted in this regard, will be impracticable as its implementation may be very difficult to the extent of impossible.

[English]

Polio Patients

2932. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :
SHRI K. KRISHNAMOORTHY :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated total number of children suffering from polio in the country :

(b) the details thereof till date, State-wise;

(c) the extent to which the polio immunization programme has been successful in combating the disease;

(d) the funds provided during the last three years till date to combat the disease, State-wise and year-wise;

(e) whether the Government propose to undertake any other immunization drive;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) 3556 cases of polio were reported during 1998. State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) The number of reported cases of polio has declined from 28257 in 1987 to 3556 in 1998, a decline of 87.4 per cent.

(d) Statement-II is enclosed.

(e) to (g) In addition to the two rounds of pulse polio immunisation held annually during December and January since 1995-96; it is proposed to carry out three additional rounds during 1999-2000. The additional rounds will cover all children under the age of 5 years in the whole States of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan since a large number of cases have been reported from these States. In other States the immunisation of children will be undertaken for a population of 100,000 surrounding each case of polio reported in 1998.

Statement-I

Reported Number of Polio Cases

Sl.No.	State/UTs	1998*
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	169
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2
3.	Assam	9
4.	Bihar	302
5.	Goa	6
6.	Gujarat	255
7.	Haryana	124
8.	Himachal Pradesh	7
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2
10.	Karnataka	146
11.	Kerala	14

1	2	3
12.	Madhya Pradesh	185
13.	Maharashtra	176
14.	Manipur	0
15.	Meghalaya	2
16.	Mizoram	0
17.	Nagaland	6
18.	Orissa	109
19.	Punjab	25
20.	Rajasthan	233
21.	Sikkim	0
22.	Tamil Nadu	136
23.	Tripura	2
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1460
25.	West Bengal	86
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0
27.	Chandigarh	3
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1
29.	Daman & Diu	4
30.	Delhi	89
31.	Lakshadweep	0
32.	Pondicherry	3
India		3556

* Upto 20th February, 1999.

Statement-II

Name of the State/UTs	(Rs. in lakh) Fund released		
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4
1. A. & N. Islands	17.20	23.30	24.10
2. Andhra Pradesh	195.00	172.20	330.93
3. Arunachal Pradesh	80.85	92.90	93.00
4. Assam	142.55	161.90	198.21
5. Bihar	297.50	330.20	681.88
6. Chandigarh	12.60	18.20	18.56
7. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	11.25	16.80	17.00
8. Daman & Diu	16.70	22.80	17.09
9. Delhi	58.20	71.00	107.15
10. Goa	15.50	21.30	23.05
11. Gujarat	126.95	138.30	275.07
12. Haryana	100.50	115.10	167.52

1	2	3	4	
13. Himachal Pradesh	74.50	84.60	94.54	
14. Jammu & Kashmir	92.95	100.20	106.52	
15. Karnataka	128.75	147.30	237.18	
16. Kerala	94.50	106.50	162.34	
17. Lakshadweep	10.95	16.50	16.03	
18. Madhya Pradesh	267.25	293.80	662.01	
19. Maharashtra	205.50	224.20	394.42	
20. Manipur	52.30	61.30	68.51	
21. Meghalaya	43.55	51.10	53.85	
22. Mizoram	29.30	36.20	37.60	
23. Nagaland	46.15	55.00	57.92	
24. Orissa	181.00	202.30	275.31	
25. Pondicherry	25.60	31.80	32.38	
26. Punjab	102.20	115.10	148.97	
27. Rajasthan	186.75	212.60	422.42	
28. Sikkim	27.75	34.70	36.39	
29. Tamil Nadu	159.20	181.10	308.47	
30. Tripura	29.20	36.40	41.50	
31. Uttar Pradesh	412.25	445.90	1,053.28	
32. West Bengal	135.00	143.00	231.98	
Grand Total		3,379.45	3,763.60	6,395.18

* Vaccines and Cold Chain equipments are supplied in kind.

Telecom COS may go to Court

2933. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGARA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Telecom COS may go to court' appearing in the Hindustan Times, dated February 18, 1999;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Cellular Mobile Telephone Service and Basic Service Licence Companies were asked to pay the outstanding licence fee dues immediately and in any case to pay atleast 20% and securities the balance amount by providing valid bank guarantees by 15.2.1999. This last date was subsequently extended upto 28.2.1999. However, some of the companies have not paid and a few have approached the High Court of Delhi where the matter is presently subjudice.

Privatisation of Telecommunication Services in U.P.

2934. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to privatise telecommunication services in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the agencies involved/engaged for the purpose;

(c) whether the Government would exercise any control on these private agencies;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) the steps taken proposed to be taken to avoid conflict of interests amongst the private sector, industrialists and public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) Private sector entry in providing basic telephone service and other Value Added Telecom services has been permitted in various parts of the country, including Uttar Pradesh, which

for the telecom purposes is divided into UP (East) and UP (West) Telecom Circles.

(b) In case of Basic Telephone Service, for UP (East), no letter of Intent has been issued. The letter of Intent was issued for UP (West). Since the Lol Holding company did not fulfill the contractual obligations, their Earnest Money Bank Guarantee was invoked. The company then filed a case in Delhi High Court.

Various licences have also been issued for Value Added Telecom Services. The list of such licences issued for U.P. / various cities of U.P. is given in the enclosed statement-I. There are certain categories of Value Added Telecom Services where the licensee is authorised to provide service in any/all parts of the country including U.P. The list of such licences is given in enclosed Statement-II.

(c) to (e) The licencees are bound by the tender conditions/Licence Agreement. The main terms and conditions of the licence for Basic and Cellular services are given in the enclosed Statement-III and IV respectively. Since the licencees are bound by the licence conditions, there will be no conflict of interest amongst the private sector, Industrialists and Public. Broadly similar terms and conditions also apply to other Value Added Service Licences.

Statement-I*List of Various Value Added Telecom Service Licenses granted for Uttar Pradesh (UP)***(A) CELLULAR MOBILE TELEPHONE SERVICE
(TERRITORIAL TELECOM CIRCLES)**

UP (West)	1.	Escotel Mobile Communication Ltd.
	2.	Koshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd.
UP (East)	1.	Koshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd.
	2.	Aircel Digilink India Ltd.

(B) PUBLIC MOBILE RADIO TRUNKED SERVICE.

(The Service is to be operated within a radius of 30 Kms. from the Base Station Site of the City licenced)

(i) Allahabad	M/s. Procall Limited.
(ii) Ghaziabad	M/s. Procall Limited.
(iii) Kanpur	M/s. Procall Limited.
(iv) Lucknow	M/s. Procall Limited.
(v) Meerut	M/s Ushank Telecommunications Limited.
(vi) Varanasi	M/s. Procall Limited.

(C) RADIO PAGING SERVICE

(i) Varanasi and Kanpur	M/s ABC Communications (India) Ltd.
(ii) Kanpur, Lucknow and Varanasi	M/s Modi Korea Telecommunications Ltd.
(iii) Kanpur and Lucknow	M/s DSS Mobile Communications Ltd.
(iv) Varanasi	M/s Beltron Telecommunications Ltd.

- (v) Uttar Pradesh
 (vi) Uttar Pradesh

M/s Microwave Communications Ltd.
 M/s Punwire Mobile Comm. Ltd.

(D) INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS (ISP) SERVICES

- (i) Bareilly
 (ii) Ghaziabad
 (iii) Ghaziabad
 (iv) Ghaziabad
 (v) Ghaziabad

M/s Bareilly Comm. Pvt. Ltd.
 M/s Surevin Consultants Pvt. Ltd.
 M/s S.N.C. INFOTEK Ltd.
 M/s Jain Studio Ltd.
 M/s Opto Networks Pvt. Ltd.

Statement-II*All India Value Added Telecom Service Licences***(A) GLOBAL MOBILE PERSONAL COMMUNICATION BY SATELLITE (GMPCS)**

Provisional licence has been granted to M/s Iridium India Telecom Ltd. for operation of the service in the country.

(B) CLOSED USERS GROUP DOMESTIC 64 KBPS DATA NETWORK VIA INSAT SATELLITE SYSTEM.

1. M/s Hughes Escort Communication Ltd.
2. M/s Comsat - Max.
3. M/s RPG - Satellite.
4. M/s Wipro - BT Ltd.
5. M/s Telestra - Vcom Ltd.
6. M/s HCL- Comnet
7. M/s HFCL
8. M/s Essel Shyam
9. M/s ITI
10. M/s Marcsat
11. M/s Punjab Wireless.

(C) ELECTRONIC MAIL SERVICES

1. M/s Sprint RPG
2. M/s VSNL
3. M/s Swift Mail
4. M/s Mahindra Network
5. M/s Satyam Infoway
6. M/s Manipal Control Data

(D) INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS (ISPs)

1. M/s Sukharta Finance Trade Pvt. Ltd.
2. M/s Satyam Infoway
3. M/s Indusind Distribution Ltd.
4. M/s Wipro Ltd.
5. M/s Zee Telefilms Ltd.

6. M/s Global Electronic Commerce Services Ltd.
7. M/s Dishnet Ltd.
8. M/s Ircon International Ltd.
9. M/s C.G. Faxmail Ltd.
10. M/s CMC
11. STPI
12. ERNET
13. M/s Punjab Wireless Systems Ltd.
14. M/s Sprint RPG India Ltd.
15. M/s Bharati BT Internet Ltd.

Statement-III*Main Terms and Conditions of the Licence for Basic Service*

1. The licensee must be an Indian registered company.
2. The total foreign equity in the licensee company must not be more than 49% of the total equity.
3. The period of licence shall be for 15 years extendable for a period of 10 years at a time.
4. Licensee shall start the service within 12 months of the licence.
5. The licensee shall not charge tariff more than the DOT tariff.
6. The licensee can provide long distance service within the circle. Inter-circle long distance is not permitted to the licensees.

Statement-IV*Main Terms and Conditions for Operation of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service*

1. The Licensee must be an Indian registered Company.
2. Total foreign equity in the licensee company must not be more than 49% of the total equity.
3. The period of licence shall be 10 years which may be extended at the discretion of Telecom Authority.
4. The Licensee shall commission the Service within 12 months of signing the Licence Agreement or the effective date of the licence, whichever is earlier.

5. The service shall conform to the Group Special Mobile or Global System of Mobile Communications (GSM) standards.
6. The service will be provided within the ceiling tariff fixed by the Telecom Authority.
7. The Licensee will pay a licence fee to the Telecom Authority, in addition to access and junction charges to the Deptt. of Telecommunication.
8. The Licensee will also pay wireless Licence Fee, WPC (Wireless Planning & Coordination Wing) Royalty, GSM MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) charges etc.
9. The Licences have been issued on a non-exclusive basis. A maximum of two operators are allowed per city/ circle.
10. Dot itself or through a designated public Authority has the right to operate as a third operator in any/all areas.

Reforms in Oil Sector

2935. SHRI K.S. RAO :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a special group of Ministers was set up for reforms in the oil sector;
- (b) if so, the terms of reference of the group; and
- (c) the details of the recommendation, if any, submitted by the group?

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) : (a) to (c) Govt. has constituted a Group of Ministers to consider the recommendations of Prime Minister's Council on Trade and Industry and the Special Subject Groups thereunder, made from time to time and examine the modalities for their implementation. As regards the Oil Sector, the Special Subject Group on Infrastructure have made the following recommendations:-

- i) Allow unrestricted entry under a well defined policy framework for the setting up and operation of pipelines.
- ii) Set up new pipelines for products under the 'common carrier' principle.
- iii) Establish an autonomous Pipeline Development and Regulatory Authority to assist developers and regulate the operation of the network.

Building for Post Offices

2936. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number for Post Offices functioning in rented buildings at present in the country during the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) the total rent paid as on date by the Government on this account during the said period, State-wise; and
- (c) the funds allocated by the Government for the construction of new buildings during 1998-99 and also proposed for 1999-2000 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) Details are given in enclosed Statement-I.

(b) Details are given in enclosed Statement-II.

(c) Funds allocated by the Government for the construction of new buildings during 1998-99 are Rs. 25.85 crores.

Funds proposed to be allocated for 1999-2000 are Rs. 8.68 crores.

Statement-I

The number of post offices functioning in rented buildings at present in the country during the last 3 years postal circle-wise is as follows :

Name of Circle	Number of Rented Buildings		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1. Assam	434	435	436
2. Andhra Pradesh	2465	2467	2406
3. Bihar	1226	1226	1226
4. Delhi	287	291	291
5. Gujarat	1189	1203	1202
6. Haryana	413	405	408
7. Himachal Pradesh	410	411	401
8. J & K	178	184	191
9. Karnataka	1508	1535	1466
10. Kerala	1311	1328	1315
11. Madhya Pradesh	1166	1168	1146
12. Maharashtra	1858	1856	1855
13. North East	209	209	212
14. Orissa	973	970	966
15. Punjab	655	655	655
16. Rajasthan	1223	1202	1201
17. Tamil Nadu	2630	2576	2517
18. Uttar Pradesh	2600	2600	2600
19. West Bengal	1694	1694	1692

Statement—II

Total rent paid as on date by the Government on this account during the said period postal circle wise is as follows:

Name of the Circle	Total rent paid in the last 3 years 1995-1998 (in thousands)
1. Assam	1,05,12
2. Andhra Pradesh	6,00,03
3. Bihar	1,84,43
4. Delhi	1,03,38
5. Gujarat	2,09,84
6. Haryana	80,07
7. Himachal Pradesh	68,39
8. J & K	80,98
9. Karnataka	4,42,70
10. Kerala	4,65,72
11. Madhya Pradesh	4,38,46
12. Maharashtra	7,56,25
13. North East	64,76
14. Orissa	2,21,56
15. Punjab	1,31,09
16. Rajasthan	1,46,98
17. Tamil Nadu	7,67,35
18. Uttar Pradesh	4,95,67
19. West Bengal	7,02,45

[Translation]

Deaths During Pregnancy

2937. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the recent US census bureau reports according to which more than 1,00,000 Indian women die each year from pregnancy related causes and just 37 per cent of them in India receive any pre-natal care;

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

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to improve upon the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI):
(a) Yes, Sir. Government is aware of this Report.

(b) and (c) The National Family Health Survey of India, 1992-93, estimates that on an average, 437 maternal deaths

occur per 100,000 live birth per annum. The same survey estimates 62.3 per cent of Indian women received antenatal care.

Government recognises that the health status of Indian women has to register improvement. The Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme launched in 1977, while continuing and intensifying earlier programmes in the area of maternal health and also child survival (for both male and female children), has introduced new initiatives in the problem areas of women's health, some of which are : Provision for essential and emergency obstetric care, promotion of institutional deliveries; provision of referral transportation for indigent families in eight States and prevention and treatment of reproductive tract infections.

[English]

Modernisation and Development of Major Ports

2938. SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA:
SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foreign direct investment proposed in the development, expansion and modernization of ports;

(b) whether the Government have formulated a plan to enhance the capacity of major ports of the country during the Ninth Plan period;

(c) if so, the year-wise details thereof including the public and private investment proposed to be made in this regard during the Ninth Plan;

(d) whether the investment in the port sector has been finalised for the Ninth Plan;

(e) if so, the total amount earmarked for various major ports;

(f) the details of port projects under implementation during the current year;

(g) the progress of work achieved in terms of targets set for these projects particularly in Maharashtra; and

(h) the additional capacity created during the Eighth Plan, port-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) As a policy, the foreign direct investment (FDI) upto 100% with a ceiling of Rs. 1500 crores has been permitted for construction of ports and harbours, automatically. For FDI more than Rs. 1500 crores, approval can be given on case to case basis.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) During 9th Plan, public investment to the extent of Rs. 7215 crores and private investment to the tune of Rs. 8000 crores is proposed for creation of additional capacity to the extent of 122 million tonnes. The year-wise details of public investment are given below :-

Sl. No.	Year	Investment (Rs. in crores)
1.	1997-98 (Actuals)	612
2.	1998-99 (Anticipated)	718
3.	1999-2000 (Proposed)	1319
4.	2000-2001 (Provisional)	2058
5.	2001-2002 (Provisional)	2508
Total		7215

The actual flow of private funds depends upon so many factors. It may, therefore, not be possible to furnish the year-wise details of private investment .

(d) and (e) Yes Sir, during 9th Plan, an amount of Rs. 7215 crores has been earmarked for development of major ports.

(f) and (g) The details of the major projects under implementation during 1998-99 at various major ports and the dates of commissioning of these projects (targets and anticipated) are given in Statement-I.

(h) During 8th Plan, there was capacity addition to the extent of 46 million tonnes. The port-wise details are given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

Details of the Major Projects (costing Rs. 100 crores and above) under implementation during 1998-99 at various major ports

Sl. No.	Name of the project	Estimated cost (Rs. in crores)	Capacity Accrual (in m.t)	Date of commissioning	
				Scheduled	Anticipated
Paradip					
1.	Mechanical Coal handling facilities	597.41	20.00	April 98	June 2000
Chennai					
2.	Construction of a new port at Ennore for handling thermal Coal	593.90	16.00	April 98	June 2000 (Operational) Sept. 2000 (In all respects)
Tuticorin					
3.	Capital Dredging Project	202.16	3.40	May 2000	May 2000
Mumbai					
4.	Replacement of Submarine pipelines	165.15	7.00	Jan. 98	March 2000
5.	Modernization of MOT Jetties at Jawahar Deep	167.99	4.00	Mar. 2003	March 2003

Statement-II

Port-wise Details of the Additional Capacity created during 8th Plan

(In Million Tonnes)

S.No.	Name of the Port	Additional Capacity created
1	2	3
1.	Calcutta	1.92
	Haldia	0.92
2.	Mumbai	4.00
3.	JL Nehru	4.00

1	2	3
4.	Chennai	3.83
5.	Cochin	2.80
6.	Visakhapatnam	9.00
7.	Kandla	3.60
8.	Mormugao	3.26
9.	Paradip	3.25
10.	New Mangalore	6.90
11.	Tuticorin	2.50
Total		45.98
		Say 46

CNG

2939. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL :
SHRI R.S. GAVAI :
SHRI K. KRISHNAMOORTHY :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to develop Compressed Natural Gas as environment friendly fuel for use in automobiles all over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of CNG filling stations functioning in the Metropolitan cities in the country;

(d) whether those CNG filling stations are sufficient to cater the needs of those cities;

(e) if not, whether the Government have any proposal for setting up CNG filling station all over the country;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the time by which these stations are likely to be made operational?

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) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) There are 18 CNG filling stations functioning in the metropolitan cities of Delhi and Mumbai. More stations are being added as per the demand. The existing CNG filling stations are sufficient to cater to the present demand.

(e) to (g) Setting up of CNG filling facilities is possible only in places where natural gas supply through pipeline is available. Depending on demand and success of the scheme in Delhi and Mumbai, and feasibility of supply of natural gas and viability of the project, new cities can be considered.

Conversion of Sanctuaries into Parks in Assam

2940. SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have agreed for conversion of Dibruchoikhowa and Orang game sanctuaries in Darang District into National Parks; and

(b) if so, the details of assistance proposed for the up-keep and maintenance of the new Assam parks?

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

(a) The power to notify any sanctuary or national park vests with the State Government under the Provisions of the Wild-life (Protection) Act, 1972. No approval of the Central Government is required in this regard.

(b) Does not arise.

Auditing of NBTC Budget

2941. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the sources of allocation of budget to National Blood Transfusion Council;

(b) the annual budget for the last NBTC during the three years;

(c) whether the budget allocated to NBTC in the last three years has been audited; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) The source of allocation of budget to National Blood Transfusion Council are grants-in-aid from Government of India and donations from public.

(b) Allocation for release to NBTC since inception are as under:

1996-97	Rs. 20.00 lakhs
1997-98	Rs. 150.00 lakhs
1998-99	Rs. 150.00 lakhs

(c) and (d) Modalities for getting the fund of NBTC audited are being worked out in consultation with Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

ONGC Stake in IOC's Panipat Power Plant

2942. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission is likely to pick up a 24 per cent stake in the Indian oil corporation's Panipat Power Plant; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

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) : (a) and (b) No proposal has been approved for picking up equity by oil and Natural Gas Corporation in Indian Oil Corporation's Panipat Power Plant project.

*[Translation]***Construction of NH from Darbhanga to Farbisganj**

2943. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the construction of the National Highway from Darbhanga to Farbisganj has been undertaken;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the total amount spent on this National Highway so far?

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

(b) to (d) Consultancy for feasibility study for finalization of alignment and development needs of this section of National Highway have been awarded recently.

*[English]***Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries**

2944. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 181 on June 8, 1998 and state:

- (a) the quantum of amount given to each State and Union Territories over the years as mentioned in the reply;
- (b) the mechanism evolved by the Centre to oversee the implementation of such scheme; and
- (c) the details of tribal and villages rehabilitated in each State/Union Territories of the country against the evictions made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) Quantum of the amount given to each State/Union Territory during VIII Plan and first two years of IX Plan is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) The implementation of the scheme is monitored by the Chief wildlife wardens of the respective States. Officers in the Ministry of Environment and Forests also oversee the implementation.

(c) The details of tribals and villages rehabilitated are given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I*Funds Released During VIII Plan*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	State	92-93	93-94	94-95	95-96	96-97
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	52.97	54.53	69.803	59.033	52.062
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	32.016	30.873	31.44	7.305	36.458
3.	Asam	1.40	103.97	—	—	—
4.	Bihar	28.145	—	57.85	2.26	—
5.	Goa	12.50	14.485	14.301	5.478	10.143
6.	Gujarat	29.644	36.06	31.70	27.59	52.728
7.	Haryana	8.93	10.75	14.88	13.13	11.04
8.	Himachal Pradesh	106.35	84.735	84.224	61.23	12.10
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	8.879	15.57	2.70	27.31	13.94
10.	Karnataka	90.41	114.54	132.86	108.32	225.845
11.	Kerala	34.724	42.54	70.815	64.80	34.962
12.	Madhya Pradesh	85.78	132.35	98.08	186.20	41.873
13.	Maharashtra	69.038	51.76	127.465	35.43	13.81
14.	Manipur	19.90	15.15	19.30	25.29	23.01
15.	Meghalaya	7.62	19.81	19.03	26.25	2.57
16.	Mizoram	25.44	15.84	25.05	7.46	4.60

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
17.	Nagaland	1.00	2.62	—	5.015	4.31
18.	Orissa	45.65	71.33	72.96	50.61	8.38
19.	Punjab	15.317	19.91	14.195	4.975	—
20.	Rajasthan	69.63	79.456	64.30	85.555	37.027
21.	Sikkim	53.70	29.90	33.42	23.926	15.29
22.	Tamil Nadu	37.80	55.33	15.43	20.83	20.25
23.	Tripura	42.23	9.75	3.344	24.72	2.29
24.	Uttar Pradesh	43.305	75.55	75.10	68.34	55.995
25.	West Bengal	20.517	41.26	63.245	70.529	39.31
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	—	—	3.00	—	—
27.	Daman & Diu	3.10	1.50	—	—	—
Total		945.995	1129.569	1144.492	1011.586	717.99

*Funds Released during IX Plan
Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries*

	1997-98	1998-99 (Till Feb.99) (Rs. in lakhs)			
			Maharashtra	48.845	27.783
			Manipur	13.50	16.64
			Meghalaya	—	—
			Mizoram	13.48	8.45
			Nagaland	15.29	9.00
Andhra Pradesh	43.39	47.39	Orissa	34.22	47.73
Arunachal Pradesh	27.953	57.91	Punjab	14.03	7.20
Assam	54.621	58.05	Rajasthan	82.34	84.22
Bihar	6.00	—	Sikkim	12.51	11.00
Goa	—	9.07	Tamil Nadu	61.284	71.63
Gujarat	17.005	18.80	Tripura	29.81	—
Haryana	14.57	37.20	Uttar Pradesh	112.11	81.27
Himachal Pradesh	61.50	47.95	West Bengal	69.69	72.96
Jammu & Kashmir	124.70	7.00	A & N Islands	20.56	—
Karnataka	78.17	68.43	Chandigarh	12.00	—
Kerala	49.29	44.85			
Madhya Pradesh	195.665	35.93	Total	1212.532	873.833

Statement-II

*Statement showing Relocation of Villages from 1992-97 to 1998-99
Under the Scheme of Beneficiary oriented tribal development scheme*

S.No.	State	Name of the protected area	No. of Villages	No. of Tribal families	Status Relocation
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Karnataka	Bandipur NP	2	100	95% Completed
		Nagarhole NP	1	50	Continued
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Pakhui WLS	1	12	Completed
3.	Mizoram	Blue Mountain	1	25	Completed
		National Park Murlen NP	1	47	Continued

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Nagaland	Intanki WLS	1	38	Continued
5.	West Bengal	Gorumara NP	1	134	Completed
6.	Madhya Pradesh	Pench NP	2	42	Completed
		Kanha NP	1	27	Completed
		Kuno Palpur WLS	7	663	Continued
7.	Orissa	Chandaka Dampara WLS	7	188	Completed

Clubbing of Teaching and Non-Teaching Cadres

2945. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the teaching cadre under CHS Scheme is treated at par with non-teaching cadre of CHS;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to accord due recognition to the teaching cadre in CHS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) The teaching and non-teaching sub-cadres are two of the four sub-cadres constituting the Central Health Service carrying similar pay and allowances as well as promotional avenues.

Only the number of posts and their distribution in various participating units differ according to functional requirements. In both the sub-cadres the initial entry is through UPSC by direct recruitment in all specialities including super specialities.

In both the sub-cadres subsequent promotions to next grades upto the level of Senior Administrative Grade is on the basis of seniority-cum-fitness on a time bound basis without linkage to vacancies. Further promotion to Senior Administrative Grade in both the sub-cadres is vacancy based. The Senior Administrative Grade posts in both sub-cadres are filled up by promotion failing which by direct recruitment. Both sub-cadres have identified a number of posts at the senior Administrative Grade and there is no inter-changeability amongst these sub-cadre at any stage.

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

Pollution by DVB in Yamuna

2946. SHRI JAYARAMA I.M. SHETTY :
SHRI U. V. KRISHNAMRAJU :

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

(a) whether the Delhi Vidyut Board is highly polluting the Yamuna by disposing off its solid wastes;

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

(c) whether the Central Board for Prevention and Control of Water Pollution have served notice to DVB to stop discharging waste of into the Yamuna; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take against Delhi Vidyut Board in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (d) According to the report of analysis of Central Pollution Control Board carried out on 15.12.1998, suspended solid in the overflow from ash ponds which is discharged unto river Yamuna were found to be as high as 33078 milligram per litre as against the standard of 100 milligram per litre. Accordingly, the Central Pollution Control Board issued directions to the Delhi Vidyut Board on 2.2.99 to immediately initiate remedial measures to control the suspended solids in the ash pond overflow. The Central Pollution Control Board has further directed the Delhi Vidyut Board to (i) increase setting time for suspended solids to achieve the prescribed discharge standards, (ii) adopt better management of ash ponds ; and (iii) implement action plan do disposal of flyash for such purposes as manufacturing of building bricks, cement and for land fills etc.

[Translation]

Child Survival and Safe Motherhood Programme

2947. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of assistance provided by Union Government for Child Survival and Safe Motherhood Programme" during each of last two years and amount earmarked for the year 1999-2000, Statewise/Union Territory-wise;

(b) the names of the States/ Union Territories covered under the said programme in the country; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for the proper implementation of the said programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) A statement showing details of assistance provided by the Government of India to State/Union Territories under Child Survival and Safe Motherhood (CSSM) Programme during the last two years is annexed. Consequent upon launching the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme during 1997-98 for implementation during 9th Plan period, the ongoing CSSM programme has been subsumed into it; as such no separate budgetary allocations have been made for CSSM Programme for the year 1999-2000.

(b) The CSSM Programme has been implemented in a phased manner covering all the districts in the country.

(c) For ensuring Proper implementation of the programme, the States/ UTs were provided with kind and cash assistance, staff support and their training. Regular monitoring is done by the Central as well as State Governments. Implementation of this programme was also monitored from time to time by the donors, the World Bank and UNICEF.

Statement

Details of Central Assistance provided under CSSM Programme

(Rs. in lakhs)

States/UTs	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3
1. Andhra Pradesh	2202.24	1999.07
2. Arunachal Pradesh	148.55	201.15
3. Assam	1022.99	1329.69
4. Bihar	3181.85	3085.61
5. Goa	50.09	55.48
6. Gujarat	1473.29	1453.02
7. Haryana	685.40	686.28
8. Himachal Pradesh	368.49	385.25
9. Jammu & Kashmir	384.88	390.36
10. Karnataka	1751.59	1313.11
11. Kerala	860.53	1058.52
12. Madhya Pradesh	3019.98	3031.20
13. Maharashtra	2941.62	2083.52
14. Manipur	139.25	208.02
15. Meghalaya	127.10	155.56
16. Mizoram	78.36	119.27

	1	2	3
17. Nagaland		116.68	135.69
18. Orissa		1315.10	1340.18
19. Punjab		824.55	837.95
20. Rajasthan		2544.08	1805.16
21. Sikkim		62.54	87.01
22. Tamil Nadu		2137.55	1789.23
23. Tripura		134.79	160.49
24. Uttar Pradesh		5860.20	4287.40
25. West Bengal		2066.99	2472.29
26. Andaman & Nicobar Islands		37.79	49.06
27. Chandigarh		35.19	32.40
28. Dadra & Nagar Haveli		21.74	26.30
29. Delhi		296.84	345.71
30. Daman & Diu		26.03	38.64
31. Lakshadweep		17.78	24.59
32. Pondicherry		49.07	75.80
Total		33983.13	31063.01

Figures provisional

Problems besetting National Ayurvedic Institute

2948. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Ayurvedic Institute in Jaipur is the only Institute working in the Ayurvedic field;

(b) whether the Union Government are aware of the difficulties being faced by it; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to remove the difficulties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) The National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur is one amongst the many Institutes working in the field of Ayurveda.

(b) The National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur is affiliated to the University of Rajasthan. The University of Rajasthan has been granting provisional affiliation to the Institute on a year to year basis. The Inspector of the University has pointed out certain shortcomings in the Institute. The Inspection team of the Central Council of Indian Medicines (CCIM) which lays down the minimum standard of education, visited the Institute to assess whether the facilities provided are as per the norms. The Inspection report of the CCIM has made certain observations regarding non-fulfilment of the norms in some respects. The major shortcomings are as follows:-

- (i) Non-filling up of vacant posts;
- (ii) Non availability of certain equipments;

- (iii) Additional requirements of hostel facilities
- (iv) Establishment of Herbal Garden.
- (v) Staff quarters for teachers/staff.

(c) As a result of the concerted efforts made by the Government almost all the problems faced by the Institute have been sorted out. For instance, vacancies in teaching posts have been filled up. Additional teaching posts for P.G. Department are in the process of creation. CCIM has now recognized the P.G. Degree of M.D. (Ayurveda - vachaspati). A notification to this effect has been issued by the Government. New equipments and instruments have been purchased. Hostel facilities for boys and girls have been provided. One Herbal Garden measuring about 2 acres has been developed in the campus of the Institute. Efforts are being made to acquire 30 acres of land from the State Government of Rajasthan for cultivation of medicinal plants. Ready built houses have been purchased from Rajasthan Housing Board for use as staff quarters.

Reduction in Telephone Registration Fees Rural Areas

2949. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government propose to reduce telephone registration fee and telephone rent in the rural areas of the country; and

(b) if so, the details there of ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURAKAYASTHA) : (a) and (b) Due to change in the definition of local area with effect from 15.8.98, the rental and registration charges in case of some subscribers went up from a lower slab to a higher slab. On reconsideration, it has since been decided to restore the rental and registration charges in respect of rural subscribers to levels applicable prior to 15.8.98.

[English]

Import of Toxic Waste

2950. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether toxic waste is being imported from the developed countries;

(b) if so, the names of those items and the time from which these items are imported ;

(c) whether the Government have taken note of its harmful affect on environment;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to protect environment form these toxic waste ?

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

(a) and (b) The import of hazardous waste is regulated under Rule 11 of the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. As per rule 11, import of hazardous wastes has been restricted to actual users with and import licence. Vide order dated 5.5.1997, the Supreme Court of India in Public Interest litigation Writ Petition No. 657/95 - Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology versus Union of India and Others ordered that no authorisation/permission should be given by any authority for imports banned by the Central Government or by any order made by any Court or any authority. Seven permissions for imports of waste oil, zinc ash, zinc skimmings and battery scrap have been granted from 1989 to 1996. During 1998, after taking into account effects on both human health and the environment one importer has been granted permission for negotiation with the exporter for zinc ash and seven others issued No Objection certificates for import of zinc ash, zinc skimmings, brass dross, copper oxide mill scale, copper cable scrap (druid) and residue containing copper and recommended to the DGFT for grant of licence for imports.

(c) to (e) Steps taken thus far to protect the environment from toxic wastes include the following:

- (i) Notification of the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 and Draft rules to amend these on 8th January 1999.
- (ii) Delegation of powers under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, on 8th January, 1997, by the Central Government to the Chairman, State Pollution Control Boards to issue directions to any industry or any local or other authority for the violation of the standards and rules relating to hazardous wastes.
- (iii) Inventoritions of hazardous waste generating industries by the State Pollution Control Boards.
- (iv) Continuous review by the Central Government from 1996 onwards through State Pollution Control Boards/State Governments of the status of authorization for handling for hazardous waste resulting in improvement in compliance of the provisions of the Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989.
- (v) Identification of hazardous waste disposal sites for industrial wastes by the State Government. As an interim measure State Pollution Control Boards have instructed hazardous waste generating industries in an environmentally safe manner.
- (vi) Organization of training and awareness programmes on hazardous waste management and waste minimisation.

Suspension of Power Supply by NTPC to States

2951. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the MINISTER OF POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "NTPC cut supply to state flouting norms Central Body Censures Corporation" appearing in the Statesman (Calcutta), dated January 24, 1999;

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

(c) the directions issued from Central Electricity Authority to National Thermal Power Corporation on the norms to be followed while imposing power cut on West Bengal State Electricity Board and Damodar Valley Corporation in October, 1998;

(d) the action taken on the advice/directions so far?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Since the outstanding dues from the Eastern Region was highest in terms of months of billing, NTPC gave notices to BSEB, GRIDCO (Orissa), WBSEB and DVC for regulation of power supply. While GRIDCO and BSEB responded by enhancing LCs and making partial payments, WBSEB did not take any action to liquidate its arrears. Accordingly, NTPC resorted to regulation of power supply from its Farakka STPS on 11th October, 1998, after giving advance notice to EREB and ERLDC. NTPC received a communication from CEA on 31.12.1998 on a busbar tripping at Farakka, advising them to take precautionary measures for carrying out protection testing /maintenance work affecting the grid in future. NTPC has taken due notice of CEA's advice.

Employment of Foreign Dredgers without Licence

2952. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Port Trust Authorities of the major ports currently undertaking dredging operations, employed foreign dredgers who have no licence to operate in the Indian waters;

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

(c) whether the Dredging Corporation of India is competent to undertake this job; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not according the job to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Foreign dredgers do not need licence to operate in the Indian waters.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Dredging Corporation of India does not have adequate capacity to carry out maintenance dredging work of all the major ports in the country. The shortfall in capacity is met by the ports by carrying out dredging works through contracts.

Pending Cases of contempt of Court

2953. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL :
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

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

(a) the number of cases in regard to the contempt of Court pending in Patna and Maharashtra High Courts since last five years separately and the parties against whom these are pending ;

(b) the number of such cases taken up separately in these courts during the five years;

(c) the reasons for delay in solving such cases; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for speedy disposal of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Supply of Medicines to CGHS

2954. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement contract for the supply of medicines by Medical Stores Depot to C.G.H.S. expired on September 30, 1998; and

(b) if so, the manner in which the medicines are being supplied to C.G.H.S. dispensaries in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. CGHS is procuring all formulary medicines from the Medical Stores Depot which is a Government organisation and supplying to the CGHS dispensaries in Delhi. Hence, the question of expiry of agreement for supplying the medicines does not arise.

India Worried over E-Mail Disinformation

2955. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "India worried over E-mail disinformation" appearing in the 'Pioneer', dated January 23, 1999;

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

(c) whether false information is being spread through the internet;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Internet facility is available from over 60 points of presence in India from which messages and information can be sent. On the issue of prosecution of Christians in India, information was found on the website, "http://www.angelfire.com/po/indian-Christians". The Indian Embassy, Washington, DC, USA has already issued clarifications to their website, http://www.Indianembassy.org". Govt. is not aware of large scale misuse of Internet.

The spread of Internet makes available electronic mail and worldwide web facilities to a large number of people in India and overseas. However, there is no website in India on which such information is currently being hosted or propagated.

TB Training Centres

2956. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Tuberculosis Training Centres have been set up in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether similar Centres are likely to be set up in other States where TB patients are large in number; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Lala Ram Sarup Institute of Tuberculosis and Allied Diseases, Mehrauli, New Delhi (an autonomous organisation under Ministry of Health & F.W.) and New Delhi Tuberculosis Centre under TB Association of India have been recognised as Training Centres for providing training on TB control programme.

(b) and (c) TB Training and Demonstration Centres (STDCS) have already been set up in 17 States (Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Calcutta, Orissa, H.P., Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamilnadu, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, West Bengal). The remaining State Governments have been requested to set up TB Training and Demonstration Centre in their States.

New Post Offices and Speed Post Facility

2957. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices/sub post offices and Branch post offices opened in the country during the last three years till date, State wise;

(b) the number of said post offices proposed to be opened in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan and 1999-2000, State-wise and ;

(c) the funds proposed to be allocated for the purpose during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) The Circle-wise details of post offices opened in the country during the last three years is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) There is a target for opening 500 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 50 Departmental sub Post Offices during the Annual Plan 1999-2000, subject to norm based justification and availability of resources. Circle-wise, allocation of targets is done at the beginning of each Annual Plan.

(c) An amount of Rs. 4.17 crores has been allocated for the purpose during the said period.

Statement

Circle wise information regarding number of post offices/sub post offices and branch post offices opened in the country during the last three years till date

S.No.	Name of Circle	Number of Post Offices opened in					
		1996-97		1997-98		1998-99 (till date)	
		EDBOs*	DSOs**	EDBOs	DSOs	EDBOs	DSOs
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6	6	10	3	6	1
2.	Assam	10	4	18	3	Nil	2
3.	Bihar	23	13	31	4	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4. Delhi		Nil	4	5	2	1	Nil
5. Gujarat		14	20	18	3	4	1
6. Haryana		7	9	13	2	1	2
7. Himachal Pradesh		23	3	4	Nil	Nil	Nil
8. Jammu & Kashmir		Nil	Nil	11	1	Nil	1
9. Karnataka		9	18	24	5	7	3
10. Kerala		3	12	7	1	5	1
11. Madhya Pradesh		17	9	41	2	43	3
12. Maharashtra		31	12	34	4	38	2
13. North East		4	3	18	3	Nil	Nil
14. Orissa		12	Nil	21	3	Nil	2
15. Punjab		6	5	12	2	1	1
16. Rajasthan		12	6	33	1	15	Nil
17. Tamil Nadu		7	4	21	3	6	1
18. Uttar Pradesh		38	9	57	6	1	1
19. West Bengal		3	2	24	4	Nil	1
Total		225	139	402	52	128	22

* EDBOs - Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices.

** DSOs - Departmental Sub Post Offices.

Ongoing Power Projects

2958. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA MALLICK : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Advisory Committee under the Chairmanship of Planning Commission has recommended Finance corporation to give priority to the ongoing power projects for ensuring their timely completion;

(b) if so, the other suggestions made by the Committee in this regard;

(c) the extent to which the power projects are working satisfactorily;

(d) the number of power projects at present functioning as per schedule; and

(e) the time by which the power shortage is likely to be removed?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) No Advisory Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of Planning Commission.

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

(c) and (d) The overall performance of the Power Sector i.e. the targets and the achievements from April, 1998 to February, 1999 for Thermal, Nuclear and Hydro generation was as under:-

Type of Generation	Programme GWH	Actual
Thermal	327884	320153
Nuclear	9247	10905
Hydro	72522	76217
Total	409653	407275

(e) Planning for power generation is a continuous exercise. For the 9th Five Year Plan (1997-2002), as per the preliminary studies carried out, the capacity addition programme has been assessed at 40245 MW subject to the availability of essential inputs including funds. It has been estimated that during the terminal year of the 9th Plan there would be energy deficit of 14% and peaking deficit of 11.6%.

Experts Committee for Tender System

2959 : SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce radical reforms in the present system of calling tenders in the Government and central PSUs;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government also propose to set up high level Experts Committee to suggest appropriate and transparent Tender System;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

Modernisation of Telephone Exchanges

2960. SHRI S. SUDHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether 26 telephone exchanges in Hyderabad city have been modernised in January 1999;
- (b) if so, the details thereof,
- (c) the time by which the other exchanges are likely to be modernised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. No exchange has been modernised during January 1999 in Hyderabad city. However, all the telephone exchanges in Hyderabad city except 10,000 lines electromechanical exchange working in Charminar area, have been modernised by 31.12.98.

(c) Electromechanical exchange working in Charminar area is likely to be replaced by digital electronic exchange during 1999.

Mega Power Policy

2961. SHRI U. V. KRISHNAMRAJU :
SHRI JAYARAMA I. M. SHETTY :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Mega power policy draws flak" appearing in the Statesman, dated January 28, 1999;
- (b) if so, whether the mega power policy of the Government has been criticised recently in a seminar held at Chennai recently;
- (c) if so, the facts and details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to formulate a clear cut mega power policy?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R.KUMARAMAN-GALAM) : (a) and (b) The mega power project location, tariff and level playing field issues were raised in the seminar.

(c) and (d) As per the mega power policy announced in November, 1998, some multistage mega project sites have been identified to be set up both in the public as well as private sector. These projects are expected to be low tariff projects due to the following reasons:-

- (i) The projects identified under this policy are being given certain concessions which include exemption from customs duty for import of capital equipment, deemed export benefit to the indigenous manufacturers of equipment for these projects and higher tax benefits.
- (ii) The policy stipulates that the principles of competitive tariff bidding would be adhered to as far as possible. which would lead to lower tariffs.
- (iii) Power from the mega projects in the private sector would be purchased by a Power Trading Corporation (PTC) established for this purpose, and sold by the PTC to the concerned beneficiary States. Security to the PTC would be provided by means of a Letter of Credit and recourse to the State's share of Central Plan Allocations and other devolutions. This kind of a mechanism will reduce the risk regarding payments to the project developer and would bring down the tariff.
- (iv) Location of mega projects near ports or pit-head, economies of scale due to size, optimal inter-State transmission system etc. would also bring down tariffs from mega projects.
- (v) Identification of the mega project sites and formulation of the policies has been done after detailed deliberations among the different agencies of State and Central Governments.

LNG Project by Petronet LNG Corporation

2962. SHRI T.R. BAALU :
SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government are monitoring various LNG projects being implemented by the Petronet LNG Corporation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have a time bound programme for the completion of these projects;
- (d) if so, the time by which these projects are likely to be completed;

(e) whether the Government have received any proposal from Government of West Bengal regarding equity participation in LNG terminal at Haldia promoted by LNG Petronet; and

(f) if so, the step taken by the Government in this regard?

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) : (a) to (d) Government have constituted Petronet LNG Limited with the Oil Public Sector Undertakings, GAIL, IOCL, ONGCL and BPCL, currently holding among themselves 50% of the equity. Based on the demand of existing consumers and projections of NTPC in these areas, Petronet LNG Limited will set up LNG Terminals at Dahej in Gujarat and Cochin in Kerala. A requirement of 5.0 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) of LNG at Dahej and 2.5 MTPA of LNG at Cochin has been assessed. Preliminary activities in respect of these projects have been commenced by Petronet LNG Limited and it is expected that the financial closure on these projects would be achieved during 1999. Thereafter, the projects are expected to be realised within a period of 36 to 42 months.

(e) and (f) Government of West Bengal have expressed its interest in equity participation in the Petronet LNG for setting up an LNG Terminal at Haldia. However, demand for LNG to required level has not been assessed for the projects other than those at Dehej and Cochin.

Missing of Vessel Rajhans

2963. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the mechanised sailing vessel "Rajhans" alongwith 18 crew members was missing;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the said vessel has since been traced ; and
- (d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The ill fated vessel m.v. Rajhans was found floating upside down near Kuria Muria island about 1050 miles from Indian Coast line. All the crew members were missing and only three bodies were found near the wreck on 22.12.98. The exact reasons for the casualty are not known due to the absence of survivors.

A fact finding inquiry has been initiated by the Directorate general of Shipping.

Money Order Forms

2964. SHRI VAIKO :
SHRI K. KRISHNAMOORTHY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Money Order forms issued by Postal Department are often not printed in the regional languages which causes hardship to rural masses;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any complaints representations have been received by the Government for rectification of the same;
- (d) if so, the action taken proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) to (e) It is policy of the Department to print money order forms in Hindi speaking States in Hindi and English whereas in non-Hindi speaking States money order forms are printed in three languages, i.e. Regional language, Hindi and English.

No complaints were received except in November 1998, in Tamil Nadu Circle, where, to cope with the heavy demand, money order forms were obtained from other Circles which were not printed in local regional language. However, immediately on receipt of the complaints, the stock was withdrawn. Instructions have been issued for strict compliance of the Department's policy.

Supply of Crude Oil by Russia

2965. SHRI S.S. OWAISI :
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Russia has offered to supply crude oil to India on a long term basis to meet the growing demand of hydro-carbon fuel;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the matter was discussed during his recent visit to Russia ; and
- (d) if so, the estimated amount to be involved in such imports?

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) : (a) and (b) During the visit of the Russian Prime Minister to India in December, 1998, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between Indian Oil Corporation and OAO Oil Company LUKOIL, RUSSIA in which Lukoil has expressed interest in supplying of crude oil upto a quantity of 10 million tonnes per annum on long term basis

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The issue would arise only when a commercial decision is taken to import and would depend inter-alia on the grades, quantities, delivery terms, pricing and payment terms etc., based upon which commercial decisions to import crude oil are taken.

Demand of Petroleum Products

2966. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

SHRI K. PARYMOHAN :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any estimate demand of petroleum products in the country by 2010 A.D.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan worked out to meet the demand ?

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) : (a) and (b) The Working Group on Petroleum has estimated a demand of 155.3 million tonnes for the year 2006-07.

(c) In order to meet the demand of petroleum products, steps are being taken to increase crude oil production in the country through application of improved technologies, better reservoir management, development of new fields, additional development of existing fields and by inviting foreign and private capital in the upstream sector. The refining capacity is also being increased in the country by expansion of existing refineries in the public sector and setting up of refineries in joint sector and private sector.

[Translation]

SKO/LDO Distributorship

2967. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN :

SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question Nos. 2061 and 326, dated June 9, 1998 and December 1, 1998 respectively and state:

(a) whether the information of S.K.O./L.D.O. distributors in Delhi /U.P. have since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the information is likely to be collected and laid on the Table of the House?

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) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The information has been received from the Oil Companies and is being compiled/ scrutinized and will be laid on the Table of the House at the earliest.

[English]

Dues of Various Power Plants Outstanding Against Delhi Vidyut Board

2968. SHRI NEPAL CHANDRA DAS :

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of dues of various power plants outstanding against Delhi Vidyut Board as on date;

(b) the period for which the dues have been accumulating; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to recover all the outstanding dues against DVB ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) and (b) : Delhi Vidyut Board (DVB) is to pay the following dues including surcharge to the Power Generating and Transmission Corporations under the Ministry of Power as on end February, 1999:

(i)	NTPC	—	Rs. 2042.73 crs.
(ii)	NHPC	—	Rs. 324.84 crs.
(iii)	PGCIL	—	Rs. 124.36 crs.
(iv)	BBMB	—	Rs. 14.73 crs.
(v)	Badarpur TPS	—	Rs. 7063.25 crs.

The above dues have accumulated during the period from 1980 to Feb. 1999.

(c) Efforts are consistently being made at the highest level in the Government for clearing of outstanding dues by DVB. On serving notice for power regulation to DVB by NTPC, DVB have enhanced Letter of Credit to Rs. 118 crs, from Rs. 90 crs. w.e.f. January, 1999 for NTPC Stations. Recently, the

matter was discussed with the Power Minister of Delhi and officials of Government of Delhi and DVB wherein the gravity of the situation arising out of the non-payment of energy bills by DVB was explained to them. Government of Delhi /DVB have agreed for furnishing a schedule for liquidation of the reconciled outstanding of BTPS, NTPC and PGCIL and opening of Letter of Credit for full energy supplies in April, 1999 in favour of BTPS.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

12.02 hrs.

Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the Year 1999-2000

[English]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANT KUMAR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2639/99]

Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Industry for the Year 1999-2000

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGHWAR) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Sikander Bakht, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Industry for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT2640/99]

Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Commerce for the Year 1999-2000

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMAN-GALAM) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Ramakrishna Hagde, I beg to lay on the Table a Copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Commerce for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT2641/99]

Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Communications for the Year 1999-2000

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English Versions) of the Ministry of Communi-

cations (Including Department of Telecommunications) for the year 1999-2000.

- (2) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Posts for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT2642/99]

Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment for the Year 1999-2000

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Ram Jethmalani, I beg to lay on the Table a Copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT2643/99]

Notification regarding Electricity Laws (Amendment) Act, 1998, etc.

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMAN-GALAM) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table –

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 1132(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 1998 appointing 31st December, 1998 as the day on which the Electricity Laws (Amendment) Act, 1998 to come into force issued under subsection (1) of section 1 of the said Act.
- (2) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 1133(E) (Hindi and English versions) Published in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 1998 specifying the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (Power Grid) Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi, as the Central Transmission Utility.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT2644/99]

Notifications under Companies Act, 1956

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table –

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 642 of the Companies Act, 1956 :—
 - (i) The Companies (Central Government's) General Rules and Forms (Amendment) Rules, 1999, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 16 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th January, 1999.

- (ii) The Companies (Issue of Share Certificates) Amendment Rules, 1999, published in Notification No G.S.R. 17 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th January, 1999

[Placed in Library. See No. LT2645/99]

- (2) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT2646/99]

Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT2647/99]

Annual Report, Annual Accounts and Review of the working of National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur for the Year of 1997-98

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIDALIT EZHILMALA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table –

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur, for the year 1997-98.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur, for the year 1997-98, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur, 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. LT2648/99]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi for the year 1997-98, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, 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. LT2649/99]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Homeopathy, 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 National Institute of Homeopathy, 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. LT2650/99]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Pharmacy Council of India, 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 Pharmacy Council of India, New Delhi, 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. LT2651/99]

- (9) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English Versions) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT2652/99]

Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1999-2000

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT2653/99]

- (2) A copy of the Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel (Regulation of Supply and Distribution and Prevention of Malpractices) Order, 1998 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 772 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th December, 1998 under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities, Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT2654/99]

Annual Accounts and Review by the Govt. of the working of wildlife Institute of India Dehradun for the Year 1997-98 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : Sir, with your permission, I beg to lay on the Table —

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, 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 Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, 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. LT2655/99]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad, 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 Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad, 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. LT2656/99]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre, Chennai, 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 C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre, Chennai, 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. LT2657/99]

- (7) 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 Andman and Nicobar Islands Forest and Plantation Development Corporation Limited, Port Blair, for the year 1997-98.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Andman and Nicobar Islands Forest and Plantation Development Corporation Limited, Port Blair, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT2658/99]

Merchant Shipping (Registration of Indian Fishing Boats) Amendment Rules, 1998, etc.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table —

- (1) A copy of the Merchant Shipping (Registration of Indian Fishing Boats) Amendment Rules, 1998 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No G.S.R. 774(E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th December, 1998, under sub-section (3) of section 458 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT2659/99]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Erstwhile Mumbai Dock Labour Board, Mumbai, 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 Erstwhile Mumbai Dock Labour Board, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT2660/99]

- (4) A copy of the detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Surface Transport for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT2661/99]

Annual Report and Review by the Govt. of the working of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. Mumbai for the year 1997-98

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : 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 Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98, 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. LT2662/99]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 37 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 :—
- (i) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Salaries, Allowances and Conditions of Service of Chairperson and other Members) Rules, 1997, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 683 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd December, 1997.
- (ii) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Period for Filing of Applications to Authority) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 72(E) in Gazette of India Dated the 8th February, 1999.
- (iii) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Annual Report and Returns) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 80(E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th February, 1999.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT2663/99]

12.04 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :-

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 12th March, 1999 agreed without any amendment to the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 1999 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 5th March, 1999."

12.04¼ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS
Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Reports**

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : Sir I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Communications :-

- (1) Ninth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the First Report (Twelfth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Communications on Demands for Grants (1998-1999) relating to Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecommunications).
- (2) Tenth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Second Report (Twelfth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Communications on Demands for Grants (1988-1999) relating to Ministry of Communications (Department of Posts).
- (3) Eleventh Report on recommendations of Disinvestment Commission in relation to ITI and HTL Ltd. relating to Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecommunications).

12.04¼ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Twentieth Report**

[English]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (SONIPAT) : Sir, I beg to present the Twentieth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development

on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixth Report of the Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on Mega City Scheme.

12.05 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Fire at Gas Field in Mumbai Offshore

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to make a *suo motu* statement as promised by me on Saturday with regard to the leakage and fire at the platform in Gas Field B-121 in Mumbai Offshore.

This refers to the fire in B-121 gas field in Mumbai Offshore.

I have personally proceeded to Mumbai on 13.3.1999 and convened a meeting of ONGC Directors to take stock of the situation and ensure that all possible action is immediately taken to restore normalcy. I returned on 14.3.1999 satisfied that adequate action is being taken.

Platform B-121 comprises of a cluster of four free gas producing wells (unassociated with oil). The platform is located 140 kilometres west of Mumbai city in Mumbai offshore. The wells are named as B, C, D and F.

On 10th March, 1999, repair operations were in progress by ONGC with its own Rig Sagar Ratna in Well B of the platform in order to control the excess pressure that had been noticed in the well and to rectify the sub surface valves which were malfunctioning. These repair works had commenced even on 16.2.99 after anomalies were noticed. While these works were in progress, heavy build up of pressures was observed in another Well C. Prompt action to control pressure Well C was immediately taken up by pumping sea water even during the night of 10.03.99/11.03.99. However, in the meantime, at around 0915 hours in the morning of 11.03.99, similar build up of high gas pressure accompanied by gushing of high intensity mud and gas was observed in another well, Well D. Immediately, apprehending a threat, all contingent action was promptly taken in accordance with established international practice of handling offshore emergency. Multipurpose Supply Vessels with fire fighting capability were positioned at site. All safety measures were forthwith taken. All the 85 personnel on board platform/Rig were evacuated.

The uncontrolled flow of gas from the well caught fire on 12.03.1999 at 1220 hours. Action for fire fighting operations that could be immediately taken up were taken up thanks to the contingency plans already drawn up. To personally supervise on site action, all Functional Directors of ONGC immediately rushed to Mumbai.

Four Multipurpose Support Vessels are presently positioned at the site and dousing the fire by spraying about 18,000 cubic meters of water per hour. As of now, there is no apparent damage to ONGC Rig Sagar Ratna, the crew having been earlier evacuated safely. As this platform produces only sweet gas not containing sulphur, no risk to environment and marine life is apprehended. M/s Cudd Pressure Control, USA were selected and contacted immediately to depute their experts urgently to assist ONGC in extinguishing the fire and restore normalcy. The company is a world reputed firm that has specialised in handling such emergencies arising out of malfunctioning of wells. Two experts from the company have already arrived in Mumbai on 14.03.1999 and have visited the site. Action plan for controlling the fire and the flow of gas from the well, is being worked out.

B-121 is a satellite free gas field, located 35 kilometres south-east of Mumbai High Field, having about 2.1 billion cubic meters of recoverable reserves. Platform B-121 is a four-legged structure with six well slots and was commissioned in May, 1997. Five wells have been drilled on this platform out of which four are gas producers and one is dry well.

The gas production from this platform commenced in January 1998 is evacuated through a twelve inch sub-sea pipeline to a processing platform of Bombay High and for onward transmission to Urban. At Uran, the processed gas is delivered to the Gas Authority of India Limited for distribution to consumers. The field produces about 1.6 million cubic metres of gas per day. Gas production has been shut off even on 27.2.99 while repair works were progressing. The current level of gas sales ex-Uran is about 11.2 million cubic metres per day as against the normal supply of 12.5 million cubic metres per day. Efforts are being made to make up part of the shortfall from free gas wells in Bombay High.

The cost of platform is Rs.44 crore and of the pipeline for evacuation of gas is Rs.46 crore. The cost of the wells is Rs.80 crore approximately. The jack up rig - Sagar Ratna - owned by the ONGC was procured in the year 1984 at a cost of around Rs. 40 crore. Its current replacement cost would be about Rs. 120 to Rs.150 crore.

The platform and the Rig - Sagar Ratna - are covered under the Package Insurance Policy with M/s United India Insurance Company Limited with whom the ONGC has lodged a report about the incident. Insurance surveyors visited the site on 14.03.99 to make an assessment.

There have been similar incidents of uncontrolled flow of oil/gas and fire in the past at Bombay High in 1982, in Mandapeta and Pasarlapudi fields in Krishna Godavari onland in 1992 and 1995 and in Ankleshwar field in Gujarat in 1998.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up further consideration of the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

Hon. Prime Minister to reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat, Today, we do not have any 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is this? Today, you cannot raise it. You can raise it tomorrow. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot discuss all the matters.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Somnath Chatterjee, what do you want to say?

12.14 hrs.

RE : DEVASTATING FIRE IN JHUGGI CLUSTER IN DELHI

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there was a devastating fire in Delhi where 50 lives have been lost...(Interruptions) A serious damage has been caused. Shri Hannan Mollah has visited that place. He has given notice. Please allow him to raise it...(Interruptions) It is my earnest request. This is a very serious matter. He has been there. He has visited the place. Kindly allow him to raise it.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Somnath Chatterjee, the Chair has already made a reference about the fire incident.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that the Chair has already made a reference about the fire incident in the first instance itself.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : As I said earlier, he had been there. Kindly listen to Shri Hannan Mollah... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that the Chair has already made an observation today with regard to the fire incident which took place yesterday.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (CALCUTTA SOUTH) : Sir, I have also given a notice...(Interruptions)

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions) *

12.16 hrs.

At this stage Shri Paras Nath Yadav and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Otherwise, I will have to take action against all of you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the proper way. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing to you again.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot raise matters pertaining to State Government in this House.

...(Interruptions)

12.17 hrs.

At this stage, Shri K.P. Munusamy and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand, you cannot raise issues pertaining to State Government in this House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

* Not Recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions) *

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seats. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

12.18 hrs.

At this stage, Shri K.P. Munusamy and some other Hon. Members sat on the floor near the Table.

MR. SPEAKER : First of all, hon. Members, please go your seats. What is this ?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions) *

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing to hon. Members to go their seats first. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

12.19 hrs.

At this stage, Shri K.P. Munusamy and some other Hon. Members went back to their seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing to you. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. I am appealing to you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Is there any reaction from the Government on the fire accident?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seat. I am appealing to you once again.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not good. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, please allow us.

MR. SPEAKER : Is there any reaction from the Government on the fire accident?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, please let me speak first. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister of Home Affairs is on his legs. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

No, I will allow you later.

Now the Minister of Home Affairs.

Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, the Chair has already made some observations about the fire accident. The hon. Minister is on his legs. I have received a number of notices.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Khurana has also given a notice. What is this? Please take your seat. Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seat.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Please allow us.

[Translation]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (ULUBERIA) : Sir, you must hear us ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that I have received a number of notices. The Chair also has made some observations about the fire accident. The Minister of Home Affairs is going to give a reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am once again appealing to you all to take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions) *

MR. SPEAKER : You are not even allowing the Home Minister to respond. Is this the way? What is this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : When the Home Minister wants to respond, you are not allowing him to respond. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Hannan Mollah was present there. He has seen the accident, So, he wants to say what has happened there. Why should he not be allowed ?

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Somnath Chatterjee, I appeal to you to please understand the situation. The Chair has already made an observation and the Home Minister is going to respond. But you are not allowing him to respond. I have received a number of notices? Shri Madan Lal Khurana also has given a notice. How can I allow all the Members who have given notices?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, we are apprehending that it is a case of arson. That is the charge. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Mr. Speaker, Sir the place in Delhi where fire incident took place yesterday was inhabited poor people from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Bengal. They were living there for the last 15 to 20 years. All of them were poor and they are spending their life in poverty ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Madan Lal Khurana.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Hannan Mollah, I have to allow Shri Madan Lal Khurana first. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will give you chance. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BUTA SINGH (JALORE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Home Minister must inform the House as to what has happened there. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Buta Singh, you are a senior Member. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Sir, the Home Minister should let the House know as to what has happened; such a huge calamity has taken place, but the Government is sitting silent.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions) *

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Madan Lal Khurana.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (DELHI SADAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given formal notice in this regard ...(Interruptions) The incident of fire that took place in Delhi yesterday ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulyam Singh Yadav, I have allowed him, because I have received a notice.

[Translation]

SHRI MULYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is saying a wrong thing. Fire did not break out there incidentally but someone set them on fire. There the people were killed knowingly ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions) *

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mulayam Singhji, you please speak afterwards. First let me speak...(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir devastating fire incident took place in Delhi. Some newspapers have mentioned that 26 persons have been killed and some other newspapers have mentioned that 50 persons have been killed. After independence, perhaps this is the biggest fire incident that took place in Delhi. Earlier also such incidents used to occur, fire used to break out in jhuggi-jhonpris and floods also occurred but the kind of incident that has taken place this time since independence incident of such magnitude was never seen before in Delhi.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, 50 people have been killed and more than 60 people have sustained burn-injury and thousands of jhuggies have been gutted. Most of the dead bodies have

been recovered from mosques as it has been mentioned in the newspapers...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice in this connection. I may be given an opportunity to speak. If I am not allowed to speak then incident bigger than this may occur in Delhi again. My submission is that it is the first incident of its kind in Delhi. Such tragic incidents are unprecedented. In Delhi floods and incidents of fire occur every year but

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : You please tell us as to what we should do now?

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : However, such tragic a incident occurred for the first time. I am sorry to say that such incidents occurred in Delhi due to carelessness, cruel and inhuman attitude of bureaucracy and Delhi Government. These people have come from other States to earn their livelihood. At present, there are 4.5 lakh jhuggi-jhonpris in Delhi in which 20-25 lakh people are living. Only rich people are living comfortably in Delhi. Out of one crore population, 60 lakh people are living in jhuggi-jhonpris, Slum areas and other rehabilitation colonies. Mr. Speaker, Sir, when I was Chief Minister, I mentioned three things. Had these three things been fulfilled...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, the manner in which these jhuggi-jhonpris have come up there is no passage and in case of any untoward incidence, there is no way to escape and there is no way for fire tenders to reach to the spot of incident. I had constituted Delhi Slum Development board. We should enact law in this regard. Five years passed...*(Interruptions)* Even today, that law has not been enacted. My request is that these jhuggi-jhonpris should be re-allocated and proper arrangement should be made for this. One such committee was constituted which submitted its report some 3-4 years back but no action has been taken over it. Had the action been taken then, I think, perhaps, this incident could have been prevented to some extent.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the place where the incident took place yesterday, there flood and incident of fire occur every year. Such committee was formed for the protection of that area but even then nothing could be done. I do not want to prove that any party or Government is responsible for this miserable plight of poor people. The bitter truth is that we do not consider them as human being instead we consider them only as our vote bank. We just remember as to how to get votes from them at the time of election. They have come here from other States in order to earn their livelihood. No attention has been paid to take care of their basic needs and to rehabilitate them permanently. Thus, there is lack of political will. For this, I have some suggestions.

Delhi Slum Development Board should constitute one Task Force. The three things which I have mentioned is that legal powers should be given to Slum Development Board...*(Interruptions)* I want to say that one judicial enquiry committee consisting of a judge of High Court should be constituted which will enquire as to what are the reasons behind such incidents and what steps should be taken so that such incidents do not occur in future.

My second request is that third master plan of Delhi is being formulated and till now in the two master plans formulated for 20 years each did not make any mention of jhuggi-jhonpris. There is no mention about such unauthorised colonies. My submission is that the third master plan which has to be implemented after 2001...*(Interruptions)* If you do not know then please let me speak. Try to understand the problem of Delhi...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the period 1961 to 2000, two master plans were formulated for 40 years but in those two plans not even a single line has been said about the rehabilitation of jhuggi-jhonpris...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, my suggestion is that compensation of Rs. 1 lakh should be given to the families of those who have died, they should be rehabilitated and all jhuggi-jhonpris in Delhi should be re-allocated. Land in Delhi is very limited. When it cannot be reallocated in horizontal manner then it can be reallocated in vertical manner. For this plan should be formulated so that such incidents do not occur in future. One task force should be formed for this purpose. This unfinished work should be completed in a time-bound manner only then such incidents can be prevented.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Delhi the incident that took place yesterday is the biggest fire incident in the capital since independence in which maximum number of people have been killed, maximum number of houses have been gutted and maximum losses has been suffered.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday I was there since 4 O'clock. When this incident took place, I was present there. That area has 20,000 population and poor people who have come from Bihar, UP and West Bengal live there who are Rag pickers and labourers. All of them are poor labourers. The police commit atrocities on them. There the SHO and constable keep on harassing them. On last 30th police arrested 73 people and later on they released them after taking money from them. Sometimes, they call them Bengali and sometimes they call them Bangladeshi. They take bribes by levelling many allegations against them. We convened one protest meeting against the injustice being done to them. Yesterday, the meeting was to be held near mosque. Shri Indrajit Gupta, Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji, I myself and some of our Members of Parliament and local people were supposed to address that protest meeting. When their meeting with the police started houses were set ablaze at the distance of 30 yards from the venue of the meeting by the people who hatched a conspiracy to build a building after demolishing houses. I maintain that police, communal forces and anti-people forces have deliberately set these jhuggis ablaze. I discussed this matter with the Chief Minister and urged him that an enquiry in this incident should be conducted by the high power committee headed by the high powered judge to ascertain the real cause behind it. S.H.O. and other police personnel should be transferred. The family of those who have died should be given Rs. one lakh as compensation. Those who are injured should be treated free of cost and should adequately compensated. The duplicate ration cards should be issued to the persons who have lost their ration cards. The temporary housing facility should be immediately made available to the victims. The people are not hav-

ing clothing, potable water and medicines etc. They should also be arranged. Rs. 30,000 should be immediately given to each one, whose house has been set ablaze for the reconstruction of the house. Shri Madan Lal Khurana has told about a plan. The plan or scheme should be such that there should not be any cluster of jhuggis, roads should be properly built and there should be proper drainage system, availability of proper potable water etc. so that in future recurrence of such incidents of fire could be avoided... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BUTA SINGH (JALORE) : Sir, we should also get an opportunity to speak... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Buta Singh, please take your seat. You are a senior Member. Is this the procedure? When one Member is speaking, how can you stand like this?

[*Translation*]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Police atrocity should be put to an end. Compensation should be paid to the next kin of those who have died.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : I also want to speak.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Buta Singh, how can you speak when I have allowed one Member to speak? How can you stand like this? Please take your seat.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Sir, the compensation should be given to the family of the persons who have died and atrocities of the police should put to an end. We demand that in the aftermath of this incident the Central Government and the State Government should formulate a comprehensive plan and it should be executed in a timebound manner.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Mr. speaker, Sir I have given a notice in this regard. Other Members have also given notices. They should also be heard. The incident, that took place yesterday in Delhi is a very unfortunate one. The fire brigade took so much time to reach there. In the mean time all the houses were gutted. Thousands of huts were reduced to ashes due to late arrival of the fire brigade. As Khuranaji has said that.

[*English*]

There is no comprehensive plan for people living in jhuggis in Delhi.

[*Translation*]

The Police did not help the people. The fire brigade also provided no help. The people who needed medical treatment were not attended. Yesterday it was Sunday, keep it in mind.

[*English*]

Sir, we have seen in our State also that the fire takes place on Saturdays or Sundays especially.

[*Translation*]

It is pertinent to note that it happened on the day which was a holiday. The flames also spread upto the Mosque and the people in the Mosque also fell victims to it. Therefore, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that the fire-incidents are not easy to handle. It is a pre-planned game, it is a case of sabotage. Therefore, the Government should investigate this matter and should constitute a high power committee which gives impartial report in this regard. The Minister of Home Affairs should give a statement in Parliament in this regard. More than 50 people have been killed and more than two thousand houses have been gutted. The people are lying on the roadside. No emergency arrangements have been made for them. Medicines are not available in hospital. Many people have died for want proper treatment. Whenever an emergency arises, it is the duty of the emergency cell of the Government to make emergency arrangements. But so far this has not been done. I would like to submit to the Minister of Home Affairs, that though the State Government is of a different party, but the Minister of Home Affairs is of the Central Government. We can request him in the Parliament to make arrangements to construct houses for them.

[*English*]

Because the Government have the HUDCO with them. They have a Minister for Urban Development and the HUDCO can be requested to build huts for these people... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HUDCO can construct houses.

[*English*]

I support what Khurana and Shri Mollah have said. These people should be rehabilitated and adequate compensation, i.e. a sum of Rs. one lakh should be given to each of the near relatives of persons who lost their lives.

[*Translation*]

Sir, money cannot bring life back. But something can be done to compensate the next of the kin of the victims. The culprits should be severely punished, so that such incidents do not occur in future. The Government should keep vigilance in this regard. The loss of property should be compensated. The police should have arrangements for emergency. The poor people cannot register their complaints as nobody listens to them. They do not lodge their F.I.R. They have lost much of their property.

[*English*]

Unfortunately, they are Bengali speaking people. They are being subjected to harassment. It is a fact. When Shrimati

Sushma Swaraj was the Chief Minister, I took up this matter with her also.

Sir, we are all Indians. Ours is a secular country. We do not know who is a Bengali, who is a Gujarati, who is a Marathi, who is a Christian or a Sikh or an Assamese or an Andhrite or a Tamilian. The people belonging to different communities are staying in different parts of the country. Some communities are in minority and some are in majority. It is the duty of the Government to protect everybody.

There must be a comprehensive plan of action, specially for the minorities so that they should not suffer. I would request the hon. Home Minister—he has visited the spot—and also the hon. Prime Minister to provide not only relief and rehabilitation measures but also convey condolences to the bereaved family members. If they can visit the hospital, at least the affected people will get medicines. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, I allow Parasnath Yadav to speak, after that, I will allow Shri Buta Singh.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Parasnath Yadav has given a notice.

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (EAST DELHI) : Sir, I have also given a notice ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PARASNATH YADAV (JAUNPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request you that yesterday in Delhi... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very wrong. Whenever a person from our side rises to speak, the people from other side make noise. Please stop it.

SHRI PARASNATH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as Khuranaji has said, I too would not like to go into the details, but would like to say that this is a very serious matter. More than 50 people lost their lives in this fire incident and more than 10 thousand huts have been reduced to ashes. What is the reason behind it? Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the august House towards the news item published in a Urdu daily *Qaumi Avaz* which is an old and prominent daily. It has very clearly been written in that daily that last Sunday a meeting of Shiv Sena was held in which Shri Udhav Thakeray said...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is this? Do you want to say everything ?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You can not say like this.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PARASNATH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on that day it was said that the slogan of Hindutwa is not being raised by the Prime Minister, but Shri Udhav Thakeray has said... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN (AMROHA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people have lost their lives over there and here these people are politicising the issue. Through you, I would like to make request to them that they should not say such things... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : If it is objectionable, it can be expunged from the records. Is there any response from the Government side?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI : Sir, please allow me... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Are you a local MP?

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI : Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : You please speak now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed the local MP.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Sir you please allow me to speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Buta Singh, you are not on the same subject. Please take your seat. I will call you afterwards.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Sir, you allow me to speak for half a minute. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you afterwards. Please understand that you are not on the same subject.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Sir, I need only half a minute. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Lal Bihari Tiwari, has it happened in your constituency.

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI : Yes, Sir.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to tell about a tragic fire incident of East Delhi in which 60 huts were gutted and items worth lakhs of rupees turned into ashes. Among those who were ruined in this incident there was one unfortunate woman whose all items of dowry worth Rs. 15-20 thousand were destroyed in fire. She had purchased these items for her daughter's marriage with borrowed money. This incident of fire breaking out in the Jhuggis of Vijayaghat is the second such incident which took place within 24 hours after the fire tragedy of east Delhi. Sir, as Shri Khurana has said, east Delhi Parliamentary Constituency is very vast Constituency and jhuggi dwellers constitute 25 per cent of its population. Dozens of such devastating fire incidents are likely to take place during this summer. Through you I would like to submit that besides the fact that fire incidents take place there in summer, people have to be rescued from there during rainy season when Yamuna river is in spate and Government spends crores of rupees on rescue operations. Through you I would like to request the Government that in order to ensure safety of these poor people and their belongings some arrangements should be made for resettlement of these people on permanent basis. Earlier also such people were resettled in Rohini and Narela.

Through you, I urge upon the Government that permission should be given for building brick houses for them because in case one jhuggi catches fire, the fire spreads to thousands of jhuggis. If the roof is made of bricks then jhuggi will not catch fire. Therefore, I request that special arrangements should be made in this matter. Hon'ble Home Minister went there and listened what people said. I want to say that some good arrangements should be made for them so that no jhuggi is left in Delhi and public amenities should be provided to the jhuggi dwellers so as to ameliorate their condition.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA (RAJNANDGAON) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, devastating fire incident which took place yesterday in Delhi has gutted thousands of jhuggis, destroyed property of jhuggi-dwellers and took a toll of 40 lives. State Government is giving proper attention towards this problem. The incidents of fire breaking out in jhuggis take place many a times and often in Delhi. We have to think of making proper housing arrangements for those living in Jhuggi-Jhompri. The Central Government should provide financial assistance on regular basis to the next of the kins those who have died or those who got injured in the fire tragedy so as to enable them to become self-reliant. The State Government has made a declaration in this regard but the Central Government has to bear a big responsibility in this regard. Exact number of people who have died cannot be ascertained till debris are not removed. But information of 50 people's death has come through newspapers. I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Home Minister to immediately provide help to them and arrangements should be made for their proper resettlement.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, devastating fire in Delhi which took place or was the handiwork of someone has deeply hurt and moved the whole House and people

belonging to all the parties. This is a serious matter. This must be got investigated. My pointed question is that why these people who live in Jhuggi-Jhompri of Delhi and are really poor people, back benchers, hard-working and engaged in decorating the city have not been so far provided ownership of land. When V.P. Singh was Prime Minister the people living in Jhuggi-Jhompri were provided ration cards. But now a days they are beaten, evicted from their homes, the jhuggis are being burnt and they are subjected to police atrocities and thus they are resorting to exodus ...*(Interruptions)* Central Government should know that large number of poor Jhuggi-Jhompri dwellers have not voted in favour of Delhi's BJP Government, instead they voted in favour of Congress. Therefore, where people are already settled, there you give ownership of land to the people. They should be given houses. Flat should be made for them separately. This would be big help for them. Those who have died cannot be called back whatever efforts we may make. Home Minister should look into the rationale behind determining 'foreigners.' People can be seen begging everywhere...*(Interruptions)* I am talking about all places. People whom you have burnt were from Bihar, U.P. and Bengal. The identity of those who burnt them would be established after investigations only. Is it the handi work of those very people who are burning the Christians alive. This is the subject of investigation. I do not want to touch the matter without investigation. Therefore, I submit to the hon'ble Prime Minister and Home Minister that people who are living in Jhuggi-Jhompri are poor people. People who have come from Bihar and outsiders are not made voters here. Those who are labourers and have settled down here, their names have been struck off from voters list. Sometimes Bangladesh is talked about. Therefore you should carry out the relief work on a large scale and instead of giving compensation of Rs. two lakhs to their dependents, compensation of Rs. five lakhs and service to each and every person should be provided. They do not have drinking water, lavatory. Where our daughters should go to ease themselves? Mr. Speaker, Sir, you yourself are considerate towards the poor and dalits. Whether it is Government of Delhi or Central Government, in case a Jhuggi dweller is displaced, then the Government should feel as if it has been displaced. Give them money, build houses for them, make provision for educating their sons and daughters, then only it will be established that here we have the people who take care of the interests of the poor. We people demand that you should get this incident investigated and those who are found guilty after investigation, their names should be published...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Buta Singh, are you on the same subject?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Yes, Sir.....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has never happened so far. You have not given me an opportunity to speak and now the former

Prime Minister is on his legs. He also wants to speak... (Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (BALLIA) (U.P.) : I will conclude within a minute. This incident is very distressing. All of us are worried about it. All of us want to rehabilitate the jhuggi dwellers. I would like to request through you to this House, that all hon. members should contribute Rs. 10 lakh from MP fund to end the slum clusters. Shri Ram Naikji is present here, he should grant permission to constitute a fund for this. The Prime Minister is present here, he should sanction money from Prime Ministers relief fund. The work should begin today and Members should decide right now... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today, the biggest tragedy that struck the capital of the country, has caused disaster on poor people. The House has unanimously expressed its concern and sympathy over it. I would like to request only two things to the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs. The newspapers have reported that hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs visited the site and issued some directions to Delhi Administration. After visiting the site it was the prime duty of the Minister of Home Affairs to make a *suo moto* statement in the House about the situation prevailing there. But it is very regrettable that the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs did not consider it necessary... (Interruptions). Let me speak. A statement should have been made.

In this tragedy many poor, dalit and people belonging to minority were killed. I would like to know, as Shri Madan Lal Khuranaji has spelt me in the right perspective, the Government's policy on rehabilitating slum and footpath dwellers. It has been reported in the newspapers that it is a big conspiracy and not an accident. Are they going to conduct a judicial inquiry under the commission of Inquiries Act to probe this conspiracy, so that it could be ascertained whether it was an accident or a conspiracy? We are ready to part with entire MP fund for compensating the victims as suggested by Shri Voraji, Shri Chandra Shekharji and other hon'ble friends provided that in Delhi, nobody is left shelterless, but what is the policy of the Government of India in this regard? The hon'ble Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs should make a statement in regard to Government of India's policy on it and a discussion should be held on this.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the Minister of Home Affairs.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (CHANDNI CHOWK) : The area we are talking about comes under Shri Lal Bihari Tiwariji, but a part thereof also fall under my constituency. Will you allow me for two minutes to speak... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : How can I allow all the Members? I have allowed the Delhi Members also. How can I allow all the Members?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : You can give time to senior Members, but you cannot give the minute time to Delhi MPs... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : How can I allow all the Delhi Members? We have got other business also.

...(Interruptions)

13.00 hrs.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Goelji, please sit down.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Give me two minutes.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Goel, I am giving you only one minute to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday more than 50 people were charred to death in the fire in huts of Delhi. None of us want to go into the details of its cause, but the main reason behind it is that every year six lakh people migrate to Delhi. It is very easy to say that jhuggi dwellers should be rehabilitated. Lajuji may level as many charges against me, but more than half of them have migrated from Bihar because no development is taking place over there. If development takes place in the State of Bihar, Delhi will not be over burdened... (Interruptions).

If you visit over there, you will find that basic amenities are not available in huts... (Interruptions).

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : An individual can go anywhere he wants... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Raghuvansh Prasadji, Please sit down.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : The Chief Minister of Delhi had called a meeting of all the MPs of Delhi. In that meeting I said the fire incidents in Delhi are caused due to unauthorised constructions. It cannot be stopped till unauthorised constructions are stopped. I said, that the congress Government should take initiative in this matter and all of us are ready to support them. Laluji said about giving compensation of Rs. 5 Lakh to every victim. I would like to tell him that he should give Rs.5 lakh as compensation to Jahanabad victims. He should not politicise this issue. I want that this issue should be probed. Development should take place in the States to discourage growth of huts and migration of people to Delhi...*(Interruptions)*. It cannot work till the facilities are provided in the huts... *(Interruptions)*.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, do not allow the country to be divided like this. They are also the citizens of India ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : If development does not take place there, the people will migrate here...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : All this is taking place under a conspiracy...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY (KHAGARIA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please give me a minute ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. Let us hear the Home Minister now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)* *

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (MUMBAI NORTH CENTRAL) : I also want an opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Athawale, you are not from Delhi. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, while living in Delhi during last few years, I have seen many fire incidents, but perhaps such frightening, horrible and painful fire incident, which was witnessed, yesterday evening, has never happened in the capital. Due to this reason, I associate myself with the agony and sorrow expressed by the Members of the House. I agree that this incident will compel us to think about many things, it will be good Khuranji has mentioned certain things related to development of Delhi, but many people have expressed certain apprehensions about yesterday's incident. I have no apprehension on the basis of what I saw yesterday, but an investigation should be made. I have consulted the Prime Minister. I understand that it will be appropriate to set up a commission under the commission of Inquiry Act to get to the bottom of the cause behind yesterday's tragic fire-incident. Therefore, the Government will move ahead in this direction. It will set appropriate terms of reference in this regard. I would like that a High Court judge should investigate the matter... *(Interruptions)*.

Yesterday, when I reached there, I was told by the officers, that till then 26 dead bodies had been counted, but they said, there could be more dead bodies. Some people said, some dead bodies have been carried direct to the hospitals and they were saying, 40 people have died. Today, the newspapers have reported the number of casualties to be more than 50. All these things are being looked into. The Government of Delhi, The Municipal Corporation, Police and the urban Development Department of the Central Government are collectively engaged in the relief work. We should provide them the relief as much as we can, we should make arrangements for them, but we should have the information that much of that area come under river bank. We cannot allot river-bank area to Jhuggi-dwellers, as has been said by some Members, it is not appropriate. Some parts of that area fall under New Delhi constituency and some part of its came under Tiwariji's constituency. This is a widespread area and people living there are poor. This type of incident has taken place earlier also, but not so frightening, fire-incidents have taken place. Therefore, it would be appropriate that while making plans for the slum development, we should also keep in mind that on the basis of this plan how we can get rid of this problem in future also. We have to think about this also I am sure that we will be able to provide adequate relief to the weaker sections affected by this incident. The terms of the commission of Inquiry set up by us will be such that some guidelines are provided enough them about by slums to us, I want to say this much only ...

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, what about the rehabilitation?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : There is no doubt that immediate

* Not Recorded.

relief will be provided and rehabilitation will be done, There is no doubt about it. All these measures will be taken... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Prime Minister may speak now.

...(Interruptions)

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Sir, what about the Tamil Nadu issue?...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : It is entirely a law and order matter of that State. How can you raise it in the House ?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI R. MUTHIAH (PERIYAKULAM) : Sir, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu is using the Government machinery to take revenge on his political rival. ...(*Interruptions*)

13.03½ hrs.

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

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed Shri Muthiah. What is this?

13.04 hrs.

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

MR. SPEAKER : You simply come into the well of the House on every issue! This is not a good practice.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI R. MUTHIAH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Tamil Nadu Government has made a false statement...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have called Shri Muthiah. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU (MADRAS SOUTH) : Sir, this is purely a State subject. As per Rules and Procedure of this House, this cannot be raised here...(*Interruptions*) If you allow him, you have to allow me also...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SURESH KURUP (KOTTAYAM) : Sir, how can he raise such issues here? It is a State subject...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI R. MUTHIAH : Sir, the Tamil Nadu Police has registered a case of attempt to murder and wrongful confinement against the former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister on a concocted theory that she has beaten up an auditor...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Muthiah, please hear me first. This is a State matter.

SHRI R. MUTHIAH : Sir, this is not a State matter.

MR. SPEAKER : This is a State matter. How can you raise it in this House?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Muthiah, how can you discuss law and order matters in this House?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions) *

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

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Muthiah, we have to follow the procedure of the House and this issue cannot be raised here.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : What is this Sir? Shri Muthiah should be allowed to raise this issue...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing to the hon. Members to please take their seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Muthiah, please understand. This is purely a law and order matter.

SHRI R. MUTHIAH : Sir, it is not at all a law and order matter ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions) *

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Muthiah, you had also been a Presiding Officer. You know about the procedure. How can you raise such matters here?

...(Interruptions)

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

...(Interruptions)

SHRI R. MUTHIAH : We are appealing to this Government to intervene in this matter...(*Interruptions*)

* Not Recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Do not come to the well. If you come to the well, we will take action against all of you

...(Interruptions)

13.13 hrs.

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

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seats. First of all, you should know the procedure of the House. Without following the rules and procedure, how can you raise such issues?

...(Interruptions)

13.14 hrs.

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

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Muthiah, you have made your point. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions) *

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Baalu, why are you unnecessarily disturbing the House?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Muthiah, please take your seat. How can you go out of the procedure?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There is important business to be transacted. Hon. Prime Minister has to speak, What is this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr Minister, this is not good.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri R. Muthiah, please take your seat. I am appealing to you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri T. R. Baalu, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : How can I run the House, if everybody behaves like this? It is not only the duty of the Chair to run the House; hon. Members must also cooperate with the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Once again, I am appealing to you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri T. R. Baalu, Please take your seat. Hon. Prime Minister will now speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We do not have any zero hour today. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can raise the matters tomorrow, not today, Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand. You can raise the matters, not today.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now the hon. Prime Minister will speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Shakeel Ahmad, I will allow you tomorrow, not today. I am not allowing you now. Hon. Prime Minister will now speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri R. Muthiah, please take your seat.

SHRI R. MUTHIAH : In protest, we are walking out of the House.

13.18 hrs.

At this stage, Shri R. Muthiah and some other hon. Members left the House.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rama Nand Singh, you have given notice. I have called for the facts of the case.

...(Interruptions)

* Not Recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Prime Minister will now speak.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (MAVELIKARA) : Your Minister has staged a walk out. What is your reaction to that?... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Order please.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : We want to have a reaction from the hon. Prime Minister. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Kurien, Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO (SIVAKASI) : Why are you disturbing him? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No running commentaries please.

13.21 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS — (Contd.)

[*Translation*]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I reply to the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, may I say that the reply has actually to be given by Shrimati Sushma Swaraj and I am only intervening in the debate. I would first of all like to wish our President a speedy recovery from his operation of cataract. The operation has been successful and he would be returning to Delhi in a few days. We also wish him a long life. Two of our former Prime Ministers have also gone abroad for treatment. It is my wish that they may recover soon and be in our midst and I hope that the House is with me in the good wishes.

Nearly 40 Members participated in the debate and a variety of subjects came up for detailed discussion. I regret that I could not be present in the House during the entire debate. I concede that I should have been present.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (TENALI) : Your Minister was present.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : It shows that they had not walked out. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the President's Address depicts a realistic picture of the situation. It neither exaggerates the achievements of the Government nor makes tall promises. Our Government is going to complete one year in the office and, during this one year, we have tried to improve the situation and the situation has improved also. Even our severest critics acknowledge that all the predictions made

about the Government—that it will collapse or disintegrate — have proved wrong. We have demonstrated our majority in the House and have achieved success in improving the economic situation. Above all, we are striving to make a success of this experiment of coalition Government which has so far failed in this country. It does not appear that there will henceforward be the domination of any single party. The All India parties will now have to function in collaboration with regional parties. The regional parties have become so influential primarily because of certain shortcomings of the national parties. It becomes difficult for the national parties to reflect the region's feelings and to represent their hopes and aspirations. But the regional parties have their roots among the people of the region and they reflect their wishes and problems. This country is full of diversities and this diversity is reflected in the political sphere by way of differences. And this is as it should be.

When no party got a clear majority, we decided to form the Government. It is difficult to run a coalition Government, but in a democracy this difficult task has also to be performed. We are taking those parties with us in collaboration with whom we had contested the elections. It is not a question of mere sharing of power. In Punjab, our cooperation with the Akali Dal is not only for power. It is very useful in sustaining the feelings of brotherhood. This applies to other regions also. We want to make a success of this experiment and hope to be successful.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the situation that prevailed a year ago has now changed. It is a different atmosphere now. After the Pokharan test, an attempt was made to isolate India ...(Interruptions)

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (MADHUBANI) : But you were defeated in the elections after that...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Shakeel Ahmad, please do not disturb. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Shakeel Ahmad, you are unnecessarily disturbing the House, wasting its time.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, attempts were made to isolate us in the world. Economic sanctions were imposed. They believed that India would not be able to stand to this challenge, but that did not happen. We had carried out the Pokharan explosion in view of our security concerns. Today, the foreigners who come to India, and those of our foreign friends who maintained a distance from us, do not ask us as to why we carried out a nuclear test at Pokharan? On the other hand, they talk of trade and commerce and want to expand economic cooperation with us. They have a fresh understanding of our security concerns now. Our nuclear

explosion was not meant to be a show of strength. The need of county's defence was behind it. This aspect is now being increasingly appreciated and more and more countries are now understanding it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was surprised to read the speech of an Hon. Member. He said that India's voice was no more heard in the international arena. He also said that our relations with SAARC countries were not good. This is unnecessary criticism. It is not that we do not welcome criticism. We welcome criticism. There is a proverb in Marathi which says "A critic's house should be nearby your house." A Hindi poet has also said that it is advisable to keep a critic by your side because a yesman would do you no good. But criticism should be bonafide. The fact is that our relation with all SAARC countries have improved. We have arrived at an agreement with Sri Lanka and a final shape is being given to it. We shall fully protect the interests of Tamil Nadu and Kerala, this is our promise. A transit Treaty has been signed with Nepal so that there does not remain any uncertainty in this regard. Our relations with Bangladesh have been strengthened. A decision has been taken to operate a bus service between Dhaka and Calcutta. I got an opportunity to go to Pakistan at the invitation of Pakistan Prime Minister. I took advantage of the bus service which was starting the same day. I am happy that our talks went well. In the Lahore Declaration and in the Memorandum of Understanding prepared by the foreign Secretaries, some new measures were announced. Now, both India and Pakistan are nuclear states. There is no other way than to live together in peace. A nuclear weapon is not a weapon of attack, it is a weapon of defence. It is a weapon that has contributed in maintaining peace. If there was no balance of power-or balance of terror during the days of the cold war, the odds could have been in favour of one party and it could have committed excesses. But this did not happen. The Prime Minister of Pakistan asked me as to why we undertook the nuclear explosion at that particular time whether the date had been fixed after some consideration. I said we had taken this step after due consideration, but asked him why he was putting this question. He laughed and said that our action coincided with the lowest ever foreign exchange reserves position in Pakistan, creating a crisis for them. We too had to pass through a crisis, but we successfully faced it with the cooperation of the people and the House. This is an evidence of our sound economy. We are capable of meeting any crisis. We want to solve all our problems with Pakistan through negotiations. There have been three wars between us during the last 50 years. Measures would now have to be taken to stop the war for ever. For this, there is no alternative other than negotiations. Whatever the issue, we are prepared for talks

When I was in Lahore, the news came of a massacre taking place in Rajori the same day. I took up the matter immediately with the Pakistan Prime Minister and told him that "if this process of killing innocent people did not stop, the bus of our friendship would come to a halt before their corpses. These killings must come to an end. When relations between our two countries are improving, care should be taken to ensure that no terrorists including foreign mercenaries cross into India. It is true that both the countries blame each other

for such incidents taking place in their territories. But we cannot kill our own people. They have also not been victims of any rivalry between them. Then who are their killers? They have come from across the border. Please stop them.

In the declaration, both the countries have expressed their determination to fight terrorism in all its forms. It says that we would honour the Shimla Agreement both in the letter and the spirit. The complaint did not mean that the importance of Shimla Agreement had been downgraded. In fact, we enhanced the importance of the Shimla Agreement. Confidence building steps between the two countries are being taken. We propose to change the visa system. Fishermen going on seas to catch fish are themselves sometimes caught and thrown in prisons. They have been languishing there for months and they must be released. This happens in both countries. There are prisoners of war also. Their cases should also be considered for release. We need to increase the people's visits, open the doors for trade and commerce, cooperate with each other and take steps to solve all the pending issues. I feel assured that both the countries will tread this path.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a number of issues have been raised during the debate. It will not be possible to reply to each and every point, but I would like to take up some of them. Some Hon. Members have said that there is no mention of family planning in the President's Address. I accept it. But our coalition Government does have a policy on family planning and the same has been stated in our National Agenda. It says that for population control, a judicious and intelligent mix of incentives and disincentives will soon be presented to establish our national commitment to this matter of great importance. The Government has prepared a document on family planning and there has been some discussion on it in the Cabinet. This matter has been referred to a small group of Ministers. It is a delicate issue on which a consensus should be formed. However, the foreigners who come to India are surprised to find that family planning programme has been successfully going on in India. The rate of population of growth has gone down from 2.1 per cent to 1.85 per cent. However inspite of this decline, we are adding 1.70 crore people to our population every year. Here, we differ from China. In some of our States, the family planning programme has been implemented with even greater success. However, some others have been left behind. It is somewhat surprising, and it should not happen that the States which are successfully carrying on family planning are losing the number of the Lok Sabha seats. This would have to be reversed. The number of seats should be fixed for every State and adequate steps should be taken for family planning. I was happy to read the speech of Shri Soz who refuted the contention that the population of Jammu and Kashmir is increasing. He said that the people of that State believed in family planning and the population of Jammu and Kashmir was not increasing and that a wrong propaganda was being done in this regard. The issue of family planning is a national issue and all of us will have to sit together to ponder over it. It is a national issue. No party or Government by itself can find a solution to this problem. The question is not only of formulating a policy, but also of its implementation. And from this viewpoint, all the parties should come together and consider what steps are to be taken.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the paper on agricultural policy is ready. Opinion of experts is being sought and the final document will be presented before the House soon. Several Members have raised the question of delay in implementing the crop insurance policy. The existing crop insurance policy does not include all farmers and all crops. It is confined to those farmers who take loans. In our amended crop insurance policy, we are going to remove all these shortcomings for promoting the interest of the farmers. The scheme is almost ready and we propose to give effect to it with the 1999 kharif crop. The cabinet has approved it in principle. Under the new scheme, more crops will be included and efforts for participation by all farmers in it will be made. The farmers will be getting more benefits under this scheme. The farmers who have taken loans will, of course, be included in it, but the scheme will also take note of those who have not taken loans, but become victims of floods or drought. Nearly six lakh farmers have so far been issued credit cards. The public sector banks have been told that this number should go up to 20 lakhs by the end of the next year.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Leader of the Opposition, Shri, Sharad Pawar, raised the question of a memorial of Baba Saheb Ambedkar in Delhi. Dr. Ambedkar used to live at 26 Alipur Road. The demand is to acquire this place and convert it into his memorial. The contention that no funds have been spent so far is incorrect. The issue of Baba Saheb Ambedkar Memorial is not a party issue. Even before we came to power, the Department of Social Justice had advanced an amount of Rs. 7.12 crores on 26 March, 1997 for acquisition of this building. But the policy to acquire it was challenged. In an interim order, the Land Acquisition Collector was directed not to declare the compensation award until the disposal of writ petitions. The matter is pending in the Court, since then. We are trying to have the court decision soon. Different concerned Ministries are in contact with each other. Negotiations are also going on with the owners of the property. If Shri Pawar can wield any influence on them, we will welcome his intervention.

It is not true that funds were not allocated to different institution meant for the welfare of the Dalits. For the year 1997-98 Rs. 611.77 crores were allotted for the Dalits, out of which Rs. 610.24 crores were spent. In 1998-99, the allocation was increased to Rs. 733.70 crores out of which Rs. 699.56 crores had been spent till 12 March, 1999. The Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition also referred to Dr. Ambedkar Overseas Fellowship. Enquires have shown that the Governing Body of the Foundation had terminated this scheme in 1977, before we took over the reins of the Government. However, the National Overseas Scheme for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is very much in operation and the amount of stipend given under it to the researchers has been enhanced from \$ 6600 to \$ 7700. Previously, there was a restriction of two boys from the same family getting stipend under the post-matric scholarship scheme. This has now been removed. Many facilities are being provided in the North Eastern States under this scheme. A special programme is being implemented for girls belonging to the Scheduled Tribes since they are the most illiterate among them. Forty districts have been identi-

fied where literacy among the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people is merely two percent. Separate allocation has been made for them and the money is also being spent. It is also not true that funds have not been allotted to N.G.Os working among scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes. The fact is that an assistance of Rs.10.64 crores was given to these N.G.Os during 1997-98. If need be, this amount can be increased.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, one issue relates to public sector undertakings. When industries were set up in the public sector, I was among those who had welcomed the move. Panditji eulogized it, and a campaign of capital investment in industries by Government was launched. The country expected that these undertakings will be our national assets and contribute to the welfare of the nation. But the picture that exists today is naturally causing concern. What is the reason, why the public sector units turn sick in such large numbers, suffer losses and come to the brink of closure? According to the figures available with me, the total losses suffered by the sick public sector units so far add up to Rs. 41,264.55 crores. Of the 236 public sector undertakings, 104 are running in losses. The biggest loss has been suffered by the Fertilizer Corporation of India. Other main loss suffering enterprises are in that sectors of textiles, coal and steel.

If the profits earned by the oil companies of the public sector are excluded, the net profit of the entire public sector will be very small. Due to the fall of oil prices in the international market, our profits in the oil sector have increased. A serious consideration needs to be given to the ailing units of the public sector.

It was a policy that we had inherited, and we are trying to pursue it. However, I feel that the time has come when the leaders of all parties, particularly those who have been associated with public sector industries and have worked among the labour should sit together and analyse why the public sector became a losing proposition.

There are some other aspects also to be considered. If some public undertaking can be revived, how it is to be done? If the workers are to be retired, what policy should be adopted? We have to be careful that the enterprises which can be run may not become sick. It is an issue that requires consensus. We are not bound by any pre-determined notions. We want to pursue practical policies in the realm of economy. There can be no place for any 'ism' in the matter of economic development because, that would neither be in the interest of the country, nor in the interest of the common man. The basic consideration is the interest of the nation. When some step is taken in the direction of economic development, but a remark is made that we are selling the country, I am pained to hear it. Who can sell a great country like India? And who can purchase it?

There can be differences on matters of policy and genuine differences can be there. We had a debate on EMR and product patent. When our leftist friends targeted us only ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : We have targeted both.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : There is no need to target both.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You have been faithfully following all their bad policies...(Interruptions)

SHRI MURLI DEORA (MUMBAI SOUTH) : In fact, they are opposing...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : When they were in the Opposition...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : What about the Law Commission ? ...(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : The Law Commission Report and decision of the Parliament are two different things.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Let it be discussed in the House.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : The issue is being discussed. As you know, we are in favour of public sector industries. We are seriously considering had IDPL can be revived and steps are being taken towards that end. But I also want to urge upon you not to follow too much of 'ism'. If you will continue to hang on to a policy which has been proved impracticable, which has got a beating the world over, you will be cut off...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : If you run all the units properly, we will not say anything...(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : You will be cut off from the mainstream...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We will help you in that ...(Interruptions)

[English]

We will support you. Please run them properly.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : During the last few months, there have been attacks on our Christian brothers and their institutions. It is a matter of great regret and great concern. True, the number of these incidents is not large, but why would such incidents take place at all in this country? The media has also a duty not to blow up these incidents out of proportion as they incite the people. At times, the report

turns out to be wrong. A world wide news agency flashed a report of an attack on a couple at Allahabad, but later on the same couple denied the report and said there was no attack on them. I am not aware whether that news agency carried a clarification or not, but some restraint should be observed on all sides. Every citizen of this country, particularly belonging to smaller communities, must be protected. Those people should be our special concern. The increasing intolerance in the country signifies a danger bell. The very basis of our culture is tolerance, it is well-known for it. The Indian thinking has been in terms of the entire world, the whole universe, but if some people feel on the basis of their community that justice is not being meted out to them, or if they develop a feeling of insecurity, it is not only a matter of concern, but a challenge also. Wherever any incidents have taken place, the culprits have been arrested and they are being prosecuted in courts. Gujarat is also included in this. But in Orissa, the name of a prominent suspect is being widely mentioned as the main culprit. He has not yet been arrested and efforts are being made all over the country to apprehend him. He must be brought to book. The burning of an Australian citizen along with his children is a most heinous crime. It has been condemned the world over, and we must put our home in order. There are elements that would like to derive political advantage out of it, they should not be provided a handle. Our Government is determined to ensure security for every citizen, create confidence among minorities and strengthen the law and other machinery. There should be no laxity in this matter. Any person, howsoever influential, and any organisation howsoever strong, will be dealt with according to the law for any activity violative of the law. We will see to it that...(Interruptions) It is not right to allege that no action is taken; action is taken.

14.00 hrs.

We have ensured the cricket match between the Indian and Pakistani teams. It has taken place after all. A similar problem had cropped up 10 years back during the Congress regime. There were warnings of disrupting the match and uncertainty prevailed on whether the match should be held or not. The Congress Government cancelled the entire series. But we have got it done...(Interruptions). The Calcutta incident is a different matter. We do not blame our leftist friends for that. But they must share the responsibility to some extent. At times, such incidents occur all of a sudden, but it is necessary to check them...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : They are leftists and you are capitalists.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Shri Mohan Singhji, where do you stand between these two? You are unnecessarily poking yourself. Where do you stand !

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Here, before you.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : We are ready for confrontation. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will not take much time of the House. I am thankful to you for giving me the time to speak. I would appeal to all the Hon. Members...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (CALCUTTA SOUTH) :
What was the impact of the Calcutta incidents at Lahore?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I would speak about this in Calcutta.

SHRI SUSHMA SWARAJ (SOUTH DELHI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the greatness of Atalji that he said he is only intervening in the debate and reply to the debate will be given by me. There is no arrangement for this in our rules and nor courtesy demands. Rule 20, sub-rule (2) provides that after the reply of Prime Minister neither the mover nor the seconder of the motion has any right to reply. Going one step ahead, I would like to say that even if there had been such provisions in the rules, then courtesy demands that after reply of Prime Minister no one should speak by way of reply. How beautifully he has summed up this whole discussion and replied to the debate and I think after that there is no need for anyone to speak.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : A number of amendments have been moved by hon. Members to the Motion of Thanks. Shall I put the amendments together to the vote of the House ?

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : You call the name of Members one by one separately....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, shall I put all the amendments together ?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Not together, Sir.

[Translation]

When they are separate then how it can be put together.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mohan Singh, are you moving the amendment or not?

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Sir, in this Address mention has been made about the President Rule in Bihar, Situation has changed there now. My amendment is about enforcing President's Rule in Bihar. I would like to say that when President's Rule has been revoked there then it would be improper to make any mention of it in President Address. This is also against his dignity and against the traditions. I would like to request that at least amendment for deletion of that portion should be accepted then I will not press for my amendment.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, I shall put amendment Nos. 1 to 8, moved by Shri Mohan Singh, to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER : I shall put amendment Nos. 33 to 41 and 328 and 329 moved by Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER : I shall put amendment Nos. 63 to 81 moved by Basu Deb Acharia to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, I shall put amendment Nos. 104 to 113 moved by Shri C. Kuppasami to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (MAHABUBNAGAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, now you can put the remaining amendments together to the vote of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put all the other amendments moved to the Motion to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That an Address be presented to the President in the following terms :-

"That the Members of Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 22nd February, 1999."

The motion was adopted

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the House will take up Matters under Rule 377. Hon. Members, today, you have to forego the lunch. Is it the sense of the House to forego the lunch?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

14.09 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If any hon. Member wants to go out of the House, he may quietly do so. Let them not stand here.

14.10 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to take Steps for Early Completion of Ganga Barrage Project at Kanpur

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (KANPUR) : The Government of India had agreed to finance the construction of the Ganga Barrage at Kanpur at an estimated cost of Rs.172 crore on 50:50 basis with the Government of Uttar Pradesh. A letter was accordingly issued by the Planning Commission on the basis of which work commenced. An amount of Rs.6 crore was also released by the Government of India. Due to instability in U.P., the matter was not properly pursued for formal sanction and provision of funds by the Government of India. The U.P. Government has spent about Rs. 50 crore on the project till now.

The draft cabinet Note for approval of the Cabinet has now been circulated by the Ministry of Urban Development, the nodal Ministry. For more than three months, this Ministry is awaiting comments and concurrence of the Planning Commission who would suitably enhance the Ninth Five Year Plan outlay of the Ministry to enable the Ministry to make budgetary provisions for release of funds in this regard. In the absence of an early decision and release of funds, the work on the project would stop thereby leading to avoidable delay and cost escalation. An early action in the matter is solicited.

[English].

(ii) Need to continue Relaxations being given to Youth of Hilly Areas of U.P. for Recruitment in Army

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (ALMORA) : People of Uttaranchal area have had a glorious history in the Indian Army. Large number of youths specially from border areas of Uttaranchal have sacrificed their lives for the country and soldiers from Uttaranchal have earned great reputation in the army by holding top highest in the army. History is full with brave acts of Kumaon and Gharwal regiments and these regiments have received indefinite number of gallantry awards.

This area is of strategic importance because it is border area and this area is very sensitive. Its border area touches China, Tibet and Nepal.

But area of Uttaranchal being a hilly and inaccessible area, cultivable land here remains unirrigated and almost non-existent and industries have not been established here.

By joining army the people serve the country as well as earn livelihood for their family. Due to this reason only for about two decades the educational qualification for the recruitment of youths of Tehsils of bordering districts of Pithoragarh, Chamoli Uttar Kashi in army have been prescribed VIII standard in place of matric and relaxation was given in height,

chest measurements etc. This relaxation is going to be withdrawn in 1999.

Hence, I request the Government to continue this relaxation extended to youths of bordering districts of Uttaranchal for joining army.

(iii) Need for Early Conversion of Railway Line between Kuda and Dhagandhra into Broad Gauge

SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE (SURENDRA-NAGAR) : Surendranagar district of Gujarat produces 60 per cent of the salt produced in India. Keeping this in mind, a decision of conversion of Kuda to Dhagandhra rail line into broad gauge was taken up so that salt is easily distributed in the country. As per our information, for this gauge conversion work, it was decided that the railway department, Gujarat Government and salt department would contribute their respective shares. The department of railways and the Gujarat Government have made provisions for this purpose in their budget but due to the delay on the part of salt department whole project is lying incomplete. Therefore, I request the Government to ascertain the reasons of delay on the coal department and issue instructions to this department to release its share of funds for completion of this project.

(iv) Need to provide funds to Government of Uttar Pradesh for Construction of A Bridge on River Ramganga Between Dataganj and Beladandi in Uttar Pradesh

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (AONLA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, people of my constituency have to face lot of difficulty while crossing over the river Ramganga due to absence of a bridge over Ramganga river flowing through district of Badaun-Bareilly of Uttar Pradesh. People of the area have made strong demand for construction of bridge since long. People of area have to face economic crisis as well as difficulties in crossing over the river when it is flooded. If a bridge is constructed from Dataganj (Badaun) to Beladandi route, then it would be convenient for the people of this area to cross over this river for Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to construct a bridge on river Ramganga from Dataganj to Beladandi route, in the public interest and take early and necessary steps for this purpose. Hence, State Government should be provided adequate funds for this.

(v) Need to treat teaching cadre of Central Health Scheme at par with their counterparts of AIIMS and PGI

[English]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (MADHUBANI) : Teaching cadre under the Central Health Scheme of Government of India-Senior Professors working in Maulana Azad Medical College, G.B. Pant Hospital, JIPMER, Pondicherry and others are not being treated at par with the teaching faculty of AIIMS, PGI,

Chandigarh, etc. Neither they have the parities as far as pay and other emoluments are concerned nor they get facilities in the form of research grants, etc. These Professors working in CHS do more teaching work by way of teaching more number of graduates, postgraduates and post-doctorals, medical students; carrying out more research work and publication; attending to many more number of outdoor, indoor and emergency patients and also providing general specialised and super specialised care to patients besides shouldering administrative responsibilities of the hospitals and colleges.

Despite all these, the senior Professors are being treated at par with non-teaching specialists and general duty medical officers. Before the Fourth Pay Commission, the teaching cadre under CHS was better paid in comparison to faculty of AIIMS. But for a decade or so, the situation has gradually worsened.

In view of these facts, I request the Union Government to take immediate remedial measures to remove the anomalies by providing equal salaries for equal work i.e. equivalent to faculty of AIIMS and also take steps to improve the working conditions of these senior experienced Professors of the institution under the central Health Scheme.

(vi) Need to take necessary steps for telecasting the Second Channel Programme of Doordarshan from Asansol T.V. Relay Centre, West Bengal

SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY (ASANSOL) : I would like to draw the attention of the House to the urgent need to telecast the Second Channel Programme of Doordarshan from Asansol TV Relay Centre and make it a full-fledged TV Relay Centre. It is a long-standing demand of the people of West Bengal. Several representations have been made to the Central Government but nothing has been done. If it is done, the people of Asansol as well as the viewers of Bankura, Birbhum, Purulia, Midnapore and Dhanbad will be benefited to watch the Second Channel Programme of Doordarshan.

Equipment for telecasting of Second Channel Programme from Asansol TV Relay Center is lying idle for quite long time.

I urge upon the Government to take into the matter and take necessary steps for telecasting the Second channel Programme of Doordarshan from Asansol TV Relay Centre and make it a full-fledged centre.

(vii) Need for Construction of a fly-over bridge at Harishchandrapuram Railway Station in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM) : The Railway Minister last year gave an assurance that a fly-over bridge would be constructed at Harishchandrapuram to fulfil the long pending demand of the people of the area. Harishchandrapuram is situated between Tekkali and Narasannapeta towns and covers more than 100 densely populated villages. The fly-over bridge is essential to help the people of the area who are experiencing hardships to catch buses as well as for transportation of goods. Harishchandrapuram is a centrally

located station and the fly-over bridge will help to meet the demand of rice millers of Narasannapeta, Kotabommali and Tekkali Mandal. Hence, I request the Railway Minister to include the construction of the fly-over bridge at Harishchandra-puram during the current Railway Budget.

(viii) Need to look into the problems being faced by HMT Units due to new economic policy

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN (TRICHUR) : Due to liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation under the new economic policy being followed by the Government, our machine tool industry, particularly the Hindustan Machine Tools (HMT) Units are in a very bad condition today.

Second hand and reconditioned machines are being imported at cheaper costs in abundance due to the steep reduction in the import duty from 85 per cent to 13 per cent. There are no sufficient orders for machines due to the withdrawal of the purchase preference given to the public sector undertakings. Inadequate budgetary support for the public sector has adversely affected the HMT units, particularly the Kalamassery unit.

Being attracted by multinational corporations a number of talented young workers have left the HMT. As there has not been any new appointment for a long time, there is shortage of workers in some of the important departments and lack of promotional avenues for the existing workers.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to pay attention to these problems and take necessary steps to save the HMT units.

(ix) Need to build a monument at Rahnat village in Haryana in memory of the freedom fighters

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDER SINGH (BHIWANI) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, though we have celebrated the golden jubilee of our independence, yet we have not satisfied the sacrifice of the martyrs of Rahnat village of district Bhiwani. Rahnat village is situated 12 kilometers away from Hansi. The brave people of this village, alongwith the citizens of Hisar, played a major role in the result of May, 1857 against the Britishers.

The innumerable freedom fighters of the villages in the vicinity of Rohnat-Jamalpur, Hajiampur, Bhatol Ranghan, Kharah Alipur Mangali, Pufthi Managalkhan etc, hundred an attack on the English rulers of Tojhan, Hansi and Hisar on 29th May, 1857 and consequently looted the treasury and freed their patriotic prisoners. During this struggle 12 English officers at Hisar and 11 at Hansi were put to death. When the revolt of 1857 failed, these revolution areas had to pay a very heavy price for it. Firstly the English Army made a bombardment over Rahanat village by encircling it from all sides and then set a fire the nearby villages due to which hundreds of people were burnt alive. The English sepoy captured the revolutionaries and made them lie on the roads and were crushed

to death by the road roller. Even today, this bloody road is known as "Lal Sarak" in House. Besides innumerable unknown martyrs who were crushed to death on the road, because a youngman of village Rahnat named Nonda was also among them. Similarly, Borad Das Swami was also blown to pieces by putting his body against the mouth of a gun. More than twenty thousand Bighas of total land of village Rahnat was taken over and auctioned by English rulers. This act rendered all the villagers of Rahnat landless.

In the year 1970, the twenty five descendents of the freedom fighters of this village were provided a token grant of only Rs. 1,25,00. The nation has yet to grant full recognition to this saga of valour and bravery in form of a moment in at the memory of these martyrs to commemorate the highest sacrifice made by the great revolutionaries of this village for the freedom struggle of the nation. It will be befitting to construct glorious monument.

14.24 hrs.

[English]

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE : DISAPPROVAL OF
CENTRAL VIGILANCE COMMISSION ORDINANCE
AND
CENTRAL VIGILANCE COMMISSION BILL *

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now the House will take up Item Nos. 21 and 22 together.

First, the Statutory Resolution.

The time allotted is two hours.

Shri P.C. Thomes. Absent.

Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : Sir, the promulgation of two ordinances in regard to conferment of statutory status to Central Vigilance Commission shows how in a cavalier manner the Government is functioning.

Sir, within a period of one month, two ordinances were promulgated. Was it not a fact that the ordinance which was promulgated in the month of August was to be lapsed and because of that another ordinance was promulgated? But here an ordinance was promulgated and that was promulgated because of the Supreme Court's direction. That was given long back in the year 1997. After one year, the Government thought to promulgate an ordinance to give Central Vigilance Commission statutory status. But when the ordinance was promulgated we found that a few words were deliberately deleted.

Sir, what the Supreme Court had said in 1997 in its judgment on Vineet Narain's case is known as *hawala* case. The Supreme Court had said that the selection for the post of Central Vigilance Commissioner shall be made by a Committee comprising of hon. Prime Minister, the Minister of Home Affairs and the Leader of the Opposition from a panel of outstanding civil servants and other with impeccable integrity. This is very important. While the Government shall remain answerable for CBI's functioning to introduce visible objectivity in the mechanism to be established for overseeing the CBI's working, C.V.C. shall be entrusted with the responsibility of superintendence over functioning. But when the Ordinance was promulgated – the Committee will consist of the Leader of the Opposition and the C.V.C. would be selected from a panel of outstanding civil servants and others with impeccable integrity – these words were deleted. We have seen the reaction of one of the members of the Cabinet, Shri Ram Jethmalani. He immediately reacted that the draft was not shown and the ordinance was promulgated or the draft was finalised without the knowledge; of the Cabinet.

The responsibility of preparing the draft was entrusted with the Law Commission.

The Law Commission prepared the draft of the Bill or the Ordinance, and submitted it to the Cabinet. But whatever the Law Commission has suggested there, was not implemented while drafting the Ordinance.

Sir, regarding the Law Commission's Report, we have seen, how this House was kept in dark. We have discussed the Patents (Amendment) Bill on the floor of this House. But one month before it, the Law Commission had submitted its Report recommending to the Government very categorically that 'this Report should be sent to the Lok Sabha.' The Law Commission sent its recommendations because they felt it that the Patents (Amendment) Bill would be debated on the floor of the House. If the Law Commission's Report was debated in the House, the hon. Members of this House would have been able to know about its recommendations because there are certain provisions to the Amendment Bill, against which the Law Commission also has expressed serious reservations.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, are you talking about the Central Vigilance Commission?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I am just referring to similar and identical approach of the Government. This has happened also in regard to Ordinance which was promulgated. The CVC was set up in 1964 after Shri Santanam submitted its Report to the Government of India. What has happened during these years after 1964? The corruptions of Sixties and the corruptions of Nineties are quite different. Sir, at that time, they felt that there should be an institution like the CVC. There also, the Santanam Committee recommended that institution should be independent of the Government control. But what is our experience during these years, after 1964? The Government exercised its control, rather had its political influence over the CVC. As a result, the impartiality in the action was

* Published in Gazette of India, extraordinary, Part 2 Section II dated 15.3.1999.

also hampered, and there was an impact in the impartial functioning of the Central Vigilance Commission.

Sir, when was the first Ordinance promulgated? In 1997, the Supreme Court issued directions to confer the statutory status to the CVC, the Government had enough time to do so without promulgating Ordinance. But now, it has become an *Ordinance Raj*. Six to seven Ordinances have come in one month's time.

Shri Khanduri, we have never seen earlier as to what you are resorting to, what you are leading to nowadays. You are by-passing the Parliament. You have promulgated the Prasar Bharati Ordinance in order to by-pass this Parliament.

You passed Prasar Bharati Bill here, but you did not take that Bill to Rajya Sabha. Your main purpose to promulgate Prasar Bharati Ordinance is to remove one person Shri Gill, but not to give it an autonomous status. That was the intention and motive behind promulgation of Ordinance in a hurried manner.

14.36 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY *in the Chair*]

Similarly, when the first Ordinance was promulgated, what was the motive or *malafide* intention of this Government? It was to remove one person, Shri Bezbarua from the post of Enforcement Director. He was transferred without giving any reason and by Supreme Court's Order, Shri Bezbarua was to be brought back again. It is our experience to see how cases to corruption which are being looked into by the Special Court in Tamil Nadu are being transferred to the regular court by the Central Government. Is it not interference with the State's affairs? I am just giving an example as to how this Government is functioning and how they are interfering in judicial matters.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (CHANDIGARH) : You should speak on CVC, but not on cases like Prasar Bharati which have no relevance to the present topic.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Shri Satya Pal Jain, you will answer to all these matters in your reply...*(Interruptions)* I am just giving an example. ...*(Interruptions)* Shri Satya Pal Jain, this is also interference.

What did the Law Commission keep in mind while making the provisions of the Resolution 64 for setting up of CVC? While drafting the legislation, it was stated that the supervision of the CBI and the Directorate of Enforcement as provided in the judgment of the Supreme Court is only additional function directed by the court to be entrusted to the CVC. It does not mean that the existing power and functions of CVC were taken away or intended to be scuttled in any manner. In fact, the idea is to strengthen this institution by giving it a statutory character and entrusting some more functions to it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA) : He is also interfering.

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : It is for this purpose of rendering CVC as an effective, fair and competent organ that the court had taken the trouble of giving the aforementioned specific direction. I have already mentioned about it. One of the main objectives behind giving statutory basis to CVC is to get it free from administrative or other control of any Ministry or any other power or body.

When this was first promulgated, Supreme Court had to interfere.

Then, within a gap of one month, another Ordinance was promulgated in order to rectify what the Government did in the first Ordinance. Is there any need for the promulgation of an Ordinance? After the Supreme Court gave its direction in 1995, this Government appointed an independent review committee. That committee also submitted its report.

Mr, Chairman, Sir, you may remember, we were Members of this House at the time we discussed the Vohra Committee Report which was presented in 1993. Shri N.N. Vohra was the Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs. He inquired into the nexus between the politicians and the criminals, the *mafias*. That Committee's Report was discussed here. That Committee also made certain recommendations but since 1993, no tangible action has been taken to implement those recommendations.

We know that there is a nexus between the politicians, the bureaucrats and the criminals. In order to curb this, there is a need for strengthening the institution for an impartial and independent inquiry. For that, the promulgation of an Ordinance was not required. The Government could have come with a Bill, in the winter Session itself or even before that, in the Budget Session. There was enough time to bring a regular Bill but the Government has not brought it.

From the promulgation of the first Ordinance, the intention of the Government was clear. It was that the Government does not want to strengthen this institution; it does not want to implement the direction of the Supreme Court in letter and spirit. This is why, I oppose this Ordinance and I oppose this type of an attempt of the Government to bypass Parliament and the Supreme Court.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Supreme Court has bypass. They have combined.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : It was not done before.

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : It was done deliberately and I object to that.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill to provide for the constitution of a Central Vigilance Commission to inquire or cause inquiries to be conducted into offences alleged to have been committed under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 by certain categories of public servants of the Central Government, corporations established by or under any Central Act, Government companies, societies and local authorities owned or controlled by the Central Government and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the main object of this Bill is to eradicate corruption in public life. This is an attempt by this new Government for the first time in Indian history. Therefore, I hope that the comrade will accept that. ...*(Interruptions)* Hon. Members, do you accept the purpose of the Bill or not? The purpose of the Bill is to clean the public life. You have spoken as a lawyer. I am not a lawyer but I am only a common man's representative.

The Supreme Court has issued the direction on 18.12.1997. The Gujral Government decided to implement the orders in January, 1998. Then, the Government decided on 7.4.1998 to implement the order, according to the Court direction and gave it to the Law Commission. The then CVC resigned with effect from 9.8.1998 and it became necessary to pass an Ordinance. These matters have been elaborated in the explanation for bringing an Ordinance. All these aspects have been explained.

The Law Commission's Report was received by this Cabinet; there was also a Cabinet meeting and then only, it was done. Further, this Bill was passed on the 7th December and the House wanted it to be referred to the Departmentally Related Standing Committee. As per the wishes of the House, it was referred to the Departmentally Related Standing Committee and the Committee was requested to submit its report before the 16th December; but it was not done and it was submitted only on the 25th February 1999. Therefore, the re-issuance of the Ordinance had become necessary and therefore, the Government's aim and purpose are clear.

Our Comrade Shri Basu Deb Acharia has said something about corruption in some States. I would say that corruption is not prevalent only in one State. Corruption in public life is there right from the days of Shri T.T. Krishnamachary, right from the days of Shri Nehru and Shrimati Indira Gandhi. Corruption is there even in Japan and America. Comrade Acharia was talking about international politics. He wanted to mention about a friend who is sitting in the Southern end of Tamil Nadu.

I would only say that the present Bill would only strengthen the Central Vigilance Commission, as I explained. This Bill was introduced in this House on the 7th December, 1998.

I had given notice to speak in Tamil also. When I want to speak about bribery and corruption, I want to speak in my language Tamil, my mother tongue.

I hail from a party that has committed itself to keep bribery and corruption and to eradicate it without giving any scope. I come from a party that has never yielded to corruption or bribery. I am representing All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam founded by our late lamented leader Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi. We all know what the Press had written about us when we forged an alliance with BJP during the elections. Many people said many things about our bold decision.

The Central Vigilance Commission Bill to eradicate corruption brought forward by the BJP coalition Government is a landmark in the national history of India.

After its introduction, the Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 1998 was referred to the Departmentally-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs, under the Chairmanship of Shri Pranab Mukherjee, for examination and report. The Committee had detailed discussions on this Bill. After such detailed discussions, the Standing Committee presented its 51st Report on the Central vigilance Commission Bill, 1998 to the parliament on 25th February, 1999.

The Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 1998 contains 27 Clauses. The Standing Committee has adopted 21 Clauses without any change. In respect of the other six Clauses, the Standing Committee recommended or proposed principal changes. After examination of these six Clauses, the Government has accepted the recommendations or proposed changes in respect of five Clauses made by the Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee directed the Government to take a decision on their suggestion that 'in the Bill, at all places where the CVC is empowered to supervise the work of CBI or give instructions to CBI, etc. the provision should be in respect of verification, inquiries and investigations conducted by the CBI and not merely one or two of these.' The Government has examined this suggestion of the Committee and it has not been found feasible to accept this suggestion for the reason that since the scope of formal inquiries or verification of facts by the police before registration of a regular case and the scope of the powers exercisable by the police for that purpose are neither defined under the Cr. P. C. no they are statutorily recongnized.

Sir, I may submit here that necessary notice of official amendments in the light of the recommendations made by the Standing Committee to the Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 1998 has already been circulated. The Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 1998 could not be taken into consideration by this House as the report of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs was awaited. In the meantime, the validity of the earlier two Ordinances issued by the President was expiring and it became necessary to promulgate the Central Vigilance Commission Ordinance, 1999 (No.4 of 1999) on 8th January, 1999 in order to give continued effect to the validity of the provisions of the Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 1998.

With the change in Enacting Formula and the year, for which an official amendment has already been moved, the title of the Bill will become the Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 1999. The Bill has to be passed by both the Houses of Parliament by 18th March, 1999 and assented to by the President before April 4, 1999 when the validity of the Central Vigilance Commission Ordinance 1998 would expire. In view of the urgency involved in the matter, Mr. Chairman, I urge the hon. Members to unanimously pass the aforesaid Bill along with the proposed amendment.

With these words, I request that the Bill may be considered and passed unanimously along with the proposed official amendment. I request the hon. Member to withdraw his objection. The Bill seeks to remove corruption in public life. So, it should be passed unanimously. It is a record Bill in the history of Parliament, which speaks for purification of not only politicians but also the bureaucrats who are acting above the Executive.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motions moved:

"That this House disapproves of the Central Vigilance Commission Ordinance, 1999 (No.4 of 1999) promulgated by the President on 8th January, 1999."

"That the Bill to provide for the constitution of a Central Vigilance Commission to inquire or cause inquiries to be conducted into offences alleged to have been committed under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 by certain categories of public servants of the Central Government, corporations established by or under any Central Act, Government companies, societies and local authorities owned or controlled by the Central Government and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

SHRI K. S. RAO (MACHILIPATNAM) : Sir, I have gone through the Bill as also the actions of the BJP Government in the last year. I have heard the comments made by the Minister and I appreciate his pious intention to eradicate corruption from the public life. The Minister was telling the House that it is this Government which has initiated steps to bring about a CVC. It is not correct. As early as 1964, the then Government expressed its intention and brought the Commission into existence. All that the present Government has done is to bring a statutory authority to the Commission but on the same line. In fact, there is a change also, which was made either intentionally or unintentionally, by the present Government, incorporating an amendment in the first Ordinance to include the Secretary of the Personnel as ex-officio Member of the Commission by which the entire purpose is lost. The very purpose of this Commission is to check corruption at the higher levels. But if the people who are its Members are instrumental for making the lacunae in the Bill, the Bill will not be implemented in true spirit if the Authorities were to be negligent and allow it to be passed like this. I do not know whether it was the intention of the Government to dilute the CVC by making the Secretary as its ex-officio Member. I do not know whether it has been done intentionally or un-intentionally or some of the Mem-

bers of the ruling party wanted it to be done. I do not know whether the Government has played in the hands of the Bureaucrats or the Bureaucrats are taking advantage of the inexperienced Government in handling them properly. The general impression among the country men is that this Government is being played by the bureaucrats who are playing a role both in making the Act and in making the provisions in such a manner...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (BILHAUR) : your perception is not the perception of the people of the country.

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO : It may be true in your opinion. My perceptions are my own. You cannot dispute with my perceptions. I am not saying it off-hand. I am also elected by the people as you are.

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA : I am not raising any doubt against you. I am giving vent to the sentiments of the people of the country.

SHRI K.S. RAO : That is what I am telling.

[English]

The opinions may vary. Your perception may vary from my perception. We are here to discuss our perceptions. This is democracy.

So, my hon. colleague, please do not think that your perception only are the perceptions of the entire countrymen. Please do not be under that impression or illusion.

Sir, one thing we cannot but appreciate is that this Act that is meant to prevent the corruption. As we all know, major evil that is confronting today is corruption and more particularly corruption at the higher levels.

Today people are thinking that there is no action for the greatest crimes committed at the highest level whether it is by bureaucrat or by politician or by some official. At the lowest level, if a bus conductor delays the repayment of change after charging for the ticket, immediately he is caught red-handed and punished. Sometimes he is even dismissed from the service and his family is on the road. While a man at the lowest level is punished on the pretext of corruption and for not paying a small change of less than one rupee, people who are at the helm of affairs go scot free on some pretext or the other. Sometimes they use some lacunae in the Acts or take advantage of the well placed persons in the Government or other authorities. People's faith in the legislations and the Government is going down. So, the major thing is that a definite interest has to be taken by the authorities concerned in not entrusting this job merely to the bureaucrats and entirely depending on them. They must do something more.

[Shri K.S. Rao]

In this case itself it is surprising that the Government has made two ordinances within a short spell. In these two ordinances their own Cabinet Minister says that the concerned bureaucrats have played with the Government. It is quite unfortunate to hear from member of the Cabinet that the concerned bureaucrat has played a role in preventing the Act to be effectively implemented tomorrow. I do not think enough action has been taken against the concerned. Here itself it is visible that the Government is not acting affectively. What signal will go to the people at the lower level when every citizen would come to know that even at the time of making the Act itself, the Government could not control, contain and rectify the intensions and minds of the bureaucrats who are involved in this. That is a major problem.

Sir, several Acts have been made in the last 50 years or even more. But it is not only the Act, but the intensions of the authorities in making the Act also is very important. In this particular case while I appreciate the Hon. Minister that his intensions are to prevent corruption in the public life, the provisions made in it do not indicate it totally.

Many eminent citizens and experts have expressed their opinion in the newspapers that the major thing which is required is that the nominated members, the Chief Vigilance Commissioner or the Vigilance Commissioner, should have impeccable integrity. Whatever be the experience and whatever be the knowledge, the Vigilance Commissioners should have total integrity, and unquestionable integrity. Not only that, they should have courage and some conviction so that they cannot be played by any official or any well placed man including the Cabinet Ministers in the Government. They should be able to perform their duty. So, naturally the point of impeccable integrity should be kept in this Act. Today if you see this Act and many other Acts where integrity is incorporated and where we see quality of the persons who are selected the very meaning of the integrity is not being believed by anybody.

15.00 hrs.

Sir, in this aspect, I wish that the hon. Minister should incorporate the word 'impaccable' or 'unquestionable integrity' in selecting at least the Commissioners. As I told you earlier, knowing fully that the bureaucrats are responsible for all this, Clause 3(1) says "provided from amongst the Central Vigilance Commissioner and the Vigilance Commissioners not more than three persons shall belong to the category of persons." That means the Chief Vigilance Commissioner can be selected tomorrow. The same bureaucrats who are responsible for all these will once again play a key role. The fourth one cannot play the key role. So, I am of the opinion that it must be at least 50:50. It must not be balanced in favour of certain people. So, I request the hon. Minister to consider whether it can be two persons and not three persons of any category. I am saying this with all the experience that we had in the last several years and to prevent the same people who are responsible for all these lacunae in not implementing the Act properly. I would request him to see whether he can reduce the number or not.

Similarly, coming to Clause 17, after making all the inquiries, what is the authority of the Commissioner? Invariably, the job of the Commissioner is to investigate the cases only which are referred to them by the institutions. It means not all the fraudulent and corrupt cases are referred to them. Whenever a case is referred to the CVC, obviously it must be a very serious case. Obviously, the case is such where the persons concerned do require punishment. In that particular case, after going through the details of inquiries and investigations made by the respective organisations, if the advice given by the Commission was not to be implemented totally, then it remains only an advice. In that case, what is the role of the CVC ?

Clause 8(1) (d) refers to the review of the progress of the investigation. Similar is the case with Clause 8(e) and (f). Sub-clause (f) says 'to tender advice to the Central Government.' It is only to advise the Central Government or the Corporation. After the advice, what is the provision ?

Clause 17(2) says :

"The Central Government and the Corporations established by or under any Central Act, Government Companies, societies and local authorities owned or controlled by the Government, as the case may be, shall consider the advice by the Commission and take appropriate action."

When the case is already investigated by the internal vigilance or by the respective departments, and when they fail to take action on the party, only then it is referred to the CVC and when the advice is given back to the institution, they are once again at liberty to do whatever they feel proper. Then, what is the role or purpose of the CVC? Is it to waste more time? When a person has committed fraud, the respective institution has not taken action, the inquiry is conducted for years together and finally referred to the CVC which takes another couple of years, the respective official retires ultimately. Then, what type of action can be taken? So, the intention of the Act is not to further delay the action to be taken and prevent corruption. It is further delayed and sees that he goes scot free.

Sir, I once again request the hon. Minister to make it compulsory on the part of the institution to implement the advice of the CVC because we are saying that CVC also has persons of unquestionable integrity, men with courage and conviction. Such persons are there as Commissioners. When they are going into the entire investigation made by the investigating authorities and come to the conclusion that certain action has to be taken and when it is not implemented and remains as only an advice leaving the decision once again to the institution, then no further action will be taken at all.

In this connection, I would like to say that any Act that we make must motivate a right man, and create fear and nervousness among the people who are doing fraudulent acts.

As a Member of a Parliamentary Committee, I visited one of the banking institutions in Bombay. Almost every bank and every institution said the same thing when we put a question. We asked them why several crores of rupees were lying unutilised with the financial institutions which are meant to be utilised for productive purposes, they said that they did not have borrowers. We felt very sorry about that and asked why it was so. We also pointed out that a lot of people are coming to the institutions for borrowing money to start some industries and even farmers, traders or small skilled workers go to the institutions to borrow money. They said that suppose they give loan to someone today with fair intention and tomorrow or after some years, if he fails to pay back, then, immediately the CVC comes into play and they have to lose their job. The first demand of the officers of all the institutions was that they should be taken out to the purview of the CVC. Here, the problem is coming.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Rao, the allotted time is only two hours. Many Members are there to speak. Please keep this fact in mind.

SHRI K.S. RAO : I am a very rule abiding Member. I am not like other Members whom you permit under force. I am not of that kind. Kindly tell me in how many minutes I should complete. Always, I abide by the direction of the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please try to finish.

SHRI K.S. RAO : Coming to my point, they said that the CVC, which is the highest institution of the country, must not go into the acts of Class-II and Class-III officers but it must certainly be limited to the major culprits at the highest level. If corruption is free from the highest level, automatically it will be cleaned at the lowest level. So, we have to send a signal that no matter however well-placed they are, they will be punished and if they are punished, the purpose is served. So, I request the Government to once again limit the operations of the CVC only to a level of officers as the Minister himself has said it in the Bill. But he has said : "...as decided by the Government at regular intervals." Instead of that, we can categorise and say that up to this particular level, the CVC will act and have the power to investigate matters. The rest of the matters can be left to the other authorities.

I come to the next point. If the head of a bank or an institution, say the Chairman and Managing Director, does not take action against a person or officer who is working under him, then sack that CMD. If you do that, automatically the rest of the CMDs will be in order. They will make a right judgement and take action against the erring persons. On the other hand, if a person who has not done a crime intentionally and if he has done it by chance because of the decisions of the Government, because of the change in the rules, regulations or due to sluggish economy or for some other reasons, if there is a failure on the part of the people to pay, in that event it should be that duty of the CMD to safeguard the officer. The CVC can later say that he went into the details and found that the officer is not responsible for that. If the CVC found that it is the CMD who is really responsible for not taking right

action against the real culprit, as I said earlier, sack the CMD. So, I would request the Minister to limit the authority only to certain levels and not dilute it. Ultimately, if no action is taken, no purpose would be served.

Coming to the present Government's case, the hon. Minister has expressed his intention to prevent it. But the action of the present Government in regard to the transfer of Shri Bezbaruah, the then Enforcement Director, is known to the entire country. It was quite visible and everybody felt that an officer who had got some integrity and conviction in taking action against the culprits was removed. Later, at the instance of the Supreme Court only, he was brought back. But still they said it was not their intention to shift him. After some time, once again, they transferred him. Obviously the intentions of the present Government are not clear in regard to prevention of corruption. One signal is enough. If the Director of Enforcement, who had got reputation and who proved that he was a competent person and went virtually by the rules, was shifted and threatened, what signal would go across the country?

No number of such Acts will change the opinion of the people of the country will serve the purpose of the act. I request the Government not to repeat such things and create an impression that they are not clear in their mind.

One thing which is visible is that in almost every party, which includes the major parties also, the sole intention is only to come to power. The sole intention, of course, is to secure votes. To secure votes, they are prepared to go out of the way and lose the values. Erosion of values is hampering and creating havoc in the nation. So, those values have to be protected.

I appeal once again to all the parties that they must sit together and make a code of conduct instead of making these Bills. They have the moral responsibility to see that below this it should not be accepted. These are the minimum rules and regulations that have to be there; only then these Acts will be of use. I humbly request the hon. Minister once again to see that by real implementation, such actions are not repeated. Keeping all this in mind I am of the opinion that this Act is not equipped with all the provisions that prevent corruption necessarily at the higher level.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (CHANDIGARH) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Central Vigilance Commission Bill which has been brought here. Just now, I heard the views of my friend who spoke before me. I also heard the views expressed by the spokesman of congress party and the senior Member who has moved this statutory Resolution.

I fell that except for a few minor points, there would not be much difference of opinion among the Members on the subject of this Bill. But the major point which has been brought before us is that this law is being enacted on the directions of the Supreme Court. Supreme Court has given directions to the Government for enacting this law. I would like to raise the

[Shri Satya Pal Jain]

first point that while framing the constitution all the three wings have been vested with specific rights i.e. Parliament has been given the right to enact laws, Executive has the right to implement them and the judiciary has to interpret these. I was expecting that the Members who spoke earlier to me would draw the attention of the House towards this point. It is not good for legislatures as well as for judiciary. It is the right of judiciary to interpret and analyse the various aspects of the law enacted by the law making bodies. Judiciary has annulled several laws enacted by the Parliament. It is a cause of concern. Persons working in judiciary may be competent. I am not challenging competency of anybody. But now the main issue before this House is as to whether we should surrender our rights of framing laws to the courts. This issue should be discussed rising above the party affiliations and we should hope that judiciary would not issue directions to the Parliament.

I accept it and someone may say that Supreme Court has given direction to the Government and not to the Parliament. But Parliament has to pass laws though this direction has come to the House through the Government. This is an indirect direction of the Supreme Court to the Parliament and we should think over it. We should show our concern over the fact that judiciary may not start issuing orders and at the same time we should introspect as to where we have failed in performing our duties.

I am very happy that our friends from Congress party have stated that we should not compromise with our value based system. It is really correct. Whether it is not a fact that while blaming each other for corrupt practices and political opportunism we have lowered the dignity of this institution in the eyes of public. Now people have lost faith in Government and judiciary. Nothing is going to happen if we keep on blaming each other for corrupt practices. The issue of enacting this law has come up after directions of Supreme Court. It should be taken seriously. Why MPs and MLAs could not think about setting up of an agency for investigating the charges of corruption.

Today, corruption has become a global phenomenon and all sections of society are affected by it. The life of politician is an open book. Matters concerning them are published by press, telecast and publicized widely. Corruption Charges levelled against bureaucrats, officers and people from judiciary are less debated. It will not be incorrect if I say that corruption has become part of our life.

Politicians are also not less responsible for it. Corruption charges are levelled on Prime Ministers, Chief Ministers, MPs and MLAs of this country. Such allegations were levelled against the former Prime Minister under Section 420, 467 and 469 of the law. Preparing false document is a serious allegation, though it is a separate issue that Court will decide such cases. My colleague from Bihar are also present here. situation has come to such a pass that the Government was forced to call military for arresting Lalujii. It should not be so but it is a reality, whether it is not the duty of MPs, Chief Ministers and MLAs to surrender before law if court issues warrants for their arrest. People will have no faith in such institutions if Chief

Ministers or Ministers will try to vitiate the legal process by missing their status. I feel that corrupt persons should be exposed irrespective of their party affiliations.

Today, bureaucracy has become the most corrupt. I have no hesitation in saying that laws enacted during the tenure of any Government are basically framed by officials. I was member of the committee which was set up for analysing Lokpal Bill. There was a clause in the Bill that the Lokpal shall ask for an information from officials if Secretary of the Department issues a certificate that the required document cannot be given in public interest. I was surprised to see this clause. In that case Lokpal would have created a lot of problems for politicians and officials would have gone scot free. I feel that now a days bureaucracy has become corrupt and they are not accountable to any authority. We should work in this field rising above political interests.

Earlier police used to furnish challan after investigating the case of corruption and there after court started its proceedings. Gradually, people lost their faith in police because people in power started misusing them. The people who worked in this way or through whom such action was taken, they got an opportunity to misuse their power in their own interests. Now they get one illegal work done on recommendation of Chief Minister M.P or MLA and start doing other illegal works to serve their own interests and at times to settle their personal scores. Thus, police force earned a bad name. Several other agencies like I.B., C.B.I. and others were set up and now situation has come to such a pass that people and even Supreme Court have lost faith in their impartiality.

It has been correctly stated that Members appointed in Central Vigilance committee should have impeccable and unquestionable integrity. If people lose faith in them we can very well surmise the consequences thereof.

Central Vigilance Commission has been constituted because the people of the country and the Supreme Court have no faith in investigating agencies.

I understand that many good clauses have been added to the Central Vigilance Commission Act. The standing Committee of Home Ministry has gone through it. Members of all parties were included in this committee. I also got the opportunity to mention my viewpoint in it. I am happy that all parties have supported it unanimously. The Government have made various efforts to grant powers and autonomy to this Commission so that it may work effectively. I do not deny the contribution of Supreme Court in this regard. I do not defer with supreme court's judgement but I defer on one point as to whether Supreme Court can give directions to us or not? Whatever have been said perhaps that may not be wrong. So far as the composition of Central Vigilance Commission is concerned, it would consist of one Chief Vigilance Commissioner and three or four vigilance Commissioners. You know that this is an appropriate agency. In a agency consisting of 5 persons, one or two persons may be wrong but in an agency where there are 4-5 members, they can collectively do their work in a proper manner.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as regards the constitution of the commission, the Prime Minister, the Home Minister and the leader of the opposition will constitute the commission. Only they can select their officials. So far as the leader of opposition is concerned, any person from any political party can hold that post. Similarly, in today's situation, Prime Minister can be from any party. It will be correct if these three persons express their unanimity over any name. Today, the situation of Lok Sabha is that there is not even a single party which can give recognised leader of opposition. I feel that in such a situation, there should be provision in Rules and Acts that the Government, after consulting the leader of single largest party, should make appointment. I think the Government will consider this matter.

Mr. Chairman, Sir the stipulated term of this commission is 3-4 years. The term of the Chairman and members has appropriately been fixed three or four years. Alongwith this, I welcome the provision of Sub-section (6) of section 5. Today in judiciary such issues are being raised as to whether a retired judge may accept any office of profit or not? Recently, I read one statement of Attorney General and perhaps Shri Jethmalani has also said this. My opinion is that if we are to keep the judiciary independent, we will have to make provision and lay down the clauses that no judge of the Supreme Court or High Court should accept any office of profit after retirement. I have been practicing as an advocate for the last 20 years and my option is that before retirement judges develop some secret ties so that after retirement they could get some benefits. The two clauses which you have been inserted in this :

[English]

"On ceasing to hold office, the Central Vigilance Commissioner and every other Vigilance Commissioner shall be ineligible for..."

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

15.23 hrs.

[Translation]

Why will they become ineligible, another commission can be appointed in but their appointment cannot be made. Secondly, I think it is very appreciable step that the judges cannot hold any office of Profit under Central or State Government, One should appreciate this step. The investigation Agency under it will supervise. They can be lured in many ways. These people cannot be deviated from their honesty but they can be doubted. Therefore, powers have been vested in President to remove chief Vigilance Commission or Vigilance Commission in such situations. But before that, enquiry should be conducted by the judge of Supreme Court. Alongwith this the provision of suspension has also been made. Investigation of serious allegations levelled against any person, takes 6-8 months and during this period if that person is not suspended, then he can cause heavy loss and escape. A committee comprising of two or three members has been set up to advise to

the Hon'ble President of India. I feel that these members will work satisfactorily in this matter. Besides, there are 4-5 such situations under which President can suspend him without any investigation. It has been mentioned in it:

[English]

"(d) is, in the opinion of the President, unfit to continue in office by reason of infirmity of mind or body; or

(e) has acquired such financial or other interest as is likely to affect prejudicially his functions as a Central Vigilance Commissioner or a Vigilance Commissioner."

[Translation]

If the hon'ble President feels that personal interest of the person or his mother, father or brother or friend are involved then he can remove him. I feel that the powers have rightly been entrusted to him one and it should be welcomed.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also welcome the provision made in sub-section 4 of section 6. It is essential that this clause should be added in case of other commissions also. This clause says:

"If the Central Vigilance Commissioner or any vigilance Commissioner is or becomes in any way concerned or interested in any contract or agreement made by or on behalf of the Government of India or participates in any way in the profit thereof or in any profit or emoluments arising therefrom otherwise than as a Member and in common with the other Members of an incorporated company, he shall, for the purpose of sub-section (1), be deemed to be guilty of misbehaviour."

[Translation]

In this situation, I feel that more clauses should be laid down under this section. Thus, there should be no need of any inquiry in case of any misbehaviour. If it is proved that Hon'ble member is playing any foul game in it then President should have powers to give notice to him and after listening his version he should remove him.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not want to repeat the functions of superintendence and functions of Enquiry laid down in section 8. There is paucity of time because we want to wind up this discussion. There are very important rights and duties included in this Bill. Some of our Hon'ble members have said that there is no particular clause which empowers to take action. I think that these new things have come before us during the last 2-3 years. Let it continue and on the basis of experience in future if we find that something can be added to it, we can consider that in parliament. Under section 12 of this commission.

[English]

That gives powers of civil court to the Commission

[Shri Satya Pal Jain]
[Translation]

This is very important. I remember that when enquiry was started against some people under the commission of Enquiry Act, many people presented themselves before the commission but returned after giving threats. I do not want to mention anybody's name because they are dead. One of our Chief Ministers of Punjab had challenged Shah Commission as a witness. This is not a good thing. If the enquiry commissions do not enjoy the powers of court as such then anyone can make mockery of it. This is not good. Therefore it is an appreciable step that you have given it powers of civil court to issue summons and carry on trials. Under section 15 the members have been given protection to function in good faith so that it may not happen that a case is filed against them every third day and while performing their duty honestly they are always afraid of being sued. Further, the immunity given under section 15 is also a praiseworthy step and it should also be welcomed.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not want to go into the details of other clauses but I would certainly like to mention 2-3 points which my colleagues have said. One or two members have made a mention of the recommendations of the Law Commission and today it is being discussed much in regard to patent. I do not deny that recommendation of law commission is important in itself but we will have to decide whether it is the Parliament or the law commission which enjoys supremacy. The parliament which is a institution of elected representatives passes laws but afterwards it is said that law commission has recommended this and that.

[English]

Supremacy is that of the Parliament not of the law commission. Law commission has the right to have its own opinion or its point of view.

[Translation]

I do not know what is happening in this country. Now adays issues regarding Swamis are being raised. Sometimes issues are raised about Chandra Swamy, sometimes about Subramanian Swamy and sometimes about Guru Swamy. I am surprised how many Swamis are there. It is being said that Guruswamy has levelled this allegation against you.

If an Hon'ble M.P. says that he is levelling charges against the Hon'ble Minister, then the demand of JPC can be understood. It makes a sense. But when a person say, something to newspaper, should we start demanding an enquiry or should we challenge entire Parliament for it? Therefore, I feel that Lokpal Bill should be brought at the earliest so that the time of Parliament which is being wasted in levelling allegations could be saved.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it has been said that Government is fulfilling the necessity of legislations, by promulgating Ordinances. Mention has been made about 'Ordinance Raj.' I agree that ordinance should not be a matter of routine. It should be

promulgated under very special circumstances because it is expected from Parliament to pass bills. I request Rao Saheb to see the records of last 5 years, only then we will come to know about the number of bills passed by Parliament. We are aware that 4-5 ordinances which we issue, we pass them in haste after quite a long time so that they may not lapse. Whether we have fulfilled our duties? Are we not indulging in criminal wastage of time here? If we utilise full time passing bills then there is no need for Government to promulgate ordinances. Today the number of ordinances which are promulgated match with the number of Bills introduced in the House. In my opinion it is not possible for any Legislative Assembly or Parliament to formulate more bills than this and we can not blame any one for this. I do not want to blame any particular one party. We have to consider as to what is our basic duty.

[English]

What is the basic function of Parliament? The basic function is to legislate and to frame laws for the country. I appeal to all the Members that let us examine ourselves. Let us have introspection. Have we come up to the expectations of our Constitution makers? Have we performed our basic duty to legislate? How much time do we devote? How many Members are present when we legislate the issue? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.S. RAO :Is it necessary to bring an ordinance for the Essential Commodities Act ?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : I ask, how many Members take interest when we legislate the issue? In Zero Hour when the camera is there, the House is full and the moment you discuss Bills, you have to go and search for the Members. You have to call them and ask them to speak. Is it not a reflection on ourselves? We criticise everybody on the earth. Do not we have any time to introspect, to think about ourselves also? How much time are we devoting?

As I said earlier also, it is our grace that we do not raise the issue of Quorum whether it is 'A' Government, 'B' Government or 'C' Government. But if we start raising the issue of Quorum, I can say with full sense of responsibility that perhaps this House cannot function even for a single day in any week or during any Session. That is the situation that we are facing. Let us not blame others for that. Let us not criticise others for that because we have got immunity. Let us think about ourselves also. Let us think about the functions that we are performing and in what manner we are performing.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, he is saying that it is the duty of the ruling party to ensure quorum in the House. He does wrong thing. Jain Saheb, you please tell why you did not get ordinance regarding essential commodities promulgated which is in the interest of Government. Ordinance regarding Essential Commodities was to be promulgated ...*(Interruptions)*. You have not brought it simply to protect profiteers and Black Marketeers...*(Interruptions)* He is saying so to members.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is not yielding. When you get the opportunity to speak then you give its reply.

[English]

SHRI P. UPENDRA : What Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh has said is correct. The Treasury Benches are never as empty as they are today. You should note that point also.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Upendraji, you are a very senior member of this House. I am a new member and this is my second term. Today Raghuvansh Prasadji is telling me that Government should look after it. When you were the Minister even then same condition was prevailing here. You can see the proceedings of that time. It does not depend upon Government. There should be no misunderstanding... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : He is using abusive language against all members.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : This depends upon our behaviour and our attitude therefore. do not involve party in this matter.

The hon'ble Member has just touched the issue of transfer. I feel and earlier also I have stated that the Supreme court and the High Court should not issue directions in the matters coming in the purview of Legislature. Till date, it was a standard law that the court did never interfere in the matter of transfer. The executive which has to implement the law has the right to take the services of any officer of its choice. I feel that it is not a good development if the court continues to interfere in the matters of transfer. The court may interfere if a matter is of serious nature. The matter of transfer comes under the jurisdiction of the Executive and the court should not have interfered.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the end, I do agree with Shri Rao Sahib that there should not be any compromise so far as value system is concerned. There may be a Government of any party but there should be no compromise with the value system of the country. I hope a committee will be set up which will appoint its 5 members whose integrity will be unquestionable so that the commission could perform its duties efficiently and restore the faith of the politicians, bureaucrats, any other organisations or our social life which are affected by rampant corruption. This commission will be able to probe impartially the cases of corruption and the offenders would be punished. With these words, I support the Bill. I have no intention to hurt the feelings of any member. However, there are some hard realities and facts which we have to face in future. The better it would be the sooner we do so.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA) : Mr. chairman, Sir, there are occasions in Parliament when the opposition and the treasury benches have to take a collective decision in the interest of the country. The Central Vigilance Commission Bill is of the same nature. Nobody is in favour of promoting corruption. One

of our colleagues was saying that corruption can not be curbed by setting up such commissions only. Corruption has become the order of the day and it has acquired such a dimension that it cannot be eradicated merely by setting up a commission. In a state of emotional surcharge the hon'ble Minister stated that corruption prevails even in America and Japan also. It is there. Earlier during a debate on corruption in the Parliament a Prime Minister called it a Global phenomenon, which takes place automatically during the process of development of a economy in this way. Instead of condemning corruption in politics, he even tried to save the offenders. However, the hon'ble Minister forgets one thing... (*Interruptions*). Though corruption prevails even in Italy also but I would like to bring to your notice that the Government and the Administration in that country attacked corruption. Perhaps Italy has the only Parliament in the World where action has been taken against one-fourth of its members involved in corruption who are being sought to be imprisoned. Two Prime Ministers in Japan were jailed for many years on this issue. It is impossible to curb corruption by constituting a commission.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Corrupt people use their political and administrative influence and roam about freely. And such an environment has been created in the society where corrupt top bureaucrats go scot free. In such a situation how it is possible to control corruption at lower level. As such, a bid was made to saddle them. One of our friends was saying whether the Supreme Court should ask the Parliament to pass a particular law. I would like to say that the Supreme Court has got no such powers. It has been provided in the Constitution that any law enacted by the Parliament will be interpreted by the Supreme Court. Many major cases of corruption came to light during the 10th Lok Sabha in 1991. At that time many voluntary organisations filed a number of Public Interest Litigations in the Supreme Court. When the Supreme Court realised that a Citizen of the country is directly approaching the court with these corruption cases and the CBI is unable to perform its duties freely due to the pressure of influential people, it gave a suggestion to constitute a commission to keep control over CBI and to supervise its functioning. However that commission should not be appointed by the Government alone and it was functioning as a Commission since 1964. The Commission had to work under the Government. Some officials were also appointed. However, whenever they tried to nab some culprits there was an interference from Govt. side. Long before in 60's, an Administrative Reforms Commission was set up under the Chairmanship of Shri Morarji and an issue was raised repeatedly under the Chairmanship of Shri Jai Prakash Narayan that there should be a Lok Pal at the Central level and Lok Ayukt at the State level. This was suggested at that time but neither the Government nor this Parliament did implemented it. Has any other organisation the right to advise when the Parliament and the Government fail in discharging their duties? The Law Commission has been set up to give us legal opinion in fulfilling our constitutional obligations and enactment of laws for the country. When such litigations were filed which is known as judicial activism whereby the Supreme Court and High Courts started interfering in all the matters, then an alternative was found out in the form of Constituting a Commission. Such a Commission should have a local status

[Shri Mohan Singh]

like statutory body has and it should enjoy autonomous powers vis-a-vis the Government. The commission should be constituted by taking opinion of the Leader of Opposition, the Prime Minister, the Home Minister and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

As it was an opinion expressed by the Supreme Court, therefore they did not try to include themselves in it and expressed the suggestions of these three persons. Now the bureaucracy created obstacle in it, you have mentioned it putting your point of view during the speech. When we pass this legislation and contribute a commission, I have to make a suggestion as it has been referred to the Standing Committee on Ministry of Home Affairs. When it reached in the Standing Committee, the various members of all the political parties tried to express these suggestions regarding this legislation before the Standing Committee on the Ministry of Home Affairs. I would only like to say, as it has been said here that there was no need to come before the House through the ordinance for it. The power of ordinance was unnecessarily exercised in it because it had been presented in the form of legislation by them. It came before the Standing Committee on Ministry of Home Affairs for review and it was to be presented in the House after having been reviewed since several hon. Members from that side were demanding that it should be laid in the House. I would like to know from them whether this Parliament not opposed them on its part whenever a Bill sought to be presented by Government of India for the enactment of a law? In your every effort especially in enacting the legislation, this House has always intended its co-operation to the Government and even on this issue are were ready to cooperate with the Government had it come in the form of legislation. You have sought to bring it on the form of an Ordinance of which there was no mud. At the same time we do not oppose at because we also were in the Standing Committee on Ministry of Home Affairs. I gave whatever suggestions I had to make these good this is not a complete legislation and law in itself but a new structure, outline and a new form have been coming before us and the nation the Parliament will make, from time to time, changes and amendments to the lacunas which will arise after it comes into force. But we would like to make some suggestions that some alternatives should be thought for the functioning of Indian police because for prosecution it has been following the provisions contained in two great manuals i.e. IPC and CRPC which have been constituted and going on for last hundred years. Today when we want to pass Lokpal legislation in the Parliament and want to constitute Central vigilance then we will have to amend the provisions contained in CRPC and IPC and have to bring a separate legislation in this House. We have been appointing such Commissions to check Corruption, that Commissions will have a wide base and infrastructure and all the rights of prosecution should with that commission and not with police because when a case, after its full analysis and investigation by the Central Vigilance Commission, would be sent to the Police for prosecution, police will carry out its liability properly under CRPC and IPC. This thing will always remain dubious. I would like to suggest that a broad amendment should be brought forced in consonance with provisions of IPC and CRPC the Government at all wants to constitute a vigilance

Commission for punishing the criminals with offlinching mind and bonafide Intention. Thank you, Sir for giving me an opportunity to express my views and suggestions.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE) : Sir, I understand the tinge of irony in hon. Shri Satya Pal Jain's speech when he said that why should the Supreme Court order the Government and through the Government to the Parliament to make a law. I also agree with his contention that there should be no instruction by the Supreme Court to Parliament which is an independent wing. But let us also think as to why this situation is happening in our country. It is because, of the three pillars of democracy within the last 50 years, the Legislature and the Executive have failed to discharge their duties. The bureaucracy has gone out of control. I myself was an ex-bureaucrat. I know what happens in the bureaucracy. How does the bureaucracy function? I know that the bureaucracy has taken upon itself all the authority without any responsibility and without any transparency. Everything that happens in the Government is shrouded in secrecy. If you go to any office and ask for any information, they will say that it is 'secret' and it cannot be given to you. This causes corruption. People do not get justice from bureaucracy. The politicians are equally corrupt. There are people like us and we are also equally corrupt and irresponsible.

AN HON. MEMBER : Who say so?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : This is my personal opinion... (*Interruptions*). You are free to disagree with me... (*Interruptions*). They do not get justice from the politicians also and ultimately they go to the court, Now, court has virtually usurped the power of the Legislature and the Executive. That is why, it is the Judiciary which is giving the direction.

Sir, I will not go into the details because so many hon. Members have gone into the details of the Bill. I would like to give only some suggestions because not much time is left.

In *hawala* cases, the CBI could not come out with flying colours. It could not charge anybody and it could not prove that any person, any political person against whom a charge-sheet was filed was actually corrupt. They could not come out with even any foolproof case. Many people also charged that the CBI is influenced by the political parties and political big daddies. So, the Supreme Court said that the C.V.C. should be given the statutory powers. That is why, the Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 1998 has been brought by the Government. This Bill has been brought in order to have superintendence over the CBI and the E.D. on the matters of corruption. So, I support the Bill which has been brought by the Government.

I also know that some of the hon. Members have raised doubts about the intention of the Government. I can say that I can never doubt the intention of hon. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee who is the Prime Minister of India. I can also say that during the last one year, not a single charge of corruption has been

levelled against him or against any of his Members of the Cabinet. That is why, I say that the intention is very clear, Nobody should doubt it.

As for as this Bill is concerned, another point was raised by hon. Members. The charge is, why have we deleted the phrase 'person with impeccable 'integrity' ?

Sir, the hon. Member, Shri Satya Pal Jain, who spoke before me, has already narrated that the Chief Vigilance Commissioner will be appointed by no less than the Prime Minister, the Home Minister and the Leader of the Opposition. If they fail to select the person, who is not having an 'impeccable integrity', then I will have to raise my hands up. Who else is there in the country to select a better person? I think, it is a very good thing that the Leader of the Opposition has been included; as per the instructions of the Supreme Court, he should also be involved in the process of selecting the chief Vigilance Commissioner. I am very sure that when the Prime Minister, the Home Minister and the Leader of the Opposition are there, positively, a person of 'impeccable integrity' will be selected as the Chief Vigilance Commissioner. Such a person has already been selected, Shri Vittal has been selected, and the way he is performing within the last few months, I can say that he is the perfect person; a person with 'impeccable integrity' has already been selected.

Sir, in this country, corruption has become a 'very low risk and high profit business'. The intention is to make it 'low profit and high risk business'. It has to be done. In our country, the entire system and the entire process of inquiry into the corruption charges has become a farce. The dilatory tactics adopted while the inquiry is taking place and the endless adjournments that are given to the people against whom corruption charges have been made, the process is taking such a long time that ultimately the person against whom we are making certain allegations of corruption, is retiring and, after that, we are unable to take any action against him. So, my suggestion is that every inquiry should be made time bound, and not more than two adjournments should be given in any case. The people concerned cannot go on asking for adjournments.

Another point is that there are certain public sector undertakings where corruption is taking place on a large scale. They say that they do not have enough qualified persons to investigate into the corruption charges. I would like to suggest that they can appoint some retired person with impeccable integrity, who can go into the corruption charges and within a time bound manner, they can finish the inquiry and punish the culprit.

The Chief Vigilance Commissioner should also be allowed to confiscate the ill-gotten money. It is a very important thing. Unless the ill-gotten money is confiscated and unless that power is vested in the Chief Vigilance Commissioner, we will not be able to really punish the people. In our country, you can just go on conducting an inquiry. You say that a person has amassed money of assets beyond his means or beyond his known sources of income. This is happening and every-

body knows that a particular person has amassed a lot of money, crores and crores of rupees, but have we been able to confiscate it? Let us confiscate it so that it will be a 'low profit and a high risk business', and not a 'high profit and a low risk business' as it is happening today.

Another suggestion of mine is that in every office, there should be a Rogues' Gallery where the photographs of all the corrupt officers should be pasted in front of the office so that everybody knows that, that person is corrupt and he has swindled the money of this country.

Shri Vittal has given a very good suggestion that there should be no post-tender negotiation on any contract in any public sector undertaking. Post-tender negotiations are the main source of corruption. Tenders are floated; contractors file their papers and on the specified day, in the presence of everybody, the tenders are opened. Everybody comes to know who quoted what rate. Then, why should there be post-tender negotiation with anybody in this regard? By following this method, are we not allowing people to resort to corrupt practices and deny the contract to the person who has quoted the lowest rate? By resorting to post-tender negotiation method, in a way we are disallowing the contract to a person whose quotation is the lowest and giving it, after taking a bribe, to someone whose rate is much higher.

Sir, the level of corruption in the country has gone up very high. Once upon a time in Orissa, corruption took place in the Sirajuddin mining case. At that time the Minister took a bribe of only Rs. 15,000 and yet that incident shook the entire country, Hundreds and hundreds crores of rupees are being swindled now and yet it does not shake anybody; it does not shake the conscience of the nation! The most important thing to do today is to raise the level of intolerance among the people towards corruption.

Sir, it all depends on the person who is appointed to a post. We never know how powerful the Election Commission could be before Shri T.N. Seshan was appointed as the Chief Election Commissioner. Till then we thought that it was a run of the mill organisation without any power. Once Shri T.N. Seshan became the Chief Election Commissioner, he changed the entire scenario of elections in India. Now everybody knows the Election Commission to be a very powerful organisation. That is why I say that it all depends on the person who becomes the Central Vigilance Commissioner. On the person who is appointed to this post, it depends whether the people will have a crisis of faith in the system or they will have faith in the system and believe that it can give them justice.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI P. UPENDRA (VIJAYWADA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir this Bill has taken a very circuitous route before it came for consideration and proved that the style of the present Government is to issue Ordinance after Ordinance. It has become the practice of the Government to issue an Ordinance before a Bill is brought. An Ordinance to nullify the effect of an Ordinance is a very rare phenomenon in the Parliamentary history and this Government is indulging in this practice.

[Shri P. Upendra]

Similarly, in regard to this Bill also an Ordinance was promulgated first and another Ordinance came again. Then the Supreme Court made certain comments and raised certain objections in regard to certain provisions of the Bill. Ultimately, the Bill has come here for the consideration of the House after the Standing Committee has cleared it.

Sir, we all know that corruption, of all varieties, is all-pervasive and it is eating into the vitals of the nation. Any attempt to curb this, if not to eliminate this, is welcome.

16.00 hrs.

[PROF. RITA VERMA *in the Chair*]

The institution of CVC was created in 1964 in pursuance of the recommendations of the Santhanam Committee and after several years, in 1997 an independent review committee was appointed to suggest measures for strengthening this institution...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please maintain some order in the House.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : One of the major recommendations of the review committee was to give statutory status to the CVC. It also suggested that CVC should be responsible for the efficient functioning of the CBI. The Supreme Court also observed in December, 1997 that the CVC should be given statutory status. Therefore, this Bill gives statutory status to the Chief Vigilance Commission which is now a multi-member Commission.

We are all aware that made creation of more institutions would not curb the menace of corruption. But it would definitely act as a deterrent against corruption and the corrupt people. Whenever we create such institutions, they should inspire confidence in the people that they will be effective in achieving the purpose for which they are created. Keeping that in view, I raise some issues for the consideration of the hon. Minister and the Government and probably they may have to bring another Amendment Bill in course of time after seeing the working of the multi-member Commission.

The first point is, it is a five-Member Commission, that is, the Chief Vigilance Commissioner plus four Vigilance Commissioners. But the Chief Vigilance Commissioner has been given a tenure of four years whereas the Vigilance Commissioners are given only three years. The hon. Minister should explain the rationale for this, why some Members of the Commission are given only three years and the Chief is given a four year tenure.

Another deficiency in this institution is they are not equipped with sufficient staff to undertake the work entrusted to them. They have to depend on several agencies to carry out their work and unless the CVC is equipped with sufficient staff of its own, it will not be able to perform its work...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please hear the hon. Member. It is a serious matter.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : There is also one point which has to be considered. The various Ministries of the Government of India at various levels have got their own vigilance set up. But only the officers belonging to that Ministry are acting as Vigilance Officers and I doubt very much whether the officers inquiring into the misdeeds of their colleagues can be objective in dealing with corruption cases. Therefore, my suggestion is that these officers should be appointed by the CVC in various Government Departments. If not at every level, at least the top man in the Ministry or Department could be an outsider dealing with corruption cases. For example, when some of us made a complaint against one high official, a Commissioner of one Department, we have received a letter asking us to produce evidence by a Deputy Commissioner acting as Vigilance officer in the same Department.

How can a Deputy Commissioner in that Department inquire into the charges against his superior officer, who is the Commissioner, and deal with it objectively?

Clause 17 provides that the Ministries concerned or the public undertaking concerned can disagree with the recommendations of the CVC. This is a very pernicious provision. As pointed out by my colleague Shri K.S. Rao, the CVC is equipped with many powers. After several months of inquiry, they come to conclusion. So, how can you allow the Ministries or the public undertakings to disagree with the recommendations and write back to the CVC that they do not agree with the CVC's recommendations? This may find place in the Annual Report of the CVC, which would come before Parliament, but that is not enough. This is an escape route for all the corrupt people. They can manage it in the Ministry to ensure that the Ministry does not agree with the recommendation of the CVC. Therefore, I think, this provision requires an amendment.

Previously, every case dealt with by the CVC had to be referred to the UPSC for its final opinion. It was understandable at that time because the CVC was not a statutory body and the UPSC was a statutory body dealing with personnel. But now both of them are statutory bodies. The Chairman are of the same rank. So, why should an advice of the CVC be referred again to the UPSC? This will again lead to delay and if they disagree with each other, problems will arise. Therefore this provision should be deleted.

There are 5,300 vigilance case pending in various Departments and Ministries of the Government of India because they do not have enough officers to investigate. My suggestion is that they may employ some retired officers with impeccable integrity for specific cases to be inquired into and they can be paid some honorarium for that. I think, the services of the retired officers can be taken for the disposal of these cases.

The CVC has recently given a directive that inquiries in all cases must be completed within six months. This should be made mandatory because the vigilance cases linger on for years. Therefore, this time limit should be fixed.

I envisage one more problem. We are now going to create the institution of Lokpal. I do not know when it will be

created. This means, there will be the Lokpal, the CBI and also the CVC. If all the three organisations start dealing with corruption at the higher administrative ranks, there will be duplication and over lapping. Therefore, we will have to specifically decide which organisation will deal with which type of cases so that there is no over lapping and no contradictory decisions are given by these three organisations.

I would also suggest that in addition to the cases referred to by the Department, the CVC should be empowered to take up cases *suo motu* on the basis of complaints received by them directly. They can take up cases referred by the Ministries or the public undertakings concerned but the power to conduct *suo motu* inquiries should also be given to the CVC.

There are many people who are appointed as part-time directors of nationalised banks, public undertakings, etc. They are appointed, maybe, sometimes on political grounds and sometimes on other grounds. Some of them are of very dubious character. Several complaints are received against part-time directors of nationalised banks that they take money to recommend cases and so on. Therefore, the appointment of these part-time directors must also be cleared by the CVC and their antecedents must be examined by the CVC.

The other point that I would like to make is that officers from a particular State should not deal with the cases relating to the officers of that very State. Some kind of a code of conduct – it need not be a rule – should be observed so that no partiality is shown and no preferences are shown.

Finally, I would like to say that we have insulated the Director of the CBI and the Director of Enforcement from pressures and similarly officers holding several other key positions should also be insulated from all types of pressures.

I request the hon. Minister to take note of these suggestions and try to incorporate as many as possible, if not in the present Bill, but at least in some amending Bill in future. Thank you.

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is an important issue, so, we all should pay attention to it... (*Interruptions*) No Minister of cabinet rank is present here, even Law Minister should have been here.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Janardhanji is present here.

[English]

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN (TRICHUR) : Mr. Chairman, as far as the promulgation of Ordinance is concerned, I fully endorse the points made by my colleague Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

I do not know why the Government is fighting shy to convene the Parliament in sufficient number of days. If you count the total number of days of the Session of Parliament last year, it would be the barest minimum in the history of Parlia-

ment. The Government is fulfilling the necessity of legislations by promulgating Ordinances. I should say that within a year, this Government has fully qualified to be called as 'Ordinance Raj'. Last year, it was abruptly adjourned *sine die*. The Government could have convened Parliament again. Why are they fighting shy to convene Parliament? If we are given sufficient number of days, we could pass the legislations by ourselves. But they are not giving that facility to us. They have established the Central Vigilance Commission and the Chief Commissioner also. Everything is done and now we are asked to endorse their steps. What else can we do now? It is a *fait accompli*. This sort of making legislation is not at all good. So, my request to the Chief Whip and those who are responsible in the Treasury Benches is not to fight shy to convene Parliament in sufficient number of days. Why should they confine to the barest minimum number of sittings in the history of Parliament in the last one year? That is the reason why they had to promulgate so many Ordinances and come before Parliament with *fait accompli* legislations.

We are wholeheartedly in support of any step that the Government takes against corruption. Corruption is a cancer now in our body politics. So, we have to do something wholeheartedly—both the Opposition and the Treasury Benches together—to prevent corrupt practices in the services and in public life.

As far as this legislation is concerned, it is all right, but some explanation is to be given by the hon. Minister. I have read in some newspapers that one of the senior members of the present Cabinet, a leading advocate of the Supreme Court has charged that this Ordinance – When they prepared the Ordinance and promulgated it – did not take into consideration the suggestions put forward by the Law Commission. It is not my comment; it has come in the papers. Shri Ram Jethmalani questioned them as to why were the suggestions of the Law Commission not taken into consideration before they promulgated the Ordinance.

It was asked by Shri Jethmalani, a leading advocate and one of the Cabinet Ministers. In a Parliamentary democracy, the cabinet should function as one man. If there are different voices in the Cabinet, the very Parliamentary system is in question. It is not a simple thing.

I have to point out one other thing. Whatever legislations we may pass and with whatever power we may arm them, like the CVC or the Chief Commissioner, the main thing is, are they allowed to function freely. This is the main question now confronting the country. The Government is not allowing these investigating agencies function freely. They are not given the freedom to function freely. There is intervention from the high-ups. We have noticed that in a number of cases because of the interventions, charge-sheet against corruption, steps against corruption or final investigation against corruption, pro-long for years together.

My learned friend, Shri Jain was questioning the Supreme Court directing the Government to have a legislation on this. The Supreme Court has every right to direct the Government

[Shri V.V. Raghavan]

to legislate, to plug every loophole in any law. It cannot be questioned. In my humble opinion, a number of things have been said about the judicial activism. I think that is the silver line in the Parliamentary democracy in our country. The executive, the main pillar of the Parliamentary democracy, is the most responsible body. It is up to the Judiciary to point out to the executive if it does not do what it is obliged to do. In a number of corruption cases the judiciary has intervened and because of that intervention only we have come to know the number of cases where the executive has gone wrong. So, it is a pointed question to the Government. Will the Government arm these investigating agencies with ample power to function freely?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please be brief. Two hours were allotted for this item.

SHRI. V.V. RAGHAVAN : I am just concluding. I always obey the Chair. I am a very obedient Member of the House.

Even the court had to intervene in the functioning of the CBI. Because of so many interventions of the Government, we all know, there was direct intervention by the Supreme Court. Even the Special Courts are not allowed to function and the Government is in dock on that score. So, the crucial requirement to wipe out corruption, is to give full authority to the investigating agencies and to give them the freedom to function. The Government should not ever intervene in the cases involving corruption and thus save the corrupt people.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, when Acharya Kripalani had met Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, he had said that now the evil practice of bribery has increased. A Committee was constituted in 1957 to investigate into the malady of corruption. The investigative Committee said with regard to one of its aspects that the corruption is nowhere prevalent. People have been glorifying bribery by giving it different names like 'Salami' in a police-station, some where it is called 'Peshi' somewhere else as 'Bakhasi-nama', 'Chanda', 'speed money' and so on. But the trend of bribery has increased and it is still increasing. Therefore, the people say that it is a global phenomenon and hence it cannot be and should not be stopped. We should make our utmost efforts to arrest this trend of corruption. This is our duty and religion. Political persons were saying that no accusation should be carried against the Minister. But these days, accusation of bungling and scams against leaders has become a routine feature. I would like to say something in this regard that wherever the expenditure is more the legitimate income, corruption occurs there. When our legitimate income is Rs. 5000 and our expenditure exceeds Rs.10000, corruption will automatically take place.

Aamad Se Jab Kharch hoga kam
Tab hoga Bharashtachar Khatam

It is the history of the Vigilance Commission that re-statement will take place only when President accord approval

for it. But the Government have brought forward this Act here. It has been envisaged in it that there will be one Chief Vigilance Commissioner and not more than four Vigilance Commissioners in Central Vigilance Commission. I do not understand as to whether it is central or Chief Vigilance Commission. It means that there will not be more than four Vigilance Commissioners. There can be zero, one, two or three Vigilance Commission. You have brought a confusing legislation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Time allotted for discussing this Bill was upto 16.25 hours more than two hours time have since passed. Four to five hon. Members are yet to speak, If you try to finish it by five O' clock then only the increase in time can be considered.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : All right, extend it upto five O' clock.

MAJOR GENERAL BHAUAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM (GARHWAL) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, after that general Budget has to be discussed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Therefore try to conclude the debate on this Bill by five O'Clock.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it should be decided otherwise the Government will come under the suspicion that it will appoint only one Vigilance Commissioner. Supreme Court has ruled that the Vigilance Commissioner should not be only from Civil Services but also from other services. It has been stated in part (a) of the legislation:

"The Supreme Court has directed to officiate on any post in any Corporation established under any Central Act or any Government Company owned and controlled by the Central Government.

But if they are not more than four', then if part (b) does not exist that will not put any restriction on the Government. Therefore it is also a Violation of the instructions issued by the Supreme Court. Some people objected as to why the Supreme Court has asked the Government to frame the laws. It was so because of 'Jain Hawala Case in which many eminent persons were arrested and the Government did the job of saving them. When someone commits theft and tries to do something wrong then what to talk about Supreme Court, which is the custodian of the law often a common person can scold him, make a complaint and speak against him. In the event of any irregularity is committed even an ordinary citizen can ask for making such laws. We too, are not the supporter of each and every decision given by the Court but we should accept, the just and genuine decisions given by the courts.

Madam, it has been mentioned in the Bill that the director of CBI will be appointed. It has been further stated in it that the committee shall recommend a panel of officers – "on this basis of their seniority integrity and experience in investigation of anti corruption cases." Which means that an officer who shall be appointed, should fulfil all these criteria. But there is no mention of integrity in case of appointment of Central

Vigilance Commissioners. This means that even the persons without integrity can get appointed to the post of Central Vigilance Commissioner? It implies that in case of one appointment there is a mention of seniority, integrity and experience in anticorruption investigations but in case of appointment on two posts, there is no mention of integrity. We doubt that even the persons lacking integrity can be appointed on these posts.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You had said that you will conclude within five minutes.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : You are asking me to sit down?

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not asking you to sit down.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Am I saying an irrelevant thing?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are not saying an irrelevant thing. You had said that you will conclude in five minutes.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Madam, Mr. P. Upendra had raised point with regard to the dispensation that the term of Central Vigilance Commissioner will in the office for four years and that of the Vigilance Commissioner will be for three years. What discretion has been applied in making such discrimination in their term of office. It has been further stated that the Central Government, by laws, will decide the strength of staff for the Commission and their service-conditions. It means that it has been left to the government to appoint staff for the Commission and the Government does not appoint or delays the appointment or makes very few appointments. This will hamper and create hurdles in the working of the Commission. Therefore, the right of appointing staff should be vested in the Commission, otherwise the Government can create disturbance in every sphere of its functioning.

Supreme Court has stated that it should be made autonomous and CBI should be placed under it but take a look at the sub Section 4 of the rule 26 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 which states. The superintendence of the Delhi Special Police Establishment in so far as it relates to investigation of offences alleged to have been committed under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, shall vest in the Commission." The Commission has become the boss of CBI as well whereas there is already one head of CBI. Same as otherwise provided in sub Section (1) "The Superintendence of the said police establishment in all other matters shall vest in the Central Government." but this provision has been disturbed. Supreme Court has said that CBI should be an independent organisation. Besides this it functions under the Government. The Supreme Court has there expressed their apprehensions that the Government does interference of the in the functioning of CBI and that it is saving guilty from law.

When Supreme Court looked into this matter and stated that an autonomous body should be constituted to monitor its functioning...(Interruptions), then CBI was named for it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have put forth a very good point but please conclude now.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Under it, two authorities boss have been made incharge of CBI and the Government is also not prepared to lose its control over CBI. Such dispensation always leaves a scope for doubt. CBI will have two authorities as their heads. How can one wife have two husbands, the same complexity will creep in to it. Therefore, we are doubtful about its propriety...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Raghuvansh Babu, you are doing injustice to women community.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Those who have a knowledge about it and the law, they can understand it. Enforcement Director can take charge of his post from that date. He will hold his post for a duration of two years.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Raghuvanshji, you also chair, the House, even then you pay no heed to the observations made by the Chair. You had said that you will conclude in five minutes.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Madam, my important point is still left. But you are not prepared to give the permission, hence I conclude by following your instruction.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Shri Varkala Radhkrishnan to speak. I hope he will be equally kind as Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh has been.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL) : Thank you. I am always lucky because whenever I speak, you are in the Chair. Madam, I hope you will not interfere with my speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I be speech you to be very brief. Please take five minutes.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I will try to be brief as far as possible. But I will have to explain my point. I represent a large party. My party has the time. How can I take only five minutes?... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have to conclude it by Five of the Clock.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I agree with you. But I will try to conclude within ten minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right, now you take five minutes and let us see after that.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I will take ten minutes.

Madam, at the outset, I would like to say that all of us know that during the Freedom Struggle, our attempt was to establish a Government free from corruption. Gandhiji's *Rama Rajya*, as we all know, is a society of virtues. After fifty years of independence, we are on the verge of entering the third millennium. What is the state of affairs in India now?

You are aware that we are entering the third millennium with a society filled with corruption. We could not prevent this corruption. There is corruption in many ways: corruption among public men, corruption among civil service officers and corruption even in Judiciary! This is the state of affairs. We could not prevent it so far effectively. There were times in the past to prevent corruption among public men. But we have not come to the final stage. Even today, we are at the drafting stage so far as corruption among public men is concerned. In the matter of civil service also, though we have certain statutes, we have not achieved the goal. We are still lagging behind.

I would like to submit here that if there is a Government with stability, if there is a Government with political will, corruption will not take place so much as in the present case. Here is a Draft (Amendment) Bill which is an offshoot of bureaucratic manipulation. I do not think that it is the offshoot of people who know law, public men who are at the helm of affairs of such things. They would not allow such a practice to take place in such a situation. We all know what is happening in the present stage. Since there is no political will and political stability, the offshoot is judicial adventurism.

I would like to put it in that way. Now Judiciary is everywhere. They dictate terms even to the Members of Parliament as to how we should issue slips for gas connection to others. We know how to do it. But the Judiciary has even entered into that field. The Judiciary has even entered into the field by asking the Government to do *poorja* in a particular way and in a particular temple. The Judiciary is directing the Executive to do certain things which are not in their dominion at all. They are using the process of Public Interest Litigation (PIL) petitions. By that process, everything is now being dictated by the court. That is called Judicial Adventurism.

We are in such a situation because there is no stable Government; and because there is no Government with the will power. So, everywhere we are seeing Judiciary. They have gone to the extent that they would give direction that what medicine should be administered to a particular patient. That day will also come in future. Such a situation is created because of the inability of the Executive to control or curtail corruption. That is the position today. All of us are aggrieved. The Judiciary is going to the extent of giving direction to the political party. They have given a direction as to how to conduct their procession, as to how many people should take part in that procession, and as to how they should behave on a public road. This is not the outlook of the Judiciary. But they have gone to that extent because there is no stable Government with the political will in the country. That is the position.

We are now facing that difficulty here also. It is an offshoot of a judicial decision. The Supreme Court has given a direction to do certain things in a particular way and in a particular manner. But even there, we see adulteration. The bureaucracy has manipulated things in such a way to suit their convenience.

We know about the prevention of corruption Act of 1988 meant for servicemen and bureaucrats. They could not implement it effectively because of the interference of the political leadership at the helm of affairs. The bureaucrat were not allowed to function freely. The people, who are entrusted with the process for investigation are always harassed and they were transferred. There was interference from the Executive to suit their political convenience. This has come to a situation that the Supreme Court had told us to give a statutory status to the investigating agency. There is a provision for investigation in the Act itself, but that proved to be ineffective for the simple reason that there was political interference to save their own followers in this regard. Such a situation has been created. After the Supreme Court has given a very definite direction, a draft Bill was brought in and this Bill is not as per the dictates of the Supreme Court.

Now, there is an authority in India which could give advice in this matter. I do not say the Law Commission is above us. The Law Commission can be taken as an advisory body. They are experts; their opinion will have to be considered. I do not say that we will have to accept all that is said by the Law Commission. But in taking a correct decision, to a considerable extent, it will influence us. Now, the Law Commission had been given a go by. It had not been taken into consideration by the Cabinet at all. Just as what is done in the case of the Patents Bill. In the Patents Bill also, there was a recommendation of the Law Commission, but that was suppressed. Here also there is a recommendation of the Law Commission, that also has been given a go by and the same is being suppressed.

My learned friend – who has gone out just now – Shri Ram Jethmalani, himself had declared in public that the bureaucracy has manipulated things in such a way that they have given a go by to the recommendation of the Law Commission.

He was forced to declare that in public. Now, the Judiciary is not within the control of the Government. The Judiciary does not have any faith in the Government. Since the present Government is an unstable one, the clever bureaucrats in India know that they could manipulate it to suit their convenience. That is the position in the Central Vigilance Commission Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude quickly.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I will conclude with in a few minutes.

Madam, the Cabinet could not think about the matter. Now, I shall deal with two Sections very briefly to establish my sub-

mission that this is a creation of the bureaucrats. Now, who should be the Chief Vigilance Commissioner and who should be Vigilance Commissioners? They found out that only persons from the bureaucracy should be eligible for appointment as the Chief Vigilance Commissioner and the Vigilance Commissioners also should be retired bureaucrats or bureaucrats in service. So, this is a bill of the bureaucracy, by the bureaucracy and for the bureaucracy. That is what I would submit.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Radhakrishnan, why do you not conclude with this beautiful quotable quote.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I am concluding.

Madam, Section 25 of the Bill deals with the appointment of Vigilance Commissioner. It says he should be a person in the service of the Central Government or State Government or a retired officer of the Central Government or State Government. They want men of their own choice. Why should it not be a man with some legal knowledge, either from the Judiciary or from public life? What is the difficulty? Why should there be a retired person? Why should there be a bureaucrat to deal with corruption among the bureaucrats? Now, for the appointment of the Director of Enforcement, a committee is constituted. The members of that committee are, the Central Vigilance Commissioner, the secretaries to the Government of India in the Ministries of Home Affairs, Personnel and the Department of Revenue. Section 25 (b) says :

"No person below the rank of Additional Secretary to the Government of India shall be eligible for appointment as a Director of Enforcement."

So, all are Secretaries to the Government of India. That is why, I said that it is an Act created for the Secretaries and bureaucrats.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now. You have already spoken for 13 minutes.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I will take only one minute more.

Madam, Section 25 says that a Committee will be constituted for the appointment of the Director of Enforcement. The Central Vigilance Commission, as a whole, should be the Committee for that purpose and nobody else. What is the difficulty in it? The Chairperson of the Central Vigilance Commission assisted by three other Vigilance Commissioners will be sufficient for selecting the Director. Why should the Secretary to the Government of India be brought in here? What is the necessity of bringing the Home Secretary? What is the necessity of bringing the Revenue Secretary? The selection of the Director can be achieved very effectively by the Commission itself, as a whole. So, the appointment of the Director who is in-charge of the Special Police Establishment in Delhi should be done by the Commission itself and not by a Committee consisting of Secretaries to the Government of India.

Madam, is the Minister not... * that he is being misled by the Secretaries? The hon. Minister, Shri Janardhanan is smiling. He should rather forgive them for they do not know what to do. That is what I have to submit. He is being misled; he is becoming a * in the hands of the bureaucrats. So, he should try to get above them. Otherwise, elimination of corruption among the bureaucracy will not be possible. With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI B.M.MENSINKAI (DHARWARD SOUTH): Madam, I am very happy that you have given me time to speak. I expect that you will give me at least five minutes to take part in this discussion.

Anyhow, since I belong to a supporting party Lok Shakti, I support it. But the problem is that our nation is burdened with so many laws without any work. I am fed up with all these Acts. The new Acts are always brought forward but the people are not acting according to those laws. Then, another Act will be passed. Things are going on like this. This Parliament is burdened with thousands of laws making process.

In this connection, I would like to bring to your kind notice that in Karnataka, when our leader, Shri Ramakrishna Hegde was the Chief Minister, the *Lokayukta* Act was passed in 1984. According to that Act, the definition of a public servant should be clarified. The Members of the Assembly have to submit a return of their income and assets annually to the *Lokayukta* before 30th June of each year. Nobody used to submit that.

When I was the Municipal President, I had made an experiment since 1979-80 declaring my assets along with all the work done. Such a statement is to be given by the public servant as such. I asked all the hon. Members also that they must declare their assets voluntarily. At the time of filing the nomination to the Parliament, I filed a declaration regarding my assets. If this thing is done by representatives of public, then only, corruption can be controlled. It cannot be wiped out from the society. At least to control corruption, we have to make a sacrifice. In all the offices, the representatives of the people must give a lead. Then, the bureaucracy will follow it. Otherwise, the bureaucracy will act according to the wishes of the representatives who are corrupt. In Karnataka, there are about 52 Ministers out of whom 30-35 Ministers have not submitted their return of wealth or statement of assets. In spite of that, they are continuing in office.

Similarly, here also, it goes on like this. Nobody wants to be transparent in society. I want that transparency should be there. Then only, the corruption in public life and in the bureaucracy could be controlled.

I think, I have read in some newspaper that Shri Vittal, Central Vigilance Commissioner told that the smugglers' property will be confiscated according to that Act by the Government. Similarly, if that provision is introduced here, then there is no question of amending this Act also.

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Shri B.M. Mensinkai]

There is the Vigilance Wing in income tax department. If the Minister of Finance gives them full powers, they would collect information about all the blackmarketeers and hoarders of black money. They will assess the cases on the basis that if there is an undisclosed income or it is disproportionate to the known sources of income, that will be taxed. Similarly, the disproportionate income will also be taken back by the Government. If that provision is inserted in the Income Tax Act, then, everything is possible to curb the corruption in the public life. Therefore, if these officers are not men of credibility, this Act would not help anything.

Even I wrote a letter to the Prime Minister regarding the Lokpal Bill which was to be brought before the House. It is not possible that the people who are making laws, should be punished by themselves. That is why I would like to say that law is not useful here. Even if the Prime Minister is included in the Lokpal Bill, he cannot be punished. Then, who is going to be punished? It is because the officers have to take action. Can they take action against him? Take the example of Karnataka. The Chief Minister was included in the Lokayukta Act but nobody could take action against him. The officers cannot take action against him. That is why I would like to say that all such laws should be omitted just as they have done in Philippines. Marcos amassed crores and crores of rupees when he ruled that country, which was later confiscated when the new rulers came.

Anyhow I am supporting this Bill. But the point is that such laws cannot work. Any man executing the law must have the credibility in the society.

With these few words I conclude my speech.

SHRI T.R. BAALU (MADRAS SOUTH) : Madam Chairperson, first of all, I would like to welcome the Bill brought by this Government as per the advice of the Supreme Court for giving statutory authority to the Central Vigilance Commission which will now be a multi-member body. The powers of this Commission, after passage of this bill, would be to monitor, superintend, to control over the Central Bureau of Investigation, to order inquiry on its own on with the Central Bureau of Investigation, to call Report on corruption from any Department and so on. I wholeheartedly support and welcome this Bill.

At the same time, if the Bill is brought forward with good intentions, it is to be welcomed. There is an Ethics Committee in the Parliament. This Government is talking loudly about bringing the Lokpal Bill. What happened to the Lokpal Bill? What happened to the Ethics Committee's Report? As per Ethics Committee's Report, I understand that if any Member of Parliament goes wrong, then, the Report will prevail. I want to have a clarification from the Government. If a Member of Parliament with the powers he is having, indulges in corrupt practices, what will happen to him? I want to know whether the Ethics Committee will correct him or the Central Vigilance Commission will have its own say or the proposed Lokpal Bill will prevail. It is good, Madam, provided this Government or the people having the powers do not interfere with the Judi-

ciary. As far as corruption charges are concerned, there are special courts. The corruption case must be heard daily. Those cases must be expedited. My request is that let there not be any interference from the people in power.

For your information, and for information of the House, a person who had earned only one rupees per month in office for five years, what would have been her income? Her income would have been only Rs. 60. During 1989 elections, she did not have any money even to contest elections. She had to borrow.

But after demitting her office, her own total income was just Rs.60. Now, how come she could purchase 10,500 silk sarees worth Rs. 7,000 to Rs. 8000 each? She was in possession of 350 pairs of chappals. How come jewellery worth crores and crore of rupees she would be having?... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN : Madam, are we discussing these things here or are we discussing Central Vigilance Commission Bill?

SHRI T.R. BAALU (MADRAS SOUTH) : Madam, in India and throughout the world people are aware of the fact that Imelda Marcos of Philippines was having only 2000 sarees and only 200 chappals...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Baalu, please conclude now, the time allotted to you is over.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : But to my surprise, this particular person who was in offices, is facing the Special Court, but the Law Minister of this Government has issued an executive order to transfer the cases to other courts. I would like to know what is the locus-standi he has got to issue an executive order when the matter is pending with the judiciary... (*Interruptions*) Madam, this kind of interference would not in any way... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO (KARIMNAGAR) : Madam, I am on a point of order...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, what is your point of order? Under what Rule ?

SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO : Madam, my point of order is that name of no individual should be attributed like this... (*Interruptions*) This is not correct...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Madam, I am within my ambit... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, Shri Baalu, I am dealing with it.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Is there any point of order, Madam?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are not in the Chair, I am here to decide on that.

Shri Vidyasagar Rao, under which rule you are raising a point of order ?

SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO : Madam, the hon. Member should confine within the ambit of the Bill. He can discuss anything on the Bill which we are going to pass. But he should not attribute anything on an individual who is not here... *(Interruptions)* I totally oppose this.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Madam, the hon. Member should tell under what rule he is raising his point of order ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Baalu, thank you very much for helping me. But I can deal with this matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : This is under rule 352...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Madam, the Member who has raised a point of order should quote that rule...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Madam, under rule 352 there are 3-4 conditions and a Member cannot level any allegation against any other person...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Madam, I have not mentioned any name ...*(Interruptions)* I was narrating what has happened during the course of time...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : Madam, Rule 352 says:

"A member while speaking shall not –

(i) refer to any matter of fact on which a judicial decision is pending;

(ii) make personal reference by way of making an allegation imputing a motive to or questioning the bonafides of any other Member of the House unless it be imperatively necessary for the purpose of the debate being itself a matter in issue or relevant thereto;..."

That also he must realise.

"...*(iv)* use offensive expressions about the conduct or proceedings of Parliament or any State Legislature;"

SHRI T.R. BAALU : What is the offensive expression I have used?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Madam, I have not yielded...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Madam, I would like to know what is the offensive expression I have used...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Baalu, you had been a Minister. Why cannot you restraint yourself for a couple of minutes?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Madam, I am not yielding for the hon. Minister ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, I have allowed him. He is on a point of order.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Then there is no point in discussing the matter here...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Baalu, you should restrict yourself to the subject and not divert from that.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Madam, I have not mentioned anybody's name ...*(Interruptions)* I was telling that a particular person ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Baalu, please keep quit and let me listen to the hon. Minister.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Madam, he cannot reflect upon the conduct of persons unless the discussion is based on a substantive motion. Why is he reflecting upon the conduct of people who are not in the House and when it has nothing to do with the subject matter here? Why is he on this matter? There are opportunities he will get. He should have the right to say. I am not saying 'No'...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Madam, he has not referred to any person ...*(Interruptions)* He has not mentioned any name...*(Interruptions)*

17.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Wait a minute. Shri T.R. Baalu, there should not be a slanging match between you and the hon. Minister.

I think, the hon. Minister, Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam has raised a very pertinent point. We shall look into the matter and the offensive words will not form part of the records.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Madam Chairman, I should know which portion you are going to delete...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri T.R. Baalu, we shall settle it later on. Now, You conclude.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Madam, the Minister, Shri P. R. Kumaramangalam came just now and raised a point of order. When I have started speaking, he was not in the House. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : We shall go through the records and find out the portion to be deleted.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU :* then I will have to stage a walk-out. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You cannot dispute the Chair's decision.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Madam, he has not mentioned any name...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you should not forget that you are in the Panel of Chairman; you should not encourage such things.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Madam, I am cooperating with the Chair. I am helping the Chair. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I do not need support from any quarters.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you should be on the side of the Chair and nobody should really dispute the decision of the Chair.

Shri T.R. Baalu, please conclude now.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Madam, if you want me to conclude my speech now, I will go out against the Chair's ruling. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri T.R. Baalu, you have had enough time and you must conclude your speech within a minute.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Madam, if this is not a place to voice my feeling, then there is no place at all. I am walking out. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your party's time is over. Please conclude.

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI T.R. BAALU :* The hon. Minister, Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam has not heard my speech; he just came and raised a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I feel sorry. You had been a Minister. This is not the way to behave.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Madam, you have to hear my speech. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You must conclude your speech within a minute.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Madam, a person who was pauper and who was not having any money even to contest the election in 1989...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You must conclude now within a minute.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : No, Madam. I cannot conclude my speech within a minute. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is all right. You will get only one minute. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Madam, this is the highest democratic forum in India. I have to voice my feeling, I have not mentioned anybody's name. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whatever he speaks after one minute will not form part of the record.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : If you are very much particular about that, then I am walking out in protest against the Chair's decision. ...*(Interruptions)*

17.02 hrs.

At this stage, the hon. Member Shri T.R. Baalu and Shri S. Arumugham left the House.

[Translation]

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI (AMRELI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, can any member oppose the ruling given by you, continue to take part in the discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will decide it later on.

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : In my view, a member can not do so. It is a contempt of the Chair. A structure should be passed against it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This issue will be considered later on.

SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI (KURUKSHETRA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, many members have placed their views before me, however, I would also like to express my opinion regarding the Bill.

50 years have passed since our independence. During these 50 years, although our country has overcome many problems but still some of them have become much more complicated. Corruption is one among such problems. Bureaucrats and politicians are equally responsible for giving way to this problem. It is true that politicians have set new records of corruption but people like Harshad Mehta have gone beyond those records.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, bureaucrats have become so expert in corruption that they do it very easily and investigating Agencies even after doing a lot of efforts, fail to find any clue. The problem of corruption cannot be solved until CBI and CVC will be provided full freedom and autonomy and allowed to work free and fairly. How these agencies will work efficiently if incidents like posting of worthy Director as Sardar Joginder Singh and his removal from the post takes place due to political pressure? While providing freedom and autonomy to these agencies, security of the staff working there should also be ensured as their life is always under threat of Political, Mafia and other types of Pressure. To solve this problem of corruption, these agencies should get a free hand to take immediate actions to expose the corrupt politicians and officers and bring the truth before the public by conducting a fair probe. Law should be enacted to punish any one involved in corruption, whether he is a Minister or Prime Minister or a big bureaucrat. The Government should not go for the capital punishment for the people responsible for spreading corruption in the country, Instead, their hands should be amputated... (*Interruptions*). If this could not be done, then atleast there should be a provision for life imprisonment for such persons. Otherwise, the country will never suffer from the monster of corruption.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think it is taking much time as all the members are discussing the issue of corruption rather than discussing the Bill. Time will be saved and discussion will be concluded early if two-three members waiting for their turn to speak may please speak to the point and on the issue of Bill only Shri Kawade, I hope, you will speak to the point.

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE (CHIMUR) : Madam, I would like to state few points on behalf of my party within the allotted time frame on Central Vigilance Commission Bill which is brought forward to investigate the increasing crimes in local authorities and corporations under Central Government, public companies and societies coming under the jurisdiction of Central Government and the organisations under public works department. It is a step to remove the corruption from

the country. It is well known that Santhanam Commission was constituted with the same purpose and since its constitution, many other Commissions have come into force and many cases of corruption and scams came into light. However, the work of all such Commissions have not been evaluated so far. Evaluation, if done, have never been placed before the House and the country. The C.B.I. is the highest body to investigate the cases of corruption in our country, but the people who were found guilty of corruption have neither been put behind the bar nor any action has been taken against them. Through this bill, I would like to say that if Central Vigilance Commission continue to work in such an inefficient manner, then what is the purpose of having this white elephant.

Madam, today corruption is on the top in our country. Our sister was speaking here that there should be a provision in our law to take stringent actions against any person involved in corruption, no matter if he is a politician, social servant or an employee of private sector.

This provision should be made in this Bill so that no one would dare to indulge in corrupt practices. In our country, people have become so unashamed that some of them have even started advocating in support of corruption. They call it a global phenomenon. It will be really good if this proposed Vigilance Commission works for uprooting the system which causes corruption....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kawadeji, please address the chair and do not talk to other Members.

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : I would discuss the issue regarding Commission only. There would be minimum three commissioners and maximum four in this proposed vigilance commission and one Chief Commissioner. As hon. Raghuvansh Singhji has said just now that maximum four Members would be there in this Commission, I would like to ask as to whether Central Vigilance Commissioner will be from bureaucracy ? After retiring from Government Service, the bureaucrats would be appointed here. The members of Commission will also be from bureaucracy.

Through you, I want to know whether Members of this Commission would be selected from Scheduled castes, Scheduled Tribes, women and backward classes. If so, what would be their percentage? I welcome this point that hon'ble President would set up this Central Vigilance Commission after discussing the issue with the Committee comprising of hon'ble Prime Minister, Minister of Home Affairs and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha. It is a good thing. But under sub-section 5 of this Resolution, the tenure of this Commission has been proposed to be four years. It seems that the persons appointed here would come after already serving up to the age of 65 years in Government services, so it should be reduced to three years.... (*Interruptions*)

In the context of salary, allowances and security given to them, I would say that we have no objection to it. But the basic question is as to whether this commission can guarantee removal of corruption from the country. Madam, several

[Prof. Jogendra Kawade]

such institutions have been set up. Even then, number of corrupt persons is constantly increasing which is ruining our economy. A parallel economy is working in this country and as a result thereof, our country is not making progress to the desired extent and we have to seek assistance from other. Whether under this Commission, provisions would be made to take stringent action to punish corrupt persons? I would like to say that the Government can constitute Vigilance Commission, but it should assure the House that corrupt persons whether he is rich, poor or holds higher office, would be punished. With these words, while thanking you, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (KALAHANDI) : Madam Chairman, I wholeheartedly support the Central Vigilance Commission Bill which has been initiated by the Government because this Government, led by the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, has been voted to power against corruption. It was the corruption in high political places which has voted this Bhartiya Janata Party Government to power under the able leadership of Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Besides, the Supreme Court judgment necessitated to create a Central Vigilance Commission and accordingly the President of India promulgated an Ordinance which is going to lapse shortly and will become infructuous unless this bill is passed by the Parliament. Keeping this in view, the Government has brought this bill and as per the sense of the House, which we have just heard, it is going to be passed unanimously.

I do not have much to say, but one thing I would like to say that the Commission which has been created, is going to be a transparent Commission because the annual reports of the Commission will eventually be placed in the House and the pros and cons of the findings will be subject to discussion. Basically, this Commission will act as a watchdog to the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 which was not coming out with any positive results. During the Jain Havala case, the Supreme Court had directed that if a commission was not created, corruption in high places could not be dealt with.

The problem of corruption started overflowing. It may be at the Chief Minister's level or at the bureaucratic level or even at the Prime Minister's level, the needle of suspicion started pointing towards them, whether it was the Bofors scandal or the Bihar *chara* scandal, or the urea scandal, or the sugar scandal, or the telecom scandal, or the havala scandal, or the share scandal of Harashad Mehta, or whatever it was. If you start naming the scandals, there is no end to it. Therefore, our Government has taken a decision in the right direction to nab the culprits, who, by virtue of the voters, come here to this august House to rule the country. The people have faith in us. They think that we shall deliver the goods to them. But instead of delivering the goods to them, we give them corruption. Therefore, this bill which is being discussed today is for the good of the country and for a healthy democracy.

Some hon. Members from Opposition benches cited the example of the Law Commission. They said that the direc-

tions of the Law Commission were not followed. But here I would like the hon. Minister to clarify during his reply whether the Law Commission's reports are mandatory to be placed before the House because unless these are placed before the House, unless they become the property of the House, unless they are made public, they cannot be discussed. Therefore, it should be clarified that whatever recommendations are made by the Law Commission, they will be given proper weightage in future. Once this Vigilance Commission Bill is passed and become an Act, if there are some lacunae found afterwards, it can be amended to suit the electorate and to suit the situation of the country. As of now it is legal. If it becomes an Act, it can always be amended.

Therefore, Madam, after this bill is passed, the Commission will be headed by an impeccable retired bureaucrat or if a bureaucrat who is in service is appointed as the Commissioner, then he will be automatically deemed to have been retired. Considering this, Madam, after the passage of this Bill, we will get justice in future and corruption can be stemmed or killed at its roots.

With these words, I conclude,

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (CHAIL) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have given a notice. I should also be given a chance to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Time allotted for this issue is over now. From your party, Shri Mohan Singh has given a good speech. All were given sufficient time. Now let the hon. Minister speak.

SHRI RAMA NAND SINGH (SATNA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this issue relates to corruption. All should be allowed to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, it cannot be so.

SHRI RAMA NAND SINGH : Please extend the time for discussion on it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, the time has already been extended. Now Mr. Minister.

[English]

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN : Madam Chairman, I would like to thank all the Members who have given their opinions or valuable suggestions on this Bill.

* I wish to speak in Tamil, my mother tongue, I had given notice in writing in this regard. This bill seeks to eradicate corruption and bribery totally. I mention this when the Statutory Resolution was moved by hon. Member, Shri Acharya. Let me explain as to why we were compelled to promulgate an ordinance. As per the directions of the Supreme Court, on 18.12.1997, the then Gujral Government brought this Bill. On 7.4.1998, when this was sought to be implemented, the then CVC resigned. So, it became necessary to promulgate an Ordinance on 9.8.1998.*

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

17.22 hrs.

[SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

That has been elaborated in the explanation. Before the Cabinet meeting and the meeting in the Ministry, the Law Commission Inquiry Report has also been received. I have already told very clearly to hon. Members, Shri Acharya, Shri Upendra and others that the matter was explained in the Bill itself.

As far as possible, I would like to reply briefly. When the hon. Member from Andhra Pradesh, Shri K.S. Rao, was speaking, he was telling about what was happening, that is, only lower level employees like the bus conductors are being punished and that high level officials are not being punished. While speaking, he has given some suggestions. In general, all the Members were telling that we are being misled by the bureaucracy. I would like to submit that in this democratic country, so many sat in the minister's Chair. After being a Member for 12 years, I am now sitting in the Chair of a Minister. When we have the political will and apply our mind properly, the bureaucracy cannot mislead us. That much confidence we, the politicians, should have. I can assure you that this Government has not been misled by the bureaucracy.

On the issue of tackling corruption, the highest Court has given directions to the two Houses. Some hon. Members were saying that our Parliament is superior and we are sitting in this Parliament with that objective.

I thank Shri Satya Pal Jain for supporting the Bill. At the same time, he said that along with the Government, it should go into corruption cases in bureaucracy and public life. That has to be gone into.

Shri Upendra asked as to why there should be a difference of one year between the tenure of the Chairperson and that of the Members. The tenure of the Chairman is four years while that of a Member is three years. This is done to ensure the supremacy of the Chairman as well as to maintain continuity in the Commission.

Hon. Member, Shri Mohan Singh has moved an amendment to the Bill. In this connection I would like to draw the attention of the august House to the fact that the Central Vigilance Commission is being conferred statutory status by this Bill as per the directions of the Supreme Court in the Vineet Narayan case which was accepted by the Government. In this case, the Supreme Court had, *inter alia*, directed in paragraph 58.2 of their order dated 18-12-1997 that selection for the post of Central Vigilance Commissioner shall be made by a committee comprising the Prime Minister, the Home Minister and the Leader of Opposition. The court had given no direction to include the Chief Justice of India as a member of the committee. The Parliamentary Standing Committee has also accepted the present formulation with a certain clarification regarding the Leader of Opposition which has been accepted by the Government. The amendment necessary for that has been moved. Therefore, the Government is not in favour of accepting this amendment. Corruption at high places can be discussed when the House takes up the Lok Pal Bill also.

An hon. Member asked about the Personal Secretary. Personal Secretary has been included and it has been rescinded. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh spoke about the appointments of the four Vigilance Commissioners. Appointment to these posts will also be made by the High Powered Committee of which the Leader of Opposition is a member. Hence, there is no cause for any apprehension that the Government will not appreciate any Vigilance Commissioner. The amendment introduced will ensure that CVC and the Vigilance Commissioners will not be belonging to any one service. It is not here. He made a particular point and, therefore, I replied to it.

Shri Radhakrishnan said that the CVC should decide disciplinary cases of Government servants and employees of the public sector undertakings. The persons who will be covered under this have been decided based on the directions of the Supreme Court and recommendations of the Law Commission as well as under the supervision of the Standing Committee. Under clause 27, the Committee is constituted for selecting the Directors of CBI and ED strictly as per the directions of the Supreme Court.

Hon. Member belonging to Lok Shakti party talked about transparency and that the Ministers should submit their property returns. I agree with him. It is being done even now. As a Minister, I have given it and everybody is giving it.

Hon. Member Shri Baalu also spoke on the Bill. When I speak in the House I speak as a Member who has been here in the House for 14 years.

After my fourteen years of experience in Parliament, if I do not say who I am politically, I will be failing in my duty. I was a person who was attracted to the ideology of Arignar Anna in 1949 when I was a student. I never thought that I would become a Member of Parliament or a Minister. I came from that line of workers.

It was Arignar Anna who had drawn me into his fold. During the times of Puratchi Thalaivar MGR, I came to the House, thanks to Navalar. Dr. Navalar was a chosen one, chosen by none other than the great Anna who called him to lead the party as his younger brother.

He was in full power in Anna's period. Navalar was able to give me a Parliamentary seat. During MGR's period, I became a Member of Parliament from the AIADMK party. That was after 37 years of my political career.

This is the thing about Tamil Nadu. I do not want to mention any name. I am an example. I am a coin. I am a test tube in the Dravidian history. Everybody knows, how we have been toiling, working and shedding our blood for the language, for the country and for the nationality. I want to say that when China attacked us it was our Anna who said :

[*Translation*] *

Let us strengthen the hands of Nehruji. *

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri Kadambur M.R. Janarthanan]

[English]

He was released from the Vellore jail as he was put behind the bars of leading an agitation against the price rise...
...(Interruptions) During 1962, he was not a Chief Minister. In fact, Anna was defeated in the Assembly elections.

SHRI T.R. BAALU (MADRAS SOUTH) : Mr. Chairman Sir, these things should not go on record.

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN : Why ?

SHRI T.R. BAALU : He should know how to tackle the issues. He is directly replying to me ... (Interruptions)

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN : I am drawn by Anna. Whereas he was drawn by somebody else. So, I can give him a befitting reply... (Interruptions) I am drawn towards a great leader, Anna. He was attracted by somebody else. So, I need not give him a reply.*

SHRI T.R. BAALU :** He represents Jayalalitha... (Interruptions)

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN : How he got attached with this party, I need not tell. The country knows, the world knows about it. This is a pity... (Interruptions)

He was also a Minister, and I am also a Minister now. But there is a difference... (Interruptions) He said that the ladies wear only saris... (Interruptions) Ladies do not wear Lungis.

* Without mentioning name, he referred accusatively to 1989. Hon. Balu who now refers to 1989 may not know of the party and what it was in 1950-57. Even the leading speakers do not know of the times. I know about him. He may sit down*... (Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : For the last 15 years, I am a member of the same party. I am not like you who is just going here and there ... (Interruptions) I am not like you. I am a man of stature and strength... (Interruptions)

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN : * If there is anything between us, let us sort it outside. Shall we?... * (Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Mr. Chairman, Sir, he is calling me to fight with him... (Interruptions) Sir, he is calling me to fight outside. It is...**

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN : He is talking of the integrity. I challenge him openly in regard to integrity. I am ready... (Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, it is...** on the part of the Minister to call me out of Parliament and fight with him... (Interruptions)

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN : I challenge him. When he joined the party, what was he? And, what was our leader in 1960?... (Interruptions) And, what is he today? Can he tell me? ... (Interruptions) The person, with whom he was working in 1989, was living in a hut... (Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : What was Ms. Jayalalitha in those days?... (Interruptions)

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN : What was Dr. Karunanidhi during 1960s?

SHRI T.R. BAALU : What she was during those days, I cannot express. She had nothing at that time... (Interruptions) He should not raise his party matters in the Parliament... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (JHABUA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, they are talking directly with each other.

[English]

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN : * His leader was living with Shri Dravidamani in North-Madras. That man is still alive. Shri Dravidamani can tell us what was Dr. Karunanidhi then. I speak Tamil what Anna had taught us. But his Tamil is what he learnt from his leader Dr. Karunanidhi.*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : He should talk in English. Why does he talk in Tamil?... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Minister, please address the Chair.

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN : Can he come outside? I am challenging him. I am ready... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please confine yourself to the reply only.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Please speak on the Bill being brought here. Do not talk with other Members.

[English]

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN : What is he and, what are we? ... (Interruptions) Come on. Tomorrow, if the elections are held, and I am defeated, I will resign from my post... (Interruptions) Will he also do it ?

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

** Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

** Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Janarthanan, please address the Chair.

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN : Mr. Chairman, he is talking in singular. ...*(Interruptions)* I am talking in Tamil ...*(Interruptions)* This is the difference between him and me.

* Let me ask whose Government was dismissed on corruption charges in 1976. *

[English]

I worked for 30 years in my Party and only then I contested election and I won. It is proof that people have faith in us. You have seen it. ...*(Interruptions)* I know better English than him. I can tell him in English also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You confine yourself to your reply. You should not be provoked.

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN : Why has he provoked me? I have to reply in a decent and civilised manner.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Is it decency?

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN : I am here as Minister because the people of Tamil Nadu have accepted me, not you. You are being boycotted...*(Interruptions)* They are the people who beat a lady in the Assembly. They are the Party who beat a lady in the Assembly and they are talking of decency here...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : You are the Finance Minister.

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN : I want to inform the House that about 60 per cent to 70 per cent of cases are ready for conviction. Therefore, they need not doubt the *bona fides* of the Commission.

I am really very sorry because something very nasty, something which is not connected with this Bill has been uttered in this Parliament. ...*(Interruptions)* Senior Members like Shri Indrajit Gupta are here. I am very sorry the former Speaker Shri Balram Jakhar is here. I got provoked by a man who has talked nothing which is connected with this Bill. Therefore, if anybody is feeling, I have got to explain my position. I have to explain the political position of my party, Anna DMK. They have raised the name of Anna. ...*(Interruptions)* It is none of our fault.

With these words, I request all hon. Members to support and pass this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in context of the reply given by hon'ble Minister in this House, I would

like to say that two ordinances have been promulgated in one month. The ordinance promulgated for the first time was

[English]

within a gap of one month. That was a fraud on the nation.

[Translation]

Then Supreme Court issued instructions to the Government that the Ordinance promulgated earlier was not as per the directions of Supreme Court and Law Commission. When the Ordinance was promulgated it was criticised even by the Members of the Cabinet. At that time the hon'ble Prime Minister gave statement that it would be inquired into.

[English]

Who was responsible for that? Who was responsible for drafting it without bringing it before the Cabinet, if it was a fact? The hon. Minister Shri Ram Jethmalani reacted sharply to it and a statement was made by the hon. Prime Minister that that would be inquired into. Was there an inquiry? What was the result of the inquiry? Was any responsibility fixed and any action taken against somebody who was responsible for that? The hon. Minister has not replied to this aspect.

What was the need for the promulgation of an Ordinance when there was enough time with the Government to bring a regular Bill and that Bill was being considered by the Standing Committee of Parliament. In spite of all this, they promulgated an Ordinance, not once but twice. He has not explained the need for the promulgation of the Ordinance. This is why I do not find any justification to withdraw my Statutory Resolution. I do not find any justification because he has not explained it and he has not replied to the points which I made during my initial remarks on why I have brought the Statutory Resolution.

I am not, in principle, against the Bill because I am also in favour of strengthening the Central vigilance Commission, removing the lacunae and weaknesses which were there in the Central Vigilance Commission, an impartial vigilance commission, changes in the procedure of appointment of Chairman and Members of the Commission. But I am not in favour of promulgation of successive Ordinances within one or two months and thus bypassing the importance of this Parliament. By bypassing this Parliament, the Government is resorting to Ordinance-raj. This should be avoided. There was enough time with the Government. They could have brought a Bill to this House but without doing that and without giving the Members an opportunity, they have promulgated Ordinances. They are now bringing a Bill to replace the Ordinance. I am against this. I do not find any justification for withdrawing my Statutory Resolution. I am in favour of my Statutory Resolution. I have already moved my Resolution and I am not withdrawing my Statutory Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Mr. Chairman]

"That this House disapproves of the Central Vigilance Commission Ordinance, 1999 (No. 4 of 1999) promulgated by the President on 8th January, 1999."

The motion was negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill to provide for the constitution of a Central Vigilance Commission to inquire or cause inquires to be conducted into offences alleged to have been committed under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 by certain categories of public servants of the Central Government, corporations established by or under any Central Act, Government companies, societies and local authorities owned or controlled by the Central Government and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3

Amendment made :

Page 2 , after line 27 insert –

"Provided further that while appointing the Central Vigilance Commissioner or the other Vigilance Commissioners, the Central Government shall ensure that they do not belong to the same service or category of person referred to either in clause (a) or clause (b)." (4)

(Shri Kadambur M.R. Janarthanan)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 4

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA) : Mr, Chairman , Sir, I would like to present following amendment :

page 2, –

After line 48 following should be substituted

"(b) Chief Justice of India - Member" (1)

Sir, my amendment is that there is a provision to set up a three-member Committee for appointment of Chief Vigilance Commissioner and the Commission. There is no participation of the Supreme Court in it. I have given an amendment that Chief Justice of Supreme Court should also be made Member of this Committee. There is no incoherence in it because Supreme Court has given instructions to set up this Commission. Due to some hesitation, the Supreme Court has not associated itself in appointment of the members of the Commission. It is the duty of the Parliament to consult the Chief Justice of India in the matter of appointment of the Chief Vigilance Commissioner and he should be nominated as Member of the Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I present the amendment No. 1 moved by hon'ble Mohan Singhji before the House.

Amendment was negatived.

[English]

Amendment made :

Page 2, line 38, insert –

'Explanation– For the purposes of this sub-section, "the Leader of the Opposition in the House of the People" shall when no such Leader has been so recognised include : the Leader of the single largest group in opposition of the Government in the House of the People.'(5)

(Shri Kadambur M.R. Janarthanan)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is :

"That clause 4, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 5

Amendments made:

Page 3, after line 7, insert–

"(ab) any diplomatic assignment, appointment as administrator of a Union Territory and such other assignment or appointment which is required by law to be made by the President by warrant under his hand and seal." (6)

Page 3, line 22, for "Provided further that", substitute–

"Provided further that if the Central Vigilance Commissioner or any Vigilance Commissioner is at the time of his appointment, in receipt of retirement benefits in respect of any previous service rendered in a corporation established by or under any Central Act or a Government company owned or controlled by the Central Government, his salary in respect of the service as a Central Vigilance Commissioner or, as the case may be the Vigilance Commissioner shall be reduced by the amount of pension equivalent to retirement benefits:

Provided also that" (7)

(Shri Kadambur M.R. Janarthanan)

MR. CHAIRMAN : 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.

Clauses 6 and 7 were added to the Bill.

Clause 8

Amendments made:

page 4, line 6 *after* "Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988",

insert— "or an offence with which a public servant may, under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, be charged at the same trial." (8)

Page 4, line 11, *after* " the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988", *insert—*

"or an offence with which such public servant may, under the code of criminal procedure 1973, be charged at the same trial (9)

Page (4), line 14, *after*. "the Prevention of Corruption act 1998." *insert —*

"an offence with which such official may, under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, be charged at the same trial." (10)

Page 4, line 17, *after* "Act 1988" *insert—*

"or the public servant may under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, be charged at the same trial." (11)

Page 4, *for* line 29, *substitute —*

"(a) member of all-India Service serving in connection with the affairs of the Union and Group 'A' officers of the Central Government;" (12)

(Shri Kadambur M.R. Janarthanan)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 8, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 8, as amended was added to the Bill.

Clauses 9 to 19 were added to the Bill.

New Clause 19A

Motion for suspension of Rule 80 (I)

SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN : 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. 13 to the Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 1998 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. CHAIRMAN : 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. 13 to the Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 1998 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

Amendment made :

Page 6, *after* line 24 *insert —*

"19A, The Central Government shall in making any rules or regulations governing the vigilance or disciplinary matters relating to persons appointed to public services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or to members of the all-India-Services, consult the Commission." (13)

(Shri Kadambur M.R. Janarthanan)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That new clause 19A be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New clause 19A was added to the Bill.

Clauses 20 to 26 were added to the Bill.

Clause 27

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (SATNA) : Mr. Chairmen, Sir, I would like to intervene and say that the Central Vigilance Bill should not meet the same fate as that of the Madhya Pradesh Vigilance Bill. In Madhya Pradesh the Vigilance Commission has levelled charges of corruption against 15 ministers and has asked to remove them from their offices but no action has been taken against any of them. This should not be the fate of the Central Vigilance Bill. The Minister should ensure that there should not be any lacunae in this Bill. Generally this Bill has been appreciated by all.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This cannot be raised just now. Time allotted to you is over.

[English]

Amendment made:

Page 8, for lines 40 to 45, substitute –

"27,(1) the Central Vigilance Commission Ordinance, 1999 is hereby repealed.

"(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the said Ordinance shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the corresponding provisions of this Act." (14)

(Shri Kadambur M.R. Janarthanan)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is :

"That clause 27 , as amended stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 27, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 4,

for 1998 substitute 1999" (3)

(Shri Kadambur M.R. Janarthanan)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is :

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Enacting Formula

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 1, –

for "Forty-ninth" substitute "Fiftieth" (2)

(Shri Kadambur M.R. Janarthanan)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the long title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

The Long title was added to the Bill.

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R JANARTHANAN : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN :The question is :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed,"

The motion was adopted.

17.58 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET (1999-2000) – GENERAL DISCUSSION
* DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (GENERAL)
(1998-99)
* DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS (GENERAL) (1996-97)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Item numbers 23 to 25 will be taken up simultaneously. It has been decided in the Business Advisory Committee that the House would sit up to 8 o' clock.

[English]

Motions moved :

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth

* Moved with the recommendation of the President.

column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1999 in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof, against Demand Nos. :

1, 3, 5, 6, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, 28, 34, 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 43, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 54, 55, 56, 58, 60, 63, 64, 66, 67, 71, 72, 73, 75, 78, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 87, 89, 92, 95, 96, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, and 103."

"That the respective excess sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to make good the excess on the respective grants during the year ended 31st day of March 1997, in respect of the following demands entered in the second column thereof :

Demand Nos.8, 14, 24, 56, 82 and 83

Supplementary Demands for grants (General) for 1998-99 submitted to the Vote of the House

No. & Title of Demand		Amount of Demand for Grant submitted to the Vote of Lok Sabha	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3	4
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE			
1.	Agriculture	334,60,00,000	
3.	Deptt. of Agriculture Research & Education	1,00,000	
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS			
5.	Department of Chemicals & Petro-chemical	1,00,000	300,00,000
6.	Fertilizers	3,00,000	1,00,000
MINISTRY OF FOOD & CONSUMER AFFAIRS			
9.	Department of Consumer Affairs	4,79,00,000	
11.	Deptt. of Sugar & Edible Oils	70,10,00,000	85,98,00,000
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE			
13.	Ministry of Commerce	47,34,00,000	
14.	Department of Supply	4,00,000	
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS			
15.	Department of Posts	639,11,00,000	
16.	Department of Telecommunications	418,13,00,000	1,00,000
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE			
17.	Ministry of Defence	87,06,00,000	1,00,000
18.	Defence Pensions	1346,47,00,000	
19.	Defence Services - Army	666,52,00,000	
20.	Defence Services - Navy	242,62,00,000	
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS			
24.	Ministry of Environment and Forests.	2,00,000	
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS			
25.	Ministry of External Affairs	1,00,000	
MINISTRY OF FINANCE			
26.	Department of Economic Affairs	466,29,00,000	
28.	Payments to Financial Institutions	2597,75,00,000	1578,27,00,000

1	2	3	4
34.	Pensions	1368,06,00,000	...
35.	Audit	31,68,00,000	19,00,000
37.	Direct Taxes	94,60,00,000	
38.	Indirect Taxes	40,75,00,000	
MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES			
39.	Ministry of Food Processing Industries	1,00,000	
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE			
40.	Department of Health	2,00,000	
41.	Deptt. of Indian System of Medicine & Homoeopathy	3,52,00,000	
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS			
43.	Ministry of Home Affairs	20,37,00,000	...
45.	Police	141,13,00,000	1,00,000
46.	Other Expenditure of the Ministry of Home Affairs	1,00,000	2,00,000
47.	Transfer to Union Territory Governments	83,41,00,000	10,72,00,000
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT			
48.	Department of Education	4,00,000	
49.	Department of Youth Affairs & Sports	2,00,000	
50.	Department of Culture	43,90,00,000	
51.	Department of Women & Child Development	1,00,000	
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY			
52.	Industrial Development and Industrial Policy and Promotion	59,12,00,000	...
54.	Department of Heavy Industry	365,14,00,000	75,94,00,000
55.	Department of SSI & Agro & Rural Industries	2,00,000	
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING			
66.	Information, Films & Publicity	4,40,00,000	
MINISTRY OF LABOUR			
58.	Ministry of Labour	1,00,000	
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE			
60.	Election Commission	1,20,00,000	
MINISTRY OF MINES			
63.	Ministry of Mines		60,01,00,000
MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES			
64.	Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources	1,00,000	
MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS			
66.	Ministry of Pers, Public grievances & Pensions	1,00,000	
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS			
67.	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	1,44,00,00	
MINISTRY OF POWER			
71.	Ministry of Power		2,00,000
MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT			
72.	Deptt. of Rural Development	1,00,000	...
73.	Department of Rural & Poverty Alleviation	3,00,000	50,00,00,000

1	2	3	4
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY			
75.	Department of Science & Technology	1,00,000	
MINISTRY OF STEEL			
78.	Ministry of Steel	11,74,00,000	13,00,00,000
MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT			
80.	Roads	41,30,00,000	1,00,000
81.	Ports Lighthouses & Shipping	101,64,00,000	43,19,00,000
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES			
82.	Ministry of Textiles	5,03,00,000	16,71,00,000
MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT			
83.	Urban Development	...	1,00,000
84.	Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation	1,00,000	1,00,000
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES			
87.	Ministry of Water Resources	1,00,000	3,51,00,000
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY			
89.	Atomic Energy	17,75,00,000	
DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT			
92.	Department of Ocean Development	1,00,000	
THE PRESIDENT, PARLIAMENT, UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION AND THE SECRETARIAT OF VICE-PRESIDENT			
95.	Rajya Sabha	4,14,00,000	
96.	Lok Sabha	17,98,00,000	
98.	Secretariat of the Vice-President	37,00,000	
U.T.'s WITHOUT LEGISLATURE			
99.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	23,87,00,000	34,00,000
100.	Chandigarh	93,92,00,000	2,00,000
101.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	14,39,00,000	1,10,00,000
102.	Daman & Diu	11,11,00,000	
103.	Lakshadweep	11,79,00,000	...
Total		95,34,89,00,000	19,42,09,00,000

Demands for Excess Grants (General) for 1996-97 submitted to the Note of the House

No. and Name of Demand		Amount of Demand submitted to the vote of Lok Sabha
1	2	3
8.	Department of Tourism	3,71,97,921
14.	Department of Tele-Communications	448,07,48,924
24.	Department of Economic Affairs	2,18,05,862
56.	Broadcasting Services	2,73,01,021
82.	Urban Development, Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation	50,14,85,418
83.	Public Works	6,23,40,688
Total		513,08,79,834

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR (BIKANER) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to say something on the Union Budget....(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): Sir, the hon. Finance Minister is replying to a debate in the Rajya Sabha. I am representing him here and I am taking all the notes.(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU (MADRAS SOUTH) : Sir, it is a very important subject. The Cabinet Minister should have been present here....(Interruptions)

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM (GARHWAL) : Shri Baalu, the hon. Minister is in the Rajya Sabha for replying to a debate.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : This is the last budget of the 20th century. Therefore, it is an important link with the next millennium. It should have been more prudential, farsighted, well-directed and practical but it is not so. While presenting the budget for the year 1998-99, the Finance Minister had said that he will streamline the economy of the country within six months. But it seems that nothing has been done. This Budget has been presented in such a situation when recession is prevailing everywhere, world trade has fallen down. Besides globalisation of economy is going to take place. The economic problems caused due to Pokhran test are before us. India should initiate a dialogue to maintain buffer stock of foodgrains for the increasing population of the world in which we will have to contribute a lion's share. In view of these India cannot remain isolated but what we are going to do in this regard. Everything should have been reflected in the Budget.

18.00 hrs.

[English]

The present Budget is presented in the context of global economic recession.

[Translation]

We will have to ponder over as to how to come out of this situation. Though there is some improvement in the situation in East Asia, still it is not good. What is happening in Brazil is an indication that economic stability all over the world is in danger. The domestic scene is also not encouraging. During the year 1998-99 our GDP growth rate has been reported to be 5.8 per cent. It is due to encouraging agricultural production. There has been negative growth in industrial, business and export sectors. Due to this the scandal in international trade has doubled. In this context several committees have been set up to tackle various commitments. But question is

this whether we have the will power to tackle them or not and whether the Government have the capacity to tackle them or not. Confidence of investors has been shaken. Industrial recession is also there. It should be made encouraging. It can be done when there is correct appropriation, appropriate intervention from the hon'ble Finance Minister. I would like to say that balance of international trade is not in favour of India. Economic condition of the country is disappointing. It has to be seen as to what we are going to do to improve it.

What we are going to do regarding increasing number of unemployed youth in the country ? How we are going to provide employment to the unemployed and how we are going to reduce the increasing gap between rich and poor in the country? Today forty per cent population is living below the poverty line, what are the reasons therefore ? We will have to think over it. For this purpose whatever has been provided in this Budget is not satisfactory. There was focus on revenue in the Budget for 1998-99 and the total increase of additional revenue by the way of direct and indirect taxes was Rs. 9334 crore in the Budget for the year 1999-2000, tax revenue as compared to last year is Rs. 22828 crore. I am unable to understand as to how this deficit can be made up. There is a need to think over it. Five per cent decrease has been registered in the total plan expenditure of the Budget. The Central plan has also been compressed.

[English]

Capital expenditure has been compressed. This is true with the budgetary support as well. Even the outlay on rural development programmes has been cut by 5.5 per cent less than initially planned.

[Translation]

It is also a point to ponder over as to how we are functioning. The Budget is the most effective and efficient measure to solve the existing problems and to carry out the developmental work in future in a planned way. The background can be prepared for aspirations but there is no provision in it to solve the present problems and the problems that may arise in future. Therefore, this Budget appears unprudential and directionless to me. There should be provision in the Budget to provide relief and benefit to economic and industrial sectors etc. But I do not find any such provision in the entire Budget, there is a need to think over it.

[English]

Hope triumphs over realism.

[Translation]

We have aspirations and think that we will achieve a lot in the world. You must have watched a TV serial "Mungeri Lal Ke Sapne." Similarly, this Government is also visualising dreams. There is a need to consider as to what we are doing. There is vast difference between the revised estimates and the Budget estimate and a different look has been given to it. It is just an eye wash. What an irony it is ?

[English]

Hope triumphs over realism in the expenditure figures as well. Between 1997-98 and 1998-99 (both Revised Estimates), Revenue Expenditure (which, roughly speaking, is the non-productive part of Government spending) increased by a little less than 20 per cent. By some magic, the order of increase will be less than 9 per cent the coming year, comparing the Revised Estimates of 1998-99 to the Budget Estimates of 1999-2000.

[Translation]

You will have to see this difference. You are talking of nine per cent and twenty per cent. But you will have to see as to how you are going to make up it.

[English]

In absolute terms, this means that while the Government spent Rs. 35,939 crore more in 1998-99 compared to 1997-98 on salaries, establishment costs etc, in 1999-2000 the annual increase will be only Rs. 18,848 crore.

[Translation]

It has been said that number of posts of Secretaries will be curtailed and no statement has been made as to what extent they will reduce expenditure. There is no planning. We have no solution to these problems.

So far as agriculture is concerned, it has been said that we have earmarked 34 per cent more as compared to previous years. Infact it is not true. I have got the figures in this regard. In 1998-99 there was a provision of Rs. 3,864 crores and Rs. 2,777 crore have been provided for the year 1999-2000.

If we look at inflation, it has come down to three percent and two percent. Even then they say that we have increased the amount by thirty four percent. There cannot be a greater irony than this. Agriculture is the backbone of our country's development and our GDP growth-rate is 5.8 percent. So far as rural development is concerned, there have been a fall in this sector too. A provision of Rs. 8182 was made in the year 1998-99 and this year it has been reduced to Rs. 7842 crores, you can guess from it that approximately one thousand crore rupees have been reduced. In irrigation sector, a provision of Rs. 348 crores in place of previous year's 374 crore has been made and in energy sector 27 thousand crore rupees have been allocated in place of earlier allocation of Rs. thirty thousand crores. You can judge from the above figures what type of a progress they want to make.

Even in current five-years plan, thrust was to be given to agriculture sector, but the budgetary allocation for agriculture has been reduced. Funds of the revised estimate for the last year have not been spent. I want to ask why was not this amount spent? They have no answer to this question. Except hoodwinking, no other job has been done. Not a single paisa

has been allocated for agricultural irrigation. They have been claiming that they have made provisions but neither any grant has been made nor any other provision has been made. It has been said that areas under agriculture sector would be increased and irrigational area would also be increased but by looking at the kind of arrangements that have been made, it is not likely that anything could be done in this regard. No provision has been made in the direction of giving a boost to the dam construction. During my tenure, I had said that progress can be made in the irrigation sector, land can be protected from turning into alkaline land and water logging and we had taken steps for providing grants upto 90 percent for the irrigation sector. In that seventy five percent of the share belonged to Harijans.

Allocations of not a single paisa has been made under that, where has that money gone, no mention has been made about that. What kind of progress do they want to make. No attention has been paid to command areas of the canals where they are to be dug and neither did we give any thought to implementation of our new schemes. Rajasthan canal is biggest canal in the world which is called Indira Gandhi Canal. Now a days if you look at its surrounding area, lakhs of areas of land has submerged under water. The whole area has turned into a lake but no funds have been allocated for that area. Villages have ruined, people have become homeless, production has come to a halt in that area but no provision has been made for that area. How will we reclaim that loss? I am making a practical suggestion about how to stop this damage. No mention has been made of the agro based industries. We had made a new agro-business custodian but we do not have any money for that and neither any mention has been made about it. How will they provide employment to the ever increasing population. How will they solve robbers, murders, thefts and increasing slums in the cities which has become a regular phenomenon. Until we do something in this regard, nothing can be achieved. They indulge in changing names. They changed the name of Jawahar Rojgar Yojana and Indira Awas Yojana to "Gram Smridhi Yojana". Tomorrow they will say that we want to rename India as "Aryawarta". My suggestion is that there is no need to change the names of things. They keep on doing improper things by unnecessarily changing the names, they must do sineting meaningful.

I would like to tell the hon. Finance Minister that he must have confidence in worthiness. Why does he want to get humiliated by indulging in name-changing exercises. He increased the duty on tractor of over 35 horse power. How many farmers committed suicides in Andhra Pradesh. Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab and Haryana, is there any account of that. Please give some thought to it. Their crop was destroyed and they were ruined but the Government have not been doing anything in this regard. The hon. Prime Minister was saying that they will bring insurance policy scheme. Here the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture has announced that this scheme would be coming up. We are fed up with such promises but nothing came to the forefront, By what method and why do they want to do it? If they want to do the job then should explain how and when they are planning to launch it. "*Manna ki taghaful na karoge lekin, khak ho jayaenge tumko khaer*

[Shri Balram Jakhar]

hone tak", when will they think for them. We had done something for the farmers. Now they do their job by helping them. They carry forward what we had already done. They are making the road over the track which we had laid....*(interruptions)* After making the way, move forward on it. We made the road, opened the gates, now they move forward. My view is that they must frame individual policies and find out how we have to implement them. I am talking about farmer, The price of a tractor will increase by Rs. 6000 to Rs. 9000. Over sixty percent of the Indian tractors are above thirty five horse power. Wherever the cereals are produced, be it Punjab, Haryana or U.P. farmers of those places have been suffering at their hands. They must give some thought about our farmers. They must do something for our farmers. The farmer will land in trouble due to the destruction of the cotton crop. My demand is that they must immediately take back the hiked excise duty on heavy tractors. Farmer buys diesel and they increased the price of diesel and still they claim to be the messiah of the farmer. His cotton, groundnut and soyabean crops have destroyed. They received no funds from their side, nobody received anything. They increased the capital of NABARD. The farmer took loans at the interest rate of 40 to 50 percent and when he could not repay the amount, he died and committed suicide. I have myself seen the deadbody. Farmer's children are wailing, his widow is starving and his children have become helpless.

65 percent people in our country are dependent on agriculture. Investment on agriculture has been reduced to 24 percent from 50-55. The biggest problem is of small farmers. They must create new employment opportunities for them. They did not provide for anything for post-harvest technology. So many of our perishable commodities get destructed this way. We are the number one country in the world in fruit production. We compete with China in vegetables and in milk we have come *at par* with America. Why do they punish the farmers instead of rewarding them. They have got nothing to take advantage of post harvest technology nor do they have the facilities for grading, packaging, processing, forwarding, transportation and storage. In foreign countries 40-50 percent of the vegetable produce is packed in tins whereas 25-30 percent of our produce is destroyed. Here onion price rises up to Rs.45 to 50 per kilogram. What is the situation today? Onion has been selling at Rs. 1.25 to 1.50 per kilo and the farmer is even not getting his labour-cost. Farmer is in trouble he dies irrespective of whether he produces or not. He is destined to die. Nothing has been done for him by the Government. Today the farmer needs the sympathy of the Government. Today 74 percent of our people live in villages. Their land holding have become smaller but there is no chance for industries. We may compete in the field of agriculture but our children lag behind in studies. Children in the cities study in public schools and pay upto three thousand of rupees every month as tuition fee and the children from the villages are unable to compete with them.

You can generate jobs for them by setting up a agro-based consortium. You can give them technical training, you do not even impart them any such training.

You are talking of cooperatives for which you have presented a very good Bill. But at the same time you say that the work pertaining cooperatives should be done by the State and you will not do anything in this regard. You want to destroy the cooperatives.

So far, I have not seen anywhere in the world that the 30 year old tax is being recovered from the cooperatives. Have you ever heard of it? What do you want to do? I would like to tell the Minister of Finance to think about it. This is not the proper way of functioning. Rs.84 crore has to be given to NAFED. The election of it is over, the person nominated by them has not won the election, but has been defeated. Today you want to destroy it, what do you want to do? What does it mean? You have recovered all the money from them? They do not know about Maharashtra. I do not have any objection in giving it to them but Maharashtra had no such contract. The Marketing federation of Maharashtra was not having any means. Why are you punishing them? The question is not only of onion, but it concerns the farmer. I do not have any concern with anybody. I know only one thing that irrespective of the fact that the farmers are your supporters or my supporters or they belong to any place, they should be benefited. But you want to destroy them. You are not making any policy for the farmer. The Government is having dominating role in this issue, though they have not spent ever a single paise on it. You are conducting an inquiry in this regard. What do you want to inquire in this regard. Who are you to enquire? You have no concern at all for them. You have got nothing to give to them. You are hellbent on ruining the farmers. When I think about your way of working I feel frustrated. I am seeing all works which are being done today. See their way of thinking

[English]

While presenting the Budget for 1997-98, the then Finance Minister projected a revenue growth of 15 percent which did never materialise. In 1997-98, the sharp deterioration in tax collection stemmed from a marked decline in revenue mobilisation from major taxes. Customs duty fell short of the Budget Estimates by 11,550 crores of rupees due to deceleration in imports, Union Excise Duty was lower by 2,383 crores of rupees than the Budget Estimates due to slow industrial growth. While presenting the Budgets for 1998-99 and for 1999-2000, the present Finance Minister, Shri Yashwant Sinha, refused to draw any lesson from the past experiences. In 1998-99, Shri Sinha projected a revenue growth of 17 per cent and in 1999-2000, he has projected a growth of 20 per cent.

This is highly optimistic.

[Translation]

I do not understand on what consideration and why do you want to do so?

[English]

In two years, that is, 1997-98 and 1998-99, the shortfall has been more than Rs. 9,000 crore. It is to be kept in view

that in 1997-98, more than 7,000 crore of rupees were received from VDIS, 1997. Shortfall in that year would have been much more but for this one-time voluntary disclosure scheme which fetched more than 7,000 crores of rupees under Income-tax. There is no reason why such a sharp variation should take place if there was not a deliberate attempt to inflate the receipts and depress the expenditure to project an apparent comfortable picture of Government revenue.

Why do we want to camouflage certain things in a certain way ?

[Translation]

You tell us in clear terms that this is a scam and this much is the short fall and we should make collective efforts to overcome it, then only something can be achieved. You should state what you want to do according to budget estimates and revised estimates.

[English]

In the year 1995-96, though the Central Plan outlay declined by Rs. 4,255 crore from Rs. 78,849 crore at BE to Rs. 75,594 crore at RE stage, the shortfall in Budget support was only 164 crore of rupees. Budget support declined by Rs. 164 crore from Rs. 28,994 crore to Rs. 28,630 crore only.

It will appear from the table that in all these three years, the central plan expenditure has been less but non-Plan expenditure has been much more. Tardy implementation of Central plan is manifested in all the three successive years. Therefore, there is no wonder that development has been sacrificed to meet the non-Plan expenditure.

[Translation]

In the plan you have curtailed the allocation and increased the expenditure.

[English]

Interest payment in 1998-99 as percentage of revenue receipts has increased to 49 per cent at RE from 46.3 per cent at BE stage. In 1997-98, interest payment as percentage of revenue receipts increased from 44.4 per cent at BE stage to 47.4 per cent at RE stage.

In 1996-97, the interest payment as percentage on revenue receipts came down to 44.7 per cent. So, we have to always compare this and see how things are working in a downward trend. We have to take care of all these things.

The Budget also provides incentives for revitalising the economy which has become a pious wish. We do not want to live in pious wish. We want to progress so far as our general economy is concerned.

[Translation]

The Government should look into all these things. In the end I would like to say that the country should not be misguided by platitude and wrong conceptions. Some concrete steps should be taken because the budget presented does not serve the purpose, it is rather deceptive. The hon'ble Minister of Finance should come before us and state how the confidence of the people will be built on agriculture, cooperative and investment. What the Government are doing in direction of giving jobs to unemployed and houses to shelterless people. The employment can not be generated by merely changing the names of the programmes. You should stop applying such techniques and support us because together we can make our country progress.

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR (KANGRA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, from the opposition side Dr. Balram Jakhar has said many things while speaking on this year's General Budget. I understand that either he has not read the entire budget or has hesitated to mention the good points of this budget. I understand that this year budget is presented after taking into account the current economic situation of the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Dr. Balram Jakhar had made a mention of the unemployment and the people living below the poverty line. I would like to tell him, that I agree to some extent to what he has said, but the present scenario is not the result of the policies adopted in last 11-12 months. It is due to the policies adopted in last 50 years. Therefore, the budget presented by the Government in spite of staggering economic condition which has been inherited is a commendable budget for which I would like to thank hon'ble Minister of Finance.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, among the salient features of this budget is that an effort has been made to engage common man in the development work. An effort has been made to give special place to farmers, labourers and Gram Sabhas. It is for the first time, when the Central Government is reposing their trust in the Gram Sabhas and directly allocating them funds. The entire responsibility of development is entrusted on Gram Sabhas. Mention has been made in the budget to mark this year as "Gram Sabha Year" and an effort has been made to ensure a well defined and transparent tax-structure. Under this programme, different village development programmes have been integrated which were earlier run under different schemes. In this budget effort has been made to streamline and consolidate them. I would like to urge hon'ble Jakharji that this is a first budget of independent India which has paid attention to the villages, the farmers and the poor. Since the globalisation has begun, since the multi-nationals have come, the villages have been entirely neglected. First time, an effort has been made to pay attention to them. An initiative has been taken in this budget to restrict the Government expenditure. The budget deficit of the country had increased to Rs. 1,04,000 crore. An effort has been made in this budget to reduce it to Rs. 72,000 crore, i.e. by Rs. 24,000 crore. I understand in present scenario, the budget could not have been presented in better way. A mention of the village, the poor, and the farmer has been made in it. I understand that after thorough consideration we have introduced some new programmes in that direction.

[Shri Shanta Kumar]

India is an agricultural country and water is required for agriculture keeping this fact in view, water development programmes have been integrated. Probably, hon'ble Jakharji has not paid attention to it. Many programmes related to water and irrigation water management are run in different ways and due to this, villages do not get true benefit of these programmes. A well thought, far sighted plan is in this budget, so that all programmes of water development should be brought, under one national water development programme. For this the funds are also being allocated by the Central Government.

Secondly, hon'ble Jakharji also has not paid attention to the Water Shed Development Fund. It will help the Centre and in next three years, the water-shed Development Fund programmes will be launched in 100 priority districts. It will give new direction to the irrigation. Mr. Chairman Sir, Jakharji has rightly stated that due to lack of storage facility in the country vegetables and fruits get perished. According to an estimate, every year fruit and vegetables worth Rs. 16,000 crore or more or probably of worth Rs. 25,000 crore get perished because of lack of storage facility. But hon'ble Jakharji, you have not paid attention to the budget. In this budget there are schemes for giving capital subsidy for creating storage facilities. A target has been laid to build 12 lakh tonnes capacity storage facilities. The target is to make storage facility available for four and half tonne of onions. In this way, I understand that an effort has been made to take an important measure in the direction of storage facility in this budget. The decision has been taken to provide credit cards to 20 lakhs farmers. 6 lakh farmers have already been given credit cards. This will also benefit the farmer. The directions have been issued to the banks. This programme is also an important programme for the welfare of the farmers.

About R.I.D.F— Rural Infrastructure Development Fund for the farmer, the villages and the poor it has been raised from Rs.3,000 crore to Rs. 3,500 crore and the payment can be made with in seven years, instead of five years. Is this not for the villages ? Is this not for increasing the basic infrastructure facilities in the villages ? I would like to say it emphatically that in no other budget of independent India has paid so much attention in this regard as has been paid in this budget. The issue of providing management subsidy to the water users Association has figured for the first time in the Budget so that the water users organisations situated in villages may be given subsidy by the Government for management of water schemes. A provision of 168 crores has been made for Regional rural banks, in this Budget to increase their scope of working and area of operation. Expenditure on agricultural project has been increased by thirty five percent. If hon. Balram Jakharji looks at it carefully, he will find an increase of thirty five percent in it. Apart from it, the helpless and poor people residing in villages have been paid enough attention in this Budget. Annapurna Scheme has been launched to achieve this purpose. Under this Budget declaration has been made to provide ten kilograms foodgrains per month to the helpless poor elders who have nobody to look after them. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the people living in villages reflect India in true sense.

A new big revolutionary programme named 'Education Guarantee Scheme has been launched in this budget which aims at eradicating illiteracy among villagers, under which one lakh and eight thousand primary schools will be opened during this five year plan. Villages will come up to the level of urban areas of country only when the illiteracy among villages will be eradicated. Even this thing did not draw your attention. Nobel laureate Shri Amratya Sen laid special emphasis on the fact that no attention was paid and no amount was spent on the very basic resource of development i.e., human resource and I think that all the things about the Budget of which I have been making a mention, concern the common and poor man. Efforts will be made to do away with the illiteracy of the villages by opening one lakh eight thousand primary schools under Education Guarantee Scheme.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, under the 'Grameen Smridhi Yojna', special rights have been delegated to the gram panchayats. We have respected democracy and villages and have deligated rights to the elected persons of the villages and have respond renewed faith in them. The gram panchayats have been given the right to frame scheme for self employment under the Gram Samridhi Yojna and they have been taken into full confidence and for this, monetary provisions will be made. The mention has been made of upliftment of poor people under 'Samagra Awas Yojna', keeping in view not only the housing facility but also the facilities of sanitation and drinking water.

Mr. Chairman Sir, Panchayats will be given encouragement for running the self employment programmes for the poor villagers under Swarna Jayanti Gram Samagra Yojna. There is not a step towards achieving decentralisation but towards realisation of Gandhiji's dream. A new revolutionary step and programme has been taken in this Budget. You said that nothing is being considered about setting up industries in villages. I request you to reread the Budget wherein, it has been clearly decided that one hundred village industry groups will be set up every year. The decision to set up one hundred rural industrial clusters has been taken in this Budget. It will directly accelerate the pace of industrialisation. For the first time so much money and schemes for the villages have been provided under this Budget. The funds which will be diverted towards the villages through these schemes, will lead to the realisation of all the plans regarding self employment. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I say with honesty that when I read this whole Budget, I remembered a poem of national poet Shri Sohan Lal in which he has narrated, "Hai Sachha Hindustan Kahan, Waha Basa hamare gaon main", In this Budget, for the first time concern has been expressed for the villages and you must appreciate this feeling of concern. Therefore, I think this Budget is village-oriented. This Budget has been drafted keeping in view the poor villagers and in true sense it is the first 'Antyodya Budget' of independent India. This Budget has been drafted keeping in view the villagers who have lagged behind.

Mr. Chairman, apart from it, there are so many things in the Budget but I would only mention a few of them. 'The gold Bond' scheme in this Budget is an innovative measure involving lot of imagination and it is very constructive in approach. The people of this country are fond of keeping gold and it is lying in their houses.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, that gold remains useless and leads to unnecessary tension and thefts. Therefore this scheme is a well thought out and welfare measure for the country. During 1998-99, 614 tonnes i.e., approximately six lakh kilograms of gold was imported in the country for which India had to spent foreign currency worth over 5-6 thousand crore rupees. This scheme will encourage people to deposit their gold in the banks which has been lying with them and the Government will also be absolved from the responsibility of importing the gold. If this scheme becomes successful, it will lead to the saving of foreign currency worth rupees 5-6 thousand crores and Government will get the resources for development purposes at the rate of only 4 percent. The Government will only pay an interest of 4 percent. Money cannot be mobilised from anywhere at this rate of four percent. The Government will get thousands of crores of rupees at four percent interest rate and in turn, the people of the country will get a chance to keep their gold in banks and earn an interest of four percent on it. I think that there can't be a better and more constructive scheme. This scheme is even better than the scheme of bonds, small savings and mutual funds. I think that this scheme is a well thought out and highly imaginative scheme which deserves applause. For it, I would like to extend many thanks to the hon. Finance Minister and Prime Minister.

Mr. Chairman Sir, all of us have expressed our concern about poverty and unemployment in this country. So it is very natural if I draw the attention of this House towards what has been said by hon. Prime Minister and Finance Minister in this regard. In the budget, it has been said that the Government will take drastic measures to reduce its expenditure. It is not a hollow promise but it would be fully taken care of, Hon. Prime Minister has said that consensus should be achieved in the House over the question of subsidy. Infact, only the needy poor persons should be given subsidy but in case of the remaining people who are given subsidy unnecessary, it should be withdrawn. In this budget efforts have been made in both these directions and to reduce the Government expenditure as well. Most of the subsidy granted in this country is unnecessary. The Government of every State and we talk here in terms of increasing the allocation for a particular region but none of us tells about the source of revenue. My submission is that my friends who demand for increasing allocation should also tell about the ways to generate it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have been spending 1 crore and 40 lakh rupees on subsidy at present. I would like to make a submission. As hon. Prime Minister has also said there is an urgent need to evolve a consensus over the items on which subsidy is essential and on which it is not required to be given. Mr Chairman, Sir, a survey was carried out by the Government and it was conceded in it that there are a number of items on which subsidy can be withdrawn. We can only save money by arriving at consensus on this issue. I want to read out a portion of the report from the discussion paper of the Government in which results of the survey have been given:-

[English]

"Even in the case of subsidy on a final good, food, targeting is reported to be poor, and leakage extensive. Similarly, on average, nearly half of the fertiliser subsidies is estimated to accrue to the producers/suppliers rather than the farmers. A significant portion of subsidies in higher education is appropriated by the middle to high income groups, because shortages of seats in this sector are cleared by a quality-based screening in the shape of entrance examination, interview, group discussions, etc., where the poorer sections of society are easily competed out. Health subsidies exhibit a non-rural and pro-rich bias. Thus our subsidy regime is not tangibly progressive."

[Translation]

When the Government reduced subsidy on some items, our friends made lot of hue and cry. Similarly, when subsidy on gas was reduced then also they made lot of hue and cry and said that poor people will suffer as a result of this.

I think we should try to understand the situation that the country is facing today and also as to how the poor man of the country earns his bread ?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, according to the statistics available, even after 50 years of independence 10 per cent people in villages use cow dung cakes as fuel and even today, 71 per cent of people use wood as fuel. Only three and half per cent of people living in villages have gas connection. But these three and half per cent people of villages are not poor. Therefore, this subsidy of Rs. 2200 crores which is given on gas is not for poor people. This subsidy of Rs. 2200 crores goes to the persons who spend on cigarette, purchase ticket of cinema for Rs. 100, pay bill of Rs. 500 or thousand in some restaurant. Think over this and consider it from all angles.

We are giving subsidy of Rs. 7000 crores on kerosene oil. Who makes use of that? There are only three per cent of people in village who buy kerosene oil. Kerosene oil is not sold in cities. This is sold in black market. Benefit of this subsidy of Rs. 7000 crores do not go to the poor people of village, common man do not get any benefit from this. This is sold in black market. Petrol is mixed in diesel. In other words we give subsidy of Rs. 7000 crores for adulteration in petrol and diesel. Therefore, I request that we should ponder over it. Hon'ble Prime Minister has said that...*(Interruptions)* what I have said...*(Interruptions)* I request that consensus should be reached on this question that subsidy which is of Rs. one lakh forty thousand should be given to those who are poor. I would submit that double subsidy should be given to 32 crores of people who are below poverty line. But why this subsidy is going to rich people? After all we have to work for the progress of the country and therefore, I would say we should arrive at some consensus on the indication given by the Prime Minister regarding subsidies.

Regarding Fifth Pay Commission's recommendations, I would say that according to those recommendations all State

[Shri Shanta Kumar]

Governments of the country have faced burden of about Rs. 90 thousand crores. On Central Government this burden was of Rs. 10-12 thousand crores. The Government at the Centre did not bother to ask the States about that and implemented the recommendations. The decision was taken without consulting States and the impact is being felt now. Pay Commission also said that three and half lakh posts should not be filled. Number of posts in Government offices should be reduced by 30 per cent in next ten years and 40 working day should be increased. This was not considered.

When the Pay Commission is constituted, the general approach is that needs of the Government employees has increased, there is price rise, their status has increased and therefore their salaries should be increased. I think this approach is wrong. Infact the approach should be how many means are available with the country and whether we can give it. 32 crore people sleep without food. They do not have two square meals a day. They have also to be provided something. Organised sector takes every thing by making hue and cry but those who are poor and cannot make noise and those who cannot come to streets, this should think about them also. Therefore, I want to say that our approach should be related to these questions.

About public sector industries the Hon'ble Prime Minister has said today that two lakhs and four thousand crores are invested in them and loss suffered is Rs. 41 thousand crores. Decision of hon'ble Fiance Minister to disinvest Rs. 10 thousand crores is worth appreciating. I want that we should try to increase this. This is country's money which is invested in this sector and we are suffering loss. Due to this, many types of problems have arisen. Last year the target of disinvestment was of Rs. 5 thousand crores, but disinvestment was done to the tune of Rs. 8 thousand crores even though the time was only 9 months. I want to give a suggestion that for those industries for which the Commission has given recommendation. We should release some shares. Management should be in efficient private hands. When price of shares increase then the rest of shares should be released. Efficiency will come with these measures in those sick units and Government will get more money.

Regarding reduction in Government expenditure the Hon'ble Prime Minister had made remarks and hon'ble finance Minister has made a beginning in that direction. I congratulate him for that. The Government has shown willingness to reduce Government expenditure. This is praiseworthy. But I want to say that this intention should not be mere intention only but there should be determination also to reduce the expenditure. The opposition has rightly said the condition of the country is very bad. Even after fifty years of Independence, the condition of country is bad. This is a disturbing fact. To fulfill total debt servicing we did not have adequate revenue during the last seven years. The situation this year is that our net revenue receipt is Rs. 1 lakh 82 thousand crores whereas the debt recovery is Rs. 1 lakh 7 thousand crores. Interest on debt is Rs. 88 thousand crores. Total debt servicing is Rs. 1 lakh 95 thousand crores and revenue is Rs. 1 lakh 82 thousand crores. What has happened during all these fifty years.

Debt servicing is not possible with the revenue receipts during the last seven years. Today total debt on the country is Rs. 8 lakh 50 thousand crores. This is the result of economic policies of last fifty years. This means that plan expenditure, non-plan expenditure and payment of salaries is being done by taking debt. the economic condition is really deplorable. Therefore, some hard decisions should be taken by consensus to overcome the situation.

The Government is concerned about reducing the Government expenditure. The hon. Prime Minister has expressed his resolve and the hon. Minister of Finance has explained as to why is it necessary. If we look at the figures then it causes a great deal of discomfort. I have the figures as to how much Government expenditure has increased in the past 16 years. The non-development expenditure of the Government was Rs. 9867 crore in the year 1980-81 and after sixteen years i.e., in 1996, it went upto 1 lakh 14 thousand crore rupees. The expenditure of States which was 4200 crores in the year 1980, shot up to Rs. 63 thousand crores in the year 1996. The total non-development expenditure of the country was 37 thousand crore rupees, in the year 1980 and after 16 years i.e., in 1996, it sky-rocketed to 3 lakh 43 thousand crore rupees. This alarming and unchecked increase in the expenditure has led me to conclude that even during the times of Moghul Sultans and Nawabs, who used to live so lavishly and pompously, the wealth of the country was not spent so ruthlessly and unimaginatively as has been done in the recent past.

If we cannot pay salaries from our income then, as I said earlier, there is a need to look into this matter meticulously. If the income of a household in Rs.100/- and the debts on it exceed Rs.150/- then that house will certainly go to dogs. Even after fifty years, we have brought the nation to this pass. Therefore, I congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for initiating efforts in the direction of reducing Government expenditure. But I would like to say that it is not enough and there is an urgent need to carry it forward and there is ample scope for it.

Himachal Pradesh too faced crisis when I was the Chief Minister. We saved 54 crore rupees in a year. We took some decisions, we did not fill up any of the vacant class I and class II posts. All the luxuries, pomp and show and decoration was reduced, telephones were cut and ceiling was imposed on them and official vehicles. Thus Himachal Pradesh saved Rs. 54 crore in a year. I would like to make a submission in the whole of House to arrive at a consensus in this regard and empower the Minister of Finance suitably. I am of the opinion that if efforts are made, there is ample scope for reducing non-development expenditure. We are a Government of that poor country in which 32 crore people go to their bed with empty stomach. Therefore it is necessary that all wasteful expenditure should be stopped. Effort should be made to establish a culture of simplicity by shunning all kinds of festivities and pomp and show from top to bottom. Class I and Class II posts should not be filled up till they are very urgently required. Foreign tours and the free run of the caravan of Government vehicles should be checked. One cannot imagine how much money is being spent on telephones. When we

tried to stop the misuse of telephones in Himachal Pradesh, we came across many instances of hefty telephone bills against officers who did not need telephone after 5 o'clock in the evening. We put a check on all those tendencies.

An ocean fills drop by drop. Likewise, it can be emptied if every drop is allowed to go waste. Non plan expenditure should be reduced by stopping all luxuries and inculcation of the culture of simplicity, collectively taking a decision not to fill up the vacant posts and minimising foreign tours.

Now-a-days we have been getting calendars and diaries. The house in which I am living presently, has four rooms and more than 20 to 25 calendars are there in my house. I also saw the reports of some departments published on imported art paper and sent to us. Nobody will read them and they will be thrown into the dustbin. A single report on imported art paper will not cost less than Rs.500 to Rs. 1000. We are a poor country, why not the report is printed on ordinary paper. Why does not one department of the Government publish the report? Why does not only one department print the calendar? 32 crores people sleep without taking food. Therefore I would like to say that efforts should be made to create an environment of simplicity by reaching a consensus in this regard. It is my experience and belief that if this environment of simplicity is created, at least 10 per cent of non-plan and non-development expenditure of the country can be cut which will be equal to Rs.20,000 crore saving annually. At least 10 per cent saving can be made by State Governments, that will be equal to Rs.25,000 crore. But all these things can be achieved when we collectively make efforts for it.

Lastly, I would like to make a submission. Today morning it was discussed here that some huts on the bank of Yamuna caught fire. This time around, the black shadow of grief is looming over those houses. We have some talks, made some noise and expressed our sympathy over it. A commission will be constituted, discussion will be held and the same incident of fire will take place at some other places. The point to ponder over is why even after fifty years of independence so many people have been living in the huts in Delhi right under our nose. What else have we been doing all these years. The rays of independence have not reached the poorman's hut.

19.00 hrs.

Therefore, it is necessary to take some hard decisions. I think that all these circumstances are the result of fifty year's long policies. Country has been facing abnormal economic crisis today and taking it in view, we should try to reach at a consensus and bring about some revolutionary changes in the economic policies. A mention by hon. Prime Minister in this direction, in my opinion, is very important that the biggest problem is of population growth which should be checked. If the country had taken timely steps and had stopped population at 70 crore, the country would not have faced this situation. 50 thousand persons per day, 15 lakh persons per month and 76 lakh persons per year are being added to country's population. All the plans would be of no use under such circumstances. Therefore the need is to implement the things

very honestly and earnestly. Every method which is in the welfare of the country should be adopted, otherwise the coming days would be pushed to the realms of darkness.

We must try to check Government expenditure and rationalize subsidy. Efforts must be made to increase the resources of the country by other means. These are several programmes which do not reach the poor directly. My experience is that very few things percolate down to the poorest among the poor. 32 crore people of this country are living below poverty line. I would request the Minister of Finance to evolve a new scheme for only those who have been at the lowest rung of this ladder. Such experiment have taken place earlier also. We had started the 'Antodya Scheme' in Himachal Pradesh. One lakh poorest families were identified. We saw that 10 per cent families rose above the poverty line with this effort in a year. Many such schemes have been running in our country but after their implementation, the true benefits of these schemes percolate down in case of only a few among them. Those 32 crore people who fall in the category of starvation stricken persons, did not get any share of country's independence. The need is to identify them and start a new scheme on the line of Antodya so that they may be directly benefited.

Under the present circumstances the dilapidated economic condition which we have got as a legacy of the past, for the first time, such an excellent Budget has been presented after independence. This is a rural oriented Budget. Therefore, as I have said earlier, I want to congratulate the Minister of Finance and the Government for it, for they have made this Budget under such awkward circumstances whose impact on the country's economic condition will be good. But it is imperative to synchronise our steps and adopt some hard measures to improve the condition of the country, otherwise juggies will keep on burning like this, we will keep on delivering speeches and nothing will be achieved. Therefore we should make good decisions under such an economic condition.

With these words, I extend my thanks to you for giving me time to speak.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOGLI) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to oppose this "Good Budget"(Interruptions) As you have called it a good budget, that is why I quote you.

[English]

I oppose the General Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister on 27 the February, 1999. My opposition to it rests primarily on five grounds.

What are they ? The General Budget, as presented by the Finance Minister, lacks in direction. It is a directionless Budget. I may call it that it is a futile exercise with fudged figures. With a sleight of hands, he wanted to present some magic. But the people of India and also those who think about India, will never be convinced. Rather, they will question his credibility about his figures and all this. I will come to that later on.

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

This Budget fails miserably— I repeat 'miserably' — to address

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (CHANDIGARH) : Are you repeating the same thing today?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : No. I am responding to the figures presented by him and how miserably he has failed. This is the Economic Survey of 1998-99, let us have a look the key indicators. I will read only two to three lines. I think, the Members must have gone through it.

I come to the Industrial production, During 1995-96 the industrial production was at 12.8 percent. During 1996-97 it was at 5.6 percent. During 1997-98, it was 6.6 per cent. And this year during the time of coming to the press it was at 3.5 per cent. Even the Finance Minister has agreed that the industrial sector has recessionary condition has been prevailing in the country.

Earlier, when we were discussing about the East Asian crisis, this Government have been talking eloquently that 'we are insulated. We do not have any short-term debt. Moreover, we have not gone for capital convertibility.' They have become wise. Those who have been advocating for it, took a 'U' turn and have been just taking pride for what they wanted to take but could not.

About the ailing economy, the recession hit industrial sector and the negative growth in the export, I am not quoting the figures. They are there in the key indicators.

Also, I oppose the General Budget as it has failed to address food production, rising unemployment, unbearable price burden on the common man, the growing poverty, rising gap between the millions and millions of poor people of this country and the handful of rich, the Budget has not addressed all the serious issues. Also I oppose this Budget, because on the year of the 'Swarana Jayanti' of our Independence, there is a concerted, deliberate and planned move to mortgage the economic sovereignty of this country. They want to erode our base of self-reliance. They have deliberately decided to weaken our public undertakings through outright privatisation and through unethical manipulations by equity swaps, that is, cross-holdings amongst three profitable public undertakings, ONGC, IOL and GAIL. And, this Government has earned to the tune Rs. 3,500 crore behind their back in a very unscrupulous manner — I repeat the word 'unscrupulous'.

19.09 hrs.

[SHRI K.YERRANNAIDU *in the Chair*]

Now, we find that some very important officials of the Government are saying that 'if the prices of shares of these public sector undertaking have gone down in the market, they are themselves responsible.' Why did they not convince the people about the reasons for which they had undertaken such a mea-

sure and the responsibility lies on them — the management of these public sector undertakings. But the decision was imposed on them. I oppose this because this has been done to erode the base of our public undertakings, our goal of the self-reliance.

Sir, this Government has already pushed this country into a debt trap. What is a debt trap ? We call it a debt trap when your liability for debt service is more than what you are borrowing. That is, you require more than what you borrow for debt servicing.

I would like to directly ask the hon, Finance Minister. He said :-

"Receipts through borrowing etc., will be Rs. 79,955 crore."

The new accounting has come and I shall come to that later. There is something new in the Budget. There is new accounting procedure and there are new series. In the new accounting procedure, the small savings loan has been excluded as a result of which the figures have become very comfortable for the Government. It lacks credibility. The Finance Minister, by the trick of his hand, by manipulation, by new accounting procedures, by change of series and by new denominators tried to present a magical picture of the economy. It is a jugglery.

They say that they will borrow Rs. 57,461 crore which is Rs. 64,909 crore less than current year. But what is our experience for the last several years since the so called economic reforms were undertaken. You did not initiate it. You are very obediently following anti-India measures every year and the borrowing is rising. How will it now suddenly come down by 11 per cent? (*Interruptions*) I will come to noble prize part later on.

This is not the only sign. There will be rise of 20 per cent revenue. We know what has happened to our reaching the target last year. Current year performance is miserably less than the target. Suddenly he imagined that it will come up by 20 per cent. I will come to that later on. Leave it at that right now. I shall deal with it later on.

They are directly pushing the country into debt trap. There are certain new things in the Budget. What are they? First, let me take those new things. One is, they have changed the base in the series.

Secondly, they have changed accounting procedure.

Thirdly they have changed the names of certain projects which were in the name of Pandit Nehru or, for that matter, Shrimati Indira Gandhi. They have done away with it. They have incorporated the name of one of their great leaders, Deen Dayal Upadhyay. What is more, earlier the Budget speeches were concluded with Ghalib, Iqbal, Rabindranath Tagore and now the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Iqbal, Ghalib and Tagore are at the same level. That is a new feature of the Budget !

SHRI VAIKO (SIVAKASI) : You should not understand the poetic touch of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : I shall try to understand after a few months when the people will give you the right sort of thrashing as they have given you during the last Assembly elections.

Now, a new scheme has been proposed under the name 'National Human Development Initiative', which is the shadow of the Nobel laureate, Prof. Amartya Sen. We know the response of the RSS and such other people when his name was announced for the Nobel Prize. We know how they reacted. We also know how the Government reacted but I am not mentioning it right now because they had ultimately changed their position. So, I am not repeating that. How was the response? What was the reaction? What happened at the research centre at Shimla? I am not going into all these details but the shadow of Prof. Amartya Sen is there. The name 'National Human Development Initiative' has been given and it can be found in Part I of the Budget speech of the hon. Minister of Finance.

As you know, Prof. Amartya Sen some other people—there is also the great Pakistani economist, Mahboob-ul-Haq have been influencing the United Nations to just reorient its outlook and decisions, particularly with regard to the developing countries and they have successfully done it. As a result of that, ultimately, the World Bank and many other such global agencies had to take different decisions on the role of the State. Earlier, they have been speaking about minimal Governments but ultimately the World Bank decided that the State has a role to play with regard to areas where the private sector will never come, where there is hardly any profit like education, health and so on.

When Prof. Amartya Sen, as it came out in the Press, met the hon. Minister of Finance and also the hon. Prime Minister— I think it was a meeting at the 'Taj Mansingh' he had made certain suggestions that if India has to make any progress, the areas which should be taken care of seriously are food security, health care, elementary education and such other things. Now, after this meeting, they have come up with the National Human Development Initiative. For the first time in free India, they are the only people to have thought of such things.

[Translation]

He said that revolutionary steps should be taken and Panchayats should be involved in it.

[English]

Let us take a look at the figures. I am coming to the figures one by one. On food security, there was a conference at Delhi very recently attended by very eminent people. Dr. Vandana Siva and such others attended the conference where the conclusion was that the per capita availability of food in India is going down and down. It is at such a point of time that

they are thinking of this National Human Development Initiative. But how was the initiative taken? Just before the Budget, the prices of wheat, rice and sugar have been increased. They have later reduced the prices only for the people below the poverty line. There is a marking, a *lakhsman rekha* called 'below the poverty line'. This Government does not know the lower middle class people who have to depend on the public distribution system absolutely. Technically, they may not be below the poverty line but they have taken the food of the lower middle class working people away.

After taking away food from these people by increase the prices of wheat, rice etc., they very bravely say, in the Budget that they are undertaking a National Human Development Initiative.

Let us come to elementary education now. There is a study made by the Government itself. Shri Amartya Sen was very specific on this issue; he says that if there is a will, there is no dearth of money; money will never stand in the way. An eminent economist Tapas Majumdar has come out with a study saying that it is possible, if the Government has mind alone. The Oxford University Press has come out with a public report on basic education. I know that there is a calculation that an approximate amount of about rupees one lakh and thirteen crore would be required over a period of ten years to make India to provide elementary education to all children between 5 and 14 years of age. Although I do not think the figure would be correct or the study would be correct because later on there had been several other studies which differed on the amount required.

I am coming to the figures how in this year's Budget they had proposed to undertake the National Human Development Initiative. At least, they have learnt that this term should be used because for so many years, there were several indicator like that of the World Bank, the UNDP, etc. I am coming to the figures on elementary education now. Operation Black Board and all other things taken together, in 1998-99, it was Rs.304 crore; the revised figures during 1998-99 is the same. During 1999-2000, it is Rs. 400 crore. What a graceful gesture they had shown for a country with half of the population living below poverty line and with more than one-third of the population being illiterate, particularly the women-folk who have hardly any opportunity to have education ! This is a revolutionary step that they have taken ! When the Government has calculated that an amount of rupees one lakh and thirteen crore or at least an amount of rupees ten thousand crore is required for each year, for ten years, for providing elementary education to all children, they have now provided Rs. 96 crore in addition. What a revolutionary gesture they had shown !

In the case of total elementary education – the district primary education and all other things taken together – during 1998-99, it was Rs. 2780.03 crore and the revised figure was Rs. 2743 crore, that is, it has come down. Now, they have said that it is Rs.3034.95 crore, which is the total figure. Am I correct? ... (Interruptions) It is a spectacular rise ! Their own Government has calculated that it requires an amount of rupees one lakh thirteen crore for elementary education. It is

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

like paying a lip service to the views of Shri Amartya Sen. It is a caricature of the National Human Development Initiative that is being undertaken in other countries. That is why, in the human development index we are in 139th position. Even Pakistan is above us; even some other smaller countries of the world are above us. Are we not ashamed? We are a big country with 98 crores of population, with so much resources, with so much talent and have so many professionals and scientists; we had Pokhran tests also and after Pokhran we find that we cannot just go one position up and reach the position of 138th.

Pakistan is above us. We cannot just go one position up, that is from 139 to 138. Many more epithets are being used; within a few years we shall be this or we shall be that. You should first bring the position up from 139 to at least 130. Is there anything in the Budget by which the Minister can assure the House on this? I would like to know from the Finance Minister, is there anything in the Budget by which he can bring India from 139th to 130th position. Can he assure the House? The Minister lacks credibility. He has fudged figures. He has befooled the people by giving new names only. This is not only true about the elementary education but the same is true about the health care also.

There have been studies conducted by the Government. The Government is a continuing body. Studies are being conducted for universal immunization, plus polio, resurgence of malaria, leprosy eradication programme and so on. It is once said that there was no leprosy in India. Today, in many parts of India, we find resurgence of Leprosy. How much has the Minister provided for that in the Budget? I can go on reading the deceiving figures. There is nothing substantial by which the Government can say that it has taken any initiative at all to address to the situation like, debt, industrial recession, food, security, health care or education. In such a situation, what is it that the Government has done? I would not take much time of the House as other Members have also to speak.

The Government has imposed more burden on the common people. Our revenue collection will be 20 per cent more. We have restructured our indirect tax system. What a great thing the Government has done! From 11 rates the Government has brought it down to three rates. I am not going into everything. Allopathic medicine will be costlier now. The Swadeshi people will be happier to know that beer, wine and whisky will be cheaper. What an excellent restructuring of the indirect taxes! I can go on reading; X-Ray film will be costlier although there is resurgence of tuberculosis. The other day the Health Minister was saying that the X-Ray films would be costlier. The Government say that the things which affluent class of people use, many more things related to the life of upper strata of people will be cheaper while, machine parts, batteries, will be costlier... (Interruptions) They know how to

manage it. In the name of restructuring, the Government has proposed such measures that the whole burden will fall on the common people.

I now come to the Direct Taxes.

[Translation]

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN (AMROHA) : You have not mentioned the names of the commodities whose prices have come down.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : I have mentioned whisky and Beer.

[English]

I can give you any number of instances. But I have so many points to make. How will this Government just meet the situation? Where will the money come from to cover the deficit? Rupees ten thousand crore will come from the disinvestment of public sector undertakings. Now the situation is such that even when they say that they want to sell, people say that they are not interested in buying. This is the experience of all these years. Be it the case of Rail Bond or any other thing. So, they want to earn Rs.10,000 crore from disinvestment. But I do not think this will happen.

Now, I come to capital market. They proposed a Gold Deposit Scheme. Oh, what a revolutionary step! Earlier a Gold Bond Scheme was there. Such schemes are coming from the days of late Morarji Desai. I am here since a quite long time. So many times such schemes have come. Every year so many amnesty schemes come with new names. Now they say that so much imported gold is coming. Now they will reward the wrong doers who have brought the gold and who have stashed the money. Now they will bring back the money by rewarding the wrong-doers. A part of the hoarded gold has come from smuggling, some of which represent tax evaded blackmoney.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude. Specific time has been allotted for each party.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I have hardly started. I will speak up to 8 o'clock today.

Sir, on blackmoney, over the years due to inflation and most importantly due to the depreciation in the exchange value of the rupee the price of gold had been rising by 15 per cent per annum. This is not my study. This study had been made by your own people. People say that there is better return by keeping them in the form of gold. What is the response to this? As per Dr. Manmohan Singh's a Gold deposit Scheme without some sort of amnesty will never be successful. So, I

do not know whether this is going to be another amnesty because there is not a word about blackmoney. This is a reward announced for the hoarders of blackmoney.

Immediately, after this Budget was presented people from capital market were very happy as it was rising. Of course, he was not losing his sleep. I have no hesitation in saying that the balloon is going to burst any moment. It is because the rise is restricted to 5-6 areas, namely, information technology, two-three banks, Hindustan Lever, SBI and certain other things. This is due to the operations made by the foreign financial investors. I do not know what the great operators of the Security Scam are doing. He has been doing something with sterlite Videocon, BPL and all those companies. There was an apprehension expressed by very important persons that it was reminding us of the days of Dr. Manmohan Singh. When his attention was drawn to the situation, he said that he could not lose his sleep over it. I do not know whether the Finance Minister is really thinking what is happening in the capital market, for, it has no relation with the fundamentals. There is industrial slow down and there are recessionary conditions prevailing in the country. There is no growth in exports. But suddenly one morning, immediately after the Budget was presented, there was resurgence in the capital market. After that, as the indications were given by the finance Minister, the Reserve Bank of India cut the interest rate. People whose money were in the postal savings, were bound to go to mutual fund.

The first step was taken by reducing the interest of the postal savings and after that, encouragement was given to mutual funds. In our country, we know the most unscrupulous operations made by some of the mutual funds. I am not naming them. But now it is a virtual loot of the middle class people, the salaried people and the retired people who had kept their money, after retirement, in postal savings and such other areas. They will be deprived of their earnings at the end of the month.

The budget will cause price rise. The food articles and other essential articles needed by the common people will be hoarded.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The remaining points may be covered by other Members of your party. Please conclude now.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : I am concluding. Sir, for your interest, I shall be telling you some points. This forms the open agenda. I had not come to the hidden agenda till now. It would be interesting for you because you are supporting the Government.

SHRI K.BAPIRAJU (NARSAPUR) : You should not say like that because he is in the Chair now.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : All right. I am sorry, Sir. Your party is supporting the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are three more Members to speak from your party.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : I shall come to that later but this is very interesting for you. We shall take it up again when we discuss the Finance Bill. But still, I shall be failing in my duty if I do not mention it. This has never happened in free India. I would refer to page 11 of the Memorandum explaining the provisions of the Finance Bill. It says :

"Deduction for donations made to funds or institutions for charitable purpose : Many institutions which are carrying out charitable work are often inspired by the tenets of religion. In order to allow them to show respect to this aspect without depriving them of the benefit of this section, it is proposed to amend the provisions of Section 80G so as to provide that in case such institution or fund spend not more than five per cent of its income during the relevant previous year for religious purpose, the benefit of this section will not be denied to them."

Many institutions which are carrying out charitable work are often inspired by the tenets of religion. They spend on shells of small bricks, flowers, lotus and all these things and collect a huge amount.

Sir, in the Preamble of our Constitution, it is written that we are a secular democracy. This has never happened in free India that religious institutions have been encouraged to collect money. This is the situation where we are placed now.

Industry is totally in the grip of recession. Food production has come down. Unemployment is increasing everyday. Everyday, we hear, in this part of the country or that part of the country, that some public sector undertakings have been closed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have consumed thirty minutes. You are a senior Member and have participated in many debates. Kindly conclude now.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : I would conclude in two minutes.

Profitable public sector undertakings are being ruined through outright sale and things like that. Do they care for unscrupulous private companies ? I will name only one or two companies. There is a company called Dunlop India Limited. I had been to the Prime Minister, Industry Minister and Finance Minister. They know that a Dubai-based NRI who now controls that Company has siphoned off the Company's funds and for the last several years, they are looting money. The financial institutions do have 33 per cent of the share. On 12th January, 1998, the nominee of the financial institution,

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

...(Interruption) *

LIC, deliberately collaborated with these unscrupulous management to declare the Dunlop India Limited sick.

More than 4,500 workers are working in it. More than one lakh people are dependent on it. People are starving. Even last Friday, one employee committed suicide. This Government has no responsibility. It is a good company. It can produce different types of tyres. The tyres have got a good market abroad. It is producing road tyres, conveyor belts and steel cords. It is such a good and reputed company. Whereas those people are ruining it and looting the money of the financial institutions. We are silent spectators. It is true about many other companies also.

This Government is practising discrimination. I am giving one example and with that I conclude. The State Bank of India, Calcutta, has in its Foreign Division, the Inter Bank activities like transfers. Suddenly, they decided that it should be shifted to Mumbai. We approached the Finance Minister. We approached the Prime Minister. A delegation of Members of Parliament met the Prime Minister on 17th December. The Prime Minister spoke to the hon. Finance Minister over telephone and he assured us that the shifting would never take place. But still we find that a major part of the Inter Bank working in the Foreign Division of SBI Calcutta is being shifted in such a way that suggests an attitude of discrimination.

There is discrimination against State where an opposition party is ruling. They are depriving of the finances of the State. Small Savings was a major area where the State has been doing well. The States will suffer. A State like West Bengal mobilised the highest amount through Small Savings... (Interruptions) I am concluding now. Let me thank him... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no question of concluding. Every time, you are telling the same thing.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : While concluding, I would like to say that I oppose the Budget because it is anti-people and anti-poor. I conclude...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Shri Bashist Narain Singh to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no need of any recommendation. I am following the rule.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Bashist Narain Singh.

SHRI BASHIST NARAYAN SINGH (BIKRAMGANJ) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to support the budget presented in the House by the hon'ble Finance Minister of India. I would definitely like to congratulate Shri Yashwant Sinha for preparing and presenting such a good budget despite all sorts of odds facing the country, such as country wide financial crisis and recession prevailing in the world trade; ever increasing number of unemployed people in the country since independence and the question of providing houses to the lakhs of people in rural areas yet remaining unsolved. Though ours is an agricultural country, land management has not been streamlined so far, nor the question of water management has been properly addressed to. There has been a manifold increase in the number of labourers, there is a large number of such people who have taken loan and are not willing to repay it. People has misappropriated thousands of crores of rupees. In view of the present situation in the country, the global economic crisis and also the sanctions imposed against India by the developed countries, we can well appreciate the difficulties and the odds that might have been faced by hon'ble Minister of Finance, while preparing this budget.

Mr. Chairman Sir, this budget has been prepared in the backdrop of economic sanctions imposed on the country.

Mr. Chairman Sir, India conducted nuclear test before this budget is presented. Besides, there were certain other developments. This budget of India has been presented in the aftermath of imposition of economic sanctions and globalisation permitting entry of multinational companies. As such the difficulties before the Minister of Finance can be well understood.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not want to go into data, I would certainly like to say that still there is a large number of people in the country against whom thousands of crore of bank loan is outstanding. I do not want to go into the figures regarding the loan outstanding against the country and the revenue receipts. Though there is a need to go in details of all these things. I would not like to go into details of all these things as time limit has been fixed to speak. However, I would like to say that it is the first budget which is free from officialese and sans superficial measures. This is the budget in which problems of the country have been identified in right perspectives.

Mr. Chairman Sir, while saying that the budget is free from officialese and sans superficial measures, it has a clear meaning. The term 'superficial measures' itself is a bad commentary on the developments that took place after independence of the country. That is why I have used this term. Sir, the Minister of Finance has made an attempt to touch some basic issues. The problems of India and those of the devel-

* Not Recorded.

oped countries are not the same. Today, the questions which are before America and European countries are not before India. Today, the question before the people of developed countries is how to lead a better life, but the question before us is how to survive. So, there is a need to certainly take care of all these things while preparing budget of the country and these have been addressed to in this budget.

Sir, I am not an economist, so I would not like to go into the details of these things but whatever command I have over economics, on that basis I can say that we have less capital and land as compared to our population. The best financial management and the best Minister of Finance is one who takes care of the problems of villages, as most of our population lives in villages. I would like to say that the present Minister of Finance has tried to do that. I would like to say that this is the best budget ever presented by a Minister of Finance since independence.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is need to pay more attention towards Food Processing Industry. Sir, you know better, where we stand in agriculture sector even after independence. There is only one sector in the country which has ample potential of employment and that is agriculture. India can progress only when agro-based industries are encouraged, as there is no other sector having such enormous potential. In our country only agriculture sector has ample potential of employment. There is no other vast sector which has such potential of employment.

The development of agriculture sector is essential and for this two things are imperative. First, to modernize agriculture and to adopt scientific methods in agriculture and secondly, to streamline financial management so that burden on agriculture could be minimised.

The problems of India can be solved if measures are taken in the budget to make agriculture remunerative, scientific and modernised as the burden on this sector is increasing day-by-day. Number of unemployed people is increasing. If India adopt scientific methods, of agriculture, there can be a revolution in the production of foodgrains.

As our Minister of Finance is here, I would like to lay emphasis on one thing. We are still following the old traditional methods of agriculture. If the said testing programme is carried out at large scale on national level, there will be manifold increase in the production of foodgrains. But soil testing programme is not being carried out at large scale, or at warfooting. We should concentrate on soil testing in order to have optimum agricultural yield and also we should ascertain that which type of soil is more suitable for cultivating a particular crop.

Besides the question of land management is there. Today, there is a need to see to what extent area of land has been brought under irrigation and the extent of the amount that has been wasted away. As regards the claim made in respect of the extent of land brought under irrigation in Bihar, I would like to know whether that much area is actually under irrigation; whether the land shown as irrigated land in Purnia or Bhojpur Rohtas regions, is really irrigated land. Whether crops can be had from that land?

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : They have kept nine irrigation projects of Bihar pending, so you should ask them.

SHRI BASHIST NARAYAN SINGH : In the least I expect only this much from you that when you land in Patna while putting forth this matter you will maintain the same high pitch of your voice there in which you are pleading it here. As far as major projects of irrigation are concerned, these have not proved fully successful. Arrangements should be made for irrigation on large scale by setting up medium irrigation projects and small irrigation projects should be implemented. Then only irrigation can be done in a proper manner and agriculture yield of India can be increased. Consumption of fertilizer in UP is just double of the fertilizer that is being used in Bihar. Leave aside Haryana and Punjab.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : They are not giving money to fertilizer plants.

SHRI BASHIST NARAYAN SINGH : You are have raised a good point about fertilizer plants. I will definitely tell Shri Yashwant Sinha that while becoming liberal and making efforts to strengthen the financial condition of India, he must constantly be aware that he should not turn harsh towards his own State. This will please Shri Raghuvansh Prasad as well. I would definitely like to tell you this because condition of Sindri has become worse. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The Government has withheld allocation of funds to Sindri.

SHRI BASHIST NARAYAN SINGH : I have just now said about Sindri. You please be attentive. If I forget something, you please remind me of that....(*Interruptions*). I want to say that there is need to gear up the irrigational arrangements in those States where land is very fertile but due to lack of irrigation facilities they produce less as compared to Bihar, UP, Orissa etc. Today such a policy should be framed whereunder for economically weak States. Some special schemes are made and for prosperous States there should be different schemes. Then only there will be all round development of India. It is a big challenge before the Finance Minister to frame a special policy for backward States. Now the time has come

[Shri Bashist Narayan Singh]

for this country to put a ceiling on expenditure and this should be done on a large scale. Until there is no limit on expenditure solution of the problems of this country is impossible. I raised question of price fixation on the day of Presidential Address. On that day I said, and today also I say that for both, the factory as well as or agricultural products, an identical policy should be adopted, then only improvement is possible in this country. Today there is need to think of such type of dispensation.

With regard to the observation made by the Finance Minister that revenue deficit should be made up with saving, the former Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh has said that it is not possible merely with the efforts of Finance Minister. Policy can be made for this, States also have to cooperate in this regard and until States cooperate, this deficit cannot be made up. At State as well as or central level establishment expenditure has increased too much. To some country we have to think these questions seriously from all sides, then only country can be saved.

Today unemployment is the biggest problem before us. More effective employment policies have to be adopted because now question before the Finance Minister is how to recover the loan. There is a need to take strong steps in this regard. There is a need to implement the policy framed for the unemployed people. Today we want to put a proposal before Finance Minister and he will definitely try to think over its feasibility. You identify hundred places in every State and construct roads there, eradicate unemployment there and provide a fully developed management system there and frame schemes for all round development of these places. For this purpose help of State Governments is required. There hundred places can prove to be a link for development of that State and will serve as model for other places. I urge you and hope that you will think this proposal.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, your bell is ringing and I think without making much loss of time now I should try to conclude my point. Condition of the country is bad now, corruption has become big a problem, consensus should be reached to fight out corruption at State and Central level, but until the people who have changes of economic offences against them are not put in jails, the condition of the country cannot be improved. For this purpose there is a need to take stringent steps, then only the country can improve which has already sunk in debt.

I want that the hon. Finance Minister should give attention towards growth of small sector industries. If you establish big industries then in them how much employment can be generated. Suppose ten people get employment. If you

establish medium category industry with the same investment then 30 per cent more people can get employment and with the same investment in small sector industries unit, 90 per cent people can get employment. There is a need to make changes in policies and attention should be paid small to sector industries. Besides there is need to change policies regarding growth and development of medium sector industries.

20.00 hrs.

And there is need to provide electricity in all villages. Things are quite different at the ground level. I am a member of the committee. I when asked in how many villages of Bihar electricity has been provided the figures for exceeded the actual figures where electrification was done. Thousand of villages were not yet electrified. This is a big scandal. It is not an exaggeration. When only pole is erected in a village it is reported that electrification has been done. Even today thousands of villages in Bihar are without electricity. This is a big scandal. Where has the money gone? Electricity and employment are connected with one another. I want that work regarding small sector employment should be encouraged so that people who want employment should get employment. If this does not happen then violent activities which are taking place on large scale in the country will increase. Large number of youths who are unemployed are moving in this direction.

In the end I would like to draw attention of the hon. Finance Minister towards the question of migrant labourers. I think the way problems of migrant labourers have been dealt in the Budget.... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the time is 8.00 p.m. Many hon. Members want to speak on this subject. Is the sense of the House to extend the time beyond 8.00 p.m. ?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : No.

SHRI K. BAPIRAJU : We have agreed to sit up to 8.00 p.m. We will adjourn. We will continue tomorrow.

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN : Let him complete, then the House may be adjourned.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BASHIST NARAYAN SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am raising the matter about migrating labourers problems

because in recently there was a news in Delhi that Bihar people in large numbers are living here in unhygienic conditions. I want to say that Delhi is being engulfed by poor people from Bihar and from other States. We should not be caught unaware of the fact. If avenues of employment are created in those States then ratio of people coming of Delhi would not increase. Therefore, welfare steps should be taken in this regard. They should be provided lawful protection and relief as far as possible so that they feel that we are citizens of India and law of the land would protect us if there is such a need. They should not feel unprotected.

With these words, I support this Budget and conclude.

[English]

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH (NARASARAOPET) : We have agreed to sit up to 8.00 p.m. But let us continue.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA) : You call our name and we will start tomorrow.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : When I asked for the sense of the House for extension, nobody agreed. I have no objection if the hon. Members agree to sit beyond 8.00 p.m. We can continue for one more hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 16th March, 1999 at 11.00 a.m.

20.09 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, March 16, 1999/Phalguna 25, 1920 (Saka)
