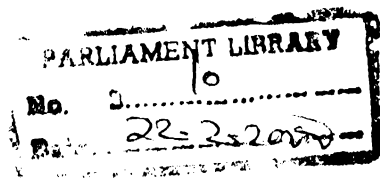


LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

Third Session
(Twelfth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. VI contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, December 9, 1998/
Agrahayana 18, 1920 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[*English*]

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

Shri Dasaratha Deb was a Member of First to Third and Fifth Lok Sabhas representing Tripura-East parliamentary constituency of Tripura during 1952-67 and 1971-77.

An active social and political worker, Shri Dasaratha Deb was instrumental in establishing several primary schools in Tripura and had organised the Tripura Rajya Jana Siksha Samiti for the promotion of education in the State.

Shri Dasaratha Deb was associated with various organisations in different capacities. He worked relentlessly for rehabilitation of Jhumias and displaced persons in the State.

Shri Dasaratha Deb passed away on 14th October, 1998 at Agartala at the age of 78.

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.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Kindly allow me to say a few words on this. He was an outstanding Chief Minister of Tripura but no mention is made about that. He is one of the most well-known peasant tribal leaders of this country. Sir, at least, let that be recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. Whatever you have expressed will go on record.

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

11.02 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

11.03 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

Financial Assistance to Bihar

+

*141. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI :

SHRI RAJO SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total financial assistance provided by the Union Government to Bihar and other States for implementing various Centrally sponsored schemes to increase the agricultural production during the Ninth Five Year Plan as on date;

(b) the number of farmers benefited through this scheme; and

(c) the financial assistance earmarked for the remaining period of the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) Details indicating the amount released to Bihar and other States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes during the Ninth Five Year Plan so far, are given in the Annexure enclosed.

(b) The Centrally Sponsored Schemes are production oriented programmes which aim at raising the agricultural production through enhanced use of latest techniques and inputs. Under these schemes, farmers are benefited both directly and indirectly. In view of the above the total number of farmers who have benefited from all the schemes is not readily available.

(c) The Ninth Five Year Plan is being finalised.

Annexure

State-wise Releases of funds for development of agriculture under Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes during Ninth Five Year Plan

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of State	1997-98	1998-99	Total funds released
			as on 1.10.98	in 9th plan as on 1.10.98
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7725.48	3513.50	11238.98
2.	Arunchal Pradesh	504.66	216.34	721.00
3.	Assam	397.48	256.90	654.38
4.	Bihar	1198.83	335.91	1534.74
5.	Goa	100.06	122.40	222.46
6.	Gujarat	4066.30	3105.54	7171.84
7.	Haryana	2913.54	1111.06	4024.60
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1152.47	451.43	1603.90
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1528.60	896.77	2425.37
10.	Karnataka	8122.59	5641.11	13763.70
11.	Kerala	3568.26	2413.33	5981.59
12.	Madhya Pradesh	6995.95	3238.15	10234.10
13.	Maharashtra	9947.47	8357.51	18304.98
14.	Manipur	1146.40	292.52	1438.92
15.	Meghalaya	256.28	180.05	436.33
16.	Mizoram	723.77	619.55	1343.32
17.	Nagaland	884.73	349.77	1234.50
18.	Orissa	4116.26	1943.76	6060.02
19.	Punjab	2538.78	1146.04	3684.82
20.	Rajasthan	9716.43	7341.39	17057.82
21.	Sikkim	340.76	260.82	601.58
22.	Tamil Nadu	5886.95	3864.15	9751.10
23.	Tripura	533.97	360.85	894.82
24.	Uttar Pradesh	10306.87	3557.51	13864.38
25.	West Bengal	1056.20	530.36	1586.56
	Total	85729.09	50106.72	135835.81

SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply of Hon. Minister is not satisfactory. My question was about the state-wise and scheme-wise financial assistance given to various Centrally Sponsored Schemes but the hon.

Minister has given State-wise details of total amount released. He has shown rupees 1534.74 lakh released to Bihar whereas much more amount has been released to other smaller States. Sir, Bihar is a big State, big in terms of area and

production also. Whether the Hon. Minister propose to release more amount to Bihar and if not, the reasons therefor?

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the statement of the amount released to Bihar in the first two years of the Ninth Five Years Plan i.e., 1997-98 and 1998-99. This amounts is earmarked only after a discussion between the Planning Commission and the state government. The amount has been fixed after discussions and in accordance with the requirements of the states. This has been fixed as per their area and requirement and is fixed only after having their consent. It is not correct to say that this amount is less as compared to other states.

SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister has said that Centrally Sponsored Schemes are production oriented programmes aiming to increase agricultural production by maximum usage of latest technology and equipments. In this regard I would like to know from Hon. Minister that the integrated foodgrains development programme for wheat is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and is being run only in six States. This scheme is not run in Bihar while Bihar produces a lot of wheat. Whether the Government propose to implement this programme especially for wheat in Bihar or not?

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that in Centrally Sponsored Scheme wheat has not been included in Bihar. Rice has been included in it. I would like to reiterate that this is being done with the consent of the concerned states government. The States are allocated such Central and Centrally Sponsored schemes in a particular grain for which they are found suitable.

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I challenge the reply of Hon. Minister. He should have taken more time for giving complete reply. But he has not done so. He has not replied part 'b' of the question. The reply laid on the table of the House states that the total number of farmers likely to be benefited from all these schemes is not readily available. This is an incomplete reply. He has said that the Ninth Five Year Plan is still being finalized. This is also an incomplete reply. He should have taken more time for it. On the basis of his reply, I would like to ask two questions. So far the Ninth Five Year Plan has not assumed a clear shape. Due to instability of Governments two years of the Ninth Five Years Plan has already lapsed after the completion of the Eighth Five Years Plan. Two years are very important for an agrobased country like India. During those two years the weather also went against farmers. Adverse conditions affected the agricultural production badly. Whether the Government during the last two years have spent money as per requirements to increase the agricultural production and the schemes related to it?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your supplementary.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJO SINGH: I have asked supplementary only. I have asked that two years have gone and the weather

remained bad. In view of that what arrangements you have made? This is my supplementary. My second question is that two years have gone and three years are remaining. Whether the Government will give by adding the money of two years in full plan to Bihar and other States or not?

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that no data is maintained about the number of farmers benefited from the Central and Centrally sponsored schemes, being implemented for increasing agricultural production. There are some such schemes for which data is maintained in regard to the extent of profit earned by farmers. I would like to pass on the information available with me to the hon'ble Member. There is a scheme to take farmers from one state to another to increase their knowledge and to train them in the field of agriculture. Under this scheme 80 farmers of Bihar were trained during 1996-97. Secondly, under the scheme to provide information for better and high yielding farming 475 farmers have been benefited by having discussion among farmers and scientists. 12187 farmers have been benefited by the schemes of voluntary organizations for agriculture expansion. Some schools known as field schools are also run for farmers. 248 farmers have been trained in those schools. 1240 farmers have been benefited under the agriculture expansion service and Integrated Pest Management Scheme. Similarly 7440 farmers have been trained under I.P.M.S. and special grants for tractors have been given to 439 farmers. As far as the Ninth Five Year Plan is concerned, it is being finalized. It is true that due to two elections and repetition of other elections there is need to change its priorities. That is being finalized and when it is finalized only then we will be able to say whether the amount for it has been increased or not? I have already told you the latest position.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is clear from the reply that till date the Government have released 501 crore rupees in the entire country during 1998-99, in which the share of Bihar comes to 50 crore rupees but in this it has been stated to be 3 crore 35 lakh rupees. A total of 1358 crore rupees has been given in the country out of which the share of Bihar comes at 135 crore rupees, whereas 15 crore rupees have been given. I would like to know from the hon. Minister that where Bihar was to get 50 crore rupees, it received 3 crore rupees only and where the allocation for the country was 1300 crore rupees, only 135 crore rupees were given to Bihar. I would like to know whether the Union Government are not doing discrimination and injustice to Bihar. Whether the Government will formulate any special programme to remove injustice done to Bihar and for the development of agriculture and upliftment of farmers in the State? What steps will be taken by the Union Government to release the share of Bihar because Bihar must get 1/10 of the total amount but it is getting 1/9 of the due amount.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): Who was the Minister in charge at that time?

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: Is he asking question or creating scene?

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: This is a relevant question. The Government have no answer to it.

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member has said that less amount has been given to Bihar Government. He himself had been a Minister in the Union Government and also in Bihar. So he knows more than me about Bihar. Inspite of that I would like to tell him that 47.77% of the amount given to Bihar from the year 1992-93 to 1997-98 or upto this year has been utilized. I also want to request him that when any amount is given to State Government, the requirements of the state are also kept in mind. If we see its allocation then we will come to know that 52.17 percent amount in 1992-93, 35.26 percent in 1993-94, 38.17 percent in 1994-95, 39.27 percent in 1995-96 was utilized. But this position improved in 1996-97 and 77.6 percent amount was utilized. As such during Eighth Five Year Plan out of the total amount, 47.77 percent was utilized by the Bihar Government.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Please tell about the other states too.

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the amount utilized by the Bihar Government is less than even half of the total amount. Therefore, when funds are given it is kept in mind that how much amount was utilized in previous year and prior to that year.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister may tell the number of such States, except Bihar where this amount remained unutilized although this question has not been asked. The question asked was why you have not given. This was not asked whether it was utilized or not. If funds remained unutilized then tell about other States too.

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to request that hon'ble Members may encourage their Government that the amount given to them may be utilized and information in this regard may be sent to us on the basis of these two, the funds are released. Therefore, this is not a correct statement that they have been given less.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The Hon'ble Minister has not told about other States....(Interruptions). The funds are given by the Union Government on such conditions that the State Government cannot utilize the fund. Is it not the responsibility of the Union Government to monitor the utilisation(Interruptions). Hon'ble Minister has not said even a single word about it. What is happening there to farmers?...(Interruptions). Three crore rupees were given instead of 50 crores and that too in the beginning of the year(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have gone to the next question and called Shri Pramoths Mukherjee. Please sit down.

[English]

Payment of Licence Fee

+
*142 SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE:

DR. PRABHA THAKUR :

Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from the public representatives to give time relaxation to the cellular mobile telephone operators for the payment of licence fee and extension of the licence period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the metro cellular operators have refused to pay licence fee dues to the Government amounting to several crores as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated October 24, 1998;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the total amount outstanding against such metro cellular operator;

(e) the remedial steps contemplated by the Government to save the situation;

(f) whether Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) has submitted its Report on the demand of cellular mobile telephone operators;

(g) if so, the details thereof indicating the main recommendations contained therein; and

(h) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have received several representations from public representatives relating to the problems of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) operators. Some of the representations have highlighted the following points:

1. Need for grant of moratorium on payment of licence fee, and

2. Extension of the licence period.

(c) and (d) The metro cellular operators have raised an issue regarding the quantum of licence fee chargeable from them from fourth year onwards on the ground that the actual revenue per subscriber is far less than the amount based on which the licence fee stipulated in the licence agreement has been computed. The total outstanding dues for the first quarter of the 4th year work out to Rs. 62.75 crores as on 30th Nov., 1998.

(e) Government have constituted a Group on Telecommunications under the chairmanship of Deputy Chairman, Planning commission to, inter-alia, make recommendations on the issues relating to the existing licensees of cellular services and suggest appropriate remedial measures.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) The main recommendations made by BICP in its report are given in the statement enclosed.

(h) The Government will take a final view after receiving the recommendations of the Group on Telecommunications.

Statement

Main Highlights of the Recommendations of Bureau of Industrial Cost and Prices (BICP)

1. Increase in monthly rental from Rs. 156/- to Rs. 600/- per month.
2. Inefficient operators to review future investment plans to achieve level of efficiency of efficient operators.
3. DoT to encourage option for higher frequency spectrum in metros and major DHQs in Circles to reduce capital cost of the projects rather than setting up more base stations;
4. DoT may issue necessary guidelines and lay down procedures for obtaining clearances from various Government agencies within a fixed time frame.

SHRI PRAMOTES MUKHERJEE: Sir, I am really sorry to say that I am not satisfied with the answer or the reply given by the hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: This is his first reply as a Minister, and you must appreciate that. He is replying for the first time after taking the charge.

SHRI PRAMOTES MUKHERJEE: Then all right, Sir.

The question of cellular industry is highly significant in this age of super-technology. The licence was issued to the highest bidders on the condition of payment of licence fee at the rate of Rs. 6,023/- per subscriber annually. But it is unfortunate that the cellular mobile telephone operators did not pay off their dues, and the total dues to the Government is amounting to Rs. 3,100 crore, which is a huge loss to the Government exchequer. So, it is not an ordinary matter, but it is a serious matter. Their demand for a one-year moratorium on the payment of licence fee, and their demand for extension of licence period from 10 to 15 years have already been accepted by the Government.

Even under such circumstances they could not pay off their dues, amounting to Rs. 3014 crore, to the Government. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps have been taken by the Government to realise this huge amount of dues as a part of payment of the licence fee.

SHRI JAG MOHAN: Sir, as I have already explained, the Government will take a view on it after the recommendations of the Study Group on Telecommunications become available. Now the issue is, the Government have received representations from various quarters. There was a group of very distinguished Members of Parliament who had asked for relief to be given to these people because the industry is not doing well and they are facing genuine difficulties. That is the point. There was a second group which made a representation that the money should be recovered and no concessions should be given to them. Thirdly, there are some public interest litigations that have been filed in this regard. We would like to consider all these factors in the Group as well as in the Government. I fully understand and appreciate the weighty argument which the hon. Member has raised.

To my mind, there are seven basic considerations that we have to take into account. One is the terms and conditions of licensing, and the legal and Constitutional implications of deviating from those conditions. That is one relevant factor which we have to take into consideration. The second point which we have to see is as to what will be the impact of the decision which we may ultimately take on the budgetary resources of the fiscal deficit which we have. The third factor is the consumer's interest. Fourth factor is the health of the industry. We have to watch the health of the industry. The fifth factor is congeniality of the environment which attracts foreign investment. After all we have to take into consideration this fact also. Another factor is the practical implications of enforcing a decision that might be taken. Still another factor is the precedent that this decision may set. All these relevant factors will be duly weighed by the Group which has been constituted and we will take an appropriate view on this, and then the matter will be considered at the highest level by the Government in view of the great importance of the matter and the huge amount involved. The figure given by the hon. Member is broadly correct but I can give the exact up-to-date figure.

The main point which I want to submit is that the Government have to consider various issues involved. We have to take a balance of all these things. A decision has to be taken on the balance of these relevant considerations. I can assure the hon. Member that the Government is very keen to recover this amount. We will take a view on it very quickly. I have been added as a Member of the Group two days ago and the next meeting is fixed for the 15th. It will be my endeavour to obtain the recommendations of this Study Group within a week or ten days and then have a view taken by the Government at the earliest possible time.

SHRI PRAMOTES MUKHERJEE: The hon. Minister has already admitted the point where the Government fails and why the Government fails. Every man has the right to proceed to court for relief and redressal of his grievance in our democratic set up. The cellular metro telephone operators may go to court for arbitration and there is no doubt about it. But the question does not lie there. The question is that the whole matter has been referred to the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices. Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices have studied the main demands of the cellular telephone operators and have given a recommendation as the Minister has already admitted in his reply. May I ask a simple question to the hon. Minister as to what is his attitude towards the main recommendation of the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices in this respect?

SHRI JAG MOHAN: There is no specific recommendation. They have given the views of various issues involved and they have said that these were the miscalculations which the industry had made. They can further improve upon their performance. They have made certain factual information available to us. As I have said, whatever the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices have indicated to us on this issue will also be considered by the Group. The recommendations or the views or the facts which they have placed before us will be considered by this Group as well as by the Government.

After all, it is the Government which has referred it to the Bureau.

SHRI MURLI DEORA: I would like to ask through you whether the Government has examined the audited balance sheets of these operators to know whether their contention of making heavy losses is true. In case they made heavy losses, what are the figures for the last three years?

SHRI JAG MOHAN: These are the claims that have been made. We are trying to get all the information from them. As I said, representations have been received from both sides on both aspects. We will examine the balance sheet and the audited reports and also the facts that may be with us, as Government and the facts that may be available with various authorities which are concerned with this. All those facts will be considered.

SHRI MURLI DEORA: What are the figures of the losses?

SHRI JAG MOHAN: They have not indicated to us the figures of the losses but I can give you the amount which is due to us... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU: They have already submitted that information.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : I have the figures on what are the losses. There are six companies. The total loss is more than Rs. 3,000 crore... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU: How much money have these companies collected from the subscribers? *(Interruptions)* Mr. Minister, they have submitted to you the amount of losses that they have incurred.

SHRI JAG MOHAN: That is what I am saying... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE: They have already collected the money but they have not paid it to the Government.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAG MOHAN: I have to look into that.

SHRI ANIL BASU: But he says that they have no information.

SHRI JAG MOHAN: The point is that these are their claims and we have to verify those claims.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE: You may verify their claims but there is the question of the dues... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU: The Government has a contractual agreement with the mobile phone operators. What about them? They have collected a huge amount of money, but they are not making their payment to the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MURLI DEORA: Maybe, the Chairman of the Task Force can reply!

SHRI JAG MOHAN: As I have stated, we are not saying that we will not recover it. Whatever is due to us, whatever the amount they have collected from their subscribers, we will recover the full amount in terms of the licence conditions.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Sir, the Task Force also is headed by the hon. Minister of External Affairs. We realise that he is a very competent Minister.

[Translation]

But we do not know what assignment will be given to him by the Prime Minister, whether he will look after foreign affairs, Planning Commission or Telecom.

[English]

The fact is that this is a very important issue. I would consider the installation of about more than a million lines by the cellular operators without the cost of a single paisa to the Government is a major achievement. But the way these metro licences were handled was full of controversies. Unfortunately without setting up the TRAI, we went into the tendering process and there was a problem. That whole problem about metro licence fees is being looked into by a certain Parliamentary Committee. This has been the first experience of the Government in the privatisation of a major infrastructure project. There have been problems.

The cellular operators have submitted their balance sheets to the BICP, So, the hon. Member, Shri MurlI Deora asked a very specific question. They have submitted those figures both to the Government and to the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices. I want to ask the hon. Minister whether they have agreed to pay their dues, whether they have come to the Government with a deferred payment plan with some kind of a financial arrangement where they would pay their dues over a period of time. Has such a plan come to you? Are you considering that plan?

SHRI JAG MOHAN: You have raised two issues. There are two parts in this question. One is that it was not properly handled in the past. Well, the previous Government handled it and you know it very well. We share your anxiety about the handling part of it.

So far as the appropriate lessons are concerned, we will draw appropriate lessons from this mishandling.

The third point — what you are suggesting — is, what we intend to do for the recovery of the amount. I have already indicated that in my main reply, that we are very keen to recover all the money. We will ensure that all legitimate dues are recovered. But we have to see the other factors that are involved in it. After all, when we find the default, we enforce the terms and conditions and we take over. What are the practical implications? What will happen to the consumers? How will the consumers be affected? What about the other issues? So, we have to consider them. But I will assure you that — as I have said — all these relevant considerations will have to be balanced and we will like to arrive at the best possible solution in the matter....*(Interruptions)* We will do it.*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: We specifically asked about the deferred payment plan. May I know whether you are considering that? You may please tell me.

SHRI JAG MOHAN: As I have said in my main reply, they have asked for moratorium for two years. They have said that the period of licence should be extended. There are the two conditions they have asked.

Inter-State River Water Disputes

*143. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:

SHRI RAM SHAKAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Inter-State River Water disputes are pending settlement as on date;

(b) whether the Union Government have taken steps to settle the disputes;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the time by which all the disputes are likely to be settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) The Union Government endeavours to resolve inter-state River Water disputes by encouraging negotiations, constituting Boards for development and regulation of Inter state rivers/river valleys. Tribunals for adjudication of inter State river water disputes are set up on the request of any of the party States if the water disputes are not resolved otherwise. Tribunals have been set up for adjudication of Godavari, Krishna, Narmada, Ravi-Beas and Cauvery water disputes. First three Tribunals have already given their final awards. As on date Cauvery water and Ravi-Beas water disputes are still under adjudication by the Tribunals.

(d) There is no time frame given to the Tribunals to settle and disputes.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: We know that there is a National Water Policy that embodies a national resolve for development and planning of the water resources that will govern a national perspective. We also know that there is a National Water Resources Council to advise the modalities of resolving Inter-State differences with regard to issues that may arise during planning or implementation of projects. We also know that if the national river water disputes are not resolved otherwise, there are tribunals to take care of them.

Coming to my State, I am not bringing the disputes that you have mentioned in the reply. Is it true that in spite of a subsisting agreement between the Government of Orissa and the Government of Madhya Pradesh regarding Inter-State rivers including river Mahanadhi, the Government of Madhya Pradesh are setting up new projects on upstream of Mahanadhi

River, without consulting the Government of Orissa and thereby affecting the flow into the Hirakud Reservoir in Orissa resulting large scale silting. If it is so, may I know whether the Government will take note of it and help the State of Orissa?

[*Translation*]

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the National Water policy the Union Government tries to develop the water resources of the nation and to distribute equally the waters of the Inter-State rivers among the riparian States. So far as Orissa and Madhya Pradesh agreement is concerned the Union Government took the initiative. It is there that all the concerned States should sit together to solve the problem. If solution cannot be found out then the Union Government is empowered under article 246 and 262 of the constitution to frame rules in this connection regarding setting up of Corporation and River Boards. In spite of this if no solution comes then Tribunal can be set up, joint control boards can be set-up and regional council can be set up.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: We know it.

SHRI SOMPAL: The Union Government is trying that all the disputes between these two States could be solved by consensus and if it doesn't happens then other options can be considered....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: What is the progress of inter-state dispute between the Government of Orissa and the Government of Andhra Pradesh regarding Neradi Barrage on river Bansadhar in Andhra Pradesh?

[*Translation*]

SHRI SOMPAL: I do not have the information regarding this special project. It will be made available to the Hon'ble Member.

SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his reply the Hon'ble Minister has said that the Government tries to solve the inter-State river water disputes and on the request of any one State, tribunals are set-up for solving the inter-State river water disputes. In the end of the reply you have said that for solution of the disputes a time limit has not been fixed for the tribunals. I would like to know whether the Government will fix any time-limit for the solution of these disputes in a time bound manner?

SHRI SOMPAL: Till date there is no provision to fix any time-limit, but in this connection some recommendations have been made by the Sarkaria Commission and it has said that if despite the efforts of the Union Government any dispute is not resolved for one year then Union Government can set-up Tribunals. But till date no time limit has been fixed for such tribunals despite the recommendation of the Sarkaria Commission that such tribunals should give their decision in regard to such type of disputes in three years and at the most in Five Years. The Government are considering this and the Members will be informed about the decision taken in this regard.

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : The hon. Prime Minister in his wisdom, has recently made an announcement to provide about 7000 kms. of cross-country road to connect East with West as also North with South. I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister whether in the same analogy, the Government envisage a project to connect Ganges with Cauvery as also the wastefully flowing rivers, where water is flowing wastefully into the Arabian Sea, so that these disputes die themselves.

[Translation]

SHRI SOMPAL: MR. Speaker Sir.....

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, I have put the supplementary in English. The hon. Minister should reply it in English only.

SHRI SOMPAL: Speaker, Sir, such a scheme for inter-connecting the rivers and transferring water from one river basin to other and also connecting rivers of North with the rivers of South, has been there since the time of late Shri K.L. Rao who formulated two schemes; one was Himalayan Garland Canal and the other was Southern Peninsula component of it. But this is so heavily resource oriented that at present our resources would not permit us to undertake such a gigantic task.

Secondly, the other possible implications and impacts of such an interconnection and transfer of river water to the other river basins and from North to South are also being studied. The geologists and the environmentalists have their reservations. They are not to be taken non-seriously. There are very serious things, including morphological, geological changes and geographical difficulties. The impacts of silting or non-silting, erosion or non-erosion because of the geological activity are yet to be evaluated. It is a long term project. For the time being, it would suffice to say that our resources do not permit it.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : What was the recommendation of Shri K.L. Rao? At that time, it was thought that pumping water from North to South at Vindhya-Satpura Hills was not only difficult but would also cost enormously. At the same time, they would have also not thought of making use of water for generating power from the water flowing from up to down.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Baalu, this is Question hour and not a debate.

SHRI SOMPAL: Sir, so far as the multiple benefits which are likely to ensure even in terms of irrigation and power generation are very well understood. I would like to repeat my remarks that the resources which are required to do this work, are not available for the time being.

Secondly, the other impact and the long term impact on the whole geology, geography, topography, morphology and environment are there. It is not very easy to arrive at a conclusion, at least, for the time being.

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know, through you, from the Hon. Minister as to whether the Government is trying to settle water disputes by taking initiative at its level or it will wait until the dispute takes a serious turn and conditions deteriorate for arbitration or there are agitations from both sides? That's why there is unrest in Bihar over the distribution of the Damodar river water, because its water distribution was decided cent percent in favour of West Bengal. The fields of Bihar have been left dry and these are not getting water for irrigation. I would like to know whether the Government will take the initiative at its level to settle this problem amicably or it will wait until this issue takes a dangerous turn and agitation starts?

SHRI SOMPAL: Sir, I agree with the submission of the Hon. Member, that it is better to settle a problem at the earliest otherwise its results will be disastrous and there will not be peace on both sides. In this connection I would like to state that the Central Government, after being informed of the problems, will try to settle their problem by calling both states for negotiation and by other measures, which I have discussed just now in the House.

[English]

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Sir, the hon. Minister has said that five Tribunals were set up for settlement of inter-State disputes and three of them had given their final awards. But it is found that many times some States are violating the awards given by the Tribunals and the Central Government looks helplessly, as it happened in the case of Almatti dam, when the Karnataka Government violated Tribunal's award and raised the height of the dam, with the result that the matter has to be taken ultimately to the High Court and the Supreme Court. Even after the tribunals give their awards, if the matter has to be taken to the High Courts again, then what is the sanctity of the awards given by the Tribunals? When you appoint a new Tribunal for review of the award, will you also provide for strict enforcement of the awards given by the Tribunals?

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Sir, the State of Karnataka never violated any award. He cannot make an allegation on the State of Karnataka...(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: At the same time you should not violate the Question Hour rules also.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Sir, the hon. Member cannot make an allegation off hand...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Andhra Pradesh had intimated the Central Government that Karnataka is constructing Almatti dam with a height more than what had been approved by the Union Government. Later on, they have gone to the Supreme Court also and the case is still in the Supreme Court for adjudication. Therefore, the matter is *sub judice*. Unless, there is a final judgement by the Supreme Court, the Central Government is constrained to do anything in the matter.

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Sir, the previous Government disapproved the Interim Award. Finally, for the name-sake, it has been set up now. I would like to know why no time frame is given to the Tribunal. Do you think that such a half-hearted measure by the Centre will yield a lasting result that too in the absence of a National River Policy? My leader Puratchi Thalaiyi went on fast to insist on setting up two important core committees to monitor the release of Cauvery water. I would like to know the views of the Government about implementation of the Award of the Cauvery Tribunal immediately.

SHRI SOMPAL: I have already stated that so far there is no time frame given to the Tribunal for final Award.

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Why, Sir?

SHRI SOMPAL: So far as this Interim Award is concerned, the hon. Prime Minister has taken an initiative. A meeting of the Chief Ministers was called and an agreement has already been arrived at, according to which, this Interim Award of the Tribunal is being given effect to.

MR. SPEAKER: Q, No. 144.

(Interruptions)

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: This is a very important matter...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Please allow five more minutes...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand that 25 minutes have been given for one question...(Interruptions)

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: This should be discussed elaborately. You must allow Half-an-Hour discussion...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We will have Half-an-Hour discussion.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, how can you speak without the permission of the Chair? Please take your seat. What is this? Everytime, you are disturbing the House.

[Translation]

Setting up of Rural Telephone Exchanges

*144 SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had taken a decision to set up rural telephone exchanges to provide telecommunication facility in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the number of such exchanges already set up during the last three years till date;

(c) whether most of such exchanges are not working in the country particularly in Himachal Pradesh where 90 per cent of such exchanges are out of order; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government for providing satisfactory telephone services in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGMOHAN):

[English]

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The year-wise details are as under:

Year	No. of Exchanges
1995-96	894
1996-97	742
1997-98	990
1998-99	156
(so far)	

(c) No, Sir. It is not so. Most of the rural exchanges in the country including those in Himachal Pradesh work reasonably satisfactorily most of the time.

(d) Following steps are being taken to provide better service in rural areas :—

(i) Power Plant and battery systems are being upgraded.

(ii) Upgradation of access network.

(iii) STD facility in all the exchanges is proposed to be provided progressively by the Year 2000.

(iv) Reliable transmission media to all rural exchanges by the year 2002.

(v) New technologies are being introduced in rural areas.

(vi) Multiple switches of small capacity are being replaced by a single switch of adequate capacity.

(vii) C-128p C-DOT RAXs are being upgraded to C-256-P RAXs.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, the Hon. Minister of Communication has given reply to the part 'C' of the question that most of the Telephone Exchanges are functioning properly, but I am not satisfied with his reply as the situation is entirely opposite. Most of the Exchanges fitted with M.A.R.R. system under multi Access Rural Radio System are not functioning. I would like to know whether the Hon. Minister will examine this and ensure that these Exchanges function properly. The second thing which I would like to bring to your notice is that it has been a practice in your department that unless 10 people in the rural areas deposit Rs. 1000/- per consumer, your department will not instal telephone exchange there. Years have passed since the people deposited money but no telephone exchange has been installed. I would

like to know whether same time limit for installing exchange will be fixed so that people do not have to wait for years.

[English]

SHRI JAGMOHAN: Sir, the hon. Member has asked his supplementary in three parts. One is about the functioning of telephone exchanges in Himachal Pradesh.

MR. SPEAKER: You may answer only to the relevant portion of his question.

SHRI JAGMOHAN: What he has said is true because of the hilly area. And experience shows that the technology that has so far been deployed there is not adequate. The MARR technology has failed in certain respects. So, we are replacing this technology by a new technology called WLL. I am sure that with the replacement of this technology, the grievances and complaints which are being received from Himachal Pradesh and other hilly areas will be removed and the service would improve.

So far as specific running of rural exchanges which are there are concerned, I would be happy to depute a team of senior officers and a representative which the hon. Member may recommend. They can jointly visit and see as to how many exchanges are functioning and how many of them are not functioning. I would also be happy to visit those areas and see whether what we have set up is functioning properly and the rural exchanges are maintained effectively and diligently.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the Hon. Minister has himself said that since the M.A.R.R. system is not functioning properly, therefore, the latest technology W.L.L. system will be installed. I would like to know whether the Hon. Minister is aware of the fact that in hilly areas, particularly in snow bound areas, such as Lahaul, Spiti, Kinnaur or Bharmaur, which are Tribal areas, the Telephone poles, Wire and cable are damaged due to avalanche. The people of these areas are deprived of the tele-communication facilities for months. I would like to know whether W.L.L. System will be installed on priority basis in these areas so that the people of these areas can get proper communication facilities. Regarding my earlier question that despite the people of Rural areas depositing Rs. 1000/- telephone exchanges are not installed for years. I submit that people continue to wander for getting the telephone connections. So for this, are you going to formulate a time bound programme? The deposit amount has been increased from Rs. 1000/- to 3000/- and the number of calls has been reduced from 250 calls to 200. Previously they use to get a rebate of 25% now are you going to reintroduce this rebate once again?

[English]

SHRI JAGMOHAN: Sir, so as the first aspect is concerned, namely, the introduction of a new technology, I fully appreciate the argument of the distinguished Member that this priority of introduction of new technology should be given to the remote areas like Lahaul and Spiti because if the telephone is disconnected, there would be difficulties. Having worked in

Kashmir, I know what difficulties it causes in areas like Leh and Kargil. So, we will give priority to this area and I would ensure that this new technology is introduced expeditiously in all the areas giving priority to the hilly and remote areas.

So far as deposit of Rs. 1000/- is concerned, if rural exchanges are not set up even after depositing this amount, as I said, I would personally look into it. As I have said earlier, a team would be deputed.

The reasons for the delay and remedies will be found. We will rectify the situation.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR (Bikaner): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the light of the reply of the Hon. Minister to make a submission that in 1995-96-894, 1996-97-742 and in 1997-894, 742 and 990 exchanges were set up respectively, but in 1999 only 156 exchanges were set up. Just as resources exhaust at the fag end of a scheme; the same thing has happened in the case of setting up of exchanges in Rajasthan.

The Second point which I want to raise is that I have written a number of letters that many telephone exchanges in Rajasthan are not functioning. I have visited a number of villages and every where there is the same complaint. In my opinion Sushmajee left the House after getting fed up of my letters. I want you to kindly look into the matter. I have invited you to come to Rajasthan and you have accepted my invitation. You have seen the mountains and valleys of Kashmir. Now you see the mounds and mountains of Rajasthan where people are facing water scarcity. Nothing has been done for six years. It's my request that whatever I have written kindly look into it and try to solve these problems. Kindly assure me that you will be able to do something on this issue, because after seeing the data regarding setting up of telephone exchanges in 1999 i.e. only 156, I see no hope.

[English]

SHRI JAGMOHAN: The first point is why the performance is low this year up to November. The explanation for this is that it takes time to gather the equipment, call for tenders for the equipment and after that, the assembly would be there. I am sure that we will meet the target. Whatever deficiencies may be there, I assure the House that it will be my endeavour to attain the targets that have already been fixed. By 31st March, 1999 you will find that all the 1351 telephone exchanges would be in operation.

So far as his invitation to Rajasthan is concerned. I will be very happy to visit the deserts. Leh is also a desert. It is a cold desert. I will be very happy to visit the hot desert as well.

The hon. Member has said that some of the letters highlighting the grievances have been sent. I will definitely look into every aspect of them. I will come to you with a consolidated reply.

[*Translation*]

PROF JOGENDRA KAWADE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Telephone connections have been given all over the country to Gram Panchayats including those in Maharashtra.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Time is very short. You have to put a brief supplementary.

[*Translation*]

PROF JOGENDRA KAWADE: Mr. Speaker Sir, so far as the Gram Panchayat's of Maharashtra are concerned telephones are dead there for many years. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister what steps are being taken to provide telephone facilities to these rural areas?

[*English*]

SHRI JAG MOHAN: So far as the functioning of the village public telephones is concerned, I admit that the situation is not very satisfactory. The National Productivity Council was commissioned and a study was made. It was found that about 40 per cent of these telephones were not functioning. To that extent, the grievance of the distinguished Member of Parliament is correct. As I have assured you, we will introduce new technologies and new methods as well as have a better rapport and introduce new systems which will ensure that all these telephones function at reasonable efficiency ...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE: Mr. Minister, let there be a time-bound programme...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: In 90 per cent of the rural areas, these rural telephone exchanges are a failure. In this country, 90 per cent of the MARR telephones is not working. Please allow a full discussion on this subject in this House ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: If the Minister replies, I have no objection.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: They want Half-an-Hour Discussion on this subject. If the Minister agrees, I will allow it.

SHRI JAG MOHAN: Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: All right, Half-an-Hour Discussion will be there on this subject.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Demands of Extra Departmental Employees

*145 SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI:

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:

Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Extra Departmental Employees of Department of Posts (DP) are agitating for a long time over their demands;

(b) if so, the detailed demands of the E.D. Employees;

(c) whether the strike of the postal employees some time back was called off after the Government gave assurance to accept the recommendations of the Talwar Committee;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the said recommendations have been accepted;

(f) if so, the date on which these were accepted; and

(g) if not, the time by which these are likely to be accepted?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGMOHAN):

(a) to (g) The Government from time to time have been setting up Committees to look into the matter relating to conditions of employment of Extra Departmental Agents broadly as and when Central Pay Commission were set up to examine conditions of service, etc. of regular Government employees. Extra Departmental Agents of the Department of Posts have also been voicing their demands from time to time for improvement in their service conditions. Implementation of various recommendations of these Committees have resulted in gradual improvement in the conditions of employment of Extra Departmental Agents over a period of time. In the context of the setting up of the Fifth Central Pay Commission also the Government set up a one man Committee headed by Justice Charanjit Talwar on 31st March, 1995 to look into the revision of allowances and other employment conditions, etc., of Extra Departmental Agents of Department of Posts. The terms of reference of the Justice Talwar Committee (JTC) were as under:

(a) To examine the system of Extra Departmental Agency, conditions of employment, the wage structure.

(b) Social security for providing PF and retirement benefits.

(c) Changes in the method of recruitment.

(d) To review facilities provided for the public.

Justice Talwar Committee submitted its report to the Government on 30th April, 1997.

The Recommendations made by the committee in its report can be classified under the following broad categories:

1. Status and Nomenclature of EDAs.

2. Financial Benefits:

Grant of Pay Scales and Increments.

Granting of Pension.

Put off duty allowance.

Retirement benefits, etc.

3. **Employment conditions:**
 Enhancement of educational qualifications.
 Age of entry.
 Working hours.
 Transfer liability.
 Leave facility, etc.

4. **Re-organisation:**
 No further creation of posts.
 No EDSO/BO to be opened for next 10 years.
 Total freeze on filling up vacant posts.
 Abolition of vacant posts.

5. **Public Facility:**
 SB withdrawal limit be increased.

The recommendations of JTC being concomitant with the recommendations of Fifth Central Pay Commission, these were processed in consultation with staff representatives immediately after Government's decision on the recommendations of Fifth Central Pay Commission. Consequently, Government had issued order on 12th November, 1997 to increase the basic monthly allowance of ED Agents by a factor of 3.25 pending detailed examination of the JTC recommendations. These orders were, however, opposed by staff federations and had to be kept in abeyance.

Postal strike during 8/9th July to 16th July, 1998 was resorted to by two Postal federations and their affiliated units, also representing ED Agents on a Charter of Demands which, inter-alia, included the demands for implementation of the positive recommendations and rejection of the adverse recommendations by JTC.

The postal strike was called off by the Joint Council of Action of postal staff federations in response to the appeal by the then Minister of Communications during her discussions with the staff representatives and her assurance for sympathetic and expeditious settlement of the issues including implementation of Justice Talwar Committee recommendations.

Implementation of recommendations of Justice Talwar Committee on postal ED Agents is under active consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Bagasse-Based Power Plants

*146. SHRI INDRAJEET MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to pursue vigorously setting up of bagasse-based "Co-generation Power Plants" in the country;

(b) whether the cost of power generation will be substantially reduced through this method;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the States where such power plants are proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes Sir. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources are implementing a National Programme on Biomass based Power Generation which includes promotion of optimum bagasse based cogeneration in sugar mills in the country.

(b) and (c) The capital cost of bagasse-based cogeneration projects varies from about Rs. 2.5 crores to Rs. 3.5 crores per MW, depending upon the technical and operating parameters; system configuration; and, location of the project in a new or an existing sugar mill.

(d) An aggregate surplus co-generation capacity of 106 MW has already been established through 21 projects in the States of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka. An aggregate surplus capacity of 171 MW through 24 projects is under construction in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. An aggregate surplus capacity of about 145 MW through 20 projects is under various stages of planning and formulation in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

Support Price of Paddy and Wheat

*147. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure adopted to fix the support price of agro products like paddy and wheat etc. at present;

(b) the criteria adopted to fix support price;

(c) whether the labour put in by the farmer is also counted while fixing this support price; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The Government decides on the minimum support prices for various agricultural commodities taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the views of State Governments and Central Ministries as well as other relevant factors which, in the opinion of the Government, are important for fixation of support prices.

(b) While recommending the minimum support prices, the CACP is enjoined to keep in view (i) the need to provide incentive to the producer for adopting improved technology and for maximising production; (ii) the need to ensure rational utilisation of land, water and other production resources; and

(iii) the likely effect of the price policy on the rest of the economy, particularly on the cost of living, level of wages, industrial cost structure, etc.

While formulating its recommendations on price policy, the CACP considers various important factors viz., cost of production, changes in input prices, input/output price parity, trends in market prices, demand and supply, inter-crop price parity, effect on industrial cost structure, effect on general price level, effect on cost of living, international market price situation, parity between prices paid and prices received (terms of trade).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

NAM Summit

*148. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Mission in South Africa gave adequate alert notice to the Ministry of External Affairs regarding changed situation in the NAM Summit atmosphere with regard to approach towards Kashmir and related issues after inclusion of USA, China, and Pakistan;

(b) whether the Indian Embassy sought directions from the Ministry of External Affairs with regard to Kashmir issue; and

(c) if so, the directives given to the embassy?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) China and Pakistan have enjoyed observer and member status respectively in NAM for a long time. The US was given the guest status for the first time to attend NAM Summit at Durban. However, Observers and guests can only attend the formal opening and closing sessions of a NAM Summit and they cannot participate in its substantive work.

The Indian Mission in South Africa was in regular touch with the Ministry, which gave them instructions regarding issues which were part of agenda for the NAM Summit and where action was required on their part. J&K was not part of agenda of the NAM Summit at Durban, and there is no reference to it in the Final Document adopted by the Summit.

Ocean Development Programme

*149 SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals pertaining to Ocean Development which are under the consideration of the Government at present;

(b) the estimated cost of each proposed project;

(c) the expenditure incurred by the Union Government on Ocean Development Programme during each of the last two years till date; and

(d) the target fixed and achievement made by the Government during the above period?

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. JANARTHANANA): (a) At present there are no projects/proposals pertaining to Ocean Development programmes which are under the consideration of the Government for approval.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The expenditure incurred by the Department of Ocean Development on Ocean Development programmes during each of the last two years and till date, is as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Details	1996-97			1997-98			1998-99	
	BE	RE	AE	BE	RE	AE	BE	AE
Plan	52.00	45.00	44.99	88.10	85.00	83.96	88.00	39.58
Non-Plan	14.83	19.38	19.38	17.85	17.11	16.83	19.50	17.09
Total	66.83	64.38	64.37	105.95	102.11	100.79	107.50	56.67

(d) The targets prescribed and achievements made under some of the major programmes of the Department

during the above period, i.e., from 1996-97 till date, are given below:

Targets	Achievements
1. Antarctic Programme	
<p>Launching of annual scientific expeditions and systematic upgradation of the logistic infrastructure at Maitri to support the scientific experiments.</p>	<p>The Sixteenth and seventeenth Indian Scientific Expeditions to Antarctica were launched. Multi-disciplinary scientific experiments on Earth Sciences, Atmospheric Sciences, Environmental Science, Biological Sciences, Medical Sciences and Engineering & Communication were undertaken in Antarctica. 18th expedition is proposed to be launched on 14.12.1998. Environmental clean up operations in Antarctica in terms of the Environment Protocol were taken up.</p>
<p>To establish the first polar research laboratory-Antarctic Study Centre at Goa.</p>	<p>The Antarctic Study Centre started functioning from its new premises.</p>
2. Polymetallic Nodules Programme	
<p>Updating the geospatial resource evaluation in Central Indian Ocean Basin (CIOB) at selected sites for PMN and collection of time series oceanographic data.</p>	<p>Survey & Exploration at 12.5 km grid in the mine site completed and the database updated. Spot sampling at closer grid of 5 km and spot photography of sampling stations taken up. Baseline time series Oceanographic data collected in CIOB & 7 reference test sites identified and EIA studies formulated. Relinquished additional 10% of the pioneer area to the international Seabed Authority.</p>
<p>Collection of nodules and undertaking pilot campaign for extractive metallurgy.</p>	<p>About 10.5 tonnes of nodules collected. Pilot plant campaigns of 100 kg/day capacity undertaken at NML, Jamshedpur.</p>
<p>Design and development of shallow bed mining system, Remotely Operated Vehicle and other underwater systems/subsystems.</p>	<p>Design and development of multipurpose subsystems were undertaken.</p>
3. Drugs from Sea	
<p>To develop drugs and relevant chemicals from the marine flora and fauna.</p>	<p>About 200 species of marine flora and fauna were collected for Biological and chemical evaluation. Over 100 pure compounds were isolated and characterised.</p>
<p>Continuation of the next sequential step of development of Drugs from Marine organisms.</p>	<p>Next sequential step for drug development from marine organisms under Phase-III of the Project continued.</p>
<p>Initiating simultaneous Phase I and II clinical trials for products under the traditional mode.</p>	<p>Further evaluation of five organisms possessing anti-viral, anti-amoebic, anti-diabetic, anti-anxiolytic and larvicidal activities. Acute toxicity studies of a herbal anti-diabetic lead completed.</p>
4. Assessment of marine Living Resources	
<p>To have a realistic and reliable information on the potential of Marine Living Resources (MLR) in the Indian EEZ, for sustainable development and management.</p>	<p>FORV Sagar Sampada Undertook 32 cruises in the above period to achieve the stated objectives of the MLR programme.</p>
5. Ocean Observation and Information Service	
<p>Synthesise ocean and coastal remote sensing data with actual observed and measured data; generate and disseminate coastal and ocean data and data products in the form of sea surface temperature (SST), Potential fishing Zone (PFZ) advisories and other ocean features, like waves, upwelling, oceanic eddies, chlorophyll and suspended sediment loads, etc.</p>	<p>Generation of PFZ advisories from the SSTs derived from NOAA satellite and dissemination to 170 fish landing centres bi-weekly.</p>

Undertake and organise validation campaigns for ocean satellite sensors and collection of sea truth data.

Validation campaign of Modular Optical Scanner sensor was also carried out and algorithms to retrieve chlorophyll data from the Indian Ocean were developed.

Generation of coastal maps.

Maps of the coral reef areas in the Gulf of Kuchch, Gulf of Mannar, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands through ocean remote sensing and coastal wet land maps for all the maritime states and union territories were prepared.

Taking up a National Data Buoy Programme (NDBP).

A NDBP was taken up for implementation. Under this, 12 data buoys were deployed (7 in the shallow waters and 5 in the offshore areas) along the east and west coasts for generation and dissemination of oceanographic data on real-time basis. A dedicated National Data Buoy Centre has been set up at National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai, for receiving, archiving and dissemination of data to user agencies.

6. Assistance to Research Projects, Manpower Development, etc.

To strengthen the infrastructure facilities in selected universities/institutes to carry out basic research in Marine Sciences.

42 projects and 84 fellows in the field of ocean science & technology received financial support.

To create Centres of Excellence for ocean related sciences at selected institutes/universities.

Ocean Science & Technology Cells were set up in six Universities for promotion of front-ranking research in Ocean Science & Technology and related human resource and capacity development. These cells will finally develop into Centres of Excellence in due course.

7. National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT)

Optimisation of the power module, oscillating water column and generator for application in Shore based devices, floating devices like the wave powered navigation buoy.

Experiments with improved power module to assess the efficiency of water energy system at Vizhingam, Kerala taken up.

Demonstration of the mining system at 500m depth using the crawler and riser technology developed by University of Siegen, Germany. This system will also have a manipulator with a dredging cutter for mining at 500m depth with other systems as slurry pump, etc.

The crawler has been refurbished & field studies at 70m depth of Goa coast completed. Demonstration of the system at about 500m depth will be taken up in January '99.

Determination of Waste load allocation and assimilation capacity at selected estuarine locations along coastal waters of India.

Development of mathematical model for coastal wave dynamics and prediction of sediment transport, measurements of water quality parameters in the creeks for validation of mathematical models taken up.

Design and testing of acoustic tide gauge and Remotely Operable sea Skimmer (ROSS).

Completion of design and testing of acoustic tide gauge; design and development of ROSS.

To set up a pilot OTEC plant of 1 MW (gross) rating with ship as a platform.

Preliminary designs for a 1 MW floating OTEC plant off Tuticorin completed and detailed design & hardware procurement is in progress.

8. Coastal Ocean Monitoring and Prediction System

Systematic collection of data on pollutants such as heavy metals and pesticide residues in water, sediment and biological organisms, etc. at 77 stations along the coasting of the country.

Monitoring of marine pollution at 77 locations along coastline leading to identification of areas of clean sea water quality and areas of low, moderate and high concentration of pollutants up to 25 km zone. State-wise waste disposal points from domestic and industrial sources directly into the sea; details of creeks, estuaries and other water bodies which

receive these effluents along with the disposal points of waste water in these water bodies were located. Dissemination of the information to Pollution Control authorities for taking control and remedial measures.

Development of models for predicting the dynamics of the pollutants and their ultimate fate using the data generated.

An Integrated Coastal and Marine Area Management (ICMAM) Programme was initiated for ensuring sustainable development and management of ocean resources.

9. Marine Instrumentation

Phase-II of the project "Shore to Fishing Vessel Communication System" launched.

Extension of this programme to other areas viz., West Bengal, Orissa, Maharashtra, North Goa and the Union territories of A & N Islands, Lakshadweep and Pondicherry is nearing completion.

Development design & fabrication of 100 Integrated Fish Finder-cum-Navigation Guidance System (IFFNGS) for distribution to fisherfolk.

A scheme to develop an Integrated Fish Finder-cum-Navigation Guidance System (IFFNGS) was taken up for implementation to help fishermen to fix the position of the fishing vessel in the sea and locate fish shoals. 50 numbers of IFFNGS distributed to fishermen in the coastal States of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka and Goa.

10. Other Schemes

10.1. Island Development Programme

To demonstrate the technology for shrimp culture in acid sulphate soil, mixed culture of finfish and coral reef rejuvenation.

Demonstration of scientific method of Shrimp culture in acid sulphate soil completed in A & N Islands. A project for rejuvenation of coral reefs in A & N Islands taken up.

To initiate a concerted programme for Island Development for benefiting the native islanders.

Initiation of mission mode programme on Island Development under National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai by amalgamating the ANCOD and Andaman & Nicobar Shrimp Farm Research and Development Agency.

10.2. Coastal Research Vessels

Commissioning the ships "Sagar Purvi" and "Sagar Paschimi".

Coastal Research Vessels "Sagar Purvi" and "Sagar Paschimi" completed 32 and 44 oceanographic cruises respectively, from 1996-97 for continuous monitoring of pollution in the coastal waters.

Pending Irrigation Projects

*150. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARIDEO:

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of major, medium and minor irrigation projects pending with the Union Government for clearance, till date, Statewise;

(b) the details of funds allocated by the Union Government to each State and utilised by them under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme during the last three years;

(c) the total irrigation capacity generated through major, medium and minor irrigation projects during the above period; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The state-wise details of irrigation projects pending with Centre are as under:

Sr. No.	Name of State	Major	Medium	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8	2	10
2.	Assam	1	2	3
3.	Bihar	7	1	8
4.	Gujarat	1	1	2
5.	Haryana	5	2	7
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1	2	3

1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	16	16	19.	Tamil Nadu	1	1	2
8.	Kernataka	4	1	5	20.	Tripura	-	-	-
9.	Kerala	2	1	3	21.	Uttar Pradesh	11	-	11
10.	Madhya Pradesh	9	-	9	22.	West Bengal	1	-	1
11.	Maharashtra	15	24	39	23.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-
12.	Manipur	1	1	2	24.	Goa, Daman, Diu	-	-	-
13.	Meghalaya	-	-	-	Total		81	67	148
14.	Nagaland	-	1	1	Minor Irrigation Projects are approved by the States themselves.				
15.	Orissa	6	6	12	(b) The Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) was taken up only during 1996-97. Thus the funds released and expenditure incurred by the State Governments under AIBP are available only for last two years and are given below:				
16.	Punjab	3	1	4					
17.	Rahasthan	5	5	10					
18.	Sikkim	-	-	-					

Sl. No.	Name of the State	CLA 96-97		CLA 97-98	
		Released	Actual Expenditure incurred	Released	Actual expdr. incurred
1.	Andhra Pradesh	35.25	44.46	74.00	126.69
2.	Assam	0.5.23	10.65	12.40	24.08
3.	Bihar	13.50	03.115	14.04	35.13
4.	Gujarat	74.7725	443.440	196.90	716.01
5.	Goa	00.00	00.00	05.25	0.5.28
6.	Haryana	32.50	00.00	12.00	00.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	00.00	00.00	06.50	07.50
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	01.30	00.00	00.00	00.00
9.	Karnataka	61.25	171.44	90.50	177.31
10.	Kerala	03.75	07.31	15.00	08.87
11.	Madhya Pradesh	63.25	178.99	114.50	196.792
12.	Maharashtra	14.00	28.59	55.00	114.818
13.	Manipur	04.30	15.60	26.00	27.13
14.	Orissa	48.45	90.686	85.00	140.284
15.	Punjab	67.50	249.78	100.00	373.00
16.	Rajasthan	02.675	08.000	42.00	89.28
17.	Tripura	03.7725	07.25	05.10	06.28
18.	Tamil Nadu	20.00	10.51	00.00	00.00
19.	Uttar Pradesh	43.50	123.636	78.00	184.58
20.	West Bengal	05.00	10.704	20.00	20.00
Total		500.00	1404.16	952.29	2253.034

(c) An irrigation potential of 6.77 million hectares is anticipated to have been created through major, medium and minor irrigation projects during the last three years i.e. from 1995-96 to 1997-98.

(d) The clearance of Irrigation Projects is linked with compliance of observations made by various Central Appraisal Agencies by the State Governments.

[Translation]

Anti-Poverty Schemes

*151. DR. SUSHIL INDORA:

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "India's Anti-poverty schemes flayed" appearing in the Business standard dated October 7, 1998;

(b) whether the World Bank Report published recently has expressed dismay over the schemes being run in India for eradication of poverty;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereon;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to improve the implementation of the schemes for the eradication of poverty;

(e) if so, the details of the proposed reforms in this regard; and

(f) the time by which these reforms are likely to be implemented?

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

(b) The World Bank Report has expressed concern over the delivery of education and health facilities in India; in particular the failure of India's Primary Health Centres to deliver the care needed to reduce infant mortality. Further, it has been observed in the Report, that the bulk of benefits of anti-poor programme were accruing to the non-poor, specially under the Public Distribution System (PDS) wherein wealthy rural households were taking advantage of subsidies food. They have suggested reforms of the anti-poor programmes and called for increased spending on education and health.

(c) The Government does not agree entirely with the views expressed by the World Bank. However, it is conscious of the need to improve the access of all to education and health and to ensure better delivery of services. Towards this end special action plans have been prepared, with larger investments in these sectors. In so far as PDS is concerned, the programme was not specifically targetted to the poor.

However, since June 1997, a targetted PDS has been introduced. Public works programmes are self-targetting and under the self-employment programme of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) the selection of beneficiaries is from the list of identified Below Poverty Line families.

(d) to (f) To assess the impact of the various anti-poverty programmes, there is a process of regular review and monitoring as also a system of concurrent evaluations. Based on their findings steps are taken to improve the efficacy of the programmes. While the ongoing poverty alleviation programmes for self-employment and supplementary wage employment will continue in the Ninth Five Year Plan, these would be rationalized and redesigned in order to make them more effective instruments of poverty alleviation. Further, in order to improve delivery and bring about greater transparency, efforts will be made to bring about a greater involvement of people in the implementation of poverty alleviation programmes, particularly, through the Panchayati Raj Institutions and Self-Help Groups.

Wind Energy

*152. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN:

SHRI S.S. OWAIISI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has emerged as a major wind power producer;

(b) if so, the details of the wind power produced in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide more grants/subsidies to States for producing wind energy;

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to encourage States to produce more wind power;

(e) whether some State Governments have sent proposals for financial sanction for wind power projects;

(f) if so, the details thereof and present status of these proposals; and

(g) the total number of projects cleared during the last three years and the number of projects under implementation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes Sir. India is now the fourth largest wind power producer in the world after Germany, USA and Denmark with a total installed capacity of 992 MW.

(b) 3.7 billion units of electricity have so far been generated from wind power projects. The year-wise and State-wise details of the wind power produced during the last three years is given in the attached statement-I.

(c) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources provides financial assistance to States for undertaking wind resource assessment and installation of demonstration wind farm projects.

(d) Several initiatives for installation of wind power projects in both private and public sectors have been taken. The wind resource assessment programme is being expanded to cover more States and new areas towards identification of potential sites for wind power projects. A number of fiscal incentives, including soft loans from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA), are available. The States have been requested to announce conducive policies for commercial projects. The public sector 'navaratnas' and

'miniratnas' as well as top private sector companies have been requested to consider investments in wind power generation.

(e) and (f) The proposals received from the State Governments for demonstration projects and their present status are given in the attached statement-II.

(g) Three demonstration projects in West Bengal and Maharashtra have been cleared during the last three years and are being taken up for implementation by the State Agencies. However, a total wind power capacity of 610 MW has been installed in six States through commercial projects during this period.

Statement-I

State-wise generation of electricity from wind power projects During Last Three Financial Years (Kwh)

States	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Andhra Pradesh	7,676,741	39,979,632	51,925,399
Gujarat	58,230,856	117,856,316	132,409,292
Karnataka	315,603	7,250,605	11,715,975
Kerala	2,041,468	2,565,150	1,867,326
Madhya Pradesh	813,273	5,977,195	7,426,841
Maharashtra	1,162,914	2,577,778	3,308,370
Tamil Nadu	426,198,886	702,169,655	779,801,751
Total	496,439,741	878,376,331	988,454,954

Statement-II

Proposals for wind power demonstration projects

S. No	Proposal/State	Capacity (MW)	Status
01	Gudepanchagani/Maharashtra	1.84	Approved
02	Ramakalmedu/Kerala	2	Proposal received on 23rd September, 1998; further information requested.
03	Nallathanny/Kerala	2	Further information requested.
04	Hanumanhatti/Karnataka	2	Further information requested.
05	Sogi/Karnataka	2	Proposal received on 10th June, 1998; further information requested.
06	Frasergani/West Bengal	2	Approved
07	Sagar Islands/West Bengal (Wind-Diesel Hybrid System)	0.5	Approved 'in-principle'
08	Jaisalmer/Rajasthan	2	Final proposal received on 18th October, 1998; being processed.
09	Singhanamala/Andhra Pradesh	2	Approved 'in-principle', not taken up by State.

Centrally Sponsored Scheme

*153. SHRI ANUP LAL YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount spent during the Eighth Five Year Plan under the various Centrally sponsored schemes separately for increasing agricultural produce in each State of North-Eastern region;

(b) whether the farmers were benefited from these schemes in each State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) A Statement indicating the amount released to North Eastern States including Sikkim under various Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes during the Eighth Five Year Plan is attached.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Centrally Sponsored Schemes are aimed at raising agricultural production through enhanced use of improved techniques of production, and as most of these schemes are area/crop specific and subsidy oriented, the farmers are benefited.

Statement

Releases of Funds for the Development of Agriculture in the North Eastern States under various Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes during the Eighth Plan

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	Name of State	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	116.60	174.31	316.21	472.85	221.08	1301.05
2.	Assam	882.12	839.90	1251.67	861.00	1054.31	4889.00
3.	Manipur	159.98	116.82	583.46	1033.77	1228.69	3122.72
4.	Meghalaya	102.69	208.95	254.99	159.59	442.29	1168.51
5.	Mizoram	128.63	537.77	724.94	501.07	515.54	2407.95
6.	Nagaland	95.89	407.52	774.62	737.61	786.50	2802.14
7.	Sikkim	399.89	425.69	384.81	424.90	314.72	1950.01
8.	Tripura	156.55	250.61	307.16	308.31	379.39	1402.02
Total		2042.35	2961.57	4597.86	4499.10	4942.52	19043.40

Installation of STD/PCO in Rajasthan

*154 SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA: Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of STD/PCD installed in each State during the last three years;

(b) the details of the criteria adopted for sanctioning them; and

(c) the target fixed for each State during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) The number of STD/PCOs installed during the last three years is given in the attached statement-I.

(b) STD/PCOs are allotted to educated unemployed persons having minimum qualifications of 10th pass for urban

areas and 8th pass in rural areas. These are allotted on seniority basis by STD/PCO allotment committee (constituted one for each Secondary Switching Area (SSA) comprising two official members and one representative each of sitting Members of Parliament from the SSA. Preference is given to the following categories of persons:

1. Handicapped including blind persons.
2. SC/ST Applicants.
3. Ex-Servicemen & War Widows.
4. Retired DoT employees or their dependents.
5. Dependents of Freedom Fighters.
6. Charitable Institutions/Hospitals.

(c) Targets for STD/PCOs are fixed on yearly basis. Target for 1998-99 is given in the attached statement-II:

Statement-I*STD/PCOs Installed During 95-96, 96-97 and 97-98*

Circle/District	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Andaman & Nicobar	6	4	22
Andhra Pradesh	1976	1774	2918
Assam	329	532	784
Bihar	376	2513	2555
Gujarat	1776	4017	3402
Haryana	673	413	1135
Himachal Pradesh	113	266	355
Jammu & Kashmir	91	351	450
Karnataka	1307	2576	6087
Kerala	2070	2145	2442
Madhya Pradesh	2057	2326	2522
Maharashtra	4041	2525	5200
North East	145	246	458
Orissa	713	1092	572
Punjab	3220	3318	4548
Rajasthan	1233	1873	3775
Tamil Nadu	1702	1270	1528
Uttar Pradesh (East)	2348	5108	9359
Uttar Pradesh (West)			
West Bengal	602	1443	813
Mumbai	1374	1561	1852
Calcutta	1717	1219	2388
Delhi	2134	1683	1962
Chennai	798	2546	925

Statement-II*Targets For STD Public Telephones For 1998-99*

Sl. No.	Name of Circle/District	STD/ISD PCOs
1	2	3
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	35
2.	Andhra Pradesh	6000
3.	Assam	1500
4.	Bihar	6000

1	2	3
5.	Gujarat	4500
6.	Haryana	1715
7.	Himachal Pradesh	750
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	750
9.	Karnataka	6000
10.	Kerala	2250
11.	Madhya Pradesh	6000
12.	Maharashtra	7500
13.	North East	750
14.	Orissa	900
15.	Punjab	3000
16.	Rajasthan	4500
17.	Tamil Nadu	7500
18.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	7500
19.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	4500
20.	West Bengal	4500
21.	Mumbai	4500
22.	Calcutta	5500
23.	Delhi	4500
24.	Chennai	3000
Total		93650

Ban on Cow Slaughter

*155 DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- whether the Government propose to impose ban on the Cow slaughter;
- if so, the details thereof;
- if not, the reasons therefor; and
- the foreign exchange earned from export of beef during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The preservation and protection of cattle is a matter in the State List in The Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. Most States have enacted legislation to restrict or ban the slaughter of cow and its progeny.

(d) The export of beef is banned. Hence the question of earning foreign exchange through beef export does not arise.

Demand and Supply of Potatoes and Onions

*156. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of demand and supply of potatoes and onions during each of the last three years;

(b) the minimum storage limit prescribed for these items and its storage capacity in the country at present;

(c) the details of the quantity of potato and onion that got rotten last year;

(d) the action taken by the Government to enhance the storage capacity so as to prevent the perishing of such items in future;

(e) whether the Government propose to announce the minimum support price of potatoes and onions for the benefit of the farmers; and

(f) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The Department has not made any assessment on demand and supply of potato and onion separately. However, the requirement of vegetables was estimated to be 131 million tonnes by the end of 9th Plan which includes potato and onion also. The production of potato and onion for the last three years is as under:

(Production in lakh tonnes)

Commodity	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98 (Advance estimates)
Potato	188.40	250.70	192.00
Onion	40.08	44.30	36.85

(b) There is no limit prescribed for the storage of these commodities. The total capacity available of the cold storage is about 105.55 lakh tonnes.

(c) The quantity of potatoes and onions rotted during the last year is not available. However, according to NAFED, 8-10% of these commodities get damaged during handling, storage and transportation.

(d) The Government has taken the following steps:

- (i) The Government of India has repealed the cold storage order enabling setting of cold storage without any licence.
- (ii) The National Horticulture Board is providing concessional loan assistance upto Rs. 35 lakhs at 4% service charge only.
- (iii) National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) is providing financial assistance in cooperative sector.

(iv) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Development Authority (APEDA) is also providing financial support at ports for export.

(e) and (f) The Government is implementing a Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) under which specific request of concerned State Government is considered for procurement of predetermined quantity of produce at an agreed price for a specific period in order to arrest downward trend of price and protect the farmers from any distress sale of their produce. The losses, if any, are shared on 50:50 basis between Central and State Governments. The NAFED is the Central Nodal Agency for procurement under MIS.

Foodgrains

*157. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an estimated quantity of 23.5 crore tonnes of foodgrains is required for the country's population by 2000;

(b) if so, whether the Government are formulating any concrete plan to meet this demand;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the estimated foodgrains produced in the country at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) As per the report of the Working Group on 'Demand & Supply Projection of Agricultural Commodities and Improvement of Agricultural Statistics for the formulation of Ninth Five Year Plan', the demand for foodgrains in 2001-02 is placed at 194.50 million tonnes adopting the normative approach. However, as per the behaviouristic approach, the requirement is estimated to be 214.25 million tonnes assuming a growth rate of 6% of gross domestic products (GDP) and 216.50 million tonnes assuming a growth rate of 7% of GDP.

(b) and (c) In order to increase the production and productivity of various foodgrains the Government is implementing centrally sponsored Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Rice/Wheat/Coarse Cereals Based Cropping Systems areas, Accelerated Maize Development Programme and the Pulses Development Project. Under these programmes/schemes incentives are provided to farmers for use of high yielding varieties of seeds, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation, improved farm implements. Besides, field demonstration on farmers holdings including training of farmers and farm labourers are organised for effective transfer of technology. Government is also providing price and market support to the farmers by announcing the minimum support prices for major foodgrains crops and making arrangements for the procurement through the nodal agencies. The subsidised supply of fertilisers encourages its consumption for maintaining growth of foodgrains production. Further, as per the National Agenda

for governance, the Government has given fresh thrust to double the food production in next ten years adopting regionally differentiated growth strategies, creation of farming infrastructure and more efficient use of resources.

(d) The foodgrain production during 1997-98 is estimated to be 193.12 million tonnes and the prospects for the current year (1998-99) are much better.

Drought

*158. SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE:

SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of drought-hit areas in the country, State-wise;

(b) the average rainfall recorded in these areas and the rainfall recorded this year, State-wise;

(c) the extent of loss of crops suffered due to drought, State-wise;

(d) whether a large number of animals have perished due to acute drought and shortage of fodder;

(e) if so, details thereof, State-wise;

(f) whether a large number of menfolk have migrated to adjoining States in search of livelihood; and

(g) if so, the steps taken by the State Governments and the Union Government to meet the drought situation and check migration of population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) As reported by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), a statement

indicating the districts affected by drought in various States together with the rainfall recorded there, during the Southwest Monsoon period (June to September, 1998), is attached.

(c) The cropped area affected due to drought, as reported by various States, is indicated below:

State	Cropped area affected (In lakh ha.)
Kerala	0.81
Orissa	10.66
Rajasthan	61.57
West Bengal	0.60

(d) and (e) While the Government of Rajasthan has reported that 281.73 lakh cattle population was affected and the scarcity of fodder is being felt, no report on large scale deaths of animals due to acute drought has been received from any of these States.

(f) No such report has been received from any of these States.

(g) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to undertake relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of such natural calamities from the allocation of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). The entire Central share of CRF for 1998-99 amounting to Rs. 46.08 crore to Kerala, Rs. 40.77 crore to Orissa and three instalments of Central share amounting to Rs. 111.69 crore to Rajasthan and Rs. 32.02 crore to West Bengal have already been released in connection with immediate relief work. The Governments of Kerala and Orissa are reported to have taken necessary relief and rehabilitation measures.

Statement

Districts Affected by Drought in Various States and the Rainfall Recorded in these Districts During the South-West Monsoon Period (June To September, 1980)

State	District	Normal Rainfall (mm)	Actual Rainfall (mm)	%Departure from Normal
1	2	3	4	5
Orissa	Bolangir	1250	668	-47
	Kalahandi	1110	625	-44
	Keonjhar	1264	785	-38
	Phulbani	1196	819	-32
	Sundargarh	1359	905	-33
	Sambalpur	1355	941	-31

1	2	3	4	5
Uttar Pradesh	Pilibhit	1085	798	-26
Punjab	Faridkot	330	228	-31
	Sangrur	474	333	-30
	Amritsar	448	311	-30
Bihar	Vaishali	952	577	-39
Rajasthan	Jalore	388	185	-52
	Pali	468	340	-27
	Bhilwara	601	350	-42
	Bundi	641	467	-27
	Jhalawar	905	629	-31
	Kota	815	493	-39
	Sirohi	804	538	-33
Madhya Pradesh	Chattarpur	1053	659	-37
	Hoshangabad	1345	837	-38
	Rajgarh	949	630	-34
	Sehore	1120	790	-30
	Seoni	1153	546	-53
	Shivpuri	785	572	-27
	Bastar	1271	937	-26
	Mandla	1246	572	-54
	Rajnandgaon	1000	543	-46
	Satna	953	612	-36
	Raipur	1195	841	-30
	Shahdol	1120	729	-35
	Sidhi	1020	701	-31
Jammu & Kashmir	Ladakh	36	11	-71
	Srinagar	163	76	-53
	Udhampur	1255	875	-30
	Kupwara	265	107	-59
Gujarat	Kutch	395	240	-39
Assam	Jorhat	1159	800	-31
	Dhubri	1929	1407	-27
	Kabri-anglong	1901	604	-68
Kerala	Wynad	2919	1875	-36

1	2	3	4	5
Tamil Nadu	Kanyakumari	434	268	-38
	South Arcot	395	276	-30
	Tiruvannamalai	451	308	-32
West Bengal	Hooghly	1123	800	-29
	Howrah	1228	632	-49
	Bankura	1012	745	-26

Foreign Investment in Soft Drinks

*159. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total foreign investment in soft drinks in the country as on October 30, 1998;

(b) the estimated share of the market in the hands of foreign companies;

(c) whether their share is expected to increase under the liberalised policy which contemplates 100% foreign equity participation in this sector; and

(d) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The total foreign investment in soft drinks in the country as on October, 30th, 1998 is Rs. 2586 crores.

(b) No information regarding respective market share of various companies including foreign companies manufacturing soft drinks is maintained by the Government.

(c) and (d) No such authentic information is available.

[English]

Agro-based Industries

*160. SHRI VITHAL TUPE:

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has recently announced five point programme to boost food processing agro-based industries for ensuring farmers prosperity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a task force has been constituted on food and agro industries management policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the time by which the task force is likely to submit its report to the Government; and

(f) the benefits likely to be achieved by the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (f) While inaugurating the four day "Agro Advantage-Maharashtra" Conference, Prime Minister announced the following five-point programme for giving a boost to food processing and agro-based businesses.

(i) The Government has taken steps to make Small Farmers Agro-Business Consortium (SFAC) function as a High-level coordination body at the Centre and in the States to promote public and private investments in agro-business. It will also encourage mutually beneficial collaboration between the co-operative sector and the corporate sector.

(ii) The Government has taken steps to strengthen and expand the Futures Exchanges in many commodities. A proper future exchange is important as it will help the farmer survive the vagaries of market forces, as other businesses do. It will provide him a place to hedge his produce and reduce his risk. The Central Government has also recently strengthened the Forward Markets Commission, which will soon have many regional offices.

(iii) There is considerable scope for increasing our exports of agro-products by taking advantage of India's geographical and climatic strengths. Our country can also be a very good production base for joint ventures for export to third countries. The Ministry of Commerce has drawn up a comprehensive plan for promotion of farm exports that will substantially increase our present low share of World Trade.

(iv) The Government will soon unveil a National Rural Cooperative Policy and enact the long-pending Multi-State Cooperative Act.

(v) In line with the recommendations of the National Task Force on Information Technology, the Government has decided to promote Information Technology in agriculture and agro-business in a big way. It can be a major tool for boosting productivity and effi-

ciency in production and marketing. The Centre will soon unveil a national scheme that will support IT projects in farm sector in a collaborative framework.

The Prime Minister also announced that in view of the critical importance of this sector, the Government will constitute a high-level Task Force on Food and Agro Industries Management Policy. Headed by Agriculture Minister Shri Som Pal, it will comprise representatives from the States, agricultural universities and R&D centres, Prominent farmers and businessmen in the sector. The Task Force will submit an action plan for examination and adoption by the Government within the next three months.

Anti Sea-Erosion Programme

1602. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the progress of anti-sea-erosion programme implemented in the country so far;
- (b) whether the targets have been achieved and the area still to be covered;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government propose to change the criteria for allowing assistance for anti sea-erosion work to various States; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Twenty One percent of the coastline of the country is vulnerable to sea erosion, out of which about forty six percent has been provided reasonable protection till the end of 8th Plan.

(b) and (c) Government of India has not fixed targets for implementing anti-sea erosion works since planning, investigation and implementation of such works are done by the respective State Government out of their own State plan funds depending upon their priorities.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Presently, no Central assistance is being given to the maritime states for undertaking anti-sea erosion works. However, on the basis of proposals received from the maritime states, National Coastal Protection Project, covering the most vulnerable stretches of the coastline in the country is under preparation in the Central Water Commission.

(f) Does not arise.

Transmitters/Air Stations in Kerala

1603. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to set up any

new AIR Station or High/Low Power/Very Low Power, T.V. Transmitters in Kerala;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any of the existing AIR Station in Kerala are proposed to be further developed; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Whereas, AIR proposes to set up Stations at Manjeri and Kasargod, Doordarshan has taken up schemes for upgradation of HPT at Calicut from 1 KW to 10 KW and setting up of HPT (DD-I) at Cannanore, 2 HPT for DD-2 service at Cochin and Trivandrum, 3 LPTs at Pala, Manjeri, Kottarakkara and 2 VLPTs at Erattupetta and Mundakayam.

- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) The following schemes are under implementation for development of AIR in Kerala:

1. Replacement of 100 KW MW Tr. with 200 KW MW Tr. at Alleppy.
2. Replacement of 10 KW MW Tr. with 20 KW MW Tr. at Trivandrum.
3. Replacement of 1KW MW Tr. with 10-KW FM Tr. at Calicut.
4. Stereo studios facility at Trivandrum and Calicut.

Unfungi

1604. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a deadly epidemic 'unfungi' i.e. problem of "leaf fall" has taken in its grip the entire applebelt of Shimla and Kulu resulting in heavy losses to the apple growers; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check this epidemic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Only the orchards at altitudes ranging from about 5000 feet to 7500 feet (approx 1524 to 2287 mtrs.) in the Districts of Shimla, Kullu and Mandi have been affected?.

(b) The State Government have taken the following steps to check the disease:

- (i) Spray schedule with fungicides for control of the disease has been devised after conducting detailed location specific trials.
- (ii) Effective fungicides are being provided to the orchardists on subsidy.
- (iii) Training camps are being organised in collaboration with scientists of Dr. Y.S. Parmar

University of Agriculture & forestry, Nauli (Solan) to create awareness amongst the orchardists for control of the disease.

- (iv) Literature on management of disease has been published and is being distributed free of cost to the orchardists.

[Translation]

New Agricultural Technology

1605. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps for effective transfer of new technology to farmers in Bihar developed by Indian and foreign based scientists for increasing the production of foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government and agriculture universities are doing their field demonstration and training is being imparted to farmers in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures being taken to boost production of foodgrains in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have established 21 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in Bihar. The activities include vocational skill-based training to farmers, in-service training of extension personnel to update their knowledge, on-farm testing and front-line demonstrations on various agricultural technologies. In addition, three Centres for Technology Assessment and Refinement through Institution Village Linkage Programme (IVLP) and 5 Centres for Technology Evaluation and Impact Assessment are also being implemented for effective transfer of newly developed technology on location-specific basis.

(c) and (d) In order to demonstrate the production potentials of important oilseed and pulse crops, the KVKs have conducted 3000 field demonstrations in 507 hectares under both rainfed and irrigated conditions during 1997 in Bihar. A total of 1387 training programmes have been organized benefiting 35822 farmers in various areas of crop production, livestock production and management, fruits and vegetables cultivation and use of farm machinery and tools.

(e) During the 9th Five Year Plan, the existing projects will continue to function. Besides, the ICAR proposes to establish Agricultural Technology Information Centre (ATIC) with Rajendra Agricultural University to provide single window technology support system for the farmers and other users. The Zonal Research Stations (ZRSs) at Rohtas and Dumka are also proposed to be strengthened to take up the additional functions of KVK.

Production of Fruits and Vegetables

1606. DR. SUSHIL INDORA:

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of fruits and vegetables have increased over the years;

(b) if so, the estimated production of fruits and vegetables during each of the last three years and also during the current year;

(c) whether now a days more land is being used for cultivation of fruits and vegetables; and

(d) if so, the comparative details of the areas of land under fruits and vegetables cultivation during each of the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details indicating the production of fruits and vegetables in the country for the latest available years is given below:

(Production in million tonnes)

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Fruits	37.26	38.60	41.51
Vegetables	65.79	67.29	71.59

No estimates have been made on the total production of fruits and vegetables for the current year.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The comparative details indicating the area covered under fruits and vegetables for the latest available period is given below:

(Area in million hectares)

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Fruits	3.18	3.31	3.36
Vegetables	4.88	5.01	5.34

Fruit Processing Industries in Bihar

1607. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI:

SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV
(JAHANABAD):

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State:

(a) whether in view of sufficient potential of fruits in Bihar, the Union Government propose to set up fruit processing industries with foreign collaboration there;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the assistance provided to fruit processing units in Bihar during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not set up food processing industries on its own or with foreign collaboration. The Ministry provides financial assistance through its plan schemes, for creation/upgradation of infrastructural and processing facilities for a variety of processed foods including processed fruit products. These schemes are not state or location-specific.

During the last three years (from 1995-96 to date), Ministry of Food Processing Industries has provided assistance to the tune of Rs. 9.92 lakhs for setting up of four Food Processing and Training Centres in Bihar.

[English]

Sea Wall

1608. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has sought any Central assistance from the Union Government to construct Sea Wall at Paradeep and other coastal areas affected by sea erosion;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) In response to a request from the Government of Orissa for coastal protection against sea erosion at Balasore, Kendrapara, Puri and Ganjam districts costing Rs. 263.50 crore, Planning Commission during 1997-98 had sanctioned Rs.4.54 crore as a one time additional central assistance. The proposal from the Government of Orissa did not include specifically schemes for construction of Sea Wall at Paradeep.

[Translation]

Construction of Canals

1609. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that lakhs of farmers of Ambala region (Haryana) are facing great difficulties due to non-availability of canals in the region for irrigation purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to construct some more canals in the region during the Ninth Five Year Plan period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

Government of Haryana has informed that sufficient irrigation facilities have been provided to the farmers of Ambala region.

(c) and (d) Irrigation is a State subject and responsibility for implementing, planning, financing, monitoring of all irrigation projects rests with the concerned State Government.

[English]

Indian Assistance to Maldives

1610. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE:

SHRI S.S. OWAISI:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maldives have sought some specific assistance in education field during the current year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and assistance provided by Indian Government to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) the Government of India has assisting the Government of Maldives in the field of Education under various technical assistance and scholarship schemes as part of the ongoing process of cooperation between the two countries. India has been offering educational facilities to Maldivian candidates in different areas such as medicine, engineering, computer science, nursing and agriculture.

Telephone Exchanges in Chandigarh

1611. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchange functioning in the Union Territory of Chandigarh during the last three years, till date;

(b) whether Government propose to set up new telephone exchanges during 1998-99;

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

(d) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections at present; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be cleared?

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

(a)	Year	No. of exchanges
	1995-96	13
	1996-97	15
	1997-98	14
	1.4.98 to 31.10.98	14
(b)	No, Sir.	

- (c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.
- (d) 9034 presons are on the waiting list.
- (e) The waiting list is likely to be cleared by March 1999 subject to availability of equipments, stores and financial resources.

Fishing Harbour

1612. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposal submitted by the Government of Kerala for development of Ponnani Fishing Harbour in the district of Malappuram;

(b) whether the State Government has since submitted the required technical report, report of model study and detailed project report;

(c) if not, the reports which are still awaited; and

(d) the steps taken to expedite the sanctioning of the much-required project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) A preliminary project report with an estimated cost of Rs. 916.00 lakhs for development of Fishing Harbour at Ponnani in Malappuram district of Kerala was received by Government of India in April, 1995. The project proposal envisages harbour facilities including breakwaters, quay, auction hall and other ancillary facilities.

(b) to (d) : The Government of Kerala have initiated model studies for the project and the detailed project report based on the model studies is awaited from the State Government.

Setting up of Satellite Earth Station at Trivandrum

1613. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) Whether any Satellite Earth Station has been set up in Trivandrum;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to make Doordarshan Kendra, Trivandrum competitive with private Malayalam TV channels;

(d) whether Doordarshan Kendra, Trivandrum is incurring profits; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Satellite Earth Station at Trivandrum has been commissioned to uplink Kerala Regional Service i.e., DD-4 channel carrying Malayalam programmes.

(c) All HPTs and LPTs in Kerala are linked to DDK, Trivandrum via Satellite for relay of Kerala Regional Service. The Kerala Regional Service i.e., DD-4 channel programmes are also available in the entire country with the use of

appropriate dish antenna system. Good quality programmes on royalty, sponsored and in-house productions are daily telecast from DDK, Trivandrum.

(d) and (e) Revenue earning by DDK, Trivandrum during the last three years is as under:

	(Rs. in crores)
1995-96	15.62
1996-97	17.51
1997-98	21.68

[Translation]

Steep Hike in Prices of Postal Services

1614. SHRI MOTILAL VORA. Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had made steep hike in the prices of postal services from August 31, 1998;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) the additional revenue to be earned by the Government as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) The tariff in respect of only eight postal services was revised with effect from 31st August, 1998, in order to meet the increased cost of operation of various postal services requiring considerable subsidy from the general budget. It is estimated that even after the revision of tariff the revenue will not be adequate to meet cost of operation in respect of majority of postal services.

(c) The increase in tariff is estimated to generate additional revenue to the extent of Rs. 272 Crores per annum and Rs. 159 Crores approximately in the current financial year.

Communication Facility in Hilly Areas

1615. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to link all the hilly areas in the country with communication network;

(b) if so, the criterion fixed therefor; and

(c) the reasons for not making any progress in this regard in Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The objective of providing one village public telephone in every revenue village and to provide telephone on demand in the country including hilly areas are enshrined in the National Telecom Policy, 1994.

(c) The following telephone facilities have been provided in Sonbhadra District of Uttar Pradesh:

No. of Exchanges as on date:	20
No of villages as on 30.11.98:	1346
No. of VPTs as on 30.11.98:	508

VPTs are being provided progressively to uncovered villages.

[English]

Privatisation of Veterinary Practice

1616. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared a scheme for privatisation of veterinary practice;

(b) whether the State Ministers of Animal Husbandry/ Veterinary Service have made recommendation against the scheme during their meeting held in Delhi recently;

(c) if so, the details of the draft livestock proposal submitted in the said meeting;

(d) the statutory authority entrusted to regulate veterinary practice in India-State or Centre; and

(e) whether National Dairy Development Board has been authorised by the Union Government to Control veterinary practice in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) No such meeting was recently held.

(d) At Centre-Veterinary Council of India. At State/ Union Territory level-State/U.T. Veterinary Council.

(e) No, Sir.

Passport Complex

1617. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be please to state:

(a) whether the Government have established passport complex including residential blocks at different stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and where such complexes have been established;

(c) the annual allocation of budget for this purpose within the MEA and the extent of utilisation of the earmarked budgetary provisions; and

(d) the target for building such complexes during 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Proposals for constructing Govt. of India owned Passport Offices including residential complexes are under active consideration of the Ministry. Construction of office buildings in Cochin and Kozhikode has already been completed

and residential blocks are under construction at these places. Construction work for the passport office complex and residences in Ahmedabad is in progress. Built-up properties were purchased in Hyderabad and Patna. Further interior works are in progress in these two stations. Plots for construction purposes have already been acquired in Bhubneshwar, Calcutta, Chandigarh. Lucknow, Panaji and likely to be acquired in Trivendrum in the near future. In Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai Passport offices are located in Govt. buildings.

(c) Expenditure on Passport offices complex is covered under the Capital Outlay Budget of the Ministry of External Affairs out of which Rs. 3.00 crores has already been spent upto Oct., 98. A further sum of Rs. 4.61 crores is projected to be spend in the OFY.

(d) Construction work is already in progress at Ahmedabad, Cochin, Kozhikode and Hyderabad. Construction in Panaji is scheduled to begin shortly. Other projects are under active consideration in the Ministry.

Project for Horticulture

1618. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Kerala regarding development of Horticulture for Rs. 1200 crores; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation have not received any one proposal for Rs. 1,200 crores for Horticulture Development in Kerala. The State Government of Kerala however, has been submitting proposals for development of horticulture crops such as vegetables, cashew, coconut and floriculture, from time to time. A sum of Rs. 23.73 crores has been provided to Kerala for Horticulture Development during 1997-98 excluding the programmes of National Horticulture Board. Total allocation under various schemes for the current year is Rs. 29.77 crores.

Rates of Stamps for Delivery of Books

1619. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rates of stamps fixed for delivery of books through post are concessional or ordinary;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to consider it with a view to encouraging more people to get books; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Printed books can be sent by book post at the following postage rates:

- (i) For the first 100 grams or fraction thereof 50 Paise
- (ii) for every additional 100 grams or fraction thereof in excess of 100 grams 50 Paise

There is concessional registration fee of Rs. 1.25 for inland value payable post containing printed books upto Rs. 50/-.

(c) and (d) Since the existing postal rates for printed books are already concessional, there is no such proposal under consideration.

Expansion of Telephone Exchanges in Sikkim

1620. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to expand the existing capacity of various telephone exchanges in Sikkim with a view to bring about improvement in telecom services in the State;

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

(c) the total expenditure involved for this purpose; and

(d) the time by which the expansion plan is likely to be completed?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Location-wise details is given in the Statement inclosed.

(c) Total expenditure is about 35.48 crores.

(d) The expansion plan is likely to be completed by 31st March, 1999.

Statement

Location-wise details of capacity expansion of existing exchanges

Sl. No.	Name of Exchange	Existing capacity	Expansion by
1	2	3	4
1.	Gangtok	4900	4000
2.	Gayzing	478	522
3.	Singtom	478	522
4.	Chungthung	88	64
5.	Mangan	184	152

	1	2	3	4
6.	Rangpo		184	152
7.	Soreng		184	152
8.	Ranipool		392	608
9.	Tadong Bazar		368	632
10.	Melli		56	96
11.	Phudang		56	96
12.	Rangli		56	96
13.	Pekyong		360	640
14.	Ravangla		152	152

Field Drain

1621. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Union Government have received any request from the Government of Kerala for increasing the existing rate of Rs. 1000/- to Rs. 10,000/- for field drain;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Request for increasing the existing rate of Rs. 1000/- per ha. to Rs. 8,000/- per ha. and subsequently to Rs. 10,000/- per ha. for construction of field drain, under Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme has been received from Government of Kerala.

(c) Certain information and clarification in this regard have been asked for from the State Government.

[Translation]

Financial Assistance to Food

Processing Industries in UP.

1622. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Government have provided any financial assistance to food processing industries in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some food processing projects are under consideration of the Government for approval; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) During the last

three years financial assistance of Rs. 731.46 lakhs has been provided for setting up and development of food processing industries in the State of Uttar Pradesh. Year-wise details are as under:

Year	(Amount Rs. in Lakhs) Assistance Provided
1995-96	512.56
1996-97	151.35
1997-98	67.55

(c) and (d) Three proposals are under consideration of the Government in food processing sector in the State of Uttar Pradesh. One of these is regarding organising entrepreneurship programmes, and the other two are for setting up of Food Processing and Training Centres in the field of fruit and vegetable products, pulses and spices.

Pending Irrigation Projects

1623. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI:
SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several major, medium and minor irrigation projects, are pending with Union Government for environmental clearance;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the efforts being made by the Government for their expeditious clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The State-wise details of major and medium irrigation projects approved by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Ministry of Water Resources subject to clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forest are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) The clearance of these projects is linked with the compliance of observations made by the Ministry of Environment and Forest by the State Government.,

Statement

Name of Project	Month/Year of TAC Clearance	Accepted by TAC subject to
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh		
1. Pulichintals Irrigation	4/96	Environment & Forest Clearance
2. Modernisation of Krishna Delta System	4/96	Environment Clearance
3. Bhima Lift Irrigation	4/96	Environment Clearance
4. SRSP Stage-II	4/96	Forest Clearance
5. Flood Flow Canal from SRSP	4/96	Environment Clearance
Bihar		
6. Subernarekha Multipurpose Project	12/92	Forest Clearance
7. Siktia Barrage	8/88	Environment & Forest Clearance
8. Upper Sakri Res. Project	9/84	Environment & Forest Clearance
Jammu & Kashmir		
9. Modernisation of Ranbir Canal	9/97	Environment Clearance
Madhya Pradesh		
10. Bansagar Project Unit-II (Canals)	9/94	Environment Clearance
11. Sindh Irrigation (Ph-II)	12/92	Forest Clearance
12. Bargi Multipurpose	9/89	Environment Clearance

1	2	3
13. Thanwar Multipurpose	3/91	Environment Clearance
14. Mahan	6/83	Environment Clearance
15. Rajghat Canal Project	8/93	Forest Clearance
Maharashtra		
16. Wagna	8/88	Forest Clearance
17. Sangols Branch Canal	5/89	Environment Clearance
18. Tillary	12/89	Environment & Forest Clearance
19. Lower Wunna	9/89	Environment & Forest Clearance
Manipur		
2. Tipaimukh Multipurpose	8/95	Environment & Forest Clearance
Orissa		
21. Lower Indra	2/97	Environment & Forest Clearance
22. Lower Suktel	2/97	Environment & Forest Clearance
Punjab		
23. Ranjit Sagar Dam with U.B.D.C. Stage-II (Revised)	4/92	Environment & Forest Clearance
Rajasthan		
24. I.G. Nahar Stage-I (ERM)	8/95	Environment Clearance
Uttar Pradesh		
25. Raising of Meja Dam	3/93	Environment & Forest Clearance
26. Bansagar Canal	1/94	Environment & Forest Clearance
27. Maudaha Dam	9/97	Environment & Forest Clearance
28. Chittaurgarh Reservoir	2/97	Environment & Forest Clearance
29. Rajghat Canal	11/93	Forest Clearance
30. Lining Channel of Bundelkhand region	6/94	Environment Clearance
Andhra Pradesh		
1. Palemvagu	11/93	Forest Clearance
Himachal Pradesh		
2. Sidhate Irrigation Project	9/97	Forest Clearance
Maharashtra		
3. Jangamjatti Lift Irrigation Project	5/86	Forest Clearance
4. Morna Gureghar Project	5/86	Forest Clearance
5. Hetwane Irrigation Project	1/88	Forest Clearance
Manipur		
6. Jiri Irrigation Project	4/88	Forest Clearance

1	2	3
Orissa		
7. Manjore Irrigation Project	3/93	Forest Clearance
8. Rukura Irrigation Project	8/93	Forest Clearance
Rajaasthan		
9. Chakam Irrigation Project	8/95	Forest Clearance

[English]

Support Price of Jawar/Maize

1624. SHRI K.P. NAIDU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have fixed the Minimum support Prices of Jawar and Maize crops;

(b) whether the farmers are forced to sell away Jawar and Maize at price lesser than Minimum Support Price:

(c) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Union Government for procurement of Jawar and Maize by FCI; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has fixed the Minimum Support Price at Rs. 390 per quintal for both Jawar and Maize for the current Kharif marketing season of 1998-99.

(b) The Food Corporation of India has reported that there has been no distress sale of Jowar and Maize.

(c) and (d) In the State of Andhra Pradesh, Food Corporation of India is procuring Maize in the current Kharif Marketing season, 1998-99 and 15 tonnes of maize has been procured in the State upto 4.12.1998.

[Translation]

Speed Post Facility

1625. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JAHANABAD): Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the number of speed post centres proposed to be set up in the county during 1998-99, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : Sir, setting up of new Speed Post Centres in the new areas is an on-going process and is based on operational feasibility and traffic/revenue potential of a particular place. No year-wise target is fixed as such, and each case is examined on its merits.

[English]

G.P.O. in Bihar

1626. SHRI SOM MARANDI : Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representation to open a General Post office (G.P.O.) at Sahibganj district Headquarter in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

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

Hirakud Dam

1627. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that even after forty years of construction of Hirakud Dam the compensation has not yet been paid to several oustees of the dam;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the compensation to all the oustees are likely to be paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) The construction of Hirakud Dam resulted in displacement of nearly 18,000 families of 249 villages in Orissa and 34 villages in Madhya Pradesh due to submergence. Offer of compensation has been finished in the entire submergence area and payment of compensation by and large to the evacuated villages is also finished, except cases in which compensation offered is disputed and cases in which the right of individual party is in question.

[Translation]

Post Offices in U.P.

1628. SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA : Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is shortage of post offices in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether post offices have not been opened in district Sitapur in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to open post offices in the said district during 1998-99;

(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) There is already a vast postal network in the country which has grown from 23344 post offices at the time of Independence to 153454 as on 31.3.1998. The average area served per post office 21.42 sq. kms. while the average population served is 5502. However it is the policy to open post offices wherever shortage are perceived on the basis of certain norms adopted by the Department.

(b) Sitapur district of Uttar Pradesh is served by 411 post offices. A Post Office was last opened in Sitapur district on 14.11.1996.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, a target for opening two new Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices (EDBOs) has been fixed for Sitapur district during the Annual Plan 1998-99, subject to availability of resources.

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

[English]

Hike in Price of Insecticides/Pesticides

1629. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of the chemicals like insecticides/pesticides being used in agriculture sector are beyond the reach of farmers and leading to low agricultural production; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to reduce their prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The prices of insecticides/pesticides being used in agriculture sector, have not varied significantly during the last three years. Therefore, the price factor has not adversely affected the availability of pesticides to farmers leading to low agricultural production. Besides, the Government have taken following steps to ensure availability of pesticides at reasonable prices :-

(i) Indigenous production of pesticides is being encouraged.

(ii) Customs and Excise duties on imported pesticides and raw-materials have been reduced.

(iii) Pesticides have been brought under OGL.

ICAR

1630. SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of vigilance cases reported against the Senior Officers, Directors, Incharge of the Institutes under the ICAR during the last four years;

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

(c) the number of cases investigated, Year-wise;

(d) the details of cases referred to Central Vigilance Commission/CBI;

(e) the details of cases found fit for taking action against the Senior Officers and the action taken; and

(f) the details of cases of Senior Officers exonerated by the Central Vigilance Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (f) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Officer	Nature of the case	When referred to CVC/CBI	Cases found fit for action/action taken	Cases exonerated by CVC
1	2	3	4	5	6
Year 1995					
1.	Sh. K.L. Bokolia, Jt. Director, IARI, New Delhi.	Administrative irregularities relating to certain promotions of Assistants and one fresh appointment of Admn. Officer	1995	Yes, inquiry is in progress	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	(i) J.S. Grewal, Director (Retd.), CPRI, Shimla.	Irregularities in purchase of a costly equipment from a foreign firm which also resulted in loss to the Council	23.8.98	Yes, inquiry is in progress	—
	(ii) Dr. S.K. Bhattacharya, Principal Sci. (Retd.)				
	(iii) Dr. N.P. Sukumaran, Head of Division				
3.	Dr. S. Bala Ravi, Principal Sci., NRCS, Hyderabad	False T. A. claim	2.3.95	Yes, charge- sheet issued. On receipt of reply the case has been dropped in consultation with CVC	Yes
4.	Dr. K.C. Garg, Sr. Scientist, ICAR H. Qrs.	Attempt to steal a computer part	2.3.95	Yes, inquiry is in progress	—
5.	Dr. M. K. Nair Director, CPCRI, Kasargod.	Grave irregularities in construction of 3 building involving expenditure of Rs. 10 lakhs	25.5.95	Yes, inquiry completed.	Penalty imposed.
6.	Dr. J.L. Sehgal, Director (Retd.), NBSS & LUP,	Irregularities in printing/cartographic work of maps.	25.5.95	Yes, inquiry in progress	—
7.	Dr. P.N. Bhatt, then Director, IVRI, Izatnagar	Administrative and financial irregularities of grave nature including those involving purchases.	22.11.95	Yes, charge- sheet issued. I.O. being appointed	—
8.	Sh. J.K. Kewalramani, Senior Administrative Officer, I.V.R.I.	Administrative and financial irregularities involving purchases.	22.11.95	Yes, charge- sheet under issue.	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Sh. Sanjay Kant, Senior Administrative Officer, I.V.R.I	- do -	22.11.95	- do -	—
10.	(i) Dr. S.L. Mehta, DDG (Edn), ICAR Hq. (ii) Dr. S. K. Sinha, National Professor	Irregularities in purchase of furniture in I.A.R.I	6.6.95	Advice of CVC under consideration of the competent authority.	—
11.	Dr. (Mrs) P.P. Bhat, Principal Scientist, now posted at ICAR Hqrs.	Irregularities in appointments.	22.11.95	Yes, charge- sheet under issue.	—
12.	Sh. C.P. Bohra, Sr. Scientist, CIAE Bhopal	Un-authorised employment at AIT, Bangkok during 1995.	—	Bond money is being recovered in instalments.	—
Year 1996					
13.	Sh. K.L. Bokolia, Jt. Director, IARI, New Delhi	Trap case laid by CBI	April, 96	Yes, inquiry in progress.	—
14.	Dr. S.N. Pandey, Director (Retd.), J.T.R.L., Calcutta	Grave irregularities in purchase of 3 equipment costing Rs. 75 lakhs.	31.5.96	Yes, inquiry in progress.	—
15.	Dr. S.C. Agrawal, Director, ILRI, Ranchi	False T.A. claim	13.5.96	Yes, inquiry in progress.	—
16.	Dr. Jai Singh, O.S.D. (Director), CIPHET, Ludhiana	Nepotism in appointment (including his son and nephew).	24.5.96	Yes, charge- sheet issued.	—
17.	Dr. M.S. Rama Mohan Rao, OIC Bellary Centre of CSWCR & TI, Dehradun	Financial irregularities.	27.9.96	Yes, inquiry officer being appointed.	—
18.	Dr. V.M. Bhan, Director, NRCWS, Jabalpur and Shri Balwant Rai, AAO	Irregularities in the appointments.	22.3.96	- do -	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
19.	Dr. R.L. Sharma, Sci., (SG), IVRI, Izatnagar.	False taxi claim in Transfer TA bill.	31.10.96	No. Further investigation being made as per advice of CVC.	—
20.	Sh. Paramjit Singh, Driver, IVRI, Izatnagar	Misuse of staff car during journey of Dr. R.L. Sharma on transfer.	31.10.96	- do -	—
21.	Dr. R. N. Prasad, ADG, ICAR Hqrs.	Un-authorised payment to an advocate	Sep., 96	No. CBI report awaited.	—
22.	Dr. V.N. Tripathi, then Director, Project Dte. on Cattle & ex- Director, CIRB, Hissar	Irregularities in administrative and construction of roads	4.6.96	Yes, inquiry in progress.	—
23.	Sh. M. Kalkurai, Scientist, PDBC, Bangalore	Case of mutual transfer during 1996.	—	Acceptance of resignation awaited. The charge would be dropped if resignation is accepted.	—
Year 1997					
24.	Dr. A.N. Asthana, Director, Dte. of Pulses, Kanpur	Irregularities in T.A. Claim	6.10.97	Yes, inquiry held and completed. The report of Inquiry Officer under examination.	—
25.	(i) Dr. P.C. Dubey, Principal Scientist, I.V.R.I. & (ii) Dr. P.L. Yadav, Head of Deptt., I.V. R. I.	Irregularities in the sale of milk at I.V.R.I.	27.2.97	Yes, inquiry in progress.	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
26.	Dr. R. Deb Roy, Director (Retd.), NRCAF, Jhansi.	Irregularities in hiring of casual labour	10.1.97	Further clarification being sought.	—
27.	(i) Sh. P. Bopaiah, ex- A.O., JTRL, Calcutta (now posted at ICAR Hqrs. (ii) Dr. S.S. Reddy, then Scientist, JTRL, Calcutta, (iii) Dr. A. Dey, Pri. Sci., & HOD, JTRL, Calcutta	Irregularities in the purchase of equipments	March, 97	Yes, explanation obtained. As per CVC advise cases dropped.	Yes
28.	—	Irregularities in the conduct of examination for Assistants/SOs by ASRB	29.4.97	CBI's reply awaited.	—
29.	Dr. Vishwanath, Pri. Sci., IARI, New Delhi	Complaints against the various higher officers with forged signature	June, 97	Inquiry in progress with CBI.	—
30.	Sh. Nand Gopal, Pri. Sci., NRCG, Junagadh	Financial Irregularities at NRCG, Junagadh	July, 97	Inquiry in progress with CBI.	—
31.	Dr. A.K. Bandyopadhyay, Director, NRCG, Junagadh	- do -	August, 97	Inquiry in progress with CBI.	—
32.	—	Against LTC scandal at IARI, New Delhi	21.11.97	Case referred to CBI.	—
33.	Sh. B.L. Bhadu, Ex-PS to A.M.	Irregularities in sanctioning of Kurar Project	3.2.97	Inquiry with CBI.	—
34.	Dr. O.S. Verma, Project Coordinator, IISR, Lucknow	- do -	November, 97	- do -	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
35.	Dr. S.S. Negi, Director, CIHNP, Lucknow	Complaints of administrative and financial irregularities during 1997.	—	Documents received from Institute are under examination.	—
36.	Dr. T.S. Nair, Sr. Scientist, IVRI, Bangalore Campus	Irregularities in award of contract reported during 1997.	—	Preliminary report received being sent to CVC.	—
Year 1998					
37.	Dr. H.P.S. Arya, Joint Director, I.V.R.I	Irregularities in sanctioning Kurar Project	7.4.98	Inquiry is with CBI.	—
38.	Dr. M.L. Punj, EX. Director, CIRB, Hissar	Irregularities in purchase and sale of milk	26.2.98	Yes, the charge sheet being issued.	—
39.	Shri Chironji Lal, Chief Administrative Officer, I.V.R.I	Sanctioning of bogus LTC claims at I.A.R.I.	26.2.98	The CVC has asked for more evidence.	—
40.	Shri Nand Kishore, Senior Administrative Officer, C.I.F.T.	- do -	26.2.98	- do -	—
41.	Shri J.N. Sharma, T-6 I.V.R.I.	Irregularities in the purchase of journals at I.V.R.I., Izatnagar	29.3.98	Yes, charge- sheet being issued.	—
42.	Shri L.N. Singh, Principal Scientist, I.V.R.I.	- do -	29.3.98	- do -	—
43.	Sh. R.S. Tiwari, Supdt. and Sh. A.K. Saxena Sr. Lab Asstt., I.V.R.I	- do -	29.3.98	- do -	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
44.	Dr. D.S. Chawla, Head, Research Station, Nabha of CIRB, Hissar	Irregularities in the purchase of PVC materials and other equipments (reported during 1998)	April, 1998	Preliminary report received and being referred to CVC	—
45.	Dr. Bhoori Singh, Ex-Director, NRC on Rapeseed & Mustard Bharatpur	Irregularities in appointments and hiring labour reported during November, 1998	—	- do -	—

Kashmir Issue**Hurriyat Visit To U.N.**

1631. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI MOTILAL VORA :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRI K.S. RAO :
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be please to state :

(a) whether NAM Chairman had, in his inaugural address at the recent NAM meet, made a reference to the Kashmir issue and offered NAM's help to solve it;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the context in which the Kashmir issue was mentioned by the NAM Chairman in his inaugural address; and

(c) the reaction of the Indian Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) President Mandela brought up the Kashmir issue while referring to areas of conflict all over the world during his inaugural address at the NAM Summit in Durban. He stated that "All of us remain concerned that the issue of Jammu & Kashmir should be solved through peaceful negotiations and should be willing to lend all the strength we have to the resolution of this matter."

(c) The Prime Minister, in his keynote address at the Summit, stated that differences with Pakistan would be resolved peacefully through bilateral negotiations and that there was no place for any third party involvement in the process, who soever well-intentioned. He further stated that J&K was an integral part of India and that the real problem in the region was that of cross-border terrorism. India's reservations were conveyed personally by the Prime Minister to President Mandela. We also communicated our views to other South African representatives at appropriate levels.

1632. SHRI C.D. GAMIT :
SHRI K.S. RAO :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) leaders were allowed to visit New York in the month of September, 1998 coinciding with the session of UN General Assembly;

(b) whether Government are aware that these leaders projected anti-India and pro-separationist view point; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) Government are aware that Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Sabir Ahmad Dar, Abdul Majid Banday, Saeed Yusuf Nasir and Altaf Dadri visited New York in September, 1998. Government are also aware that they made false and baseless statements about the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. Government continue to keep a watch on the activities of these persons while abroad and will take such action as is necessary to safeguard national interest.

Sophisticated Weapons to Pakistan by North Korea

1633. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan has received several shipments of sophisticated weapons from North Korea;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have raised this matter in the international organisations/fora;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Government are aware of reports regarding shipments of sophisticated weapons material delivered by North Korea to Pakistan, including missile components for Pakistan's missile programme.

(c) and (d) India has consistently highlighted in multilateral fora as well as in bilateral discussions, the continuing outside support extended to Pakistan's missile programme despite the existence of multilateral export control regimes, unilateral declarations of restraint and supply restrictions in supplier countries. Government have made it clear that continuing supply of sophisticated missile technologies to Pakistan through clandestine means poses a threat to India's security and is not conducive to maintenance of peace and stability in the region.

(e) Does not arise.

Support Prices of Cotton

1634. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the production and the opening stock of cotton in the country during the year 1996-97; and

(b) the minimum support prices fixed for cotton for the years 1995-96 and 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The official estimate of cotton production during 1996-97 was 142.5 lakh bales whereas the opening stock as per the Cotton Advisory Board was 39.16 lakh bales.

(b) The Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) fixed for the two basic varieties of cotton for 1995-96 and 1997-98 are given below :-

Year	Basic Variety	MSP fixed by the Government (Rs./Qtl)
1995-96	F-414/H-777	1150
	H-4	1350
1997-98	F-4114/H-777	1330
	H-4	1530

Likely Damage To Satellites

1635. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

SHRI MADAN PATIL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any prior remedial measures to prevent the anticipated damage to our artificial satellites due to expected falling of large number of meteoroids on earth on November 18, 1998; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main risks that the artificial satellites faced from the meteoroids storm were possible physical, mechanical and electrical damages to the satellite resulting in direct mechanical cratering, plasma or electro-static discharges. In order to protect its five INSAT satellites (INSAT-1D, INSAT-2A, INSAT-2B, INSAT-2C and INSAT-2DT) and four IRS satellites (IRS-1B, IRS-1C, IRS-1D and IRS-P3), besides the scientific satellite (SROSS-C2), the Department of Space took the following measures:

- The Solar panels of the satellites were oriented in such a way as to present minimum surface area to the approaching meteoroids debris.
- IRS camera operations were avoided during the meteoroids storm.
- The operation of X-ray payload on IRS-P3 and the Gamma-ray instruments on board SRCSS-C2 satellite, which employ high voltage were suspended during the period.
- Only essential equipment were kept ON during the storm period.
- The Gyros on board INSAT were kept ON to closely monitor body movement rates to detect any meteoroid hits.
- The design engineers and scientists of various satellite subsystems were present at the spacecraft control centres (Master Control Facility at Hassan for INSAT satellites and ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network at Bangalore for IRS and SROSS satellites) during the expected storm period on the night of November 17, 1998 to guide corrective actions to be taken in case of any ISRO satellites being hit by meteoroid particles.
- All satellites were brought back to their normal operating conditions on the morning of November 18, 1998.

[Translation]

Administrative Laws

1636. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI A.C. JOS:

SHRI MADAN PATIL:

SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the commission headed by P.C. Jain set up by the Government to review administrative laws has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made by the Commission; and

(c) the time by which the Government is likely to examine and implement the recommendations made by the Commission?

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): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement of important recommendations of the Commission is enclosed.

(c) Copies of the report of the Commission have been sent to all Ministries/Departments of the Government of India and Chief Secretaries of all State/Union Territory Governments in November, 1998 for the examination of the various recommendations contained therein and for devising suitable action plan for implementation of the recommendations. The Government have constituted a Standing Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Personnel) for monitoring the follow-up action of the recommendations contained in the report. The Committee will meet on regular basis and evolve suitable strategies for implementation of the various recommendations by all concerned.

Statement

Summary of Important Recommendations of The Commission

1. All the Ministries/Departments should compile upto date information about rules, regulations, orders and procedures under different Central Laws administered by them including manuals in respect of areas which are important from the point of view of the general public.

2. Expeditious amendments should be considered in respect of a critical list of about 109 laws including those regarding which action has been initiated.

3. There is a need also for unification and harmonisation of statutes, laws and regulation with reference to the perspective of domestic and foreign investors, trade and industry, consumers, builders, exporters and importers. In this process, the Government should simplify the language used in all regulations, rules and orders.

4. Specific proposals have been formulated on the regulatory frameworks relating to (1) Housing and Real Estate, (2) Company Law, (3) Banking, (4) Foreign Direct Investment, (5) Industry, (6) Consumer Affairs, (7) Health, (8) Environment, (9) Labour, (10) Income-Tax, (11) Excise and Customs, (12) Exim Policy and procedural issues, and (13) Power. In these recommendations, the effort has been

to keep in front the problems and needs of the user groups, apart from the administrative requirements of efficiency, coordination and economy.

5. Repeal of over 1300 Central Laws of different categories out of about 2500 Laws in force, as listed below:

- (i) 166 Central Acts (including 11 pre-Nationalisation Acts and 20 Validation Acts).
- (ii) 315 Amendment Acts.
- (iii) 11 British Statutes still in force.
- (iv) 17 War-time permanent Ordinances.
- (v) 114 Central Acts relating to state subjects.
- (vi) 700 Appropriation Acts (approximately) passed by Parliament.

The Commission has recommended their repeal on the ground that these laws have become either irrelevant or dysfunctional.

6. There is a need to study the entire complex of laws, regulations and procedures affecting the quality of life of the poor and disadvantaged sections of the society in a focussed manner.

7. The Commission has recommended expansion of the system of alternate disputes resolution and more effective utilisation of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act. The Commission has also recommended entrustment of pending cases of subordinate courts to the "Lok Adalats".

[English]

Use of Nuclear Energy

1637. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken initiatives in use of nuclear energy for non-electrical purposes in the sectors of heat generation and hydrogen production; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Oustees of Talaiya Dam

1638. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether reasonable compensation has been paid to all oustees of Talaiya Dam:

(b) if not, the reasons therefor:

(c) whether employment has been given to those families whose land has been acquired for the project;

(d) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(e) the time by which the employment and adequate compensation is likely to be paid to those families? *[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Import of Onion through NAFED

1639. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of onions imported by NAFED during the past six months;

(b) the names of the countries and the cost at which these were imported;

(c) whether the rotten and wet onions were supplied by foreign countries;

(d) whether NAFED also refused to lift the consignment of 18000 tons of onions imported from Iran at Mumbai Port;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the NAFED has also suggested to the Government to stop the export of onions; and

(g) if not, the quantity of onion exported by NAFED from March, 1998 to October, 1998 and the value thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) NAFED has informed that it has imported a quantity of 687 MTs. during October and November, 1998.

(b) The Iranian onion was imported from Dubai by air/sea at the average rate of Rs. 20677/-PMT and the Kyrgyzstan onion was imported by air at an average rate of Rs. 28078/-PMT by air.

(c) Onion is a perishable commodity and certain quantity gets damaged during transit owing to its short shelf life. Hence, it can not be said that rotten and wet onions were supplied by foreign countries.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) No, Sir. A quantity of 2.84 lakhs MTs. of the value of Rs. 276.71 crores was exported from the country from March, 1998 to October, 1998.

Indo-Pak Relations

1640. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had noted a marked worsening in Indo-Pak relations following the SAARC Summit at Colombo with Pakistan intensifying the proxy war against India;

(b) the details of the specific incidence of proxy war during the months following Colombo meet; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Prime Minister met the Pakistan Prime Minister, Mr. Nawaz Sahrif, on 29th July 1998 in Colombo on the margins of the 10th SAARC Summit. While reiterating Government's commitment to developing peaceful and friendly ties with Pakistan, Prime Minister emphasised that Pakistan's state-sponsored terrorism against India must cease. These views were reiterated during the course of the composite dialogue process that has begun between India and Pakistan. Regrettably, Pakistan's state-sponsored terrorism against India continues unabated. Government continues to take all necessary steps to safeguard the country's security and territorial integrity.

Bofors Deal

1641. SHRI N.K.PREMCHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government achieved any progress to ascertain the name of persons who are behind the Bofors deal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the stage at which the investigation of Bofors kickback issue stands at present?

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): (a) to (c) The Bofors case is under active investigation of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) within India and abroad. After receipt of documents from swiss authorities in January, 1997, another request has been made to them for providing information/documents relevant to the case. The names of beneficiaries and other details of the case cannot be divulged in view of the Memorandum of Understanding dated February 20, 1989 between the Government of India and the Government of Switzerland. The disclosure of the details of investigation may also affect its future course adversely.

Letters Rogatory have also been sent to Bahamas, Panama, Luxembourg, Sweden, Liechtenstein and Jordan.

Indian Enclaves in Bangladesh

1642. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.2344 on December 9, 1996 and state:

(a) the names of those eleven Indian enclaves in Bangladesh which have been declared as non-exchangeable alongwith the population of Indian citizens in each of the enclaves and areas of each of the enclaves;

(b) whether the demarcation work of about 41 kms.of Indo-Bangladesh land boundary has now been completed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) A list of non-exchangeable enclaves and their approximate area as estimated by the local authorities is given below:

S.No.	Name of Enclaves (Chhits)	App. Area in acres furnished by Collector, Cooch Behar
1.	Shakati	95.23
2.	Shakati	1012.38
3.	Shakati	197.24
4.	Binnaguri	763.30
5.	Daikhata	34.19
6.	Daikhata	1640.11
7.	Binnaguri	11.50
8.	Malgram Chhit	4.73
9.	Madanakura Chhit	35.53
10.	Chhit Sooraguri	2.51
11.	Daikhata	2.63
Total Area		3799.35

Population figures are not available. Since December '96, further survey work has been completed for approximately 34.5 kms of boundary.

[*Translation*]

Telephone Dues

1643. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the telephone dues outstanding against the MPs and

ex-MPs as on date;

(b) whether the bench of Mumbai High Court issued any instruction to the Union Government for the recovery of these dues:

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures being adopted by the Government for timely recovery of the outstanding dues from these persons in future?

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

(a) The telephone dues outstanding against MPs and EX-MPs are to the tune of Rs. 14.38 Crores.

(b) to (d) The court has directed to take appropriate action for recovery, without showing any difference between ordinary citizen and person holding such posts as MP, MLA etc.

[*English*]

Dogri News Bulletin from Jammu Doordarshan Kendra

1644. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT:

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA:

Will the MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the difficulties faced by the Government in starting Dogri news bulletin from Jammu Doordarshan Kendra;

(b) whether there are proposals to upgrade the Jammu Doordarshan Kendra and widen its present reach so that the people living in border areas of Jammu region are covered and weaned away from the Pakistani propaganda; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) Prasar Bharati have intimated that due to constraint of manpower, hardware, transmission time and other necessary infrastructural facilities it is not possible to start a Dogri news bulletin from Doordarshan Kendra, Jammu at present.

(b) and (c) Doordarshan Kendra, Jammu presently comprises of a studio set up, a high power transmitter (10 KW) for DD-1 service and an LPT for DD-2 service. There is no approved scheme, at present, for upgradation of the Kendra.

[*Translation*]

Solar Energy Plant

1645. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Solar Energy Plant in Gaya to tackle severe power crisis in the area;

- (b) whether the Union Government have also received a report on said project from the Government of Bihar;
- (c) if so, the present status thereof; and
- (d) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Feasibility reports for 2 x 30 MW power projects at Gaya and Chakai were received from Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB) in 1989. BSEB had proposed setting up of these projects based on line focussing solar thermal collector technology. It was suggested then to Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB) to modify the feasibility reports based on recorded meteorological data for the site.

(c) and (d) Generation of power through solar thermal route is a new technology, which is quite capital intensive. Accordingly, it is first proposed to take up an R&D-cum-Demonstration project at village Mathania in Jodhpur district of Rajasthan. Subsequent projects could be considered after the techno-economic viability of the technology is established.

[English]

Telecom Facilities in Maharashtra

1646. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:

SHRI R.S. GAVAL:

SHRI KALLAPPA AWADE:

Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in Maharashtra as on October 30, 1998 District-wise;
- (b) the number of telephone connections allotted during the last three years in Maharashtra, particularly in Ahmadnagar, Vidharbha, Gargotti and Bridargarh regions;

(c) whether the Government have evolved any scheme for the speedy allotment of telephone connections;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of telephone exchanges to be opened in Vidharbha region during the current financial year;

(f) the time by which these exchanges are likely to be made functional;

(g) whether telephone in Gargotti and Bridargarh regions under Kolhapur District are working in order;

(h) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(i) the time by which these are likely to be in the working order?

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

(a) Information is given in the attached statement-I.

(b) The number of telephone connections provided during the last three years in Maharashtra, including MTNL, Mumbai and that provided in Ahmednagar, Vidharbha, Gargotti and Bridargarh regions separately are given in the attached statement-II.

(c) and (d) Government have formulated proposals to make telephone available on demand by the year 2002. Targets for provision of telephones are being fixed every year as per demand of telephone to achieve this objective. This is being done by expanding existing exchanges and opening of new exchanges as per demand.

(e) It is proposed to open 26 new telephone exchanges with total capacity of about 5000 lines in Vidharbha region during the current financial year.

(f) These exchanges are likely to be made functional by March, 1999.

(g) to (i) Telephones in Gargotti and Bridargarh regions under Kolhapur District are working satisfactorily, barring normal interruptions, especially during rainy season.

Statement-I

Waiting list of telephone connections in Maharashtra, including MTNL, Mumbai as on 31.10.98

Sl. No.	Telecom District	Revenue Districts Covered	Waiting List
1	2	3	4
1.	Raigad	Raigad	1877
2.	Ratnagiri	Ratnagiri	5459
3.	Sindhudurg	Sindhudurg	2652
4.	Jaigaon	Jaigaon	14858

1	2	3	4
5.	Nasik	Nasik	23727
6.	Dhule	Dhule, Nandurbar	9201
7.	Kolhapur	Kolhapur	8322
8.	Solapur	Solapur	9450
9.	Satara	Satara	6607
10.	Sangli	Sangli	11894
11.	Ahmednagar	Ahmednagar	19470
12.	Aurangabad	Aurangabad	10083
13.	Jalna	Jalna	1550
14.	Latur	Latur	5472
15.	Osmanabad	Osmanabad	1613
16.	Nanded	Nanded	5812
17.	Parbhani	Parbhani	2354
18.	Beed	Beed	4054
19.	Pune	Pune	55355
20.	Nagpur	Nagpur	7953
21.	Kalyan	Kalyan	52586
22.	Akola	Akila, Washim	4916
23.	Amravati	Amravati	5450
24.	Bhandara	Bhandara	2327
25.	Buldana	Buldana	2677
26.	Chandrapur	Chandrapur, Gadchiroli	5180
27.	Wardha	Wardha	3304
28.	Yeotmal	Yeotmal	4308
29.	MTNL, Mumbai		NIL

Statement-II

Number of telephone connection provided in Maharashtra, including Mumbai (MTNL) during the last three years

Number of telephone connections provided during last three years

Year	No. of connections provided (in lakhs)	Number of telephone connections provided during last three years			
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	
		1	2	3	4
1995-96	4.00	Ahmednagar	9200	10101	9509
1996-97	4.41	Vidarbha Region (Consists of Akola, Washim, Amravati, Bhandara, Buldhana, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli, Nagpur, Wardha and Yeotmal Telecom Districts.)	42354	40726	42815
1997-98	4.89				

1	2	3	4
Kolapur Telecom District (Gargoti and Bridargarh regions are part of this telecom District)	20553	14015	12721

[Translation]

Internet Facility

1647. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

KUMARI KIM GANGTE:

Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- the names of the cities connected with 'Internet';
- whether there is any proposal to connect Deoria and Ballia districts in U.P. and Manipur and other North Eastern States with internet;
- If so, the details thereof; and
- If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):
(a) The cities where Internet Nodes are working are as per Statement. However the Internet access to the nearest Internet Nodes is being made available on local call rates progressively with effect from 15th August, 1998.

- Yes, Sir.
- Deoria and Ballia have Internet access on local call basis from Allahabad.

Procurement of Internet Nodes for Manipur and other NE State capitals and District Head Quarters are being connected to the nearest Internet node on local call basis.

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

Statement

List of Cities Having Internet Nodes

Ambala, Aurangabad, Agra Allahabad, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Bhubaneswar, Bhopal, Calicut, Chandigarh, Coimbatore, Gwalior, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Hubli, Indore, Jaipur, Chennai, Calcutta, Dhanbad, Dehradun, Delhi, Ernakulam, Goa, Jamshedpur, Jammu, Jalandhar, Kanpur, Kancheepuram, Kollam, Kottayam, Lucknow, Mysore, Madurai, Mumbai, Nagpur, Nasik, Patna, Palghat, Pondicherry, Pune, Shillong, Silchar, Silliguri, Surat, Shimla, Trichy, Trivandrum, Vijayawada, Vishkapatnam.

Waiting List for Telephone Connections in Bihar

1648. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

SHRI RAJO SINGH:

Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- the number of telephone connections allotted in Bihar during the last three years, till-date;
- the number of persons on the waiting list of telephone connections in the State at present, district-wise;
- whether the department is not issuing new telephone connections in the State due to non-availability of material;
- If so, the details thereof; and
- the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide telephone connections to all the persons on the waiting list in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):
(a) The number of telephone connections provided in Bihar during the last three years, till date is given below:

Year	Connections provided
1995-96	33115
1996-97	52368
1997-98	66294
1998-99 (1.4.98-30.11.98)	32510
	184287

(b) The Number of persons on the waiting list of telephone connections in Bihar, district-wise as on 30.11.98, is as per statement attached.

- No, Sir.

- Not applicable.

(e) Action is being taken to provide telephone connections to all the persons on the waiting list by expanding exchanges of higher capacity and opening of small and medium type exchanges and by laying more under ground cables for providing telephone connections to meet the demand.

Statement
District-wise waiting list in Bihar State

Sl. No.	Name of SSA	Name of District included	Waiting List as on 30.11.98
1.	Arrah	Bhojpur, Buxar	1750
2.	Bhagalpur	Bhagalpur, Banka	2387
3.	Chapra	Saran, Gopalganj, Siwan	5024
4.	Darbhanga	Darbhanga, Begusarai, Samastipur, Madhubani, Khagaria	13771
5.	Daltonganj	Palamau, Garhwa	1183
6.	Dhanbad	Dhanbad, Bokaro	8545
7.	Dumka	Dumka, Deoghar, Sahebganj, Pakur, Godda	1939
8.	Gaya	Gaya, Aurangabad, Jehanabad Nawadah	2520
9.	Hazaribagh	Hazaribagh, Kodarma, Giridih, Chatra	3522
10.	Jamshedpur	East Singhbhum, West Singhbhum	6768
11.	Katihar	Katihar, Kishanganj, Purnea, Araria	2658
12.	Motihari	East Champaran West Champaran	2482
13.	Monghyr	Monghyr, Sheikhpura, Lakhisarai, Jamui	3354
14.	Muzaffarpur	Muzaffarpur, Vaishali Sitamarhi, Sheohar	8675
15.	Patna	Patna, Nalanda	17741
16.	Ranchi	Ranchi, Gumla, Lohardaga	1569
17.	Saharsa	Saharsa, Supaul, Madhupura	829
18.	Sasaram	Rohtas, Bhabhua	2267
			86984

Irregularities in Allotment Of M.A.R.R Telephone

1649. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA: Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaint for not adopting any norms in the allotment of MARR telephone by the telephone office of Urai district of Uttar Pradesh;

- (b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard and the officers found guilty punished;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes Sir a complaint was received for not adopting norms in the allotment of MARR telephone in Orai Telecom Division.

(b) A departmental enquiry was conducted. No official was found guilty.

(c) and (d) Not applicable in view of the reply in (b) above.

[English]

Central Ground Water Board

1650. SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Board has launched a Scheme, "Studies in Recharge of Ground Water" in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any improvement in increasing ground water in the State has been noticed after the implementation of the scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The Central Ground Water Board has implemented a Central Sector Scheme on 'studies on recharge of ground water' in some parts of Maharashtra, Karnataka, NCT of Delhi and Union Territory of Chandigarh. Based on the positive results of studies in these States, the Government have decided to extend the scheme to cover some 'over-exploited' 'Dark' and 'Grey' blocks of some other States including Gujarat, at an estimated cost of Rs. 25 crore during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(c) and (d) Improvement in the level of Ground Water in Gujarat depends on successful implementation of the scheme after finalisation of its details in consultation with the State Government.

Visit of Sikh Scholars

1651. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK:

SHRI C.D. GAMIT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabhandhak Committee through the Union Government has sought the Pakistan Government's permission to allow Sikh Scholars to study books and manuscripts pertaining to the Sikh history lying under lock and key in Lahore since 1947; and

(b) if so, the decision of Pakistan Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir. In April 1997, Government had received a request from the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee for cataloguing the Sikh books and manuscripts available in Pakistan. The matter was taken up with Government of Pakistan through our Mission in Islamabad.

(b) In October 1997, Government had received from Government of Pakistan a list of books and manuscripts on Sikh religion available in Pakistan. The same was forwarded to the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee.

[Translation]

Eradication of International Terrorism

1652. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has made a proposal to root out terrorism at international level in collaboration with any country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the other countries thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (d) At the XIth NAM Summit at Durban, the Prime Minister called for an international conference to discuss and agree on measures to combat and defeat the menace of international terrorism through collective action. He reiterated the appeal in his address to the 53rd UNGA in New York when he urged that the proposed conference should launch the process of negotiations for an international convention to provide for collective action against States and organisations which initiate or aid and abet terrorism.

(c) The Prime Minister's initiative was well received at the NAM Summit. The Final Document of the NAM Summit reflected the Prime Minister's initiative by calling for an international conference in 1999 to develop a collective response of the international community to combat terrorism. The on-going 53rd Session of UN General Assembly has adopted by consensus a resolution on 'Measures to eliminate international terrorism', which has decided that an Ad Hoc Committee would consider, on a priority basis, the elaboration of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

[English]

Construction of Embankments

1653. SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Pak structure cause river diversion" appearing in the 'Hindu' dated July 14, 1998;

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

(c) whether the Government have discussed this issue with the Government of Pakistan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to construction of flood exbankments and spurs on the Pakistan side, due to general country slope from north-west to south-east and also due to meandering of river Ravi, there is more concentration of flow of river Ravi towards Indian side causing soil erosion and damages to crops and other border installations. But for marginal shift due to meandering action of the river, there is no major shift in the course of the river during the current year.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Counter protective works are undertaken by Government of Punjab as and when needed from their own financial resources as well as from the financial assistance provided by Government of India. A "Committee on Special Remedial Works for Flood Protection Embankments on Ravi and Sutlej" constituted in 1989, examines the proposals of the Government of Punjab and recommends specific works to be executed after visit of the affected areas since 1990.

[*Translation*]

Production of Fruits

1654. DR. RAM VILAS VEDANTI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the largest fruit producing State in the country;

(b) whether the Government are taking any step to increase the fruit production in other States also; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) As per the latest production figures of fruits available for the year 1995-96, Bihar is the largest fruit producing State in the country with an annual production of 5.47 million tonnes.

(b) and (c) The Government is implementing a Central Sector Scheme on Development of Tropical, Temperate and Arid zone Fruits covering all States and Union Territories in the country. The outlay for the scheme during 1997-98 with an outlay of Rs. 17.00 crores. The scheme is being continued in 1998-99 with an outlay of Rs. 25.00 crores. Under this scheme assistance is being provided for establishment of nurseries and tissue culture units for distribution of quality planting material, area expansion, rejuvenation of senile orchards, training of farmers and taking up publicity measures.

Water Management Programme

1655. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA:

SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have approved some sub-schemes for implementation under the National Water Management and Command Area Development Programme;

(b) if so, the estimated cost likely to be incurred thereon; and

(c) if not, the time by which the schemes are likely to be approved and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Union Government has approved a number of schemes under the World Bank assisted National Water Management Project (NWMP) and Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme (CADP).

(b) and (c) The NWMP has closed on March, 1995. An expenditure of Rs. 504.11 crores was incurred under the project till its closure, out of which Rs. 359.8 crores were reimbursed by the World Bank. The CADP is a continuing scheme. A Central assistance of Rs. 1814.68 crores has been released to the States upto March, 1998 under CADP since its inception in FY 1974-75.

[*English*]

Command Area Development Programme

1656. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds released by the Union Government to State Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the details of the target fixed and achievement made by the Government in this regard during this period;

(c) whether several State Governments have sent any suggestion to the Union Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The details of funds released State-wise during last three years as central assistance by the Union Government under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme, are given in the attached statement-I.

(b) The details as received from State Governments in respect of targets fixed and achievements made by them under Core items of On-Farm Development works i.e. construction of field channels, warabandi, construction of field drains and land levelling are given in the statement-II enclosed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement-I

*Details of release of Central Assistance to States under the
Common Area Development Programme during the period 1995-96 to 1997-98*

(Unit: Rupees in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of State	Central assistance released			Total
		during the years			
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	190.81	99.40	3839.57	4129.78
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	62.00	0.00	124.00	186.00
4.	Bihar	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
5.	Goa	13.81	39.00	20.00	72.81
6.	Gujarat	550.14	444.38	97.11	1091.63
7.	Haryana	1060.00	1247.18	1116.85	3424.03
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4.00	44.02	73.07	121.09
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	277.61	252.23	189.90	719.74
10.	Karnataka	681.80	845.59	437.87	1965.26
11.	Kerala	774.46	466.96	200.00	1441.42
12.	Madhya Pradesh	70.00	65.00	6.25	141.25
13.	Maharashtra	1446.69	1439.92	298.30	3184.91
14.	Manipur	102.04	130.69	86.91	319.64
15.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Orissa	362.82	353.99	231.47	948.28
18.	Rajasthan	2925.57	3948.17	2226.65	9100.39
19.	Tamil Nadu	1212.94	2081.99	552.46	3847.39
20.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21.	Uttar Pradesh	2204.13	2022.60	3057.83	7284.56
22.	West Bengal	206.57	112.19	90.00	408.76
23.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24.	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25.	Central Sector	164.77	242.53	319.88	727.18
Total		12410.16	13835.84	12868.12	38214.12

Note: Daman Ganga Project falls under Gujarat, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli. It is being counted once under Gujarat.

Statement-II*Physical Achievements In respect of Field Channels under the CAD Programme*

(Unit: 000 ha)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	1995-96		1996-97		1997-98	
		Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement (Provisional)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.17	0.09	33.35	0.03	29.20	2.15
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	1.67	0.74	3.05	0.15	1.90	0.44
4.	Bihar	0.84	0.00	120.km	0.00	1.27	30.81 km
5.	Goa	1.45	0.27	0.80	0.10	0.32	0.00
6.	Gujarat	10.31	22.04	29.74	10.53	22.94	7.24
7.	Haryana	34.27	33.95	42.50	35.79	45.83	28.21
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.69	0.01	0.40	0.55	0.84	1.41
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	3.82	3.95	4.49	4.52	4.76	6.97
10.	Karnataka	30.16	13.04	29.90	23.75	17.86	11.03
11.	Kerala	28.50	17.75	18.20	14.39	15.45	7.89
12.	Madhya Pradesh	6.04	8.95	2.88	1.41	4.63	4.23
13.	Maharashtra	28.43	39.49	62.21	20.88	53.94	25.23#
14.	Manipur	2.45	2.50	9.15	2.24	8.26	3.33
15.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Orissa	10.12	8.80	13.00	18.66	6.80	7.00
18.	Rajasthan	24.31	51.83	76.50	69.39	64.00	54.25
19.	Tamil Nadu	52.55	43.94	42.60	41.61	44.74	46.61
20.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21.	Uttar Pradesh	144.03	116.55	121.00	126.87	99.63	112.20
22.	West Bengal	4.19	5.64	8.80	5.35	4.55	0.82
23.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24.	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		385.00	369.54	498.57	376.22	462.92	319.01
				+			+
				120 km			30.81 km

Note : Daman Ganga Project comes under Gujarat, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli. The physical achievements for this project are shown accordingly.

Achievements under Field Channel and Field Drains were clubbed.

Physical Achievements in Respect of Warabandi Under the CAD Programme

(Unit: 000 ha)

Sl No.	Name of the State	1995-96		1996-97		1997-98	
		Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
							(Provisional)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14.53	11.04	32.50	11.49	29.20	4.80
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	1.13	0.00	1.10	0.02	1.75	0.86
4.	Bihar	2.34	0.00	1.16	0.00	7.27	0.00
5.	Goa	1.69	1.50	1.50	1.50	0.80	0.00
6.	Gujarat	20.45	7.06	51.40	12.43	21.00	5.87
7.	Haryana	21.82	9.58	8.59	2.17	0.00	0.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2.01	0.13	0.25	0.25	1.83	2.38
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	31.00	28.37	31.20	30.92	46.06	45.64
10.	Karnataka	8.93	9.63	35.67	7.49	25.67	16.23
11.	Kerala	15.20	3.97	21.25	11.15	14.60	9.11
12.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	8.48	7.00	0.00	2.33	0.17
13.	Maharashtra	15.06	4.25	51.00	4.87	21.50	21.24
14.	Manipur	1.87	1.36	0.90	0.51	1.33	0.57
15.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Orissa	73.82	56.55	60.00	0.00	14.00	15.00
18.	Rajasthan	20.49	53.86	76.50	69.39	64.00	54.25
19.	Tamil Nadu	56.27	58.34	63.55	60.84	72.55	75.31
20.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21.	Uttar Pradesh	293.39	198.45	225.00	204.61	155.00	170.26
22.	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
23.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24.	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		580.00	452.57	669.57	417.64	478.89	421.69

Note : Daman Ganga Project comes under Gujarat, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli. The physical achievements for this project are shown accordingly.

Physical Achievements in Respect of Field Drains under the CAD Programme

(Unit: 000 ha)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	1995-96		1996-97		1997-98	
		Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
							(Provisional)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	28.00	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	0.82	0.30	1.75	0.01	2.78	0.52
4.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.88	0.00
5.	Goa	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Gujarat	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	1.73	0.00
7.	Haryana	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.43
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.43	1.38	1.72	1.40	2.05	2.27
10.	Karnataka	1.00	0.01	12.90	0.66	5.10	0.25
11.	Kerala	0.00	0.00	11.23	4.48	23.30	16.37
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1.51	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13.	Maharashtra	25.02	16.65	62.21	9.81	0.00	0.00
14.	Manipur	1.19	0.98	2.07	0.47	1.48	0.07
15.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Orissa	14.85	9.72	11.40	8.23	5.00	5.06
18.	Rajasthan	0.00	2.87	2.50	2.60	2.50	2.78
19.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21.	Uttar Pradesh	4.00	0.00	705 km	0.00	581 km	453.71 km
22.	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
23.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24.	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		50.00	31.93	105.83	27.66	78.82	27.75
				+		+	+
				705 km		581 km	453.71 km

Note : Daman Ganga Project comes under Gujarat, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli. The physical achievements for this project are shown accordingly.

Physical Achievements in Respect of Land Levelling under the CAD Programme

(Unit: 000 ha)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	1995-96		1996-97		1997-98	
		Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement (Provisional)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4.20	7.41	4.70	6.00	1.20	3.89
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.80	0.00
4.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Goa	0.03	0.01	0.04	0.00	0.03	0.01
6.	Gujarat	0.15	0.00	0.75	0.05	2.17	0.03
7.	Haryana	1.05	0.65	0.63	0.51	0.72	0.47
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.18	2.27	2.57	1.91	1.73	2.27
10.	Karnataka	27.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11.	Kerala	0.11	0.20	0.71	0.08	0.52	0.23
12.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13.	Maharashtra	0.85	0.73	0.00	1.45	0.00	0.00
14.	Manipur	2.30	1.28	2.17	0.00	3.70	0.35
15.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Orissa	0.00	3.73	3.64	0.16	0.00	0.00
18.	Rajasthan	0.00	3.01	2.64	0.60	4.50	3.98
19.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
22.	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.5	0.00
23.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24.	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		37.00	19.29	18.07	10.76	15.42	11.23

Note : Daman Ganga Project comes under Gujarat, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli. The Physical achievements for this project are shown accordingly.

[Translation]

Fall in Production of Cotton

1657. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE:

SHRI D.S. AHIRE:

SHRI MADHAVRAO PATIL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the per hectare productivity of cotton is gradually decreasing;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the extent to which the cotton production per hectare has come down during the last three years; and

(c) If so, the steps being taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The productivity of cotton has shown a rising trend, albeit with fluctuations due to variations in weather conditions.

(c) To increase productivity and production of cotton, the Government is implementing centrally sponsored programme, viz., Intensive Cotton Development Programme in which incentives are provided to farmers for use of quality seeds and location specific hybrid varieties, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation, improved farm implements, etc. Government is also providing price and market support to the farmers by announcing minimum support prices and making arrangements for procurement through the Cotton Corporation of India.

[English]

Setting up of Film Museum

1658. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL:

SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH:

SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a film museum in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the locations proposed for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) to (c) A preliminary proposal to set up a National Museum of Moving Images was submitted by an association called the United Producers Forum. The Forum has been requested to submit a detailed project report for the proposed Museum.

Soil Erosion in Gujarat

1659. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA :

SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the rivers causing excessive soil erosion in Gujarat;

(b) the total land affected as a result thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to check the erosion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Soil erosion along the banks and beds of rivers is a natural phenomena. No serious river erosion problem has been reported in Gujarat.

(b) Data on land affected by soil erosion are not maintained by the Central Government.

(c) Measures for checking soil erosion including their planning and implementation come within the purview of the State Government.

Separate Agro Channel for Karnataka

1660. SHRI H.G. RAMULU: Will the MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has urged the Union Government to provide a separate agro channel on Doordarshan for educating farmers on crop-planning, market and price trend; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All programme matters relating to Doordarshan fall within the purview of Prasar Bharati who have intimated that due to resource constraints it has not been found possible to start a separate Agro Channel. Prasar Bharati have further intimated that Doordarshan regularly telecasts agriculture related programmes on its national channel as well as on regional channels.

[Translation]

Bungling in Post Office

1661. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of theft of stamps of about one crore rupees had come to light in Kanpur (U.P.);

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether the Government had conducted any inquiry into the matter;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether Government propose to formulate any scheme to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):
(a) No such case of theft stamps of about one crore rupees has come to light in Kanpur (UP).

(b) to (f) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

[English]

Installation of Telephone in Rural/Urban Areas

1662. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to meet the increasing telephone demand in rural, urban and metropolitan cities in the country;

(b) the details of the priority accorded any supply of essential equipments for installation of rural telephone exchanges and to provide connectivity all villages and panchayats with PCO's STD and ISD networks; and

(c) the reasons for delay in implementation of the policy for rural connectivity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):
(a) The Government has stepped up investment and annual targets to meet the increasing telephone demand.

The targets and achievements for the last three years and the targets for the current and next financial years are given in the attached statement.

(b) Following priorities/plans have been decided in respect of telephone facilities in rural areas:

(i) Telephone on demand by the year 2002.

(ii) VPTs in all villages by the year 2002.

(iii) STD facilities for all telephone exchanges by the year 2000.

(iv) Reliable transmission media for all telephone exchanges by the year 2002.

(c) The main reasons for delay have been lack of resources/suitable technology and delay in commercial operations by private basic service operators to meet the scattered requirement of rural telecommunications.

Statement

Target/achievement for the last three years and targets for the year 1998-99 and 1999-2000

Year	Target	Achievement (in lakh lines)
1995-96	20.00	21.83
1996-97	24.50	25.65
1997-98	29.00	32.59
1998-99	36.00	
1999-2000	39.00	

Recovery of Blank Passports

1663. SHRI KAMAL NATH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be please to state:

(a) whether thousands of blank passports stolen from Delhi and Uttar Pradesh have been recovered recently;

(b) if so, the total number of passports recovered and the number of passports still missing;

(c) the persons held responsible for the thefts; and

(d) the measures taken to streamline the system of keeping passports in safe custody?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):
(a) and (d) 962 out of a consignment of 1000 blank passport booklets stolen from the Passport Office at Ghaziabad have been seized by the Delhi Police recently. No such incident has taken place in the Regional Passport Office at Delhi.

(c) and (d) Three persons have been arrested in connection with the theft. Apart from police investigation, a departmental enquiry has been initiated regarding procedural lapses at the Passport Office in Ghaziabad and action would be taken against the officials found responsible. Suitable instructions for the safe keeping and accounting of the blank passport booklets in stock have been reiterated to all Passport Offices for strict compliance, to obviate recurrence of such incidents.

Telecommunication Facilities

1664. KUMARI KIM GANGTE:

SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI:

SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA:

SHRI RAJO SINGH:

Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide better telecommunication facilities in Manipur, backward and tribal areas to Uttar Pradesh and backward areas of Goa and Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this direction;

(d) whether the Government have any scheme to construct the building for telephone exchanges in Bihar;

- (e) If so, the details thereof, location-wise; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken are as under:-

- (i) STD facilities for all telephone exchanges by the year 2000.
- (ii) Reliable transmission media for all telephone exchanges by the year 2002.
- (iii) Upgradation of access network by laying underground cables.
- (iv) Introduction of technologies for VPTs.
- (v) Power Plant and batteries of adequate capacity for all exchanges.
- (d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Following steps have taken to expedite construction of exchange buildings in Bihar:-

— Land has been acquired at many places.

— To expedite planning work, building/structural drawings for the exchanges of different capacities have been standardised.

The details of the buildings planned for construction are provided in the enclosed statement.

(f) Not applicable in view of the reply to part (e) of the question.

Statement

Location-wise details where buildings are proposed to be constructed for Telephone Exchanges in Bihar

Location	Place
1	2
Bettiah	Bettiah
	Horsidhi
	Jogapatti
Motihari	Bagaha
	Motihari
	Pakridayal
	Raxaul
	Sugaul
	Madhubaa

1	2	
	Bara Chakia	
Sitamarhi	Parihar	
	Sheohar	
	Pupari	
Muzaffarpur	Raipur	
	Ratwara	
Valsali	Basantpurpatti	
	Valsali	
	Sarai	
	Lalaganj	
	Bhagwanpur	
	Birna lakhansen	
	Mahua	
	Chapra	Chapra
		Ekma
		Sonepur
Dighwara		
Baniyapur		
	Basantpur	
	Mashrakh	
	Taraiyan	
	Garkha	
	Marhaura	
	Parsa	
	Jalalpur	
	Manjhi	
	Maharajganj	
Siwan	Siwan	
	Mairawan	
Darbhanga	Darbhanga (Belalalace)	
	Lokaha	
Samastipur	Khutauna	
	Samastipur	
	Rosera	
	Dalsinghsarai	
	Mohiuddin Nagar	

1	2	1	2
Begusarai	Lakhminiya	Chaibasa	Chaibasa
Khagaria	Muskipur		Chakradherpur
	Parwatta	Palamu	Latehar
	Mahesh Khunt		Navinagar
Madhubani	Madhubani	Arrah	Piro
	Jainagar	Sasaram	Kochas
	Benipatti		Vikramganj
	Ghogardiha	Gaya	Tekari
Saharsa	Simari-Bakhtiyarpur		Kurtha
	Saharsa		Arwal
	Salkhua		Sherghati
Madhepura	Madhepura		Daudnagar
	Raghopur		Lohardaga
	Birpur		
Araria	Araria	Patna	Patelnagar
	Jogabani		Bikram
Purnia	Raniganj		Bihta
	Kaswa		Naubatpur
	Baisi		Punpun
	Puraini		Masaurhi
Bhagalpur	Kahalgaon		Bakhtiyarpur
	Asarganj		Mokamah
	Sultanganj		Barh
	Amarpur		Patna City
	Bausi		Rajgir
Banka	Banka		Chandi
Monghyr	Bariarpur		
	Jhajha		
Deoghar	Deoghar		
Godda	Godda		
Giridih	Giridih		
Hazaribagh	Hazaribagh		
	Barhi		
	Simaria		
Nawadah	Nawadah		
Jamshedpur	Kadma		
	Baharagora		
	Ghatsila		

Funds for Production of Films

1665. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH:

SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have granted funds to some private companies for production and telecast of a number of films in the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the norms/guidelines have been followed in this regard;

- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
 (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) and (b) Funds are provided by Prasar Bharati, Doordarshan to private producers/companies for production of programmes including films under the commissioning scheme. It has been intimated by Prasar Bharati that an amount of Rs. 3960.60 lakhs was sanctioned to 333 private producers/companies for this purpose during the period 1.12.97 to 30.11.1998.

(c) and (d) Prasar Bharati has laid down the following broad criteria/norms for selection of TV serials under Doordarshan's commissioned programme scheme:-

- (i) relevance of the story, theme or subject to the needs of Doordarshan;
- (ii) treatment of the subject/storyline;
- (iii) conformity to the telecast code; and
- (iv) track records of the Director, Executive Producer, Writer, crew etc.

Prasar Bharati has reported that these norms are being strictly followed by Doordarshan.

- (e) Does not arise.

Blacklisting of Indian Firms

1666. SHRI DINSHAW PATEL:

SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether United States administration has recently blacklisted as many as 200 organisations in India;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Indian Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government have taken up the matter with US administration; and
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The US Department of Commerce published on 13th November, 1998 a list of Indian entities that will be subject to US export restrictions. The list includes 40 Indian Government organisations, scientific institutions, public sector undertakings and private companies. Together with their subsidiaries, the number is 208. US Commerce Department licenses will be required for export by US companies to the listed entities.

(b) India has always maintained that such unilateral restrictive measures are unjustified and counter-productive.

GOI issued a statement on November 14, 1998 that "this step is a very unfortunate development. These restrictions interfere with the free flow of trade, technology & finance and have an adverse impact on mutually beneficial business interactions.

The decision reflects the continuation of a coercive approach that is entirely misplaced and counter-productive. Such steps are unhelpful for meaningful discussions towards an improvement in bilateral relations which is desired by both countries."

(c) This matter has been taken strongly with the United States. India's concerns have been made known. Government is also examining the issue from the point of WTO consistency.

(d) There has been no change in the US position so far.

Visas to Indians

1667. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UAE, Qatar and Libyan Government have imposed some restriction on issuing new visiting visas for Indian;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Indian Government have taken up the matter with these Governments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Telephone Connections in Kerala

1668. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total backlog of applications for telephone connections in Kerala; and

(b) the time by which the backlog is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) The waiting list, for telephone connections in Kerala, as on 30.11.1998 was 710495.

(b) 1.06 lakh new telephone connections were provided from 1.4.98 to 30.11.98 and another 2.19 lakh new telephone connections are likely to be provided to clear a part of the waiting list during the current financial year. The remaining waiting list is likely to be cleared progressively by 2001.

Soil Conservation

1669. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched Soil Conservation Schemes to improve production in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the States which are likely to be covered under the above schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Agriculture have launched Five main schemes namely:

(i) Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects (RVP);

(ii) Soil Conservation in the catchments of Flood Prone Rivers (FPR);

(iii) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA);

(iv) Reclamation of Alkali (Usar) Soils; and

(v) National Watershed Development Project in Rainfed Areas (NWDPPRA).

The above schemes improve soil health for sustainable production.

(c) A statement is attached.

Statement

List of Soil Conservation Schemes and States Covered

S.No.	Schemes	States covered
1.	Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Projects (RVP)	Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.
2.	Soil Conservation in the Catchments of Flood Prone Rivers (FPR).	Assam, Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.
3.	Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation areas (WDPSCA).	Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura.
4.	Reclamation of Alkali (usar) Soils.	Haryana, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.
5.	National Watershed Development Project in Rainfed Areas (NWDPPRA).	Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Cotton Board

1670. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has submitted proposals to the Union Government for setting up of a Statutory Cotton Board; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Allotment of Prime Time Slots by Doordarshan

1671. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allotted Doordarshan Prime Time slots to mafia kingpins as reported in the Hindustan Times dated October 3, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts and details in this regard;

(c) whether the staff at Calcutta Doordarshan has protested against such allotment of time slots; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to bring transparency in the allotment of time slots?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government does not allot Doordarshan's time slots. All programme matters relating to Doordarshan fall within the purview of Prasar Bharati, which is an autonomous statutory corporation. Prasar Bharati as per their existing policy do not allow private producers to telecast sponsored news programme on Doordarshan's national channel (primary service). However, M/s Rainbow Communications, Calcutta were given permission to telecast news programme in the regional service of DDK, Calcutta. This was without the approval of the Prasar Bharati Board. Meanwhile, the producer had already approached the Calcutta High Court and obtained an order against any possible interference with the commencement of the telecast. The Board took note of the above lapse and the Court order and directed the C.E.O., Prasar Bharati to file an appeal against the court order.

The programme continues at present with a caption that it is being telecast under court orders. Prasar Bharati moved both the Calcutta High Court and the Supreme Court in the matter. The matter is sub-judice.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) All programme matters fall within the purview of Prasar Bharati and decisions in such cases, including allotment of time slots, are taken by them keeping in view the programme requirements of Doordarshan and over all interest of the organisation.

Allocation of Funds for Development of Agriculture

1672. SHRIMATI JAYABEN BHARATKUMAR THAKKAR:

SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated for the development of agriculture under various Central Sponsored Schemes during the last three years and the current financial year, State-wise;

(b) the funds actually utilised and achievements made by each State during the above period;

(c) whether some State Governments have sought additional funds for the purpose during the current year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The State-wise amount released for the development of agriculture during the last three years and the current financial year is given in the attached statement-I.

(b) The information of funds actually utilised by States and achievements made is not readily available in full.

(c) and (d) The details of additional funds sought by State Governments are given in the attached statement-II.

Statement-I

State-wise Releases of Funds for Development of Agriculture under Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of State	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 till date
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6453.41	8555.43	7725.48	3513.50
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	475.85	221.08	504.66	216.34
3.	Assam	861.00	1054.31	397.48	256.90
4.	Bihar	1537.13	1638.57	1198.83	335.91
5.	Goa	219.34	163.91	100.06	122.40
6.	Gujarat	2852.42	3922.31	4066.30	3105.54
7.	Haryana	3113.22	2790.32	2913.54	1111.06
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1400.71	1084.53	1152.47	451.43
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1219.51	1312.72	1528.60	896.77
10.	Karnataka	5271.14	7062.45	8122.59	5641.11
11.	Kerala	2904.05	4093.26	3568.26	2413.33

1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5973.27	8942.32	6995.95	3238.15
13.	Maharashtra	11249.26	11148.58	9947.47	8357.51
14.	Manipur	1033.77	1228.69	1146.40	292.52
15.	Meghalaya	159.59	442.29	256.28	180.05
16.	Mizoram	501.07	515.54	723.77	619.55
17.	Nagaland	737.61	786.50	884.73	349.77
18.	Orissa	3774.39	4485.80	4116.26	1943.76
19.	Punjab	2966.50	3113.45	2538.78	1146.04
20.	Rajasthan	8595.70	10012.04	9716.43	7341.39
21.	Sikkim	424.90	314.72	340.76	260.82
22.	Tamil Nadu	5698.12	6191.90	5886.95	3864.15
23.	Tripura	308.31	379.39	533.97	360.85
24.	Uttar Pradesh	11023.32	10681.42	10306.87	3557.51
25.	West Bengal	2475.25	734.20	1056.20	530.36
	Total	81225.83	90875.73	85729.09	50106.72

Statement-II*Details of the Additional Funds sought by State Governments during the Current year*

Scheme	State	Outlay 1998-99	Additional Fund sought during 1998-99 (Rs. Lakhs)
Use of	Rajasthan	384.90	100.00
Plastic in	Andhra Pradesh	1410.75	1000.00
Agriculture	Tamil Nadu	1060.00	2400.00
Agricultural	Haryana	47.10	60.00
Mechanisation	Karnataka	163.50	50.00
among	Madhya Pradesh	244.20	205.80
small	Mizoram	4.50	7.50
farmers	Orissa	83.40	216.60

Almati Irrigation Project

1673. DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELLA:

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has given its verdict on the dispute of Almati Irrigation Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure implementation of the verdict of the Supreme Court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Drought in Bihar

1674. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of monsoon rainfall recorded by the meteorological Department during the last three years in various parts of the country;

(b) the names of districts in Bihar where rainfall was less than the estimates of the Meteorological Department;

(c) whether the State Government has made available any details about the situation arising out of drought in seven districts of Palamau Division and the loss occurred on its account;

(d) the details of the proposal sent by the State Government alongwith the assistance sought to meet the losses occurred due to drought;

(e) whether the Union Government have taken any decision thereon;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the details for survey made by former Prime Minister to review the drought situation in the year 1993 and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) The names of districts in Bihar which received deficient rainfall during South West monsoon period (June to September) during 1996 to 1998, as reported by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), are indicated below:

1996 - Palamau, Singbhum, Lohardaga, Bhojpur, East Champaran, Vaishali, Jahanabad

1997 - Madhubani, West Champaran

1998 - Gopalganj, Katihar, Nawada, West Champaran,

Aurangabad.

(c) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Pending Irrigation Schemes

1675. SHRI K.S. RAO:

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of irrigation schemes which were started during the Second Five Year Plan are still incomplete;

(b) if so, the details thereof State-wise and the reasons for their being incomplete;

(c) the amount allocated by the Planning Commission for their completion during each of the last three years;

(d) whether the Government propose to allocate adequate funds for each of the project to avoid its cost escalation;

(e) if so, the other measures being taken by the Government for their expeditious completion; and

(f) the time by which these schemes are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. There are 10 ongoing irrigation projects started in First and Second Five Year Plans which are still incomplete. Details of these projects, amount allocated by the Planning Commission during last 3 years and the time by which they are likely to be completed is given in the Statement enclosed. Irrigation being a State subject. Irrigation projects are taken up for implementation by the State Governments themselves out of their own resources as per their own priorities. The completion of a project depends on various factors, such as its size, availability of land, clearances, geological conditions etc. Equally important are the funds allotted by the State Governments to individual projects.

Statement

Sl. No.	State/ Name of project	Start of Plan	Likely date of completion	Funds allocated during			Remarks
				1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	
				(Rs. in Crores)			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh						
	1. Nagarjuna Sagar	II	IXth Plan	36.00	45.90	33.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Karnataka						
1.	Bhadra	I	IXth Plan	15.00	5.00	6.00	
2.	Tungabhadra Dam & LEC	I	IXth Pal	17.50	10.15	10.00	
3.	Tungabhadra HLC	II	IXth Plan	4.00	3.50	10.00	
4.	Kabini (N.P.)*	II	IXth Plan	*Outlay is not provided by the Planning Commission for non-plan projects in Cauvery basin.			
3.	Madhya Pradesh						
1.	Barna*	II	IXth Plan	N.A.	N.A.	3.62	*Completed
2.	Bhander Canal	I	IXth Plan	N.A.	N.A.	0.10	during VI plan Additional works taken up by State Govts.
4.	Maharashtra						
1.	Khadakwala*	II	IXth plan	20.00 (Taken from State Plan Document)	10.00	75.13	*Planning Commission did not provide funds
5.	West Bengal						
1.	Kangaabati	I	IXth plan	10.00	8.50	10.50	AIEP assistance
2.	Barrage Irr. System of DVC.	I	IXth plan	7.00	2.75	4.00	(As per State Plan Docu- ment)

Allocation of Funds for Schemes

1676. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the scheme implemented in the fields of horticulture, fishery, etc. in Uttar Pradesh particularly in the backward areas during each of the last three years;

(b) the funds made available by the Government for these schemes during the above period, separately;

(c) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research or any such research institute has evolved any new technique for these areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Development of re-

gions including backward areas in Uttar Pradesh is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. However, the Central Government is implementing a number of central and centrally sponsored schemes in Uttar Pradesh, the details of which are given in the attached statement-I.

(b) The amount of funds released to Uttar Pradesh under the above programmes during the last three years were as follows:-

Year	Amount Released (Rs. Crore)
1995-96	112.55
1996-97	110.46
1996-97	106.69

(c) and (d) The details are given in Statement II attached.

Statement-I*List of Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes Implemented in Uttar Pradesh*

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Integrated Cereal Development Programme — Rice. | 23. Reclamation of Alkali Soils |
| 2. Integrated Cereal Development Programme — Wheat. | 24. EEC Alkali Land Rec. Project. |
| 3. Sustainable Development of Sugarcane based Cropping System. | 25. Development of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants. |
| 4. Intensive Cotton Development Programme. | 26. Use of Plastics in Agriculture. |
| 5. Special Jute Development Programme. | 27. Development of Commercial Floriculture. |
| 6. National Pulses Development Project. | 28. Development of Mushroom. |
| 7. Oilseeds Production Programme. | 29. Integrated Development of Tropical, Arid Temperate Zone Fruits. |
| 8. Accelerated Maize Dev. Project. | 30. Development of Root & Tuber Crops. |
| 9. National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas. | 31. Development of Betelvine. |
| 10. National Project on development of Fertiliser use in low Consumption & Rainfed Areas. | 32. Development of Vegetables. |
| 11. Balanced and Integrated use of Fertiliser. | 33. Integrated Development of Spices. |
| 12. Integrated Seed Development Scheme. | 34. Fresh Water Fish Farms. |
| 13. N.S.P. -III | 35. Inland Fisheries Statistics. |
| 14. Streamlining of certified Seeds production of important Indetified Vegetable Crops. | 36. Welfare of Fishermen. |
| 15. Grants in Aid to States/UTs for Setting/Strengthening of State Bio-Control laboratories under Integrated Pest Management Centres. | 37. Training & Extension (Fisheries). |
| 16. Promotion of Agricultural Mechanisation among Small Farmers. | 38. Inland Fish Marketing. |
| 17. Exchange of Farmers within the Country. | 39. Investment in Debentures of LDBs. |
| 18. Farmers Scientists Interaction. | 40. Non Overdue Cover Scheme. |
| 19. Women In Agriculture. | 41. Agriculture Credit Stabilisation Fund. |
| 20. State Land Use Board. | 42. Assistance to Women's Cooperatives. |
| 21. Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Projects. | 43. Assistance to Weaker Section Cooperatives. |
| 22. Soil Conservation in the Catchments of Flood Prone Rivers. | 44. Timely Reporting Scheme. |
| | 45. Improvement of Crop Statistics. |
| | 46. Crop Estimation Survey on Fruit, Vegetables and Minor Crops/Diagnostic Study. |
| | 47. Livestock Census. |
| | 48. Agricultural Census. |

Statement-II*Details of new techniques evolved by Research Institutes located in Uttar Pradesh*

Name of the institute	Research Activities
1. Central Institute of Sub-tropical Horticulture Lucknow.	(a) Mango Hybrid CISH-M-I (b) Guava CISH-G-I. (c) Grafting technology for Mango. (d) Problem of irregular bearing in Mango (e) Portable Mango Harvester.
2. Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture Mukteswar.	(a) Evaluation studies on apple and Walnut.
3. Central Potato Research Station, Modipuram.	Potato Varieties.
4. Research Centre, Faizabad	Opium, Lemongrass, Vetivar, Corriander, Fenugreek, Ginger, Turmeric.
5. Project Directorate of Vegetable Research, Varanasi.	Tomato-KS-17, Bringal-KS-331 Bittergourd-KBG-16. Pea-NDVP-10, NDVP- 8, VL-8 Hybrid Okra-DVR-1, DVR-2, Hybrid Bittergourd-PBOG-2 and Hybrid Tomato-H-24.
6. Cold Water Fisheries Research Centre, Bhimtal.	Exotic Carp. Masheer.

[Translation]

Enhancement of Fund under MPLADS

1677. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:

SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose the enhance the Grants under MPLADS in view of the slow development of the areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The issue of enhancement of MPLAD Scheme funds from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 2 crores per year per MP is under consideration.

[English]

Flood Control

1678. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI:

SHRI H.P. SINGH:

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN AHAMED:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have held any meeting with the Chief Ministers of those States which have been severely affected by the flood and soil erosion; and

(b) if so, the main points discussed therein and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Union Government has not held exclusive meetings with the Chief Ministers of those States which have been severely affected by floods and soil erosion.

(b) Does not arise.

LPT at Bhadrak, Orissa

1679. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Low Power T.V. Transmitter Centre established at Bhadrak in Orissa has been closed recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the alternative arrangements made by the Government to facilitate TV viewers of the area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]**FM Transmitter at Jabalpur**

1680. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether AIR station Jabalpur have sent necessary information regarding introduction of F.M. Transmitter and Vividh Bharati Broadcasting service to the Ministry of information and Broadcasting;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(c) the time by which F.M./Vividh Bharati Broadcasting Services are likely to be started from Jabalpur AIR Station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) and (b) The commissioning of F.M. Transmitter at Jabalpur is held up due to non-availability of staff sanction. The Directorate General, All India Radio has been requested to obtain approval of Prasar Bharati Board for sanctioning of staff for F.M. Transmitter at Jabalpur before it is considered by the Government.

(c) Proposal involving creation of posts requires inter-Ministerial consultation/approval and hence it will not be possible to specify a definite time frame.

Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme

1681. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds allocated to each State Government under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the total funds released by the Union Government to each State during the period; and

(c) the total irrigation potential created as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) State-wise details of funds allocated and released under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme are given in the attached statement.

(c) The total irrigation potential likely to be created on completion of projects receiving Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme assistance is of the order of 126.3 lakhs hectares.

Statement

S. No.	Name of the State	CLA 1996-97		CLA 1997-98 *		CLA 1998-99 **	
		Approved	Released	Approved	Released	Approved	Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	70.50	35.25	160.70	74.00	52.17	52.170
2.	Assam	10.46	05.23	026.20	12.40	10.950	10.950
3.	Bihar	27.00	13.50	053.57	14.04	11.875	11.880
4.	Gujarat	101.72	74.7725	321.40	196.90	112.71	112.710
5.	Goa	00.00	00.00	010.50	05.25	00.000	00.000
6.	Haryana	45.00	32.50	030.00	12.00	05.00	00.000
7.	Himachal Pradesh	00.00	00.00	013.00	06.50	00.00	00.000
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	02.60	01.30	000.00	00.00	00.00	00.000
9.	Karnataka	122.50	61.25	175.00	90.50	61.00	61.000
10.	Kerala	05.00	03.75	030.00	15.00	10.00	00.000
11.	Madhya Pradesh	86.00	63.25	148.00	114.50	54.25	54.000
12.	Maharashtra	28.00	14.00	090.00	55.00	40.305	40.300
13.	Manipur	08.60	04.30	026.00	26.00	08.330	00.000
14.	Orissa	92.10	48.45	090.00	85.00	25.00	00.000
15.	Punjab	90.00	67.505	100.00	100.00	50.00	00.000
16.	Rajasthan	05.35	02.6755	111.45	42.00	51.47	51.470
17.	Tripura	06.67	03.7725	006.00	05.10	09.950	00.000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
18.	Tamil Nadu	40.00	20.00	000.00	00.00	00.00	00.000
19.	Uttar Pradesh	67.00	43.50	153.00	78.00	46.500	00.000
20.	West Bengal	10.00	05.00	040.00	20.00	10.000	10.000
Total		818.50	500.00	1584.82	952.19	556.760	434.730

* By Ministry of Finance

** Upto November, 1998

[English]

Role of NAFED In Controlling the Price of Onions

1682. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the role played by National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation (NAFED) in controlling and supplying the prices of onions in Northern India;

(b) whether the Government propose to streamline the working of the NAFED to make the organisation more consumer friendly; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) As per the directions of the Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India, NAFED procured onions from the Mandis in the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Rajasthan etc. supplied the same to the designated agencies for distribution to the public in Delhi. NAFED also supplied onions to the Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation on their request. In the above operation, as on 2.12.1998 NAFED supplied a quantity of 10,100 MTs of onions.

(b) and (c) The main object of NAFED is to organise, promote and develop the agricultural marketing in the country, for which it is primarily engaged in wholesale marketing activities.

Stamp Vending Units

1683. SHRI M. RAJAIHAH: Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give permission to private parties to start stamp vending units;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this scheme is likely to be introduced in Hyderabad and other cities of the Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to start a new scheme at present. The scheme of licenced stamp vendors is already in existence

whereby stamps and stationery are sold through individuals or firms that are granted licences to undertake such work by the Department.

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

Special Package for Electronic Sector

1684. SHRI M. BAGA REDDY:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have finalised a special package for the growth of electronics sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether the Union Government have also decided to simplify the procedure for import of goods for the electronics sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which it is likely to give a boost to the electronic industry?

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): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. A Special Advance Licensing Scheme has been notified vide Ministry of Commerce Public Notice No. 41 (RTE-98)/1997-2002 dated 16th September, 1998. The Scheme provides access to duty free inputs for export production to electronics sector even in those cases where the standard Input Output norms are not predetermined. The Scheme is expected to give a considerable boost to electronics industry.

Statement

Measures taken for the electronic sector in the revised Exim Policy 1997-2002

- Under Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme (EPCG), the threshold limit for Zero duty for software sector

reduced from Rs. 20 crores to Rs. 10 lakhs and for hardware sector from Rs. 20 Crores to Rs. 1 crore.

2. Special Import Licence entitlement for Electronics Sector for export under Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) has been increased from 15% of Net Foreign Earnings (NFE) to 25% of NFE. SIL benefit allowed to ISO quality certification holders for export of onsite software consultancy services.
3. The depreciation limit for EOU/EPZ/EHTP units in electronics sector has been increased from 70% to 90% over a period of five years.
4. Value addition requirement under Quantity Based advance Licenses done away with.
5. Excise duty reduced on Electronic Calculators, Recorded Audio cassettes, Telecom Software and pagers.
6. Information Technology Software has been exempted from Customs Duty.
7. Depreciation on Computers has been increased to 60%.
8. Donation of computers, imported duty free by EOU/EPZ/STP/EHTP units to recognised non commercial educational institutions, registered charitable hospitals, public libraries, public funded research and development establishments, etc., two years after their use by the said units has been permitted.
9. Value limit of computer systems has been reduced from Rs. 1.5 lakhs to Rs. 70,000/- on imports under SIL.
10. Manufacturer-Importer of Electronic goods having investment of Rs. 3 crores and above, 100% EOUs, units in EPZs and EHTP and STP have been permitted fast track clearance of imported goods.
11. EPCG applications relating to Electronics and Software Sector shall be considered by the Regional Licensing Authorities.
12. Special Advance Licensing Scheme for export of Electronics products has been notified. The scheme provides access to duty free inputs for export production to electronics sector even in those cases where the standard Input Output norms norms are not pre-determined.
13. Ministry of Finance has issued guidelines regarding GDR/ADR linked Stock Option for software companies, to provide incentives to retain their highly skilled software professionals.
14. RBI issued guidelines for sanction of Working Capital Finance to Information Technology and Software Industry.
15. Department of company Affairs has issued Ordinance on 31.10.98 introducing changes in the Companies Act to facilitate issue of Sweat Equity.

Brain-Drain

1685. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA:

SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware of growing discontentment amongst the scientists and engineers of Indian Space Research Organisation;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the number of scientists and engineers left the organisation during the last two years; and
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to redress their grievances and tackle the threat of brain-drain?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir. There is no discontentment among the Scientists/Engineers in the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

(b) Does not arise. 242 Scientists/Engineers have resigned from ISRO during the last two years (since October 1996 till November 1998).

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

Public Grievances

1686. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

- (a) whether the Government have any plan for disposal of public grievances within a time frame;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of public grievances received and disposed-off by the Government during 1996, 1997 and 1998; and
- (d) the number of cases of public grievances rejected by the concerned departments?

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): (a) and (b) The Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances have issued guidelines to all Ministries/Departments to fix time limits for work relating to redress of public grievances. As per the information received, 39 Ministries/Departments have fixed time limits.

(c) The figures relating to receipt and disposal of grievances are maintained on a financial year basis and are mentioned below:

year	No. of grievances received	No. disposed of
1995-96	2,14,516	1,24,957
1996-97	8,71,520	7,38,448
1997-98	7,06,511	4,82,048
1998-99 upto 9/98	2,90,965	1,97,084

(d) The system of grievance redress operates on a decentralised basis. Hence, details regarding rejection etc. are maintained by the individual Ministries/Departments.

World Bank Assistance

1687. SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds provided by the World Bank and other foreign organisations to the State Governments for implementation of irrigation projects during the last three years till date, State-wise; and

(b) the funds utilised by the State Government during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) In respect of externally aided projects, the funds are utilised by State Governments by their own resources for the project and thereafter they claim reimbursement of same from the donor agencies. The details of funds provided and utilised by various State Governments for implementation of various irrigation Projects are as under.

S.No.	State	Name of Project	Donor	Amount of Assistance provided and utilised during 1996-97 to August, 98. (Rs. in Crores)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1. Andhra Pradesh Irrigation Project III	World Bank	220.47
		2. Kumool Cuddapah Canal Project	OECF-Japan	0.01
		3. A.P. Ground Water Project (APWELL)	Govt. of Netherlands	0.90
2.	Haryana	1. Haryana Water Consolidation Project	World Bank	232.35
3.	Karnataka	1. Upper Krishna Project Phase II	World Bank	59.50
		2. Tungabhadra Irri-Pilot Project Phase-II	Govt. of Netherlands	110.50
4.	Kerala	1. Kerala Community Irrigation Project	Govt. of Netherlands	3.02
		2. Kerala Minor Irrigation Project	EEC	10.70

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Gujarat	1. Hydroplus Fuesegates on 4 dams in Gujarat	French	132.63
6.	Maharashtra	1. Project for Water Control System for Diversification on Crops	EEC	26.91
7.	Orissa	1. Orissa Water Resources Consolidation Project	World Bank	256.87
		2. Upper Indravati Irrigation Project	OECF-Japan	40.80
		3. Upper Kolab Irrigation Project	OECF-Japan	28.45
		4. Rengali Irrigation Project	OECF-Japan	14.21
		5. Lift Irrigation Project	Kfw Germany	45.11
		6. Minor Irrigation Project	EEC	0.43
8.	Punjab	1. Punjab Irrigation & Drainage Project	World Bank	199.39
9.	Rajasthan	1. Minor Irrigation Project	Kfw Germany	4.04
		2. Sidhmukh & Nohar Irrigation Project	EEC	53.03
10.	Tamil Nadu	1. Tamil Nadu Water Resources Consolidation Project	World Bank	15.18
		2. Modernisation of Tank Irrigation System Phase II	EEC	15.24
11.	Uttar Pradesh	1. Bundelkhand Integrated Water Resources Mana- gement Project	Govt. of Netherlands	2.67

New Telephone Exchanges		1	2	3	
1688.	SHRI D.S. AHIRE:	14.	Chitegaon	424	
	SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:	15.	Dehegaon	80	
	Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:	16.	Loni	80	
	(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to set up new telephone exchanges in the State of Maharashtra;	17.	Giravali	80	
	(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise;	18.	Sakshal Pimpri	56	
	(c) whether some of the existing telephone exchanges proposed to be modernised and expanded in the State; and	19.	Arvi	56	
	(d) if so, the details thereto?	20.	Dhabepaun	80	
	THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.	21.	Tisgaon	80	
	(b) Details of New Telephone Exchanges proposed to be set up in 1998-99 are furnished in the given statement-I.	22.	Satna	80	
	(c) Yes, Sir.	23.	Gostkhurd	80	
	(d) List of existing Telephone Exchanges proposed to be modernised is enclosed as statement-II. List of exchanges proposed to be expanded in the State during 98-99 is enclosed as statement-III.	24.	Sakhali	184	
	Statement-I	25.	Ganeshpur	80	
	<i>Details of new exchanges proposed to be set up during 1998-99</i>	26.	Anjeni BK	80	
S. No	Exchange	Capacity Planned	27.	Dhaba	80
1	2	3	28.	Bhaler	80
1.	Savadi	3000	29.	Pachora-Bari	80
2.	Chambut	80	30.	Shevge	56
3.	Khadambe	80	31.	Arave	80
4.	Hiradgaon	80	32.	Bhamragad	32
5.	Karegaon	80	33.	Yenapur	80
6.	Amankhan pot	2000	34.	Korchi	80
7.	Kutasa	152	35.	Jalgaon MIDC	3000
8.	Gazipur	152	36.	Faizpur	1000
9.	Karda	152	37.	Wakulni	80
10.	Bhamberl	152	38.	Dabhadl	80
11.	Kasbe Gawhan	80	39.	Kedarkheda	80
12.	Qasadi	152	40.	Mohra	80
13.	Ellora	152	41.	Kalyan	2500
			42.	Vadavali	152
			43.	Khodale	152
			44.	Ambarnath	2000
			45.	Naigaon	2000
			46.	Vasai (E)	2000
			47.	Dholgarwadi	80
			48.	Narewadi	80

1	2	3	1	2	3
49.	Laxmi 1/E	384	84.	Multhan	80
50.	Ghotawade	80	85.	Nimore	80
51.	Jotiba	80	86.	Bhira	152
52.	Bhada	152	87.	Lipniwane	120
53.	Matala	152	88.	Khangaon	120
54.	Latur MIDC	2000	89.	Bhalgaon	56
55.	Satala	152	90.	Palspe	1000
56.	Kohali	184	91.	Pittalwadi	120
57.	Dhamangaon	184	92.	Kolambe	80
58.	Dongargaon	184	93.	Kotluk	80
59.	Dahegaon	184	94.	Tisangi	80
60.	Jawalgaon	88	95.	Mazgaon	80
61.	Manjram	88	96.	Someswar	80
62.	Motarga	88	97.	Karjuve	80
63.	Dabhad	152	98.	Dhavali	80
64.	Tarada Nakka	4000	99.	Kupwad	1000
65.	Shivre	184	100.	Karhar	80
66.	Pimpalgaon	80	101.	Ambheri	80
67.	Satpur	3000	102.	Rajawadi	3000
68.	Kokangaon	80	103.	Sajjamgad	80
69.	Karhe	80	104.	Arey	184
70.	Malegaon	424	105.	Mutat	184
71.	Keshegaon	56	106.	Otawane	184
72.	Sarola	56	107.	Salgar	152
73.	Pimpaldari	80	108.	Malloli	152
74.	Bhogaon	80	109.	Patkhal	152
75.	Murthi	80	110.	Sawaleswar	152
76.	Walki	80	111.	Sonara	80
77.	Balewadi	2000	112.	Kannamwar Gram	80
78.	Dhankwadi	9000	113.	Sindola	80
79.	Gorhe BK	1000	114.	Sita CP1	250
81.	Hadapsar Port	2000	115.	Kalabadevi	10000
81.	Uttam Nagar	2000	116.	Mazgaon-2	6000
82.	Yerwade	3000	117.	Wadala TTML	500
83.	Nimgaon Sawa	80	118.	Prabhadevi-1	10000

1	2	3
119.	Curry Road	10000
120.	Citi Bank	500
121.	ICICI	500
122.	TML IA	1000
123.	Versova-2	5000
124.	Khar-2	4000
125.	Kalina	14000
126.	Juhu NDN	10000
127.	Marol-1	10000
128.	Intl. airport	2000
129.	Bhayander	22000
130.	Dahisar	9250
131.	Kandivli-5	4000
132.	Mudh ISL	1000
133.	Barc	500
134.	BPCL	500
135.	L&T Powai	1000
136.	Ghatkopar-1	4000
137.	Sita EST	7000
138.	Hing Lane	7000
139.	Kurla (GKP)	8000
140.	Mulund-5	3000
141.	W. EST-2	10000
142.	Charai-3	10000
143.	W. EST-2	3000
144.	Mumbra	3000
145.	Diva	250
146.	Bhandup	15000
147.	Ghor	6000
148.	Kalwa	8000
149.	Vashi-1	21000
150.	Vashi-2	3000
151.	VSH STN	1000
152.	Kopkher	5000
153.	Mahape	500

Statement-II*I. Details of Existing Telephone Exchanges proposed to be Modernised during 1998-99.*

S. No	Exchange	Capacity
1.	Ahmed Nagar	3000
2.	Sangamner	1000
3.	Jalgaon	6900
4.	Dombivilli	7000
5.	Latur	4000
6.	Nanded	4200
7.	Nasik R d.	5400
8.	Pune-MHS-I	6500
9.	Sangli	4000
10.	Solapur	9600
11.	Mumbai-Vileparle-I	12500
12.	Sangamner	500
13.	Akola	6300
14.	Badnera	9200
15.	Nasik City	9200
16.	Satara	3900
17.	Mumbai-Wadala-I	8000
18.	Mumbai-Muland-I	15000
		107500

NB : Exchanges at Sl. Nos 1 to 11 had already been modernised.

II. Details of Existing Telephone Exchanges proposed to be Modernised during 1999-2000.

S.No.	Exchange	Capacity	Remarks
1	2	3	4
1.	Amravathi	7200	
2.	Bhiwandi	8000	
3.	Ulhas nagar	10000	
4.	Chandrapur MIDC	400	
5.	Dhule	7000	
6.	Malegaon	4200	
7.	Ichalkaranji	5200	
8.	Pune-MHS-I	3500	
		45500	

Statement-III*Details of Exchanges proposed to be Expanded during 1998-99*

S. No	Exchange	Capacity
1	2	3
1.	Digras (Akola)	424
2.	Karjat (Pathardi)	424
3.	Rahata	576
4.	Srigonda	576
5.	Bargaon Nandur (Pathrdi)	296
6.	Delali Pravare	424
7.	Kopargaon	3000
8.	Rathta (Pathrdi)	576
9.	Rashin	384
10.	Srirampur	500
11.	Ahmed nagar	2500
12.	Ahmed nagar-MIDC	1000
13.	Kedgaon	1000
14.	Sangamner	576
15.	Rahuri	2000
16.	Barshitakli	192
17.	Mangrulpir	704
18.	Risod	1000
19.	Telhara	1000
20.	Akola	4000
21.	Akot	2500
22.	Wasim	2500
23.	Amravathi	1000
24.	Chandur Rly	424
25.	Nangaon (KH)	296
26.	Nangaon Peth	360
27.	Warud	400
28.	Badnera	1000
29.	Achlapur	2500
30.	Jaikwadi (Lasur)	1000
31.	Hatnoor	384

1	2	3
32.	Vaijapur	1000
33.	Sillod	400
34.	Dharur	1000
35.	Shirur	384
36.	Beed	1000
37.	Kada	296
38.	Ambijogai	2500
39.	Parli-V	2500
40.	A. Morgaon (J. Nagar)	296
41.	J. Nagar	704
42.	Salekasa	184
43.	Jawahar nagar (Goregaon)	1000
44.	Gondia	1000
45.	Bhandara	500
46.	Tumsar	2000
47.	Deolgaon Raja	384
48.	Deolgaon Raja	424
49.	Deolgaon Raja	184
50.	Khamgaon	3500
51.	Khamgaon-MIDC	424
52.	Khamgaon-CM	600
53.	Chikli	384
54.	Lonar	424
55.	Nandura	600
56.	Malkapur	500
57.	Buldana	2500
58.	Bembal	184
59.	Cement nagar	576
60.	Bhadravati (Armori)	296
61.	Chandrapur	6000
62.	Majri (Sindewahi)	296
63.	Ballarpur	500
64.	Chandrapur-MIDC	1000
65.	Urja Nagar	1000
66.	Dhule-I	1200

1	2	3	1	2	3
67.	Dhule-I	2000	102.	Dattawad	296
68.	Nandurbar	2500	103.	Kalamba	500
69.	Shirpur	2000	104.	Kurundwad	592
70.	Dondaicha	2000	105.	Warnanagar	400
71.	Gadchiroli	2000	106.	Beed	296
72.	Gadchiroli	400	107.	Dangli	298
73.	Kurkheda	296	108.	Halkarni	296
74.	Bhusaval	32	109.	Herle	328
75.	Jalgaon	1000	110.	Ranaklaa	2000
76.	Jalgaon-RLU	1500	111.	Shiroli	1000
77.	Varangaon OF (Edlabad)	1000	112.	Rukadi	328
78.	Bhadgaon	1000	113.	Jaisinghpur	3000
79.	Parola	1000	114.	Gandhinagar	1500
80.	Varangaon	576	115.	Kalamba	1500
81.	Paldhi	360	116.	Udgir	1000
82.	Jalgaon	7000	117.	Udgir	2500
83.	Ambad	1000	118.	Latur	4000
84.	Bassein-West	7500	119.	Aurad (S)	1000
85.	Ganeshpuri	296	120.	Nilanga	1400
86.	Jawahar	684	121.	Renapur	360
87.	Mankoli	1000	122.	Hingna-MIDC	5000
88.	Nallospora	6000	123.	Kuhi (Kanhan)	296
89.	Ulhas Nagar-Camp.3	4000	124.	Bhivapur (WCL Kandri)	328
90.	Ulhas Nagar-Camp.5	4000	125.	Kalamna	500
91.	Vashind	560	126.	Kamptee	500
92.	Virar	6000	127.	Khamla	500
93.	Waliv	2000	128.	Nari	1600
94.	Angaon	296	129.	Mahal	1500
95.	Atgaon	696	130.	Kalmeshwar	1000
96.	Ulhas Nagar-Camp.123	2000	131.	Kondali	384
97.	Charti	328	132.	Sakardhara	5000
98.	Kudus	576	133.	Nanded	4000
99.	Kudus	328	134.	Nanded-MIDC	2000
100.	Kopar	2000	135.	Sneha Nagar	1000
101.	Ulhas Nagar	4000	136.	Nanded	3000

1	2	3	1	2	3
137.	Bhokar	1400	172.	Pune-Chinchwad	1000
138.	Ardhapur	360	173.	Daund	2500
139.	Loha	360	174.	Pune-Karkee	1000
140.	Nasik Road	3000	175.	Chakkan	2000
141.	Nasik City	9000	176.	Narayangaon	2000
142.	Nasik Road	2500	177.	Pune-City	3000
143.	Ozar	2500	178.	Ala	298
144.	Pimpalgaon	3000	179.	Ala	704
145.	Laslagaon	2500	180.	Pune-Aundh	5000
146.	Manmad	2500	181.	Baramati	2500
147.	Yeola	2000	182.	Baramati-MIDC	1000
148.	Nasik-Canada Cornor	500	183.	Pune-Bhosari	4000
149.	Nasik-Canada Comor	2000	184.	Pune-Cantonment	2900
150.	Nasik-CIDCO	5250	185.	Pune-Chinchwad	3000
151.	Nasik Road	500	186.	Pune-Hadapsar	200
152.	Panchwati	1000	187.	Pune-Kirkee	1000
153.	Muslagaon (N.E.)	360	188.	Puen-MHS-II	3000
154.	Deolali	500	189.	Pune-MKR-II	1000
155.	Rawalgaon	298	190.	Pune-Model Colony	2600
156.	Trimbak	1000	191.	Pune-Sukarvarpath	558
157.	Upnagar	1000	192.	Pune-Yerwada	5000
158.	Osmanabad	500	193.	Pune-City	2000
159.	Kallam	1000	194.	Pune-Dehu Road	700
160.	Omang	1000	195.	Pune-Loni	1000
161.	Ternanagan	424	196.	Malegaon	1000
162.	Washim	360	197.	Nira	424
163.	Jintur	1000	198.	Saswad	500
164.	Parbhani-MIDC	1000	199.	Talegaon Dalmdhare	298
165.	Yeldari	384	200.	Pune-Talegaon	1000
166.	Parbhani	500	201.	Varavand (Patas)	298
167.	Pathri	380	202.	Pune-Chinchwad	3000
168.	Saitu	400	203.	Indapur	400
169.	Hingoli	2000	204.	Kurkumbh	360
170.	Pune-Shivaji Nagar	12000	205.	Lonovaia	1000
171.	Pune-Anand Nagar	5000	206.	Naarapur	360

1	2	3	1	2	3
207.	Patas	360	242.	Kundal	296
208.	BM-Alibagh	1000	243.	Islampur	1250
209.	Borli Panchayat	768	244.	Islampur-II	2000
210.	Deorukh (Morba)	1000	245.	Sangli-Market Yard	2000
211.	Dhatav	768	246.	Sangli	4000
212.	LPCL	400	247.	Dahiwadi	1000
213.	Mangaon	400	248.	Koregaon	400
214.	Srivardhan	400	249.	Phalton	500
215.	Thai	384	250.	Phalton	576
216.	Nandgaon (Murud)	424	251.	Surur	1000
217.	Birwadi	360	252.	Belawade (KRD MIDC)	296
218.	Chirner	296	253.	Koynanagar	296
219.	Khopoli	1000	254.	Wather Station	296
220.	Nizampur	360	255.	Deogad	1000
221.	Patalganga	1000	256.	Phondaghat	360
222.	Pen	1000	257.	Kudal	2000
223.	Roha	400	258.	Jeur	296
224.	Alibag	8000	259.	Solapur	5500
225.	Poynad	2000	260.	Solapur	1500
226.	Revdanda	2000	261.	Akluj	2000
227.	Thai	2000	262.	Bhugaon	360
228.	Rajapur	872	263.	Sewagram	600
229.	Mandangad	296	264.	Karanja	296
230.	Savarda	296	265.	Selco	296
231.	Chiplun	8000	266.	Pusad	2000
232.	Loni-PT	2000	267.	Wani	2000
233.	Dapoli	2000	268.	Relegaon	384
234.	Khed	2000	269.	Lohara	296
235.	Kawalpur	576	270.	Ner	1000
236.	Kirloskarwadi	400	271.	Yeotmal	1000
237.	Kupwad Town	600	272.	Mumbai-Cuffeparade	4000
238.	Mhaisai	384	273.	Mumbai-Cooperage-1	5000
239.	Palus	1000	274.	Mumbai-Fountain-4	2000
240.	Ankhalkop	1000	275.	Mumbai-Cooperage-6	3000
241.	Kasegaon	296	276.	Mumbai-Katbadevi (CT1)	2000

1	2	3	1	2	3
277.	Mumbai-Gamdevi-1	2000	312.	Mumbai-Mankhurd-2	500
278.	Mumbai-Mazgaon-1	1000	313.	Mumbai-Mankhurd-3+RSU	3000
279.	Mumbai-Gamdevi-3 +CNEs	6000	314.	Mumbai-Chembur	6250
280.	Mumbai-Byculla-1	4000	315.	Mumbai-GHP-4	2000
281.	Mumbai-Worli-2	5000	316.	Mumbai-Godrej	2000
282.	Mumbai-Worli-3	3000	317.	Mumbai-Powai	4000
283.	Mumbai-Prabhadevi (RSU+CNE)	2000	318.	Mumbai-Nityananda Nagar	1000
284.	Mumbai-Shivaji Park	2000	319.	Mumbai-Cheral-1	1000
285.	Mumbai-Wadala-3	13000	320.	Mumbai-Wagle Estate-1	15000
286.	Mumbai-Sion-1	4000	321.	Mumbai-Mulund-5	13000
287.	Mumbai-Sion-2	3500	322.	Mumbai-Panchpakhadi	500
288.	Mumbai-Bandra-2	3000	323.	Mumbai-Mumbra	3000
289.	Mumbai-Bandra-3 + CNE	3256	324.	Mumbai-Vashi-2	1000
290.	Mumbai-BDR-KRL Camp	8000	325.	Mumbai-Turbhe-2+CNE	2000
291.	Mumbai-Khar-1	2000	326.	Mumbai-Belapur	2000
292.	Mumbai-Vile Parle-3	3000	327.	Mumbai-Rebale	2000
293.	Mumbai-Vile Parle-4	12500	328.	Mumbai-Panvel	3000
294.	Mumbai-Versova+RDLC	6000	329.	Mumbai-Kalamboli RSU+CNE	1000
295.	Mumbai-Versova-2	3000	330.	Mumbai-Uran	1000
296.	Mumbai-Goregaon-2 + CNE	5000	331.	Mumbai-Nerul RSU+CNE	4250
297.	Mumbai-Gokuldhham	112	332.	Mumbai-Vashi.Sec-7	1000
298.	Mumbai-Goregaon-2	8000	333.	Mumbai-Sheva	250
299.	Mumbai-Seepz	1000	334.	Mumbai-Taloja	1000
300.	Mumbai-Charkop-2	1000	Full Time Programme on LPTs		
301.	Mumbai-Borivalli-1	7500	1689. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:-		
302.	Mumbai-Bhayandar (W) RDLC	1500	(a) whether the people of Martandom and the neighbourhood are demanding full time transmission of the LPT at Martandom Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu;		
303.	Mumbai-Bhayandar (E) RDLC	11000	(b) if so, the details thereof;		
304.	Mumbai-Samata nagar	5000	(c) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to provide full time programmes from various LPTs in the country; and		
305.	Mumbai-Mira Road	3000	(d) if so, the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?		
306.	Mumbai-Malad-2	5000	THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) Yes, Sir.		
307.	Mumbai-Shimpoll	1000			
308.	Mumbai-Bhayandar (W)	6000			
309.	Mumbai-Samata nagar	2000			
310.	Mumbai-Dahisar	5000			
311.	Mumbai-Mira Road	2000			

(b) Apart from a Parliament question by Shri N. Dennis, MP, replied in Lok Sabha on 01.06. 1998, requests have been received from various quarters for providing full transmission from LPT, Marthandom.

(c) and (d) Provision of full time programmes in the LPT centres not having such facilities is linked to sanction and deployment of full complement of staff at these centres. Sanction and deployment of requisite staff at these centres including Marthandom of Kanyakumari District is a continuous process for which necessary steps are being taken but it is not possible to give a definite time frame.

National Postal Policy

1690. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:

DR. RAVI MALLU:

Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are formulating a new national postal policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof including changes in the Indian Post Office Act, 1898;

(c) whether the present policy is highly restrictive as the Government have monopoly over the conveyance of letters up to 2 Kg.;

(d) the time by which a final decision for amending this Act is likely to be taken;

(e) whether due to involvement of private courier services in this field, the Government have been suffering losses worth crores of rupees; and

(f) if so, the extent to which the new postal policy is going to curb such practices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) The draft National Postal Policy is at present under active consideration. An exercise to amend the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 in the context of technological developments and new liberalisation policy as well as qualitative changes taking place on postal scene the world over, has been undertaken and the same is at an advanced stage of finalisation.

(c) No Sir. The exclusive privilege vested in the Central Government for conveying post from one place to another pertains only to letters upto 2kg.

(d) While it is not possible to indicate the specific time by which the process of amending the Act is likely to be completed, the matter is being processed expeditiously with a view to getting the amendments enacted as early as possible.

(e) and (f) Private couriers are engaged in handling of documents and parcels and are not supposed to carry letters in view of Government monopoly over conveyance of letters in terms of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898. The Department

is trying to expand and upgrade Speed Post Service and other value added services for generating additional resources and facing competition from Private Courier Services.

Gokul Gram Yojana

1691. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received a proposal from the Government of Gujarat for allocation of funds for the implementation of Gokul Gram Yojana;

(b) if so, the allocation made for the purpose;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to enforce this scheme in other States also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The Government of Gujarat have included the scheme of Gokul Gram Yojana, in their Annual Plan 1998-99. The Scheme aims at providing basic infrastructure to all the villages within a time frame of five years. Under the Scheme, twelve activities have been selected, which include, all weather approach road, drinking water, construction of village ponds with bathing ghats, renovation of existing tanks, community latrines, soak pits and soak wells for village cleanliness, building for primary schools, community halls, community workshops, village afforestation and electrification etc. For the Annual Plan 1998-99, the State Government have allocated Rs. 150 crores to cover 10932 villages. The Planning Commission have agreed to provide Rs. 21 crores as Central assistance for the Scheme for the Annual Plan 1998-99.

(c) and (d) No Sir.

[Translation]

Muhukhuri Fee charged from Farmer

1692. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total fee charged from the cattle breeders for administering mouth injection (Muhukhuri) in cattle;

(b) whether the Central and State Governments provide grants for this injection;

(c) whether in spite of this the poor farmer is unable to bear the cost of this injection which is to be administered to their cattle on several occasions;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government and State Governments propose to bear the total cost of this injection; and

(e) if so, the time by which the approval is likely to be accorded in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Fifty percent of the cost of the vaccine is charged from the cattle breeders under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Foot and Mouth Diseases Control".

- (b) Yes, Sir.
- (c) So far no such information has been received.
- (d) No, Sir.
- (e) Does not arise.

[English]

Foreign Investment in Telecom Sector

1693. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have prepared a major policy to attract foreign investment in the telecom sector;
- (b) if so, whether any concrete measures have been worked out in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the time by which the policy is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) to (c) The Government have already announced liberal policy for attracting Foreign Investment in Telecom Sector as indicated below:-

- (i) Foreign equity participation upto 51% on automatic basis and more than 51% foreign equity through specific approval in the Telecom Equipment Manufacturing sector.
- (ii) 49% foreign equity participation in Basic Telephone Services is permitted.
- (iii) 51% foreign equity is allowed in E-Mail, Voice-Mail, On line Information and Data Retrieval, On line Information and Data Processing Enhanced/Value Added Facsimile Including Store and Forward, Store and Retrieve Services.
- (iv) 49% foreign equity is allowed in Cellular Mobile Telephone, Radio Paging, V-SAT, Global Mobile Personal Communications, Radio Trunking, Internet etc.
- (v) 49% equity in Investment Companies set up for investment in Telecom Sector is permitted. Investment by these companies in a licensee company treated as part of domestic equity and will not be counted against "Total Foreign Equity".
- (vi) Limit on External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) has been increased from 30% to 50% of the project cost.
- (d) Question does not arise.

Internet Services

1694. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL: Will the minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. propose to set up additional routes in Maharashtra in order to enable to gain easy access to internet services especially in small towns;
- (b) if so, the time by which the same are likely to be set up;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government propose to provide toll free access over STD lines for access to Internet till such time VSNL set up gateways; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

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

- (b) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.
- (c) Additional nodes are being set up by DOT itself. The DOT Internet nodes at Kolhapur, Kalyan, Bhiwani, Jalgaon and Nanded are likely to be commissioned soon. DOT internet nodes at Nasik, Nagpur and Aurangabad are already working.
- (d) and (e) Govt. has decided to provide Access to the nearest node on local call basis instead of STD charges.

Recruitment of Staff for DD/AIR

1695. SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR :

SHRI JUAL ORAM :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the recruitment of technical and other staff for Doordarshan and Akashwani Kendras is lying pending since long time;
- (b) if so, whether many Doordarshan and Akashwani Kendras are not functioning properly for want of sufficient technical and other staff; and
- (c) if so, the remedial measures taken for the recruitment of sufficient staff for the proper functioning of Doordarshan Akashwani Kendras?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) Due to problems related to cadre restructuring and anomalies in the pay scale arising out of revision of pay scale of Engineering Assistants subsequent to a Supreme Court judgement, the recruitment to technical posts of subordinate Engineering cadres of AIR and Doordarshan could not be made after 1995.

- (b) No, Sir. Prasar Bharati has intimated that AIR

stations and Doordarshan Kendras are functioning normally despite constraints of staff. However, only part time transmission is being provided by some Transmitters due to shortage of staff. Some Doordarshan Transmitters and AIR stations which are technically ready could not be commissioned pending staff sanctions.

(c) A time bound action Plan to fill up the vacancies has already been undertaken.

Research Centres

1696. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN:

SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names and locations of research centres and projects under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the details of the expenditure incurred on them

during the last three years, centre-wise and project-wise; and

(c) the details of achievements of these research centres during the said period and the impact of these research works on the agricultural production in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Sir, the names and locations of Research Centres and Projects under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in Uttar Pradesh are as per statement-I enclosed.

(b) The details of expenditure on these Research Centres/Projects etc. for the last three years are also given in Annexe-I.

(c) The details of achievements of these Research Centres/Projects etc. are given in statement-II. The impact of these research achievements have been very significant in increasing the overall production and productivity on sustainable basis.

Statement-I

Details of Release of Grants to Institutes and NRCS in Uttar Pradesh

	(Rs in lakh)	
	Total for 3 Years*	
	1995-1998	
	Plan	Non-Plan
1	2	3
Central Soil & Water Con. Research & Training Institute, Dehradun	484.79	1682.33
Indian Grassland & Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi	320.41	1434.39
Vivekanand Parvatiya Krishi Anusandhan Shala, Almora	295.00	382.93
Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow	266.58	1011.16
Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar	1281.06	5579.77
Central Institute of Subtropical Horticulture, Lucknow	454.99	581.58
National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, Lucknow	953.39	153.50
Central Institute of Research on Goat, Makhdoom	417.16	553.12
Central Avian Research Institute, Izatnagar	334.31	730.09
Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Kanpur	448.81	568.74
N.R.C.- Agro-frestry, Jhansi	291.11	116.44
N.R.C.- Cold Water Fisheries, Bhimtal	99.66	95.95
P.D. Cattle, Meerut	455.33	126.62
P.D. - Vegetable, Varanasi	848.05	77.13
P.D. - Cropping System Research, Modipuram	410.28	182.59
AICRP Cropping System Research	1012.00	

1	2	3
AICRP Agromet	26.15	
AICRP Dryland	35.52	
AICRP on Weed Control	30.44	
AICRP on Microbiological Decompositon	4.40	
AICRP on Micro & Secondary Nutrients	24.62	
AICRP on Long Term Fertilizer Experiments	5.67	
AICRP on Soil Test Crop Relations	13.63	
AICRP - Apple Scab, Pantnagar	5.46	
AICRP - Subtropical Fruits, Pantnagar	8.81	
AICRP - Vegetables, Pantnagar	9.04	
AICRP - National Seed, Pantnagar	5.81	
AICRP - Potato, Pantnagar	13.62	
AICRP - Mushroom, Pantnagar	8.01	
AICRP - Arid Zone Fruits, Faizabad	12.65	
AICRP - Medicinal & Aromatics, Faizabad	18.02	
AICRP - Spices, Kumarganj	5.60	
AICRP - Vegetable, Faizabad	6.78	
AICRP - Potato, Faizabad	9.76	
AICRP - Mushroom, Faizabad	8.58	
AICRP - Tuber Crops, Faizabad	4.06	
AICRP - Vegetable, Kanpur	8.54	
AICRP - National Seed, Kanpur	11.72	
AICRP - Energy Renewable, Pantnagar	17.71	
AICRP - Farm Implements Machinery, Allahabad	13.69	
AICRP - Farm Implements Machinery, Pantnagar	7.92	
AICRP - Jaggery and Khandsari, Pantnagar	8.31	
AICRP - Post Harvest Technology, Pantnagar	12.43	
AICRP - Power Tiller, Faizabad	17.26	
AICRP - Renewable Energy Sources, Pantnagar	10.62	
AICRP - Utilisation of Animal Energy, Allahabad	27.75	
AICRP - Pigeonpea, Varanasi	49.16	
AICRP - Chickpea, Kanpur	34.98	
AICRP - Groundnut, Mainpuri	8.35	
AICRP - Rapeseed and Mustard, Kanpur/Varanasi/Pantnagar/Faizabad	47.39	
AICRP - MULLARP, Pantnagar/Faizabad	75.66	

1	2	3
AICRP - Soyabean, Pantnagar	12.01	
AICRP - Oilseeds/Kanpur/Muranipur/Faizabad/Mainpuri	93.40	
AICRP - Sugarcane, Pantnagar/Shahjahanpur	20.38	
AICRP - Cotton, Mathura	15.11	
AICRP - Jute and Allied Fibres, Bahraich	15.77	
AICRP - Tobacco, Saralmiran	3.93	
AICRP - Rice, Faizabad/Pantnagar/Kanpur/Varanasi/Godraghat	99.05	
AICRP - Wheat, Faizabad/Kanpur/Pantnagar/Varanasi	111.46	
AICRP - Maize, Aul/Kanpur/Behraich/Pantnagar/Bulandshahr	87.02	
AICRP - Sorghum, Pantnagar/Muranipur	37.74	
AICRP - Barley, Kanpur/Faizabad/Varanasi	49.23	
AICRP - Small Millets, Rani Chauri	11.17	
AICRP - Unutilised & Under Utilised Plants, Faizabad	3.49	
AICRP - Forage, Faizabad/Pantnagar	20.78	
AICRP - R&D efforts in Hybrid, Pantnagar/Kanpur/Almora/Faizabad	57.91	
AICRP - Breeder Seed Production Kanpur/Pantnagar/Mainpuri	21.40	
AICRP - National Seed, Varanasi/Kanpur/Pantnagar/Almora/Jhansi	165.16	
AICRP - White Grub, Pantnagar	6.49	
AICRP - Honey Bee, Pantnagar	7.34	
AICRP - Biological Control, Pantnagar	7.07	
AICRP - Nematodes, Kanpur	3.43	
AICRP - Pesticides Residues, Kanpur	10.68	
AICRP - Agril. Acarology, Varanasi	6.44	
CIFE Training Centre, Chinhat, Lucknow	70.95	
Krishi Vigyan Kendras		
Shahjahanpur	35.02	
Pithoragarh	54.30	
Tehri Garhwal	54.57	
Bijnaur	61.46	
Saharanpur	40.20	
Badayun	80.65	
Ghaziabad	54.51	
Rampur	64.05	
Baharaich	50.97	
Balia	42.35	

	1	2	3
Mau		61.95	
Varanasi		40.10	
Basti		66.42	
Jhansi		43.40	
Mathura		66.77	
Rai Bareilly		28.25	
Fatehpur		39.80	
Aligarh		47.25	
Lucknow		43.85	
Muzaffarnagar		63.16	
Sultanpur		58.11	
Etah		87.26	
Ghonda		62.95	
Banda		54.06	
Allahabad		77.84	
Sidharth Nagar		56.99	
Hastinapur		54.66	
Izatnagar		69.60	
Total		11476.50	13276.34

NRC = National Research Centre; PD = Project Directorates
AICRF = All India Coordinated Research Projects

Statement-II

Significant Achievements During Last Three Years

Pulses: Three new varieties of chickpea (DCP 92-3, Karnal Chana 1-1, and WCG-1), two varieties of pigeonpea (H82-1 and Sarita), four varieties of black gram (KU-301, UG 218, LBG 648 and Vamvan-2) and five varieties of other pulse crops (one mungbean i.e. Pant munbg-4, two lentil varieties i.e. DPL 62 and WBL 58, one variety of lathyrus i.e. Bio L 212 and one variety of field pea i.e. HFP 8712) were released and notified for cultivation. A new hybrid of pigeonpea AKPH 4101 was identified for pre release multiplication. Most of the varieties released for cultivation are resistant to important diseases which are likely to protect the crop from the on slough of serious disease problem.

Effective weed management in case of late sown chickpea can be achieved by pre-emergence application of pendimethalin @ 0.75 kg/ha, integrated with one hand weeding 45 days after sowing. Results of experiments have indicated good potential of pre-rabi pigeonpea in coastal region of the country in

sequential cropping.

Forage Crops: During the year nine forage crop varieties consisting of fodder sorghum (3) cowpea (2), Shaftal (1) Dinanath grass (1) Napier Bajra Hybrid (1) and barseem (1) were released and notified.

Sugarcane: Seven new varieties viz. Co Pant 90223, Bo 120, Co Bln 9605, Co 86249, Co 83711, CoM 88121 and CoJn 86141 have been released for commercial cultivation in different agroclimatic zones of the country. Three of them (Co Pant 90223, Bo 120 and Co 86249) are moderately resistant to red rot. A sugarcane cutter-planter has been developed which is about 40 per cent economical in terms of money and energy for planting compared to conventional method.

Fruits: A mango hybrid, CISH-M-2, a cross of Dashehari × Chausa performed excellently. This hybrid has good potential because of its sooty mould free fruit surface even after exposure to heavy rains. The fruits are similar to those of Dashehari but mature 15 after Dashehari.

Two guava selections, viz. CISH-G-2 and CISH-G-3 were found to be promising. CISH-G-2 has attractive fruits with crimson colour and white strips with soft and few seeds. CISH-G-3 has attractive fruits with pink flesh. It is suitable for both table and processing purposes. The pink colour in the beverage remains stable for more than a year of storage.

Vegetable: In vegetable crops, 5 hybrids and 4 varieties have been identified suitable for cultivation in different regions as below :

Crop	Hybrid	Variety
Brinjal	Phule Hybrid-2	
	Pusa Hybrid-9	BB-13
Chillies	ARCH-236	
	HOE-888	
Cabbage	Nath-501	
Pea		NDVP-8
Onion		PBR-5
French Bean		IHR-909

* A number of improved agro-techniques such as fertilizer application through basal, top dressing and foliar spray, spacing and herbicidal application have been worked out and recommended for different vegetable crops for different regions for higher economic returns. For pest and disease control, improved schedules and chemicals have been worked out/identified and recommended to minimize incidence.

Natural Resource Management: The brief achievements are as under:

- * Technology for component crops developed for efficient resource use and higher yields:
 - Optimum planting time
 - Crop geometry and seed rate
 - Fertilizer requirement and application scheduling
 - Weed control measures
 - Irrigation scheduling
- * Optimum varietal combinations for various crop sequences identified
- * Tillage requirements under different cropping systems
- * Factors limiting crop yields on farmers fields identified.
- * Crop responses to N, P, K, Zn and S worked out
- * Efficient sources of fertilizers identified for different crops and soil types:

- * Organic manures evaluated for increasing nutrient use efficiencies.
- * INM in different cropping systems.
- * Effect of long term chemical fertilizer use on crop yields and soil fertility studied.
- * Options for introducing legumes in cereal-cereal cropping systems worked out.
- * Optimum crop combinations and planting geometry for intercropping system developed.

The useful proven results are being demonstrated to the farmers by the concerned SAUs and they have identified helped to boost the stability the productivity of different crops. These projects mainly aim at the natural resource management, therefore, appropriate recommendations of crop varieties and efficient use has helped for increased productivity per unit area.

Animal Health: Epidemiological studies revealed incidence of Brucellosis in large and small ruminants. In general, the positive sera predominantly contained *Brucella abortus* as compared to *Brucella melitensis* antibodies and is an important epidemiological observation in the backdrop of widespread bovine brucellosis in agrarian country.

Using an indigenously developed AVIDIN-Biotin ELISA, a national serological survey of bovine serum samples showed evidence of wide spread IBR infection in buffaloes in all the 20 States/UTs.

ADMAS, the nodal laboratory for National Project for Rinderpest Eradication of Govt. of India, continued in examining samples from the states and confirmed the absence of any subtle rinderpest virus activity in the country. In a related study, ADMAS reported the prevalence of pests des petits ruminants antibodies in of sheep and goats and bovines in different parts of the country. These first records are the significant contributions. An exclusive registry of 6.34 lakh villages has been computed for drawing national sampling frames for disease monitoring and surveillance. This has been put to use for national rinderpest surveillance programme.

A new and innovative approach to define, delineate and demarcate national micro level ecopatho zones of livestock diseases based on specific landscapes, livestock demography, agro-geoclimatic and human interventions have been achieved. It is expected that this unique approach will strengthen disease monitoring forecasting, control and export strategies.

For the first time in the country the technique is in use for molecular characterization of outbreak strains of FMD virus. As it has been established that ID gene codes for important viral polypeptide VP1, which plays a significant role in imparting immunogenicity/antigenicity to the virus; a simple, specific and rapid technique has been developed. The ID genomic region of 60 type O, 30 type Asia 1 and 4 each of types A and C isolates were successfully amplified with desired length of PCR products without any cross reactivity. The phylogenetic analysis were carried out, dendrogram and phylogenetic tree were constructed.

Sero-surveillance of Equine Infectious Anaemia (EIA) revealed a negative status after August, 1996. Sustained surveillance and monitoring studies brought down incidence of the disease gradually by detection and elimination of positive reactors along with other control measures to a level of negative status during last one year.

Sero epidemiological studies against Equine Herpes Virus (EHV-1) revealed incidence of EHV-1 antibodies while sero-surveillance studies against equine influenza A/Equi-1 (H N) and A/Equi-2 H N) employing A/Equi-1/Prague/56 and A/Equi-2/Ludhiana/87 antigens by hemagglutination inhibition test indicated a negative status of the disease.

A smooth lipo-polysaccharide based Avidin-Biotin ELISA kit for serological diagnosis of bovine brucellosis was developed after elaborate laboratory trials. The sensitivity and specificity of ADMAS brucellosis kit was similar to that of monoclonal based Indirect ELISA kit produced by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Vienna. This is a milestone in the production of high quality and cost effective diagnostic kits in the country.

An Indian isolate of Gumboro Disease virus was adopted and modified in cell culture. This was found to be suitable for use as vaccine strain-Gumbovan-394.

Livestock Improvement : The young bucks of Jamunapari goat breed were selected on the basis of an index combining the milk yield of dam and 6 to 9 month body weight. Mean body weight of kids at birth, three and six months were 2.90±0.06, 9.78±0.41 and 11.78±0.42 kg respectively.

Animal Nutrition:

Goat : Feed pellets (30% dry subabool leaves +70% concentrate mixtures) were prepared with the help of power driven feed pelleting machine and fed to 6 adult Marwari male goats at the rate of 300 g/day/animal. Another group of six animals of similar age, sex and breed was also fed @ 300 g/day above concentrate mixture (maize 20%, sorghum 15%, G.N.C. expeller 20% GNC doc 15%, wheat bran 27%, mineral mixture 1.5% and salt 1.5%) without adding subabool leaves. All the above 12 animals irrespective of treatment groups were also getting Lucerne (*medicago sativa*) hay ad lib. Dry matter intake kg/d/100 kg body weight was found to be 3.12 and 3.22 kg in groups I and II respectively. Intake of CP and TDN per kg. W was found to be 10.14, 10.28, 45.95 g respectively. Thus concentrate mixture upto 30% can safely replaced dry subabool leaves in pelleted feed of goats.

Kid feeder with watering device (CIRG-KFR-4) suitable for kids between the age of 6 to 12 months was completed and tested for its performance. This equipment completed the set of goat feeders for various age groups (starting from day 1 to adult). These equipments are capable of reducing the wastage and contamination of feed materials. A survey undertaken in the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh revealed that a wide variety of structures, feeders and watchers are being used without any standardizations.

Cattle : Feeding of either low grain or grainless diets, to spare the same for human consumption with sufficient

vegetable protein source and cheaper by products like wheat bran/rice bran alongwith commonly available roughages (wheat bhoosa) in case of calves and green fodder/berseem/oat/maize in case of milk cows sustained a growth rate of 500-600 gm/day in the former and around 10 kg milk production in the latter respectively.

Feeding of 20% higher protein than the level recommended by NRC (1989) were given to crossbred female calves shows higher body weight gain 780 gm/day as compared to 600 gm/day in control group.

A strain of streptococcus bovis having DHP degrading ability was isolated from the rumen of a goat fed leucaena was further transferred inter ruminally to cattle and buffalo, which were put on leucaena as a sole diet. Even after ingesting more than the toxic levels of the toxins for 28 days, the toxicity symptoms were not noticed in any of the animals. Complete degradation of 3,4 DHP in-vitro suggest that the pure culture gets colonized in the rumen of cattle and buffalo, without affecting the rumen fermentation pattern adversely. The culture can be commercially developed a probiotic for ruminants susceptible to leucaena feeding.

Animal Physiology : Seminal characteristics of Barbari, Jamunapari, Jakhra Kutchi, Marwari and Sirohi goat breeds were evaluated for semen volumes consistency and reaction period. Average sperm concentration was 4020.4±70 million/ml. However, Kutchi and Jamunapari had lower concentration. Fifty goats inseminated with freshly diluted semen by deep cervical A.I. technique resulted in 80% fertility whereas fifteen goats inseminated with frozen semen by same technique gave 60% fertility. Maximum testicular development was observed at the age of 4-5 months in Barbari and Sirohi whereas it was at 3-4 months in Kutchi. In fertility upto 11.95% was observed in goats. Nine cases of reproductive disorders were treated. Luteal cysts were observed. Using hormone and non-hormonal preparations, oestrus was induced in 10 anestrus goats.

Animal Products Technology : Studies carried out at CARI revealed that hot deboned meat could be advantageously utilized in the preparation of comminuted products eliminating chilling and ageing process. Chicken production packaging remain microbiologically safe and organoleptically acceptable upto 3 weeks under refrigeration (-5C) and upto 3 months under frozen storage (-18c) condition.

Fish Genetic Resources : Gene banking through sperm cryopreservation provides a potent tool for increasing aquaculture production as well as for conservation of germplasm resources. The mini fish gene bank established in 1989 by National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources as an experiment, has proved the long term viability of frozen sperms, contributed significantly to transfer of germplasm and has formed the base for diversification to newer species as well as improving of existing technique.

The gene bank has sperms of nine species. These include commercial species like catla, Rohu, Mrigal, Common carp, Rainbow trout and endangered species like Golden Mahseer, Deccan Mahseer and Hilsa. The success has been achieved

in using cryopreserved sperm as a vehicle to transfer germplasm for crossbreeding programme between distant and discrete populations.

Survey of Coldwater Hill Streams : With the view to restore and develop the populations of golden mahseer and snow-trout, fishes of economic value of himalayan uplands, a detailed survey and bioecological studies of Kumaon resources have been conducted. Potential areas of Ladhiya river, Kali, Gori, Kosi and Ramganga system have been identified for development of their fisheries. Selected sites of some rivers have also been ranched with the seed of golden mahseer.

Commodities Boards

1697. SHRI ANNASAHEB M. K. PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received a request to set up Commodities Boards like cotton, chillies, mangoes, turmeric, sugar on the lines of Coffee Board etc., and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Requests for setting up of commodity boards in respect of chillies, mangoes and turmeric were received in the Ministry of Commerce whereas in respect of All India Cotton Board request was received in the Ministry of Textile. But no such request has been received for sugar, in the Department of Sugar and Edible Oils.

The Development, Research and Marketing/Export Promotion of Spices including chillies is well taken care of by the Dte. of Cocoa Arecanut Spices Development Calicut and Spices Board, Ministry of Commerce, those of mangoes by

the Department of Agriculture, National Horticulture Board (NHB) and APEDA. Those of cotton by the Indian Council of Agriculture Research, Dte. of Cotton Development, Cotton Advisory Board, Cotton Corporation of India Ltd., therefore it is felt that there may not be a need to set up separate boards for these commodities. The quantum of export and activities involved in the export promotion of turmeric also do not justify setting up of a separate board for this commodity.

Irrigation Facilities

1698. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of arable land in the country where irrigation facilities are fully available, State-wise;

(b) whether any special assistance is being provided by the Union Government to the State Governments to create more irrigation facilities; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The details of Net Irrigated Area in the country alongwith its State-wise break-up are given in the statement enclosed. With a view to create more irrigation facilities in the country through expeditious completion of ongoing major and medium irrigation and multi-purpose projects, Government of India launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) during 1996-97. Under the programme, Central Loan Assistance (CLA) is being provided to State Governments for selected ongoing major and medium irrigation multi-purpose projects which are beyond the resources capability of the State Governments, are at advanced stage of construction and can be completed with a little financial support. The State-wise details of Central Loan Assistance released under the Programme since 1996-97 are also given in the enclosed statement mentioned above.

Statement

State-wise Net Irrigated Area and Central Loan Assistance (CLA) Released Under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP)

S. No.	Name of States	Net Irrigated Area*	CLA released under AIBP (Rupees in crore)		
			1996-97	1997-98	1998-99**
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4123	35.25	74.00	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	36	—	—	—
3.	Assam	572	5.23	12.40	10.95
4.	Bihar	3680	13.50	14.04	11.88
5.	Goa	23	—	5.25	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Gujarat	3002	74.77	196.90	112.71
7.	Haryana	2761	32.50	12.00	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	101	—	6.50	—
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	386	1.30	—	—
10.	Karnataka	2302	61.25	90.50	57.00
11.	Kerala	342	3.75	15.00	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5928	63.25	114.50	49.00
13.	Maharashtra	2567	14.00	55.00	40.30
14.	Manipur	65	4.30	26.00	—
15.	Meghalaya	45	—	—	—
16.	Mizoram	7	—	—	—
17.	Nagaland	62	—	—	—
18.	Orissa	2090	48.45	85.00	—
19.	Punjab	3847	67.50	100.00	—
20.	Rajasthan	5232	2.68	42.00	51.47
21.	Sikkim	16	—	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	2625	20.00	—	—
23.	Tripura	35	3.77	5.10	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	11675	43.50	78.00	—
25.	West Bengal	1911	5.00	20.00	—
Total - States		53433	500.00	952.19	333.31
Total - UTs		75	—	—	—
Grand Total		53508	500.00	952.19	333.31

(*) Figures for Net Irrigated Area are as per Land Use Statistics for the year 1995-96 (latest) brought out by Ministry of Agriculture and indicate total area of arable land under irrigation in each State.

(**) Figures shown are the releases till date out of Budget provision of Rs. 1500.00 crores earmarked for the year 1998-99.

[Translation]

Soil Erosion by Son and Ganga Rivers

1699. SHRI H.P. SINGH:

SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether soil erosion by Son, Ganga and other rivers cause heavy loss in U.P. and Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to launch any scheme to check this menace in both States;

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

(e) the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of average loss per year to crops, public utilities lives and property caused due to floods, which includes river erosion, also, are as under.

	Damage to crops (Lakh lectares)	loss to human lives (nos.)	Damage to houses (Rs. crore)	Damages to public utilities (Rs. crores)
Bihar	6.34	96	13.354	27.684
Uttar Pradesh	11.76	273	33.000	74.108

(c) to (e) Planning, investigation and implementation of schemes for checking soil erosion including its assessment is within the purview of respective states. Ganga Flood Control Commission has prepared Comprehensive Plans for all the river systems in Ganga Basin including Sone and main Ganga by the Year 1990. The Comprehensive Plans suggested short term and long term measures for flood management as well as to check soil erosion. These Comprehensive Plans have been sent to all Ganga Basin States including Uttar Pradesh and Bihar for preparation of detailed schemes and their implementation, in accordance with priority perceived by these States based on the Plan funds available with them.

[English]

Central Secretariat Service

1700. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Under Secretaries of Central Secretariat Service in various Ministries/Departments belonging to SC/ST categories in position before issue of O.M No. 21/48/97-CS.I dated September 28, 1998 by Department of Personnel and Training;

(b) whether a number of officers belonging to SC category have been shown as promoted in the list of 225 CSS officers whereas these officers have either died or retired; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

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): (a) As per the information received from the various Ministries/Departments, the number of concerned Under Secretaries belonging to SC/ST categories in position before the issue of O.M. No. 21/48/97-CS.I dated September 28, 1998, stood at 148.

(b) and (c) Information about only two SC officers, who had either died/retired was brought to notice by the concerned Ministries after the issue of the O.M. dated 28.9.1998. The O.M. was issued based on information already collected from the various Ministries from time to time.

5-Point Plan on Agriculture

1701. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "PM unveils 5-point plan on Agriculture" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated November 7, 1998;

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

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented alongwith the fund allocated for the purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Five Point Action Plan unveiled by Prime Minister during four day "Agro Advantage-Maharashtra Conference" included the following:

(1) Evolving Small Farmers Agro-Business Consortium (SFAC) into a high level co-ordination body at the centre and in the states to promote corporate investments in agri business covering public sector, private sector, co-operatives etc.

(2) Strengthening of Forward Markets Commission to promote forward deals in more commodities.

(3) Promoting joint ventures abroad to expand trade in farm produce.

(4) Unveiling a National Rural Co-operative Policy and enactment of the long pending Multi State Co-operative Act.

(5) Promotion of Information Technology in agriculture and agro business in a big way.

(c) No specific time frame has been set for the completion of these tasks thus far.

[Translation]

Most Favoured Nation Status to India

1702. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has agreed to give most favoured nation status to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefit likely to accrue after getting this status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In accordance with its obligations under the WTO Pakistan is required to extend Most Favoured Nation Status to India. During the recent discussion with Pakistan on the subject of Economic and Commercial Co-operation held

in New Delhi on 10th November, 1998, as a part of composite dialogue process, we urged Pakistan to fulfill this obligation which will enhance trade and commerce between the two countries for mutual benefit.

[*English*]

Oilseeds Production

1703. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Research and Development work is undertaken by Agricultural Research Institutes in Bihar for boosting the production of oilseeds;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total amount spent by these research institutes in Bihar during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In Bihar, All India Coordinated Research Projects on Oilseeds are currently in operation in both agricultural universities of the state, i.e., RAU, Pusa Samastipur and BAU, Kanke, Ranchi for generating location specific production technology for increasing the production and productivity of oilseed crops in the state. Currently, the All India Coordinated Projects on Rapeseed Mustard, Soyabean and other oilseed crops are in operation at different centres in the state.

As a result of the intensive research on oilseeds, in the state through All India Coordinated Projects and the State Agricultural Universities, a number of improved varieties have been developed and recommended for cultivation in the State. Technology related to crop production and management of insect pest and diseases have also been developed and recommended for adoption to the farmers of the state.

Development programmes by Government of India for dissemination of technology is undertaken through frontline demonstrations and centrally sponsored schemes on oilseed production currently in operation under Technology Mission on oilseeds and pulses (TMOP).

(c) The total amount spent on research through the network of all-India Coordinated Research Project currently in operation in both agricultural universities in Bihar is Rs. 32.35 lakhs in the last three years. Similarly, the amount spent on development activities related to oilseed production-programmes in the State under centrally sponsored scheme on oilseed production is Rs. 171.78 lakhs in the last three years.

[*Translation*]

Protein in Potatoes

1704. SHRI BIJOY KUMAR 'BIJOY': Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether agro-scientists of Jawaharlal Nehru University have developed potatoes having the quantity of protein;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Government propose to provide the seed of the said potatoes to the farmers of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMAPL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Agro-Scientists of Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi have developed transgenic potato with high nutritional quality in terms of amino acid content. They isolated a gene from seeds of *Amaranthus hypochondriacus* which encodes a protein rich in all essential amino acids. Introduction of the gene in transgenic potato resulted in increase in all essential amino acids at varying levels.

(c) The transgenic potato variety will be available after thorough field trial and testing for biosafety measure as per Government guidelines.

[*English*]

Sea Erosion in Kerala

1705. SHRI P. SANKARAN:

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the severe problem of sea erosion along the coast of Kerala;

(b) if so, the quantum of assistance given to Kerala for coastal protection during the last three years;

(c) the funds earmarked during the Ninth Five Year Plan for the State for coastal protection;

(d) whether any fund has been released to the State during the current Ninth Five Year Plan;

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

(f) whether there is any plan to use modern technologies to check coastal erosion in Kerala; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) During the last three years (1995-96 to 1997-98) Planning Commission has released an amount of Rs. 3 crore as special Central assistance to Government of Kerala for undertaking coastal protection works of emergent nature at the request of the State Government.

(c) The agreed outlay for Flood Control (including anti-sea-erosion) for the State of Kerala for the Ninth Plan is Rs. 88 crore.

(d) and (e) No Central assistance was released to Government of Kerala during the current Five Year Plan as the States are required to undertake anti-sea-erosion works out of the State plan funds.

(f) and (g) The National Protection Project under preparation in Central Water Commission envisages a scheme to acquire modern technologies for adoption by the maritime States including Kerala.

Reduction of Nuclear Danger

1706. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India had introduced a resolution in the UN General Assembly in the first week of November this year on reducing nuclear danger;

(b) if so, the details of the resolution; and

(c) the response of the different nuclear powers thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. At India's initiative a new resolution was introduced in the UN General Assembly in November this year. The resolution recalls that as the use of nuclear weapons poses the most serious threat to mankind, the hair trigger alert status of nuclear weapons maintained by some countries carries unacceptable risks of unintentional or accidental use of nuclear weapons. The resolution further calls upon the five Nuclear-Weapon States to review their nuclear doctrines and take immediate and urgent steps to reduce the risk of unintentional or accidental use of nuclear weapons. The resolution urges Member States to take necessary measures to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects and to promote nuclear disarmament with the ultimate objective of eliminating nuclear weapons.

(c) US, France, UK and Russia voted against while China abstained on the resolution.

[Translation]

Bansagar Inter-State Project

1707. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH:

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have been providing their respective shares in schedule time for Bansagar inter-State project being constructed in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if not, action being taken by the Union Government against those State Government;

(c) the expenditure incurred on the construction of Barage, Canal and power plant of the projects separately;

(d) the budgetary provisions made available by Union Government for the year 1998-99 for the purpose; and

(e) the time by which this project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No. The Governments

of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have not been providing their respective shares in schedule time for Bansagar inter-State project being constructed in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) The status of contribution of share cost by the partner States is discussed in the regular meetings of the Executive Committee of Bansagar Control Board in which the representatives of the States and Union Government are members. During the 58th meeting held on 23.10. 1998, the executive Committee discussed the issue and keeping in view that Uttar Pradesh has now paid its due share, decided that the Government of Bihar may be appraised about the balance amount of Rs. 74.33 crores and expedited to pay the same.

(c) The expenditure incurred upto October, 1998 on the construction of Bansagar Project is detailed below:

(i) Dam (Barrage) including	
land acquisition	
and rehabilitation	- Rs.553.62 crores
(ii) Canals	- Rs. 144.92 crores
(iii) Power plants	- Rs. 590. 56 crores

(d) The Union Government does not make any budgetary provisions for this project. However, central loan assistance is being provided under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme for which an amount of Rs. 75 crores during the year 1998-99 has been recommended.

(e) Likely completion date for the Dam is June, 2001 and canals by 2012.

Production of Fissile Material

1708. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have briefed America about India's stand regarding one-sided sanction on production of fissile material;

(b) whether America and its supporters European countries have put a ban on the trade with India in the aftermath of nuclear explosions by India;

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

(d) whether the Government are contemplating to review this decision and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The ongoing dialogue with the United States covers a range of issues, including disarmament and non-proliferation, India's security concerns and the positive voluntary measures announced by India. Government have also stated that India would participate constructively in negotiations for a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning future production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. India will pay serious attention to any other multilateral initiatives

in this area, during the course of the negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.

(b) and (c) Some restrictive economic measures were announced by the United States as mandated by US domestic legislation, and also by other countries, after the May nuclear tests. Apart from prohibition of US exports of dual-use high technology items specifically to a list of Indian entities notified by the US Department of Commerce, and restrictions on EXIM financing (which are now in the process of being lifted), no restrictions on trade dealings with India have been imposed.

(d) No Madam. At present, a review of India's position on (a) above is not under consideration.

[English]

Assistance from NCRF

1709. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount demanded by the various States from National Fund for Calamities Relief (NFCR) for the assistance of the affected people during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of the amount sanctioned and actually given to each State:

(c) the number of Central teams sent to calamity affected States during the last three years;

(d) the details of the recommendations made by them;

(e) the number of recommendations considered and accepted by Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) and National Calamity Relief Committee (NCRC); and

(f) the action taken on each of the recommendation separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) A statement indicating State-wise assistance demanded and amount released from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) during 1995-96 to 1997-98 is attached;

(c) A total number of 54 Central Teams visited the affected State during 1995-96 to 1997-98 for assessment of situation in connection with request for assistance from the NFCR.

(d) to (f) Assistance from the NFCR is provided for calamities of rare severity only. As per the Scheme for constitution and administration of the NFCR, the National Calamity Relief Committee (NCRC) considers and decides whether a calamity is to be treated as a calamity of rare severity that would qualify for relief from the NFCR. The quantum of assistance from the NFCR, after a calamity is considered to be of rare severity, is also decided by the NCRC. The recommendations by the Central Team and the Inter-Ministerial Group assist the NCRC to consider in detail the request of the State Governments and take a decision on the quantum of assistance from the NFCR to be provided to the concerned State Government.

Statement

Statement indicating the assistance sought by State Govts. from National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) for various natural calamities and funds released from NFCR

(Rs. in Crore)

S. No.	State	1995-96 Assistance		1996-97 Assistance		1997-98 Assistance	
		Sought	Released	Sought	Released	Sought	Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	875.26	21.00	2819.37	142.00	1159.28	42.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	50.50	10.00	110.53	3.00	105.15	***
3.	Assam	-	-	415.19	21.00	-	-
4.	Bihar	1102.28	21.00	168.92	7.00	428.82	10.00
5.	Gujarat	-	-	282.01	***	664.33	86.90
6.	Haryana	588.09	39.41	102.00	***	-	-
7.	Himachal Pradesh	481.96	12.49	458.37	10.56	609.78	24.80
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	211.08	18.17	279.97	***	-	-
9.	Karnataka	256.23	***	621.55	***	723.00	22.00**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10.	Kerala	151.12	***	342.00	***	1106.26	12.91
11.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	256.19	***	2759.11	67.76**
12.	Maharashtra	—	—	—	—	156.76	***
13.	Manipur	—	—	—	—	59.13	\$
14.	Meghalaya	41.13	10.00	—	—	—	—
15.	Mizoram	59.99	4.71	—	—	—	—
16.	Orissa	564.00	30.75	570.70	54.00	151.50	—
17.	Punjab	658.00	16.16	—	—	347.72	\$
18.	Rajasthan	612.99	21.00	321.00	***	51.18	\$
19.	Sikkim	—	—	43.92	5.52	107.39	7.00
20.	Tamil Nadu	630.00	***	621.55	25.00	—	—
21.	Tripura	41.21	***	—	—	—	—
22.	Uttar Pradesh	357.40	***	589.90	***	566.07	***
23.	West Bengal	631.99	21.00	309.00	***	177.00	***
Total		7313.23	225.69	8306.89	268.08	9172.48	273.37

*** Not considered as Calamity of rare severity.

\$ Under process.

** Request for assistance of Rs. 723.00 crore received from Karnataka includes Rs. 397.00 crore in the wake of untimely rains/pest attack and Rs. 2759.11 crore from Madhya Pradesh includes Rs. 2232.91 crore in the wake of hailstorm/heavy rains, which under various stages of processing.

Cases of Telecom Service Licences

1710. DR. RAVI MALLU: Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high-level empowered Committee has been set up by Department of Telecommunications to decide all cases of Telecom service licence and a comprehensive review of the licence conditions for private public sector telephone service providers;

(b) the composition and terms of reference of the Committee;

(c) the time by which it is likely to submit its report;

(d) whether the Planning Commission in its report has pointed out that the basic services have failed to take off; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COM-

MUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) to (c) A high level Group on Telecommunications (GOT) has been set up by the Government to make recommendations on the New Telecom Policy and other issues. They will also make recommendation on issues relating to the existing licensees of Basic and Cellular Services and suggest appropriate remedial measures within the frame work of the New Telecom Policy. The Group will submit its recommendations as early as possible. The composition of the Group is given in the attached statement.

(d) and (e) The Planning Commission in its draft 9th Plan document prepared in March, 98 indicated that due to many procedural problems and bottlenecks, the provision of services by the private operators of Basic Services is yet to start.

Out of the six licensees for Basic Telephone Service, the services by two licensees have been started in Mahya Pradesh and Maharashtra. Issues relating to Basic Service operations by the Licensees will be examined by the GOT and suitable remedial measures recommended. Suitable steps will be taken to resolve the issues in the light of their recommendations.

Statement*The List of Members of GOT*

1. Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission	—	Chairman
2. Member (Telecom), Planning Commission	—	Member
3. Finance Secretary	—	Member
4. Law Secretary	—	Member
5. Secretary, Telecom.	—	Member
6. Member (Services), Telecom Commission	—	Member
7. Member (Production), Telecom Commission	—	Member
8. Dr. N. Seshagiri, DG, NIC	—	Member
9. Dr. Rodham Narasimhan, Director, National Institute of Advanced Studies, ITS Complex, Bangalore.	—	Member
10. Dr. S. Rangarajan, Director, Satellite Communications, Deptt. of Space.	—	Member
11. Director (Communications & Research), PMO	—	Member
12. Secretary to PM	—	Member
		Secretary

Central Government Employees

1711. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH:

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees working in various Central Government establishments in each State;

(b) whether promotions of employees have been denied due to enhancement of retirement age to 60 years;

(c) if so, the details of such employees, State-wise; and

(d) the details of such State Government which have enhanced the retirement age to 60 years for its employees?

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): (a) A Statement is enclosed.

(b) Promotions have no one to one relationship with the age of retirement and depend on several other factors. However, the increase in age of retirement might have resulted in postponement of promotions to some employees for the time being.

(c) Information regarding the number of employees whose promotions have been postponed due to increase in the age of retirement from 58 to 60 years is not maintained centrally.

(d) State Government themselves are empowered to take decision regarding enhancement of otherwise of the age of retirement of their employees. As such, the details of State Governments which have enhanced the age of retirement of their employees are not available.

Statement*State-wise estimates of Employment in Central Government as on 31st March, 1997.*

Name of State	No. of employees (in thousands)
1	2
I. North Zone:	558.7
1. Haryana	32.5
2. Punjab	80.8
3. Himachal Pradesh	15.7
4. Chandigari	17.2
5. Delhi	214.3

1	2
6. Rajasthan	170.2
7. Jammu & Kashmir	28.0
II. Central Zone:	650.5
8. Madhya Pradesh	216.1
9. Uttar Pradesh	434.4
III. North-East zone:	112.0
10. Assam	83.1
11. Meghalaya	15.1
12. Manipur	4.6
13. Mizoram	0.9
14. Nagaland	5.7
15. Tripura	2.6
IV Eastern Zone:	689.5
16. Bihar	196.5
17. Orissa	81.2
18. West Bengal	411.8
V. Western Zone:	595.8
19. Gujarat	141.9
20. Maharashtra	447.7
21. Goa	5.8
22. Daman & Diu	0.4
VI. Southern Zone :	684.2
23. Andhra Pradesh	213.0
24. Karnataka	131.4
25. Kerala	100.0
26. Pondicherry	5.1
27. Tamil Nadu	234.8
28. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	4.4
Total	3295.1

* Note: These figures do not include:-

- (i) Personnel of Defence forces:
- (ii) Some personnel of Para-Military Forces without any fixed location.
- (iii) Personnel of Indian Missions/Embassies abroad.

[Translation]

Functioning of Illegal PCOs

1712. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether illegal PCOs are being set up in collusion with the employees of Telephone Department at different parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any action against the guilty persons; and

(c) whether Government propose to take steps to check the recurrence of such incidents?

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

(a) A few such cases have come to the notice of the Deptt.

(b) Action has been taken as per the rules against the employees found guilty.

(c) Vigilance units of Circles/Metro Districts are functioning under a Senior Officer separately to deal with cases of diversion of lines and leakage of revenue due to STD/ISD calls racket etc. The unit keeps surveillance and conducts investigations in all such cases. On the basis of these investigations, help of CBI is sought in conducting and apprehending culprits.

[English]

Relations with China

1713. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

DR. RAVI MALLU:

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indo-China ties have been affected after Pokhran test;

(b) whether the Government propose to review its relations with China and take necessary steps to improve bilateral relations; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) We seek friendly, co-operative, good neighbourly and mutually beneficial relationship with China, our largest neighbour, on the basis of Panchsheel. We seek a relationship in which both sides are responsive to each other's concerns.

We remain committed to the process of dialogue to resolve outstanding differences.

The two sides are in regular contact through diplomatic channels. Visits of Parliamentarians, people-to-people exchanges, visits of political party delegations and functional exchanges in diverse fields have also taken place. Bilateral trade is growing and reached US\$ 1.4 billion in first nine months of this year, representing an increase of 7.98% over the corresponding period last year. There remains considerable potential to expand our economic and commercial co-operation.

The Government intends to continue with its efforts to build a co-operative relationship and to expand bilateral ties to mutual benefit.

Upgradation of Post Offices

1714. SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL: Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down regarding upgradation of post offices in the States;

(b) the number of post offices upgraded in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh during the last three years, district-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the number of such post offices in the country particularly in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh proposed to be upgraded during 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) The norms for upgradation of post offices are given in attached statement-I.

(b) The number of post offices upgraded in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh during the last three years is given in the attached statement-II.

(c) The number of post offices proposed to be upgraded in the country particularly in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh during 1998-99 is given in the attached statement-III.

Statement-I

Norms for upgradation of Post Offices

1. From EDBO to DSO

In Rural Areas

The minimum of work load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office should be five hours per day. The permissible annual loss should not be more than Rs.2400/- in normal areas and Rs. 4800/- in Tribal and Hilly areas.

In Urban Areas

In urban areas, the Post Office should be initially self-supporting and at the time of the first annual review, it should show 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

The distance between two Post Offices should not be less

and 1.5 km. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 kms. in other urban areas. If it is a Delivery Post Office, the distance from the nearest Delivery Post Office should not be less than 5 Kms.

Heads of Circles have powers to relax the distance condition in 10% of the cases.

A Delivery Post Office in urban area should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.

2. Head Post Offices

A sub post office is upgraded to Head Post Office as per the prescribed departmental norms. As per the departmental norms a new Head Post Office is created by bifurcating the accounts jurisdiction of an existing Head Post Office when the number of sub post offices under it exceeds 60. There is a further stipulation that after bifurcation the number of sub offices to be placed under the existing Head Post Office and the proposed Post Office should not be less than 20. A Head Post Office can also be created in a district, if there are 20 Sub Post Offices in that district to be placed under the accounts jurisdiction of the proposed Head Post Office. It is, however, also stipulated that in hilly and backward areas, the norms can be relaxed if there is appreciable advantage in financing the Post Office by upgradation of a sub post office into a Head Post Office.

Statement-II

Number of Post Offices upgrade In Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh during the years 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98

Gujarat Circle

District	Year		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1. Ahmedabad	2	2	-
2. Gandhinagar	1	-	-
3. Banaskantha	-	1	-
4. Junagadh	-	-	1
5. Mahesana	-	1	-
6. Panchmahal	-	4	-
7. Surat	-	3	-

Madhya Pradesh Circle

District	Year			
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	
1	2	3	4	5
1. Damoh	1	1	-	-
2. Raigarh	1	1	-	-
3. Rewa	1	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Mandla	-	1	-
5.	Khargone	-	1	-
6.	Panna	-	1	-
7.	Ambikapur	-	-	1
8.	Raipur	-	-	1

Statement-III

The Number of Post Offices in the Country Particularly in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh Proposed to be Upgraded during 1998-99

As per plan targets fixed in consultation with the Planning Commission, 50 Departmental Sub Post Offices are to be opened in the Country during the year 1998-99. The opening of such DSOs is either through upgradation of existing EDBOs or with the opening of new DSOs. The opening/upgradation of post offices will be subject to the availability of resources. During 1998-99, 3 DSOs have since been upgraded into Head Post offices in the country.

In Gujarat Postal Circle, three post offices have been upgraded so far during the year 1998-99 against the fixed target of three.

In Madhya Pradesh Postal Circle, two DSOs are to be opened either by upgradation of existing EDBOs or by opening of new Departmental Sub Post Offices and proposals for upgradation of two DSOs into Head Post Offices have been received for the year 1998-99.

New Office of GM (EAST)

1715. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the expansion programme of MTNL Mumbai for the next five years for Mumbai;

(b) the number of new lines likely to be added and new telephone exchanges likely to be opened in different localities in the next five years; and

(c) the details of new schemes and advancement in Telecom technology by which the subscribers are likely to be benefited in the following years in Mumbai?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) It is proposed to provide about 12.5 lakh new telephone connections in the next five years from 1999-2000 to 2003-2004 and new telephone exchanges are proposed to be opened in different localities, depending upon the actual demand.

(c) Information is given as per Statement attached.

Statement

The subscribers of MTNL, Mumbai would be benefited by:

(i) Technology upgradation

23K lines of C-400 electromechanical exchanges would be replaced with electronic exchanges.

Replacement of 100k lines of Electronic Analog exchanges.

The junction network is being upgraded by introduction of synchronised Digital Hierarchy System (SDH) in the network.

Wornout cables are planned to be replaced by Fibre based system.

(ii) New Technologies being introduced in Access Network:

The following technologies are being introduced/planned to be introduced in the network.

(a) New development in wire line technology like HDSL and ADSL systems.

(b) Fibre based technology (FLL)

(c) Wireless Technology (WLL)

(iii) New Technologies being introduced in services.

The following services using latest technology are being introduced in the network.

(a) Intelligent Network Services (IN)

(b) Internet Services.

(c) Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM)

(d) Managed Leased Line network.

(e) Mediation devices to reduce the time lag in billing of customers.

Financial Package for Rajasthan

1716. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 102 on June 3, 1998 and state:

(a) whether the Government have drawn any pain to release the financial package to Western Rajasthan;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) In so far as agricultural development is concerned, there is no separate financial package for Western Rajasthan other than the various ongoing central and centrally sponsored programmes implemented in the State. Planning and development of areas within the State and allocation of funds for the purpose is primarily the responsibility of the State Government.

[*Translation*]

Doordarshan Coverage in Maharashtra

1717. SHRI KALLAPPA AWADE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the people of Sahuwadi, Panara and Radhanagari hilly regions of Kolhapur district in Maharashtra are deprived of the TV telecast despite availability of T.V. tower there;

(b) whether the Government have taken any action in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this facility is likely to be made available to the people of that area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) to (c) Despite 2 Low Power Transmitters (LPTs) at Kolhapur, Ichalkaranji and Very Low Power Transmitter (VLPT) at Malkapur functioning at present in Kolhapur District of Maharashtra, the terrestrial TV coverage is restricted in some areas of Kolhapur District due to large intervening distances and local terrain conditions. Setting up of TV transmitters is a continuous process depending on the availability of location, extent of resultant coverage, availability of funds and infrastructural facilities and relative priorities.

Disease in Mango Lemon, Myrobalan

1718. SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the trees of mango, lemon, myrobalan etc. have been afflicted with disease due to some reasons during the year 1998 resulting in reduced availability of the aforesaid products in the market;

(b) if so, whether the above disease has been identified; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to avoid recurrence of such disease in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Government are aware that mango and lemon are prone to a complex of diseases. However, no new disease on trees of mango, lemon and myrobalan etc. has been reported during 1998. Slight reduction in the yield of mango during 1998 in Tamil Nadu and U.P. was firstly because of the off-year in U.P. and secondly due to adverse weather conditions which affected the flowering and fruit set. Myrobalan is a forest tree and used as root stock in propagating horticultural trees. The attack of canker, twig blight and Phytophthora diseases was recorded causing some decline in the production of lemon.

(c) The following precautionary measures are being taken against the recurrence of diseases in mango and lemon trees:-

(i) Regular disease monitoring to detect timely incidence of diseases.

(ii) Demonstrations on plant protection measures.

(iii) Financial assistance to State Governments/UTs under various schemes for the development of tropical, temperate and arid zone fruits.

(iv) Ensuring availability of quality pesticides for the control of pest and diseases.

Power from Garbage in U.P.

1719. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have formulated any scheme to generate electricity from garbage to remove the shortage of electricity in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the role of the State Government in this regard;

(c) the time by which this scheme is likely to be implemented; and

(d) the quantum of electricity likely to be generated under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing a National Programme on Energy Recovery from Urban, Municipal and Industrial Wastes, which, inter-alia, includes the setting up of projects to generate electricity from garbage. The programme covers all the States and Union Territories including the State of Uttar Pradesh and offers several fiscal and financial incentives for setting up of such projects. Details of the incentives are given in the attached statement.

State Governments have been requested to ensure supply of garbage free of cost at project sites, provide necessary land on long term lease at nominal rent and facilities for evacuation, wheeling, banking, third-party-sale and purchase by State Electricity Boards, of power generated from such projects.

(c) The scheme is currently planned for implementation during the Ninth Plan period.

(d) The potential for generation of power from urban, municipal and industrial wastes in the country is estimated to be about 1700 MW, including about 900 MW from garbage.

Statement

National Programme on Recovery of Energy from Urban, Municipal and Industrial wastes

Details of Financial and Fiscal Incentives

1. Financial Incentives

Financial Incentives being provided under National Programme on Energy Recovery from Urban and Industrial Wastes are as follows:

i. Interest Subsidy

10% on the loan amount for the entire loan repayment period, Subject to maximum capitalised amount of Rs. 1.0 crore per MW equivalent.

ii. Investment Subsidy

50% of direct equity stake in the project cost limited to Rs.1 crore/MW for power generation projects and Rs. 50.00 lakh for Waste-to-Fuel projects.

iii. Incentives for Urban Local Bodies/ Municipal Corporations/State Nodal Agencies

- Rs. 15.00 lakh per MWe to Municipal Corporations/Urban Local Bodies subject to their co-ordinated actions for finalisation of clearances/agreements for making; land available on long term lease at nominal rent, garbage available free of cost at project site and facilities for evacuation, wheeling, banking, purchase of power by SEBs and its third Party sale.
- Rs. 5.00 lakh per MWe to State Nodal Agencies subject to their involvement in actions indicated above.

iv. Incentives for Financial Institutions

A sum of 2% of the interest subsidy channelised through the lead FI, as service charges, subject to a maximum of Rs. 20 lacs per project on reimbursement basis.

v. Incentives for State Electricity Board (SEBs)

- SEBs are eligible for the following incentives for the waste to energy projects:-
- 25% of cost of equipment for evacuation facilities (max Rs. 1.50 lakh per MW).
- Cash incentives for power fed in to the grid.

First 50 million units/year	— 5 paise/unit
Next 100 million units/year	— 4 paise/unit
Next 150 million units/year	— 3 paise/unit

vi. Financial Support for Preparation of DPR, TEFR, etc.

50% of the cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 2.00 lakh.

vii. Financial support for Setting up of Demonstration projects:

Financial support of up to 50% of project cost limited to Rs. 3.0 crores/MW including the cost of land as per revenue records for setting up innovative demonstration project(s) based on emerging technologies/packages.

viii. Financial Support for Energy Recovery at Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs)

Financial Assistance of up to 50% of the incremental capital cost of power generation system at STPs.

2. Fiscal Incentives

- i. 100% accelerated depreciation
- ii. Tax Holiday for five years on Renewable Energy Projects
- iii. No excise duty on biogas engines
- iv. Concessional customs duty (20% + 13% CVD)
- v. Income Tax rebate of 100% or an amount of Rs. 5.00 lakh, whichever is less.

Public Telephone in Madhya Pradesh

1720. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any progress has been made in regard to scheme for providing telephone connections in all the development blocks and Panchayats in Mandla district of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) the time by which these schemes are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):
(a) Yes Sir. The present status of the telecom facilities in Mandla Distt. of Madhya Pradesh is as below.

No. of Telephone Exchnages : 32

	Development Blocks	Gram Panchayats
Total	16	821
Having Telephone Facility	16	655
Without Telephone Facility	Nil	156

(b) All the remaining 156 Gram Panchayatats are proposed to be provided with telecom facility by the year 2002.

[English]

DOEACC Centre

1721. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA MALLICK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Department of Electronics Accredited Computer Centres functioning in the country at present;

(b) the number of Centres likely to be accredited in 1998-99;

(c) the number of DOEACC Centres cancelled during the last three years;

(d) whether the Government have received any complaints about any DOEACC Centres; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken by the Government on these complaints?

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): (a) There are 606 training institutes accredited for conducting specified level of computer courses viz. 'O' (Foundation), 'A' (Advance Diploma), 'B' (Graduate) and "c" (Post Graduate) in the non-formal sector (private/public) under the Department of Electronics-Accreditation of Computer Courses (DOE-ACC) Scheme.

(b) About 100 Institutions are likely to be accredited in 1998-99, in addition to the ones already accredited.

(c) Provisional accreditation of 350 institutions was withdrawn during the last three years.

(d) and (e) Comments/suggestions in regard to DOEACC accredited institutions have been received from time to time. As per procedure of the DOEACC Society, an expert member is deputed to visit the Institute. Based on his report appropriate action is taken.

Internet Policy

1722. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the main features of Internet policy;
- (b) steps taken by the Government to end the monopoly of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.;
- (c) the details of foreign equity in joint venture with Indian Internet;
- (d) the fee for licences to private internet service providers; and
- (e) the modalities to permit use of INSAT capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) The main features of Internet Policy are indicated as in the statement enclosed.

(b) Authorised Public/Government organisations are allowed to provide International Internet Gateway access including international leased circuits directly without going through Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) Gateways. Private Internet Service Providers (ISPs) are also allowed to provide such International Gateways after obtaining security clearance.

(c) Foreign equity, if any, shall be as per existing Government policy. At present, maximum foreign equity permitted is 49%.

(d) Licence fee for the first five years i.e. upto 31st Oct., 2003 is waived. For those ISPs who obtain licences prior to 1st Nov., 2003 a nominal licence fee of One Rupee per annum will become payable from 1st November, 2003, for the remaining period.

(e) INSAT is a multi-agency, multipurpose Indian National Satellite System. INSAT capacity allocations are controlled by an Inter-Departmental Secretary Level Committee called INSAT Coordination Committee (ICC). The various proposals received for any new kind of service such as Internet are examined first from the technical angle by Technical Advisory Group (TAG). Based on the recommendations of TAG, ICC allocates INSAT capacities.

Statement

Synopsis of ISP Policy

(a) Any Indian company with a maximum foreign equity of 49% is eligible.

(b) Category 'A' Service Area—whole of India, Category 'B' service Area—Any of the 20 territorial Telecom Circles, Metros—Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai and four major cities—Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Pune, Category 'C' Service Area—Any secondary switching area of DOT.

(c) An applicant company may be granted any number of licences and there will be no limit of number of licences granted in a particular area.

(d) Application form costs Rs. 1000/-. Processing fee per application is Rs. 5000/-

(e) Period of licence—15 years.

(f) Licence fee—waived for first 5 years and Re. 1/- per annum for subsequent period.

(g) Bank Guarantee — Rs. 2 crores for Category 'A' Service Area, Rs. 20 lakhs for Category 'B' Service Area and Rs. 3 lakhs for Category 'C' Service Area.

(h) International connectivity—Through gateways of DOT, VSNL or authorised public/Government organisation. Private ISPs are allowed to provide gateways after obtaining security clearance.

(i) Establishment of transmission links—Private ISPs can obtain transmission links on lease from DOT, licensed Basic Service Operator, Railways, State Electricity Boards, National Power Grid Corporation, etc. They may also establish their own transmission links, provided they are not available from authorised sources and subject to permission of authority.

(j) Telephony on the Internet is not permitted.

Corporatisation of DOT

1723. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether one day taken strike was called by the staff unions of the Department of Telecommunications (DOT) on November 12, 1998 to protest against the corporatisation and subsequent privatisation of DOT;

- (b) if so, the details thereof and its impact on the telecom services in the country; and
 (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(a) Some Unrecognised Unions of DOT launched a one day Token Strike for settlement of their pending demands. The demand that there should be no corporatisation of DOT is only one of the demands. However, the question of privatisation figuring now in the Lok Sabha Question does not find a place in their demands.

(b) On the day of Token Strike i.e. 12.11.98, the local/STD/ISD services through-out the country remained normal. However, in the Manual Trunk Services and Telegraph Services, the work was affected in Calcutta Telephone District and moderately in some parts of West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Assam Circles. In the remaining Circles, the position was reported to be, by and large normal.

- (c) Their demands are being examined.

Assistance to J&K

1724. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of J&K seeking Central assistance for undertaking various agricultural projects in the State; and

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken by the union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

Monitoring Mechanism

1725. SHRI RAJKUMAR WANGCHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to introduce new monitoring mechanism for the proper utilisation of all plan fund in Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The monitoring mechanisms adopted for the purpose of proper utilisation of Plan funds is not State-specific. The Planning Commission, in conjunction with the concerned Union Ministries/Departments, oversees the progress in Plan expenditure in all States, including Arunachal Pradesh, on a systematic basis.

2. The performance of major Plan projects/schemes and of programmes like Basic Minimum Services, for which outlays are earmarked, is reviewed periodically through field visits and inter-actions with the relevant authorities at various levels in order that the available funds are utilised properly for speedy implementation of the development programmes.

[Translation]

Public Telephones in Villages

1726. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAY (JHAN-JHARPUR):

SHRI BHIM DAHAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of village in Bihar and Sikkim where telephone facility is not available;

(b) the number of villages where telephone lines have been provided, connected by tower system and cables lines, separately in these States; and

(c) the time by which the work of laying of cables are likely to be completed in the villages linked with tower system?

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

(a) Bihar: 60120 Villages

Sikkim: 210 Village.

(b) The village public telephones provided in Bihar and Sikkim on the Tower System and Cable Lines are as below:

State	Telephones on Tower System	Telephones on Cable Lines
Bihar	10381	8379
Sikkim	62	155

(c) There is no plan to lay cable in the villages linked with tower system.

[English]

Telephone Facility in Dadra and Nagar Haveli

1727. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telephone facility in the tribal areas in Dadra and Nagar Haveli is non-existent and the people are facing a lot of difficulties and inconveniences;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government in the matter;

(c) the number of PCOs functioning in Dadra and Nagar Haveli at present, district-wise;

(d) whether Government propose to sanction some more PCOs in the Union Territory during the current financial year;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reactions therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Telephone facilities in the tribal areas in Dadra and Nagar Haveli are available. The exchanges are working in following places in Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| (i) Silvassa-4000 lines | (ii) Dadra-368 lines |
| (iii) Naroli- 184 lines | (iv) Dapada-184 lines |
| (v) Khanvel-184 lines | (vi) Sili-88 lines |

(b) The Telecom facilities are being extended progressively in this area. New exchanges are being installed based on demand. Expansion work of exchanges is under progress in following places:- Dadra-1000 lines C-DoT Exchange in replacement of 2x256 C-DoT exchanges.

Naroli-512 line C-DoT in replacement of 256 C-DoT.

On completion of expansion work, more new telephone connections will be released in this area.

(c) At present 130 PCOs (local +STD) are working in Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) 37 more STD/PCOs have been approved. These are expected to be provided during the current financial year.

(f) Not applicable in view of reply to part (e) of the question.

Cotton Technology Mission

1728. SHRI JOGENDRA KAWADE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to launch the Cotton Technology Mission to facilitate farmers to increase their cotton products; and

(b) if so, the time by which the mission is likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Union Government has proposed to launch the Cotton Technology Mission to facilitate farmers to increase their production.

(b) Mission is likely to be launched during 1999.

Vacant Posts of Directors at AIR/FM Station

1729. SHRI SURESH KURUP:

SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether posts of Station Directors at various AIR/FM stations have been lying pending since long;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not filling up the same within a stipulated period;

(c) whether the functioning of various AIR/FM stations has been badly affected due to vacancies; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to fill up those posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) and (b) At 106 AIR/FM stations, the posts of Station Directors are at present lying vacant for want of eligible officers in the feeder grade.

(c) The work is being managed with the available staff and every effort is made to ensure that functioning of Station is not adversely affected.

(d) All eligible officers as on October 1997, in the feeder grade, have already been promoted as Station Directors. The process for holding further meetings of the Departmental Promotion Committee for promotion of eligible officers as on October 1998 has already been initiated.

Depiction of Humiliating Scenes in

Cinema and T.V. Serials

1730. SHRI K.P. MUNUSAMY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of increasing scene of depicting humiliation of persons belonging to different religions, castes, States, or speaking different languages in cinemas and T.V. Serials; and

(b) if so, the specific steps taken by the Government to prevent depiction of such scenes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) Complaints/press reports regarding such scenes in some films are received by Government from time to time.

(b) Films are examined and certified by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) in accordance with the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952. Guidelines to the CBFC have already been issued under the relevant provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 for certification of films. These guidelines, inter-alia, lay down that visuals or words contemptuous of racial, religious or other groups and visuals or words which promote communal, obscurantist, anti-scientific and anti-national attitudes are not presented. All Doordarshan Programmes are exempted by Government from the censorship provisions of the Act subject to the condition that while clearing Programmes for telecast the Doordarshan authorities shall keep in view the film certification guidelines. Accordingly, the serials telecast on Doordarshan are duly previewed by Committees set up by Doordarshan before telecast.

Kashmir Issue

1731. SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Pakistan again raised the Kashmir issue at recent UN General Assembly Session;
- (b) if so, in what terms; and
- (c) the details of India's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The Prime Minister of Pakistan, in his address to the 53rd Session of UN General Assembly on September 23, 1998 made customary detailed references to the Kashmir issue. He alleged "occupation" of Kashmir by Indian troops and denial of the "right of self-determination for the people of Kashmir" and called upon the UN to take "appropriate initiatives" to implement Security Council resolutions on Kashmir and to ease tensions and build confidence. Pakistan also made references to Kashmir in its statements under various agenda items in UN General Assembly and the Committees. We categorically reject Pakistan's baseless and unfounded allegations.

In his address to the UN General Assembly on September 24, 1998, the Prime Minister pointed out that India has had to cope with terrorism, aided and abetted by a neighbouring country, for nearly two decades, and that we have borne this with patience, but none should doubt the strength of our resolve to crush this challenge. Prime Minister drew attention to the fact that terrorism is a threat that affects all of us equally and can only be defeated by organised international action.

Growth Rate of Food Processing Industries

1732. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the annual growth target set for food processing industry in the country during the current year;
- (b) whether food processing sector is on the priority list of domestic lending institutions;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to boost the growth rate of food processing industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No specific growth targets have been fixed.

(b) and (c) Food processing Sector, as such, is not on the priority list of domestic lending institutions. However, agriculture and small scale industries sectors being on priority lending list, the food processing sector does get some coverage.

(d) For the growth, development and promotion of processed food industry, the Ministry provides financial assistance in the form of soft loan or grants-in-aid for setting up of/expansion of food processing units, Research &

Development, Human Resource Development, quality control and other promotional activities under its plan schemes.

Besides, the Government has been taking various policy measures including delicensing of most of the processed food industries and providing fiscal reliefs in excise and customs duties for the processed food sector.

New Telecom Policy

1733. SHRI MADAN PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have any proposal for a new telecom policy to provide a state of the art nation-wise telecommunications network, speed up rural telephone services and to meet the new challenge of convergence of telecom 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. Government of India has already constituted a Group on Telecommunications under the Chairmanship of Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission with members from various Ministries/ Departments in this connection.

Air Time Cost for Film Based Programmes

1734. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA: Will the MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Doordarshan have hiked the air time cost for the popular film based programmes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the producers have reacted to this decision; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

New Post Offices in Orissa

1735. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB: Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of new post offices, branch/sub-post offices proposed to be opened in Orissa particularly in Cuttack region during 1998-99, district-wise; and
- (b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for the improvement of postal services including modernisation of mail services in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Ten (10) Extra-departmental Branch Post Offices and 2

(two) Departmental Sub Post Offices are proposed to be opened in Orissa Circle subject to availability of resources. The Division/District-wise targets have been shown in attached. Statement

(b) Following steps have been taken/proposed to be taken for the improvement/modernisation of postal/mail services in the State:-

(i) Multipurpose Counter Machines have been installed in 30 modernised post offices during the current year, 50 new Machines have been supplied.

(ii) SB Lan facility has been provided in twelve (12) Post Offices. SBCO has been supplied Computers at eighteen (18) Post Offices.

(iii) V-SAT Centres are operating at Bhubaneswar, Sambalpur and Berhampur with ESMO at 24 Post Offices. The proposals to have more ESMO Centres are being examined.

(iv) Computerised registration sorting has been started at Bhubaneswar RMS. Computerised Registration is proposed to be extended at Cuttack RMS.

(v) City sorting offices at Bhubaneswar and Jharsuguda have been modernised. More Railway mail service Offices have been proposed to be modernised. Bhubaneswar Transit Mail Office is also included in computerisation programme.

Statement

Target for opening of Post Offices for the year 1998-99 divisions/districts covered for Orissa Circle.

Sl. No.	Name of the Division	Districts Covered	Target Allotted for DSOs.		Target Allotted for EDBOs.	
			Normal	Tribal	Normal	Tribal
1.	Bhubaneswar	Khurda	1	-	-	-
2.	Sundargarh	Sundargarh	-	1	-	-
3.	Balasore	Balasore	-	-	1	-
4.	Puri	Puri, Nayagarh and Khurda	-	-	1	-
5.	Cuttack South	Cuttack and Jagathsinghpur	-	-	1	-
6.	Cuttack North	Cuttack & Jajpur	-	-	1	-
7.	Bhadrak	Bhadrak	-	-	1	-
8.	Berhampur	Ganjam & Gajapati	-	-	1	-
9.	Mayurbhanj	Mayurbhanj	-	-	-	1
10.	Keonjhar	Keonjhar	-	-	-	1
11.	Kalahandi	Kalahandi & Nuapara	-	-	-	1
12.	Koraput	Korapur, Malkangiri, Rayagada and Nawarangpur	-	-	-	1
Total			01	01	06	04

Cultivation of Paddy

1736. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received a proposal from the Government of Kerala for the intensive cultivation of paddy in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds sought by the State Government for cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of Kerala vide their letter dated 5.10.98 has sent a project viz. "Project for boosting up rice production in Kerala through intensive approach as part of doubling food production".

(b) The project includes activities/components like: (i) Strengthening of group farming activities, (ii) ensuring supply of good quality H.Y.V. seed, (iii) farm mechanisation in paddy fields, (iv) improving post harvest handling and marketing, (v) free supply of electricity, (vi) support for irrigation infrastructure development, (vii) support for infrastructure development to paddy development agencies, (viii) formation of Paddy Board, (ix) research support to KAU, (x) creation of contingency fund for resowing/replanting natural calamity affected area, (xi) subsidy for potassic fertilizers, and (xii) additional allocation for ICDP-Rice. The total cost of the project proposed is Rs. 383.275 crores, covering a period of five years. Request of additional allocation of Rs. 70.00 lakhs of State Government under ongoing ICDP-Rice programme have been agreed to for the year 1998-99.

[Translation]

Agreement with NASA and NOAA

1737. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with National Aeronautical Space Administration and National Oceanic and Administration of USA last year;

(b) if so, whether under this Memorandum of Understanding exchange of meteorological statistics through India's INSAT and American Geo-Stationary Operational Environment Satellite as also research and operational satellites has started;

(c) whether the recent nuclear tests by India had any impact on this exchange programme; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) Communication link between India and USA pick

up points has not yet been established. The data flow from both sides can start only after the link is established.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Integrated Rural Energy Programme

1738. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the Integrated Rural Energy Programme;

(b) the manner in which it is being implemented in Bihar;

(c) the details of the progress made in this regard so far;

(d) whether the desired results of the above programme have been achieved in the State; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP) aims at providing the optimum mix of all types of energy sources for meeting energy needs for subsistence and productive purposes, through the preparation and implementation of integrated rural energy plans and projects. The programme has Central Sector and State Sector components. The Central Sector component includes a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under which capabilities are developed in the States and Union Territories for preparing and implementing integrated rural energy plans and projects. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme provides grants-in-aid for professional and supporting staff, in IREP project cells at the State and District/Block levels, and for training of these staff alongwith provision for preparation of project reports, and for extension. The State Sector outlay is utilised for implementation of IREP plans and projects, including funds for demonstration projects, financial incentives for various energy devices, extension and other related activities for the implementation of the block level integrated rural energy plans and projects. Funds and resources from other ongoing schemes and programmes for energy and rural development are utilised to the extent possible in IREP blocks, as part of block level integrated rural energy plan, under IREP. The focus of the integrated rural energy plan is to provide minimum energy needs for cooking, lighting and heating especially for the weaker sections and for providing energy as a crucial input for economic development in the IREP blocks.

(b) to (e) The Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP) is presently being implemented in 16 blocks in Bihar. 40 additional blocks were sanctioned by the Govt. of India for implementation of IREP during 1997-98. Project reports

based on surveys have been prepared for 9 out of the 40 blocks sanctioned during 1997-98. In addition, one State level IREP Cell, 2 District Level Technical Back Up Units and one State Level Technical Back Up Unit have been set up under this programme in Bihar. The Energy Department of the Govt. of Bihar and Bihar Renewable Energy Development Agency (BREDA) are the nodal department and nodal agency respectively, for the implementation of IREP in Bihar. The State share for the programme needs to be provided on a regular basis for ensuring the desired results of the programme in the State.

[*English*]

Procurement of Mustard

1739. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:

SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to procure mustard at the minimum support price through the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India;

(b) if so whether the farmers are facing any difficulty in marketing their produce;

(c) whether farmers have cultivated mustard oilseed at lesser scale in view of the fear amongst farmers that the demand of mustard would be low following the adulterated mustard oil scam;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the production of oilseeds do not fall during the current season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Govt. of India nominated NAFED as the Central nodal agency to procure pulses and oilseeds including mustard seeds under price support scheme, as and when the prices goes below the minium support price (MSP).

(b) No, Sir. Since the rate of mustard seed during the Rabi 1998 season remained above the price support level, farmers were able to sell their produce without difficulty.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. As per the trend of sowing of mustard seed reported by the States so far, the area coverage of oilseeds in the current season is expected to be normal.

(e) Govt. of India has held a National Conference on Rabi Campaign in September 1998, in which measures such as awareness campaign for farmers, use of good quality seeds, supply of quality seeds by the National Seeds Corporation/State Farms Corporation of India etc. were taken up with the States.

Utilisation of Fund by Maharashtra

1740. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount provided by the Union Government to Maharashtra for the upliftment of poor during the financial year 1997-98;

(b) whether the State Government has utilised the amount allocated for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, whether Union Government have asked Maharashtra Government for the causes for non-utilisation of fund; and

(e) if so, the response of Maharashtra Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The financial performance of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the upliftment of poor in Maharashtra during the financial year 1997-98 is given below:

Programmes	(Rs. crore)				
	Centre	State	Total	Expenditure (Prov.)	%age Expenditure
IRD P	46.94	46.94	93.88	93.96	100.09
JRY	169.27	42.32	211.59	214.39	101.32
EAS \$	113.34	28.34	141.68	149.36	105.42
IAY	97.80	24.45	122.25	168.57	137.89
MWS	37.87	9.47	47.34	48.56	102.58

\$ Released, as no State-wise allocations are made under EAS (IRD P - Integrated Rural Development Programme

JRY - Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, EAS - Employment Assurance Scheme
IAY - Indra Awaas Yojana, MWS - Million Wells Scheme)

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Irrigation Projects in Kerala

1741. SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

SHRI A.C JOS:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Kerala for approval of major, medium and minor irrigation projects of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds proposed to be allocated by the Union Government to the State Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The details of Irrigation Projects received from Government of Kerala for approval are as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of Projects	Irrigation Benefits	Estimated cost	
			(Rs. in crores) (Th. Ha.)	(Latest)
1.	Karapara-Kuriarkutty Multipurpose Project	39.64		231.03
2.	Attapady Irrigation Project (Medium).	8.38		83.67

(c) Irrigation Projects are executed by the State Governments out of their own resources as per their priority.

Diammonium Phosphate

1742. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken steps for creation of additional buffer stock of Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) in the country;

(b) if so, the strategy adopted therefore;

(c) whether his Ministry has been entrusted with the task; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) Government of India have decided to maintain a buffer stock of upto 2.00 lakh tonnes of Diammonium Phosphate and 55,000 Tonnes of Muriate of Potash to meet any sudden increase in demand or unexpected shortages of these fertilizers. M/S Indian Potash Limited has been identified as the agency to build, maintain and operate the buffer stock under the directions of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, whenever necessary. The buffer stock will be maintained at various identified locations in different parts of the country.

Veterinary University

1743. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Standing Committee of Eleventh Lok Sabha in its Eleventh Report recommended establishment of separate-Veterinary University in each State quite independent of Agricultural Universities for development of research and educational facilities;

(b) if so, whether budgetary provision for establishment of ICVR has been made; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Issue of Passports

1744. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Embassies are engaged in issue of Passports;

(b) if so, the reasons as to why the specialists in the field i.e. the employees of Regional Passport Office are not being engaged for the same in the Indian Missions;

(c) whether there is any proposal to engage these specialists for the issue of Passports from abroad; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The deployment of officers belonging to the Central Passport Organisation is governed by the rules of service applicable to their cadre. The officers posted in the Consular Wings of Indian diplomatic Missions and Posts abroad are competent to discharge duties relating to the issue of passports and visas and provision of other consular services.

[Translation]

Obscenity Due to Internet Facility on Computers

1745. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the obscene pictures are being shown at several places as a result of availability of internet facility on computers;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether small clubs have been set up at some places which show obscene films on internet and encourage others to view them thereby affecting Indian culture adversely;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government have looked into the matter; and

(f) if so, the strategy proposed to be adopted to check this trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) Whenever such incidence comes to Government notice sites of such obscene films on Internet are blocked;

(c) to (f) Government is not aware of existence of such clubs.

Telephone Advisory Committee

1746. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telephone Advisory Committee has been constituted in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the date on which it was constituted; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which this committee is likely to be constituted?

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

(a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Telephone Advisory Committee (TAC) for Mandi Telecom District comprises Kullu District at present. Consequent upon upgradation of Kullu SSA to be headed by a TDM, a separate TAC for Kullu Telecom District is being constituted.

[English]

Irrigation Management

1747. SHRI K.P. NAIDU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Water Resources has submitted Ninth Plan strategy for participatory Irrigation Management;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Planning Commission has agreed to the proposal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Ministry of Water Resources in their original proposal for Ninth Five Year Plan had proposed Rs. 118.00 crore for a new scheme on Participatory Irrigation Management for those irrigation projects which are not covered under existing Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme.

(c) to (e) The Ninth Plan is yet to be finalised and therefore sectoral investments are still to be firming up.

Sir Creek Issue

1748. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether talks between India and Pakistan regarding Sir Creek dispute was held recently;

(b) if so, the issues involved in the dispute between both the countries; and

(c) the outcome of the talks held to settle the dispute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) As part of the composite dialogue process, India and Pakistan held talks on the Sir Creek Issue in New Delhi on 9th November, 1998. During these discussions, Government proposed that as the boundary in the area had already been accepted as settled by both India and Pakistan, this already settled and demarcated boundary should be formalised. Government further proposed that pending formalisation of the boundary in the Sir Creek, delimitation of the India-Pakistan maritime boundary from seawards by commencing at the Exclusive Economic Zone limit and proceeding landwards could be considered. It has been agreed to continue discussions on the subject.

SAARC Summit

1749. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the response of the different SAARC member countries to the Prime Minister's proposal for an ASEAN type body for the SAARC countries as a step towards a Nuclear Weapon Free World mooted at the SAARC Summit at Colombo in July, 1998; and

(b) the steps taken in pursuance of the said objective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) There is no proposal made by the Prime Minister for an ASEAN type body for the SAARC Countries as a step towards a Nuclear Weapons Free World. There is, however, a proposal for establishing a Free Trade Area In South Asia (SAFTA) which has been accepted by all SAARC countries. At the Colombo Summit in July 1998, all SAARC leaders agreed to commence negotiations on a Treaty for establishing SAFTA and underlined the importance of concluding the Treaty by the year 2001.

[Translation]

Price of Fertilizer

1750. SHRI VITHAL TUPE:

SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

DR. PRABHA THAKUR:

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH:

SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE:

SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the price of Urea and have given a free hand to fertilizer producers and suppliers for fixing the prices of fertilizers;

(b) if so, its likely impact on the farmers;

(c) the estimated increase in the prices of fertilizers;

(d) whether the Government are taking steps for providing relief to farmers from this increase;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government have formulated a policy to make available various fertilizers and insecticides to the farmers at a minimum rates and in sufficient quantity;

(g) if so the details thereof and the role of State Government therein; and

(h) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (e) Urea is the only controlled fertilizer and its farmgate price is fixed by the Govt. There is no proposal to increase the farmgate price of Rs. 3660 per MT now in force. In the case of decontrolled P&K Fertilizers like Diammonium Phosphate, Muriate of Potash, Single Super Phosphate and various grades of Complexes also, Govt. has indicated the maximum retail prices during the current Rabi season.

(f) to (h) The Govt. pays subsidy and fixes the Farmgate price for Urea while it pays concession and indicates maximum retail price in case of major decontrolled fertilizers in order to make them available at reasonable prices. Sufficient availability of Urea is ensured through State-wise allocations. In the case of insecticides, steps like bringing them under Essential Commodities Act, reducing Custom and Excise duties and bring their imports under OGL have been taken.

[English]

Regional Passport Office

1751. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to delink the Regional Passport Office from the administrative control of the Ministry of External Affairs;

(b) whether there is proposal to set up a separate unit to attend to the welfare and administrative matters of the employees of the Regional Passport Office;

(c) if not, whether the Government proposes to

constitute a team to examine the problems being faced by the employees of Regional Passport Office; and

(d) if so, the time frame required for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. The existing administrative framework is considered sufficient for this purpose.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Biogas Technology

1752. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the agriculture Universities in Bihar which are being provided assistance by the Union Government for biogas technology and training;

(b) whether the Government propose to impart education in the above subject in Bhagalpur Agriculture College, Savaur also;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Assistance is given for promotion of biogas technology, training etc., in the State of Bihar through the State nodal agency, namely, Bihar Renewable Energy Development Agency (BREDA); Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and All India Women's Conference (AIWC) under the Central Sector Scheme—National Project on Biogas Development. However, at present agriculture universities are not involved for implementing the project in the State of Bihar.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) The achievement of target of 500 family type biogas plants and one community or institutional plant allocated to the State of Bihar for 1998-99 is not considered to be dependent on the involvement of any agriculture college, including Bhagalpur Agriculture College, to impart education or training in the construction of biogas plants.

[*English*]**Disturbance of DD Signals in Jammu and Kashmir**

1753. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan's signals are disturbed due to cable operators manoeuvring and the people in border areas of Jammu and Kashmir are not able to watch Doordarshan Programmes; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to check this phenomenon and upgradation of transmission frequencies of Doordarshan telecasts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) and (b) The Prasar Bharati (Doordarshan) had been receiving complaints from cable subscribers about poor reception quality of Doordarshan channels. After examining the matter, the Prasar Bharati recommended amendment in the Cable TV Network Regulation Act to provide for installation of dish-antenna by cable operators for receiving Doordarshan channels and their distribution in VHF channels other than those utilised by Doordarshan for local transmission. This proposal of Prasar Bharati is under examination in the Ministry. As per latest survey report dated 31.12.1997, there are only 12 registered cable operators in the whole State of J&K operating in the towns/cities of Jammu, Srinagar, etc.

At present, Doordarshan has 2 studios and 45 transmitters in the Jammu & Kashmir State and schemes to upgrade the power of transmitters at Kathua, Srinagar.

Poonch and Udampur are under implementation. Six (6) very Low Power Transmitters are also under implementation at Batalik, Bafflaz, Darhal, Ringdom Gumpa, Trial and Turtok. Besides 28 more transmitters (HPTs 3 and VLPTs 25) are proposed to be set up in the State during the 9th Five Year Plan subject to availability of funds. Efforts are under way to secure more funds for strengthening the infrastructure in J&K.

[*Translation*]**Local Call Facility**

1754. SHRI INDRAJEET MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any proposal to provide local call facility in Gorakhpur, Khalilabad, Mehndawal and Basti districts in U.P.;

(b) if so, the reasons for not providing this facility at these places so far; and

(c) the time by which this facility is likely to be provided in the said areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) No, Sir. As per policy local call facility is provided within a short distance charging area (SDCA) which generally corresponds to a Tehsil, however, interdialling facility between adjacent SDCAs at 180 sec. pulse rate is also provided as per policy.

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

New Agriculture Policy

1755. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:

DR. PRABHA THAKUR:

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD:

SHRI DINSHAW PATEL:

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:

SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY:

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:

SHRI RAJO SINGH:

DR. RAVI MALLU:

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA:

SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV:

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE:

SHRI K.P. NAIDU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a new Agriculture Policy to increase the production of agricultural produce and to solve the problems of the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) A National Policy on Agriculture is in final stage of drafting. It aims at the management and conservation of the natural resource base through sustainable management of land and water resources. It seeks to promote environmentally non-degrading, technically sound, economically viable and socially acceptable improvement of natural resources to promote sustainable development of agriculture.

The Policy will, to this end, seek to achieve:

- conservation of the natural resource base through sustainable management of land and water resources and protection and conservation of biodiversity;
- maintenance of food self-sufficiency;
- greater employment generation, higher household incomes and reduction of poverty through diversification of farming systems;
- reduction of regional imbalances through greater emphasis on rainfed farming and developing areas of untapped potential;
- strengthening of agricultural research and education;
- restructuring of agricultural extension to make it more demand driven and farmer accountable;
- efficient use of inputs;

- expansion of the rural infrastructure through increased public and private sector investment;
- remunerative prices for agricultural produce through strengthening marketing institutions and infrastructure and creation of a favourable economic environment for the growth of the agriculture sector;
- value addition to farm produce through agro-processing and improved post-harvest facilities;
- revitalization of the rural credit institutions and linking credit with insurance to augment the flow of credit for agriculture and rural sector;
- higher agricultural exports and integration of the Indian commodity markets with global markets;
- creating quality consciousness among farmers and agro-processors and development of facilities for quality testing;
- benefits to the agriculture sector at par with industry;
- greater participation of user communities;
- safeguarding the interests of women and weaker sections of the rural community;
- land reforms that lead to higher productivity with equity.

15 post offices have been sanctioned.

114 proposals are under examination.

Statement-I

Number of Villages in Maharashtra Having Telephone Facility.

S.No.	District	No. of Villages with Telephone facility
1	2	3
1.	Akola	1144
2.	Amravati	1106
3.	Bhandara	1076
4.	Chandrapur	966
5.	Gadchiroli	387
6.	Wardha	766
7.	Yatmal	970
8.	Raigad	1441
9.	Ratnagiri	607
10.	Sindhudurg	478
11.	Nasik	1423
12.	Dhule	1194
13.	Latur	909
14.	Nanded	1031
15.	Prabhani	1122
16.	Jalgaon	1340
17.	Buldhana	961
18.	Sangli	695
19.	Satara	1250
20.	Solapur	1107
21.	Osmanabad	551
22.	Ahmednagar	1430
23.	Beed	856
24.	Aurangabad	830
25.	Jalna	806
26.	Kalyan	993
27.	Kolhapur	1117
28.	Nagpur	1283
29.	Pune	1109
Total		28948

[English]

Public Telephones and Post Offices

1756. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in Maharashtra having Telephone and Post Office facilities, district-wise;

(b) the number of Post Offices opened/upgraded category-wise during the last three years, district-wise; and

(c) the number of applications received for the opening of Post Offices and the fate of the applications till October, 1998?

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

(a) Telecom: There are 40023 villages in Maharashtra out of which 28948 villages have been provided with telephone facility. District-wise details are as per statement-I enclosed.

Postal: Total 11404 villages in Maharashtra have been provided post office facility. District-wise details are as per statement-II enclosed.

(b) The number of post office opened/upgraded during the last three years in Maharashtra is 89. District-wise details is given in statement-III enclosed.

(c) Total number of applications received for opening of post offices is 244.

115 of these were found not justified.

Statement-II*Number of Villages in Maharashtra Having Postal Facility*

S. No.	District	No. of Villages with postal facility
1	2	3
1.	Aurangabad	242
2.	Jalna	200
3.	Beed	299
4.	Dhule	425
5.	Jalgaon	664
6.	Nashik	609
7.	Nanded	420
8.	Prabhani	283
9.	Latur	272
10.	Osmanabad	261
11.	Ratnagiri	628
12.	Kolhapur	503
13.	Sangli	382
14.	Sindhudurg	357

1	2	3
15.	Satara	624
16.	Solapur	474
17.	Ahmednagar	611
18.	Pune	640
19.	Thane	452
20.	Raigad	420
21.	Mumbai	-
22.	Akola	364
23.	Amravati	405
24.	Bhandara	289
25.	Buldana	328
26.	Chandrapur	310
27.	Gadchiroli	181
28.	Nagpur	251
29.	Wardha	165
30.	Yeotmal	345
Total		11404

Statement III*No. of Post Offices Opened/Upgraded during last Three Years*

S. No.	Name of Distt.	No. of POs Opened/Upgraded					
		1995-96		1996-97		1997-98	
		Opened	Upgraded	Opened	Upgraded	Opened	Upgraded
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Aurangabad	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.	Jalna	2	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Beed	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Dhule	1	0	1	0	0	0
5.	Nandurbar	1	0	2	0	1	0
6.	Jalgaon	0	0	0	0	2	0
7.	Nasik	1	0	2	0	2	0
8.	Nanded	0	0	0	1	1	0
9.	Prabhani	0	0	0	1	2	0
10.	Osmanabad	0	0	2	0	1	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11.	Latur	1	0	2	0	1	0
12.	Sangli	0	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Kolhapur	2	0	1	0	1	0
14.	Ratnagiri	0	0	2	0	2	0
15.	Sindhudurg	0	0	1	0	3	0
16.	Satara	1	0	1	1	0	0
17.	Solapur	0	0	0	0	1	0
18.	Ahmednagar	1	0	2	0	2	0
19.	Pune	2	1	4	0	3	0
20.	Thane	1	0	3	0	1	0
21.	Raigad	0	0	3	0	4	1
22.	Mumbai	0	0	1	0	0	0
23.	Akola	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Amravati	0	1	1	0	0	0
25.	Buldhana	0	0	0	0	2	0
26.	Bhandara	0	0	1	0	2	0
27.	Chandrapur	0	0	0	0	1	0
28.	Gadchiroli	0	0	5	0	0	0
29.	Nagpur	0	0	3	0	0	0
30.	Wardha	0	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Yeotmal	0	0	0	0	1	0
Total		13	2	37	3	33	1

[*Translation*]**Growth Rate**

1757. DR. SUSHIL INDORA:

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN:

SHRI DINSHAW PATEL:

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

SHRI K.S. RAO:

SHRI D.S. AHIRE:

SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to

keep the annual growth rate at 6.5 percent during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission, in its last meeting in November, 1998, decided to recommend to the National Development Council a reduction in the target rate of growth of GDP from 7.0% to 6.5% per annum average over the five years of the Ninth Plan. This has been done to take into account the actual realisation of 5.1% growth during 1997-98 (i.e., the first year of the Ninth Plan) and expected realisation of about 6% growth during 1998-99 (i.e., the second year of the Plan). Implicit in this target is more than 7% of average growth during the remaining three years of the Plan.

Cultivation of Sunflower

1758. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cultivation of sunflower during the last two years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government have made any special efforts to promote cultivation of sunflower in Gujarat;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL):- (a) State-wise details of area cultivated under sunflower during 1996-97 and 1997-98 are given in the attached statement.

(b) to (d) For promoting the cultivation of oilseeds including sunflower Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is being implemented in 23 States including Gujarat. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided for the critical inputs like production and distribution of seed, distribution of seed minikits, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements, gypsum/pyrites, micron-utrients and rhizobium culture etc. to the farmers through State Govts. In addition to this, frontline and general demonstrations are also organised on the farmers' fields to disseminate the improved production and protection technologies. An amount of Rs. 666 lakh and Rs. 1142 lakh have been released to Gujarat under OPP during 1996-97 and 1997-98 respectively.

Statement
Cultivated Area of Sunflower

S. No.	State	Area	
		1996-97	1997-98
1.	A.P.	298.4	340.0
2.	Bihar	7.5	8.0
3.	Gujarat	0.0	10.0
4.	Haryana	61.6	100.0
5.	Karnataka	876.0	986.0
6.	M.P.	10.3	9.0
7.	Maharashtra	537.9	413.0
8.	Nagaland	2.8	—
9.	Orissa	2.0	4.0
10.	Punjab	120.0	95.0

	1	2	3	4
11.	Rajasthan		2.0	2.0
12.	Tamil Nadu		42.8	39.0
13.	Uttar Pradesh		32.7	33.0
14.	West Bengal		1.1	1.0
15.	Others		0.0	3.0
Total			1995.1	2043.0

Filling up of Vacancies

1759. SHRI ANUP LAL YADAY: Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of EDDA/MC and EDBPM posts filled up in Darbhanga district of Bihar from 1997 till date;

(b) the number of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Candidates out of them;

(c) whether any representation alleging corruption in the said appointment has been received;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the terms and conditions laid down by the Department in regard to the appointment of SC/ST candidates have not been followed for the said posts in Trimuhanighat, Badera and Darbhanga;

(f) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Government in this regard; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government against the persons found guilty in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) The number of posts of EDDAMC and EDBPM filled up in Darbhanga District is as under:-

(1) EDDA-cum-EDMC : 15 (2) EDBPM : 11

(b) The number of SC and ST candidates out of them is as under:-

(1) SC : 02; (2) ST : Nil.

(c) and (d) Two representations alleging corruption in connection with the said appointments have been received. These are:-

(1) The President, Darbhanga Mahanagar Janata Dal has represented alleging demand of illegal gratification in the appointment of EDMC in Kanshi EDBO in account with Bharathi sub-office under Darbhanga Postal Division.

(2) Shri Jai Kant Sada, one of the candidates belonging

to SC has represented alleging appointment of a candidate as EDDA/MC in Trimuhanighat EDBO not belonging to SC after taking illegal gratification. These are under examination.

(e) to (g) As regards appointment of SC/ST candidates in Trimuhanighat, reply against part (d) may be seen. Regarding such appointments in Badera and Darbhanga relevant details are being obtained from Chief Postmaster General, Bihar for examination.

Telephone Exchanges in Bihar

1760. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for sanctioning a new telephone exchange;

(b) the number of telephone exchanges functioning in Bihar at present;

(c) the number of telephone exchanges opened during 1997-98, location-wise;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up some new Telephone exchanges in the State during 1998-99; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) A new telephone exchange is sanctioned at the place where registered paid demand for telephone connection reaches ten or more and the place does not fall within the local area of an existing exchange.

(b) 852 telephone exchanges are functioning in Bihar at present.

(c) Twenty Five telephone exchanges were opened during 1997-98. Location-wise details are given in statement-I enclosed.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The details are given in Statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I

The No. of Telephone Exchanges Opened during 1997-98, Location-wise

Sl. No.	Location	Capacity	Type
1	2	3	4
1.	Satwara	88	C-DOT 128P
2.	Sarfuddinpur	88	CDOT 128P
3.	Majorganj	56	MILT-64
4.	Iswapur	88	C-DOT 128P
5.	Marar	184	C-DOT 256A
6.	Basia	88	C-DOT 128P
7.	Mohanpur	194	C-DOT 256A
8.	Charia Bariarpur	152	C-DOT 256B
9.	Dhanaura	152	C-DOT 256B
10.	Ganguar	152	C-DOT 256B
11.	Maghgai	88	C-DOT 128P
12.	Hemjapur	88	C-DOT 128P
13.	Ghosi	88	C-DOT 128P
14.	Orhanpur	88	C-DOT 128P
15.	Banka Bazar	88	C-DOT 128P
16.	Gurua	88	C-DOT 128P
17.	Saidpur	184	C-DOT 256A
18.	Vijayhat	88	C-DOT 128P
19.	Pratap Sagar	88	C-DOT 128P
20.	Maithon	272	C-DOT 256A+128P

1	2	3	4
21.	Malahi	88	C-DOT 128P
22.	Chenari	88	C-DOT 128P
23.	Murli Chok	88	C-DOT 128P
24.	Tektar	152	C-DOT 256B
25.	Allnagar	184	C-DOT 256A

Statement-II*Details of Telephone Exchanges proposed to be set up during 1998-99, Location-wise*

Sl. No.	Location	Capacity	Type
1	2	3	4
1.	Hatgamaria	152	C-DOT 256B
2.	Kopa	152	C-DOT 256B
3.	Garhpura	184	C-DOT 265A
4.	Fatehpur	152	C-DOT 256B
5.	Janta Bazar	152	C-DOT 256B
6.	Addha	88	C-DOT 128P
7.	Amrapara	184	C-DOT 256A
8.	Karmauni	88	C-DOT 128P
9.	Ranipatra	88	C-DOT 128P
10.	Galgalla	88	C-DOT 128P
11.	Barharakothi	88	C-DOT 128P
12.	Nemdarganj	88	C-DOT 128P
13.	Mahanda	88	C-DOT 128P
14.	Dihral	88	C-DOT 128P
15.	Seotar	88	C-DOT 128P
16.	Sarse	88	C-DOT 128P
17.	Chewara	88	C-DOT 128P
18.	Farda	152	C-DOT 256B
19.	Ghorghat	88	C-DOT 128P
20.	Nadaul	88	C-DOT 128P
21.	Sampatchak	152	C-DOT 256B
22.	Naya Sarai	88	C-DOT 128P
23.	Toto	88	C-DOT 128P
24.	Gaighat	88	C-DOT 128P

1	2	3	4
25.	Chuhari	88	C-DOT 128P
26.	Dariyapur	88	C-DOT 128P
27.	Alamganj Bazar	88	C-DOT 128P
28.	Konch	88	C-DOT 128P
29.	Kinger	88	C-DOT 128P
30.	Bhojudih	88	C-DOT 128P

Production of Foodgrains

1761. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:

SHRI VITHAL TUPE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total demand and actual production of foodgrains in the country at present, State-wise in comparison to foodgrains produced during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the production of foodgrains is likely to come down despite normal monsoon this year;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to make the country self-reliant in the field of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) A statement on State-wise production of foodgrains during 1995-96 to 1997-98 is attached. The State-wise demand for foodgrains is not available. However, the demand for foodgrains for the country is presently estimated at about 196 million tonnes.

(b) and (c) The kharif production is likely to be slightly lower than the last year's production due to heavy rains at later part of monsoon period and floods and cyclone in some parts of the country. However, prospects for rabi crop are good. The pace of sowing is better than the last year and the availability of inputs is also satisfactory. The weather conditions so far have been favourable for sowing as well as growth of plantation. The reservoir level is also good.

(d) In order to increase the production and productivity of foodgrains in the country, the Government is implementing centrally sponsored Integrated Cereals Development Programmes in Rice/Wheat/Coarse Cereal Based Cropping Systems Areas, Accelerated Maize Development Programme and National Pulses Development Project. Under these programmes, incentives are provided to farmers for use of quality seeds and location specific hybrid varieties, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation, improved farm implements etc. Besides, field demonstrations on farmers holdings including training of farmers and farm labourers are

organised for effective transfer of technology. Further, under the National Agenda for governance, the Government has given fresh thrust to double the food production in next ten years adopting regionally differentiated growth strategies, creation of farming infrastructure and more efficient use of resources.

Statement

State	Production of Foodgrains (Lakh tonnes)		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
	1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	116.7	126.8	102.9
Assam	35.6	35.3	36.0
Bihar	129.5	141.3	132.9
Gujarat	41.0	52.1	57.0
Haryana	101.4	114.5	111.5
Himachal Pradesh	13.6	12.9	13.3
Jammu & Kashmir	14.7	13.2	17.1
Karnataka	86.5	92.7	84.7
Kerala	9.7	8.6	8.3
Madhya Pradesh	180.7	195.6	173.1
Maharashtra	116.0	145.9	100.7
Orissa	68.0	48.3	68.5
Punjab	198.1	215.6	211.2
Rajasthan	95.7	128.4	139.8
Tamil Nadu	64.1	76.5	86.4
Uttar Pradesh	383.7	426.9	421.9
West Bengal	128.8	137.4	144.9
All India	1804.2	1993.2	1931.2

[*English*]

Commission for Agriculture Costs and Prices

1762. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to review the working of Commission for agriculture costs and prices; and
(b) if so, the details of steps to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Annual Plan Outlay for Maharashtra

1763. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:

SHRI VITHAL TUPE:

SHRI D.S. AHIRE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the annual plan outlay for Maharashtra has been finalised by the Union Government;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the percentage of its increase for the current year as compared to last two years;
(c) whether State Government has demanded to raise the allocation; and
(d) if so, the decision of the Union Government thereon alongwith details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) An outlay of Rs. 11600.73 crore for the Annual Plan 1998-99 for Maharashtra has already been approved by the Planning Commission which exceeds the revised outlays of Annual Plans 1996-97 and 1997-98 by 51.64% and 38.22% respectively.

- (c) No, Sir.
(d) Does not arise.

Vegetable Seeds

1764. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY:

DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to provide high

quality of vegetable seeds to farmers on concessional rates to increase the rate of production of vegetables like potatoes, onions, cabbage and peas etc;

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The Government of India is implementing two Central Sector Schemes namely (i) Production & Supply of Vegetable Seeds; and (ii) Development of Root & Tuber Crops under which highly subsidised minikits of various vegetable seeds and potato tuberlets are distributed to the farmers in all the States/Union Territories of the country.

[*English*]

Teaching of Indian Languages

1765. SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the South African Government have stopped teaching of Indian Languages in South Africa and the people of Indian origin have protested against this move;
(b) if so, Indian Government have taken up the matter with the South African Government; and
(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) There are proposals from the University of Durban-Westville and the Provincial Department of Education to reorganise teaching of Indian languages. No firm decision has yet been taken on the subject.

- (c) The Government of India is closely watching the developments in this regard.

Construction of Post Office Building

1766. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several post offices do not have their own buildings in Maharashtra;
(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise; and
(c) the total rent paid by the Government on this account during the last three years?

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

- (b) The Number of rented buildings district-wise is given in the attached statement.

- (c) The total rent paid by the Govt. on this account during the last three years is Rs. 7,56,27,242/-.

Statement

Name of District	No. of PO's in Rented Bldg.
1	2
Maharashtra State	
Mumbai	215
Thane	103
Raigad	61
Buldhana	21
Amravati	41
Akola	36
Wardha	23
Yeotmal	38
Nagpur	102
Bhandara	27
Chandrapur	30
Gadchiroli	13
Aurangabad	39
Parbhani	21
Nanded	40
Nashik	76
Jalna	26
Latur	23
Beed	28
Dhule	50
Jalgaon	70
Osmanabad	29
Pune	184
Satara	82
Ahmednagar	101
Solapur	86
Kolhapur	89
Ratnagiri	72
Sangli	73
Sindhudurg	55

Solar Energy

1767. SHRI S.S. OWAISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of rural electrification from solar energy has increased during the last three years;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to review the present price fixation policy; and

(d) the total solar energy produced in Andhra Pradesh during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The Government of India is promoting the use of solar energy through the photovoltaic and thermal routes. Rural Electrification is achieved through solar energy by deployment of individual photovoltaic systems such as solar lanterns, home lighting systems, street lights and water pumping systems or the installation of village level photovoltaic power plants. The costs of some of these systems have increased by about 10% during the last three years. Among the reasons for this are increase in customs duties on imported materials, levy of excise duty on silicon wafers and general increase in prices of batteries, steel structures etc.

(c) Government does not have a price fixation policy for such systems. Only the subsidy provided by the Central Government is fixed and reviewed periodically.

(d) The solar photovoltaic systems installed in the State of Andhra Pradesh are estimated to have generated the following electrical energy during the last three years:

Year	Estimated Energy Generated in Million kWh
1995-96	0.69
1996-97	0.38
1997-98	0.96

In addition, it is estimated that the solar thermal systems like solar water heating systems and solar cookers installed/distributed in the State generate about 7.34 million kWh (thermal) energy every year.

Value Added Services

1768. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether DoT has launched some value added services recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether said services have been rejected by the Corporate houses and businessmen;

- (d) if so, the reasons for failure of these services; and
 (e) the steps being taken by the Government to promote the products, sources familiar with the development?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In Service have been introduced recently at Indore in M.P., Telecom Circle.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Not applicable in view of (c) above.

(e) Action is being taken to appoint marketing agents for promoting these services.

Criteria for Approval of T.V. Serials

1769. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL:

SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria followed for the selection of TV serials by Doordarshan;

(b) whether several TV serials which were being telecast have been asked to wind up the episodes suddenly; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) Prasar Bharati has laid down the following broad criteria for selection of TV serials under Doordarshan's commissioned programme scheme:-

(i) Relevance of the story, theme or subject to the needs of Doordarshan;

(ii) Treatment of the subject/storyline;

(iii) Conformity to the telecast code; and

(iv) Track records of the Director, Executive Producer, Writer, crew etc.

In so far as sponsored programmes are concerned, Doordarshan endeavours to approve programmes which propagate high social values combined with wholesome entertainment.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Officers on Training

1770. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central Government Officers sent abroad for training during each of the last three years, Department-wise;

(b) whether such kind of training is not available in our country;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to arrange such type of training in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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): (a) The information on the number of Central Government officers deputed for training abroad under Technical Cooperation Programme, during the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) to (e) The various Central Ministries/Departments and the Public Sector Undertakings depute the majority of their personnel to training relevant for them in the training institutions within the country only. The kinds of foreign training for which the officers are deputed, however, provide a very different environment and exposure from that available from the various training programmes conducted within the country. Officers deputed to such training abroad get the benefit of interaction with the participants from other countries as also get exposed to the latest public service reforms in the developed countries. The training institutions within the country may not be able to replicate or substitute the training for which the officers are deputed abroad.

Statement

Number of Central Government Officers deputed for Training Abroad during the last three years under Technical Cooperation Programme

Name of Ministry/Department	Year		
	1995	1996	1997
1	2	3	4
D/o Personnel & Training	121	136	128
M/o Home Affairs	34	28	22

1	2	3	4
M/o Agriculture-	41	18	17
M/o Environment & Forests	180	66	83
M/o Human Resource Development	62	75	43
M/o Urban Affairs & Employment	53	24	27
M/o Health & Family Welfar	25	5	11
M/o Surface Transport	19	6	3
M/o Industry	42	31	36
Planning Commission	11	17	15
Ministry of Labour	7	7	12
M/o Social Justice & Empowerment	28	18	4
M/o Finance	57	45	47
M/o Railways	26	6	6
M/o Commerce	3	—	4
M/o Petroleum & Natural Gas	2	—	—
M/o Information & Broadcasting	1	—	1
M/o External Affairs	—	1	1
M/o Communication	17	5	6
M/o Rural Areas & Employment	37	21	7
M/o Parliamentary Affairs	2	4	4
D/o Justice, M/o Home Affairs	—	10	10
D/o Legal Affairs	3	4	6
M/o Coal	20	21	1
M/o Power	6	11	6
M/o Science & Technology	9	6	8
D/o Statistics	2	3	3
M/o Mines	1	8	1
M/o Civil Aviation	6	—	2
M/o Electronics	1	2	4
D/o Space	—	—	1
M/o Defence	2	—	4
M/o Water Resources	4	1	5
M/o Steel	3	—	5
M/o Chemicals & Petrochemicals	2	1	1
D/o Company Affairs	1	—	—
M/o Textiles	—	—	1
D/o Food & Civil Supplies	1	—	—
Grand Total	829	580	535

Note: The above figures include the officers working in various parts of the country but nominated by the Central Ministries/Departments/PSUs.

**AIR Relay Station at Koppal and Salem in
Karnataka and Tamil Nadu**

1771. SHRI H. G. RAMULU:

SHRI T. R. BAALU:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up AIR relay station at Koppal and Salem in Karnataka and in Tamil Nadu respectively during 1998-99; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Expansion of Ultra High Frequency System

1772. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the districts in Goa where expansion of Ultra High Frequency telephone system has been done during the last two years;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon; and

(c) the number of persons benefited as a result thereof?

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

(a) The expansions have been carried out in North Goa & South Goa districts.

(b) Approximately Rs. 63 lakhs have been spent in each District.

(c) The direct beneficiaries are the subscribers connected to the telephone exchanges where these systems have been installed. In addition the people who are making calls from around the world to these subscribers are also benefited.

Survey Report on Coverage of Doordarshan Network

1773. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:-

(a) whether any survey report on the areas covered by Doordarshan is available with the Government for proper planning and development of Doordarshan network;

(b) if so, the sources of information thereof;

(c) whether the Hilly and Tribal Areas of rest of the country and North Eastern Areas are yet to get full coverage by HPTs, LPTs and VLPTs;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to formulate

a special scheme exclusively for said areas under the concept of Tribal Sub-plan; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) and (b) Schemes for expansion/upgradation of Doordarshan services are planned on the basis of reception surveys conducted by various kendras and requests received from various quarters from time to time.

(c) to (e) Although Doordarshan programmes are available throughout the country including hilly, tribal and North-eastern areas through satellite mode which can be received by using appropriate dish antenna system, it has been the constant endeavour of Doordarshan to expand/upgrade its terrestrial services throughout the country including hilly/remote/ North-eastern region/border and tribal areas keeping in view the factors such as suitability of location, availability of funds and infrastructural facilities, resultant coverage and relative priorities while finalising its projects.

Electronic Telephone Exchanges

1774. SHRI DINSHAW PATEL:

DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of electronic telephone exchanges opened in the country during the Eighth Five Year plan period, State-wise;

(b) the number of electronic exchanges proposed to be opened during the Ninth Five Year Plan period, State-wise; and

(c) the details of financial allocation for opening of electronic exchanges during the Eighth Five Year Plan and the estimated financial allocations for the purpose for the Ninth Five Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Number of Electronic Exchanges opened in the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan, State-wise is enclosed as Statement.

(b) Number of electronic Exchanges proposed to be opened during Ninth Five Year Plan period, State-wise is enclosed as statement.

(c) There is no separate financial allocation in respect of electronic exchanges, but the expenditure is booked under the Head—Local Telephone System. Actual Expenditure booked under this Head for Eighth Five Year Plan was Rs. 27680.91 Crores including MTNL.

Estimated financial allocation for Local Telephone Systems in the Ninth Five Year Plan is Rs. 59099.03 Crores including MTNL.

Statement

Sl.	State	No. of Electronic Exchanges opened during Eighth Five Year plan	No. of Electronic Exchanges proposed to be opened during Ninth Five year plan
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1199	355
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
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	26
20.	Orissa	802	200
21.	Punjab (including Chandigarh)	625	356
22.	Rajasthan	1147	500
23.	Sikkim	8	39
24.	Tamil Nadu (including Pondicherry)	1004	213
25.	Tripura	8	30
26.	Uttar Pradesh	583	739
27.	West Bengal	500	941

Import Duty Burden on Cellular Operators

1775. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 22 cellular operators have urged the Government to sharply lower the overall import duty burden on mobile telephones;

(b) if so, whether any memorandum has been submitted in this regard;

(c) if so, whether the Government have considered the memorandum; and

(d) if so, the time by which a final decision is taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) No Sir. However, Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) have submitted a position paper highlighting various issues relating to the Cellular Mobile Telephone Service. One of the issue highlighted therein relates to reduction of import duty on cellular handsets.

(c) The paper submitted by COAI are under consideration.

(d) No time limit can be given as several complex issues are involved.

Vacation of PoK

1776. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakistan have been avoiding talks on vacating Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK);

(b) if so, the details of discussions held on this issue during the past few months and the outcome thereof;

(c) the details of new policy formulated by the Government to get the land vacated from Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) The entire State of Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of the Indian Union. A part of the territory of the State is under the illegal and forcible occupation of Pakistan. Under the Simla Agreement, India is committed to a resolution of all India-Pakistan issues peacefully through direct bilateral discussions.

As part of the composite dialogue process, India and Pakistan held discussions on Jammu and Kashmir on 17th October, 1998 in Islamabad at the level of Foreign Secretaries. India reiterated that the legal status in respect of Jammu and Kashmir was clear and did not admit of any change. We also

drew Pakistan's attention to the plight of the people in that part of the territory of J&K under the illegal occupation of Pakistan.

[*Translation*]

Lifting of Sanctions

1777. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM:

SHRI AMARPAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the countries visited by the Prime Minister's special emissary Shri Jaswant Singh after the nuclear explosions;

(b) the agreements reached during his foreign visits; and

(c) whether sanction slapped by various countries have slackened after these visits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Shri Jaswant Singh led the Indian delegation to the Fifth ASEAN Regional Forum and the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conferences in Manila. He was a member of the India delegation, led by Prime Minister, to the 10th Summit of Heads of State of SAARC member countries held in Colombo and was a member of the official delegation during Prime Minister's stop-over in Paris on a working visit. As the Special Representative of the Prime Minister, Shri Jaswant Singh has held seven rounds of discussions, as part of the Indo-US Strategic Dialogue with Strobe Talbot, the Special Representative of President Clinton of the United States. These talks were held in Washington, New York, Delhi, Frankfurt and Rome. They are aimed at creating a better appreciation of India's security concerns and an acknowledgement of the voluntary steps announced by India. The discussions have led to a narrowing of gaps of perception.

(c) India has all along maintained that unilateral coercive measures are unjustified, counterproductive and impede the free flow of trade, technology and capital and have an adverse impact on mutually beneficial economic interaction. Government is aware of reports emanating from Washington regarding lifting of some economic restrictions imposed by the United States against India and has noted that, (according to these press reports), it is in recognition of the narrowing of gaps of perception that the United States has lifted some of these measures. Government is of the view that all such measures, particularly those relating to lending by multilateral financial institutions, should be lifted.

[*English*]

Oilseeds

1778. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA:

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:

SHRI TARACHAND SAHU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there was a shortfall of 2.2 lakh tons of oilseed during the current kharif season;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the shortfall;
- (c) whether the Government propose to formulate a scheme to encourage the production of oilseeds in various States;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government propose to provide financial help to farmers under this scheme;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The target of production for oilseeds during kharif season 1998 was 159 lakh tonnes. As against this the advanced estimates of production during kharif 1998 is 142.6 lakh tonnes as compared to 141.5 lakh tonnes in kharif 1997. The main reason for the shortfall of the production is the inclement weather and un-seasonal rains during the harvesting period.

(c) and (d) For encouraging the production of oilseeds in various States, Govt. is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Oilseeds Production (OPP). Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided for critical input like production and distribution of seeds, distribution of seed minikits, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements, gypsum/pyrites, micro nutrients and rhyzobium culture etc. to the farmers through State Govts. In addition to this, frontline and general demonstrations are also organised on the farmers' fields to disseminate the improved production and protection technologies. The scheme is in operation in 23 States covering 374 districts.

(e) to (g) As indicated in (c) and (d) above, Govt. is already providing financial assistance to the farmers under this scheme. The details of financial assistance provided to different States during last two years are given in the attached statement.

Statement

Releases under Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP)

Statement showing releases made to different States during 1996-97 and 1997-98

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.	State	Release	
		1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1299.67	1502.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	34.32	40.00

	1	2	3	4
3.	Assam		50.00	—
4.	Bihar		74.00	—
5.	Gujarat		666.00	1142.00
6.	Haryana		226.00	296.36
7.	H.P.		10.00	—
8.	J & K		23.32	—
9.	Karnataka		694.85	653.14
10.	Kerala		26.65	50.00
11.	Madhya Pradesh		1590.45	1249.00
12.	Maharashtra		1325.66	1050.00
13.	Manipur		164.00	110.00
14.	Meghalaya		10.00	20.00
15.	Orissa		623.00	500.00
16.	Punjab		40.32	100.00
17.	Rajasthan		1603.53	1650.00
18.	Sikkim		46.66	55.00
19.	Tamil Nadu		894.32	832.50
20.	Tripura		33.32	35.00
21.	Uttar Pradesh		932.32	921.00
22.	West Bengal		200.00	250.00
	Total		10568.39	10456.00

Revenue Earned by Doordarshan/AIR Stations in U.P.

1779. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) the total revenue earned by various Doordarshan/Akashwani Kendras in Uttar Pradesh through advertisements during each of the last three years and till date;
- (b) the total amount spent on maintenance and renovation of those centres during the said period separately;
- (c) whether any construction work has been taken up in those Kendras during the said period, separately; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) all India Radio Stations at Lucknow, Allahabad, Kanpur and Banaras and Doordarshan Kendras at Lucknow and Gorakhpur (Since April, 1998) are the revenue earning centres in Uttar Pradesh. The gross commercial revenue earned by these centres in each of the last three years till date is as follows:-

Year	AIR	Doordarshan (Rs. in crores)
1995-96	7.07	4.49
1996-97	6.47	3.70
1997-98	8.80	3.60
1998-99	1.57	2.77
(upto September, 1998)		(upto October, 1998)

(b) The total amount spent on maintenance and renovation of these stations/kendras during 1995-96 to 1997-98 is as under :

Year	All India Radio (Rs. in crores)	Doordarshan (DDK, Lucknow)
1995-96	8.88	9.99
1996-97	7.20	7.67
1997-98	11.42	11.82

(c) and (d) No construction work has been taken up during the last three years in respect of Doordarshan Kendra, Lucknow. Construction work was undertaken and completed only at All India Radio Stations at Allahabad and Lucknow and an amount of Rs. 1.94 crores and Rs. 3.12 crores was spent respectively.

Flood Control in Assam

1780. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Assam for controlling the flood and soil erosion in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The Government of Assam has been submitting flood control schemes on Brahmaputra and Barak rivers costing Rs. 1 crore and above to the Centre for technical and investment clearance. These have been approved from time to time.

(c) Flood being a State subject, implementation of Flood Control schemes are carried out by the Government of Assam from the funds allocated under State Flood Control sector by Planning Commission. In addition, centre has been providing financial assistance to the State of Assam as a special case for flood management in Brahmaputra and Barak rivers every year.

[Translation]

Bargi DAM

1781. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fields near 10 km of Patan Branch Canal of Bargi Bandh have been inundated due to the breach in Bargi Bandh at Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of loss to Government property due to the breach; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to check recurrence of such accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No such matter has been reported to the Centre.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Safe Drinking Water Supply

1782. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Board in collaboration with the Central Pollution Board has conducted a survey of ground water used in mixture with Yamuna Water for drinking purposes in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of the findings of the survey and suggestion/recommendations made by the Expert Committee and the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon; and

(c) the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure availability of clean and treated water for drinking purposes for the people of the National Capital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) In order to ensure potability of water, Delhi Jal Board has set up six laboratories in which 250 to 300 samples drawn from the distribution systems, i.e. public stand posts, public places and individual taps are checked every day. Junior Engineers deployed by the Delhi Jal Board have been provided kits to check the quality of water during their round in the area. In addition, ground water drawn from Ranney wells is also treated at Nitrification and Ozonation Water Treatment Plant before being supplied for drinking purposes.

Growth Rate of Cereals

1783. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:

SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had fixed the target of production of cereals at about 10.71 crores of tonnes in Kharif season this year;

(b) if so, whether the production is estimated to be less than of its target to the tune of 55-60 lakh tonnes;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the comparative growth rate of cereals during each of the last three years; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to fulfil this gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The target of kharif cereals production during 1998-99 has been provisionally fixed at 10.10 crore tonnes.

(b) and (c) The production of cereals during kharif 1998-99 is estimated to be 9.54 crore tonnes. The lower production as compared to the targetted level is mainly on account of floods and untimely rains in certain parts of the country.

(d) The annual growth rate of production of cereals during last three years (1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98) is given in the table below:

	% Annual Growth
1995-96	-5.27
1996-97	9.97
1997-98	-2.75
Average	1.57

(e) In order to increase the production and productivity of cereals in the country, the Government is implementing centrally sponsored Integrated Cereal Development Programme in rice/wheat/coarse cereal Based Cropping Systems Area and Accelerated Maize Development Programme. Under these programmes, incentives are provided to farmers for use of quality seeds and location specific hybrid varieties, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation, improved farm implements, etc. Besides, field demonstrations on farmers holdings including training of farmers and farm labourers are organised for effective transfer of technology. Further in the National Agenda for governance, the Government resources has given fresh thrust to double the food production in next ten years adopting regionally differentiated growth strategies, creation of farming infrastructure and more efficient use of resources.

Rehabilitation of Gulf Returnees

1784. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government consider to implement the package of rehabilitation measures promised to the Gulf returnees;

(b) whether any intention with the Government to constitute a family welfare scheme for the Gulf returnees;

(c) whether the Government proposed to initiate to form a corporation for undertaking the welfare measures of Non-resident Indians;

(d) whether the Government consider to extend voting facility to Non-resident Indians; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Government is in regular contact with the Governments of the Gulf countries with regard to the promotion and protection of the consular and employment interests of Indians migrating legally to those countries. In the case of those who returned to India by availing of amnesty schemes announced by various Gulf countries, Government has provided all possible assistance to help them return to those countries legally. In the case of the United Arab Emirates alone, Government estimates that more than 60,000 Indians have returned on fresh employment visas since November, 1996.

Proposals for creation of a Manpower Export Promotion Council and Overseas Workers Welfare Fund are currently under Government's consideration. State Governments are also sensitive to the specific needs of Indians returning from the Gulf. The Government of Kerala has introduced welfare schemes for the benefit of Non-Resident Indians from the State such as the creation of a Department of Non-Resident Keralites Affairs and a Social Security Scheme called "Pravasi Suraksha".

(d) and (e) All Indian citizens living abroad who are registered as voters in India are eligible to vote.

N.D.D.B

1785. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA:

SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHAN-JHARPUR):

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3113 on July 7, 1998 and state:

(a) whether National Dairy Development Board have hindered auditing of accounts by CAG on some legal grounds despite approval of the President;

(b) whether the NDDB is in receipt of any Government grant;

(c) if so, the details thereof for the last three years and as on date, Year-wise; and

(d) the alternative measures the Government propose to take to ensure that the account of NDDB are properly audited by the CAG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

AGRICULTURE (SHIR SOMPAL): (a) The National Dairy Development Board has filed civil writ petition in the High Court of Delhi praying for quashing the order issued by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying giving permission to the CAG for conducting audit of accounts. The High Court has stayed the order of Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying for conducting audit of accounts of NDDB by CAG.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The information is being compiled.

(d) The accounts of national Dairy Development Board are being audited as per provisions under section 28 of the NDDB Act, 1987 (37 of 1987) by auditors duly qualified to act as auditors of the Companies under the Companies Act.

The civil writ petition filed by NDDB is being contested by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying and CAG. The matter is sub-judice.

Indo-Bangladesh Joint Working Group

1786. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2281 on March 10, 1997 and state:

(a) the main points discussed in the third meeting of Indo-Bangladesh Joint Working Group held in Delhi during January, 1997 and final outcome of each of the point discussed;

(b) the number of survey teams working for completion of the demarcation of land boundary till January, 1997 and number of teams increased till date;

(c) whether the increase in number of survey teams have helped the Government in demarcation of land boundary; and

(d) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) With reference to answer given on March 10, 1997, regarding Indians in Bangladesh, the main points discussed in the 3rd meeting of Indo-Bangladesh Joint Working Group held in Delhi during January 1997 were security-related issues, cross-border movements, repatriation of Chakma refugees, review of existing visa regime, Director-General level meetings between Border Security Force and Bangladesh Rifles activating the mechanism of nodal officers and border demarcation. In regard to border demarcation, both sides recognised the need for early completion of demarcation of land boundary between the two countries. In this connection, both sides agreed on the need to increase the number of survey teams for early completion of the work. The Indian side also explained that the exchange of enclaves could take place only after the demarcation is complete and necessary legal and constitutional formalities are completed as per Indian laws.

There is one survey team each jointly deployed by each

country on the Indo-Bangladesh boundary in West Bengal Sector, Meghalaya sector, Assam sector and Tripura sector till January, 1997. The number of teams has not been increased since then. However, in the West Bengal Sector, where the bulk of the boundary demarcation work is going on, the composition of the survey teams jointly deployed for demarcation work from December 1996 onwards was increased to two surveyors, four Amins and two computers. During the Boundary Conference for the West Bengal sector held in Dhaka from July 18-21, 1997, both sides agreed to further strengthen the survey teams to a strength of two surveyors, seven amins and two computers from each side. This has been done.

As a result of the strengthening of the survey teams in West Bengal Sector during the field seasons 1996-97 and 1997-98, the instrumental work by theodolite traverse was completed along the undemarcated portion of the boundary including those along the periphery of adversely possessed areas. In addition, instrumental observations have been completed for accurate calculation of areas of adverse possessions in South Berubari, Khudipara and Singapara areas.

International Terrorism

1787. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of the team headed by Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission to Washington, the US Government advised India against any steps of 'hot pursuit' in dealing with Pak-backed terrorism in J&k and other places in India, and also opposed suggestions of taking any such steps as taken by the US itself culminating in US air attacks on terrorist-hide outs in Afghanistan and Sudan to fight international terrorism;

(b) if so, precise suggestions made by Indian delegation and the US response thereto; and

(c) the Government's response to the US advice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) During the recent visit of the Indian delegation headed by Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission for discussions with the US Deputy Secretary of State to Rome in November, 1998, the two sides reviewed issues related to disarmament, non-proliferation, bilateral relations as well as regional and international developments.

(b) No suggestions were made by the US side on handling Pakistan sponsored terrorism in J&K and other places in India during the talks.

(c) As stated above, the issue of Pakistan sponsored terrorism was not discussed during the talks. It is, however, our view that to tackle the menace of international terrorism, what is required is not selective unilateral action, but meaningful

international cooperation to identify and act against those responsible for international terrorism—whether individuals, terrorists groups or States. Government have consistently drawn the attention of international community to the issue of Pakistan's sponsored terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of India.

Passport Applications

1788. SHRI D.S. AHIRE:

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received by each Passport Office for issue of fresh passport and for renewals during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of applications cleared and those remain pending, year-wise;

(c) the reasons for delay in issuing of Passport; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for early disposal of pending passport applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) A statement, in four parts, is enclosed.

(c) The principal reasons for delay in issue of passports are receipt of negative or incomplete reports from police authorities, discrepancies in documents submitted by the applicants, particularly in respect of applications received by post, lack of response from applicants who are asked to submit additional documents, etc.

(d) Government is constantly endeavouring to improve and streamline the existing passport issuing system to ensure that no delays take place. A number of measures have been taken to facilitate early issue of passports which include opening of new Passport Offices and Collection Centres, computerisation of procedures for receipt of and processing of applications, despatch of passports by Speed Post in select cities, automatic reissue in the case of expired passports without prior police verification, augmentation of staff strength in the various passport offices, etc.

Statement

Year 1995

S. No.	Office	Fresh Applications		Misc Services	
		Number of applications received	Number of Passports granted	Number of applications received	Number of services granted
1	2	3	4	5	8
1.	Ahmedabad	105955	99089	45723	45512
2.	Bangalore	97741	95672	39525	39846
3.	Bareilly	36863	35880	10850	10559
4.	Bhopal	20297	20148	9130	8776
5.	Bhubaneshwar	6995	5309	2313	2262
6.	Bombay	223397	218043	113677	111847
7.	Calcutta	50045	47601	28385	25738
8.	Chandigarh	84608	103257	31700	34270
9.	Cochin	80686	80009	41720	40078
10.	Delhi	121389	106607	53677	53810
11.	Goa	15329	14220	12366	14472
12.	Guwahati	7486	6739	2474	2347
13.	Hyderabad	149422	142770	53618	51701

1	2	3	4	5	8
14.	Jaipur	52942	51893	18378	30713
15.	Jalandhar	69384	100743	33233	34164
16.	Kozhikode	133067	135892	57608	55848
17.	Lucknow	91266	99127	18085	20087
18.	Madras	117333	112475	41501	40885
19.	Nagpur	9541	9037	3220	3233
20.	Patna	41156	38498	8548	8522
21.	Trichy	164577	139332	56964	56789
22.	Trivandrum	90432	83461	37203	37061
23.	Jammu	11457	8713	1493	1443
		1781368	1754515	721391	729963

Year 1996

S. No	Office	Fresh Applications		Misc Services	
		Number of applications received	Number of passports granted	Number of applications received	Number of services
1	2	3	4	5	8
1.	Ahmedabad	126536	127760	26409	26139
2.	Bangalore	102248	105905	27558	27844
3.	Bareilly	36341	33394	8016	5630
4.	Bhopal	19697	18979	5907	4780
5.	Bhubaneshwar	7683	7029	1285	1245
6.	Bombay	222007	209835	62229	60069
7.	Calcutta	63883	62367	15046	14534
8.	Chandigarh	99379	98946	16009	17235
9.	Cochin	84710	83107	23227	22887
10.	Delhi	142804	140904	37725	39598
11.	Goa	15875	14279	8317	7730
12.	Guwahati	8335	8169	1274	1196
13.	Hyderabad	190755	176649	32075	31709
14.	Jaipur	48272	47441	9697	13076
15.	Jalandhar	95861	95667	15129	15851
16.	Kozhikode	140574	126400	30050	36973
17.	Lucknow	103497	90156	10267	10048

1	2	3	4	5	8
18.	Madras	140512	134158	27149	26216
19.	Nagpur	12107	11792	1732	1693
20.	Patna	47159	44001	4613	6151
21.	Trichy	189516	191752	41277	39087
22.	Trivandrum	77106	73600	23742	22513
23.	Jammu	12531	10495	992	926
		1987388	1912785	427723	432730

Year 1997

S. No	Offices	Fresh Applications		Misc Services	
		Number of applications received	Number of passports issued	Number of Applications received	Number of services rendered
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Ahmedabad	145768	143866	20862	20788
2.	Bangalore	103436	90637	29300	27074
3.	Bareilly	52100	44030	4632	4435
4.	Bhopal	26318	25807	3963	4044
5.	Bhubaneswar	10530	8808	1209	1184
6.	Calcutta	75932	72869	12984	12325
7.	Chandigarh	102128	96599	12798	12375
8.	Chennai	152322	148411	28368	25805
9.	Cochin	105615	104522	21294	21161
10.	Delhi	178256	154652	31688	30604
11.	Goa	18259	17522	8458	8648
12.	Guwahati	11494	11251	1485	1449
13.	Hyderabad	235139	236222	25771	26572
14.	Jaipur	63671	58722	7822	5830
15.	Jalandhar	104567	91627	10223	10903
16.	Jammu	10694	9600	9074	8920
17.	Kozhikode	148055	146181	27520	27368
18.	Lucknow	127414	111291	8674	9232
19.	Mumbai	278507	271556	50507	50301
20.	Nagpur	14171	14282	1582	1618
21.	Patna	63222	53942	3628	3653

1	2	3	4	5	6
22.	Thane	8453	7323	158	150
23.	Trichy	209482	188283	29087	28822
24.	Trivandrum	92522	88409	20185	20483
25.	Vishakapatnam	36000	29400	2147	2119
26.	Srinagar *	3827	800	83	83
		2377882	2226412	373502	365863

* Srinagar— Office started functioning from 7th July '97.

		Total Pendency		
		1995	1996	1997
1.	Ahmedabad	19999	16049	19599
2.	Bangalore	10675	6600	20399
3.	Bareilly	4700	5497	14108
4.	Bhopal	2821	3185	3679
5.	Bhubaneshwar	3012	3725	4022
6.	Calcutta	13556	11578	7304
7.	Chandigarh	8290	10923	13362
8.	Chennai	13533	18233	22109
9.	Cochin	2529	713	8941
10.	Delhi	18652	19455	33753
11.	Goa	2595	713	2200
12.	Guwahati	2957	3128	2511
13.	Hyderabad	18916	30156	31383
14.	Jaipur	8586	8600	14647
15.	Jalandhar	14564	11069	18456
16.	Kozhikode	22012	22368	14041
17.	Lucknow	14613	24311	35316
18.	Mumbai	18885	13217	17044
19.	Nagpur	1170	1457	1087
20.	Patna	6230	9245	6145
21.	Trichy	26934	22769	36378
22.	Trivandrum	11860	11590	11618
23.	Jammu	16819	13131	8475
		263907	274913	348577

Biomass Gasifiers

1789. DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are implementing any programme on Biomass Gasifiers (BGs) in Gujarat;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the programme;
- (c) the number of BG devices installed and power being generated therefrom in the State;
- (d) whether the Government propose to increase their number in the State in the near future; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Biomass Gasifiers Demonstration Programme (BGDP) is being implemented in all States and Union Territories, including Gujarat. The programme provides for financial incentives varying according to different ratings and applications for installation of biomass gasifiers, preparation of detailed project reports for village electrification purpose and implementation charges to State nodal agencies.

(c) A total of 168 biomass gasifier systems has been installed so far in the State of Gujarat for thermal, mechanical and electrical applications and the energy being generated therefrom would be approximately over 45 lakh kilowatt hours equivalent per annum. Besides, a 500 kW gasification technology based power project has been recently commissioned for research and demonstration purpose in village Kothara, district sutch, Gujarat under a separate scheme—National programme on Biomass based Power Generation.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. All State nodal agencies have been requested to develop and send viable proposals for installation of biomass gasifiers for sanctioning during 1989-99 under the Biomass Gasifier Demonstration Programme. However, the nodal agency in Gujarat, namely Gujarat Energy Development Agency (GEDA), has informed that no proposal could be developed so far.

[*Translation*]

Institution of Organic Product

1790. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a proposal of Madhya Pradesh Government seeking foreign assistance to set up an institution for organic products at Mhow and Indore is pending with the Union Government; and
- (b) if so, the reasons for delay in taking decision to this proposal and the time by which a decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

[*English*]

Rabi Crops

1791. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government expect a good crop output for the Rabi 1998-99 season based on this year's monsoon;
- (b) if so, the extent to which the Rabi crops were destroyed during the rains in the country, State-wise;
- (c) whether any assessment of the Rabi output has been made; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) The estimates of rabi crops are not yet due. However, despite floods and untimely rains in certain parts of the country, the prospects of rabi crops are brighter on account of favourable weather conditions, better reservoir situation, good pace of sowing and adequate availability of inputs.

Drip Irrigation

1792. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from any State Government to allocate 90% subsidy for the development of agriculture through drip irrigation; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The Union Government is already implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Use of Plastics in Agriculture under which 90% subsidy is being provided to the Small, Marginal, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Women farmers since 1996-97 for drip irrigation covering all States and Union Territories in the country. The Scheme is being continued during 1997-98 and 1998-99 with the same pattern of assistance.

Optical Fibre Cables

1793. SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of optical fibre cables required in Maharashtra and the present supply thereof;
- (b) whether there is a long gap between demand and supply of optical fibre cables in the State; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to augment the supply of cables at the earliest?

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

(a) The quantity of optical Fibre Cable required in Maharashtra and the present supply thereof in Kms is furnished below:

Requirement	Allotment	Supply
5627	5190	768

(b) and (c) Although procurement action was taken sufficiently in advance, the ordering got delayed due to a court case and 20% of the tendered quantity had to be kept aside to be ordered after the case is decided which is likely during Dec. '98. The orders could therefore be released only during Oct.-Nov. 98 and it is expected that most of the ordered cable shall be available for use during the current year.

Prisoners in Pak Jails

1794. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of prisoners of War (PoWs) in Pakistan jails;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to get them released during 1998; and

(c) the fresh steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) According to available information, 54 Indian Prisoners of War (POWs) are believed to be in custody in Pakistan.

(b) and (c) The matter was taken up with Government of Pakistan during discussions between the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan held in Islamabad from 15-18 October, 1998. Pakistan has been maintaining that there are no such Indian defence personnel in its custody. Government would continue to pursue the matter with the Government of Pakistan.

[*Translation*]

Appointment on Compassionate Grounds

1795. SHRI H.P. SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of appointment on compassionate grounds in the Communications Department in Eastern States especially in Bihar pending for the last three years;

(b) the time by which all such cases are likely to be disposed of; and

(c) the criterion being adopted for making such appointments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) 102 cases of appointment on compassionate grounds are pending. Out of which 35 cases in Bihar.

(b) Appointments are being made progressively and it is expected that backlog will be cleared within six months.

(c) The criterion followed is in accordance with the basic guidelines issued by DoP&T on the subject circulated vide letter No. 14014/6/86-Estt (D) dated 30th June, 97 and related instructions issued from time to time.

[*English*]

CSS Officers

1796. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether regular panels of CSS officers for the posts of Under Secretaries have not been issued after 1986 resulting in a heavy loss in promotional avenues for officers of SC/ST category;

(b) if so, the time by which these panels are likely to be issued; and

(c) the criteria adopted to provide reservation to SC/ST categories for panels for the years 1987 to 1996, the period prior to the Orders of Government for adoption of posts-based Roster in lieu of vacancy-based Roster with effect from 2.7.1997?

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): (a) and (b) No select list for regular promotions to Grade I (Under Secretaries) of the Central Secretariat Service could be prepared after 1986 owing to protracted litigation regarding inter-se seniority of directly recruited and promoted Section Officers. Even the select lists prepared for the years 1984 to 1986 were set aside by the Central Administrative Tribunal. Consequently, ad-hoc promotions only are being ordered to the Grade I of the Service. Pursuant to the common seniority list (CSL) of Section Officers issued on 3.12.1997 in compliance with the Supreme Court's order dt. 9.5.1997, the exercise for review/preparation of Grade I panels for the years 1984 to 1986 and the years 1987 onwards has been initiated. The exercise as a whole is time-consuming and it is not feasible to specify any definite time-frame for its completion.

(c) Reservation in respect of the select lists of Under Secretaries for the years 1987 onwards yet to be prepared is to be provided with reference to the post-based roster as per the instructions issued by the Department of Personnel & Training in compliance with the Supreme Court's decision.

Nuclear Export Control Mechanism

1797. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL:

SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU:

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether talks between India and US to explore various export control regimes to check nuclear proliferation

were held;

- (b) If so, to what extent the talks were successful;
- (c) whether any agreement on nuclear issues were reached between the two countries; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On November 9-10, 1998 India and the United States held discussions on export control issues as a part of the on-going bilateral dialogue process aimed at bringing about a normalisation of bilateral relations. During these discussions India conveyed its concerns regarding restrictions on access to dual-use technologies, equipment for civilian applications, including in the nuclear energy sector. The discussions led to a better appreciation of India's commitment to non-proliferation, reflected in its effective system of export controls.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Soyabean Crop

1798. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 50 percent crop of soyabean in Madhya Pradesh was destroyed during the sowing season and remaining half of the crop was destroyed due to the failure of rain during this year;
- (b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to provide any assistance to the farmers; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The Government of Madhya Pradesh has reported that despite the sporadic pattern of rainfall during July and August, 1998, the Soyabean crop was saved to a greater extent. Soyabean was sown in 42.81 lakh hectares area in 1997-98 and the estimated area under soyabean in 1998-99 is about 44.81 lakh hectares. As against the estimated production of 49.19 lakh tonnes of Soyabean during 1997-98, the estimated production during 1998-99 is 51.50 lakh tonnes.

Water Management

1799. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL:

SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that the water resources are shrinking rapidly in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted by the Union Government to explore water resources during 1997-98 in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) On an average the total water resources availability in the country remains the same. However, per capita availability of fresh water is shrinking due to increase in population, rapid industrialisation and urbanisation. At the time of Independence, the per capita water availability in the country was over 5000 cubic meters per year which has now fallen to about 2200 cubic metres per year.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Infrastructure Projects

1800. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government propose to monitor the private sector infrastructure projects costing Rs.100 crore and above; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the nodal agency for the purpose alongwith the areas identified for surveillance?

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

(b) The Department of Programme Implementation has been identified as the Nodal Agency. To start with, private/joint sector infrastructure projects in the Civil Aviation, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Mines, Power, Telecommunications and Surface Transport Sectors Would be taken up for monitoring.

Conference on Disarmament

1801. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the 61-nation Conference on Disarmament, including India, has agreed to hold negotiations on the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty which envisages blanket ban on production of materials used to make nuclear arms;
- (b) if so, whether any concrete measures in this regard have been worked out; and
- (c) the time by which the Committee is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) On August 11, 1998, the Conference on Disarmament,

Geneva established an ad-hoc Committee to negotiate a non-discriminatory multilaterally and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. The ad-hoc Committee held two meetings and a series of consultations as a first step towards substantive negotiations. Negotiations on this issue are likely to resume at the next session of the Conference on Disarmament which convenes on January 19, 1999.

Indian Farmers

1802. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether even after implementation of Eighth Five Year Plan, about 80% of Indian farmers remain small or marginal farmers;

(b) if so, whether and policy/action plan has been drawn to reverse this ratio;

(c) if so, the salient features thereof, State-wise; and

(d) the benefits provided to the farmers under those schemes during the Eighth Five Year Plan, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) According to the Agricultural Census, 1990-91 small and marginal farmers accounted for 78% of operational holdings and 32% of operated area. A number of centrally sponsored schemes have been implemented under the Eighth Five Year Plans for development of agriculture which benefit all categories of farmers including small and marginal farmers. Selection of beneficiary farmers is done by the State Governments. They are advised through correspondence/meetings/ discussions to give priority to small and marginal farmers while selecting the beneficiaries.

(d) A list of Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes under which the assistance is provided to the State Governments for the benefit of the farmers is given in the attached Statement. The farmers benefited from these schemes both directly and indirectly. Hence it is difficult to quantify the benefits provided to the farmers under these schemes during the Eighth Plan.

Statement

List of Important Schemes under which Assistance is provided to States

S. No.	Name of Schemes
1	2
1.	Integrated Cereal Development Programme - Rice.
2.	Integrated Cereal Development Programme - Wheat.
3.	Integrated Cereal Development Programme - Coarse Cereals.

1	2
4.	Sustainable Development of Sugarcane based Cropping System.
5.	Intensive Cotton Development Programme.
6.	Special Jute Development Programme.
7.	National Pulses Development Project.
8.	Oilseeds Production Programme.
9.	Oil Palm Dev. Programme.
10.	Accelerated Maize Programme.
11.	National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas.
12.	Balanced and Integrated use of Fertiliser.
13.	Development of Fertiliser use in low Consumption & Rainfed Areas.
14.	National Project on Development and use of Bio-fertilisers.
15.	Integrated Seed Development Scheme.
16.	National Programme for varietal Development.
17.	Streamlining of certified Seeds production of important Identified Vegetable Crops.
18.	Grants in Aid to States/UTs for Setting/Strengthening of State Bio-Control laboratories under Integrated Pest Management Centres.
19.	Grants in Aid to States/UTs for Setting/Strengthening of State Bio-Control laboratories under Implementation of Insecticides Act.
20.	Promotion of Agricultural Mechanisation.
21.	Strengthening Agricultural Extension.
22.	Exchange of Farmers within the Country.
23.	Farmers Scientists Interaction.
24.	Women in Agriculture.
25.	State Land Use Board.
26.	Strengthening of State Soil Survey Organisation.
27.	Soil Conservation in the Catchment of River Valley projects.
28.	Soil Conservation in the Catchments of Flood Prone Rivers.
29.	Reclamation of Alkali Soils.
30.	Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas.
31.	Development of Beekeeping.

Coastal Erosion

- | 1 | 2 |
|-----|---|
| 32. | Development of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants. |
| 33. | Use of Plastics in Agriculture. |
| 34. | Development of Commercial Floriculture. |
| 35. | Development of Mushroom. |
| 36. | Integrated Development of Tropical, Arid Temperate Zone Fruits. |
| 37. | Integrated Development Programme of Cashewnut. |
| 38. | Development of Root & Tuber Crops. |
| 39. | Development of Betelvine. |
| 40. | Development of Arecanut. |
| 41. | Development of Vegetables. |
| 42. | Integrated Development of Cocoa. |
| 43. | Integrated Development of Spices. |
| 44. | Fishing Harbour Facilities at Minor ports |
| 45. | Training and Extension. |
| 46. | Inland Fisheries Statistics. |
| 47. | Central Project Unit for Shrimp & Fish Culture. |
| 48. | Brackish Water Fish Farm Development Agencies. |
| 49. | Development of Coastal Marine Fisheries |
| 50. | Implementation of Marine Fishing Regulation Act. |
| 51. | Fish Farm Development Agencies. |
| 52. | Inland Fish Marketing. |
| 53. | National Welfare of Fishermen. |
| 54. | Investment in Debentures of LDBs. |
| 55. | Non Overdue Cover Scheme. |
| 56. | Agriculture Credit Stabilisation Fund. |
| 57. | Special Scheme for SC/STs |
| 58. | Assistance to Women's Cooperatives. |
| 59. | Assistance to Weaker Section Cooperatives. |
| 60. | Timely Reporting Scheme. |
| 61. | Improvement of Crop Statistics. |
| 62. | Establishment of Agency for reporting of Agricultural Statistics. |
| 63. | Crop Estimation Survey on Fruit, Vegetables and Minor Crops/Diagnostic Study. |
| 64. | Livestock Census. |
| 65. | Agricultural Census. |

1803. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the modern technologies adopted to check coastal erosion in other maritime countries particularly in Japan and Netherland;

(b) if so, whether there is any plan to adopt new technologies to check coastal erosion along the India Coasts;

(c) if so, the details of such projects/measures including locations and cost involved therein; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to implement these projects expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes Sir. The International Institute for Infrastructural, Hydraulics and Environmental Engineering (IHE) Netherlands has intimated the Government of India about possible role of IHE in the transfer of coastal protection technology to India.

(b) Government of India has not finalised any plan to adopt new technologies for coastal protection along the Indian coasts. However the National Coastal Protection Project under preparation in Central Water Commission proposes to include a scheme to acquire modern technologies from developed countries.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Capacity of Rewa Relay Center

1804. SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the capacity of Rewa T.V. Relay centre;

(b) whether the Government are launching any scheme for installing Doordarshan transmitters at tehsil headquarters located in far flung areas; and

(c) if so, to what extent whether Tyonthar and Hanumana tehsils are likely to be benefited by it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) Prasar Bharati has intimated that there is a proposal at formative stage to upgrade the capacity of Rewa Relay centre.

(b) No, Sir. However, Prasar Bharati has intimated that locations for installation of Doordarshan Transmitters are selected keeping in view factors such as suitability of location, availability of infrastructural facilities and extent of resultant coverage irrespective of the fact whether the place is a District/Block/Tehsil Headquarter or not.

(c) No, Sir. These places are at present getting coverage from High Power Transmitter at Allahabad.

[English]

Livestocks

1805. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of livestock available in the country and allocation made for control of animal diseases during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the ratio between the population of livestock and the people;

(c) the details of growth rate of livestock and the production of fodder in each State during each of the last three years;

(d) the Central schemes under implementation for increase in production of feed and fodder;

(e) whether any assessment has been made by the Union Government regarding achievements of the above schemes; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) As per the 1992 quinquennial livestock census, the number of livestock in the country is 471 million. The Statewise allocation made for control of animal diseases during the last three years is given in the attached Statement-I.

(b) The ratio between the population of livestock and people is 1:2 approximately.

(c) The intercensal growth rate of livestock population

and production of fodder State-wise is given in the attached statement-II.

(d) The Central schemes under implementation for increase in the production of feed and fodder are:-

(i) Central Feed and Fodder Development Organization.

(ii) Assistance to States for feed and fodder development.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The Department had constituted a High Powered Expert Committee in August, 1997 for Evaluation of the schemes. The Committee has submitted a report. However, there is no unanimity amongst the members, in the recommendation. The main recommendations are:

1. The Regional Station for Forage Production and Demonstration (RSFP&D), Suratgarh should be merged with the Central Cattle Breeding Farm Suratgarh and both transferred to ICAR.

2. The RSFP&D Alamadhi should be wound up and transferred to State Government.

3. The remaining five RSFP&D at Srinagar, Hissar, Gandhinagar, Kalyani and Hyderabad should be closed down.

4. Central Fodder Seed Production Farm, Hesar-ghatta should be merged with Central Frozen Semen Production & Training Institute.

5. Two members of the committee opined continuation of Fodder seed production as a priority activity in these Fodder Seed Production Farms.

The Department is examining the report.

Statement-I

Central funds provided to the State and Union Territory Governments in respect of control of animal diseases during last three years: (Rupees in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	67.06	88.87	64.58
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	11.25	12.50	18.69
3.	Assam	7.25	10.00	—
4.	Bihar	64.06	35.68	—
5.	Goa	13.75	6.68	19.75
6.	Gujarat	45.28	51.74	58.83
7.	Haryana	90.80	25.00	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	30.92	29.25	18.26

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	71.80	28.00	24.98
10.	Karnataka	105.60	72.29	165.08
11.	Kerala	74.01	96.02	22.40
12.	Madhya Pradesh	43.50	—	123.64
13.	Maharashtra	59.31	54.74	70.96
14.	Manipur	23.26	17.78	27.64
15.	Meghalaya	21.15	14.57	17.50
16.	Mizoram	43.84	44.41	67.00
17.	Nagaland	11.13	21.06	27.40
18.	Orissa	111.00	159.00	128.48
19.	Punjab	131.00	135.00	53.85
20.	Rajasthan	39.33	44.37	44.64
21.	Sikkim	16.25	12.00	23.50
22.	Tamil Nadu	49.00	150.03	141.99
23.	Tripura	9.48	13.75	13.77
24.	Uttar Pradesh	94.41	80.62	55.11
25.	West Bengal	165.20	76.48	112.00
26.	A & N Islands	10.25	14.25	7.01
27.	Chandigarh	5.75	1.10	3.70
28.	Dadra & N. Haveli	0.53	—	0.80
29.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—
30.	Delhi	49.72	9.59	25.15
31.	Lakshadweep	19.80	—	9.00
32.	Pondicherry	16.80	8.85	8.75
Total		1502.49	1313.63	1354.76

Statement-II*Intercensal Growth Rate of Livestock Population (1987-1992) and Status of Fodder Production*

State	Total Livestock (Nos.in thousands)		% Growth Rate Per Annum	Fodder Production in Million Tonnes 1997-98	
	1987	1992		Green Fodder	Dry Fodder
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Andhra Pradesh	33667	32911	-0.45	40.32	23.10
2. Arunachal Pradesh	810	842	0.78	NA	NA

	1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Assam	10758	16062	8.35	0.005	NA
4.	Bihar	43449	47930	1.98	NA	NA
5.	Gujarat	16135	18598	2.88	26.00	9.80
6.	Goa	256	243	-1.04	6.00	NA
7.	Haryana	8166	9143	2.29	28.07	9.76
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5337	5106	- 0.88	4.00	3.70
9.	J&K	7379	8703	3.36	NA	5.00
10.	Karnataka	23181	29568	4.99	3.96	1.91
11.	Kerala	5483	5834	1.25	NA	NA
12.	Madhya Pradesh	44276	46744	1.09	87.60	68.43
13.	Maharashtra	34239	36404	1.23	NA	39.50
14.	Manipur	1373	1290	-1.24	1.50	NA
15.	Meghalaya	1109	1182	1.28	0.20	0.10
16.	Mizoram	160	203	4.83	0.03	0.034
17.	Nagaland	617	1074	11.72	NA	NA
18.	Orissa	22375	22742	0.33	2.65	11.75
19.	Punjab	9673	10222	1.11	NA	NA
20.	Rajasthan	40916	48441	3.43	NA	NA
21.	Sikkim	330	385	3.13	NA	NA
22.	Tamil Nadu	24995	25007	0.01	7.62	9.81
23.	Tripura	1377	1591	2.93	0.01	NA
24.	U.P.	61147	64799	1.47	71.14	62.08
25.	West. Bengal	47282	35090	-5.79	NA	NA
Union Territories						
1.	A&N Islands	134	154	2.82	0.04	NA
2.	Chandigarh	32	31	-0.63	NA	NA
3.	D&N Haveli	69	71	0.57	NA	NA
4.	Delhi	408	315	-5.04	NA	NA
5.	Lakshadweep	16	19	3.50	NA	NA
6.	Pondicherry	135	142	1.02	1.26	NA
7.	Daman & Diu	NA	13	—	NA	NA

[*Translation*]**Seed Development Programme**

1806. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Government farms running in loss in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the amount provided by the Union Government to the Uttar Pradesh Government for the seeds development programme in the Government agricultural farm during 1998-97; and

(c) the amount proposed to be provided by the Union Government for the said programme during 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Central State Farm, Rae Bareilly of State Farms Corporation of India is running in loss.

(b) An amount of Rs. 51.05 lakhs was released to the Government of Uttar Pradesh under the scheme on "Integrated Seed Development Programme for not easily accessible/remote areas of State."

(c) The scheme on "Integrated Seed Development Programme for not easily accessible/remote areas" has been discontinued w.e.f. 1997-98. Hence, no amount has been allocated for 1998-99.

[*English*]

Telephone out of Order

1807. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under the consideration of TRAI to impose still penalties for poor services; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has issued a Consultation Paper on Quality of Services and has proposed penalties for some of the service parameters e.g. Service Access Delay, Call Completion Ratio, Faults and Complaints, Provision of Service, Billing Performance, Customer Grievances Redressal Mechanism etc. TRAI is likely to finalise these proposals after consultation with the concerned parties.

National Water Management Programme

1808. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some projects under the National Water Management Programme are under implementation in the state of Uttar Pradesh at present; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the date of implementation, cost of the projects and the area of land likely to be irrigated after the completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Agricultural Development Schemes

1809. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JAHANA-BAD): Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Agricultural Development Schemes received from the Government of Bihar and are pending with the Union Government for clearance; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to take a decision on them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) No proposal for any new schemes for agricultural development from Bihar Government is pending with the Department of Agriculture.

Telephone Exchanges

1810. SHRI SOM MARANDI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is pending with the Government to open new telephone exchanges in Sahibganj and Pakur districts of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details therefor, block-wise;

(c) whether the said constructions schemes should have been completed during the year 1997-98;

(d) whether the construction work is going on slow pace; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) There is proposal to open new telephone exchanges in Sahibganj and Pakur districts of Bihar.

(b) The block-wise details for Sahibganj and Pakur districts are given in the attached statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

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

Statement

There are 4 (four) rural telephone exchanges proposed to be opened in Sahibganj and Pakur districts of Bihar with the following details:

S. Place	Block	District	Proposed
No.			druing the year
1.	Boria	Sahibganj	1999-2000
2.	Katalpakhar	Barharwa	Sahibganj 1999-2000
3.	Gowalkhor	Barharwa	Sahibganj 1999-2000
4.	Amarapara	Pakur	1998-1999

[*English*]

Poverty Stricken Area of Orissa

1811. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have sanctioned Rs. 5,527 crore for Long Term Action Plan for development of most backward and poverty stricken area of Kalandi, Bolangir and Koraput in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action plans for the backward tribal areas of Maharashtra and Gujarat have been prepared;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The Government of Orissa have drawn up a Revised Long Term Action Plan (1998-99 to 2006-07) for the undivided districts of Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput (KBK) which consist of Central Plan and Centrally Sponsored Schemes in various sectors, namely agriculture, horticulture, watershed development, afforestation, rural employment, irrigation, health, drinking water and rural connectivity. As some of the schemes are demand driven and some involve relaxation of norms, the actual flow of funds would depend on the factors such as progress of the schemes, etc. However, in order to ensure a certain level of funds to these districts various steps have been taken including doubling of the first instalments of funds under Employment Assurance scheme (EAS) and provision of an additionality of Rs. 37 crore in the Annual Plan 1998-99 of Orissa for KBK districts. Further, RS.7 crore have been provided for emergency feeding programme and Rs. 2 crore for Mobile Health Units under Basic Minimum Services (BMS).

(c) to (e) The planning and Development of an area and allocation of funds for that purpose is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Government in the development of backward areas including the tribal areas of Maharashtra and Gujarat through Special Area Programme, namely Tribal Sub Plan (TSP). In addition, various poverty alleviation schemes such as Jawahar Rojagr Yojana, Employment Assurance Scheme, etc. are also in operation in these areas.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of STD/PCO Booths

1812. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the details of the targets fixed for setting up of STD/ISD/PCO Booths in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): Targets for STD/PCOs are fixed on yearly basis. Target for 1998-99 State-wise is given in the attached Statement.

Statement

Targets for STD Public Telephones for 1998-99

Sl. No	Name of Circle/District	STD/ISD PCOs
1	2	3
1.	A&N	35
2.	A.P.	6000
3.	Assam	1500
4.	Bihar	6000
5.	Gujarat	4500
6.	Haryana	1715
7.	H.P.	750
8.	J & K	750
9.	Karnataka	6000
10.	Kerala	2250
11.	M.P.	6000
12.	Maharashtra	7500
13.	N.E.	750
14.	Orissa	900
15.	Punjab	3000
16.	Rajasthan	4500
17.	Tamil Nadu	7500
18.	U.P. (West)	4500
19.	U.P. (East)	7500
20.	West Bengal	4500
21.	Mumbai	4500
22.	Calcutta	5500
23.	Delhi	4500
24.	Chennai	3000
Total		93650

[*English*]

PM's Visit to US

1813. SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of EXTERANAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of Prime Minister to the United States in connection with UN General Assembly Sessions any moves were made seeking removal of sanctions imposed against India, seeking recognition of India as a nuclear power, its inclusion in the UN-Security Council as its permanent member and equitable enforcement of NPT; and

(b) If so, the details of the moves at US administration and US-Congress levels and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) PM's visit to the US in September 1998 was in the context of the UN General Assembly and no bilateral talks on Indo-US issues were held at his level. The Prime Minister, in his address to the 53rd Session of the UN General Assembly on 24th September, 1998, articulated India's position on nuclear disarmament and explained the rationale behind India's nuclear tests. He also reiterated India's candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Establishment of AIR/Doordarshan Kendras

1814. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the locations where A.I.R. stations and Doordarshan

kendras have been established in different parts of the country during the last three years and transmission capacity of each station/Kendra;

(b) whether any target has been fixed to establish A.I.R. and Doordarshan Kendras during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the percentage of population and area to be covered by the A.I.R. and Doordarshan by the end of the current plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) A statement-I showing AIR stations and Doordarshan studios/transmitters commissioned from 1-1-1996 and their transmission capacity is enclosed.

(b) and (c) A statement-II showing targets for setting up A.I.R. stations during Ninth Plan is enclosed. So far as Doordarshan is concerned, Five Year Plans of Doordarshan are prepared for the country as a whole and not state wise, taking into account present coverage, socio-economic and cultural realities, public demand and inter-se priorities.

(d) Whereas All India Radio expects to cover 92% of Area and 98.5% population. Doordarshan expects to cover 84.1% of Area and 93.5% of population by the end of Ninth Five Year Plan.

Statement-I

State	All India Radio	Doordarshan
1	2	3
A and N Islands		ST Port Blair VLPT Baratang VLPT Havelock VLPT Katchal LPT Port Blair (DD-II) VLPT Great Nicobar
Andhra Pradesh		LPT Kamareddy LPT L.R. Pally LPT. Narayanpet VLPT Chintapalli VLPT Parwatipuram HPT Hyderabad (DD.II)

1	2	3
		HPT Kunool
		HPT Rajamundry (Interim)
		LPT Achampet
		LPT Belampally
		LPT Jadcherla
		LPT Kadliri
		LPT Markapur
		LPT Pedanandipadu
		LPT Tamblapally
		LPT Tirupity
		LPT Banswada
		LPT Bhainsa
		LPT Darsi
		LPT Macherla
		LPT Narsaraopet
		LPT Rajampet
		LPT Tuni
		VLPT Seetampetta
Arunachal Pradesh		ST Itanagar
		VLPT Chayangtajo
		VLPT Kalaktang
		VLPT Yomcha
		LPT Miao
		VLPT Barrijo
		VLPT Boleng
		VLPT Geku
		VLPT Gensi
		VLPT Inkyong
		VLPT Keying
		VLPT Liromoba
		VLPT Marlyang
		VLPT Nampong
		VLPT Palin

1	2	3
		VLPT Rupa
		VLPT Seijosa
		VLPT Taltha
		VLPT Tirbin
Assam	Diphu, I KW MW Tr.	LPT Margherita
		LPT Tinsukia
		VLPT Digboy
		LPT Dibrugarh (DD-II)
		LPT Gohpur
Bihar		LPT Silchar (DD-II)
		ST Patna
		LPT Patna (DD-II)
		LPT Sheikhpura
		LPT Supaul
		LPT Lakhisarai
		LPT Loamundy
		LPT Phoolparas
		LPT Saraikela
		LPT Sikandra
		VLPT Simdega
		LPT Daudnagar
		LPT Kodarma
		LPT Mushabani
		LPT Simri Bakhtiar Pur
D & N Haveli		LPT Silvasa
Daman & Diu		LPT Diu
Goa		LPT Panaji (DD-II)
Gujarat		LPT Ider
		LPT Shamlaji
		VLPT Netrang
		LPT Amod
		LPT Deesa
		LPT Mangrol (surat)
		LPT Morvi
		LPT Bantva

1	2	3
		LPT Botad
		LPT Dhandhuka
		LPT Dharampur
		LPT Dhari
		LPT Jhagadia
		LPT Limrdi
		LPT Radhanpur
		LPT UNA
		VLPT Sagwara
Haryana		LPT Rohtak
		LPT Charkhi Dadri
Himachal Pradesh	Kullu, 2x3 KW FM Tr.	VLPT Bandla
	Kinnaur, 1 KW MW Tr.	VLPT Bharathi
		VLPT Diar
		VLPT Shivbadar
		VLPT Veer
		LPT Rampur
		VLPT Bharmour
		VLPT Holi
		VLPT Jahalma
		VLPT Kotkhai
		VLPT Rohru
		LPT Sujanpur
		LPT Sundarnagar
		VLPT Banjar
		VLPT Chaupal
		VLPT Karsog
		VLPT Nichar
		VLPT Parwanoo
		VLPT Pirvahanu
		VLPT Udalpur
Jammu & Kashmir	Kargil 1 KW MW Tr.	LPT Rajauri
		LPT Naushera
		VLPT Chushul
		VLPT Khalsi

1	2	3
Karnataka	Bijapur 2X3 KW FM Tr.	VLPT Mulbekh VLPT Slachin VLPT Tangtse LPT Arsikere LPT Bhatkal LPT Hungond LPT Kumta HPT Bangalore (DD-II) LPT Basav Kalyan LPT Gokak LPT Harpanhalli LPT Puttur LPT Sagar
Kerala		VLPT Madhugiri HPT Gulbarga LPT Hattihal LPT Hole Narsipur LPT Tumkur LPT Chengannur LPT Thodupuzha VLPT Devikolam VLPT Kanjirapalli LPT Adoor LPT Attappadi
Maharashtra Osmanabad	2X3 KW FM Tr.	LPT Cannanore (DD-II) LPT Mhasale LPT Rajapur LPT Rissod VLPT Khed LPT Aheri LPT Chandur LPT Navapur LPT Shirpur LPT Slroncha VLPT Badlapur

1	2	3
		VLPT Bhokar
		LPT Khopoli
		LPT Mahad
		LPT Mangon
		LPT Satana
		LPT Tumsar
		LPT Umardhed
		VLPT Koregaon
		VLPT Malkapur
		VLPT Malwan
Manipur	VLPT Moreh	
Mizoram		VLPT Champhai
		LPT Lunglei (DD-II)
Madhya Pradesh		LPT Bhandar
		LPT Kukdeswar
		VLPT Jaahpurnagar
		VLPT Kondagaon
		LPT Gadarwara
		LPT Kelaras
		LPT Narayanpur
		LPT Sakti
		VLPT Diamond Mining Project
		VLPT Koylibeda
		VLPT Singrauli
		LPT Bada Malehra
		LPT Bhanpura
		LPT Garot
		LPT Piparia
		LPT Sitamau
		VLPT Bijapur
		VLPT Sarangarh
Nagaland		HPT Mokokchung
		VLPT Phek
Orissa		LPT Durgapur
		LPT Kuchinda

1	2	3
		VLPT Bada Barbil
		VLPT Nayagarh
		VLPT Thuamal Rampur
		LPT Kabisuryanagar
		LPT Kotpad
		LPT Sohela
		LPT Sonapur
		LPT Umakot
		HPT Baleswar
		LPT Morana
		LPT Padua
		LPT Patnagarh
		VLPT Aul
		VLPT Barpalli
		VLPT Chittrakonda
		VLPT Kalampur
		VLPT Koksara
		VLPT Nagchi
Pondicherry		LPT Pondicherry (DD-II)
Punjab		HPT Fazilka
		(Interim)
		LPT Patiala
Rajasthan	Mount Abu 2X3 KW FM Tr.	LPT Bansi
		VLPT Bhim
		VLPT Fatehpur
		VLPT Mandargarh
		VLPT Zawar Mines
		HPT Barmer
		(Interim)
		HPT Jaisalmer
		LPT Bari Sadri
		LPT Karauli
		LPT Keerlaji
		LPT Mount Abu
		LPT Nima

1	2	3
		LPT Nohar
		LPT Phalodi
		LPT Pratappgarh
		LPT Rajgarh
		LPT Shahpura
		VLPT Gangapur
		VLPT Nim KA Thana
		LPT Hindaun
		VLPT Aandhi
Sikkim		VLPT Rangpo
		VLPT Singtam
Tamil Nadu		LPT Arani
		LPT Gudiyatam
		LPT Kriehnagiri
		VLPT Vallur
		VLPT Valparai
		VLPT Vazapadi
		LPT Attur
		LPT Pattukottal
		LPT Shankaran Kovil
		LPT Thiruvaiyaru
		LPT Cheyyar
		LPT Udumalpet
Tripura		LPT Kailasahar
		VLPT Dharamnagar
		LPT Kailasahar
		(DD-II
		LPT Tellamura
UP	Pauri (Garhwal) 1 KW MW Tr.	LPT Azamgarh
	Pithora Garh 1 KW MW Tr.	LPT Kasganj
	Uttar Kashi 1 KW MW Tr.	LPT Mau Ranipur
Uttar Pradesh		VLPT Bageshwar
		VLPT Devprayag
		VLPT Didihat
		VLPT Gajja
		VLPT Ghandyal
		VLPT Joshimath
		VLPT Kaljikhel
		ST Mau
		LPT Athdama

1	2	3
		LPT Auralya
		LPT Ganj Dundwara
		LPT Mahova
		LPT Mau (DD-II)
		LPT Nainidanda
		LPT Nan Para
		LPT Naugarh
		LPT New Tehri
		VLPT Basot
		VLPT Chaukhatia
		VLPT Karn Prayag
		VLPT Pratap Nagar
		VLPT Saahya
		ST. Allahabad
		ST. Varanasi
		LPT Amroha
		LPT Chhibramau
		LPT Haldwani
		LPT Mahroni
		LPT Rampur (DD-II)
		LPT Rath
		LPT Rudauli
		VLPT Manikpur
		VLPT Raj Garhi
		VLPT Tharali
West Bengal	Asansol	2X5 KW FM Tr. VLPT Kalna
		ST Shantiniketan
		(Interim Set UP)
		LPT Basanti
		LPT Bishnupur
		LPT Farakka
		LPT Murshidabad (DD-II)
		LPT Rayna
		ST. Shantiniketan
		(Permanent Set UP)
		ST. Jalpaiguri (Siliguri)
Union Territories		
Daman & Diu	Daman	
Pondicherry	Karaikal	

Statement-II**Growth Rate**

State/ U.T.s	No. of A.I.R. Projects	1815. SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:
1	2	
Assam	03	(a) the targets fixed by the Government in respect of growth rate of the States;
Andhra Pradesh	03	(b) the details of growth rate of industrial development of each State and particularly in respect of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh at present;
Arunachal Pradesh	03	(c) the efforts made by the Government to achieve the said targets;
Gujarat	01	(d) the details of achievements made so far;
Haryana	01	(e) whether any difficulties are being faced in achieving these targets; and
Jammu & Kashmir	01	(f) if so, the details thereof?
Kerala	02	THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The Central Government does not fix target growth rates for the States;
Madhya Pradesh	04	(b) The annual growth rate of net state domestic product in industries since 1992-93 for different States and Union Territories including Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh as computed by the respective State Directorate of Economics & Statistics are given in the enclosed statement. Industries include mining and quarrying, manufacturing, construction, electricity, gas and water supply.
Meghalaya	02	
Maharashtra	02	
Manipur	01	
Mizoram	02	
Nagaland	03	
Orissa	02	
Tamil Nadu	02	
Tripura	02	
Uttar Pradesh	01	
West Bengal	03	(c) to (f) Does not arise in light of (a).

Statement

STATES/UT	Real Growth Rates in Industry (Per cent)				
	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	-5.13	8.10	6.56	4.10	4.93
Arunachal Pradesh	-1.29	38.42	6.42	-8.92	1.58
Assam	-2.88	4.31	16.15	2.12	4.99
Bihar	-11.80	4.21	-4.04	3.85	7.45
Goa	22.92	-1.37	5.40	7.60	0.99
Gujarat	44.45	0.72	24.90	9.29	7.88
Haryana	-2.23	6.93	9.06	7.84	7.30
Himachal Pradesh	7.59	8.50	10.67	8.52	NA
Jammu & Kashmir	3.58	2.71	10.11	3.87	NA

1	2	3	4	5	6
Karnataka	-0.29	3.71	6.81	7.83	6.78
Kerala	10.64	15.33	-2.15	5.46	5.22
Madhya Pradesh	16.73	8.09	6.38	6.24	5.88
Maharashtra	8.01	9.89	11.07	13.19	4.11
Manipur	8.18	-21.33	16.79	5.26	NA
Meghalaya	-3.85	5.94	-4.16	4.49	12.19
Orissa	3.92	-3.26	9.64	11.83	13.31
Punjab	10.41	9.03	8.91	8.96	9.15
Rajasthan	13.35	3.52	5.85	2.38	2.77
Tamil Nadu	7.42	8.73	15.80	4.10	5.68
Tripura	5.55	-0.48	-1.16	26.21	10.80
Uttar Pradesh	0.14	0.83	4.53	5.17	6.94
West Bengal	3.19	3.00	6.77	7.22	7.57
Delhi	3.32	6.56	6.51	13.64	NA
Pondicherry	-25.17	4.66	4.32	16.53	NA

[English]

Loss of Kharif Crop

1816. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land in the country where Kharif crop has been completely destroyed due to natural calamity along with the amount of revenue loss suffered, State-wise;

(b) the amount of financial assistance given as relief to various States, State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to pay any compensation to the affected farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Central Ground Water Board

1817. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the works executed by the Central Ground Water Board in the State of Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years;

(b) whether special types of drills and accessories are

required for boring of tube wells in Kandi and Hilly area of J & K;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether these drills and accessories are available with the J & K unit of CGWB to carry out boring of tube wells smoothly; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government for providing these drills and accessories to this unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The works done by the Central Ground Water Board in the State of Jammu & Kashmir during the last three years include:-

(i) Hydrogeological survey of ground water over an area of 8880 sq. Kms. covering the districts of Jammu, Kathua and Udhampur.

(ii) Drilling of 48 bore holes (17 exploratory wells, 11 Observation wells and 20 Piezometers) for scientific exploration of ground water.

(iii) Monitoring of ground water levels through 133 Hydrograph Network Stations.

(iv) Carrying out 111 water supply investigations for Rural, Public Health and Defence establishments.

(b) to (e) Geologically the areas which are considered feasible for ground water exploration in Jammu & Kashmir are largely occupied by alluvial sediments and bouldary rock

formations. Such types of areas can be drilled by Percussion rigs, Percussion-cum-Rotary rigs and Rotary rigs. Presently the divisional office of Central Ground Water Board located at Jammu has two Percussion, two Percussion-cum-Rotary and one rotary rigs which is adequate for carrying out scientific exploration of ground water as per the annual programme prepared by the Board.

Expansion of Telephone Lines

1818. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up any target of adding telephone lines for providing telephone connections on demand in rural and urban areas during 1998-99;

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

(c) the extent to which the demand is likely to be met?

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

(a) to (c) During the current financial year, 36 lakh new telephone connections are targetted to be provided in the country. This will make telephone on demand in some of the areas in the country.

Government have planned to provide 23.7 million lines out of which DOT will do 18.5m. lines and remaining 5.2m. lines by Pvt. operator during 9th Plan period to make telephone available on demand, both in urban and rural areas of the country.

Pay Scale of UDCs

1819. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the case of revision of pay scale of Upper Division Clerks (UDCs) of the Central Government are lying in the Arbitration for a long time;

(b) if so the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the case of revision of pay scales of UDCs is likely to be finalised?

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): (a) to (c) The Board of Arbitration vide its order dated 30.7.1998 have rejected the demand for revision of Pay Scale of UDCs of CSCS.

Reliance Industries Limited

1820. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases filed or registered by the CBI against the Reliance Industries Limited and its sister concerns; and

(b) the number of adjournments sought by the CBI in

those cases which are registered in courts alongwith the reasons therefor?

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): (a) The CBI has registered 3 cases (2 Regular Cases and 1 Preliminary Enquiry) against Reliance Industries Limited and its sister concerns, out of which charge-sheet has been filed in one Regular Case.

(b) Nil.

Vegetable Cultivation

1821. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has sought any financial assistance from the Union Government for increasing vegetable cultivation in the State;

(b) if so, the amount sought by the State Government; and

(c) the decision of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The amount sought by the State Government in the revised project proposal is Rs. 368. 50 lakhs.

(c) The proposal has been examined by the National Horticulture Board who have sought some clarifications from the State Government. The final reply from the State Government is awaited.

Solar Pumping System

1822. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to promote installation of Solar Pumping System all over the country;

(b) if so, the targets achieved in this regard during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the extent of subsidy being provided for Solar Pumping Systems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) A programme for deployment of solar photovoltaic (SPV) water pumping systems for agriculture and related uses is under implementation since 1993. Under this programme SPV water pumping systems are marketed directly by the manufacturers/suppliers of the systems and the financial intermediaries. There is no State-wise allocation of targets. A total of 2720 water pumping systems have been installed in the country as

on 30.11.1998. State-wise installations of SPV water pumping systems during the last three years is given in statement attached. SPV water pumping systems in the capacity range of 200 Watt to 2250 Watt are eligible for subsidy and soft loan. Government is providing a subsidy of up to Rs. 2,00,000 for each pumping system at the rate of Rs. 125 per peak watt of solar photovoltaic array used with it. In addition, there is a provision in the scheme for a soft loan of up to Rs. 2,50,000 per system depending upon the capacity of PV array used.

Statement

State-wise Installation Of SPV Water Pumping Systems

State/UT	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Andhra Pradesh	93	102	41
Assam	12	17	0
Andaman & Nicobar	0	0	0
Bihar	26	40	15
Chandigarh	7	0	0
Dadra Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
Delhi	16	18	8
Gujarat	2	15	2
Goa	10	2	0
Haryana	9	4	7
Himachal Pradesh	1	0	5
Jammu & Kashmir	7	4	1
Karnataka	35	47	71
Kerala	100	82	102
Madhya Pradesh	8	4	23
Maharashtra	55	27	8
Manipur	1	0	11
Mizoram	2	26	0
Orissa	0	0	1
Punjab	48	29	3
Pondicherry	0	0	0
Rajasthan	61	47	80
Tamil Nadu	207	93	112
Uttar Pradesh	35	26	36
West Bengal	3	27	2
Total	738	610	528

Postal Services

1823. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- whether postal services are not upto the mark in the north region of Maharashtra;
- if so, the reasons therefor;
- the total deposits made in the region in post offices during the last three years, year-wise;
- whether Government propose to introduce some schemes to attract more investment in the post offices;
- if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Postal Services in the North Region comprising three districts viz: Dhule, Jalgaon and Bhusaval are generally satisfactory.

(b) In view of reply to Part (a), does not arise.

(c) Total deposits made in the post offices in the north region of Maharashtra during the last three years are as under:-

1995-96 Rs. 257.52 Crores

1996-97 Rs. 106.57 Crores

1997-98 Rs. 755.32 Crores

(d) There is no such proposal for the present.

(e) In view of reply to part (d) above, does not arise.

Haj Pilgrims

1824. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any memorandum from Kerala Government regarding various problems faced by Haj pilgrims from Kerala;

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

(c) the number of Haj Pilgrims from Kerala during 1998?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir. The Hon'ble Minister for Local Administration, Government of Kerala, had written a letter to Prime Minister in May, 1998.

(b) The letter contained suggestions pertaining to the welfare of haj pilgrims from Kerala, such as the utilisation of Trivandrum airport for haj charter flights and increased involvement of Keralites in haj management in India and Saudi Arabia.

The suggestions of the Kerala Government are being

examined carefully and will be implemented to the extent it is practicable and in accordance with the broad national haj spolicy and the norms of haj management finalised by the Government for each haj.

(c) The number of pilgrims from Kerala during Haj-98 was 5373.

Rushkulya System, Orissa

1825. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the modernisation work of the main and 10th distributory of Rushkulya system in Orissa is likely to be completed during 1998-99;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) No Sir. The modernisation work of the main and 10th distributory of Rushkulya System in Orissa is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2001-2002.

Chemical CIPC

1826. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chemical CIPC (Chloro Iso Propyl Carbonate) is used world over to prevent sprouting of potatoes in stores;

(b) whether any study has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the findings thereof;

(d) the names of agencies given licences for formulation and import of CIPC to tide over recent potato gluts and the price crashes; and

(e) whether the Government are considering formation of Potato Board at National level for better coordination between different agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) CIPC is the most common sprout suppressant used all over the World to prevent sprouting of potatoes during high temperature storage.

(b) and (c) Experiments conducted by Central Potato Research Inst. (CPRI), Shimla during the last 10 years have shown that CIPC is effective in suppressing sprout growth in potatoes stored at higher temperatures (20-25 c°).

(d) National Dairy Development Board, New Delhi imports a limited quantity of CIPC for treating stored potatoes.

(e) There is no proposal under consideration for the formation of Potato Board at National level.

[Translation]

Setting up of TV Towers at Kannaud and Khategaon Tehsil in Madhya Pradesh

1827. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating any action on the demand of the people of Kannaud and Khategaon Tehsils in Dewas District of Madhya Pradesh to set up a T.V. Tower;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to conduct any survey in this regard; and

(d) the details of action taken in the matter and the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) to (d) At present, there is no approved scheme for setting up of any TV transmitters in Dewas District. However, most parts of Dewas District lie in coverage range of High Power Transmitters (HPTs) functioning at Bhopal and Indore. It is the constant endeavour of Doordarshan to extend its service to uncovered parts throughout the country in a phased manner subject to availability of location, funds, infrastructural facilities, resultant coverage and inter se priorities.

Food Processing Industries in the Country

1828. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI:

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL:

SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV
(JAHANABAD):

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any study to promote the food processing industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of food processing units set up in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(d) the investment made for setting up such units and the extent of foreign investment made out of the total investment in this sector State-wise; and

(e) the number of people likely to get jobs in these units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) No comprehensive study has been conducted. However, Government has been providing financial assistance to

private sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Cooperatives, etc. to conduct studies, for specific reasons, products etc.

(c) to (e) Food processing industries are both in the organised and Unorganised sectors. Information on number of units set up State-wise are not centrally maintained.

[English]

CSS Officers

1829. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have upgraded 225 posts of Section Officers/Desk Officers to Grade-I of Central Secretariat Service (Under Secretaries) and only 6.2% reservation against 15% has been provided to Scheduled Caste category officers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the rule in which the ad-hoc promotion/upgradation can be adjusted with the regular empanelled officers;

(d) whether the Government propose to give the balance 8.8% vacancies to Scheduled Cast category officer; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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): (a) to (c) Orders have been issued on 28.9.98 to upgrade 'temporarily' 225 posts of Desk Officers/Section Officers to the Grade I (Under Secretary) of the Central Secretariat Service for their promotions on a personal/ad-hoc basis. Reservation has been provided for SC/ST officers on the basis of post-based rosters in accordance with the relevant instructions issued by the Department of Personnel & Training's O.M.No. 6012/96- East. (Res.) dated 2.7.1997 in implementation of the Supreme Court's judgement. Since the upgradations are personal to the officers concerned, they will have to be adjusted against regular vacancies in future as this is only a temporary measure.

(d) and (e) Reservation has been provided to SC officers as per the relevant instruction stated above.

Testing of Mosquito Mats

1830. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made elaborate testing of mosquito mats, coil manufactured by various industries in the country; and

(b) if so, the findings thereof and the details of its effect on nervous and cerebral system of the human beings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The Registration

Committee constituted under the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968 grants registration for manufacture and use of insecticides only after satisfying itself regarding their efficacy and safety to human beings and environment on the basis of studies/data submitted by the applicants. Mosquito mats and coil containing insecticides, are also subjected to the aforesaid mandatory requirement of elaborate testing before grant of registration under the Act.

(b) Only those insecticides or their formulations (mosquito mats, coil) which do not have any adverse effect *inter alia* in the nervous or cerebral system are registered for use in the country.

[Translation]

Submission of Affidavit

1831. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have submitted wrong affidavit in the Supreme Court in connection with Chief Vigilance Officer (CVC) and Director of Enforcement Directorate;

(b) if so, whether the responsibility for submitting wrong affidavit has been fixed; and

(c) the action taken or being taken by the Government against those who were found guilty in this regard?

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): (a) In the context of the transfer of the incumbent, from the post of Director Enforcement Directorate, the Amicus Curiae had made certain submissions in the Supreme Court and a reply thereto was filed on behalf of Union of India in which certain paragraphs of an official communication were quoted on the basis of available official records. When it was pointed out that what was quoted by the Government was not correct, the above position was indicated to the Court and the Court did not pursue the matter further. It transpired on further scrutiny that the said communication in the official record which was quoted by the Department differed from what was filed in the Supreme Court by the Ministry of Home Affairs on an earlier occasion.

(b) and (c) The Attorney General, who was requested to look into the matter, has since submitted his findings to the Government.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

A copy of Annual Accounts, Audit Report and review of the working of Broadcast. Engineering Consultant India Ltd., Noida for the year 1997-98.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): 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 Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited, Noida, for the year 1997-98.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited, Noida for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in library. See No. LT 1724/98]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, 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 Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No LT 1725/98]

(ii) Notification under Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and Indian Post Office Act, 1898

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Indian Wireless Telegraphy (Commercial Radio Operator's Certificate of Proficiency and Licence to operate Global Maritime Distress and Safety System) Rules, 1997 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 133 in Gazette of India dated the 25th July, 1998, under sub-section (5) of section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.

[Placed in Library. See No LT 1726/98]

- (2) The Indian Post Office (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 1998 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 503 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th August, 1998, under sub-section (4) of section 74 of the Indian Post Office Act. 1898.

[Placed in Library. See LT 1727/98]

- (3) A copy of the Profit and Loss Accounts and the Balance Sheet of the Department of Telecommunications for the year 1996-97 (Hindi and English versions)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1728/98]

- (4) A copy of the memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited and the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1729/98]

(iii) Notification under Essential Commodities Act, 1955

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:—

- (i) S.O. 946 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd November, 1998 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 759 (E) dated the 5th November, 1997.

- (ii) S.O. 947 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd November, 1998 fixing certain specifications for Potassium Chloride (Muriate of Potash) to be imported from Germany, under the self loan assistance agreement during 1998-98.

- (iii) S.O. 963(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th November, 1998 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 508(E) dated the 13th June, 1998.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1730/98]

- (2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Water and Power Consultancy Services (1) Limited and the Ministry of Water Resources for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1731/98]

(iv) Notification under All India Services Act, 1955

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 lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 548(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st August, 1998 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 259(E) dated the 22nd May, 1998, issued under section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1732/98]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Civil Services Cultural and Sports Board, 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 Central Civil Services Cultural and Sports Board, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1733/98]

- (3) 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 Semiconductor Complex Limited, S.A.S. Nagar, for the year 1997-98.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Semiconductor Complex Limited, S.A.S. Nagar, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 173/98]

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

First Report

12.01 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR (MUMBAI NORTH-WEST): Sir, I present the first report (Hindi and English version) of the Estimates Committee on Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue-Central Excise and Custom Board) -'Kar Vivad Samadhan Yojana, 1998'.

12.01½hrs.

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

Sixth and Seventh Reports on Action Taken and Minutes

[Translation]

SHRI KARIYA MUNDA (KHUNTI): Sir, I present a copy each of the following reports (Hindi and English Version) of the committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes including Minutes (Hindi and English Version) of the sittings of the committee relating thereto:-

- (1) Sixth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Ninth Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) of the committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes relating to Reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and their Employment in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas-Engineers India Limited.
- (2) Seventh Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Tenth Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes relating to reservation for scheduled Castes

and Scheduled Tribes in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas—in the allotment of Gas and Petrol Agencies.

12.02 hrs.

JOINT COMMITTEE REPORT ON ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT (AMENDMENT) BILL

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (BILHAUR): Sir, I present the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill further to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

12.02½ hrs.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL

Evidence

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA: Sir, I lay on the table the record of evidence tendered before the Joint Committee on the Bill further to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

12.03 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Seventy-seventh, Seventy-eighth, Seventy-ninth and Eightieth Reports

[English]

SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN (ALLEPPEY): Sir, I beg to lay a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the following reports of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development:-

- (1) Seventy-seventh Report of the Committee on the Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in its 34th Report on India's Performance in International Sports;
- (2) Seventy-eighth Report of the Committee on the Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in its 30th Report on the Functioning of the Central Government Health Scheme;
- (3) Seventy-ninth Report of the Committee on the Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in its 51st Report on the Functioning of the National Institute of Homeopathy, Calcutta; and
- (4) Eightieth Report of the Committee on the Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in its 53rd Report on the Functioning of the National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur.

12.04 hrs.

ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

(I) National Welfare Board for Seafarers

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): Sir, I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of Rule 4 (i) of the National Welfare Board for Seafarers Rules, 1963, under Section 218 (2) of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, one Member from among themselves to serve as a member of the National Welfare Board for Seafarers, subject to other provisions of the said Rules."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of Rule 4 (i) of the National Welfare Board for Seafarers Rules, 1963, under Section 218 (2) of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, one Member from among themselves to serve as a member of the National Welfare Board for Seafarers, subject to other provisions of the said Rules."

The motion was adopted.

12.04¹/₂ hrs.

(ii) Rajghat Samadhi Committee

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): Sir, on behalf of Shri Ram Jethmalani, I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of Section 4 (1) (d) of the Rajghat Samadhi Act, 1961, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from among themselves to serve as members of the Rajghat Samadhi Committee for the term commencing from the date of notification by the Government, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of Section 4 (1) (d) of the Rajghat Samadhi Act, 1961, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from among themselves to serve as members of the Rajghat Samadhi Committee for the term commencing from the date of notification by the Government, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we will take up 'Zero Hour'. Prof. A.K. Premajam.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (BADAGARA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I may be permitted to bring to the notice of this House the very stepmotherly treatment given to the State of Kerala.

Kerala is one of the few States which earns a major chunk of the foreign exchange for this country. But when it comes to the question of any development projects, the State of Kerala is pushed to the background and is discriminated. Here is the latest example of this discriminatory treatment by the Central Government which has no justification.

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, you cannot read during the Zero Hour. Please understand it.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: From the proposed National Express Highway Project, Kerala has been dropped out. The original proposal consisted of four sectors, namely, (i) Kanyakumari-Trivandrum-Chennai-Mumbai via Bangalore; (ii) Mumbai-Ahmedabad-Delhi-Lucknow-Calcutta; (iii) Chennai-Calcutta; (iv) Delhi-Pathankot.

But now, instead of Kanyakumari-Trivandrum-Chennai sector, it has been changed to Tuticorin-Calcutta via Chennai. For the entire 13,000 km. long Express National Highway Project, the Government have decided to give subsidy of Rs. 3 crore per km. The scheme is proposed to be executed by private companies on BOT basis and global tenders have already been invited. But at the last moment, the Kerala sector has been dropped out.

I urge upon the Government, especially the Minister of Surface Transport, to look into this matter and include the route from Kanyakumari to Trivandrum-Chennai.

I also take this opportunity to express a sense of protest on behalf of the people of Kerala against this Government.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (PALAKKAD): Sir, I would like to say something.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you also supporting the same matter?

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: It is the same matter.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. Do you want to speak?

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Yes, on the same matter... *(Interruptions)* The concerned Minister is here, I fully support the matter. ...*(Interruptions)* I want a clarification from the Government ...*(Interruptions)* Kerala has been excluded from the whole project. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGRPUR): There should be an Half-an-hour Discussion on this... *(Interruptions)* There is no criterion. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have brought it to the notice of the Government. Please understand it.

(Interruptions)

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR.

M. THAMBI DURAI: No ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have raised the issue. Please understand it. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this?

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: It is an important issue. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is Zero Hour. Please understand it. Mr. Minister, would you like to have an Half-an-hour Discussion?

(Interruptions)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (KALAHANDI): Sir, the Chief Minister of Bihar has made derogatory remarks against the Governor of Bihar... (Interruptions) She should apologise... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Would you like to respond?

DR. M. THAMBI DURAI: Sir, the Prime Minister has already announced that the Express Highway will be from Kanyakumari to Kashmir and from Saurashtra to Silchar. Apart from that, we have taken some other areas. We have identified the areas where Kerala is included. We have also included Cochin and Chennai for the Express Highway.... (Interruptions)

We have taken that into consideration(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All right. Now, Prof. Rita Verma.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA (DHANBAD): Please listen to me patiently. It is a very important matter...(Interruptions).

Mr. Speaker Sir, today I, before this august House....(Interruptions).

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. The Minister has already replied. ...

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, today I am raising a question of the dignity of this august House. I am raising a question regarding Constitutional propriety before this august House which is the highest institution of the country.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Prof. Rita Verma Says.... (Interruptions)*

* Not recorded

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request the hon'ble Members to listen to me.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Not now, please take your seat.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has already replied.... (Interruptions)

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: We are not satisfied with the reply.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you want to discuss it, you will have to give a notice for that. Then, we will discuss it.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA: What does it mean, will you speak only? Mr. Speaker has allowed me to speak. Do you think that we have no issue to raise....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed Shrimati Rita Verma. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? Please take your seat. The hon. Minister has already replied. If you want to discuss the matter, you please give a notice for that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, we want a clarification from the hon. Minister ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not good. Please understand. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Rita Verma, please speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA : Do you think that we cannot speak anything? You have spoken, please keep quiet now. Do you think that nobody can speak except you ? Will you please listen to me? Please listen to me what I want to say.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has already replied. Please understand.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : We have already identified it and we are considering the question ...(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : He has replied properly. Please understand.

(Interruptions)

DR. M. THAMBI DURAI : In the Ministry, we are considering it.... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA: Will you continue to make a noise like this? What does it mean? Please sit down and let me speak ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except Shrimati Rita Verma's submission.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a very important question before the House. My question is as to whether we are observing constitutional propriety? I admit that today's politics has become very competitive. It is a competitive politics... (Interruptions) Shall we make allegations and counter allegations? (Interruptions) shall we abuse each other and behave in an uncultured manner? ...(Interruptions)

Shall we not follow decency and cultured behaviour? (Interruptions)

This is the question which I want to raise before this august House, which is the highest institution of democracy in the country(Interruptions)

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (JHABUA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Government is functioning in a biased manner(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : How can you say this ? you cannot discuss all these things here. Please understand this.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is relating entirely to the State. You are making a statement about a person who is not a Member of this House.

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA: Please let me speak. ...(Interruptions) Governor is a representative of the President in any State(Interruptions) If the Chief Minister of a State abuses the Governor openly**(Interruptions) Please listen to me. Whatever I have to say ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : If you want, you can bring a substantive motion. This is not the way ...

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA : She has abused everyone(Interruptions) has said* and the leader of opposition who is sitting here ...(Interruptions) Have we reached that level(Interruptions) I am only talking of the level (Interruptions) This is a good thing that we should criticise one another, we should oppose one another, but the level of politics should not deteriorate to that extent that we abuse one another and criticise the President or Governor in such as undignified manner ...(Interruptions). This is the point which I want to raise before this august House (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot discuss all these things here. He is not a Member of Lok Sabha. You must bring a substantive motion.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, I call Shri V.M. Sudheeran to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri V.M. Sudheeran says.

(Interruptions)*

12.75 Hrs.

At this stage Shri Shakuni Choudhary and some other Hon. Members came and stood near the table.

MR. SPEAKER: Please go back to your seats.

....(Interruptions)

12.18. Hrs.

At this stage Shri Shakuni Choudhary and some other Hon. Members went back to their seats.

SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Commerce vide Public Notice have made certain items including coir fibre, coir yarn and coir products freely importable to India, if imported from Shri Lanka and other SAARC countries.

Coir industry in India is export oriented and labour oriented. It employs about five lakhs of workers of which 80 per cent are women.

* Not recorded.

** Expunged as ordered by the Chair

* Not recorded.

Shri Lanka is the main competitor of Indian coir fibre, yarn and products in the world market. Sri Lankan prices of these items are much less than the prices in India. Large scale accumulation of stocks are held by coirfed and primary small scale producers in Kerala worth around Rs. 50 crore due to a slump in demand for coir yarn and products.

In these circumstances, it is very clear that the import of coirfibre, yarn and products would adversely affect the Indian coir industry leading to severe unemployment in this sector. The coir sector forms a major building block of the traditional industries in Kerala.

Both the manufacturers and the workers are agitated on the removal of restrictions on import. The Coir Board in its meeting on 12th October, 1998 has appealed to the Central Government to withdraw the Notification in question, which allowed the removal of coir from the restricted list of items of import.

I request the Government to take urgent steps to see that the Notification is withdrawn and the coir sector is saved.

I also request the Government to sanction at least Rs. 10 crore as financial assistance to the Kerala State Cooperative Coir Marketing Federation for activating distress purchase of coir yarn and products to tackle the serious situation arising out of accumulation of stock.

Sir, this is a very serious situation as far as coir industry is concerned. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now I call Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay to speak.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (CALCUTTA NORTH-WEST): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose hoisted the first national flag at Imphal in 1944. The Indian freedom movement brought a dimension over the development but the national monument which is there is in a precarious condition now due to paucity of fund. The State Government cannot look after the historical monument on its own with a small budgetary allocation.

I would urge the Central Government to take over the building of I.N.A. and the area where Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose fought the Indian struggle. He stayed for four months at a stretch in Manipur State. (Interruptions).

I would also urge upon the Central Government to take over the building, to look after this historic building and consider. It with national importance and national priority. The Government should not hesitate to adopt their decision. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose should get all importance after independence and in our free India. (Interruptions).

12.21 hrs.

At this stage Shri Prabhunath Singh came and stood near the Table.

(Interruptions)

12.22 hrs.

At this stage Shri Prabhunath Singh went back to his seat

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh, I have called your name.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : First of all, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: Sir, please give me a chance. *(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, please take your seat. I will call you.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDARY (MOHANLALGANJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that since the Chairman-Cum-Managing Director of Uttar Pradesh Sahkari Gramin Vikas Bank has taken over charge...*(Interruptions)* the Scheduled Castes employees of the entire Uttar Pradesh working in that Bank have been demoted and the persons belonging to his own caste...have been appointed in their places...*(Interruptions)*. I would like to illustrate my statement with an example of a Zonal Manager, Allahabad who was suspended for misappropriation of funds to the tune of Rs. 65 thousand when he was senior manager in Raebareli...*(Interruptions)*. His misdeeds were detected by General Manager (Finance), but he was overnight promoted to the post of Zonal Manager. The performance of the Bank has deteriorated. Since he has taken over the charge...*(Interruptions)*. The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh was also informed about it. I has also informed the Prime Minister in writing about it but no action had been taken till date in this regard so he has no fear of anybody.. *(Interruptions)*

The Scheduled Caste people are being tortured mentally in the entire Uttar Pradesh. Therefore, it is the duty of this Government that it should pay attention to this matter and take action against the said CMD of that Rural Development Bank...*(Interruptions)* thank you.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Sri Prabhunath Singh, please understand that this is a State matter. You cannot raise this matter in the House. If you want, you can bring a Substantive Motion and not like this.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): This issue has been raised in Lok Sabha...*(Interruptions)*

Under which rule discussion can be initiated on this matter?

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ): I want to draw your attention towards the happenings in Patna, Bihar....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You will also get your turn.

[English]

Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: It is my turn....(Interruptions).

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday a rally was organised at Gandhi Maidan, Patna, the capital of Bihar. The Chief Minister of Bihar. Mrs. Rabri Devi was delivering a Speech in that rally. She abused the Honourable Governor of Bihar in her Speech....(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: You will also be called....

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:** ...(Interruptions)

Lalu Prasad Yadav Ji, the ex-Chief Minister of Bihar, who is behind bars for alleged misappropriation of funds to the tune of as Rs. 950 crores in fodder scam....

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record....

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:**Under this situation I demand a statement from the Government and dismissal of Bihar Government....(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request you to direct Khuranaji to make a statement in this matter.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA): Hon. Member is misleading the House. I want to say that the Governor of a State is a respectable person. He has no right to criticize publicly an elected Government of a State. But the Governor of Bihar is doing which is against his conduct....(Interruptions) I demand that the Governor of Bihar should be recalled because he is trying to create constitutional crisis in that State....(Interruptions) therefore, an impartial person should be appointed as a Governor there. At the same time I demand that the indecent parts of the speeches delivered here should be expunged from the proceedings of the House....(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA):

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a fact that law and order is a State subject, but the speech of the Chief Minister has been published in today's newspapers....(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: I am on a point of order. One can not make references on the basis of news items published in newspapers....(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: I will apprise the hon. Home Minister about the feelings of the House and request him to find the reality and what he has said(Interruptions)

12.27 hrs.

At this stage Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and some other Hon'ble Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

(Interruptions)

12.28 hrs.

At this stage Shri Shakuni Chaudhary and some other Hon'ble members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There is no point of order in Zero Hour.

SHRI K.P. MOHAN (DHARMAPURI):* Sir, it has been a long pending demand of my constituency people to provide a stoppage at Morapur for Train Nos. 6721 and 6722 Chennai-Kanyakumari Express. This train passes through the districts of Chennai, Chengalpat, Vellore, Salem, Erode, Karur, Dindigul, Madurai, Tirunelveli, Nagarcoil, Kanyakumari and Dharmapuri. It has one or more stoppages in all the above districts except Dharmapuri district where this train runs over 120 Kms. without a stoppage.

It is the only train available for my constituency people to visit Chennai and other southern parts of Tamil Nadu. Therefore, I urge upon the hon. Minister of Railways to provide a stoppage at Morapur for the above train....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Mohan says.

Please go back to your seats.

12.29 hrs.

At this stage Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

12.30 hrs.

At this stage Shri Shakuni Chaudhary and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (BASIRHAT): I want to draw the attention of the House to a serious matter involving public interest.

* Not Recorded

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.*

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

The jute industry is one of the key and old industries of our country. A maximum number of jute mills are now closed throughout the country. Thousands and thousands of workers have been thrown out of their jobs. It is a matter of regret that the Government of India and the mill owners are very much reluctant about this and they are not taking any serious steps or measures to see that the jute workers get back their jobs.

It relates to the agricultural field also. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Ajay Chakraborty.

*(Interruptions)...**

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: The raw jute growers are not getting their remunerative prices. The JCI is very much reluctant to discharge its duty. The JCI is also not coming on time to purchase the produce of the raw jutes from the raw jute growers. The entire jute industry and the raw jute growers have fallen into a deep crisis. The condition of the jute industry at present is very bad. So, I urge the Government of India to take positive and suitable measures to save the jute industry, jute workers and the raw jute growers from their plights.

SHRI. T.R. BAALU: Let the Parliamentary Affairs Minister react. Shri Madan Lal Khurana, why do you not react? We should have your intervention...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

DR. C.P. THAKUR (PATNA): Whatever appeared in all the newspapers...*(Interruptions)* Bihar Government should be dismissed...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR CHOUDHARY (GAYA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the sick Gurari Sugar Mills of the Bihar State Sugar Corporation Limited in Gaya parliamentary constituency. Owing to negligence of the Bihar Government the mill has been closed for the last seven years in the name of modernization. The administrators of mill have not paid the salaries of the employees. All the employees of the mill are on the verge of starvation. Through you, I demand from the Government of India to revive Gurari Sugar Mills immediately as all the machines are in working condition and the Gurari Sugar Mills can be started with a little expenditure by the Government.

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA (CHANDOULI): Sir, Silk yarn is not available in Banaras, therefore, there is a need to import it, otherwise the silk industry will soon face a closure. Condition of the weavers is very pitiable there. I demand that the Government should import the yarn and make arrangements to sell it within Banaras so that migration of the weavers is checked. Silk industry is running in this area for thousands of years. Therefore, I demand from the Ministry of Textiles to make arrangement for import of silk yarn from abroad in order to revive this industry.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (MIRZAPUR): Sir, this question is not related to Banaras only. Not only the silk weavers of

Banaras but the weavers of the carpet industry are also facing problems. Condition of these weavers is going bad to worse day-by-day due to the loans advanced to these weavers and the way in which these loans are recovered. I request the Finance Minister of India to formulate some schemes for the betterment of the weavers of world fame who are engaged in the field of carpets and Banarasi saree industry as the condition of these weavers is deteriorating day-by-day.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (MADHUBANI): Mr. Speaker, Sir the employees association of Doordarshan and All India Radio-Programme Staff Association is going on strike from 10th December in support of their demands. If these people go on strike, 195 Akashvani Kendras and 42 Doordarshan Kendras will be affected all over the Country. Their demands are very simple and reasonable. Their demand is that they may be given pay scales at par with those in the engineering cadre. This is recommended by the fifth pay commission also. During the talks on the issue, the Government had conceded and assured that they would bring pay scales of programme staff association and engineering cadre at par. In spite of the assurance, the Government has not kept its word. The association has also demanded that a large number of posts lying vacant since long be filled up. Association has demanded that if it is not possible to fill up the posts permanently, at least these should be filled up temporarily. This is a very serious matter and it will have implications all over the country. Therefore, this problem should be solved before 10th December.

[*Translation*]

SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE (MANDALA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice regarding the forests around tribal district of Mandala in Madhya Pradesh. For the last one year the Department of Forests of Madhya Pradesh Government has been indulging in indiscriminate felling of the sal trees in the forests around tribal villages. I have been regularly giving notices in this regard and the Government of Madhya Pradesh has granted permission for felling around 40 lakh trees. Approximately 15 lakh trees are found to be felled there so far and I would like to request you that the Government of India should direct the Government of Madhya Pradesh to immediately stop the felling of trees in order to maintain those forests in the tribal areas. A loot of crores of rupees is going on there. So many middlemen are there who are felling the entire forests there. I would like to draw your attention towards this issue and want protection from the Government for taking appropriate step to stop the felling of trees in the forests in the tribal areas.

[*English*]

SHRI S. ARUMUGHAM (PONDICHERRY): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I want to bring to the attention of the House about the problem of bringing the Bill for special Statehood for Pondicherry State. The matter was discussed in this House in the last Session. Unanimous resolutions were passed in Pondicherry Assembly for 10 times for this purpose. The hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Shri Madan Lal Khurana announced in the last Session that the Government would sanction Statehood for Pondicherry. Yesterday, the hon.

Minister told that the Bill for creation of three new States would be introduced in this Session. I want to make my submission that the hon. Minister must give an assurance to introduce and pass the Bill for special Statehood for Pondicherry in this Session itself.

SHRI T.R. BAALU (MADRAS SOUTH): This is a very important matter. The Minister is here. The Minister should assure us... (Interruptions)

SHRI R. MUTHIAH (PERIYAKULAM): The Minister had given a categorical assurance to this House when I raised this issue. He should not go back in his assurance.... (Interruptions)

12.39 hrs.

(SHRI P.M. SAYEED *in the Chair*)

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (PANSKURJA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the point just now made by Shri Shakeel Ahmad about the AIR and Doordarshan employees is a very important point. All of us are extremely disturbed on this question. Please ask the Minister concerned....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seats. I am on my legs.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Radhakrishnan, will you kindly sit for a moment please? I am on my legs.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, I also support this...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, Shri Basu Deb Acharia. There are as many as 36 Zero Hour Mentions. We shall go according to the list already drawn. In between if anybody disturbs, he will not be getting a chance, I tell you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP (KOTTAYAM): Sir, I have given notice on the same subject. You may kindly allow me to speak....(Interruptions)

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH (NARASARAOPET): Mr. Chariman Sir, I was called by the hon. Speaker....(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI (RAIGARH): Sir, I associate myself with the matter which was raised by hon. Member Dr. Shakeel Ahmad....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: I also associate myself with the demand of Shakeel ji....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the Government wants to react to the mentioned subject, the hon. Minister may do so.

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Khuranaji, you please ask the

hon. Minister of Information and Broadcasting to talk to them....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The Minister is on his legs.

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHAMAD: They are going on strike from the 10th, therefore, he should concede to their reasonable demands....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (AONLA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the matter of Aligarh Muslim University should be considered seriously....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rajveer Singh, you are a senior Member, Even the Zero Hour' is conducted in any orderly way. The Parliamentary Affairs Minister wanted to react to a subject mentioned here, but you have taken the floor on your own.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please do not interrupt.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): Mr. Chairman Sir, considering the feelings of the hon. Member who raised the question, I will take up the matter with the Minister of Information and Broadcasting and will ask him to seek some way out....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP: We should have a reply. It was already agreed by the Government that pay parity would be given....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Suresh, it is mentioned in 'Zero Hour' and the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister has said that he has taken note of it.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: My notice is also there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. I will call you also.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: What problem do you have with women? why don't you allow us to speak?

Mr. Chariman, Sir, 25 Hon. Members apprised you of a matter regarding infringement of rights on 4th December, 1998 and since then, I have been insisting on raising this issue. I'm grateful to you for allowing me to raise this issue today.

Sir, before raising this issue, I want to submit that I am

a member of the House Committee and the Allotment committee both. 40 members of opposition parties are still staying in the guest houses of their respective Governments even after nine months of election. This number includes senior members like Shri Jafar Sharif, Shri Buta Singh, Shri Ramdas Athawale and Shri Arvind Kamble etc. Sir, you are our custodian. We have been raising this issue in this august House because the opposition members have always been denied justice....(Interruptions) We deem it to be an infringement of our rights. Provision of shelter and electricity is the right of the elected Members. Our rights have been infringed. The House committee allotted 135 guest accommodations in which people are staying for a long time. The Elected Members are pining for accommodation. Defeated Members or their guests are still occupying Government accommodations. 135 guest accommodations have not been vacated so far....(Interruptions) The Estate officer in the Ministry of Urban Development is not getting it vacated even after serving the notice of eviction. It's very bad to mention the name of the Hon. Prime Minister in this regard. The Hon. Prime Minister can never do this thing. The officers in the Urban Development Ministry are not getting these vacated even by using the name of the P.M.O. Particularly, injustice is being done with the Members of Congress Party. The House committee had never before functioned in such a manner. We ruled for 45 years but we never indulged in such things. We are pining for residence for long. You, being the custodian of the House, kindly wind up this House committee functioning under the Government. I demand that the Estate Officer Shri...*, who off and on mentions the name of the Prime Minister, should be suspended. I have given a privilege notice in this regard. You kindly arrange to send it to the Privilege committee.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let there be no running commentary please..

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: I'm not fighting for my cause. I'm fighting for the common cause of these 40 Members who are not being allotted accommodation. They are being deprived of accommodation. The Members of the ruling parties get three accommodations at a time....(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have verified and found that there has been no such recommendation from the Hon. Prime Minister or the P.M.O.

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: Sir, my privilege notice must be sent to the Privilege committee....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Madam, please conclude now. Please sit down. Let me tell you something.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not get up like this. Please hear me.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Madam, please resume your seat. You had your say.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rao, let me conduct the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K.S. RAO (MACHILIPATNAM): Sir, on this issue of accommodation, she is fighting for the last eight months.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please hear me now.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: Sir we want a ruling from the Chair....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

We have been waiting for a year. The Members of the ruling alliance are availing themselves of even three houses while we are not provided even a single one. What sort of practice is this?

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Who has got three houses, could you please cite an example....(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: You people are sitting in the bungalows and we are staying in guest house....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you please resume your seat? I have to inform the House about something.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Madam, do you not want to hear me? You have already said, whatever you wanted to say.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: This is not a Government committee. The Hon. Speaker has constituted this committee. He can take action on it and he can take account of it....(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: How can this be so easily sorted out. Women are being discriminated against....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Madam, please resume your seat. Shri Athawale, please resume your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you please hear me? I am on my legs.

(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please resume your seats. The hon. Member was taking up this matter again and again and she has given a notice of Privilege.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Sir, this is not a Government Committee; this Committee has been constituted by the hon. Speaker.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: Sir, we are being discriminated against....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform the House about something. What is this?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Speaker has spoken with the Minister of Urban Affairs, and the Chairman of the House Committee in this regard. It is being sorted out. Therefore, the hon. Speaker has disallowed the Motion.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have some reservations....(Interruptions)...You please justify to us. We want our privilege notice need be sent to the Privilege Committee....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO (MACHILIPATNAM): Sir, this matter has been going for the last eight months. This is not the first time that it is being raised.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Since the hon. Speaker has already spoken with the Minister of Urban Affairs and the Chairman of the House Committee in this matter, the Motion was disallowed by him. If the members want any clarification, they can meet the hon. Speaker.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHUBANESHAH KALITA (GUWAHATI): Sir, this is a Privilege Motion. The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has already clarified that no phone call has gone either from the Prime Minister or the Prime Minister's Office. But an officer of the Government has stated that he has got instructions from the PMO.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kalita, the hon. Speaker has taken a decision on it. It cannot be discussed any further.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHUBANESHAH KALITA: Sir, how can an officer of the Government take the name of the Prime Minister?

MR. CHAIRMAN: In this matter, the Speaker has taken a decision. I do not want this matter to continue any further.

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir will any action be taken against the officer whose name is being mentioned? What action will be taken against the officer who is again and again talking about the Prime Minister's Office?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: No names of officers will go on record.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: Director of Estates....(Interruptions)* says that there is pressure from the P.M.O., this house can't be vacated or that house cannot be vacated. I have mentioned this name. What does the Urban Development Ministry has to do with the Lok Sabha pool? we could write to the Estate office directly but, Sir, you being our custodian, you should do justice to us. I have nothing to do with the Urban Development Ministry. I named... (Interruptions)...* because I rang him up several times. Is this the way that a five-time Member need pine for accommodation and the defeated Members and their guests keep on occupying the accommodation(Interruptions)....*

They say that they are being pressurised by the PMO. This is serious matter....(Interruptions)

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Why are the defeated Members occupying those houses?

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO: If a four time Member has to be on the streets, who will occupy the houses?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: Mr. Chairman, Sir....(Interruptions)* Director of Estates should be suspended. If our hon. Minister is admitting that Director of Estates is wrong....(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want that the other party should also be heard. Other party should come before the House.

It will send a wrong message....(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: Why can we not occupy the bungalows, if you turn them into banquet halls? what are you talking about?...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Chariman, Sir, it sends a message that we are standing in a corner of the streets and the hon. Member herself is confessing that she has occupied the house unauthorisedly....(Interruptions) She should be allowed to speak.

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: If you do not let the members enter then we will take possession by force....

[Interruptions]

* Not recorded.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member is a member of the House committee which is also the Allotment Committee. These people favoured their own people and effected allotment to suit themselves. I can understand the hon. Member's displeasure as....(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: What are you talking? There has been no meetings of that committee. Where is the Chairman of your committee? The Chairman is not coming for six months....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN (BAHRAICH): The hon. Minister is making a request. Kindly allow the hon. Minister and also allow the other hon. Members to speak(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I was mentioning that the Motion moved by her has been disallowed by the Speaker because we have already taken up this matter with the Minister of urban Affairs and Employment and the Chairman of the House Committee. Therefore, it has been disallowed.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: He has not called the meeting so far. The hon. Member is not correct....(Interruptions)

The Chairman of the House Committee is not coming to the House for the last six months. You know nothing(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I was only telling that nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs wants to be heard. How can you raise it, when it has been disallowed....

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The matter has come to an end.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: If the Minister makes a request and the Government wants to have a discussion on this, why should you stop them? The Minister is making a request. You may kindly allow him.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: This complaint is not of Members of Congress Party or Members of Opposition. Even the Members of Ruling Party are staying in State Guest accommodation. They also could not get Government Accommodation. S/Shri Sonkar Shastri, Ghafoor could not get accommodation. Accommodation is not allotted on the basis of Political Parties. We should ponder over as to why there is a shortage of accommodation. Accommodations are being occupied by the Members who have lost in the elections. Most of the Members of Congress Party who have lost in the elections are not vacating their Government accommodations and these very Members provide accommodation to them in the name of guest accommodation and then here make hue and cry—regarding non-availability of Government accommodation. Sir, through you, I would like to request that a list may be drawn up giving details of people who are staying in house illegally, Members who are not vacating the accommodation and the names of persons who are mostly staying in the name of guest accommodation....(Interruptions)

12.58 hrs.

At this stage Shrimati Suryakanta Patil came and stood on the floor near the Table.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please go back to your seat.

12.59 hrs.

At this stage Shrimati Suryakanta Patil went back to her seat

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: Since you have got a very good bungalow you are telling all this. you can't provide accommodation....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Mr. Chairmen, Sir, Members who have lost in the election do not want to vacate. Members of Congress and other parties are providing them accommodation on the basis of guest accommodation....(Interruptions)

The Hon. Member is a Member of Allotment Committee. If the Members have not been allotted Government accommodation then she is also responsible. Even she has forcibly occupied 14, B.D. Marg house and as such she should not raise this issue in such a way....(Interruptions) This failure is of House Committee, not of the Government....(Interruptions) Why are they holding Government responsible when it is the failure of the House Committee?

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: I have given a notice and I will speak. I will not speak for myself but for all....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Although the Hon. Member is a Member of House Committee even then she has occupied 14,B.D. Marg Bungalow without proper allotment orders....(Interruptions) Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would request you to kindly get her bungalow vacated because she has occupied the House without an allotment order.

* Not recorded.

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: It is not an individual matter....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO: The Hon. Members of this House are to be protected by the Chair....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (MUMBAI NORTH-CENTRAL): We should know whether we are getting accommodation or not....(Interruptions)

13.00 hrs.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you want to continue the Zero Hour, then you should ensure order in the House. Otherwise, we will adjourn the House for Lunch.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, do you want the Member to be on the streets? How long do you want the Member to be on the streets?....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already announced the decision of the Speaker on the matter.

SHRI K.S. RAO: What is the decision?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have announced it. If there is anything else, she should take it up with the Hon. Speaker. That is all.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, it is not the first time. She has represented it half-a-dozen times.

MR. CHAIRMAN: May I call the next hon. Member or do you want us to close it now?

SHRI K.S. RAO: Do you want her to be on the streets? Do you want the senior Members to be on the streets? How long? Should it be for six months or for one year or for five years?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rao, kindly be seated. Let me tell you. The hon. Speaker has come to the conclusion that this matter does not attract the provision of privilege....(Interruptions) Let me complete it, Shri Rao. Let me convey what the hon. Speaker has decided....(Interruptions) I do not want to hear. Let me complete. Let me tell him....(Interruptions) If there is any complaint against the allotment of houses to the hon. Members....(Interruptions) Shri Meghe, kindly resume your seat....(Interruptions) If there is any such complaint, then, you can approach the House Committee, failing which, the hon. Speaker.

SHRI K.S. RAO: We have done both.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is the decision he has taken.

SHRI K.S. RAO: We have done both.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Speaker for the last six months....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

13.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha Then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.06 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at 14.06 hrs. of the clock.

(SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH in the Chair)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Notice under rule 377.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (HAJIPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, just one minute

MR. CHAIRMAN: What do you want?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: We have met the Speaker. I have come to request You Sir, that the condition of students of Aligarh Muslim University who went on hunger strike, is very serious and one of them may die any time. There the students are sitting on indefinite hunger strike from 1st of this month. The matter was raised in the House and the hon. Minister said that he was taking action in this regard, but no action has been taken.

Yesterday, I myself went there and the Press people were also there. I have just met the Hon. Speaker, and he himself said that he is talking to the concerned Minister. At least there should be one Minister who can take this matter seriously and can assure the House, regarding this issue....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: O.K. now it has been raised.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Otherwise, I want to inform that the students of Jawahar Lal Nehru University, Jamiya Miliya, and Hamdard have joined this agitation. Tomorrow the students of Delhi University are going to join this agitation. It will not be good if this agitation intensifies. This is not an issue of any one party....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Alright, you have spoken. Please take your seat.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: What has been done? What is your ruling?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The procedure regarding this is that the matter which has been brought to the notice of the Hon. Speaker is to be decided by him only.

This is the ruling.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: You can at least ask the Hon. Minister to give a reply. If not now, he can give his reply any time. You have powers, you are in the Chair. You can give

directive to the hon. Minister that discussion could be held day after tomorrow....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Is the Govt. going to do something or not?....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have raised an important issue. This issue is being raised again and again. The Govt. will surely take a decision....

(Interruptions)

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (MORADABAD): Mr. Chairman Sir, today, I have raised a point during Zero hour regarding removal of the Vice-Chancellor and the students....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It's not Zero hour. Now notices given under Rule 377 are being taken up.

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ: I also support what Shri Paswan said and therefore, I request that the Vice Chancellor should be removed the University reopened and the hunger strike is called off immediately.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: There the strike is on for many days. What is the policy of the Govt. regarding the question raised by Shri Paswan? What action the Government is going to take on this issue?

14.09 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to Open Sugar Mill at Panderia Tehsil in Madhya Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: (BILASPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the farmers of District Bilaspur and Kawardha and the nearby villages of Panderia Tehsil in Madhya Pradesh are engaged in Sugarcane cultivation for many years. In the absence of a Sugar Mill in the area the farmers are forced to produce jaggery and sell it at low rates. As a result the economic condition of the farmers in the area is becoming weak.

The Central Govt. is requested that in the interest of the farmers a sugar mill should be set up at Panderia Tehsil, so that the educated unemployed could get employment and the poor people could earn their livelihood.

(ii) Need to upgrade J.K. Cancer Institute in Kanpur as Regional Cancer Institute and Provide Modern Facilities There

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (KANPUR): The increasing menace of cancer and failure in controlling this dreaded disease is a well known fact. A large number of people are dying of cancer in India but means for its treatment are not available as per requirement. Its treatment is very costly and the poor people of our country cannot afford it. During the treatment people not only lose their dear ones but their economic condition also become worse. There is a need

to provide adequate facilities for the treatment of this disease by the Government in a poor country like India. There is also a need to provide adequate facilities at district centre for the treatment of cancer. The urban and rural population in Kanpur, Etawah, Mainpuri, Agra, Farrukhabad, Fatehpur and Unnao districts is tobacco addict and a large number of people in these areas are victims of cancer, of the mouth, lip and throat but there is no adequate facility for its timely diagnosis and treatment. There is a cancer hospital in Kanpur but it is not fully equipped with modern equipments. Besides a scheme for upgradation of this hospital as a Regional Cancer Institute has been pending for a long time due to which people living in nearby places are compelled to face many problems and difficulties.

So, I request the Union Government that the J.K. Cancer Institute, Kanpur be accorded the status of a Regional Cancer Institute without further delay and this hospital should be equipped with modern equipments and cancer experts should be posted there so that the poor cancer patients of the city as well as nearby districts could get proper treatment there.

(iii) Need to Provide Better Facilities at Chandouli Railway Station in U.P.

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA (CHANDOLI): Now Chandouli has become the district Head Quarters but there is a lack of public facilities at Chandouli railway station. There has been a long standing demand for expansion of Chandouli railway station but no action has been taken in this regard. Chandouli railway station should be expanded and stoppage of all important trains should be provided there so that people of Chandouli district could benefit from that. Several facilities like retiring room, potable water and toilets etc. are not available at Chandouli railway station as a result of which passengers have to face inconvenience.

So, I request the Union Government to provide these facilities at Chandouli station immediately.

(iv) Need to Evolve Plans for Development of Diamond Industry in the Country.

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY (BANASKANTHA): I would like to draw the attention of this august House towards diamond industry in which more than ten lakh people are employed directly and indirectly and it is a hundred per cent export oriented industry which helps the country in earning foreign exchange. But at this time of present recession no attention is being paid to this industry due to which it is gradually closing down.

Through this august House, I request the Union Government to launch new schemes for the expansion and promotion of this industry so that this industry could be given a boost.

(v) Need to Bring Legislation for Creation of three New States of Chhatisgrah, Uttaranchal and Vananchal

SHRI MOTILAL VORA (RAJNANDGAON): The Union Government had made an announcement for the creation of

three separate states i.e. Chhatisgarh, Uttarakhand and Vananchal. The people of Chhatisgarh had been assured that the Bill regarding creation of new States would be brought before the Parliament in this winter session itself. Many Ministers also announced the same during the election campaign of State Assemblies. But there is no mention of Bill regarding creation of States in the priority list of Bills to be introduced by the Central Government in the current session.

I, request the Union Government to introduce the Bill regarding creation of new States at the earliest.

(vi) Need to withdraw Decision for Closure of PSUs and Take Steps for their Revival

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (DURGAPUR): Sir, there is an urgent need to withdraw the decision of closure of eight public sector undertakings like the Bharat Ophthalmic Glass, Mining & Allied Machinery Corporation, Bharat Process and Mechanical Engineers Limited, Weigh Bird India Limited, National Bicycle Corporation, Rehabilitation Industries Corporation, Cycle Corporation of India Limited, Tannery and Footwear Corporation of India Limited. As per Government statement, Rs. 517 crore will be required to dispose of through the V.R. Scheme of eight PSUs. As per the revival proposals hanging in the BIFR, it is well below Rs. 300 crore. I am giving a few specific examples such as BOGL which required Rs. 20 crore additional investment for its revamping, whereas to close it down, more than Rs. 25 crore will be the V.R.S. expenditure. The Government did not agree for spending Rs.141 crore for revival of M.A.M.C. but it is ready to pay much more than that of 4500 strong work force of the company. B.P.M.E.L. required only Rs.15 crore for revival., The same amount can be generated through sale of landed property owned by the company itself financing revival packages. The National Bicycle Corporation required only Rs. 9.1 crore loan (not investment) returnable within three years for its revival but the Government is ready to spend Rs. 16 crore for closing down the viable revival public sector. I would like to say that the B.O.G.L. is the only unit in the country to produce flint button and ophthalmic blanks used mainly for periscopic and telescopic items of tanks/submarines and other defence requirements.

I urge upon the Government to please withdraw the decision of closure of the eight public sector undertakings and try to revive these with swadeshi outlook.

(vii) Need to set up Heavy Industry in Lalganj Parliamentary Constituency in Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ (LALGANJ): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is no heavy industry in my parliamentary constituency, Lalganj, U.P. nor are there such industries which could boost economic development in that area. The people are forced to migrate to other States in the absence of industries. It is an economically and socially backward area of U.P. The small scale and cottage industries would have

to be set up there to remove the backwardness of that area but it has not been done.

I request to the Union Government that infrastructural and heavy industries should be set up there in order to remove the economic backwardness of that area. With a view to encouraging entrepreneurs to set up small scale and cottage industries based on the raw material available in that area, they should be granted tax relief.

(viii) Need to Ensure Basic Amenities to Tribals at Kolli Hills in Tamil Nadu

[English]

DR. SAROJA V. (RASIPURAM): Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the august House to the basic amenities at Kolli Hills in Sendamangalam Assembly segment of my Parliamentary Constituency, Rasipuram, Tamil Nadu.

Kolli Hills consists of a large scheduled tribe population and they lack basic amenities like roads, drinking water etc. The people who are living below poverty line need to walk long distances for bus and water due to lack of road facility. The Government is giving priority to provide basic amenities to the rural areas especially hilly areas having more tribal population. The existing road from Mullukurichi to Narayankaadu via Modukurichi is having 35 hair-pin bends. There is a proposal to form a new road in between these places which is pending with the State Government of Tamil Nadu for a long time. Apart from this, there is no protected drinking water facility at Kolli Hills, Vazhavandi, Ariyur, Valappur and Devanoor Panchayat. There has been much delay to implement the water scheme by the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board.

I urge upon the Government through this House to direct the Government of Tamil Nadu to provide basic amenities at Kolli Hills in Sendamangalam Assembly segment which consists of large tribal population.

(ix) Need to provide Technical know-how and adequate Funds to Government of Bihar to check Severe Erosion Caused by the Ganges in Samastipur and Vaishali districts of Bihar

[Translation]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (SAMASTIPUR): Mr. Chairman Sir, there is a serious problem of soil erosion in Samastipur district and in southern part of the Diara region in Vaishali district of Bihar due to continuous methering process of the Ganga. The situation in Patna, Chandpur, Jaunapur, Dharnopattai and Rasulpur have been worsening during the last ten years. It will render thousands of people homeless and thousands of acres of land will submerge into the Ganga. The erosion should be checked immediately so that the valuable resources which will be needed for the rehabilitation of thousands of people likely to be affected by the imminent danger of soil erosion can be saved. The Government of Bihar is in the lack of those resources.

Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to make available necessary technical advice and adequate funds to the Government of Bihar.

**(x) Need to look into the Problems being faced by
Textiles Industry***[English]*

SHRI A. GANESHMURTHI (PALANI): I wish to draw your kind attention to the chronic problem faced by the cotton industries. The textile and spinning industries are reeling under severe recession. The problems engulfing the textile units are due to the poor quality of the seeds supplied to the farmers, the lack of proper technology, power tariff, excise duty, marketing system, export and import policy. As a result of these, the average yield per hectare is less. I remind this House that textile contributes 30 per cent of our foreign exchange and employs more than one million workers.

The problems of the open ended cotton mills depend on the waste cotton produced by the textile industry. This waste cotton caters to 50 per cent of the needs of the spinning mills to produce yarn. The remaining 50 per cent is imported, when this is the case the Government has allowed the export of waste cotton.

The solutions to these problems are a complete ban on the waste cotton export and NTC and Cooperative spinning mills should satisfy the Hankyarn requirements of handloom weavers. Other mills can be exempted from the purview of Hankyarn obligation. The cotton procurement and distribution system should be regulated by the Government. Weaving also requires the urgent attention of the Government. The powerloom and hadloom sectors which again are the important pillars of cotton industries are already performing well without the assistance of the Government.

Due to the magnitude of the problem, several cotton industries have gone in for retrenchment to survive high cost of production. The poor employees have been affected to the largest extent. The problems can be solved by the Government by extending support to cotton producers which in turn can benefit the cotton industries and labourers.

In my constituency, in particular Palani, Dindigul and Vadesanthur, nearly 70 spinning mills are being constituted right now. So, I plead for protection.

**(xi) Need to take Steps for Promotion of Tourism in
Jammu and Kashmir**

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH (SRINAGAR): There is an ample scope for the promotion of Tourism in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Kashmir has historically been one of India's most famous tourist attractions. The insurgency between 1990 and 1996 completely finished the Tourism industry. The Government of Jammu and Kashmir is doing its best within its limited resources to revive Tourism in Kashmir.

The Government of India must evolve a package to attract foreign tourists back to the region. For this, firstly, diplomatic efforts must be made to remove Kashmir from the travel adversary put up by the foreign Governments.

As normalcy is fast returning and we have not faced a single incident of violence directed on any tourists whether

foreign or domestic in the last two and a half years, the Government of India, in the Ministry of Tourism should evolve a special action plan to provide all assistance including finance to revive tourism in Kashmir.

It is in my knowledge that the Government of Jammu and Kashmir have forwarded a proposal for promoting tourists in the State. The Union Tourism Minister should invite the State's Tourism Minister for discussion and organise programmes for promoting tourism in Jammu and Kashmir State, to the desired extent.

(xii) Need to provide Central Assistance for Modernisation of Sugar Mills in North Bihar*[Translation]*

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (MADHUBANI): Mr. Chairman Sir, almost all the sugar mills of North Bihar are either closing or facing closure. Because of their being very old, the sugar produced by these mills is so costly that the mills are not economically viable. The arrears of the farmers is not paid for years.

So, I request the Government of India to make available special grants for the modernisation of all the sugar mills of North Bihar, especially Raiyarn, Lohat and Shakri.

14.26 hrs.

*[English]***HIGH DENOMINATION BANK NOTES
(DEMONETISATION) AMENDMENT BILL**

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): I beg to move:*

"That the Bill to amend the High Denomination bank Notes (Demonetisation) Act, 1978, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Chairman, the yearly demand for fresh currency notes has been growing at the rate of 15 to 20 per cent. In order to increase the production of currency/bank notes, the Government has initiated several measures like (1) modernisation of the existing two note-printing Presses at Nashik and Dewas; (2) setting up of two new note presses under the control of RBI; (3) introduction of Rs. 500 notes to relieve pressure on Rs. 100 denomination note; and (4) import of printed notes to the extent of 3600 million pieces (2000 million of Rs. 100 and 1600 million pieces of Rs. 500 denomination) of a total face value of Rs. 1,00,000 crore. Despite these measures, the demand-supply gap of fresh notes is expected to go up to 12680 million pieces by 2005. The year-wise gap is as follows:

* Introduced/moved with the recommendation of the President.

Year	Shortfall	
1998-99	5574	million pieces
1999-00	2300	-do-
2000-01	4350	-do-
2001-02	6600	-do-
2002-03	7480	-do-
2003-04	9580	-do-
2004-05	12680	-do-

The Government has, therefore, proposed to print Rs. 1000 notes in order that the note-supply position in the country is improved.

Sir, prior to 1978, we had in circulation high denomination notes of Rs. 1000, Rs. 5000 and Rs. 10000. However, as per provisions of the High Denomination Bank Notes (Demonetisation) Act, 1978, all these high denomination notes have ceased to be legal tender in payment or on account at any place on 16.1.78, i.e., the date on which the above mentioned Act had come into force. In order to facilitate issue of the proposed Rs. 1000 notes, the High Denomination Bank Notes (Demonetisation) Act, 1978, would require amendment.

While the preamble to the High Denomination Bank Notes (Demonetisation) Act, 1978, states that "the availability of high denomination bank notes facilitates the illicit transfer of money for financing transactions which are harmful to the national economy or which are for illegal purposes". I am sure that the honourable Members of this august House will share my view that the root cause for illegal transaction lies not in notes of high denomination but elsewhere.

It is a well known fact that the purchasing power of the rupee has gone down considerably since 1978, i.e., when the high denomination notes were demonetised. In terms of movement in Consumer Price Index (base 1982=100), the value of Rs. 1000 would now be only Rs. 160—which entails that an average consumer requires notes of a higher face value for his normal cash transaction.

In the above background and till such time other methods of payment gain root, it would be in public interest, to introduce higher denomination note of Rs. 1000 to meet the demand of high value cash transactions.

Sir, may I now move for leave of this Hon'ble House for consideration and passing of the "High Denomination Bank Notes (Demonetisation) Amendment Bill, 1998?"

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH):
Motion moved:

"That the Bill to amend the High Denomination Bank Notes (Demonetisation) Act, 1978, be taken into consideration."

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (MADHUBANI): Has B.J.P. started preparation for the elections by printing Bank Notes of higher denomination.

[English]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (IDUKKI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand here not to support the Amendment Bill moved by the hon. Finance Minister. In 1978 when the Demonetization Act was passed by this august House, the objective of that Act was not the one sentence which was quoted by the hon. Finance Minister in his speech. It was not the only thing in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. The Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Demonetization Bill was truly reflecting some of the maladies which were persisting at that point of time in our financial sector. The then Government was forced to take the action of demonetization considering the prevailing black money circulation in the country. I am sure that the Finance Minister cannot deny in this House today that the black money in circulation is less than 1978. The black money in circulation is going up. Today, probably it is not within the reach of this Government or within any kind of calculations of the Finance Ministry. The fact is that black money circulation is going up. Sir, I am more astonished to listen to the explanation why this high denomination currency is to be printed. According to the definition in the Bill, the high denomination bank notes means, in other words this Bill enables the Government not only to print thousand rupees note but also notes of the denominational value of five thousand or ten thousand rupees issued by the Reserve Bank of India. So, if this Bill is passed by Parliament, it empowers the Government, not only to print thousand rupees note but also print five thousand rupees note and also ten thousand rupees note. The justification which the hon. Minister has given is that the value of the money is coming down. Today's value of a thousand rupees note is only Rs. 160. This is the admission of the gross failure of the Finance Ministry itself. The fact is, the Government is not able to contain the fall in the value of the rupee which is falling very steeply. The Government is not able to control it. The remedy suggested by the Minister is to print more notes.

There are very alarming reports appearing in the newspapers in recent days that high denomination notes are being printed outside. The other day, *The Time of India* reported that high denomination currency notes are printed in Pakistan and are being smuggled into India. It is in circulation in large quantity. I do not know what is happening. What are the steps being taken by the Government for checking this smuggling of currency notes? When the note in circulation was not sufficient for the requirement of the country, we had decided to print notes outside. As stated by the hon. Finance Minister, currency notes are not only printed in India but also outside and then they are brought to India. Many of the currency notes which are in circulation in the country today are printed outside only.

I would like to invite the attention of the hon. Minister whether he has ever examined the functioning of the Security Presses in India which are printing the currency notes. The

[Sh. P.C. Chacko]

two currency notes printing presses are in India. Are they working to their optimum capacity?

As a Member of the Committee on Finance, I remember the discrepancies in the functioning of the currency printing presses in India, which were brought to the notice of the Standing Committee. In this regard, in one of the reports, the Standing Committee has made a recommendation also to this House. The fact is, today India cannot have the facility to print its own currency notes also. It is not difficult for a country like India to build up the facility of printing currency notes, printing with the latest offset press or whatever kind of sophisticated printing facility which is available. The fact is that two of the Presses in India are not working to their optimum capacity and because of that, we are printing notes outside and bringing them to the country.

What is the security of our monetary system? Now fake notes are being printed outside and then smuggled into India.

The Government does not have any account. The Government does not have any control. Now, the Finance Minister has just returned from the World Economic Forum. So, probably, the ground reality in India may be little away from him. He thinks that the common man is dealing in hundred rupee notes only. I do not know which is the target group before this Government and this Finance Minister. The Minister has brought this Bill with the assumption that the common man in India is dealing only in hundred-rupee notes or thousand-rupee notes. Sir, if the price of onion is going to be more than Rs. 100 per kilogram, then probably, his justification may be correct. I take it as a forecast probably that in the near future, the price of onion is going up to Rs. 100 per kilogram because he thinks that the common man only has to carry thousand-rupee note, which is not available, to buy ordinary things. Probably in the regime of this Finance Minister in the BJP Government, we can anticipate a day when the common man is going to buy onion at a price beyond Rs. 100. Is that the justification?

How is the black money being hoarded? How is the black money being handled in this country? In 1978 when the Indian economy was booming, when the Indian economy was in a take off stage also, we found it an effective remedy to stall this black money in circulation by demonetising the note. In 1978, the Act was passed after careful consideration in this House and it was prescribed as an effective remedy for containing black money in circulation. Now, the Minister says that the source of black money is not in the high denomination notes but it is elsewhere. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to please explain that 'elsewhere' because we are not aware of it. For the people earning through illegal sources, it is a very safe method to keep black money in high denomination notes.

Then, there is no guarantee that the Government of India or the Reserve Bank of India is not going to print five thousand-rupee notes tomorrow and ten thousand-rupee notes day after tomorrow. As said by some friends here, the elections are nearby and we are hearing the rumours that

there can be an election any day. In that kind of a situation, this Bill is very meaningful. I am not attributing any motives, but the thing is that two-rupee, five-rupee and ten-rupee notes which we are handling every day are soiled and torn notes. We are even handling pieces of the notes. We are even getting currency notes of these denomination with a lot of patchwork. If we go to a shop, we are going to handle soiled notes. The Finance Minister is not at all mindful of the soiled notes which the common man is handling in this country. People go to vegetable market and fish market and they are dealing in that kind of notes. If you go to a shop and get a torn note, you cannot say that you do not accept it. You have to take it.

The area of note printing is not getting any consideration by the Finance Minister. The fact is that no printing press attached to the Reserve Bank is working properly. The employees of the presses were on strike. I am sure that the Finance Minister is aware that the employees working in note printing presses were on strike. These presses are still not working to their optimum capacity. The only remedy he finds of all these problems is that we should print thousand-rupee notes, five thousand-rupee notes or ten-thousand rupee notes. That is giving rise to all kinds of opportunities to speculators and black money hoarders. What we did in 1978 was done with very good intentions. Moreover, the high denomination notes which are smuggled into our country are exactly the same and the common man cannot make out the difference. The common man may not be handling thousand-rupee note, but Sir, even then, if the note is in circulation, he cannot make out the difference. We are already getting the notes printed outside the country and bringing them from there. So, irrespective of whatever safety precautions are being devised by the concerned people, notes are not distinguishable. Such a kind of situation is there. There is also a report of large-scale printing of fake notes and that the fake currencies are going to flood the market. We have seen in the past and history tells us how fake currency notes have completely crushed the economy of many countries. This happened during the World War period. I need not go into all those historical details, but the fake currency which is flushing the country and the market today is phenomenal and something beyond the imagination of all of us. Knowing that the Indian currency is sliding down, knowing that the fake currency is in circulation, he is not taking any action for containing all these things, and not taking corrective steps to make available the common man's currency, that is, two-rupee, five-rupee or ten-rupee notes.

Now, they are concerned about printing only thousand-rupee notes. This shows the priority of this Government. I am very sorry to say that there are a number of Bills before this House. We are all waiting for very important Bills which this House is supposed to discuss.

What is your priority? The Government has got the prerogative to decide which Bill should come first. You gave the priority to this High Denomination Bank Notes Amendment Bill, and the other Bills are yet to come before the Parliament. We are not sure whether they are going to come or not.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM (GARHWAL): It is the BAC which decides about the Bills that are to be taken up in the House. It is done in consultation with everybody and it is not done by us only. You are a part of that system.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO: That is not correct, Khanduri Saheb. There are four or five very important Bills about which the whole country is discussing and we have decided that they should be brought before the House. But it is the prerogative of the Government to decide as to when those Bills should be brought. You find it convenient to bring this Demonetisation Bill first leaving the other Bills behind.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (MAVELIKARA): In BAC, we only allot time. It is for the Government to introduce those Bills and it is the Government's prerogative.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM: I am saying that when a Bill is brought before the House, the date and time are fixed in consultation, and it is not a unilateral decision.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO: In the BAC, we only decide the time and you decide about the Bills to be brought before this House. You know it very well. You find that the Cotton Ginning Act or the Demonetisation Amendment Bill is more important than the Women's Bill or the FERA Bill or the other Bills. It is the prerogative of your Government and we have nothing to say on that. Probably, this Government is having some kind of a psychological problem. I do not know what is the priority of this Government.

Today, the common man is finding it extremely difficult to even buy vegetables and the people, with great difficulty, are transacting with soiled notes. When low denomination notes are not available, it is the responsibility of a responsible Government to provide it. But I will not call this Government by using that adjective. Still, the Government is expected to do justice to the common man by printing low denomination notes. When the Government cannot do that and if this type of a Bill is brought before this House, then, I think, it needs a careful consideration of this august House.

The black money that is in circulation in this country today is three or four times more of the official currency. The amount of black money that is in circulation in this country is anybody's guess, and nobody can have any kind of definite calculation on this. In that kind of a situation, in the background of smuggling in of fake currencies and non-availability of low denomination notes, I find it really difficult to understand the intention and the purpose with which the hon. Minister has introduced this Bill. The Heavens are not going to fall if Rs. 1,000 notes are not printed tomorrow or if Rs. 5,000 notes or Rs. 10,000 notes are not available; and no common man will die of starvation. It need not be the Government's priority to print high denomination notes. We know that somebody is waiting because many of these things are done under unknown pressure. The hon. President of the BJP himself once said that the people in power may have pressures and we do not know what kind of pressures are acting on the people in power. We do not find any meaning or reason, but

the people outside may be finding a good reason in this kind of a legislation. I think that it is not a priority. Its intention is not good and it is not going to help the Indian economy or is going to improve the situation as was explained by the hon. Finance Minister.

This Bill has to be withdrawn and there has to be a discussion on this because these are all things where there has to be a very serious discussion with the political parties and economists. I do not think that these type of things are taking place today. I do not think that this Government or the leadership of the Government gives any priority to discuss with people about things like how to contain the black money, how to contain the fake currency, and how to set the things right. So, the high denomination currency notes which the Government is now proposing will bring danger to our economy. That is my feeling.

While addressing the international forums, you may be under different kinds of pressures. But the Government should keep its feet on the ground, and think of the realities. The common man of this country is not expecting this august House to take a decision on printing Rs. 1,000 notes; they are waiting for something else. You are not able to give that 'something else.' You are coming here with all kinds of excuses, whatever may be the reason behind that.

Sir, nobody, with any sense of responsibility, reason and love for the country and the economy, can support a legislation of this kind.

Sir, I am not making any kind of personal allegation, especially against my friend, the hon. Finance Minister. Whatever might be the circumstances under which he has brought this Bill, I consider that it would be prudent on the part of the Finance Minister to withdraw this Bill and allow things to be discussed in an impartial manner at various fora and see whether this is a necessity and the priority of time.

Sir, with these few words, I once again would like to request the hon. Finance Minister that this Bill may be withdrawn and if the Government is going to press for it and if this Bill is going to be put to vote in this House, then I would like to say that I would oppose it.

[Translation]

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN (AMROHA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Bill moved by the honourable Finance Minister. I have heard the speech of honourable Member, Shri Chako with rapt attention. I would like to draw his attention to the question of 25th November, 1997 was as follows:

[English]

"Whether the Government has decided to issue currency notes of higher denominations such as those of Rs. 1000, Rs. 2000, and Rs. 5000 and if so, the details of the decision".

[Sh. Chetan Chauhan]

[Translation]

I would like to inform Shri Chacko and other honourable members that this question was asked in November, 1997. The Government had given answer to that question and that Government was being supported by Congress. Mr. Chako, please listen to me.

[English]

I was referring to a question of 24th November, 1997 which says.

"Whether the Government has decided to issue currency notes of higher denominations, such as those of Rs. 1000, Rs. 2000, and Rs. 5000 and if so, the details of the decision and what action has since been taken in this regard.

[Translation]

Mr. Chacko, that answer was given at that time, when your party was supporting the Government.

[English]

"Considering the present demand supply gap of fresh currency notes and the real value of the notes, it has been decided to introduce notes of Rs. 1000 denominations. This will facilitate meeting the demand of high value encash transactions. However, for this purpose, the High Denominations Bank Notes Demonetisation Act, 1978 would require amendment for which action has already been initiated".

[Translation]

At that time it was decided that amendment is to be made in Denominations Bill, 1978 and notes of Rs. 1000 denominations are to be printed and the Government had also told that the machine would be ready to print notes within 12 months of the amendment passed and printing of notes would be started.

But, you are saying that our Government is deciding to print those notes so that we can amass black money.

[English]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Do you agree that you are following the policies of the previous Government? I am happy about that.

[Translation]

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN: So, please be cautious before making such allegation. It was the decision of the erstwhile Government which was supported by your party.

You had also talked of black money. Notes of Rs. 1000 denominations were demonetised in 1978, because a lot of black money was amassed. We have to go into the details

of as to why black money got amassed in 1978 in addition to that the rate of taxes and other taxes at that time. We have to consider as to why was the black money being generated. Your government had introduced Liberalization and privatisation in 1991. You had also made an agreement with World Trade Organization. After that such atmosphere has been created in which taxes have been lowered and due to which it is supposed that black money has come down. As honourable Finance Minister has told that the value of a note of Rs. 1000 denomination is only Rs. 160.

I would like to ask the cause of this devaluation and who is responsible for it? Who was ruling the country for last 50 years. You should consider about it. You may not ask questions regarding this.

[English]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Do not repeat the mistakes, correct them.

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN: We are trying to correct them.

[Translation]

I want to tell you one thing more that the machines used for printing notes in our country were imported from Germany and good quality of notes have been printed by these machines. Regarding this I had written a letter to the then Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and I was informed that four such machines were to be imported, two each from Germany and Japan, respectively. No trial printing was done on the machines imported from Japan and they were not tested, rather they were imported without any trial or test although I had requested in my letter that only those machines which are tested should be imported from Germany, so that problems do not come up. But my advice was not accepted. Later on, I knew that they were facing problems in the printing of notes. I do not know the exact nature of the problem, but I would like to be informed about it by the Minister in his reply. Hon. Chackoji too has admitted this fact during his speech and it was discussed by the standing committee also.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a very sensitive and serious issue that even after 50 years of independence, we are compelled to get our currency notes printed in foreign countries. Coins are already being minted in foreign countries, now notes too are being got printed in foreign countries. We are not even in a position to print our notes. This is a very shameful, perturbing and sorry state of affairs. Therefore, I would like the hon. Finance Minister to reply on this point also.

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (JHABUA): You are so concerned about the printing of notes of thousand rupee denomination while there is severe scarcity of notes of one, two and five rupee denomination and on that account people have been facing a lot of difficulties. You are not paying any attention to this.

SHRI SHANTI LAL CHAPLOT (UDAIPUR): This situation has developed only during the last four years when the

Government of your party and your allies was in power. This is due to that only. You would have to share the responsibility for this. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN: I want to take up that only....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN (COIMBATORE): Congress party had led the country towards progress. That is why the Indian Rupee lost its value so badly.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It's not good to speak in between without the permission of the Chair. One should not interrupt while any of the hon. Members is on his legs.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I don't want to go into the history. During the period of last 50 years the members of the Congress Party have merely learnt raising a lot of hue and cry. They have failed to do anything concrete and have pushed this country into the ocean. That is what I am saying.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please speak only on the Bill.

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am speaking on the Bill only. This Bill is very comprehensive and covers this aspect also. No doubt, there is scarcity of notes of lower denominations. This point had come up in the Standing Committee also. One hon. Member was sitting beside me. She had brought many soiled notes and showed those to me that such was the condition of two rupee notes in circulation. Especially, she pointed out the scarcity of notes of lower denominations in the north-eastern region. I would like to say to the hon. Minister that there is scarcity of notes of lower denominations. One, two, five and ten rupee notes are out of sight these days. As regards ten rupees notes, these have come after printing but there is severe scarcity of notes of lower denominations. Therefore, availability of notes of lesser denominations should be given due consideration as carrying and moving with change and coins itself is a great problem..

One issue of fake currency notes has been raised here. In my constituency, people are talking about this issue which is considered as a conspiracy. There are rumours regarding this conspiracy that our neighbouring countries are trying to throw into circulation more and more fake currency notes to increase inflation here, so that you fail in controlling money circulation, and the neighbouring countries are conspiring to fall in the control you want to keep over 'M'-three. This is being discussed in the public, particularly in my constituency, in western U.P. that fake currency notes will be flooded into Hindustan so that there is excessive money circulation resulting in price rise. I would like to request the hon. Minister to take steps regarding this conspiracy. An enquiry must be conducted to find out the persons involved in this conspiracy. And there are a lot of fake currency notes in circulation.

Yesterday, there was an article published on the front page of a newspaper that these fake currency notes are to be pumped into our country. This also must be thought over.

Here, it's being aired that this Government is functioning under pressure. I would like to tell one and all that this Government will last for five years. There will be no problem for the Government and it will function without any pressure. The Government is functioning quite freely and with full pace. Of course, you have won in three States but you are in confusion. You people are misunderstanding the facts. Don't be a victim of this misunderstanding. People win and lose in the elections. During these 50 years of independence you might have lost or won many a time, therefore, don't worry about us, worry for yourselves....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Now the public will decide your fate.

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN: You talk a lot please keep quite. It's my suggestion to you that you study a bit and then come. And start speaking on behalf of the congress party, don't shout please.

I welcome and support the Bill introduced by the hon. Minister and I believe that these one thousand rupee notes will be a relief to the public.

[*English*]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I oppose the Bill. I have not accepted the briefs on it of any of these gentlemen. I have my own stand. Now, we were opposed to demonetization even in 1978 when the Act was introduced in this House because we were very certain that it would not do away with black money. The simple reason that was advanced at that time was that black money circulation would be curtailed fully through demonetization and for that purpose, the original Bill was introduced and passed. Now, we are discussing about the very same measures after 20 years of experience.

My learned friend was dealing with black money circulation. As per the average estimate, I read a recent periodical, there is about Rs. 50,000 crore of black money in circulation in India.

15.00 hrs.

Nobody can find it; nobody can take action. This is the present economic situation of the country. How can we escape from this? We have heard about the *hawala* case in which many politicians were involved. That case also was dealing with black money.

Now, fake notes and black money are two entirely different things. Printing of possessing fake notes is an offence under the Indian Penal Code. It is a counterfeit currency for which you will be imprisoned. But black money is not fake note. It is unaccounted money. I am speaking about the unaccounted money that is in circulation, that is, the real black money which is threatening the economy of the country.

[Sh. Varkala Radhakrishnan]

It has been admitted that high denomination notes are printed abroad by two agencies: one is the Reserve Bank of India and the other is the Central Government. They print high denomination notes abroad and bring them over here. It is legal circulation. But there is another system by which the same high denomination notes are being printed without the authorisation from the Central Government. That money is also in circulation. That is available in different countries: in the Western countries, in the Far-East and in the Middle-East. If the hon. Minister of Finance goes to any country, to any foreign market, he will easily get bundles of Indian notes of thousand rupees denomination. If you have any doubt, you go to any country in the Middle-East or in the Far-East and see for yourself. You approach an industrialist there, having business connections with India, you will get any amount of Indian currency without any difficulty. How is it possible? It is possible because our currency is available throughout the world and that is being brought into the country. Our economy is challenged. Can we escape from this difficulty by a simple process of demonetisation? I do not think that it is possible. The entire currency system will have to be changed. Can you do it? Can you change the entire currency system irrespective of the fact whether it is high or low in denomination and bring in new notes? It is a highly drastic step for which there must be political wits and political guts. If you can undertake that process, you will be able to curtail black money though not fully, to a considerable extent. We are not able to do it. This is my suggestion.

I ask my hon. friends here to bring me five two rupees notes together. I am sure you will not get them. You go to any market, the balance money will never be paid in two rupee notes. If at all it is paid, it will be a soiled note. That is our experience in the market. The poor man is dealing with two rupees notes but that is not available. I have not seen one rupee notes for the last one year. In spite of my repeated efforts to find a one rupee note in the market, I could not get it. I tried my level best to get a two rupees note throughout Delhi but I got a soiled note, that too in a petrol pump. So, in the common day-to-day business, we are not getting currency notes of lower denomination like the one rupee note and the two rupees note. What is the condition of five rupees notes? That is also lamentable. You will get five rupee notes in two pieces pasted by a plastic paper.

I hope you will agree with it. You can never get a new five rupees note.

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN. All of us agree with you.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: You cannot get a new five rupees note. If anybody can give me that, I will give him Rs. 10. Getting a new five rupees note will be a new thing; and it is a matter to be exhibited. That is the position. My learned friend, hon. Finance Minister is not worried about these things. He is not worried about the common man. I do not say that he is alone liable for this. The Bill was brought forward by them. So, they have estoppel, in the legal sense, but I do not have any estoppel. This Bill was brought forward

earlier, but that is not a justification for our support.

So, I would suggest to the hon. Finance Minister to bring a Bill which would help the poor man. Anyhow, you cannot control black money. That will be in circulation and that will always challenge our economy. Nobody can prevent it. But at least you can help the poor man by keeping in circulation notes of one rupee, two rupees and five rupees denomination. That is one thing.

Now, I sincerely ask the hon. Finance Minister about one thing. There is a Bill before this House, called the Foreign Exchange Management Bill or FEMA. The FEMA was introduced to replace FERA, that is, Foreign Exchange Regulation Act. The legislation is very important especially in the matter of circulation of black money. For that purpose, we have the investigating agency also. So, we are going to discuss the provisions of Foreign Exchange Management Bill and he could have waited till the House takes a decision on that Bill. He has not done that. Why is it so? I do not understand the logic behind it.

What is the important aspect of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act? As per the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, money laundering or the black money business is a penal offence; the person found to be guilty will be treated as a criminal and he will be sent to jail also as a criminal. That is the most important thing involved in the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act.

Now, the attempt is to make it a civil offence under FEMA only because we speak of liberalization and globalisation, and we also speak about foreign exchange coming to India to help us. In these circumstances, the criminal elements should go. So, you can bring in any amount of money and you will not be sent to jail; and you will be treated as a civil offender. You will be given a high status. That is the provision under FEMA which is before this House. Here, he will not be treated as a criminal. Even if he is Shri Harshad Mehta, he will not be treated as a criminal. He will be treated as a civil offender, as per the provisions of FEMA. That is the change that is to be adopted by this House, when he brings forward this Bill. So, people can bring in money. They can do any underhand dealings in foreign exchange. They can import any amount of foreign currency or Indian currency and they would not be treated as criminals. They will be treated as civil offenders even if they commit offences affecting the economy of the State, that is, the market economy.

It is listed behind the market economy of India. That is what they are going to introduce.

As per the provisions of the Indian Penal Code, cheating or 420 is an offence. It is treated as a non-bailable offence. A person who is cheating the economy, is cheating the State but he will get an honourable dealing. The offence committed by him will be treated as a simple cheating. But, as per the provisions of FEMA, he will be treated only as a civil offender. Would it be right? Would it be conducive to prevent black-money? I do not think it is, until and unless he is treated as

a criminal against the State, we cannot stop this. The Enforcement Directorate, the Director and others will go into the investigation.

I do not want to go into the details as I will deal with it when the Bill will come up for discussion before the House. I have made a reference to this particular Bill because it is directly connected with the present Bill. The Finance Minister ought to have waited till the House has taken a decision. If the House was in favour of it, he could have very well brought this Bill. He has not done this. So, I would say, it is improper on his part to have brought this Bill and that perhaps is the main reason for me to oppose it. I would advise the hon. Finance Minister to think it over again and again. If the Minister is really inclined to stop black money, the first thing that the Minister should do is to bring currencies of small denominations. The Reserve Bank is not in a position to control the economy. Today, what is the value of a thousand rupees note? I think it is only worth Rs. 160 and who knows, it will be maintained once this Bill is passed. Nobody is in a position to say anything. The economy is beyond our reach and everyday, the value of Rupee is coming down. In the changing circumstances the present Denomination Bill will not be of much help to restore or to maintain the economy. With these words, I oppose the Bill.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (CALCUTTA SOUTH): This is a very small amendment Bill. I would like to draw the attention of the Government that when there is so much of price rise, the small coins or small rupee notes are not available in the market. Yesterday also, we had a discussion on the price rise, though I did not take part in the discussion because our Party representative, Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay spoke at great length on it. We wanted the Government not to accept the amendment by which the black-marketeers or the hoarders get any relief. Instead, the Government should bring a comprehensive and a stringent Bill so that stringent action can be taken against the black-marketeers and the hoarders. Of course, this amendment will help big transactions but it will be of no help to the common people. The common people includes, farmers, villagers or I would say it includes everyone. So, I would say, there is time for doing everything. Since we had so much of price rise, if we pass this amendment Bill, a wrong message will go to the country that it will help big people. It will only help the black-marketeers and the hoarders....(Interruptions) Of course, our support is with the Government and it will continue.

We will support you. But we have different ideology and philosophy. We would always play our game for the poor people and for the people. That is why I can give my personal opinion. At this moment, we feel that the main responsibility of the Central Government and the State Government is to control the price rise and to see that more coins and more and more small denomination notes are made available. They are not available.

Sir, we have our own mint. But I do not know why they are getting the notes printed from outside. We have our own infrastructure. Let us strengthen our own infrastructure so that we need not get our coins printed from outside. I am sorry

to say that instead of supporting the Bill, because of the time factor, we oppose the Bill. I think the Government may consider the common feelings of the people.

I know there is a shortage of the currency notes. The Government have said in their objectives that there is a shortage of currency notes and that is why the Government is bringing Rs. 1000 denomination notes. But if you go to the market you will see that there is no change for Rs. 100. If you go to the shop, you will see that even for Rs.50, there is no change. So, the Government has to give more thrust in that area. The small denomination coins and notes should be made available to the people.

Secondly, I want to raise an important point. We have said that right now, we will oppose this Bill because of the greater interest of the people, though we welcome the liberalisation policy. It is not this Government which brought it. The earlier Government also brought it. So, there is nothing new. But there is time for everything. The reason why I am telling this is that if you print Rs. 1000 denomination note right now, then I do not know what would happen to small currency notes. The interest will be more for printing Rs.1000 denomination notes. But there are some people who get only Rs. 1000 per month as salary. If they go to the shop, the shopkeeper would say that there is no change. Sometimes you are bound to pay more. If you pay to the rickshaw puller or autorickshaw puller or the shopkeeper, they do not give back the change. But we cannot blame them because it is not available. The Government has to look in this area very seriously.

Now, I want to raise a matter which I raised earlier also in this House. Sir, do you know that there is no Indian currency in North Bengal? The Bhutanese currency has captured North Bengal totally. In this connection, I had written a letter to Shri P. Chidambaram when he was the Finance Minister and he gave me a letter saying that the Reserve Bank will look into the matter. I had given all these documents to Shri Chidambaram, the then Finance Minister. He agreed that this is a fact. Do you know the rate of currency note of Bhutan? It is half of the Indian currency. Now, there is no Indian note in Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Siliguri, Cooch Behar, Alipurduar, Balurghat, Uttar Dinajpur and Dakshin Dinajpur. Only the Bhutanese currency is there. That means we do not have any control. Then what is the function of the Reserve Bank? The District Magistrate should have looked into it and the State Government should have looked into it. They are not taking care of this. If the foreign currency captures our country then there will be no value of the Indian currency. I want an investigation in this matter to find out who are the people who are encouraging the Bhutanese currency instead of the Indian currency.

You are a very sensible man. Please do not be in a hurry to pass this Bill. Otherwise, it would send a wrong message. I think it is better to withdraw this Bill. You talk to all party leaders. Sometimes, in a Parliamentary democracy, it is the ethics that we have to be together. We have to discuss it with each and everybody. When, the discredit comes, only the Government will take it. But when the credit will come, it will be divided among all. That is why in this type of a situation.

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

I think it will be better instead of passing this Bill in a hurry, you discuss it with all the political parties and take a concrete decision. We do not have any objection to that.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose this Bill because printing of notes higher denomination increases inflation, black money and makes hawala practices easier. When we tour neighbouring countries and in the absence of dollar when we ask to purchase goods in Indian currency, we are told that if we have 500 rupees note then it is o.k. notes of higher denomination helps in the transaction of hawala and scams. Keeping this in view, note of rupees 1000 was demonetised in 1978. At that time we read in newspapers that instead of returning back this currency hoarders and persons involving in the business of notes have given this money to the temple of Balaji Maharaj. After the demonetization of lakhs and crores of rupees blackmarketeers had given it to the various temples in the country. We have experienced it. I very much agree to Mr. Chauhan. In 1985 the contract of mintage was given to an European institution. At that time there was much hue and cry in this House and it was stressed that in a country like India the Ministry of Finance which provides funds to other departments for opening factories is unable in setting up mint for printing of notes and coins. For this purpose it has no funds. Although it has continuously been stressed since 1985 yet even today our coins are being mintaged from abroad. If coins and small notes mintaged or printed from abroad, it lessens the possibility of circulation of currency abroad but when we got printed the notes of higher denomination from abroad then it helps subversive forces, terrorists, and anti-nation forces to extend financial assistance for anti-India activities through these nations.

Sir, it is very unfortunate that the Government of India and Reserve Bank has stopped the printing of the notes of lower denomination. Notes of Rs. 1, 2 and 5 are not being printed and the mintage of 5-10 and one paisa and 25 paise coin also has been stopped because the Government and Reserve Bank say that the costs incurred on the mintage and printing of these notes is much as compared to its market value, that is why the printing of Rs. 1-2 and 5 notes has been discontinued. Poor common man faces many difficulties. Besides our small units are continuously increasing. Just now while mentioning about objects and reasons of the Bill the hon'ble Minister has said that as per the value of 1981 the value of today's one thousand rupees is equivalent to rupees 165 of 1981. The value of currency is declining slowly. Its major reason is that there is a difficulty in fixing small units of currency. It seems that ten rupees note will be small unit and coins of rupee one and two will be costlier as such the mintage of the same would be stopped. Currency of higher denomination increases inflation and black money.

Sir, hon. Minister had given an assurance in the House that there is no need of PAN. If someone goes to the Bank to open an account, there will be no need of it but the banks

have made it compulsory by the advertisement in newspapers. When there was flood in our area, the Government helped us by giving cheque of Rupees two-three thousand, the employees of Bank asked us to bring PAN number.

If you do not have PAN number and a poor man has to go to Bank then he has to fillup a big form and complete formalities, which are preventing the people to open Bank accounts and Banks are not taking their deposits. As per the data of this year the deposit in the Banks have increased to 22 percent, why it has increased? The reason is that there is no credit, the Banks have stopped taking money for transactions. Common man wants to go to the Bank because all the private financial institutions have looted crores of rupees of the poor people. These people are compelled to go to Banks and Post offices. The post offices and Banks are not in a position to give credit money to the people because businessmen are not going to banks now. That is why the banks are going to be trapped in a difficult situation in the coming 2-3 years. Their loss is likely to be increased. Through this discussion I would like to know how much the Government of India and Ministry of Finance is concerned about this problem.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the private financial companies have looted one-one and half thousand crores of rupees of poor people and even retired people had invested their money in JVJ, Kuber companies and other such companies but those companies have banished after taking their money and the Government was helpless in this matter. The Government of India says that it will bail out only U.T.I. As it is a public sector institution therefore, the Government are ready to assist the investors in getting back their money from UT-64. But what is the policy of the Government in regard to those private companies which have looted crores of rupees of poor people and I would like to know from the Hon. Minister of Finance about the steps being taken by the Government in this regard. After getting themselves robbed by these companies when these people want to go to bank, the bank says that we will not deposit money. In these circumstances you have taken an easy course that we will print one thousand rupee note, which can be kept in one's pocket and there will be no need to go to Banks. Instead of solving the problem of common man the Ministry of Finance has thought that the note of rupee one thousand, two thousand, five thousand be printed so that one can keep these in one's pocket. I would like to say that concrete steps be taken to solve the real problem of currency. Printing of higher denomination notes should be stopped. With these words I oppose this Bill.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it will be difficult to deny the need for currency notes of the value of rupees one thousand. I frankly admit this particular reality of the situation. I do not want to go into the details of how this situation has come about. But the fact remains that there is a need for the currency notes of the denomination of rupees one thousand.

Sir, my principal objection to the Bill lies in the object that the Bill seeks to achieve, the larger scope of the Bill as

compared to the object enunciated by the Finance Minister. We are told by the Finance Minister that the Bill is being brought forward in order to enable the Government to print currency notes of rupees one thousand. But the Bill, really speaking, is very wide in its scope and therein lies my principal objection to the Bill.

The Bill really misleads the House. The provisions of the Bill give every latitude to the Government to go ahead even with currency notes of the denomination of Rs. 5,000, Rs. 10,000 and, in fact, of any higher denomination at the sweet will of the Government.

That is the great anachronism and contradiction, the misleading of this House with respect to the provisions of the Bill and the objects placed before this House by the hon. Minister of Finance. Of course, there is a need for this Bill not only for the people of the country perhaps but also for the hoarders, black marketeers and the underworld dons. But then proper measures will have to be taken in order to see that the misuse of the currency notes are held in check and, at the same time, the needs of the society are fulfilled.

I have risen to object to the Bill on the count that the scope of the Bill is much more than what we are being told. Secondly, I wish to emphasise the need for greater attention to be paid to the need for the notes and the coins of smaller denominations. There seems to be an utter neglect of the needs of the society with respect to the currency notes of smaller denominations. I will not dwell on that particular point because Members after Members have emphasised that particular point. The soiled notes that are in circulation are really a slur on the Government. The Government must wake up to the reality. I must say that a flourishing business has also started with respect to the soiled notes.

In Delhi itself I have seen a sign saying that soiled notes are exchanged here for good notes at very reasonable rates. So, you find that these soiled notes are further giving rise to parallel currency or black marketeering. They are being exchanged. At what cost are they being exchanged? Dealers say that they are being exchanged at reasonable rates. Now, this is the limit of the depths to which the country can be brought. It does not behove well for the country to find that its Government is not in a position to print its own notes. I must, therefore, emphasise, with all the strength at my command, for the Government to pay full attention to the needs for the notes and the coins of smaller denominations.

We have to import also, get our currency notes printed abroad and import them. Serious risks are involved. The question of security is there. I must say that the question of security in the matter of printing of our currency notes abroad and their import here, the form of transport that is used for the import, they all involve great risks. The whole thing needs to be reviewed and full protection and security in this particular field must be there.

We are being repeatedly told of the fake currency that is in circulation. The ISI name is often quoted in this particular respect. But one would like to know from the Government as

to what are its achievements with respect to the control of fake notes that are allegedly in circulation. We would also like to know from the Government as to what measures are being taken in order to see that the needs of the society for currency of smaller denomination are fulfilled.

Sir, these are the few words that I wanted to place before this House. Another important thing that deserves the attention is that we are being repeatedly told that here is a Government that runs on consensus, that it believes in consensus and we find that the parties here in the House have expressed their doubts and reservations with respect to the Bill. This is not in conformity with the claim of consensus that the Government repeatedly makes.

I would, therefore, most humbly request the Government to withdraw this Bill. It is not of such an immediate necessity as to proceed with it flouting the need for a consensus. I am sure that if all gather together for deliberation, a better way would be found in order to meet the currency needs of our country.

With these words and with my appeal to the Government to withdraw this Bill in the interest of a consensus I would like to emphasise that greater and greater attention has to be paid to the areas like lower denomination notes, areas like security concerning the printing of currency notes abroad and their import over here.

It cannot be denied that there is a flourishing black market and the higher denomination notes may facilitate the dealings of the black marketeers, the hoarders, the underworld dons and so on and so forth and therefore steps with caution and with consensus need to be taken.

I, therefore, appeal to the Government to withdraw this particular Bill and try to work out a consensus with the different sections of this House in the interest of achieving the goals with for which we are all concerned.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (MUMBAI NORTH CENTRAL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the Bill introduced by the Government. By printing the notes of the denomination of Rupees one thousand, the businessmen indulged in blackmarketing will be encouraged. So why should we support this Bill?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, out of 100 crores of the population, 99.50 crores of people are not going to be benefited by printing the notes of the denomination of Rs. 1000/-. Only 50 lakh people will be benefited. So, why should we support this Bill? In our country, as Shri Radhakrishnan said a common man wants notes of Rs. 1, 2, and 3 denominations. If you print the notes of these denominations it will be useful for them. Today, the common people are facing difficulty in getting these notes as a result of which they are managing with mutilated notes.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our country's economy should be for the poor people. If the Government feels that, by printing

[Sh. Ramdas Athawale]

Rupees one thousand notes, the inflation will come down, it is their misconception because these notes are being printed for the benefit and convenience of those people who are businessmen and are creating inflation. There will not be any change in our economy by printing the notes of the denomination of Rs. 1000/-. Probably you must be thinking that, recently your party had to face defeat in the elections of Legislative Assemblies of three States and if we print notes of the denomination of Rs. 1000/- our image will improve but this will not happen. You are not going to gain anything from this. Today the total population of this country, i.e. 100 crore is noticing that by introducing this Bill you are going to help only rich and businessmen, whose population is just 50 lakh. Rest of 99.50 crore people are against this Bill. I therefore, request you to kindly withdraw this Bill.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our party is a follower of Shri Baba Saheb Ambedkar and We want economic development. But we are also aware of this fact that by printing only 1, 2, or 5 Rupees notes the problem is not going to be solved. Today, Madam Banerjee took a very good stand, but by taking a good stand today there will not be much benefit, you are always required to take good stand. Hon. Finance Minister, you may print Rupees of 1000/-, 2000/-, 5000/-, 10,000/- or 1 lakh denominations notes we will oppose it and we want that this Bill may be withdrawn. You are a judicious person. Please try to listen us. You please don't follow Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Please try to listen to the voice of poor and majority of the people. Kumari Mamta Banerjee is with us, Members of Samta Party are noticing us. If you want to pass this Bill, there could be some problems. I therefore, request you to kindly withdraw this Bill.

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (QUILON): Respected Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose this Bill. Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are meeting in this Winter Session of Parliament after a gap of four months. The number of working days of Parliament has been reduced to 59 from 120. I fully endorse the views which have been expressed by Shri P.C. Chacko.

What is the priority of this Government? Two weeks have gone of this Winter Session. We have discussed Cotton Ginning Bill, Railways Debts Claim Tribunal Bill, 1977 and, today we are discussing a Bill to print high denomination of thousand rupees note. So many important Bills are pending before this House. A very important Bill which would bring very drastic changes in the socio-economic life of masses is pending. I would like to know from the Minister or from the Government what is the priority of this Government in legislative process, especially, Women's Protection Bill and Agricultural Workers' Bill. So many other Bills are pending. Even the IRA Bill is pending. Urban Land Ceiling Bill is pending.

So, it is a harmless Bill in one sense but at the same time, I would like to oppose this on technical reason which has already been stated by Shri G.M. Banatwalla. What is the intention of this legislation? There is no *bona fide* intention

in this Amendment Bill because the Statement of Objects and Reasons very specifically say that this will facilitate the Reserve Bank of India to issue notes of rupees thousand denominations immediately. The Bill seeks to achieve the above objective. So, the objects and reasons for the amendment legislation are to print the notes of rupees thousand denomination. What is the clause which is sought to be amended?

Clause 2 has to be amended. Clause (d) of it says:

"high denomination bank note" means a bank note of the denominational value of one thousand rupees, five thousand rupees or ten thousand rupees issued by the Reserve Bank;"

So, there is a clear contradiction between the aims and objects of the Bill and the amendment sought. For that technical reason, I say that the intention of the Government to bring this amendment legislation is lacking *bona fide*. Therefore, I would like to request the Minister to withdraw the Bill as the aims and objectives of the Bill are entirely different from the amendment sought.

Sir, in the opening remarks of the hon. Minister, a shocking news has been given that the value of the new currency note of Rs. 1,000 to be printed will be Rs. 160. With the limited knowledge I have I can tell the hon. Minister that in 1960, when we went to a vegetable shop or a consumer store with Rs. 16, we would get some products or vegetables. In the year 1998, if we go to the same shop and purchase the same items, we have to give a currency note of Rs. 100. So, Rs. 160 have been replaced by Rs. 1,000. So, this is the financial crisis, the economic scenario of our country. On the issue of price rise, we had a detailed discussion in the last couple of days in this House. It goes to show the fate of the common people, the working class. What is the benefit of bringing such a legislation to print Rs. 1,000 notes. What is the benefit that the Government is going to achieve?

It has already been said that there is a shortage of currency of the denomination of one rupee, two rupees and five rupees. When we MPs, the representatives of the people travel in the tempos and matadors, it is very difficult to get back the balance amount. When we give Rs. 10, it is very difficult to get back Rs. 5. The currency of low denomination is now missing in our country. I have got one mutilated five rupees note today morning from the driver of the matador van. This is the position of the five rupees note. Similarly, two rupees note is not seen. The Government or the Reserve Bank of India is not concerned about printing of new currency notes of lower denominations, but they are very eagerly coming with an amendment enabling them to print Rs. 1,000 notes. So, the intention of the legislation is not clear, and it has nothing to do with the common people. So, I would like to oppose this Bill. I would also urge upon the hon. Finance Minister to withdraw the Bill and to have a consensus so that it could be amended properly.

SHRI S. SUDHAKAR REDDY (NALGONDA): Mr. Chairman Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity. I rise to oppose the Bill, as Member after Member, and many of our senior colleagues have already explained that the priority

today is not one thousand rupees notes. Unfortunately, due to inflation which has become a routine affair in our country, the value of rupee has come down very much.

Today, if we would like to have a cup of tea, a minimum amount of Rs. 3 is charged even by a stall owner on the footpath and if the inflation continues like this, maybe it will be costing Rs. 5 in a year or so. Due to devaluation of real value of a rupee, it may look that there is a necessity of one thousand rupees notes, but I would like to appeal to the Government to think of the priorities.

First of all, if the inflation is not controlled, they will have to come to this Parliament next year with a proposal for five thousand rupees notes and thereafter for ten thousand rupees notes. In some countries, there is no value for the currency notes.

Only foreign exchange has got some value in these countries. They are facing this type of a problem because of the economic crisis in many of the Asian countries.

Many Members have brought to the notice of the House and the Government the need for supplying currency notes of lower denominations like Re. 1, Rs. 2, and Rs. 5 which have become scarce in most parts of the country. The urgency or the priority should be to control inflation and the price rise. These problems cannot be solved by printing currency notes of the denomination of Rs. 1,000. So, I request the Finance Minister to arrive at a consensus on this issue. Even the coalition partners, who are supporting the B.J.P. Government, like the Trinamool Congress led by Kumari Mamata Banerjee and others are appealing to the Government to withdraw this legislation.

On behalf of the CPI, I also appeal to the Government to reconsider its proposal and to withdraw this Bill. They should arrive at a consensus. Once again, I repeat that the most important priority of the Government should be to control inflation and the price rise, and not the printing of currency notes of the denomination of Rs. 1,000.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (SHAJAPUR): Mr Chairman, Sir, I support the Bill introduced by the hon. Finance Minister. It is quite clear that today there is a need for notes of higher denominations because Rupee has been devalued. Articles have become dearer. Salaries have also increased due to the Report of Pay commission and our Finance Minister had to do all these things because after independence, the country and this august House was ruled over 45-47 years by Congress Party and due to the wrong economic policies of Congress....(Interruptions)

SHRI DATTA MEGHE (WARDHA): How long you will be speaking?... (Interruptions) What were you doing. Please tell us....(Interruptions) Why are you saying this?... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI M. MASTER MATHAN (NILGIRIS): We have been patiently hearing your speeches, why are you disturbing us now? There is no need for you to talk like this. It will be better

if you to talk like this. It will be better if you understand this.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: You have to listen for ever. I and this House...(Interruptions) myself and this House will keep on reminding misdeeds done by the Congress and its Government and this will be done till the members of Congress are here in this House. Even if four Members of Congress are there in this House, you will be remembered....(Interruptions)

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (GUWAHATI): You have recently lost in three States....(Interruptions)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: If a Bill is to be enacted on any subject in this House it is always better to consider the merit and demerits alongwith what has happened earlier, what is the rule position and what were its consequences. That is why I am recalling their names. They should not get annoyed. They are our friends. I want to tell you one thing that it was with your support that the previous Government was functioning and the then Finance Minister Shri Chidambaram said in reply to a question that there is a need to print currency notes of one thousand, two thousand and Five thousand denominations. Whatever may be the reasons the then Cabinet took a decision and in that decision the views of Congress Party were also taken while taking decision. Except few members of some parties most of the members present in this House gave their consent for printing of the notes of Rupees on thousand denomination. I am in a position to say this also that you have hardly completed nine to ten months but whatever has been said in this House, you should comply and work accordingly and maintain the faith that has been shown to this House and the public. Whatever you have said you should stick to it or in other words you should support this Bill also.

Sir, there has been a wide gap between demand and supply of currency notes in the country during the past ten years and present time. This is because of the wrong policies of the previous Government. My other colleagues have also mentioned this fact that after 1985 the Government and the Reserve Bank of India could not meet the demand of currency notes in the country and to overcome this shortage of currency notes they started getting printing of notes abroad. Due to this the Government stopped printing of notes of Rs. 1, 2 and 5 denominations as the number of Mints were not adequate to meet the supply of notes. Demand increases as its supply decreases and to meet the demand of the notes the Government started printing of notes of small denominations abroad. Even the Government started minting of coins in foreign countries during the tenure of Shri Gujral and Shri Devegowda, Shri P. Chidambaram got printed currency notes and minting of coins in foreign countries. At that time also this was opposed that notes and coins must not be got minted in foreign countries but the Government did not agree and said the Reserve Bank of India is not in a position to meet the demand of the country. In this connection I want to mention one more thing. The country has two Security presses Nasik and Devas for printing of notes. 12-13 years back, it was decided to open two more presses one in West Bengal

[Sh. Thawar Chand Gehlot]

and the second in Karnataka (Mysore) and the Central Government made Budget provisions also. These presses were almost ready two years back but the members with whose support the Government of Shri Deve Gowda and Shri Gujral was running, they did not allow to run these presses in time. This is also a reason why the presses were unable to meet the demand of notes.

I want to mention on more point. The ink used in printing of notes is manufactured in my constituency, Devas. It is a very good quality ink and there are no complaints about it. But during that time also the Government imported the ink and as a result thereof the Indian factories became almost bankrupt. I was informed of this position when I visited these factories. I raised a question regarding this issue and also got a reply. I want to inform you that the quality of the ink imported was not good and its cost of manufacturing is more than the ink manufactured in India. Besides this, the notes were got printed in foreign countries at higher rates and higher transportation cost. What I want to say is that there was an increase in the cost of printing and transportation of notes due to which factories in India are on the verge of closure. When there was a proposal to expand the factories at Devas and Nasik the Madhya Pradesh Government was ready to supply water. This proposal was supported by the supporters of Deve Gowda Government who are sitting in the House. But the decision of expansion was withdrawn. In the present circumstances I request the Finance Minister to clear the pending proposals of expansion of factories and they may be expended. I agree that notes of Rupees 1, 2 and 5 denominations must be made available to the public in the country. The decision of printing of notes in foreign countries was the result of wrong policies of the previous Governments. I request the Finance Minister to kindly rectify this decision also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member will continue his speech tomorrow. Now, we will have discussion under Rule 193.

16.00 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Atrocities Committed on Minorities in Various Parts of the Country—contd.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we will have discussion under Rule 193. Shri Arif Mohammad Khan you have spoken for 40 minutes, you can speak few minutes more.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN (BAHRAICH): Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, out of those 40 minutes more than half of the time has been wasted in interruptions. I feel sorry for this. I should also praise those who had caused interruptions. Actually, yesterday I committed a mistake. Yesterday also I raised a point and I repeat the same today also. I don't agree that it was said in the notice. In the notice it was said "Atrocities committed against Minorities" but it is sure that

these atrocities were not committed by the majority class of the people. Yesterday, as I said this yesterday also and today also I am repeating the same. Sir, after the drafting of the Constitution the Chairman of the drafting committee Dr. Ambedkar said:

[English]

"Every system treats reasonably well those at the top of its social order. The crucial test is as to how it treats those at the bottom".

[Translation]

Sir, Minorities have been codified on the basis of Religion and language and special provision have been made for them. Yesterday I have referred many incidents, I said that the Home Minister told me something and I am giving reply for that, I am telling that if I have said that we cannot do justice to the society by making ladies widow and children orphan, I was certainly not hinting to the Government or the party but to those who are your frontal organisations, which are your supporting organisations and if they create such an atmosphere by which communalisation spreads then there will be violence and women will become widow. Under such political system wherein there is no security of life, shall we forget the 1992 incidents of Surat? Shall we forget the incidents of violence of Kanpur and Mumbai of the incidents happened in other parts of the country? We will not be able to know the factual position of the number of our sisters became widow or children became orphan.

Sir, it is not my own version, do not go by the words. But my friend Shri Gurucharan Singh Tohra of the Akali Dal is an ally of the present Government, who is also the President of Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee had said at Chankor Sahib on 6th December.

[English]

In an obvious reference to attacks on Christian missionaries by Hindu fundamentalists, he said at the press Conference here this morning that minorities' shrines across the country were unsafe.

[Translation]

Sir, these are not my words but of the president of Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee and have been published in today's newspaper.

16.05 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

The statement of a hon'ble Member of this august House belonging to the Samata Party, which is another ally of the ruling Party has also been published in the today's newspaper.

[English]

He is the former Chief Minister of Bihar and a senior Samata Party M.P. Shri Abdul Gafoor. He says:

"The BJP is pursuing its own agenda and therefore, allies stand nowhere."

He further says that 'the BJP did not believe in protecting the interests of minorities.'

[Translation]

These are not my words but of the people who are actively supporting the Government.

Sir, the following statement of an hon'ble Minister of this Government, Shri Rama Krishna Hegde has been published in the newspaper today.

[English]

'In an interview to the Asian Age on Tuesday, Mr. Hegde was extremely critical of the anti-minority posturing of these organisations. Although he did not try to draw a distinction between the VHP and the RSS.'

[Translation]

It is being stated by those people who are in the Government. They say that the Government does not want to protect the interests of the minorities. It depends on the allies of this Government that if they continue with their existing stand....(Interruptions) Its heading is:

[English]

"VHP actions will lead to Vajpayee's fall."

[Translation]

Only those people who are in the Government are saying these things last week, perhaps on 4th, when a demonstration was organised in Delhi by the Christian institutions, it was stated here that the Government of Gujarat warned the schools run by Christian missionaries that if they participate in the demonstration, action would be taken against them. At that time the ruling party had stated that such news is not correct. I have copies of the two notices which were served to St. Xavier High School and St. Merry High School in Ahmedabad. You will be surprised to know that the Government displayed extra keenness in that matter. It would have been better if the Government showed such keenness in any other matter. It was stated in the notice that the inspector had visited your school on 4th but the school was closed despite the issuance of prior warning. It was stated in the notice that:

[English]

"Therefore, you are hereby asked to clarify the matter in person with the District Education officer tomorrow as to

why your grant-in-aid should not be deducted."

[Translation]

These notices were served to two Christian schools. These notices were served at the time when it was asserted by the ruling party in this august House that no such action was being taken by the Government of Gujarat.

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI (AMRELI): This notice was not meant only for Christian school. It was also stated that action would be taken against any school which will indulge in such activities. Action was taken against those schools which violated the order. The schools which did not violate the order were not served the notices....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Arif Mohammed Khan, please conclude now. You have already taken more than 15 minutes today.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN: Sir, this is for the first time that the issues of atrocities on minorities are being discussed in this House.

MR. SPEAKER: There are other hon. Members also to speak on this subject. We have to accommodate them also. So, please conclude now.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN: Certainly, more time can be given. On other issues also, more time has been given....(Interruptions)....There was a great interference. I have been disturbed so much that I need a little more time.

MR. SPEAKER: You have already taken more than fifteen minutes. Please try to understand that.

[Translation]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have copies of the notices which were served by the Government of Delhi during the last 7-8 months, to the Muslims living in Delhi. It is stated in the notices that those who have amassed wealth should prove that they are not Pakistani nationals. You can very well understand as to what will be the mental state of those who have amassed wealth. On receiving notices, they got frightened and met the concerned Officer. Anyhow, 4-5 of them dared to meet a lawyer. The lawyer wrote to the officer the Delhi Government asking under which section or law that notice was served. Today, more than three months have passed but no reply has been received so far. That was the first notice in which the section or Act under which notice was served, has not been mentioned. It is not good if any person belonging to the Muslim community is asked to clarify as to whether he is a Pakistani or not? Yesterday, hon'ble Khuranaji was denying the issuance of any such notice. I said it yesterday also that incidents of disruption, harassment and atrocities have increased after your Party came to power.

[Sh. Arif Mohammed Khan]

Such incidents create untouchables and aliens in the name of religion, community, caste and place of birth and force them to die.

[English]

The heading given is 'Vandana critics are not Indians' I quote from the report:

"The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh today said: "The Saraswati Vandana is a symbol of Indian culture and those opposing it are not sons of India."

[Translation]

You are drawing inspiration from this organisation. Those who know that Government official is aware of the fact that this Government is being run at the instance of the Sangh and the head of that Sangh was stating that those who are opposing are not Indians. That is why they are being served notices of being Pakistanies. Such types of crime and atrocities are being committed continuously.

I would like to mention about an incident which took place in Rajasthan. A Film actor of Mumbai was accused of killing a wild animal. If he has killed it....

SHRI BHAJAN LAL (KARNAL): It is correct and no such charge has been levelled.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN: Please listen to me first. I have stated that unless the court gives its verdict, Shri Shivshankar ji will also remain an accused and nothing more than an accused. I am just saying that if law has been violated, stern action should be taken. But on the day when this news was published in the newspaper the Chief Minister of Rajasthan left a public meeting and rushed there immediately and sent the Additional Advocate General to Jodhpur and instructed him not to accept bail plea of the accused. At the same time a news was also published in the newspaper that during a marriage party a dalit was not allowed to ride a horse and his house was set on fire. Not only this, his entire village was set on fire. In another such case, a dalit was beaten up brutally in the Tonk district just for chewing betel leaf. His house was set on fire. This is my only submission. If I am wrong you can bring privilege notice against me....(Interruptions)

SHRI SHANTILAL CHAPLOT: The Vishnoles have made a very big sacrifice and no wild animal can ever be killed there. You are negating their sacrifice.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN: I am not negating their sacrifice....(Interruptions)

SHRI SHANTILAL CHAPLOT: You are not talking right ..(Interruptions)

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN: If we are beaten up and prevented from speaking, I would not speak....(Interruptions) If you want us to be beaten up and also to keep mum then I would not speak....(Interruptions)

SHRI SHANTILAL CHAPLOT: Is there a say of the Chief Minister in the Court?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN: If this is the way, I would not speak.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? you have already spoken for more than 55 minutes.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN (BAHRAICH): I will not speak like this. It is your responsibility, Sir, to control them....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There are other hon. Members to participate in this.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, why are they objecting?....(Interruptions)

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN: If they say that they will make life difficult for us and also they would not let us speak, then, I am sitting now. I would not speak....(Interruptions)

16.17 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Akbar Ahmad came and stood on the floor near the Table.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please go back to your seat.

16.18 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Akbar Ahmad went back to his seat.

[Translation]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN: I have not named anyone(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have to conclude.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN: No. I cannot speak like this....(Interruptions) Sir, I have not mentioned the name also. I have not even named Vishnoles and they are making allegations at me. This is not a proper way....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: NO. You have spoken for more than 55 minutes.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN: First, order is to be maintained, Sir....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You may conclude. Otherwise, I will call the other speaker now.

[Translation]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN: Well, I am sitting.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please continue and complete it.

[Translation]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN: I will not speak like this....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have to understand that there are other important hon. Members to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can speak and complete it.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN: But I cannot complete like this....(Interruptions) I, would like to make a request. I, Arif Mohammed Khan is not speaking as an individual but as a member of B.S.P. I would speak about the Dalits and about breaking that system which discriminates among people.

Sir, I would like to tell something. In Tamil Nadu....(Interruptions) Now, I shall not speak.

SHRI RAJO SINGH (BEGUSARAI): Why do you sit down when they interrupt? Everyone has his right in this House. You should continue.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN: Sir, there was a great leader of Tamil Nadu named Anna Durai who had become Chief Minister. He belonged to a down trodden family. He belonged to such a down trodden family in which the modesty of the ladies was outraged. In the beginning while he was addressing a meeting, someone from the crowd asked the name of his father to humiliate him. Anna Durai took a five rupee note from his pocket and told him that any body's father among you who could outrage the modesty of a down trodden lady at the cost of a five rupee note would be my father. The aim of my movement is that nobody can molest any poor lady henceforth. Our movement is nothing else. This purpose of our movement is to wipe out the discrimination on the basis of birth and religion so that a Bible or a Church is not burnt, so that the house of any Ali Mian

is not raided. Our movement is nothing else. You may make a noise or kill anyone, but you can not stop one's voice irrespective of the method you adopt.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have to wind up now. How can you take more than an hour?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN: Let me quote some figures, Sir....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: How can I accommodate all the Members? Shri Khan has taken more than an hour.

[Translation]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN: Sir, please consider it as the conclusion of my speech....(Interruptions)

[English]

AN HON. MEMBER: He must be allowed to complete.

MR. SPEAKER: A number of other Members are also interested to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (CHANDIGARH): Sir, as per the rules, it should be the BJP's turn now....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Khan, you may now conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN: Sir, I shall conclude within five minutes. Through you I want to request that I may be allowed to conclude. I do not want to speak too much. I want to draw the attention of the Government towards the percentage of Muslim employees in Public Sector organizations. I have some data relating to these employees which show that last year there were 82 units of Public Sector Undertakings in which out of 449 directors only 21 were Muslims which is only 4.2 percent. Out of 13,900 senior officers, only 321 are Muslims. It constitutes only 2.32 percent. Among Judicial Officers their percentage is less than seven. The Reserve Bank, the highest body has 19 Members....(Interruptions) You do not want even to listen to it. Whatever you want in this country is happening. Today the Muslims are being kept out of the mainstream. There is no Muslim member among 19 Members of the Central Board of Reserve Bank which constitutes zero percent. Out of 60 Directors and senior Executives only two are Muslims. Their number is less than 2.5 percent in Nationalized Banks. There is no Muslim among the five Members of L.I.C. which is the senior most body. Out of 18 Senior Executives, none is Muslim. It shows zero percent representation in this top echelon. In Private Sector, their number is less than two percent at Executive level and less than three percent at supervisory level. Their number is less than three percent in Police and Para-Military Forces. In the poverty alleviation

[Sh. Arif Mohammed Khan]

programmes of Banks they constitute 9.41 per cent among the people who have taken loans and the amount of loan taken by them is 3.73 percent of the total loan provided under this programme. In Grade D categories of jobs in the Ministries of Central Government their number is zero in the Departments of Parliamentary Affairs, Power, and Coal although the total number of employees in that grade in those Ministries are 25, 69 and 39 respectively. Their number is 153 out of 3106 in the Ministry of Water Resources; one out of 283 in the Ministry of Agriculture, three out of 227 in Surface Transport Ministry and 17 out of 591 in the Ministry of Commerce. I have told all these things so that you may know the facts. No one is having sympathy for me if some rule has been broken. Bhajan Lalji, I was telling that one should not adopt double standards for the same action. If you send an additional director by aeroplane. Action should be taken against other people of weaker sections against whom there are cases of killings of animals. The Constitution of our country gives equal rights to everyone. Everyone should be treated at par. This is not fair that no action will be taken against Salman Khan because he belongs to a special family and action will be taken if the accused is from a poor family.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am concluding by quoting these lines:

"Nissar main teri galion ke ai watan ke jahan

chali hai rasam ke koi na sar utha ke chale

jo koi chahne wala tawaf ko nikle

nazar chura ke chale jismo jan bacha ke chale"

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want your permission to say something as Arif Sahab has referred my name. I have to say only that the culprit must be punished. In answer to the statement that the person has been falsely implicated and that an official was sent by helicopter to ensure that the accused would not be able to secure bail, I have to say that it was a good decision to send some official by helicopter so that a cruel person would not be able to secure bail(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want that Arif Bhai should tell the House about the years of the figures quoted by him and also about the Government of that time; was it the Government of National Front or the Congress?

16.27 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Seventh Report

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): Sir, I beg to present the Seventh Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

16.28 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Atrocities Committed On Minorities in Various Parts of The Country

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (TENALI): Sir, it is needless to say that this is a highly sensitive issue. While there should be a restraint in the expression of language, frayed tempers, particularly, from the side of the Treasury Benches is no answer for the purposes of discussing this serious issue. I would have expected that the Treasury Benches would introspect as to why there is a spurt in the communal strips that are taking place in the recent times. It is a sad commentary on our way of life that one of the oldest of civilians has not been able to live with amity and strife within the society. Quarrels and the differences which lead to the annihilation of the lives still take place. This is the most unfortunate situation. It is trite to say that the unity of this country cannot be maintained without communal harmony. In a pluralistic society like ours which is divided by religion, caste, language, ways of dressing and eating, abject poverty and illiteracy, mutual tolerance is the basic feature of the unity of this country. In order to achieve an egalitarian system and to bring in a Welfare State and maintain unity in diversity, the only panacea is a consensual approach. The constitutional provisions have been conceived not only to cater to the needs of this extremely complicated, pluralistic society but they are also the best guarantee of the rights of the minorities, be it based on language or religion.

It is a sad situation that the BJP and its sister organisations have been accused of, and fomenting communal trouble in the past in the States where largely there had been the Congress Government they had been claiming that wherever their Governments had been established, there had not been communal troubles. This has been the propaganda of the Bharatiya Janata Party. But the fact of the matter is, once the Government has come to be established at the Centre, their States and the States run by their cohorts—I will call them—or their associates, there is spurt in the communal activity. This is an activity which, in the ultimate analysis if encouraged leads to the disintegration of the country. It is the activity which not only disintegrates the society but does not allow it to live in harmony. Shall I say that the BJP and their sister organisations have come in their true colours once the Government at the Centre came to be established at the behest of the BJP?

Having said this, I would like to bring to the notice of this House the broad features of the communal trouble that has been taking place. It is obvious that there is a dilution of special encouragement given to the charitable work, by the attempt made in the taxation laws as far as minorities are concerned. Is it not a fact that delay in and not pressing the formation of the Supreme Court Bench by the Government to consider the question of minorities creates unsettled conditions in the way of life of minorities? The Government

on their part, their counsels in the Supreme Court do not press for the formation of the Bench. The Bench which was hearing the case, it remained parheard and the matter was left out there and their rights and the rights of their institutions are in a flux even today.

The abuse of the official media to manipulate the views and denial of equal media opportunity to minorities is a great concern for all of us. When I am speaking, I am only expecting that the Treasury Benches introspect the issue that I am trying to advert.

During the last eight months, there has been a total lack of action of the Minorities Finance and Development Corporation. They are continuously ignoring the national Minorities Commission and the decision which it has been conveying, from time to time, to the Government, particularly with reference to the communal strifes that are taking place and with reference to the problems that are cropping up. It has been giving its verdict and send it to the Government, and the Government has not been acting on it at all. There has been a continuous delay, in recent times, on the part of the Central Government, the State Governments and the Municipal authorities on issues such as new land clearances for their cemeteries, schools and clearing encroachment of aliens on their properties. There has been a sluggish approach on the part of the authorities.

I would further go and submit that the attempted *Hindutvaisation* of the national education and youth programmes, which subvert the education system and erodes the plural and democratic edifice of this country, is far and wide getting spread out. I just thought that I should bring these general matters to the notice of this House because these are the matters of concern not only for us but is also a matter for introspection. It is these matters which are welling up the emotions of the people. Once the emotions are welled up, obviously the communal strifes take place in different shapes.

Let us recall what has happened in the wake of implementing the *Kalpa Yojana* in Uttar Pradesh making it compulsory to sing the *Vande Mataram* and *Saraswathi Vandana*. Shri Abul Hassan Naqvi issued a statement. His statement was like this: "we shall be compelled to ask the Muslim students to withdraw themselves from the institutions". The moment such a statement was made—it is rather unfortunate—there had been a search of his house. How do you explain this? He is a very highly respected personality, a person of great learning, a person who has a spiritual eminence, a person whose word is a law because he is the Chairman of the Islamic Board. Should his house be searched? We were expecting, on behalf of the Government, some statement. We were told at one point of time that the Home Minister would give a statement here. But no such statement has come as yet. In such circumstances, what is the message that you are giving? Coming to my original point Naqvi Saheb he gave a statement—may be that many of us may not agree with such a statement—that the Muslim children should be withdrawn from the schools. But should this search be in the wake of such a statement? Are we acting democratically?

Those who are in power have got to act with more restraint. They cannot act emotionally and that is where the responsibility of the Treasury Benches lies. Why should the authorities go that far for the purpose of search and then try to rub the salt into the wounds of the minorities on such an issue? Could you not have restrained yourselves? What was the reason? Why search has taken place? Nobody knows about it. Is it not an agonising issue? Assuming for a moment, if it were to happen at the abode of Shankaracharya would not have the majority community people got disturbed? These are emotional matters. Why is it that the Government has allowed it? Why is it that no action has been taken? If supposing some authorities have acted irresponsibly, should not the State Government and the Central Government take action against such authorities who have irresponsibly acted? You are igniting the fires unnecessarily and that is where I am trying to object. We are in a pluralistic society. We have to accommodate and the hon. Home Minister is well aware of that. The concept that the happiness of a society—the purpose of trying to gauge the happiness of a society—you have to necessarily see how much happy the minorities are, whether it is the linguistic minority or the religious minority. How are we acting? Why are we creating that bad situation?

Equally B.J.P.—when they were here—I suppose they stand by the same concept even now. They have been in season and out of season pleading for harmony. I had faced the situation when I was the Law Minister. That is why I am saying that even if we were taking correct actions, they found fault with us on the question of transfer policy of judges. I still remember in 1980 when, for the first time, Shrimati Indira Gandhi's Government brought a *harijan* from Madras to be appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court. What was said here in 1980 stands recorded and I have to defend it as a Law Minister at that time. Now, I am sure, they stand by their expression. If that be so, the sitting judge of the Mumbai High Court, Srikrishna gave the Report and I would call it your associate—I would not use a strong expression—their leader, the Chief Minister said that even if the Supreme Court directs me, I am not going to obey the Supreme Court's orders. Is it not a case where the State Government is not being run according to the provisions of the Constitution? For no reason, in order to create a problem—I would call it—you send your Central Government officers to Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Bihar and when so many riots are taking place, so much of communal frenzy is taking place in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, you do not send a single officer. You keep quiet. By keeping quiet are you not abetting it by omission or by commission? Are you not abetting the crime by omission it by omission or by commission? Are you not abetting the crime by omission or by commission? When you keep quiet, the message is otherwise? Now, a Chief Minister had the audacity to say that he cares two hoots for a sitting judge who report. He says that he will not take any action against the Chief of Shiv Sena. You have not said anything merely because you happen to be the associate with them in the Government. What is the message that you are sending to the minority, what is the message that you are sending to the other segments of the society which are weak?(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR (MUMBAI NORTH-WEST): I am on a point of order. Whatever Shri P. Shiv

[Sh. Madhukar Sirpotdar]

Shanker is quoting, should be verbatim. In that case, there is nothing wrong. But he should not attach any intention to what has happened at that time. He should correct the statement.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: I do not understand what was the intention at that time or what it is at this time....(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: You cited some words.

That is an absolutely one hundred per cent wrong statement. We do not expect this from a person like Shri Shiv Shanker.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: I am speaking on what has appeared in the national newspapers.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: Eventually whenever he makes a statement here, it should be an authenticated statement. Otherwise, he has to authenticate it.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: I am making the statement based on newspapers.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: This statement was made about the Chief Minister of Maharashtra.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: I do not stand either on ego or prestige. If what I am stating is wrong, if my friend can bring a clear picture with proof that this was not correct I do not mind offering an apology. This is what we read in the newspapers and that is what I am saying.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Shri Shiv Shanker, I was aware that the Sri Krishna Commission Report had not been accepted by the Government of Maharashtra, but I was also not aware that the Chief Minister had made such a statement. I am happy that his party colleague has contradicted it.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Shri Advani, I reassert what I said and I can support it by what had appeared in the national newspapers. I can send it to you. You may kindly look into it....(Interruptions) He has said that; that is why I am saying it. Is this the respect for law? That is what I am saying. I am prepared to bring it to your notice.

But I would like to submit one thing. When It appeared in the newspapers, nobody including my friend said that this had not been said. It has not been contradicted in any newspaper later. That is why I am fortified in what I have said.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: What appears in the newspapers cannot be authenticated. We should have first-hand information. That has not been done. Newspapers are not the only media on which you can rely.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: You may deny it in your reply.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: I must deny it (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE: The Chief Minister has not denied it.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: If he were to deny I would have never said this.

MR. SPEAKER: Not only Shri Shiv Shanker, but all the hon. Members are quoting only the newspapers in the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: He is making an allegation against a person who is not present in the House. This is very important. As per the rules also he is not supposed to do it....(Interruptions) He may better go to Maharashtra. But he has to assert.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: In my submission this shows the scant respect to law....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Shakeel Ahmad, what is this?

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record. This will not go on record. Dr. Shakeel Ahmad, what is this? You sit down.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: When the name of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi was mentioned they started shouting.

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Shakeel Ahmad, what is this?

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Shri Sirpotdar has every right to counter and contradict me if he has certain facts with him.

I will fight for his right to say what he wants to say but he must equally allow me to say what I want to say....(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: I will not disturb you at all. That is not my habit at all....(Interruptions)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Then, you kindly make a statement.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: You can make a statement if a person is present in the House.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: If this is the manner in which they want to run the Government, it is reprehensible.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: You make an irresponsible statement in the House....(Interruptions)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Is this the way that the Treasury Benches should behave? What is this?

Sir, we have certain prestigious institutions in this country of which we are legitimately proud of. One of them is the Aligarh Muslim University. This University is going through a trauma. The issue has been raised in this House also but the

* Not recorded.

Government of the day seems to be totally callous about the whole issue. The Vice-Chancellor has done a somersault the moment the BJP Government came to power at the Centre. What does the statement of the Minister of Human Resource Development say? When there had been so much commotion in this House, when the House wanted that this issue should be sorted out with amity and the Government should take steps, the statement of the Minister of Human Resource Development is: "I have advised the Vice-Chancellor". That is all. There had been troubles previously. I was also the Human Resource Development Minister. I had visited that University. I sat with them and sorted out the difficulties. Should not the Minister concerned go and do that? What message are you giving? The message you are giving is that you are neglectful to the minority institutions. Asking this question. Is this the proper approach? Is this the approach of consensus? When you would like to tackle the problem concerning the minority, be it linguistic or otherwise we should show concern and reach consensus, otherwise you will fail. We have seen such a situation in one State previously by led by the Congress Government where some wanted one language to be imposed but we could not come to power in that State for the last 30 years. Have we forgotten the history? Are we not realising what is happening in this country? A small ignition creates a problem. Even carelessness creates a problem. I have in my hand the statement of the Minister of Human Resource Development. He says: "The University has been closed *sine die*." That is all. Does it solve the problem? Is this the way that we would like to solve the problem?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (HAJIPUR): Sir, if the Home Minister does not interfere one boy will die today. Three boys are sitting on fast unto death for nine days, their condition is worsening. We met them yesterday. Today, the condition of one boy is deteriorating. So you give direction.

[English]

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Sir I would like to draw the attention of the House to one more aspect which has a great bearing. We are proud of the Urdu language. Urdu is born and brought up and spread out in this country, particularly, in Uttar Pradesh. It is our language. It is not the language of Pakistanis. The Punjabis may be having their mother-tongue as Punjabi. The Sindhis may be having their language as Sindhi. But this is a language which is born here on this land, particularly, in Uttar Pradesh. I cannot understand why many people are trying to link the language with the religion. We speak day in and day out English. Are we Christians? I do not know why Urdu alone should be discriminated. I was trying to look into the demands of the Government which they have presented in the Budget. It is a paltry sum of Rs. 80 lakh. Urdu language is spread out all over the country, particularly, in Northern India. So far as the spread of Urdu language is concerned, there is no State which can take care of that, like Telugu or Tamil or Kannada or other languages.

The demand of the Human Resource Development Ministry only says 'for appointment of Urdu teachers and incentive for teaching Urdu'. That is all. How does that satisfy

them? How does that satisfy the people? What is the reaction of the community or the minorities in respect of that.

Sir, the other day the Home Minister had been pleased to make statement. There is a *Baba Budangiri Shrine* in Karnataka. What was the necessity to liberate that shrine? For centuries Hindus and Muslims both had been going there and offering prayers. It may not be out of place if I bring to the notice of the Home Minister that near my village where I was born, there is a *Baba Sharifuddin's Shrine*. My ancestors were the *Mutawalli* for a long time and it is we who had the entire control over that shrine. Hindus and Muslims both went there. Nobody offered any sacrifices except breaking the coconuts there. It continues even now. They are the Sufis. Sufism is a typical development that has taken place in the Indian culture, *Baba Guru Nanak*, *Kabir* and even *Hazrat Nizamuddin* are the personalities who have developed Sufism. These personalities are all great Sufi saints.

Vishwa Hindu Parishad and *Bajrang Dal* are their sister organisations. Somebody objected the other day when I referred them as their sister organisations. They said that they were their frontal organisations. They may call them frontal organisations or whatever they like, they are their allies. I am saying what was the necessity for them to go and liberate that shrine when today both Hindus and Muslims go there and offer prayer. Then, they create such a situation which deteriorates communal harmony in the country.

Sir, we have not forgotten Ayodhya so far. In respect of Ayodhya, there had been a mention in the last Session here about preparations that were going on for the purpose of constructing temple. Even the 1998 election manifesto of the Bharatiya Janata Party categorically says that the BJP is committed to facilitate the construction of a magnificent Shri Ram Mandir at Ram *Janamstha* in Ayodhya where a make-shift temple already exists. What is the message they are giving by this type of a manifesto?....(Interruptions) Their commitment may be there, but would they like to have that commitment at the cost of the disintegration of this country? Would they like to create a situation of communal disharmony in this country?

Sir, what has happened when Kumari Mamata Banerjee announced that she was going to observe the black day on 6th December? The Vishwa Hindu Parishad constituted a 21-member trust called *Guanvadi Dharamsthal Trust* to liberate Kashi-Vishwanath Gyanwapi temple, to counter her approach that she would observe 6th December as a black day. Is that approach justified on the part of their associate organisations? Where I am finding fault is that if they like to dissociate themselves from those organisations, they have to come out openly. But they have never done so. On the contrary, they have given an impression that they are with them.

17.00 hrs.

They are your associates and you are abetting them in the perpetration of the crimes that they are indulging in. This is the misfortune of the situation. The latest is that the Shiv Sena has gone on record—my friend, Shri Sirpoddar might get emotional—that they would not allow the cricketers from

[Sh. P. Shiv Shanker]

Pakistan to play anywhere in the country. While very sweet statement have been given by the Prime Minister, what is the action that is followed? Are we inviting them? Do you not create a communal frenzy by this type of activity? When Christian organisation decided that having regard to the crimes that had been perpetrated against the Christian community, they would like to observe 4th December as a black day, it was said in this House that the Gujarat Government had administered a warning that if the minority schools are closed on that day, then grants would not be released to them. A large number of friends from that side countered it by saying that there was no such order. But on the same day, I have got the paper cutting with me, the Vice-President of the Bharatiya Janata Party, who happens to be the Member of the Parliament also, said, "Yes, what else could be done if these people close the schools? The Gujarat Government is justified in stopping the release of the funds." Well, here in this House, their own Members say that no such order has been issued, but their Vice-President goes on record in other way. Is this the way that you infuse confidence in different segments of the society, and is it way that we run the society? The Vishwa Hindu Parishad goes to the extent of declaring that they would observe 6th December as Diwali Day. What sense are we talking? Are we giving an impression to the world that we are a matured or secular nation, and are we giving the impression that we accommodate different segments of the society? You want to observe Diwali Day in order to ignite emotions in other segments of the society and the create then communal trouble.

Sir, I have visited some of the areas in Gujarat. The moment the news of certain atrocities committed on minorities was trickling in, the parties in power should have sent their delegations to those areas for the purpose of pacifying the people and to try to control their emotions. I went to Gujarat in the wake of the news that started trickling down. Our Party sent a delegation of which I was the leader. I myself went to that place; I think, it is Kapadganj...*(Interruptions)* Well, if I do not remember that name, you need not find fault with me on that. I have gone there and I have seen the grave where the Christian was buried. What has been done is that the grave was dug, the body was taken out and thrown roughly two furlongs away. It was then taken to the Church which is one kilometre away from the place where the body was interned.

There, a makeshift temple has been erected. Is it fair for us? The authorities are keeping quiet about it. When I went there for the purpose of enquiry and when I was trying to enquire from the people, the people were harrowing to tell the truth. People were not prepared to tell as to what it was. Finally, some people who came and told me, they belonged to the majority community; they do not belong to the minority community. They were telling me ghastly stories. What is the Central Government doing? The State Government has not done anything.

Mr. Home Minister, I may bring to your kind notice that

the body was lying at the Church till 3 O'clock the next day. It were the *Harijans*, four kilometers away from that place, who offered to get that body buried in their cemetery and finally it was buried there. It was because there was no place to bury this body. It were the *harijans* who came to the rescue of that body. I have gone and seen all those places. If these type of incidents take place; if the State Government does not take any action and the Central Government is slumberous then what is the message we are giving to the different sections of the society? Do we expect that the minorities would live in peace if such a situation arises?

Sir, I may also tell the hon. Home Minister that all the 59 Muslim families of the Randhikapur village have vacated the place. It was because they were threatened that they could not continue there. It arose on account of a love affair amongst the youngsters and some people became emotional and the resultant effect was that the whole Randhikapur was shorn of the entire Muslim minority, who vacated the place. What is it we are for? I am only giving certain instances as to how things are taking place.

Sir, when it comes to the question of Christian minorities, they are already feeling the severity of the violence that has started taking place in the States which are governed by the BJP or their associates. The geographic spread of the violence had been tremendous and it should have been controlled. If we do not control it, then it has a definite fall out. The connivance of the political elements and the backing of the political groups in power is creating a problem for that minority community to act in terms of their constitutional rights. The complicity of the State machinery, particularly of the police, in not even registering the cases and the Central Government just looking at the whole thing is something which is rather reprehensive.

17.08 hrs.

(SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*).

Sir, I would just like to bring to your kind notice that the Human Rights Wing of the Christian community has prepared a document which clearly brings out the statistics giving the details and I would like to take the House into confidence. From 1964 to 1996, there were only 33 incidents of minority discrimination so far as the Christians are concerned. The crimes that have been perpetrated on the Christian minority from 1964 to 1996 is only 33 in number. I have got the details and I am prepared to pass it on to you, Mr. Home Minister, so that you may look into it. In 1997, there were 14 incidents. Their delegation came and met me and the Leader of Opposition. They gave this document to the Prime Minister also. I am told that they gave this document to the hon. Speaker also. They had listed 64 incidents that took place in 1998, apart from 20 more incidents which they had yet to list. That means, a total of 84 incidents took place in the eight months of 1998. When you look into it you will find that from 1964 to 1996, during such a long time, only 33 incidents took place. This year, after the BJP has taken over the Government, there had been more incidents than what happened in

the last 50 years. This fact is borne out by the statement of no less a person than Shrimati Maneka Gandhi. In this House in July, 1998, she herself had admitted that more than 50 years had lapsed but not as many incidents had taken place during that period as those that had taken place now. It is the self-confession of a Minister of this Government. If this is the state of affairs, where do we stand?

I have the details of the incidents which I will not like to go into except making reference to a few. Attacks on Christian community as well as the Muslims, ever since this Government has taken over, have been increasing. These attacks took place in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, in Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. Here also it is the *Sangha Parivar* which is creating problems. In these two States of Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka only that cases have been registered against the culprits, investigations have been carried out and charge-sheets framed. In other States where the BJP is in Government, not a single case has been registered. I would like to....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (SHAJAPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the person who was behind the case of rape of nuns in Madhya Pradesh, has been put as a candidate in the election....(Interruptions)

SMT. SUMITRA MAHAJAN (INDORE): Such a statement won't do, please state in which case it was registered....(Interruptions) please do tell it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You sit down, please.

SMT. SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Do not misinform the house....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You sit down, you will speak when your turn comes. Why are you speaking now?

[English]

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (TENALI): Sir, may I appeal to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to check his own Members so that they do not go on interrupting of getting emotional unnecessarily when emotions are not needed?

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): They have been taught to do so. That's why they are making interruptions....(Interruptions)

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE (CHIMUR): Are they children of the Sangh Pariwar? Whenever Sangh Pariwar is mentioned, they begin to cry....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Sir, on 8th July, the Organising Secretary of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Shri Arvind Bhattacharya told *The Asian Age* newspaper at Guwahati that the mass conversion programme in Christian dominated States of the North-East would take place at the end of this year, and they were planning to appoint Hindu missionaries

in all the North-Eastern States to convert the Christians to Hindus....(Interruptions)

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: It is not 'convert'. It is 'reconvert'....(Interruptions)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (TENALI): You are so proud of it! I am ashamed of it. You are proud of it and the nation is ashamed of it....(Interruptions) You want by force. You should be ashamed of what you say....(Interruptions)

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Of course, not....(Interruptions)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Sir, Shri B.L. Sharma, the former BJP Member of Parliament and presently, the Central Secretary of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad justifies all these acts on minorities and says that 'these are the result of the anger of patriotic Hindu youth against anti-national forces'. This has been quoted in all the newspapers.

Equally, Shri S.K. Jain, who happens to be the Secretary of Bajrang Dal says on 4th September, 1998 that 'the Bajrang Dal has begun identifying Christian missionaries to launch a second Quit India Movement against Christians.' He further said that 'the Christian missionaries are working against the national interest' and he will force them to leave India. 'They do not have a moral right to stay in India'. Sir, these types of statements are being made. I do not know, what action the Home Ministry has been taking. No action is being taken—neither by the State Government nor by the Central Government.

One thing I would like to bring to your notice. Much worse as to what has happened in the recent by-election in Bharuch, Gujarat. I have a photostat copy of a pamphlet which has been issued by one Shri Vidhal Desai, and the printers are the Vishwa Hindu Parishad Kalyanam Numberam Complex. This pamphlet is divided into parts (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e), I am reading from it. A question is asked:

"What is today's Congress?"

The answer says:

"Today's Congress is Islamic and Christian Congress".

Now, Question No. 2 says:

"Why do you call the Congress Islamic?"

The answer says:

(a) Because it opposes Saraswati Vandana;

(b) Because it opposes Sanskrit language;

(c) Because it opposes Ram Janma Bhoomi..."

What a distortion of facts!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Shiv Shanker, please conclude now.

SHRI P. SHIV SANKER: Sir, I will take 5-10 minutes more. I will not take more time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already taken 15 minutes.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Within five to ten minutes, I will conclude.

Then, there are Questions No. 3, 4 and 5 which relate to Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, and I am ashamed. I would not like to even read them. This is the culture that they have.

In the pamphlet, Question No. 6, part (a) says that the Congress is openly propagating for the protection of Christians. Part (b) says that 'the Hindu's Congress is no more today'. Sir, Shri Iqbal Kakuji was the Congress candidate seeking a by-election of Lok Sabha from Bharuch Constituency.

It says: 'Iqbal Kakuji is the candidate of the Islamic Congress. To vote Congress is to vote 'Babar Bhakt' and *desh drohi*; to vote Congress is to vote those with whom Hindu girls run away'. This is the kind of propaganda. I have read this from the pamphlet published by one Shri Vidhal Desai(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN BHARATKUMAR Thakkar (VADODARA): This propaganda has been launched from his side. Such magazines were also published wherein it was stated that you will get rupee one lakh if you bring Hindu unmarried women....(Interruptions). We have such magazines....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members please take your seats
(Interruptions)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: This was widely publicised(Interruptions) Mr. Minister, I am prepared to pass this on to you.

[Translation]

SMT. JAYABEN BHARATKUMAR THAKKAR: You read out those magazines also....(Interruptions) You might be possessing them....(Interruptions) Rs. 50 thousand, one lakh as reward for bringing Hindu girls, you must need it, too....(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (AHMADABAD): With great respect. I want to say that you have been in politics for years. What kinds of magazines are published during election I have some specimens(Interruptions). I shall give them all to you.... (Interruptions). You are quite a senior leader and I respect you very much. I have some magazines showing how propagandas are spread during elections....(Interruptions). Whatever such magazines have published....(Interruptions) I will hand over their copies to you.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, he is not yielding. Please take your seats.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Is this a compliment to

us?....(Interruptions) I can tell you that this was widely circulated in the area and as I said, I am prepared to make it available to the hon. Minister so that he may look into it.

This is the manner in which the atrocities on the minorities are going on. That is why we insisted that this subject should be discussed. We feared that if we did not discuss this subject, if we did not have any introspection, then, there was a possibility of the society getting disintegrated. We should not allow it to happen. That is why every responsible Indian is concerned and so we wanted to exhibit our concern. It is precisely for this reason that we wanted to discuss this issue.

I have got a large number of instances which I would like the hon. Minister to go through while I would not like to read them out. There are a large number of instances of what has been happening and how the minorities are being harassed. Their life has become miserable. I have got those instances with me but I do not have the time to read them out. So, I would request you to kindly consider them....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: I know, the hon. Chairman would like me to conclude my speech.

The case is not of the Muslims or Christians alone. This is equally the case of the Sikhs also, whom Shri Arif Mohammad Khan has spoken. Their Prabhandak Committee Chairman, Shri G.S. Fohra has been accused to be an anti-national. This is the position is. Unfortunately, they still continue to be your associates. That is their choice(Interruptions)

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: History cannot forget the treatment you gave to the Sikhs of Delhi. History will never forgive you for that.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: That is not the question. The question today is about what you are doing. The question is not about what has happened in the past....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please take your seats.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Sir, this is very unfortunate.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please sit down.

[English]

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: This shows their intolerance....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: This shows their intolerance. When I sit here, I do not disturb anyone.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Shiv Shanker says.

(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: This intolerance will lead you to difficulties. We are worried that the nation will also be in difficulties because of this intolerance. They are so intolerant.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: We are so proud of the nation as we are called as tolerant people. This is the type of intolerance that they have. They cannot even brook the expression, the expression in the mildest language. I am not using very strong language. I am only trying to bring facts to their notice; and they are quite intolerant.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: We are not intolerant. We are just reminding you....*(Interruptions)* We are not intolerant. We are just reminding you. We are listening to you for the last one hour....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: You need not remind us. You are sitting there and that is why, you have to answer; and we are sitting here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Sir, in the end, I charge this Government of disturbing communal harmony in this country. I charge it for spreading disaffection amongst different sections of people; for abetting their cohorts like Shiv Sena and others for perpetrating crimes; for—directly or indirectly, by omission or by commission—encouraging the Sangh Parivar to act in a diabolical manner and for abetting the spread of violence. This Government had been eroding the cherished values of this nation which we have proudly inherited over the centuries.

I would also charge this Government of working against the Constitution, after taking oath in the name of the Constitution and dividing and eroding the constitutional values.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (CHANDIGARH): Mr. Chairman, Sir the discussion that was started yesterday, was initiated by a very senior member, a very seasoned parliamentarian Shri Arif Md. Khan. I was present throughout his speech yesterday and today. I listened to him very carefully also. He reminded us of Bhagwan Shri Ram by thumping and fisting his desk, and also explained the religion, tradition and system and lastly he concluded his speech with a couplet. I have also listened to the statement of Shri Shiv Shanker ji who also has charged our Government. Shri Shiv Shanker ji, I will come to your speech later. You have charged us, we won't discharge you, too, we will also charge you later. I am coming to that in two minutes.

Anif Saheb mentioned Shri Ram and Bhagwan Ganesh also. I tell you with all respect that it would have been better had you not used the way and language you used, because if we try to hurt each other's feelings in this way, the discussion will bear no fruit, rather, undesirable things would emerge soon that....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN: I am not interrupting

you. Just listen to my request. Sir this morning I gave my speech which had come from the Parliament, to Shri Sirpotdar ji and said that some of the friends have raised objections to it yesterday. If you find anything objectionable in it I will withdraw it, apologise for that and also accept whatever penalty you impose upon me. Hon. Shri Sirpotdar ji is sitting here. You just tell me the sentences and words that I have spoken. Just saying that I will hurt is not enough. Why would I hurt you. I have great respect but if you stab me in the name of Hinduism, I must resort to talking of it and at least try to explain it. I am still ready to give my speech. Please let my know.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Mr. Khan I don't want to get expunged any part of your speech, our party also does not want to get expunged any part of your speech. You have said, what you wanted to say. My first point is that a very good thing about India is that in spite of 85 percent Hindus in this country anyone can speak anything in Parliament, this freedom is there because Hindus are secular, Hindus are socialists....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please keep quiet.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: It is not a matter of pity....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN: It is the constitution of India that gives us this right....*(Interruptions)* and not these people....*(Interruptions)* we are not at your mercy....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. I will go through the proceedings. If there is any objectionable remark, that will be expunged.

[Translation]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN: The Constitution of India gives us this right....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. I will go through the proceedings. If the hon. Member has made any objectionable remark, that will be expunged

(Interruptions)

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: We will not allow this....*(Interruptions)* We are also not at their mercy....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please take your seat.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN: We are not at any one's mercy....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If there is anything objectionable, that will be expunged.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI (RAIGARH): Sir, you ask him to apologise....(Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU (ARAMBAGH): This is contempt of the House. You ask him to apologise....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI: They are saying that they have given freedom....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN: Sir, he has not said anything objectionable.

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (MADHUBANI): We are here with our own efforts....(Interruptions) We are not here at your mercy. You should apologise to the entire House(Interruptions) You have shown disrespect to the entire House....(Interruptions) Mr. Jain, apologise to the entire House, you have shown disrespect to the House....(Interruptions)

MR CHAIRMAN: You please sit down....(Interruptions)

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: You have formed the government with eighteen parties and still delivering a speech here(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Mr.Chairman, Sir, the freedom of expression in the House is because of our constitution, our rules....(Interruptions) It is my contention that our constitution and our rules are also part of our tradition. The freedom of expression is not for all time but I would request all the Members that for the debate in the House learn something from the senior leaders like Shri. Shiv Shanker. Today he has said so many things to which I will not agree and many others sitting here may not agree with him but there was no provocation in his speech but logic was there. I would have been more happy if initiators of this debate had also adopted this style and would not have indulged in this type of things. Whatsoever has happened was not good. I would only request that as I have not interrupted Mr. Arif Mohammad Khan in spite of my disliking towards many of his points and in the end a five minute interruption was there which should not have happened. Later, I said to him that there are the points which I disliked and I would like to say that as you have not liked his style and in this context saying that it will not go like this, is not in consonance with that style....(Interruptions) this style....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him complete.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, when you were talking of tolerance, I said at that time....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, no such point should be raised in the House, which causes provocation....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You sit down. Let the Minister of Home Affairs speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Although I do not agree even then I should respect his feelings. I must practise tolerance. I agree with your decision, that unparliamentary words must be expunged whether they are from this side or that, and Shri Shiv Shanker is right to say that discussion must be continued....(Interruptions) To call any person an agent of someone is not parliamentary.

[English]

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (BARRAKPORE): Are they representing 85 per cent?....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN: No way, Sir. We are not here at their mercy. We have been sent here by the people....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Chairman Sir, ask them to apologise....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: You cannot say this, the Chairman can say this....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Home Minister has already clarified it.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI: We are not here at their mercy. The Constitution of India has given us freedom of expression....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN: We are not at their mercy in this House....(Interruptions) The Home Minister is saying about the unparliamentary words that have been used. I would like to know what I have said which is unparliamentary?....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Khan, please take your seat....(Interruptions)

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (BARAMULLA): I am on a point of order. I do not believe in raising slogans etc. I have disciplined myself. I am raising a point of order under Rule 376. The point is that the actual expression of the hon. Member constitutes violation of the constitution. As the Home Minister said, it is our right as Members to express our views. But the implicit meaning of that expression uttered by the Member constitutes an insult to the House and to the constitution. Now, what is the remedy? The remedy is that

he must withdraw that word and he must apologise to the House. We do not want any expunction business....(Interruptions) He has to withdraw it....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: He is provoking....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: How the House can function when rules are not followed....(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we do not want you to expunge anything. He must withdraw it.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I leave it upto you. If they have said something against the constitution, it must be expunged. I agree with the point....(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: This is not his style. This is the expression of his opinion.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: You first listen to me since yesterday my friend Mr. Arif Saheb has been continuously stressing upon this point I am not putting allegations on majority, minority, I do not consider this as a questions of majority or minority. I will reply. That is why I do not agree with his words that it is because of 85 percent....(Interruptions)....Constitution has given us this right but it is also true that the constitution has been framed as per the traditions and on the basis of majority, there is no doubt about it. That is why I do not agree with his style. You might agree or not with the factual position but it is true that this constitution has been framed by the majority of Hindustan as per its tradition. Still, in my opinion, it would be better not to mention about 85 per cent. But, will you decide on the basis of style of individual whether he or she has the right. Therefore, expunge the remarks, if any which....(Interruptions) Otherwise, this intolerance is against our traditions....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will expunge if there is any objectionable remark. I have already said it.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Sir, Arif Sahab, in his speech, mentioned about the case of Salaman Saheb. He tried to give an impression as if that too was a matter of atrocities on minorities, because the Public Prosecutor had gone to get the bail of Salaman Khan cancelled. It hurts me. I think, had Mr. Salaman Khan listened to his speech, he too would have felt very embarrassed that this matter is being linked with atrocities on minorities.

Sir, there was a film titled 'Ham Aapke Hain Koun'. Shri Arif Saheb would have viewed this film, I too had viewed it. Love between Salaman Khan and Madhuri Dixit was shown

in the film. Both of them were to be married but inadvertently, her parents fixed her marriage with his elder brother. I am afraid, lest Arif Saheb would declare the script writer as a communal person belonging to the minority community. His name was written and that too amounted to atrocities on minorities. Sir, I cent per cent agree with him for appreciating our traditions. Majority community is not committing atrocities on minority community which we are talking about. I want to say that even wrong signals from Arif Saheb don't seem to be coming from minority community. An Indian Moslem is equally an Indian citizen too. Moslems contributed equally in the freedom struggle. They wish to make their full contribution to the development of India. They participated in the development of India. We want their welfare. But it is a pity that some people are worried about the 'Vote Bank' only—they care neither about majority nor about minority....(Interruptions)

I patiently listened to Shiv Shankar ji and Arif Saheb. You talk about the Constitution. Sections 14, 19, 226 and 32 confer upon everybody the right to approach the Court. Shiv Shanker Ji, you are a lawyer. I challenge you. I challenge Arif Saheb too. You visit the Courts throughout India and see if any Moslem, Christian or Shikh brethren of us has filed any litigation against our Government that he has been subjected to excesses on the grounds of religion. If such an incident comes to light then I will accept any punishment....(Interruptions)

It's very good you reminded us of our traditions. I am very grateful to you. It would be better if you had cited our common traditions that it has never been of taking heads in the name of religion. Guru Teg Bahadur through martyrdom had set an example of making sacrifice for protecting the religion. This is the tradition of my country. I want to remind Shiv Shanker ji what he had said. He made a mention about Gurcharan Singh Tohra. B.J.P. respects Jathedar Gurcharan Singh Tohra. He is a patriot. His patriotism is beyond doubt. But I wonder, when you turned a well wisher of the Sikhism, well wisher of the turban? Have you forgotten the incident of 1984? During your regime 3400 Sikhs were gruesomely burned alive by putting tyres in their necks and by pouring kerosene on them. Have you forgotten that?....(Interruptions)

Khan Saheb made a mention of widows. You visit Punjab, Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir with me. Even today, four thousand Sikh widows in Delhi are waiting for their husbands at their doorsteps to call them as 'wife'. You see those orphan children who are waiting for their fathers at the doors. Four thousand Sikhs were massacred during your regime. This is the charge I level on Shiv Shanker ji. Thirty thousand Hindus were killed in Punjab. Muslims were killed during your regime. Today, you are giving us sermons.

Arif Saheb talks about traditions. He talked about the widows. This is not the tradition of our country. Abdul Hamid gave away his life fighting for the cause of the nation. This is the tradition of our nation. The country is proud of him. But just think, how Abdul Hamid would have felt when India loses the match to the Pakistani team? How would patriotic Muslims feel when some persons insult the Indian flag on some or the other ground? You should have thought of it too. This is not the tradition of our country.

[Sh. Satya Pal Jain]

It has been the sublime tradition of this country that Guru Gobind Singh without budging, let his sons to be buried alive in wall. Murdering others has not been the tradition of our country. Tolerance is the tradition of our country which has been inherited by both of us. You were talking about atrocities on a particular community. Are there no conflicts between Shiyas and Sunnis among Muslims? Are there no conflicts between Jains among Hindus? I belong to Jain community. Digambers and Pitambers make their respective submissions. Disputes exist in the temples also. There are disputes in the churches of the Christians. It will not be fair to give communal colour to every conflict. This is too much. Don't do this.

Ram Mandir has been a much talking point. I want to remind you that a Muslim youth was the driver in the 'Rath Yatra' of Advaniji who with pride, drove the 'Rath Yatra' upto Ayodhya. An Indian Muslim is not opposed to the Ram Mandir....(Interruptions) A common Indian Muslim is not opposed to hoisting of the National Flag at 'Lal Chowk'.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Joshiji had hoisted reversed flag at Lal Chowk in Srinagar. We were subjected to ridicule all over the world and it was a matter of insult....(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it's good of Shakeel Saheb for reminding me about the 'Lal Chowk'. I'm very happy that you mentioned it. An Indian Muslim is not opposed to hoisting of the flag at Lal Chowk. Some vested persons were afraid of their political careers to come to an end. Lakhs of Muslims gathered to listen to our Prime Minister Shri Vajpayee when he happened to go to Srinagar and greeted him with slogans of 'Bharat mata Ki Jai'. And you are talking about reversed flag hoisting. Your Home Minister could not dare to go to Srinagar....(Interruptions) When Dr. Murlī Manohar Joshi went to hoist the flag.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: It was our government in power at that time and it's we who provided security to him.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Mr. Chairman, Sir I'll finish this point by saying two things and then, come to next point. As a result of the traditions of this country the secularism is intact. I would like to cite two small examples. Sardar Buta Singh is present here. Just now, Guru Saheb was quoted. In that context, I tell you that Kanhaiya-the soldier of Guru Gobind Singh ji was a unique example of secularism. Bhai Kanhaiya was entrusted the duty of serving drinking water to the wounded soldiers. One day someone complained to Guruji that Kanhaiya was serving water to the wounded soldiers of the mughal emperor. When Guruji called Bhai Kanhaiya, he gave very good answer, 'Maharaj, I do serve water but at that time I am not aware as to who is Muslim and who is Sikh.' I see your image in every soldier when I serve them water. That's why I can't distinguish as to who is Sikh and who is Muslim.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, one day a soldier of Shivaji Maharaj brought a beautiful woman to his Darbar and informed him that he had brought woman from enemy camp. Shivaji said

that undoubtedly she was an enemy woman still it was their duty and tradition to respect every woman and directed him to send the woman to the enemy camp with full respect. At the same time he wished his mother to be so beautiful. It shows the degree of respect Shivaji had for the Muslim women.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, similarly, it was a Sufi Fakir who laid the foundation stone of the Golden Temple. Excesses and injustice have never taken place in this country in the name of religion. These people are trying to teach us the tradition. You will understand everything correctly if you study our traditions thoroughly.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, so far as the question of majority or minority is concerned, it is not discussed at length in the Constitution. Several sections of our Constitution refer to minorities. Naturally, you will have to discuss majority when you discuss minority. These are relative terms. Minorities are given rights in the Constitution of India, as a result which has become a matter of grave concern. I wish, Shiv Shankar Ji should say this. Today, every community is approaching the Courts to claim themselves to be minorities. The verdict of Haryana and Punjab High Court says that the followers of Aryasamaj and Sanatandharm are minorities. The verdict of the Supreme Court says that the followers of Ramkrishna Mission are minorities. Gaur Brahmins of Haryana claim themselves to be minorities. I am a Jain and people of my community are pressurising me, but I am of the clear opinion that Jains are not a minority community. They are a part of the society. There should be no attempt to isolate them. We are facing the issue of determining majority and minority. No community in India is in majority everywhere. Our Muslim brethren are in majority in Kashmir where Hindus are in minority and our Sikh brethren....

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN: If in India.....

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: You, please, let me complete.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN: Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and nobody can separate it from India. And you are saying that Hindus are in minority in Jammu and Kashmir...

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Our Sikh brethren may be in minority all over India but they are in majority in Punjab. Our Hindu brethren are in minority in Pakistan. Jammu and Kashmir was, is and will remain a part of India.

18.00 hrs.

No force in the world can separate it from India. Different situations prevail in various States of India. If Sikh brethren are in majority in Punjab, they are in minority in Delhi. Muslims are in majority in Jammu and Kashmir but they are in minority in Delhi, Punjab and U.P. If Hindus are in majority in Haryana, they are in minority in Punjab. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to submit that it should be decided in India whether one community that claims majority right or minority right in a particular State....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, it is 6 o' clock. How much time would you take?

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: At least, half-an-hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the sense of the House that we should extend the sitting up to 7 o'clock.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No, Sir.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, There are a large number of speakers. I would request that the time of the House be extended.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: That is right, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The sitting is extended up to 7 o'clock.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was talking situation prevailing in the States. I want to put before you the analyses of two or three States.

SHRI RAMA NAND SINGH (SATNA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have extended the House upto 7 o'clock but we want to know if you would adjust us also in this debate. Many hon. Members want to speak on this issue. Point is that, this issue is very important. Arif Sahab raised the matter. Very serious debate took place on it. It should be a good discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let Jain Sahab speak. You please take your seat.

SHRI RAMA NAND SINGH: Will we also be accommodated?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Everybody will be accommodated.

SHRI AJIT JOGI: Rama Nand Singh's party doesn't give his name.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Sir, I was speaking about States. Punjab is a State where Sikhs are in majority and Hindus in minority. I wish to point out that it is the Congress which has been in power in Punjab and at the centre for most part of the last 50 years. This is the State where my friends on that side, have ruled generally. They spared neither of the communities. You are referring to Tohra Shaheb. I would like to remind of the visit of Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi to Chandigarh where he addressed a press conference in which he called Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindrawale a religious saint, who was accused of promoting terrorism in Punjab.

Would you like to compare Tohra Sahab with Bhindrawale? Tohra Sahab has made struggles for the unity of Punjab during that period; but you had called that person a saint against whom allegation of terrorism was levelled. You broke Akal Takht which is the highest institution of Sikh bretheren. Arif Sahab has correctly said that whatever may be the position of Tohra Sahab as an individual, but he held a very high status as the President of the Sikh institution and Akal Takht holds a very high position in Sikh tradition. Your

Government did not spare even that and it was also destroyed. Did not you notice atrocities on minorities at that time? 30,000 Hindus were killed in Punjab while travelling in buses or trains and you know it very well as to who was governing the State at that time. Not a single case of communal riot took place in Punjab when Prakash Singh Badal and Bhartiya Janata Party ruled that State. All the innocent people were killed when Darbara Singh or that person was the Chief Minister whom I do not want to name as he held the post of the President of India. Do you want to discuss about minority? I would like to give the examples of Lala Jagat Narayan and Ramesh Chandra. Had Shivshankarji been present here, he would have heard my speech. You have mentioned the incidents. Late Shri Ramesh Chandra was killed in Jalandhar. The Government did not permit his funeral procession. They were instructed to sent names of only 50 persons so that curfew passes could be issued. It is the only one example in entire India when funeral procession was not permitted and Late Shri Ramesh Chandra was not cremated in a cremation ground but his last rites were performed in the ground in front of his house and you want to tell us about the atrocities against minorities. Another State mentioned by me is Delhi. I have already dealt with the atrocities committed against the Sikhs. Your government did not take any action against the persons found guilty. I want to congratulate Shri Madan Lal Khurana of the Bhartiya Janata Party who had arrested and prosecuted the culprits, but I fear that with the change of Government, the process of prosecution will be diluted and you will not act with alacrity to take action against them. Did not you see atrocities when it was being committed against the Sikhs? Was not it necessary for Shiv Shankarji to mention it?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, now let us discuss about Jammu & Kashmir. The incidents which occurred in Jammu & Kashmir during your governance did not occur during the rule of Farooque Abdullah. Thousands of our bretheren became refugees. Who were those persons? Those persons did not become refugees who used to criticize India. The refugees were those persons who were true patriots, who believed in the constitution and custom of this country. Many thousands of these people are living in the refugee camps of Tilak Nagar, Delhi and in various camps in Punjab. You did not see it during the 50 years of your rule that they were also minorities and they also had some rights. Mr. Chairman, Sir, let them accompany me so that I would be able to show them the condition of those people. None of your leaders ever went to enquire about present condition of those people who have left their property of crores of rupees and now who are begging in the streets of Delhi. You want to make allegations on us. The minorities are not safe during the period of your governance. How can you speak in this way?

You just talk about Muslims. Today Arif Sahab may be criticizing our Government, but I am sure that he does not have any misconception about the deeds of the Congress Party.

Take the example of Emergency period. Which Government had used bulldozers on the property of Muslims at Turkmann Gate? Who were the rulers when Shahi Imman

[Sh. Satya Pal Jain]

had issued his Fatwa? At that time, Arif Sahab was in jail along with us. Today, you may be in his company in the name of uniting secular forces. You are talking of atrocities. My colleagues were talking of secularism.

I want to remind you that when Shri Narsimha Rao was the Prime Minister of India, the elections were about to be held in North-Eastern States. You object when someone talks of secularism. But, at that time your party had declared that if we would come to power we would like to run the Government on the basis of the principle of the Bible. And now you want me to apologise because of my referring to something. I would like to remind Arif Sahab that in Hindustan both Hindu and Muslim women have equal rights. If the tradition of Sati is wrong, I too, consider it as such. Wherever it occurs, it must be wiped out. In this context, I would like to refer to section 125 of Cr. P.C. which is not a lengthy section and if one wants to get a case filed under this section, it can be filed by even a junior lawyer. This section says that if a woman is deserted by her husband or if a child is not looked after by his parents, the aggrieved person can approach the Court and file the case for getting subsistence which may be upto five hundred rupees per month. Supreme Court's Judgement was that it is applicable to Muslim ladies also. All the Muslim ladies accepted it. I want to ask as to who were the people who tried to deprive Muslim ladies of their above mentioned right and also as to who were responsible for that was it the Government of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee or the Government of Shri Narsimha Rao responsible for it? I know it....(Interruptions). Arif Sahab, I do not want to embarrass you or to quote your speech(Interruptions) you are my friend but I want to ask you that while referring to atrocities ..(Interruptions)

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN: I agree, please let me tell about the facts....(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Mr. Chairman, Sir Advaniji said rightly, I apprehended that in the company of new secular friends Arif Sahab might....(Interruptions)

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: The judgement was absolutely right.

The Muslim women wanted it, it should have happened. What you are saying is wrong. Whatever happened, it was right....(Interruptions). The constitutional amendment was perfectly right....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Had Arif Sahab mentioned it, that would have been better. My point is that one should not discuss the whole issue of the minorities by quoting some incidents from here and there. What he had told at the end, I expected from him the same thing in the beginning. I fully agree with you that the Muslims did not get their due share of economic development and employment. A study was done by an institution of Chandigarh on the request of Uttar Pradesh Government. This is Indian Institute for Development

and Communication. This is not related to the forces mentioned by you. The Government of India has been conducting studies about the status of Muslims since 1970-71. A study was conducted in 1980-81. According to it, the population of Muslims was 18.56 percent but the percentage of school going children among them was only 10.66 percent. At that time the State was ruled by you. Among eligible children only 10 out of 100 were going to school. So, instead of accusing our Government, had you encouraged their children to go to school, it would have been a better service to the Muslim and Christian community.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, honourable Arif Sahab has presented data about the number of Directors and officers, but my submission is that the common Muslim is in trouble because of lack of the means of livelihood. The economic condition of common Muslim is very bad. You do not want their growth. I do not want to go into that controversy. You do not want them to follow the principle of monogamy on religious grounds as it is beneficial for you. Your politics aims at getting votes. If the Muslims accept monogamy, their number will remain within limit, they will progress by educating themselves and then they would not vote for you. So, you do not want their progress. I have all the data about literacy in various States, but I am unable to elaborate due to the lack of time.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, what I want to emphasize is that not a single communal riot occurred in India since Bhartiya Janata Party come to power. This is an example itself. Communal riots did not take place on the occasion of a festival like Diwali, Holi or Ramzan. If you go into the data of 50 years, you will see the condition during your rule was such that curfew used to be imposed in Meerut, Aligarh Muzaffarnagar or in areas like Sadar Bazaar or Jama Masjid. But no such incident took place since Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the Bhartiya Janata Party came to power.

Mr. Chairman Sir, in our country, the minority has got even those rights which are generally not given in those countries where they are in majority. A delegation from Saudi Arabia had visited India to take part in a meeting on women participation in politics. We knew from them that in their country, the women had neither the right to vote nor to contest an election, but in our country there is no discrimination against the men and women belonging to the minority and the majority community. They are equal before law. There are some countries where those persons are hanged who accept the religion other than that which is prevalent in that country. But, in our country everyone is free to follow the religion of his choice. You are saying that the incidents of communal riots have increased since Bhartiya Janata Party came to power. But, the fact is that the riots have not taken place since Bhartiya Janta party came to power. I have all the year-wise and state-wise data about the riots in which atrocities were committed against the Muslims. I have the data of the years 1995, 96, 97 and 1998. I would tell about Bihar and West Bengal where Bhartiya Janta Party was never in power.

Mr. Chairman Sir, B.J.P. was never in power in West Bengal. Kumari Mamta Banerjee or Tapan Sikdar never headed any Government there. In 1996 and 1997 and 1998

there occurred 42, 40 and 30 incidents of riots respectively. Who will be blamed for those riots? Shall we blame B.J.P for it? Jogiji now I shall tell about Madhya Pradesh. In 1996, 1997 and 1998 there were 43, 43 and 33 incidents of riots respectively in that State when you were in power there. Raghuvansh Prasadji, we never formed a Government in Bihar. The number of incidents of riots were 146 in 1996, 118 in 1997 and 84 since our Government came to power. This is the information given by Hindustan....(Interruptions) Devegowdaji is not present here. In Karnataka, his party is in power. There were 22 riots in 1996, 31 in 1997 and 33 in 1998 in that State.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I have the data of all States including Tamil Nadu, Orissa etc. So, I want to submit that wherever such things occur, we people are blamed for it. My allegation is that some people intentionally want to tarnish the image of India. There is no distinction of the majority and the minorities in our country. We have given equal rights to all, even then you want to tarnish the image of India by misusing this forum.

Mr. Chairman Sir, this is the country where the post of President of the country has been held by people from different religions. The post of the Chief Justice of the country was held by people from various religions. There is no discrimination on the basis of religion. I can say with conviction that the Government of Bhartiya Janta Party will neither commit atrocities nor give special privilege on the basis of religion. Neither appeasement nor injustice will take place. The people expecting those things will remain hopeless.

There was the mention of Vande Matram and about notices in Delhi. There are about 12 crore or 18 crore of Muslims in this country. If notices were issued to 20-50 or 100 persons by an officer, are notices not issued to persons of other communities? Are questions about citizenship and religion not asked to persons crossing border? Do not we check persons entering North Eastern region irrespective of their religion? Why do you link these things with the question of minorities and religion?

Many times, Vande Matram has been discussed, Vande Matram and National Anthem are respected equally. Bhartiya Janta Party does not want to compel anyone, but I want to say that common Muslim has not opposed Vande Matram. Some persons instigated them to oppose it by issuing fatwas. The common Muslim sings Vande Matram and he will be singing it. All the Muslim Members of this House sing Vande Matram when the session is adjourned. The session begins with the National Anthem, 'Jan Gan Man' and ends with Vande Matram. Both the National Anthem and Vande Matram should be given equal respect. I respect religion and no religion forbids one from respecting one's national song.

No religion preaches dishonour to the National Flag. Nobody has asked us to dishonour our national emblem. We do not want to force anybody for it but if anyone opposes it to such an extent that he issues 'Fatwa' this is not good for our country. Today such Fatwas may bring good results for you. Today Fatwa will be issued in favour of Congress in the

general elections in Delhi. If you like it, I would like to ask how a Party can oppose the national anthem which claims to be a secular one, and how it can ask a religious leader to issue fatwa. I would like to ask the Muslims to cast their votes for the congress. From the beginning Muslims in India have been casting their votes according to their choice and today they will do so. In this House I would like to make an appeal to them that B.J.P. is the only Party which can protect the interests of muslims in India and during the Government of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, there is no danger for them.

In the end, I would like to conclude my speech. Shri Arif Khan expressed his view through a couplet. Shri Arif Khan had criticized us. Many allegations were made against us and my colleagues raised objections to petty things. I would like to tell you that the B.J.P. believes in secularism, not in pseudo-secularism. We will follow the policy of appeasement of non-justice to all. Despite, you will make allegations against us. You are free to do so. Our constitution has also given this liberty to you. We will not oppose it. I would like to conclude my speech by quoting a couplet. Our condition is such that:

"Hum Aah Bhi Bharte Hain

To Ho Jate Hain Badnam,

Aap Katl Bhi Karte Hain,

To charcha Nahin Hota."

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (MIDNAPORE): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am happy that my distinguished predecessor-in-office is present in the House because this discussion relates to matters which are of direct concern, above all, to the Ministry of Home Affairs. The hon. Minister, I hope, will not take it amiss but I feel that probably he is real ruler of this country. He has got a justified reputation as being a strong man, not like the previous Home Minister. And a strong man is expected to act strongly whenever necessary. But you will notice that the main burden of the criticism which has been levelled during this debate from the Opposition against the present Government is that when it is required to be strong, it is showing a singular lack of strength.

18.21. hrs

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

I am grateful to Shri P. Shiv Shanker who has covered a lot of grounds, and, therefore, saved much of my time because I was going to say many of those things which he already referred to. The total number of Christians in the total population of India is 2.6 per cent and 12 per cent to 14 or 15 per cent are Muslims. The rest are obviously neither Christians nor Muslims.

Just now my friend here was saying that they are representing 85 per cent of the Hindus. I do not know how many they represent. It is not for me to calculate. The voting figures certainly do not corroborate what they are saying. I share your belief that 85 per cent, maybe 80 per cent or maybe, 90 per cent, of the ordinary Hindus in this country are

[Sh. Satya Pal Jain]

not communal....(Interruptions) I do not know why you get so irritated when somebody speaks from here. I have been listening to you for the last two days without uttering a sound, to all the things which have been talked here. I am not trying to interrupt anybody.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (VARANASI): Do not get excited. Speak in normal way....(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (MIDNAFORE): I do not get excited.

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: It is alright.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: You and me will follow the same path.

[English]

If it is true that 80 per cent, 85 per cent or 90 per cent of the ordinary Hindus in this country were really communal, I think this country's unity and integrity would not have lasted so long. They are deeply religious-minded people. There is no doubt about that. But being religious does not necessarily mean that you are communal in an aggressive sense, aggressively communal against other communities. That does not follow. I say this because sometimes, some people make a mistake by saying that because people are deeply religious-minded and observe religious practices and regularly go to temples or Gurudwaras or Masjids, therefore, they must be necessarily communal-minded also. But I do not agree with this point of view at all. This has been proved over and over again in the recent history of our country.

The majority of people in this country are certainly secular minded. They are anti-communal. We are living in a composite society with a composite culture. We are proud of the fact that people belonging to so many different communities practising different religions, having different cultures, speaking different languages and having different customs are living here together as part of one nation. This was not created in a single day. It could not be. It took hundreds of years for such a culture and such a national identity to be established in this country. I also wish to say that if this composite character, composite nature of our culture and our community life is not respected, if it is not honoured, if it is not upheld by everybody, if some people want to attack it, if some people want to weaken it and if some people want to create divisions among people, then this is not merely a question of creating communal disharmony, but it is something much more serious than that. This is where I differ slightly from Shri Shiv Shanker. He is right, of course, when he says that the kind of things which have been going on, specially recently, in this country are a danger to communal harmony. There is no doubt about it. But I say that there is a danger to something much more basic and fundamental and that is the essential unity of the nation, the unity of this country. The unity of this country cannot exist, the unity of this country cannot survive if this special brand of secularism,

which we have established over the years and in which all these communities, religions and cultures co-exist and live together, is not allowed or if that is broken, if that is threatened, if anybody tries to impose by force one language, one culture and one religion on everybody. That will be the end of this country, as a united nation. It will be the end of India. That is why, we are very worried and troubled by what is happening.

Of course, there are many players who are playing this game. The BJP is the major party heading this coalition which is running the Government. There are also other people of Sangh Parivar under different names—who, strictly speaking, are not BJP people and the BJP does not claim them as its own people—Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Bajrang Dal. I am afraid to mention RSS because RSS is different kettle of fish. I think, Shiv Sena is a part of Sangh Parivar.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: No.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I am glad to hear that.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: When have you got this idea?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I met your leader in Mumbai when I was the Home Minister and I had a long talk with him. Since then, I had this idea. If I am wrong, I am wrong. People make mistakes. Some people think that they are infallible, they can never make any mistake in their lives. They never admit anything. I am not like them.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: CPI has also committed a number of mistakes.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Yes. What I am saying is that nobody can deny that in the recent months, some very unfortunate and tragic things have been happening in different parts of the country. Nobody can deny that. You may question as to who is responsible.

Somebody may question, "Who is doing all these things?" The B.J.P. will certainly say or the B.J.P. leadership will certainly say that they are not responsible at all, and some of these other members of the Sangh Parivar, who are not B.J.P. people, may be misbehaving here and there. Well, I think, this is all quibbling over words. Whether we like it or not, these members of the Sangh Parivar are part and parcel of this B.J.P. outfit. They may call themselves by other names, they may try to give themselves different identities, but surely they are very much the allies and supporters of the B.J.P. It is to their credit, no doubt, that they have helped the B.J.P. to come to power.

Sir, a number of Christians, for example, are there in Kerala, but no incident of this type has ever been reported from Kerala. I do not know if something has happened and there is no publicity. At least, there is no agitation about it. There are a number of Christians living in Kerala, Meghalaya, Nagaland and in other North-Eastern States, which are Christian-majority States. Since the Christians are in a majority, probably, they are better organised, better united among themselves, and they have been able to prevent this

kind of a thing happening to them, which is being reported all the time from some other States. But they live in fear, I am sure. The Christian communities in the North-East certainly do not feel very confident of what their future may be.

Shri Shiv Shanker quoted about the frequent attacks. I was going to do the same, but it is not necessary now. The memorandum which has been submitted by the organisation known as the Catholic Union to the authorities including you, Sir, has shown that the frequency of attacks on Missionaries, on Churches, on Priests, on Nuns, on Church activists have been much more in 1998 than in the last 50 years or since Independence. There were six cases reported between 1978, and 1983, and 80 in the last two years. They were reported mainly in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

Here, the propaganda which is being done to justify these attacks is, as has already been mentioned here, that they are a reaction to attempts at forcible conversions. I wish to state that this bogey of forcible conversion is a misconception. Article 25 of the Constitution, if we have bothered about the Constitution, gives every religious community the right to practise, to preach and to propagate—these are the words of the Constitution, I have got it here with me and I can quote if you like—one's own religion. This is the right which is enshrined in the Constitution of India and it does not apply to people who belong to one religion. It applies equally to all religions. So, if you practise, preach, profess and propagate your own religion as a right that you have got from the Constitution, it is not difficult, sometimes, for some people to accuse people of indulging in conversions. There are conversions which are not forcible also.

In our country there are some communities, oppressed communities, the communities which are deprived, who have been known to be going in for conversions on their own in order to escape from the social disabilities from which they are made to suffer. But of course, there could be forcible conversions also but that should not be.

Sir, tribal people, we know, have been forced in many cases to convert themselves to either Christianity or Hinduism in order to escape from the very terrible kind of economic conditions and social oppressions from which they were made to suffer. I think, the Viswa Hindu Parishad would like to have a monopoly over the religious conversion of all tribal groups. When you convert from one religion into Hinduism, the question arises to which branch or which kind of Hinduism are you going to convert them into. Hinduism is not a monolithic religion. It has so many sects and castes. So, when you convert to Hinduism in order to escape from some oppression, you have to decide as to what kind of a Hindu you want to be. Somebody has written 'lower species of Hinduism, a polite way of putting it, is what some of these tribal groups have been more or less compelled or pressurised into trying to get converted to'.

Sir, Christianity like Islam is regarded by these Viswa Hindu Parishad people as a foreign religion, not a religion which is basically Indian. It is considered a foreign religion which has a mission, which has an evangelical mission, a mission to wean away Hindus from Hinduism and therefore,

they should be regarded as enemies. So, it is obvious that the concept of a composite India, a composite society with a composite culture is something which is not to the likings of the Viswa Hindu Parishad and it disturbs them very much.

Sir, I am asking one question, and that is all, which I would like Shri Advani to reply to: Whether any of these groups has got organic linkages, or not, with the Ruling Party of the coalition. That is one question. But the point is, if there is any religious group which does not recognise the right of other groups to be allowed to operate freely, then should such religious groups be given the freedom to do whatever they like in this country?

Sir, the BJP is the political wing of this whole combine. The integral parts of the Sangh Parivar are all supporters and ideologues of Hindutva. I think, the Home Minister should make his stand clear regarding the relationship between the BJP and these other groups. The BJP strenuously affirms that it has no hand at all in any anti-minority actions or persecutions and that it abides by what is stated in the Constitution. If that is so, then it is the duty of the Home Minister, in my humble opinion, to condemn and denounce these other groups which do not want to give this right to all others.

I should say that communalisation of even crimes is going on. The Srikrishna Commission in Mumbai has given a report after a long long inquiry which has been rejected by the Maharashtra Government and by the Shiv Sena. It is all right, they can reject it if they want. But the ground on which they have rejected it mainly is—as far as I read from the Press, if it is wrong I may be corrected—that Srikrishna Commission's report is anti-Hindu and, therefore, it should be rejected. This is a curious way of depicting crimes, crimes I should call them, where thousands of people have been killed, their houses have been burnt, their shops have been looted, they have been forced to leave their normal residences and take shelter somewhere where the police and the army had to be called out though belatedly. We know what went on there during those horrible days following the destruction of the Babri Masjid. All this is, to a great extent, depicted in Srikrishna Commission's report and it is dismissed on the ground of being anti-Hindu. What does that mean? If this type of crimes are committed, whoever may commit them, and they are depicted as being either anti-Muslim, or anti-Hindu, or anti-Christian, or anti some particular community or religion, it means that all crimes can be white-washed and can be painted if necessary depending on who is at the receiving end. So, I am not surprised that in Maharashtra, leading spokesmen—there also, not all of them perhaps, but some of them—are opposing the idea of the Pakistani cricket team coming to play in Mumbai. I found in the papers the other day my friend Shri Sirpoddar also leading a demonstration there on this point.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: Even today I say that and I will clarify my position.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: And some well-known Muslim singers who are very-very popular and well-known to Mumbai people for their singing of Urdu Ghazals....(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: We are aware of a lot of Pakistani activities.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Yes, you are aware, I know. Your film industry is full of Muslims actors.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: They are enjoying and prospering also.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Why should they not prosper? Is it just because they are Muslims?

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: Nobody has obstructed them and that is why they are prospering.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: If they can act freely in your films, why should they not be allowed to sing Ghazals? Why should they not be allowed to play cricket?

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: It is because they are Pakistanis. We are allowing all Muslim singers, actors, players and everybody to live freely in this country. We are opposing those who are Pakistanis.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: So, you do not want Pakistanis to sing Ghazals if they are well-known singers. You do not want their players to come and play cricket here.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: Let them stop their activities in Jammu and Kashmir, we will welcome them.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: This is the trouble, Sir. This is how politics is sought to be injected even into culture and sports.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: Is killing people called culture? Hundreds of people are killed in Jammu and Kashmir everyday, and you want to play with them and exchange views with them!

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Shri Sirpotdar, why are you getting so worked up?

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE: Are the Pakistani players responsible for all this?

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: The Pakistani Government is responsible for this.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE: Then what harm have the Pakistani players done?

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sirpotdar, please do not interrupt.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: Sir, he was referring to it and I was replying on what basis we said that.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: There was a Minister of State at one time attached to the PMO. He is the member of the minority community. His name is Shri Aslam Sher Khan. He is known to everybody, I think. He used to be a Union Minister. He used to be a very famous hockey player. I do not know, in which party, he is now.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: He is in BJP now....(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Very good.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: He is not, at least, in the CPI....(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: He was not like CPI. There is no question of his being in CPI.

I found a long statement by him when he was a Minister of State. He said that 'the 15-Point Programme for the welfare of minorities is not being implemented at all in Maharashtra.' He also said that 'in Uttar Pradesh, several victims of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots had not been given the financial assistance which they had been promised.' He also said in that statement that '1,104 selected Muslims boys were called to appear for selection as constables in Uttar Pradesh Police department. But out of them ultimately only 100 were recruited.' He also said that 'there are some Muslim young men, who were involved in the Police killings.' You will remember that in 1986 police killings took place in Hashimpura and Malvana. 'Those people are still not traceable.' This is as per the statement made by Shri Aslam Sher Khan and not by me.

So, what I am saying is that the communalism of crime which is taking place in the form of anti-minority wave of violence is something which we should be very concerned about.

Sir, on the 18th December, 1992, the United Nations had made a declaration. The Government of India is also a party to that. The United Nations had proclaimed a declaration of Minority Rights Day and had observed that 'it should be observed every year on the 18th December in all countries which are Members of the United Nations' because the violation of Minority Rights is widespread. It is taking place in so many countries.

We are practically at the threshold of the 18th December. So, we should consider, the Government should consider and you, Sir, as the hon. Speaker of the House may also consider whether on the 18th of December, it would not be a fitting posture on our part, in some suitable form or the other, to observe this United Nations Declaration of Minority Rights. Otherwise, it remains on paper and as just a mockery.

Sir, the other minorities in this country have also been persecuted from time to time. In this House, cases are reported from time to time, by Members whether it involves Dalits, harijans or tribals apart from Muslims and Christians. These are also sections of our society who are frequently victims of atrocities and oppression. These cases are raised in this House and the Home Ministry is supposed to make inquiries into all of them, and to take necessary action.

We had a case, sometime ago. I do not know, what is the latest position about forcible deportation of Muslims from Bombay, Maharashtra on the allegation made that they were not Indians but Bangladeshies, speaking Bengalis just like I can speak. It is my language. I hope, when I speak in my mother tongue to somebody, that is not enough proof that I am a Bangladeshi. But on this pretext, that has been going on. There was a big commotion in this House which went on for some two or three days.

I do not know the exact details but I believe, ultimately, some settlement or agreement was reached in the course of which the two Governments, that is, the Government of Maharashtra and the Government of West Bengal were supposed to sit together and go through these lists of names and verify who was what and action was to be taken only on that basis. In the meanwhile, these unfortunate poor people who were looking for jobs and employment—they are not only in Mumbai but they are in Delhi and various other places also—have been subjected to all kinds of police harassment and police brutalities.

People are talking about Jammu and Kashmir. I would like to remind them of the Kashmiri Pandits also. About three lakh minority Kashmiri Pandits were forced to leave their ancestral homes and properties and only two thousand remain in the Valley. They are now refugees within their own country. They are in camps in various places. I believe, hon. Members have sometimes taken time to go and visit them and see the conditions in which they are living. Conditions are not yet being created for their safe return to the Kashmir Valley. Although the situation has improved considerably, they do not feel confident enough to go back. Their demand is that such a condition should be created which will enable them and their families to return there.

The Pakistan trained armed militants from across the border are selectively targeting the Kashmiri Pandit families, wherever they live, even in small villages and hamlets. They are trying to terrorise them, attack them and force them—those who are still there—to leave Kashmir and go away. They have submitted a memorandum to the Ministry of Home Affairs demanding a minority status and the setting up of a statutory State Minorities Commission for Jammu and Kashmir but I believe that the Government of India has not responded to this demand so far.

Attacks on Sikhs have been mentioned. Of course, it is for the Sikhs to decide what to do what not to do. All of us know which party was in power when they were subjected to massacres and worse things in 1984. We also know that in the elections to the State Assembly in Delhi almost every constituency in which the Sikhs are either in a majority or in a very big number, they have voted against the BJP and for the Congress. Why has this change come about? I do not know. Our Sikh friends can explain it to us. It is their right to vote anybody they like but it is a fact. We have to take note of this fact because they were tortured, killed and so on during the Congress regime in 1984 but it did not prevent them from overwhelmingly voting for the Congress and against the BJP in these Assembly elections.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (PATIALA): I want to say that the Sikhs can never forget their feelings against the Congress. They can never forgive the Congress.

[Translation]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Why they should forgive? Nobody should be pardoned. This is a matter of vote.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: As soon as my

turn comes, I will speak about the matter of vote.

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: The Sufi shrine in Chikmagalur in Karnataka which has been referred to at length by Shri P. Shiv Shanker has been there for years on top of a hill where Hindus and Muslims used to go together. It was founded by the Sufis. Why was there this sudden demand and movement to liberate that shrine? We do not know this till today. The Ministry of Home Affairs should have made some inquiries into this and found out who was behind this, who worked up this tension, who agitated the people to say that they were going there—I am told, several thousand people went there—with the so-called object of 'liberating' the shrine.

It was neither a Hindu shrine nor a Muslim shrine. But they wanted to liberate it. This is the kind of attitude and behaviour which is causing us great concern because it is something which, if goes on like this, will ultimately cause serious harm to the unity and integrity of this country, as a nation. There are some people who are votaries of, let us say, the slogan of Hindu *rashtra*. There are some people—I do not know who they are, if it is BJP, then, they should tell us—who say that if Pakistan can be declared as Islamic *rashtra*, based on their Shariat and all that, why should we not have a Hindu *rashtra* here?

In-between, there was a period when there was a lot of talk about Hindu *rashtra*. My knowledge of the things is that one of the reasons or one of the factors—not the only one—which incited some of our Sikh brothers in Punjab to start an agitation for a separate Khalistan State was precisely this fact that you in India are allowing people to go about propagating the need for a Hindu *rashtra*. They felt it will not be possible for us to continue to live there; we are not Hindus, we are Sikhs; we have different religion, different faith and everything. In that case, they were able to stir up an agitation for a separate Sikh State called the Khalistan State, based on the teachings of the Sikh Gurus and the Sikh scriptures. That has now died down; it is well and good.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: You are an hon'ble Member and I have great respect for you but you are distorting the facts. The first thing is that you have stated that Sikh Gurus had been agitating for a separate State. This is not true. Sikh Gurus sacrificed their lives and they allowed their sons to be buried alive into the wall to protect the culture of this country. The Sikh Gurus taught that all the human beings are alike. They have established communal harmony in the country. They have fought for more powers to Punjab as is being demanded by other States also. Some people made them secessionists. It was a design of those who were ruling this country at that time. Sikhs do not want to get themselves separated but they want to take this country ahead. So I want to state that all the facts have been distorted.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I respect your feelings in this regard but some different statements were being given during that period.

[Sh. Indrajit Gupta]

[English]

Then, I would just like to mention this also. I am afraid, this is rather a sensitive thing, but what is to be done? There is an order of the 9th of September 1997, an order by the Additional Sessions Judge, Lucknow, Shri Jagdish Prasad Srivastava. A copy of that order is here and I can produce it, if you like.

Para 59 of that order reads as follows and I quote:

"It is concluded that in the present case, a criminal conspiracy to demolish the disputed structure of the Ram Janam Bhoomi or Babri Masjid was hatched by the accused persons in the beginning of 1990 and was completed on 6th December 1992. Shri Lal Krishna Advani and others hatched criminal conspiracy to demolish the disputed premises at different times in different places. Therefore, I find *prima facie* case to charge Shri Lal Krishna Advani, Shri Murli Manohar Joshi and Shri Bala Sahib Thakeray on this ground."

Now, Sir, this was the observation of the order of the Additional Sessions Judge. What happened subsequent to this *prima facie* case established by the Judge, we do not know. Nothing has happened, as far as we know. We will hear from the hon. Home Minister, what is the latest position of that. Such things happen in this country.

19.00 hrs.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: The framing of the charge has already been challenged in the court. The matter is still sub judice. I wanted to bring it to your notice. A revision petition has been filed against it.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: A number of observations like that have been made and for that purpose, the High Court is always there.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Sir, I do not wish to take more time. I have taken much less time than some of my colleagues.

The issue is quite clear. Pre-meditated attacks are aimed not only at the rights of the minorities but are aimed also at the entire pluralistic fabric of the Indian society, multi-

religious, multi-cultural and multi-lingual, on which the unity of India's nationhood depends. This is my charge. Therefore, I think the Home Ministry should be more alert, more vigilant and more active, not just technically looking at things as to who is responsible or who is not responsible.

There is a wave rising in the country. Some people are trying to raise a wave throughout the country which in my opinion is a wave of fascist ideology, as depicted by different activities which are going on. This wave is being instigated and aroused in the country but we do not know what the Government of India or the Home Ministry has to say about it. The least they can do in my opinion is, they can condemn and denounce these steps. They need not take action if they do not want to or do not feel like it. But these things which have been brought to the public notice every single day cannot just be allowed to go like that. They should be denounced, condemned and repudiated by the Government of India. In that respect, the Ministry of Home Affairs is the main instrument which should act but unfortunately up to now, it has not acted.

Therefore, Sir, I hope that at the end of this debate, on behalf of the Government, the hon. Home Minister will be much more categorical, much more positive and much more clear as to how he wants the common people in this country to regard these people and their activities, which are going on. If the Government keep quiet, the ordinary people and public are not in a position to know what to say and what to do. This is a weakness in the whole situation, the weakness which will lead to these people getting the upper hand ultimately. And, if that is done it will be a sad day for our country. Therefore, you, we and everybody concerned, who have all these years protected secularism and unity of the nation, will be held responsible if we do not speak up, do not mobilise public opinion and do not take a forthright stand against this danger which is coming.

MR. SPEAKER: The House now stands adjourned to meet again at 11 A.M. on Thursday, the 10th December, 1998.

19.04 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the
Clock on Thursday, December 10, 1998/
Agrahayana 19, 1920 (Saka)*