

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fourth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. IX contains Nos. 11 to 20)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, August 21, 2000/Sravana 30, 1922 (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 of the sad demise of one of our former colleagues Shri Ganga Singh

Shri Ganga Singh was a Member of the Sixth Lok Sabha from 1977 to 1979 representing Mandi Parliamentary Constituency of Himachal Pradesh.

Earlier, Shri Ganga Singh was a Member of Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly from 1972 to 1977.

An advocate by profession, Shri Singh was an active social and political worker. He was associated with various organisations in different capacities. He worked relentlessly for uplift of the rural masses.

Shri Ganga Singh passed away on 15th August 2000 at his native village in Sundernagar Tehsil, Mandi, Himachal Pradesh at the age of 70.

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.

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

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 381

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Q. No. 381.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machhlishahar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the photograph of Father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi was desecrated in Etah district. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Not now, speak during Zero Hour.

...*(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. I am on my legs.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am on my legs. You have to respect the Chair. What is this?

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Why are you getting agitated, this situation is so serious ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, I am on my legs.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: First listen to the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Photos of Father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia,

*Not recorded.

Shri Jaiprakash Narayan, Dr. Bheemrao Ambedkar have been thrown somewhere ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh ji, I say that you can raise it during Zero hour also. What are you doing.

...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

11 04 hrs.

At this stage Shri Ramsagar Rawat and some other hon. Members came and stood near the Table.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Stop the telecast.

...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down at your seat, you will be given an opportunity during zero hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand, Question Hour is an important business. You should not use force to stall the proceedings of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down at your seat, it is not proper.

...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing the leaders also, Mulayam Singh ji, you please ask your party members, it is not proper. These are last days and we have lots of business, it is not proper. You would be given an opportunity during zero hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. I will give you opportunity in zero hour after Question hour.

[*English*]

Question-Hour is an important business of the House. A number of Members are interested to ask supplementary questions.

...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not proper, you please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh, I am once again appealing to you.

[*Translation*]

You should ask your members to sit down at their seats. I would allow you after Question Hour.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Photos of father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi, Baba Saheb Ambedkar,

Shri Jaiprakash Narayan, Dr. Lohia, Chaudhary Charan Singh were removed from offices and were desecrated...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: This is House, you are giving wrong message to the nation, it is not proper. If there is any problem then would you stall the proceedings of the House to discuss it, what is this procedure? Is there a new procedure for your members? Your notice has been disallowed. I will allow you during Zero Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: How can you stall the proceedings of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please go to your seats, you would be given opportunity then you can raise it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Are you supposed to stall transaction of the House? You please sit down, you would be given opportunity.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: First of all you should understand it. Are you telling any new procedure to the Chair?

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: First listen to me, you have given notice for suspension of Question Hour, it has been disallowed. What are you saying? There is a procedure of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It you don't listen to the Chair, how can I listen to you? First, you please sit down on your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You won't listen anything from the Chair. You have a separate system, separate rules and separate procedure. First you please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are getting agitated. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am not unhappy. It is a serious matter. You are a senior member.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: You should help us.

MR. SPEAKER: I would help you. I have disallowed your notice. I said that I will give you opportunity during Zero Hour. You don't listen me at all. You are sending your members to the well.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: You are getting agitated. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are listening nothing. It is not proper. If this continues, how I would conduct the proceedings of the House?

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Members are waiting to raise important matters.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, your behaviour in the House is always not proper.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): I have a submission. The issue which has been just raised here.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not proper to stand in the well of the House like this.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issues raised regarding desecration of memory of Father of the nation and Lohia ji and Dr. Ambedkar...(Interruptions). They are great national leaders and there is mention about Father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi, Lohiaji and Ambedkarji...(Interruptions) It is a national issue and it is very serious matter. And the Parliament should certainly express its concern in this regard. We all should be concerned about it and therefore I request this Government through you to gather information in this regard as they are great leaders. (Interruptions) Why do you hesitate in giving commitment? Get information from the State Government. First of all, please listen us. The Government should find out the reality and whoever is involved in desecrating should be punished severely and stringent action should be taken against them. We all should support this. What is objectionable in it? I do not understand...(Interruptions) Why the Government is evading this issue repeatedly?...(Interruptions). The Government should gather the information and come to the Parliament. The issue would be resolved...(Interruptions). Pramodji please do not talk to me. Please address the Chair...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Scindia, is it the way to discuss a matter?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: No, Sir. All I am saying is that let them say that they will get the information and come back to the House. If this is a fact

that such a high level of leadership has been insulted, let the Government come to the House with full information.

MR. SPEAKER: But the Government should also get the information.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, it is very clear that the issue is such that the entire House is concerned about it. Therefore, nothing will happen if the Minister here makes a response so that the Members can go back and the Question Hour could start. I am requesting that every matter cannot be taken as a routine matter. Sir, I am sure you will agree that if national leaders of that eminence have been insulted, some response should be there from the Government.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is wrong to desecrate photographs of Father of Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, Bharat Ratna Dr. Ambedkar or Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia. ...(Interruptions) Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav has raised this issue. This incident has occurred in a district of Uttar Pradesh. If you are giving me an order, I would certainly gather information from the State Government in this regard and intimate the House before its adjournment for the day.

MR. SPEAKER: You have listened the views of the Parliamentary Affairs Minister.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I fail to understand why such phrases like the Government is running away, shy and afraid are being used because you had not allowed the matter to be raised. If you had allowed, I must have responded because I always remain ready for responding. But when you have not allowed, why the Government is being dragged t. I fail to understand this...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter came to your knowledge and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has sympathetically considered to respond. We are not concerned about our insult. My photographs has been thrown and office has been got vacated. ...(Interruptions) Photograph of President of the Party is displayed in every Party Office, my photographs has been thrown into drains. ...(Interruptions) I am not so worried about it, I am alive but Photographs of Mahatma Gandhi, Lohiaji, Ambedkar ji, Jai Prakashji, Ram Sevak Yadav ji, Rajnarayan ji, Karpori Thakur ji, who are ideal for the whole country, have been desecrated ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have just listened to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: When we will get reply? He is avoiding on the pretext that you have not allowed. You tell then the Government will give reply? Our demand was...(Interruptions). I have demanded for a Privilege motion and Constitution of a Committee of Lok Sabha, I will not agree to this only. ...(Interruptions) A Committee of Lok Sabha must be constituted. What is Status of my notice on Breach of Privilege my office has been ransacked my coupons and about Rs. One lakh has been looted by D.M. and S.S.P. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh ji, please try to understand. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has just said that he will provide information to the House in this regard today itself.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: This is wrong. He would tell the House. Our demand is that a Committee of Lok Sabha should be constituted under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs...(Interruptions) The action would be taken only when the Committee is constituted. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and leader and members of my party should go there...(Interruptions) It is not like that. Such an insulting and inhuman behaviour have never been imagined in democratic set up. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are saying so many things but you have not said a sentence about discipline of your Member.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: We want to comply with your instructions. But we are helpless because we do not get justice. The justice is sought in every manner. We will follow your instructions...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has said that he would give this report in the House today itself.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: D.M. will say that he has not committed this act. ...(Interruptions) I would tell in this regard only to the Prime Minister, Home Minister and Parliamentary Affairs Minister. ...(Interruptions) D.M. talks directly to the Chief Minister. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Half an hour of question hour is over.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: The S.S.P. and D.M. openly say that do whatever you want to, they have direct links with the Chief Minister in Lucknow and people who are holding high posts in Delhi. In such a

situation can you tell us how report can be given and whose inquiry will be conducted. ...(Interruptions) When the question of breach of privilege be taken up. I would follow your instructions after expressing my views in one or two minutes...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You are not listening me, you are not following the instructions of the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You ask your members to go to their seats. Allow the smooth running of Question Hour. Half-an-hour is already over.

...(Interruptions)

11.28 hrs.

At this stage Shri Ramsagar Rawat and some other hon. Members went back to their seats

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The question of breach of privilege is under your consideration...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What happened to you?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is difficult to conduct the proceedings of the House in such a manner.

...(Interruptions)

11.30 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Modernisation of Postal Services

*381. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

*Not recorded.

(a) whether the Department of Posts has initiated a plan for modernisation of postal services in the country and Thar region of western Rajasthan particularly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the plan outlay provided for the purpose and the amount utilised on this account during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the details of schemes proposed to be taken up by the Government to make further improvement in postal services in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Department has initiated a plan for modernisation of postal services in the country since the beginning of the early nineties. It also includes the Thar region of Western Rajasthan.

2. The broad areas in which induction of technology is being attempted are as under:—

- (i) Computerisation of counter functions, the major point of interface with the customer, for providing a single window for all transactions.
- (ii) Use of the satellite based technology for transmission of money orders for the common man specially in rural areas.
- (iii) Automatising the mail processing system in major metropolitan cities.

3. During the 8th Five Year Plan 2600 computer based multipurpose country machines, 77 Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs) were installed in the country at a cost of Rs. 16.28 crores and Rs. 14.11 crores respectively. For automatic processing of mail two computerised centres have been set up at Mumbai and Chennai at a cost of Rs. 46.46 crores. With special reference to Western Rajasthan, it is stated that one VSAT station, 14 ESMO Centres and 82 multipurpose counter machines have been installed as stated at Annexure-I. Further, savings bank functions have been fully computerised at Jodhpur, Shastri Nagar, Bikaner and Sriganga Nagar Head Post Offices and a computerised Customer Care Centre, a computerised Philatelic Bureau have been established at Jodhpur. The total plan outlay during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 with regard to modernization and computerisation was as under:—

| | Outlay | Expenditure |
|-----------|--------------|-------------------|
| 1997-1998 | 42.95 crores | 38.76 crores |
| 1998-1999 | 44.48 crores | 37.77 crores |
| 1999-2000 | 61.09 crores | Under compilation |

State-wise expenditure during the last 3 years is given in Annexure II. This includes expenditure on modernisation of mail offices.

4. The following activities have been taken up by Government to make further improvement in postal services:—

- (i) Upgrading the VSAT system with induction of latest technology.
- (ii) Upgrading multipurpose country machines with the help of state of art software called, Meghdoot '98.
- (iii) Installation of automatic stamp cancelling machines at the identified post offices.
- (iv) Installation of electronic franking machines at identified Post Offices.
- (v) Installation of 1500 more Extended Satellite Money Order Stations.
- (vi) Installation of Bill payment software offering integrated counter service to the citizens.
- (vii) Supply chain management in e-commerce.
- (viii) Greeting Post.
- (ix) Setting up more automatic sorting machines.
- (x) Total computerisation of post offices in LAN environment.

ANNEXURE I

List of Multi-Purpose Counter Machines Installed in Western Rajasthan

| S.No. | Name of the Post Office | Total |
|-------|-------------------------|-------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Bikaner H. O. | 8 |
| 2. | Churu H. O. | 3 |
| 3. | Sardarshahar LSG PO | 1 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|----------------------------|----|
| 4. | Jhunjhunu H. O. | 1 |
| 5. | Jodhpur H. O. | 26 |
| 6. | Shastrinagar H. O. Jodhpur | 10 |
| 7. | Katchery S.O. Jodhpur | 4 |
| 8. | Chopasani Road SO Jodhpur | 1 |
| 9. | Residency Road PO Jodhpur | 1 |
| 10. | Jaisalmer H. O. | 4 |
| 11. | Nagaur H. O. | 1 |
| 12. | Pali H. O. | 1 |
| 13. | Sikar H. O. | 3 |
| 14. | Sirohi H. O. | 2 |
| 15. | Abu Road S.O. | 1 |
| 16. | Mt. Abu S.O. | 1 |
| 17. | Jalour H.O. | 1 |
| 18. | Sriganganagar H.O. | 9 |
| 19. | Hanumangarh Jn. H.O. | 1 |
| 20. | P.S.D. Jodhpur | 1 |
| 21. | Girdikot SO Jodhpur | 2 |

Annexure II

State-wise Split up of Expenditure on Modernisation of Post Offices & Mail Offices During the Last 3 years

(In lakhs)

| S.No. | Name of State | 1997-98 | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 |
|-------|---------------|---------|---------|-----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Assam | 193.11 | 31.94 | 34.71 |
| 2. | A.P. | 85.63 | 38.79 | 93.2 |
| 3. | Bihar | 32.31 | 37.54 | 27.15 |
| 4. | Delhi | 42.67 | 28.37 | 65.87 |
| 5. | Gujarat | 93.48 | 41.47 | 31.51 |
| 6. | Haryana | 44.29 | 28.02 | 25.85 |
| i | H.P. | 13.28 | 12.31 | 13.29 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-----|----------------|--------|--------|-------|
| 8. | J&K | 35.2 | 16.45 | 30.35 |
| 9. | Karnataka | 87.21 | 32.72 | 39.87 |
| 10. | Kerala | 91.56 | 69.73 | 29.03 |
| 11. | Madhya Pradesh | 53.65 | 35.9 | 23.38 |
| 12. | Maharashtra | 69.86 | 90.13 | 70.59 |
| 13. | North-East | 33.74 | 25.3 | 41.51 |
| 14. | Orissa | 49.18 | 40.22 | 32.97 |
| 15. | Punjab | 58.7 | 42.57 | 38.01 |
| 16. | Rajasthan | 79.73 | 18.69 | 19.82 |
| 17. | Tamil Nadu | 93.27 | 106.81 | 51.54 |
| 18. | U.P. | 161.17 | 100.47 | 60.69 |
| 19. | West Bengal | 114.54 | 98.03 | 58.76 |

[Translation]

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Postal Service is the basic problem of the rural areas. For its modernisation and upgradation, Rs. 42.95 crores, Rs. 44.48 crores and Rs. 61.90 crores are being spent. This amount is too little. You must be aware that India has 6 lakh villages and out of those 4.75 lakh villages do not have a post office. There are 1.12 lakh villages, which have Panchayat offices, but no post office. You must be knowing that letters, telegrams, parcel, money order and pension are delivered in the rural areas through the post office. 75% of population lives in the villages and the facilities of e-mail, internet and satellites are available only in the cities. What I want to ask is, whether you have laid any criteria, under which there should be a post office within a circumference of 300 kms. You have a criteria that population should be 3000 and this should be 5000 in rural areas in hilly regions. You have went to the extent of saying that there is one letter box for every 300 persons. I want to let you know that I come from western Rajasthan. On an average it takes about 6-7 days in letter clearance and sometimes it even takes 10-15 days and all this is because there is no post office there for as long a stretch as 15-20 kms. I am also a Member of the Consultative Committee. I appreciate that you have made a beginning there and a survey is being done. What I want to say is that you do something more for the modernisation of the post office. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You don't have to provide information in the Question Hour, you have to ask questions.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Sir, my first question relates to your announcement regarding VPP that every thing will be put in place by the year 2002. According to your criteria by what time you will be able to set up post offices. In the part (B) you have said that one letter box will be installed for every 300 population. By which year the work is going to be completed? Thank you.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, Shri Sona Ram Choudhary is a Member of the Consultative Committee and he has all the information. Let me tell you that the inhabited villages in the country is 600998, but the number of panchayats in the country is 230560. Out of these, only 115631 panchayats have post offices. The aim of the Government is to provide for a post office in every panchayat, but due to lack of funds we are able to provide post office for maximum of 500 villages only. First thing is that we make efforts and at our own lend we try to sort out the problems encountered in the process. Secondly, as you said, we have the criteria of the distance of three kilometres, population of 3000 and a minimum revenue earning of one-third for each post office. There are a number of villages, which fulfil these criteria but there is no post office there. Its main reason is that our Postal and Telecom Department have no lack of funds and because of that reason we are in a position to provide every village with telephones but as far as the Department of posts is concerned, it has scarcity of funds. Keeping that in view, I am not in a position to give any assurance. We have already done what was possible, that is, we have arranged for the keeping of one letter box in the villages having the population of, at least, 300. You are aware that we have started another scheme named 'Dak Sanchar Seva Kendra.' You know that going from one village to another is very difficult in desert, flood prone or hilly areas. Keeping that in mind, we have decided to put one letter box for every village having a population of 300. The postman there goes from one centre to another for collecting the letters. The people of the village will be benefitted if we arrange for one letter box for every gram panchayat or at two-three places within it. It will save the time which go waste in posting a letter or purchasing stamp. Secondly, the Government has a rule that those people who work for four to five hours less, will be designated as extra department agent. Due to this postman will be able to work for more bows and he will get an opportunity to become permanent. For your information, let me tell you that the country has 154541 post offices while there are 587445 letter boxes. The unemployed youths of the villages earlier used to get Rs. 300 through the Sanchar Seva Kendra. Two days ago, we have decided to give them Rs. 600. Gram Sabhas have been asked to appoint unemployed youths

to sell stamps and other postage materials. Some percentage is fixed for them out of the money thus earned. On the whole what we want is that people of more and more areas get the facilities of communication. As far as the post offices are concerned, keeping in view the fiscal condition of the Government, we have to depend on the Finance Ministry at every stage. Therefore we cannot fix a time limit...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If the supplementary question is long, then should the solution of the problem also be lengthy?

...*(Interruptions)*

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: The Minister is usually prompt in making announcements but I don't know why he is not making any announcement there? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If the supplementary is short, then only the reply will be good.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: In the ninth Five year Plan, Rs. 320.74 crore have been earmarked for post offices, which is a meagre amount. In 1998-1999, 102 post offices were modernised. There are 1 lakh 54 thousand post offices in India. How the things will move with such a pace? It is injustice to the rural areas. Will the hon. Minister take this matter to the Cabinet and get the allocation enhanced from Rs. 320.74 crore? If it cannot be done, then public bonds should be issued. The Government is pursuing the policy of privatisation. I suggest that postal services should be privatised and these should be provided to the people belonging to rural areas.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the question of rural areas is concerned, the Government is worried about that. There are no complaints that letters do not reach post offices or post men do not take letters to their destinations. However the question is that post offices should be opened in every village. I have already said that there are financial constraints in this regard.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether the Minister of Communication proposes to install multi-purpose counter machines in the post offices of Falaudi, Osiyan, Bhopalgarh, Peepar, Bilada and Luni towns. If so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the point raised by the hon. Member has been noted, I will look into it.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the growth of postal service is taking place at a snail's pace. May I know from the hon. Minister as to whether the Government would fix a target say, five or ten years, to see that all the *gram panchayats* will be covered by postal service?...*(Interruptions)*

Secondly, the efficiency of the postal service depends on the service conditions of the employees. Sir, I have seen in the newspapers that the Minister has sent a proposal for regularisation of Extra-Departmental Staff who are more than three lakhs in number. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the recommendations of the Talwar Committee, which was appointed by the Government, would be implemented by the Government or not?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as postal services are concerned, these are available at all places, but as regards the post offices...

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: How would people get services in the absence of post offices?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Post Office services and post offices are two different things. As regards post office services, these are available to people but as far as post offices are concerned, we can fix a time table for providing letter boxes. We would make arrangements for letter boxes in every panchayat comprising more than 300 villages in the next two years so that the common man could get this facility. As regard post offices, I have said earlier, it is for the Planning Commission to decide. We have no role in this decision. We have to decide on the basis of funds made available to us. Therefore, we are not in a position to open post offices in each panchayat or village.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as mentioned by the hon. Member the Government is examining the report of Talwar Committee.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 382 — Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a most important question. Please allow me to put one supplementary...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Yerrannaidu, please take your seat. I have already gone to the next Question.

[Translation]

Cases of Sterilization

+
*382. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:

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

(a) whether there is an alarming increase in population in the country;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the details of cases of sterilization operation conducted in the country during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the necessary steps being taken by the Union Government to control the increasing birth rate in the country?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) India's population increase since independence is as under:—

| Year | Population (in crore) | Growth rate (%) during the decade |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1951 | 36.1 | — |
| 1961 | 43.9 | 1.96 (1951-61) |
| 1971 | 54.8 | 2.20 (1961-71) |
| 1981 | 68.3 | 2.22 (1971-81) |
| 1991 | 84.6 | 2.14 (1981-91) |
| 2000 (11 th May) | 100 | 1.75* |

*Natural Growth rate for 1998

(c) State-wise details of cases of sterilization operations conducted in the country during the last three years are annexed.

(d) The following steps have been taken by Government under the National Family Welfare Programme to stabilize the population:

- (i) An integrated and holistic programme of Reproductive and Child Health that includes Maternal Health, Child Health and Contraception issues was launched in October, 1997.
- (ii) Information, Education and Communication Programme has been strengthened and revitalised, to further increase awareness about the benefits of small family.
- (iii) Increasing allocations and assistance to-States/UTs towards maintenance of family welfare infrastructure.

- (iv) Increasing the involvement of and collaboration with voluntary organisations and NGOs to bring about convergence in service delivery.

Government has adopted a National Population Policy in February, 2000 which provides a holistic and integrated multi-sectoral agenda for achieving population stabilization within the country. The immediate objective of the National Population Policy is to address the unmet needs of contraception, health infrastructure, health personnel and to provide integrated service delivery for basic reproductive and child health care. The medium-term objective is to bring the total fertility rates to replacement levels by 2010, through vigorous implementation of inter-sectoral operational strategies. The long-term objective is to achieve population stabilization by 2045, at a level consistent with the requirements of sustainable economic growth, social development, and environmental protection.

Annexure

Statewise Number of Sterilisation Operations conducted during 1997-98 to 1999-2000

| Sl.No. | State/U.T./Agency | 1997-98 | 1998-99* | 1999-2000* |
|-----------|-------------------|---------|----------|------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| I. | States | | | |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 629,031 | 728,976 | 751,984 |
| 2. | Assam | 12,050 | 14,171 | 25,880 |
| 3. | Bihar | 195,716 | 135,127 | 152,831 |
| 4. | Gujarat | 242,364 | 250,379 | 260,223 |
| 5. | Haryana | 94,042 | 91,219 | 96,485 |
| 6. | Karnataka | 395,624 | 371,273 | 413,092 |
| 7. | Kerala | 139,804 | 132,734 | 150,112 |
| 8. | Madhya Pradesh | 367,092 | 358,492 | 405,601 |
| 9. | Maharashtra | 571,476 | 532,714 | 558,000 |
| 10. | Orissa | 127,046 | 122,171 | 108,465 |
| 11. | Punjab | 108,625 | 113,935 | 126,061 |
| 12. | Rajasthan | 224,140 | 229,019 | 224,680 |
| 13. | Tamil Nadu | 332,991 | 335,967 | 373,695 |
| 14. | Uttar Pradesh | 307,799 | 346,333 | 377,765 |
| 15. | West Bengal | 321,969 | 259,273 | 267,803 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 16. | Arunachal Pradesh | 2,353 | 1,983 | 1,000 |
| 17. | Delhi | 37,699 | 35,159 | 37,182 |
| 18. | Goa | 4,158 | 4,358 | 5,101 |
| 19. | Himachal Pradesh | 32,474 | 30,760 | 31,783 |
| 20. | Jammu & Kashmir | 12,510 | 11,471 | 3,241 |
| 21. | Manipur | 2,640 | 2,895 | 1,127 |
| 22. | Meghalaya | 1,061 | 1,304 | 1,470 |
| 23. | Mizoam | 2,223 | 2,085 | 1,422 |
| 24. | Nagaland | 545 | 1,552 | NR |
| 25. | Sikkim | 1,113 | 1,104 | 970 |
| 26. | Tripura | 8,449 | 6,949 | 7,689 |
| <i>Union Territories</i> | | | | |
| 1. | A&N Islands | 1,966 | 1,977 | 1,990 |
| 2. | Chandigarh | 3,062 | 3,335 | 3,543 |
| 3. | D&N Haveli | 479 | 587 | 539 |
| 4. | Daman & Diu | 536 | 433 | 458 |
| 5. | Lakshadweep | 33 | 33 | 37 |
| 6. | Pondicherry | 9,705 | 9,452 | 11,617 |
| <i>III. Other Agencies</i> | | | | |
| 1. | M/O Defence | 18,888 | 17,761 | 18,074 |
| 2. | M/O Railways | 28,851 | 26,970 | 19,061 |
| All India | | 4,238,514 | 4,181,951 | 4,438,981 |

*Figures are provisional.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, population of our country has crossed 100 crore. Even though we may not be in the first place in other matters, we are first in the matter of population growth. After independence we have been creating a new Australia every years. Family Planning Programme has been implemented in our country and for this purpose huge

amount of economic assistance has been given to States. As the hon. Minister has stated in his reply, our population was 36.1 crore and between 1951-61 the growth rate remained 1.96 percent. But despite all efforts, this growth is continuing...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If there is noise, there will be no time for asking supplementary questions. You please keep quiet and only ask supplementary questions. I am observing the change.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: However, despite all efforts, this growth rate was 2.14 percent between 1981-91. This is an alarming situation. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to why the population growth is not being controlled in spite of huge funds being spent on it. Has his scheme remained confined to papers only?

MR. SPEAKER: Sir, as far as growth rate is concerned, there is a difference in the position in North India and South India. In Kerala birth rate per women is 1.7 percent and population growth has been checked there, but why have we failed to check this growth in North India. Will the Government make efforts to implement those measures in North India which have been adopted to South India?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that there has been growth in population and contention and concern of hon'ble Member in this regard is justified. It is also true that at one time stern measures were adopted to check population growth but seeing the reaction to such measures no Government or political party wants to say anything in regard to population. There are no two opinions that there has been spurt in population despite continuous implementation of population control programmes. The hon. Member has asked for information regarding the steps taken to check population growth. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to tell the hon. Member that viewing the seriousness of the matter, the Government has constituted a National Commission on Population Control which is chaired by the hon. Prime Minister. When the hon. Prime Minister becomes the Chairman, there is no doubt that the matter is serious. The Board comprised of members belonging to various political parties all over the country, Press correspondent, and other persons, who have interest in the subject. A meeting of the commission has been convened. The Government have considered various suggestions made in the meeting. Various suggestions made by Press correspondents all over the country have also been considered. The NGOs all over the country have also been consulted. After consulting the State Governments and action plan has been prepared. We are going to start work on that basis.

His second question is about population growth in North and South India. It is true that the population growth is high in the Northern States which are known as BIMARU States. Among them the Madhya Pradesh Government evolved its population Policy on this basis and they had made a beginning in this regard with a determination to check population growth. The Government of Uttar Pradesh have also declared their population

policy. The Chief Minister of Rajasthan has come and he gave an indication that they will take stringent action in this regard. On 31st instant we convened a meeting of all the Health Ministers and we had proceeded further for its implementation.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, contraceptions are an effective step to check population growth. I belong to Madhya Pradesh. In rural Areas especially in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh the women are ill informed about contraception due to lack of education, awareness and poverty and these are not available in rural areas. I would, therefore, like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, the action to be taken by the Government to make contraceptives available in rural areas.

Sir, another measure is natural family planning. If people are given proper feed back of natural family planning in the country, population can be controlled through it. Will the Government take some action in this direction? Finally, I would like to say that people follow the leader. In this country there are Chief Ministers and former Chief Ministers who have as many as 10 children. If this is the situation, how population can be controlled in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. As such will the Government contemplate to legislate a law so that people having more than two children are banned from contesting election?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are three wings, in the Health Department, Health, family welfare and Indian system of medicine. We have taken a decision that we will see that all the programmes of these three wings are so converted from health point of view as to reach each and every family in the country. This is our target.

Secondly, the hon'ble Member had said about the leaders. Among them we have Shri Karuna Nidhi, the leader of Tamil Nadu. The Health Minister of his State says that 15 years ago when they used to attend a marriage ceremony, they used to bless the couple not to opt for more than two children. But, it is being advised not to go for more than one now. Therefore, I request all the hon'ble Members of this House to join this programme as a leader...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there has been an uncontrolled population increase in our country due to a number of problems and scarcity of many a thing. About 29 children are born every minute in our country. As the hon'ble Member has said we increase our population equal to that of Australia every year. It is the greatest problem before us. After serious

consideration the Government of India has announced a new population policy and the Government is also providing huge funds to the States. My question is that the policy formulated by the Government remain on papers only in States. Will the Union Government chalk out some system of monitoring in regard to the funds provided to the State Government?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are going to evolve a strict system of monitoring and we shall monitor the funds provided to them.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a most important subject. I thank the Government to have announced the Population Policy and also to have appointed the Population Commission. We have decided to discuss this in this august House in the next Session.

MR. SPEAKER: Then, why are you asking the supplementary?

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Through you, I am asking the hon. Minister if the Government of India is providing any special incentive for the better-performing States or not.

No incentive is provided to some States which are doing better in the field of controlling the population. That is why, population is increasing. The Government of India and the State Governments are spending Rs. 1 crore for each child. If we reduce one child, we would be saving Rs. 1 crore. Better performing States would do some justice if the Government of India gives incentives to them. Otherwise, the population would increase and there would be no control over the population. What incentive the Government of India is going to provide to the couple who stops with one child? ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Actually, the matter which the hon. Member has raised is entirely different. All foreign investments are coming to those States which are performing better...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a good will delegation of the Parliament had visited China during the tenth Lok Sabha. It is true that China has been able to control its birth rate. No doubt, the population of our country is on the increase. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether the Government of India propose to bring stringent Legislation like 'one couple one issue' or, one couple two issue'?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if something happens in our Country we do not follow it but if something happens in other country we try to follow it. Respected Amartya Sen has said that we have two examples before us. One is of China and the other is of Kerala. If we follow the method adopted by Kerala, we too can control population growth and we are already adopting that method. India is unlike China. Coercive method of birth control has once failed in our country so we do not want to adopt it. Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have controlled the population growth rate in their States and Bihar, U.P. and Rajasthan can also do it by following their method.

[English]

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a fact that our population has grown from 33 crore to 100 crore. It is definitely an alarming situation. Just now an honourable Member has stated the example of China. We should not avoid the China's proposal in this matter just because it is a Communist country. We do not take the State; we should take the individual.

[Translation]

In 1970 we had given the slogan 'Hum Do Hamare Do' on these line.

[English]

This time also we think that we should take some stringent measures. Those who have one, they should be rewarded; and those who got more than two, they should be punished. Would the Government take such measures or not?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Actually in the meeting of the Population Commission, most of the leaders have agreed that coercive method should not be followed. In 1994, in Cairo, leaders of all the countries of the world had agreed that coercive method should not be followed in the population control, rather, persuasive method should be followed. India is following that.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, nobody will deny and the Minister agrees that it is a very important issue. In the Special Session of this House, which was held during the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of our Independence, every hon. Member who participated—almost all the hon. Members participated—have agreed that we should give primacy to this issue. ...*(Interruptions)* And the unanimous resolution that we passed in this House has nation's commitment to this problem or for solution to this problem. The primacy was given

to the population problem. Now, somehow, I find that we have a very *ad hoc* response to this matter. No concerted move is there. A Commission has been appointed more for public consumption, not for any carrying out any activity. I do not know as to how many members are there in the Commission. How can they deliberate seriously on a matter like this? That cannot be a functional Commission. You have made a selective inclusion in the Committee. I do not mind that.

As the custodian of this House, and as a representative to the whole country, you should take the initiative. Otherwise, the Government takes it as a very partisan issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Not at all.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Yes, it does. The composition of your Commission shows that. Whenever some question is raised, participation is there more out of hilarity than a serious approach is there. I am not casting any aspersion on any Member. Therefore, this vital and national problem has to be tackled in that spirit. I would request you—let us not depend on the Government of this side—to take the initiative, only then some good sense would prevail. That is my request. What has been the response of the Government in this regard?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Actually, this Government is so serious about the population that the first time, the Population Commission has been constituted. The Prime Minister is heading the Commission. For the first time, from the ramparts of Red Fort, the Prime Minister has announced the control of population as one of the policies and the Government is also acting on it. We have started the activities on the control of population.

MR. SPEAKER: What about the seriousness of this policy?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Yes, Sir, we are very serious about it.

SHRI E. AHAMED: I would like to ask a question in a different way. The population is controlled in a State like Kerala, and there are other States where there is no control over the population. But the Finance Commission is giving more money in relation to the population. If a State has got more population, that State would get more money. Just because we are controlling the population, we are getting less money. I do not know as to what is the criterion.

In the field of human development, States like Kerala have marched forward. The Chief Minister of Andhra

Pradesh has also pointed out this fact. Just because we are implementing those things we are being denied more money, and those States which are not implementing and having more population, they are getting more share. I would like to know as to what is the policy of the Government in this matter.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Regarding the issue raised by the hon. Member that the Finance Commission possibly has given more shares to non-performing States, I would like to state that actually the Finance Commission is a constitutional body, an independent body. Whatever decisions it actually takes, we have to honour the same. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: They are not giving incentives to those States which are performing better in the field of population. ...*(Interruptions)* Would the Government consider our request?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: We would consider that from our Ministry. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Today, leaders of the parties are very active in the House!

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Our Minister belongs to the State of Bihar where unfortunately the population is the highest in the country.

MR. SPEAKER: Time is very short. Please ask a brief supplementary.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: I just wanted to make a suggestion to the Minister that in order to control our population, the Government has to start from Bihar. In Bihar, the most important thing that is lacking is the educational facilities, especially, we should make education compulsory for a girl child. Girl child should be sent to school so that by the time she attains the age of 12 or 14, she would be aware of her responsibility to the country.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: We have been taking all these measures as suggested by the hon. Member.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister has said that he is seriously thinking over population control. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether the Government would consider to debar such people from contesting Assembly or Parliament elections who have more than 2 or 3 children instead of giving such assurances only and whether the Government propose to bring any legislation to this effect?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we ultimately come to the same point whether we should implement population control through coercive method to implement population control.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as women folk in village are illiterate and they quote that Lord Krishna was the eighth child of his parents, I want to know whether the Government has any plan to propagate population control through Nukkad Natak and plays?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: We are working on the suggestions of hon'ble Members.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Production of Coastal Ecology and Environment

*383. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Committee to survey and study India's coastal line for the purpose of protection of coastal ecology and environment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to protect the ecology of the coastal region?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The Central Government has assigned a study on "Status of Coastal Regulation Zone" to the Centre for Earth Science Studies (CESS), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. This involves a critical study of all issues pertaining to the implementation of the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 and the preferred approach for coastal area regulation and management. To review the progress of this study and to formulate a National Coastal Zone Policy, a Steering Committee has been constituted.

The Steering Committee is required to provide guidance for the preparation of new National Coastal Zone Policy. The terms of reference for the Steering Committee is as follows:

- (i) Clear definition of objectives for the new National Coastal Zone Policy.
- (ii) Whether different regulations including the jurisdictions, should apply to different coastal stretches and inland water bodies on the basis of geomorphologic, ecological and demographic characteristics.
- (iii) Appropriate regulatory and enforcement machinery at various levels.
- (iv) List of developmental activities to be permitted/regulated/prohibited.
- (v) Type of regulatory mechanisms called for to minimise any adverse impact of developmental activities on the coastal areas environment and to suggest mechanisms for improvement of coastal areas specially beaches.
- (vi) To suggest economic instruments for regulating the developmental activities in the coastal areas.

To protect the coast and its environment, the Central Government has issued a Coastal Regulation Zone Notification in February, 1991. The Notification imposes prohibition on activities in the coastal areas which have sensitive eco-systems and regulates activities in other areas of the coast.

To ensure proper monitoring of the implementation of the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991, the Central Government has notified National Coastal Zone Management Authority and State/Union Territory Coastal Zone Management Authorities.

Inquiry into Escalator Incident

*384. SHRI ANANT GUDHE:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the inquiry report in connection with a girl's death in an escalator of IGI airport in December, 1999 has been received by the Government;

(b) if so, the findings thereof and the details of punishment given to the persons responsible for the incident; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to modernise and improve such facilities at the airports to avoid recurrence of such incidents?

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

(b) R.C. Jain Committee submitted its Report on Inquiry into Accident in the escalator on 7.2.2000. As per the report on accident, the findings of the inquiry Committee are as under:—

- (i) The quality of the maintenance work by OTIS was not upto the mark. Supervision and monitoring of this work by the staff of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) was also inadequate. As a result, the comb plate and the foot plate of the escalator were loosely held and got shifted under pressure creating a gaping hole resulting in the accident;
- (ii) The escalator was not upgraded;
- (iii) The reaction of various functionaries present on the spot of accident was inadequate and lacked sensitivity; and
- (iv) The treatment meted out to affected persons was quite inadequate considering the extraordinary nature of the accident;

For officials of the Airports Authority of India have since been suspended.

(c) The following steps have been taken by AAI to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future:—

- (i) The escalator and other such equipments are being upgraded and provided with requisite safety devices;
- (ii) Instructions for use of these equipments have been displayed prominently of the benefit of the users; and
- (iii) The staff of all the agencies at the airport have been imparted familiarisation training for use of the equipments and for dealing with any unforeseen situation.

Intra-Regional Connections Airlinked

*385. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of stations airlinked and intra-regional connections between stations in the North Eastern Region is decreasing;

(b) If so, the details of steps Government propose to take to increase air link and intra-regional connections in the region;

(c) whether a Task-Force was constituted for improving the airport infrastructure and air-links in the North East Region;

(d) if so, the details of composition of the Task-Force;

(e) whether some recommendations have been made by the Task-Force;

(f) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to introduce 50 seaters aircraft for intra-regional connectivity in the North Eastern Region and Sikkim?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) With a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services and taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions in the country, Route Dispersal Guidelines have been framed which, *inter-alia*, stipulate that all scheduled operators will deploy in the North East, Jammu & Kashmir, Lakshadweep Islands and Andaman & Nicobar Islands (category-II), at least 10% of their capacity deployed on Trunk Routes (category-I). Scheduled airlines are scrupulously complying with the stipulations. However, with a view to encourage small turbo-prop aircraft operation to airlink smaller and non-metro cities, it has been decided to provide Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) at international prices and notify ATF for such operations as a 'declared good' under the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956 thereby capping rate of sales tax at 4%. Further, routes within the seven States of the North East have since been exempted from the levy of Inland Air Travel Tax (IATT).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The composition of the Task Force was as under:—

- | | |
|--|----------|
| (i) Sh. P.V. Jayakrishnan, Former Secretary (CA) | Chairman |
| (ii) Sh. A.P. Singh, Former Joint Secretary M/o CA | Member |
| (iii) Sh. H.S. Khola, DGCA | —do— |
| (iv) Sh. Manet Paes Commercial Director, Indian Airlines | —do— |
| (v) Sh. K. Ramalingam, Member, (Planning), AAI | —do— |
| (vi) Sh. L.K. Ganju North Eastern Council | —do— |

(e) and (f) Major recommendations relate to:

- (i) Development of airport infrastructure viz. construction of runways, terminal building, installation of modern navigational systems etc.
 - (ii) improvement in air services i.e. airlinking capitals of all the North Eastern States, induction of 50 seater aircraft; and
 - (iii) tax concessions and creation of Civil Aviation Development Fund to make air services economically viable.
- (g) To encourage small (turbo-prop) aircraft to connect smaller and non-metro cities, certain steps as mentioned in reply to parts (a) and (b) above have been taken. Indian Airlines is carrying out further analysis of the project report in respect of acquisition of six 50 seater aircraft. Jet Airways has five 62 seater ATR-72-500 aircraft in its fleet and has proposed to import 3 additional such aircraft. Sahara Airlines have already been permitted to import seven 30 seater EMB-120 aircraft which are yet to be imported.

Problem of Micro-Nutrient Deficiency

*386. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the problem of micro-nutrient deficiency in the country;
- (b) if so, whether some plans to control malnutrition are envisaged by the Government;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the time by which these are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. To prevent and control the problem of micronutrient deficiencies, Government is implementing several Programmes namely, the National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme Reproductive and Child Health Programme for distribution of iron folic acid tablets and vitamin 'A'. Besides, a Pilot Project for control of Micronutrient malnutrition is being implemented.

[*Translation*]

Fatal Road Accidents

*387. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the percentage of fatal road accidents in the country has been increasing drastically;
- (b) if so, the assessment of the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government have identified the causes for such an increase;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) what percentage of accidents are caused by irresponsible driving?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RANJNATH SINGH): (a) to (e) As per available data, the total number of persons killed in road accidents in the country during the years 1996, 1997 and 1998 are 71943, 61000 and 62721 respectively. Various causes of road accidents in the country are: Lack of Traffic discipline on the part of drivers and road users, phenomenal increase in the number of Motor Vehicles with no corresponding increase in the road capacity, mixed traffic conditions, overspending, overloading, drunken driving, mechanical defect in vehicles, etc. As per information available, the percentage of irresponsible driving among these factors has been assessed at about 76%.

[*English*]

National Long Distance Telecom System

*388. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have decided to deregulate the National Long Distance Telecom System (STD Telephony) and curb the monopoly of the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited on the international bandwidth access;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along-with the reasons for taking such a decision in this regard; and

(c) the manner in which the activities of private and the Government agencies are likely to be harmonised under the new regime?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) The New Telecom Policy, 1999 (NTP-99) clearly mentioned that the National Long Distance Service will be opened for competition *w.e.f.* January 1, 2000. It had also been announced at the time of the meeting of Information Technology Ministers on 15th July, 2000 that guidelines for this purpose will be finalised before 15th August, 2000. In accordance with these decisions, the guidelines for issue of licence for National Long Distance Service have been announced on 13th August, 2000 after due consultations with the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India. A copy of the guidelines is enclosed as statement.

In order to promote faster growth of the Sector, two categories of infrastructure providers have been recognised. One will provide dark fibre, etc. and the other end-to-end bandwidth. The former category will neither require licence nor entry fee. The latter category will require licence with revenue sharing on the lines of NLDO and will have unrestricted entry without entry fee.

The monopoly of VSNL is confined to International Telephony Service. Therefore, Software Technology parks and Internet Service Providers are already accessing international bandwidth for transmission of data only.

The opening up of National Long Distance Telephony for the private sector will lead to competition and better services, particularly by way of enhancing the availability of domestic bandwidth.

The activities of the private sector will be governed as per the terms and conditions of the licence and will be regulated by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India in accordance with the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997, as amended from time to time, to ensure fair competition and protection of consumer interests.

Statement

Details of Guidelines for Issue of Licence for National Long Distance Service

The New Telecom Policy '99 envisaged the opening up of the National long distance service beyond the service area to the private operators. The Government has decided to open the National Long Distance Service without any restriction on the number of operators. Following are the broad guidelines for issue of Licence for National Long Distance Operations (NLDO) in India;

1. The applicant must be an Indian company, registered under the Companies Act' 1956.
2. The applicant company shall submit the application in the prescribed Application form.
3. The applicant company can apply only for one licence for NLDO.
4. The licence for NLDO shall be issued on non-exclusive basis, for a period of 20 years, extendable by 10 years at one time, for inter-circle Long Distance operations within the territorial jurisdiction of India.
5. The total foreign equity in the applicant company must not exceed 49% at any time during the entire licence period. Investment in the equity of the applicant company by an NRI/OCB/ International funding agencies will be counted towards its foreign equity. In this regard the applicant company shall submit a certificate from the competent authority to the effect that total foreign equity in the applicant company does not exceed 49%.
6. The applicant company shall submit, along with the application, the Roll Out plan indicating the names of Long Distance Charging Areas (LDCAs) in each telecom circle for coverage in four phases including the coverage of uneconomic and remote areas.
7. The applicant company shall pay one time Entry Fee of Rs. 100 crores before the signing of the Licence in the form of Demand Draft Pay Order payable at New Delhi in favour of Pay & Accounts Officer (Headquarter), Department of Telecom and shall be non-refundable. In addition thereto, four Bank Guarantees (BG) of Rs. 100 crores each shall be given which will be released back on completion of each phase in the manner described below subject to fulfilling the network Roll out obligations by establishing Point of Presence in LDCAs:

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| (i) Completion of Phase I | Rs. 100 Crores |
| (ii) Completion of Phase II | Rs. 100 Crores |
| (iii) Completion of Phase III | Rs. 100 Crores |
| (iv) Completion of Phase IV | Rs. 100 Crores |
8. Any shortfall below the percentage of network coverage - Phase I, II, III & IV, will result in encashment & forfeiture of the particular BG relating to that phase. There will be no carry

- forward of the unfulfilled network obligation from one phase to another.
9. The applicant company shall also submit business plan along with its funding arrangement for financing the project.
 10. The applicant company shall make its own arrangements for Right of Way (ROW). However, the Central Government will issue necessary notification on request bringing the NLDO licence for the purposes of placing telegraph lines under Part III of the Indian Telegraph Act '1885. Provided that non-availability of the ROW or delay in getting permission/clearance from any agency shall not be construed or taken as an excuse for non-fulfillment of the Roll-out obligations.
 11. The applicant company shall have a minimum paid up equity capital of Rs. 250 Crores on the date of the application and shall submit the best proof thereof along with the application for licence.
 12. The promoters of applicant company shall have a combined networth of Rs. 2500 crores. The networth of only those promoters shall be counted who have at least 10% equity stake in the total equity of the company. Here networth shall mean as the sum total, in Indian rupees, of paid up equity capital and free reserves. While counting Networth the foreign currency shall be converted into Indian Rupees at the prevalent rate indicated by the Reserve Bank of India on the date of the application.
 13. The constituent(s) having at least 30% of total equity in the applicant company must have an experience of telecom sector and the proof thereof shall be attached with the Application for licence.
 14. In addition to entry fee described above the licence fee in the form of revenue share @ 10% plus prescribed contributions towards the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USO fund) with a total cap of 15% is payable.
 15. Provided further that the fee/royalty for the use of spectrum and possession of wireless telegraphy equipment shall be separately payable as per the details and prescription of Wireless Planning & Coordination Wing. The fee/royalty for the user spectrum/possession of wireless telegraphy equipment depends upon various factors such as frequency, hop and link length, area of operation etc.
 16. The application company shall submit Financial Bank Guarantee (FBG) of Rs. 20 crores one year after the date of signing the licence agreement or before the commencement of service whichever is earlier. Initially, FBG shall be valid for a period of six months and shall be renewed from time to time for such amount as may be directed by the Central Government.
 17. The dues/fees/royalties for the use of spectrum/possession of Wireless Telegraphy equipment shall be separately securitised by furnishing FBG of equal amount valid for a period of one year renewable from time to time till final clearance of all such dues.
 18. Change in the name of the applicant company or the licensee, as the case may be, shall be permitted in accordance with the provisions under the Companies Act, 1956.
 19. The application shall be decided, so far as practicable, within 15 days of the submission of the application and the applicant company shall be informed accordingly. In case the applicant is found to be eligible for grant of licence for NLDO, the applicant shall be required to deposit Entry Fee and submit Bank Guarantees/other documents and sign the licence agreement immediately within a period of three months from the date of issue of the letter falling which it will be presumed that the applicant is no longer interested and the application will stand rejected.
 20. In case the applicant is found to be not eligible for the grant of licence for NLDO, the applicant shall be informed accordingly, whereafter he can file a fresh application removing the deficiencies.
 21. The NLD Service refers to the carriage of switched bearer telecommunications service over a long distance and NLDO licence will have a right to carry inter circle traffic excluding intra-circle traffic except where such carriage is with mutual agreement with fixed service provider in accordance with their mutually agreed terms. NLDOs can make mutually agreed arrangements with FSPs for picking up the traffic for the leg between Long Distance Charging Centre (LDCC) and Short Distance Charging Centres (SDCCs).
 22. NLDO shall be required to make own suitable arrangements/agreements for leased lines with the Access Providers for last mile.
 23. Licences will be issued without any restriction on the number of entrants for NLD service.

24. Interconnection between the networks of different service providers shall be as per national standards of CCS No. 7 issued from time to time by Telecom Engineering Centre (TEC).
25. The NLDO Licensee may enter into suitable arrangements with other service providers to negotiate Interconnection Agreements whereby the interconnected networks will provide the following:
 - (a) To connect, and keep connected, to their Applicable Systems.
 - (b) To establish and maintain such one or more Points of Interconnect as are reasonably required and are of sufficient capacity and in sufficient numbers to enable transmission and reception of the messages by means of Applicable Systems.
 - (c) To meet all reasonable demand for the transmission and reception of messages between the interconnected systems.
26. The terms and conditions of interconnection including standard interfaces, points of interconnection and technical aspects will be such as mutually agreed between the service providers.
27. The NLDO Licensee shall for the purpose of providing the service install own equipment so as to be compatible with other service/Access providers' equipment to which the NLDO licensee's Applicable Systems are intended for interconnection.
28. The NLDO Licensee shall comply with any direction on interconnection regulations issued by the TRAI under TRAI Act, 1997.
29. The NLDO Licensee shall operate and maintain the licensed Network conforming to Quality of Service standards to be mutually agreed between the service providers in respect of Network-Network Interface.
30. The charges for access or interconnection with other networks shall be based on mutual agreements between the service providers subject to the restrictions issued from time to time by TRAI under TRAI Act, 1997.
31. The network resources including the cost of upgrading/modifying interconnecting networks to meet the service requirements of National Long

Distance service will be per mutually negotiated sharing arrangements between the service providers.

32. It shall be mandatory for fixed service providers, cellular mobile service providers, cable service providers, to provide interconnection to NLD service providers whereby the subscribers could have a free choice to make inter-circle/international long distance calls through NLD service provider.
33. The applicant company shall pay a processing fee along with the application of Rs. 15,000/- in the form of Demand Draft/Pay Order payable at New Delhi in the name of Pay & Accounts Officer (Headquarter) DOT and the same shall not be refunded for reason whatsoever.
34. The application is to be submitted to the Section Officer, BS-I, Department of Telecommunications, Room No. 1119, Sanchar Bhavan, 20 Ashok Road, New Dehi-110 001.

Guidelines for Issue of Licence to Infrastructure Providers Category-II (IP-II)

The Infrastructure Providers Category-II (IP-II) are those Infrastructure Providers who lease/rent out/sell end to end bandwidth *i.e.* digital transmission capacity to carry a message.

The following are the guidelines for issue of Licence for Infrastructure Providers Category II to be called IP-II.

1. The applicant must be an Indian company, registered under the Companies Act' 1956.
2. The applicant company shall submit the application in the prescribed Application form for grant of a licence for Infrastructure Provider Category-II (P-II).
3. The foreign equity in the applicant company will not exceed 49% at any time during the entire licence period. Investment in the equity of the applicant company by an NRI/OCB/international funding agencies will be counted towards its foreign equity. In this regard, the applicant company shall also submit a certificate from the competent authority to the effect that total foreign equity in the applicant company does not exceed 49%.
4. The applicant company shall make its own arrangements of Right of Way (ROW). However, the Central Government will issue necessary

notification on request bringing the IP-II licensees for the purpose of placing telegraph lines under Part III of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.

5. The applicant company shall submit Performance Bank Guarantee (PBG) of Rs. 100 crores before signing of the Licence Agreement for ensuring compliance of licence conditions including timely payment of licence fee and other dues/fees/royalty for use of spectrum/possession of wireless telegraphy equipment in the prescribed Proforma given in the Draft Licence Agreement. Initially the PBG shall be valid for a period of two years and shall be renewed from time to time till the expiry of the licence, as directed by the Licensor.
6. The Licence Fee in the form of revenue share @ 10% plus contributions towards the Universal Service Obligations (USO) Fund with a total cap of 15% is payable.

Provided further that the fee/royalty for the use of spectrum and possession of wireless telegraphy equipment shall be separately payable as per the details and prescription of Wireless Planning & Co-ordination Wing. The fee/royalty for the use of spectrum/possession of Wireless Telegraph Equipment depends upon many factors such as frequency, hop & link length, area of operation etc., the details may be obtained from Wireless Planning & Co-ordination Wing.

7. Change in the name of the applicant company or the licensee, as the case may be, shall be permitted in accordance with the Companies Act, 1956.
8. The application shall be decided so far as practicable within 15 days of the submission of the application and the applicant company shall be informed accordingly. In case the applicant is found to be eligible for grant of licence for IP II, the applicant shall be required to deposit the requisite fee and submit bank guarantee and other documents within a period of three months from the date of the issue of the approval and the Licence Agreement shall be signed immediately failing which it will be presumed that the applicant is no longer interested and the application will stand rejected.
9. In case the applicant is found to be not eligible for the grant of licence for IP II, the applicant

will be informed accordingly whereafter he can file a fresh application removing the deficiencies.

10. The licence for IP II shall be issued on non-exclusive basis, for a period of 20 years, extendable if found expedient, by 10 years at one time, for leasing/selling/renting out end-to-end bandwidth within the territorial jurisdiction of India.
11. Licence will be issued to the applicant without any restriction on the number of entrants in the area of IP II.
12. Licensee will lease/sell or rent out end-to-end bandwidth to the other Licensees of Telecom Services on mutually agreed terms and conditions subject to the restrictions issued by TRAI under TRAI Act, 1997. The copy of such agreements shall be submitted to the Central Government within 15 days of signing of a particular agreement.
13. IP-II Licensee shall provide the infrastructure in a non-discriminatory manner.
14. The applicant company shall pay a processing fee along with the application of Rs. 10,000/- in the form of Demand Draft/Pay Order payable at New Delhi in the name of Pay & Accounts Officer (Headquarter) DOT and the same shall not be refunded for any reason whatsoever.
15. The application is to be submitted to the Section Officer, BS-I, Department of Telecommunications, Room, No. 1119, Sanchar Bhavan, 20 Ashok Road, New Delhi-110 001.

Guidelines for Registration of Infrastructure Providers-Category-I (IP-I)

The Infrastructure Providers Category-I are those Infrastructure Providers who provide assets such as dark fibres, Right of Way, duct space & tower.

The following are the guidelines for the registration of Infrastructure Providers Category I to be called IP-I.

1. The applicant must be an Indian company, registered under the Companies Act '1956.
2. There is no restriction on the level of foreign equity in the applicant company.
3. The company shall submit the application for registration in the prescribed form.
4. The applicant company shall make its own arrangement for Right of Way (ROW).

5. Change in the name of the applicant company or the licensed IP-I, as the case may be, shall be permitted in terms of the provisions under the Companies Act, 1956.
6. The applicant company shall be informed of the approval or rejection of the application as far as practicable within 15 days of submission of the application.
7. The registration for IP-I shall be on non-exclusive basis without any restriction on the number of entrants.
8. The IP-I registered company shall provide dark fibres, Right of Way, duct space, towers on lease/rent out/sale basis to the licensees of telecom services on mutually agreed terms and conditions.
9. The IP-I registered company shall submit a copy of an agreement entered into with the other service providers or IP-II to the DOT within 15 days of signing of such agreement.
10. IP-I registered company shall provide for the use of infrastructure in a non-discriminatory manner.
11. The applicant company shall pay a processing fee along with the application of Rs. 5,000/- in the form of Demand Draft/Pay Order payable at New Delhi in the name of Pay & Accounts Officer (Headquarter) DOT and the same shall not be refunded for any reason whatsoever.
12. The application is to be submitted to the Section Officer, BS-I, Department of Telecommunications, Room No. 1119, Sanchar Bhavan, 20 Ashok Road, New Delhi-110 001.

[Translation]

Academic Standard of Doctors in AIIMS

*389. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the declining quality/standards of the doctors passing out from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS);

(b) if so, the reasons for such decline in academic standard of Doctors in AIIMS;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps in this direction; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The Institute is producing high quality doctors who have obtained admission through rigorous All India entrance examination. The academic standard of the institute has been consistently high as the students/doctors are not only exposed to the latest medical advances and state-of-the-art medical technology, but to a complex clinical, hands-on experience. The quality of doctors passing out from the Institute is recognized and appreciated by hospitals and research/academic institutions in India and overseas.

[English]

Inspection of Planes by DGCA

*390. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation has inspected all the planes of Alliance Air after the crash of the plane at Patna;

(b) if so, whether any technical opinion has been sought from Boeing and other manufacturers of the planes;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the aeroplane manufacturers have certified the technical proficiency of their planes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) All the Boeing 737-200 aircraft of Alliance Air are regularly inspected as per the approved maintenance programme by qualified engineers of the airline. DGCA carries out surveillance of the maintenance performed by the airlines. After the crash, the surveillance of the maintenance of Alliance Air aircraft has been intensified.

(b) and (c) The maintenance schedules and the periodicity of maintenance schedules is in accordance with the manufacturers programme as given in the manufacturer's Maintenance Planning Document (MPD).

(d) and (e) The Federal Aviation Administration of USA who are the regulatory authority of aviation industry in USA have issued type certificate for Boeing 737-200

series aircraft manufactured by M/s. Boeing Co. The type certificate certifies the technical proficiency of the aeroplane. Alliance Air operate these series of aircraft.

Diversion of Funds Released for Maintenance of National Highways

*391. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have some policy in regard to tackling the problem of diversion of funds to other heads by the State Governments which are released by the Union Government to them for maintenance of National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have received complaints regarding diversion of funds in respect of various States and particularly Assam;

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

(e) the total amount released to Assam for maintenance and repair of National Highways during 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) and (b) Funds to the States are allocated under the reimbursement procedure and diversification of funds is not possible.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) An amount of Rs. 3420.00 lakhs and Rs. 2000.00 lakhs was allocated for Maintenance & Repair and Special Repair Programme respectively to the State of Assam during 1999-2000.

[Translation]

Cargo Handling by Indian Ships

*392. SHRI MANSINH PATEL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether loading-unloading of freight through Indian Ships is continuously decreasing;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the target set and the achievements made in this regard during the last three years; and

(d) the steps by the Government to increase the cargo handling by the Indian Ships?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) and (b) Presumably the question refers to loading and unloading of coastal cargo handled by Indian Ships at Indian Ports and percentage share of Indian flag vessels in the overseas cargo traffic at Indian Ports. The following figures are available:—

(^{'000 Tonnes})

| Year | Unloaded | Loaded | Total | Percentage of cargo handled by Indian ships to total Cargo |
|-----------------|----------|--------|--------|--|
| Overseas | | | | |
| 1997-98 | 53416 | 7393 | 60809 | 30.0 |
| 1998-99 | 55054 | 5917 | 60971 | 30.5 |
| Coastal | | | | |
| 1997-98 | 41106 | 32160 | 73266 | 89.7 |
| 1998-99 | 42381 | 33386 | 75767 | 92.0 |
| Total | | | | |
| 1997-98 | 94522 | 39553 | 134075 | 47.2 |
| 1998-99 | 97435 | 39303 | 136738 | 48.4 |

The figures show that there has been no decline in the cargo handled by Indian ships.

(c) The emphasis during the Ninth Plan has been mainly on maintaining the existing share of Indian flag vessels in Overseas trade *i.e.* in liner trade 9.8 per cent, dry bulk trade 15.6 per cent and in petroleum products 51.8 per cent. No target has however been set for the purpose on a year to year basis.

(d) The steps taken by Government to increase the share of cargo transportation by Indian Ships, include:—

- (i) Permitting import of large vessels under Open General Licence *w.e.f.* 1.4.1997.
- (ii) Participation of Shipping Corporation of India in joint venture for LNG transportation.
- (iii) Shipping Companies have been permitted to retain sale proceeds of Indian ships abroad for fresh acquisition.
- (iv) Freedom to time charter out Indian ships to foreign companies for employment in international cross trade by Indian shipping companies.
- (v) Relaxation of Age norms for acquisition of second-hand vessels.
- (vi) Simplification of procedure for acquisition of second-hand/new ships.
- (vii) Restoration of benefit under Section 33 AC of Income Tax Act to Shipping Industry *w.e.f.* 1.4.2000.
- (viii) Reiterating the Government policy of buying on FOB (Free on board) basis and selling on CIF (Cost, insurance freight) basis for all Government Departments/Public Sector Undertakings from time to time.

[English] .

Preparation for Olympics, 2000

*393. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAOTALA:
SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are making special preparation for India's participation in the Olympics to be held at Sydney in September, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken decision regarding the events in which India is likely to participate;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether selection of Indian players for the same has been finalised as per the existing norms and the players are being imparted intensive training with the help of some foreign coaches; and

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

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is providing special training to our sportspersons who have qualified for Olympics as per the qualification norms laid down by International Sports Federations. The probables of Olympic Games are imparted coaching by foreign coaches and some of them are sent abroad for intensive coaching. All necessary scientific and equipment support is provided by the Government. In Rowing and Hockey, the terms have been sent to U.S.A. and Australia respectively for intensive training under expert supervision.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. India has qualified to participate in the XXVIIth Olympic Games to be held from 15th September, 2000 to 1st October, 2000 in the following disciplines as per the qualifying norms laid down by the respective International Federations:—

1. Athletics; 2. Badminton; 3. Boxing; 4. Hockey (Men); 5. Judo; 6. Rowing; 7. Shooting; 8. Swimming; 9. Table Tennis; 10. Tennis; 11. Weightlifting; and 12. Wrestling.

India would be participating in these disciplines.

(e) and (f) In the Sydney Olympic Games only the sportspersons/team qualified as per the norms laid down by the International Sports Federations concerned can participate. Accordingly, most of the teams have been selected. Athletics and Weightlifting teams will be finalised by 22nd August, 2000 as the deadline for sending the entry by name is 25th August, 2000. For imparting intensive training to all probables, Government has engaged 14 foreign coaches/experts.

Privatisation of Container Terminal of Jawahar Lal Nehru Port Trust

*394. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of SUFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal to privatise the Container Terminal of Jawahar Lal Nehru Port Trust; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) and (b) Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust has recently placed before its Board of Trustees, a proposal for privatisation of its existing container terminal. No decision has yet been taken by the Board of Trustees in the matter.

[*Translation*]

Increase in Level of Carbon Dioxide

*395. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the level of Carbon Dioxide in the atmosphere is rapidly increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to curb the level of Carbon Dioxide in the atmosphere?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a body established jointly by the World Meteorological Organisation and the United Nations Environment Programme, the rate of concentration change per year of carbon dioxide, as estimated over 1980s, is 1.5 parts per million by volume per year (0.4% per year).

(c) The existing environmental policy and legal framework in the country, supported by several initiatives to protect and improve the environment, is contributing to stabilization of carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere.

Cutting of Trees

*396. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fury of floods has increased in various parts of the country due to large scale felling of trees on mountains;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to tackle this problem;

(c) whether indiscriminate felling of trees has posed a serious threat to the environment; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) There is no report that the fury of floods has increased in various parts of the country due to large scale felling of trees on mountains. However, due to the heavy biotic pressure on the forests, certain amount of forest degradation in various parts can not ruled out, which may lead to increased run off and consequent floods.

(b) As per National Forest Policy 1988, Government of India monitors the forest cover through Forest Survey of India (FSI) in a biennial publication of State of Forest Report, regulate the diversion of forest lands for the non forestry purposes, promote people's participation in forest protection and development, sanction funds for afforestation activities and various other policy interventions. The Government of India proposes to spend Rs. 1360 crore in the forestry & wildlife sector for the protection and development of forests during the Ninth Plan period.

(c) No, Sir. As per the latest seventh assessment of the forest cover by the Forest Survey of India done in 1999 by the FSI, as compared to 1997 assessment, there has been an increase of 3896 sq. km of forest cover in the country. Thus, forest cover of the country has increased from 19.27% to 19.39% of the total geographic area during last two years.

(d) Following steps are being taken to protect the forest resources:

(i) All State Governments and Union Territories have been requested to increase the allocation to the forestry sector substantially and to treat forest protection as a Plan item.

(ii) The States have been advised to create Forest Development Agencies (a federation of JFM committees) for integrated development of forests and villages situated in and around forest areas.

- (iii) Joint Forest Management programme is being implemented in the country as per the provisions of 1988 Forest Policy and as on 1.1.2000 36,130 JFM committees are protecting around 10.249 million ha. of forests in 22 States.
- (iv) States have been requested to streamline the forest protection machinery in order to deal with theft and smuggling of timber and poaching of wild animals.

[English]

Forest Cover

*397. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether forest cover in the country is shrinking at fast rate;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) the present status of the forest cover of the country especially in Jammu and Kashmir;
- (d) the details of action taken to protect forest;
- (e) whether the Union Government have issued directions to State Governments to stop deforestation/encroachment of the forests land; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the State Governments in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Forest Survey of India is assessing forest cover of the country biennially. So far seven assessments have been done. As per the first six assessments of the period 1981-95, forest cover of the country had marginally declined from 19.49% to 19.27%. However, in the seventh assessment of the period 1995-98, forest cover of the country has increased from 19.27% to 19.39%.

(c) As per the seventh assessment of forest cover of the period 1995 to 1998, forest cover in Jammu & Kashmir is 9.2% of the geographical area.

(d) Various important actions taken by Government for protection of forest wealth are:

- (i) The subject "forest" was transferred from the State to the Concurrent List by the Constitution "46th Amendment" Act, 1976.

- (ii) The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 was enacted to regulate the diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes.
- (iii) The National Forest Policy, 1952 was revised in 1988 to lay stress on management of forest for ensuring ecological security and meeting the essential and local needs.
- (iv) The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 was enacted to protect the wildlife and biodiversity of the country and the areas of protected areas increased.
- (v) Guidelines have been issued to all State/UT Governments to involve village communities in protection and regeneration of degraded forests.
- (vi) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has prepared a National Forestry Action Plan to enhance the contribution of forestry and tree resources for ecological stability and people centered development through improvement in investments for conservation and development of forest resources.
- (vii) Afforestation programmes are undertaken by State/UT Governments from their own resources as well as with financial assistance from Government of India.
- (viii) Externally aided projects are implemented for development and preservation of forests.

(e) and (f) Detailed guidelines in respect of encroachment on forest land have been issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests dated 18.9.1990. As per the guidelines, encroachments on forest land after 25.10.1980 are not eligible for regularisation and shall be evicted by the State Governments. Actions have been taken by the State Governments for implementation of the guidelines. As per Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, no non-forest activity on forest land is allowed without the prior approval of Central Government.

Noise Pollution

*398. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether survey report of World Health Organisation has indicated that half of the population of some major cities in the country may go deaf if the present level of noise pollution in these cities increases by five decibel;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith steps proposed to be taken in this regard, city-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to take concrete measures to check spread of noise pollution in the country: and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) According to the World Health Organisation, no such study has been made.

(c) and (d) The Government have taken several measures to regulate and control noise pollution, including the following:—

- (i) Noise pollution is regulated under the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act and the Environment (Protection) Act. Ambient noise standards have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act.
- (ii) Noise limits have been prescribed for automobiles, domestic appliances and construction equipment at the manufacturing stage. There are standards and guidelines for control of noise pollution from stationary diesel generator sets.
- (iii) Recently, the following steps have been taken for controlling noise pollution under the Environment (Protection) Act:
 - (a) Standards for fire crackers have been notified in October, 1999.
 - (b) The Noise Pollution (Regulation & Control) Rules, 2000 have been notified in February, 2000.

Enforcement of Rules

*399. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether settlement around the airports pose a serious threat to the airports and aircraft;

(b) if so, the number of accidents caused by the proximity of such settlements;

(c) whether the Government are considering to strongly enforce the rule that no settlements are allowed within a certain range of proximity to Airports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. Unauthorised settlements around the airport can pose a threat to aircraft operation as the garbage etc. thrown in open can become a source of bird attraction. Besides, settlers around the airport may cause breach of perimeter wall which could enable entrance of animals into the operational area, causing safety hazard to aircraft operations.

(b) No accident to Indian civil registered aircraft has occurred due to proximity of settlements around airport.

(c) and (d) There is no legal provision to prohibit construction of residential area near or around an airport. However, the height of the buildings are restricted to conform to various obstacle limitation surfaces, as per the standards and recommended practices laid down by the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

National Sports Development Fund

*400. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Sports Development Fund has been set-up;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the activities of the fund since its inception?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Considering the promotion of Sports and Games in the country as an important aspect of human resource development and in view of the fact that the constraint of resources is the main bottleneck in this direction, the Government had decided to set up National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) during 1998-99. Accordingly, NSDF was notified on 12.11.1998. This Fund was set up with a view to mobilize resources from various Government/Semi Government organizations, Public/Private Sector Units and individuals including Non Resident Indians. The accumulations of the Fund are to be utilized or promotion of sports and games, in general and for specific sports disciplines and individual sports persons, in particular for achieving excellence in the field of sports and games at National and international level. Assistance from the fund can be provided for the following purposes:

- For special training and coaching in relevant sports disciplines to sports persons, coaches and sports specialists.
- For creation and maintenance of sports infrastructure.
- For procuring sports equipment.
- For taking up research and developmental studies.
- Interest free or low interest loans can also be provided for any of the above-stated projects.

For management of the Fund there is a provision of constitution of a Council under the chairpersonship of Minister incharge of the Ministry. Apart from official members, the Council is represented by eight eminent sports persons and upto nine eminent persons representing corporate sector, private foundations and not for profit voluntary organizations. For managing day to day working there is provision for an Executive Committee, under the Chairpersonship of Secretary (YA & Sports).

(c) The initial focus has been on attracting money into the Fund, which now has a total of Rs. 2,46,92,447/-. Continuing efforts are being made in this regard. The Council and the Executive Committee of the Fund have also been constituted. The fund will concentrate on promotional activities as already enumerated in (b) above.

Pay Telephones Lines

4227. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Star Plus TV game show "Kaun Banega Crorepati" telephone lines are pay lines and one has to pay extra over the normal call charges;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the revenue collected by the MTNL as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The phone lines being used for the programme are not pay lines. The customers who are calling these numbers are paying normal local or STD phone charges only.

(c) Not applicable in view of (a) and (b) above.

[Translation]

Use of Oxytosin in Vegetables

4228 DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned 'Oxytosin Injection Ki Bikri Par Rok Ki Maang' appearing in *Rajasthan Patrika* dated May 3, 2000;

(b) whether the oxytosin is being used now in vegetables;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the side effects of this chemical on the health of human beings; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ban the use of this chemical in agriculture and horticulture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA):

(a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Payments to Caribjet by Air India

4229. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India propose to pay Rs. 103 crore to Caribjet as compensation after losing arbitration proceedings at the International Court in London, is now being stuck with an income-tax (I-T) demand for another Rs. 136 crores;

(b) the reasons why arbitrators ruled that the tax demand should be made on Air India and not on Caribjet; and

(c) the avenues left for Air India for next course of action?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The Arbitral Tribunal has awarded M/s. Caribjet US\$ 2.2 million towards termination expenses and US\$ 22 million towards termination losses and after setting off the amounts due to Air India, Air India was required to pay US\$ 23.6 million to M/s. Caribjet. The income tax demand for Rs. 136 crores is on M/s. Caribjet and not on Air India.

(c) The London Commercial Court has not admitted Air India's application for appeal against the tax award nor did it grant Air India's request to appeal to the Court of Appeals against the London court's decision. Air India will however have a right in restitution against M/s. Caribjet under the Indian Law or in any other jurisdiction in the event Air India is ultimately made to pay M/s. Caribjet tax liabilities as "Representative Assessee" in India. Further this would be subject to AI's rights under the Income Tax Act and other provisions of the law to defend itself in the event the income tax authorities proceed against AI for recovery of M/s. Caribjet's liabilities.

Fibre Link Around Globe

4230. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Fibre Link Around the Globe (FLAG) is building up all sorts of pressure to sell its excess capacity directly to private Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in India in violation of its 1995 Construction and Maintenance Agreement with Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL); and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that FLAG does not violate agreement and lease its capacity to ISPs or any licences entities only through VSNL and prevent FLAG from setting up another landing station in South India to sell its capacity directly in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Reports have appeared in the Press from time to time that FLAG was keen to sell its bandwidth directly to internet service providers in India. According to VSNL, as per Terms & Conditions of Contract and Maintenance Agreement signed between FLAG and VSNL, bandwidth capacity of FLAG can be sold in India only through VSNL. In view of the increasing demand for bandwidth, Government has advised VSNL to negotiate with FLAG within the framework of this Agreement, so that the bandwidth available through FLAG in India can be fully utilised.

Licences for Production of Medicine/Drugs

4231. SHRI JAI BHADRA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the terms and conditions laid down for grant of manufacturing licence for production of finished medicines and bulk drugs;

(b) whether any inspection is made before issuance or renewal of such licences;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the validity period of these licences;

(d) whether renewal of these licences takes many years for the purpose; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the corrective measures taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) Production of finished medicines and bulk drugs are granted by the State Licensing Authorities under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 after ensuring that the manufacturer will comply with the terms and conditions regarding premises, equipment, storage and manufacture under the supervision of competent technical staff and compliance with Good Manufacturing practices.

(b) and (c) Under the said rules, licences for manufacture are granted after the inspection of the manufacturing premises by the concerned Drug Inspector. The Inspector examines the entire premises, Plant and appliances as well as the process of manufacture and submits a detailed report of the Licensing Authority for consideration. These licences are granted or renewed by the State Licensing Authorities for a maximum period of two years.

(d) and (e) No fixed time limit is laid down under the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules 1945 for renewal of licences. Sometimes delays take place in renewal. There appears to be a need to streamline by extending the duration of validity of licences.

Maliara Telephone Exchange

4232. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maliara telephone exchange in Bankura district of West Bengal has been closed on June 5, 2000 between 3 PM to 5 PM;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Sir, the Maliara exchange was not closed from 3 P.M. to 5 P.M. on 05.06.2000. However, its connectivity with Barjora was interrupted for the said period. Local services were functioning satisfactorily during this period.

(b) Maliara was connected to Barjora through overhead line which has gone faulty during the said period on 05.06.2000.

(c) Maliara exchange has been provided reliable media connectivity with Barjora on 07.07.2000.

National Centre for Internet

4233. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up a National Centre for Internet Excellence to promote internet in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a task force is also proposed to be set up for the purpose; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to promote Internet?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) A Centre of Excellence in Networking and Internet is under establishment as part activity of the project on expansion of National Centre for Software Technology (NCST) activities at Navi Mumbai.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration.

(d) The steps taken by the Government for the promotion of Internet in the country is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

1. National Internet Backbone (NIB)-DTS plans to establish a National Internet Backbone for carriage of Internet traffic. It aims at providing easy interconnect point to the Internet Service Providers (ISPs) besides establishing Points of Presence for DTS as an Internet Service Provider. It is proposed to set up at least one Internet node in every Secondary Switching Area.

2. A 20% concession is presently being offered by DTS on the annual leased line rentals for leased lines taken for Internet access and for software export purposes.
3. Recognised educational institution/Govt. organisations/Newspapers and New agencies are presently being given 50% concession on port charges by DTS. 100% Export Oriented Units (having annual export turn over above US\$ 1,00,000)/software exporters are also getting 20% concession on annual port charges.
4. Half of the telephone connections required by licenced ISPs for providing Internet Services may be released on out-of-turn basis in Non-OYT General category by DTS, for providing Internet Dial-up ports to the extent of 1/12th of their Dial-up subscriber base, on demand by ISPs.
5. Access to the nearest Internet node on local call basis has been made available in all the District Headquarters of the country except for Kargil and Poonch District Headquarters of Jammu and Kashmir.
6. Store and forward services over the Internet (*viz.* Voice, Data, Video etc.) have been permitted by DTS subject to no dialing out at the destination end through Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN)/Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) lines/E1R2 links and information being sent from one Internet node to another Internet node without switching to PSTN/ISDN.
7. Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have been permitted to set up International Gateways after obtaining security clearance. As regards use of satellite medium for providing international bandwidth for Internet, Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have been permitted to obtain bandwidth from satellites, which are coordinated over India.
8. The Government has permitted the Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to establish submarine cable landing stations for international gateways for Internet, after obtaining necessary clearances.
9. Government has planned to open Internet Dhabas in all Block Headquarters of the country by March, 2001.

Environment Awareness

4234. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:
SHRI JAI BHADRA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government have taken some specific steps to impart Education to Government officials, Environment volunteers and the citizens in general;

(b) if so, whether there are any special short term courses/institutions conducted for the purpose;

(c) if so, whether there is any incentive being offered by the Government for the production of films, comics or other material intended to create environment awareness amongst the people, particularly the students; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir. Every year the Government runs a National Environment Awareness Campaign for educating citizens and environment volunteers. The Government, through the mechanism of Centres of Excellence, also runs courses for imparting environment education to, *inter-alia*, Government officials.

(b) The Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad and CPR Environmental Education Centre, Chennai designated as Centres of Excellence, organise short term courses for imparting environment education to different target groups every year.

(c) and (d) The Government provides financial assistance to Centres of Excellence for the production of books, booklets, posters, pamphlets, educational kits, video films, audio cassettes etc. on environmental themes to create environment awareness amongst the people, particularly the students.

Memorandum of Understanding

4235. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government and Indian Space Research Organisation have entered into a historical memorandum of understanding to being the satellite based communication to the doorsteps of the people in areas of education, healthcare and rural development in the State;

(b) if so, whether after Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka and Orissa, Andhra Pradesh has become the fifth State to utilise services of Insat-3B in this area;

(c) if so, the extent to which it will help for State's development in the areas of education, healthcare and rural development; and

(d) the time by which the work on this project is likely to be started?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The network will be used to promote usage of satellite based communications in the areas of Distance Education, Telemedicine, E-Governance, Community Internet Centres etc.

(d) Initial trials for the project are likely to start by September 2000.

[English]

Development of Telecom in Bihar

4236. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated for development of telecom services in Bihar during the last three years and the current financial year;

(b) whether the telecom circles have completed the work as per the targets fixed in this regard;

(c) the details of the amount spent for this purpose during the last three years and the current year; and

(d) the number of telephone connections issued in Bihar especially Shekhpura and Lakhisarai districts during the last three years, Exchange-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The funds allocated for the development of telecom services in Bihar during the relevant years were/are as follows:

| | |
|-----------|--------------------------|
| 1997-1998 | Rs. 262.67 crores |
| 1998-1999 | Rs. 335.16 crores |
| 1999-2000 | Rs. 385.04 crores |
| 2000-2001 | Rs. 715.45 crores (B.E.) |

(b) Overall targets in all parameters except VPTs have been achieved in the country in all the three years. However, in Bihar there were short falls in DELs & VPTs as below:

| <i>Bihar Circle</i> | | | | |
|---------------------|----------|--------|--------------|-------|
| Year | Target | | Achievements | |
| | DELs | VPTs | DELs | VPTs |
| 1997-1998 | 60,000 | 12,000 | 66,294 | 2,615 |
| 1998-1999 | 1,31,000 | 6,000 | 1,03,128 | 2,137 |
| 1999-2000 | 1,63,000 | 8,000 | 1,25,179 | 4,602 |

(c) The amount spent for the development of telecom services in all the circles in the country during:

| | |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| 1997-1998 | Rs. 8646.10 crores |
| 1998-1999 | Rs. 9450.34 crores |
| 1999-2000 | Rs. 12510.77 crores |
| 2000-2001 | Rs. 1841.74 crores upto June 2000 |

(d) No. of DELs provided during the last three years in Bihar.

| (i) Year | DELs Provided |
|-----------|---------------|
| 1997-1998 | 66,294 |
| 1998-1999 | 1,03,128 |
| 1999-2000 | 1,25,179 |

(iii) Exchange-wise DELs provided in Shekhpura & Lakhisarai is as under:—

| Sl.No. | Name of Exchange | 97-98 | 98-99 | 99-2000 |
|------------------|------------------|-------|-------|---------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Shekhpura | | | | |
| 1. | Barhigha | 11 | 55 | 75 |
| 2. | Chewara | — | — | 20 |
| 3. | Hathiama | 4 | 07 | 18 |
| 4. | Mehus | 3 | 19 | 4 |
| 5. | Shekhpura | 158 | 262 | 223 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------------------|----------------|-----|-----|------|
| Lakhisarai | | | | |
| 1. | Barahiya | 71 | 80 | 32 |
| 2. | Ghosaith | — | 97 | 54 |
| 3. | Halsi | — | — | 152 |
| 4. | Kaithma | — | — | 5 |
| 5. | Kajara | 33 | 43 | — |
| 6. | Lakhisarai | 300 | 298 | 1261 |
| 7. | Medini Chawki | 17 | 49 | 4 |
| 8. | Ram Garh | 13 | 64 | 40 |
| 9. | Ram Pur | — | — | 102 |
| 10. | Sekhopur Sarai | — | — | 5 |
| 11. | Suryagarha | 65 | 51 | 201 |
| 12. | Tetarhat | — | — | 152 |

[English]

Air Services from Delhi-Mumbai-Delhi

4237. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of daily service flights from Delhi to Mumbai and Mumbai to Delhi with time of departure of each of the flights, type of the plane, companies providing services availability of seats in each class of each of the planes and actual boarding in each of the classes of each of the flights during June and July, 2000; and

(b) the number of service flights cover daily via Mumbai to Delhi and Delhi to Mumbai?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) As per the available details figures of flight nos. aircraft-type, time of departure/arrival and days of the three schedule airlines on, Delhi/Mumbai and Mumbai/Delhi sector are given in the Statement enclosed. The overall seat factors of their flights during June/July 2000 are as follows:

| | June, 2000 | July, 2000 |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Indian Airlines/ Alliance Air | 67.1 | 61.4 |
| Jet Airways | 74.9 | 76.4 |
| Sahara Airlines | 44.8 | 34.7 |

Statement**Airline****Schedule of Operations on Delhi-Mumbai Sector**

| Flight No. | Aircraft type | Departure time | Arrival time | Day of Operation |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. Delhi-Mumbai | | | | |
| <i>Indian Airlines/Alliance Air:</i> | | | | |
| IC-865 | A-320 | 0600* | 0755 | Daily |
| 165 | A-300 | 0700 | 0855 | Daily |
| 167 | A-320 | 0800 | 0955 | Daily |
| 657 | A-320 | 0900 | 1055 | Daily |
| 887 | A-320 | 1300 | 1455 | Daily |
| 822 | A-320 | 1700 | 1855 | Daily |
| 863 | A-320 | 1800* | 1955 | Daily |
| 810 | A-320 | 1900 | 2055 | Daily |
| 805 | A-320 | 2000 | 2155 | Daily |
| C-7443 | B-737 | 2300 | 0055 | 5 days except on Sat/Sunday |
| <i>Jet Airways</i> | | | | |
| 9W-332 | B-737-800 | 0650 | 0845 | Daily |
| 334 | B-737-700 | 0800 | 0955 | Daily |
| 302 | B-737-800 | 0935 | 1130 | Daily |
| 352 | —do— | 1400 | 1555 | Daily |
| 362 | —do— | 1725 | 1920 | Daily |
| 354 | —do— | 1935 | 2130 | Daily |
| 312 | —do— | 2030 | 2225 | Daily |
| 2306 | B-737-400 | 2230 | 0025 | Daily |
| <i>Sahara Airlines</i> | | | | |
| S2-505 | B-737 | 0645 | 0840 | Daily (except Sunday) |
| 506 | B-737 | 0920 | 1115 | Daily |
| 507 | B-737 | 1810 | 2005 | Daily |
| B. Mumbai-Delhi | | | | |
| <i>Indian Airlines/Alliance Air</i> | | | | |
| IC-821A-320 | A-320 | 0600* | 0755 | Daily |
| 806 | A-320 | 0700 | 0855 | Daily |

*Presently withdrawn

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---------|-------|-------|------|--------------------------------|
| 809 | A-320 | 0800 | 0955 | Daily |
| 866 | A-320 | 0900 | 1055 | Daily |
| 658 | A-320 | 1300 | 1455 | Daily |
| 166 | A-300 | 1700 | 1855 | Daily |
| 168 | A-320 | 1800 | 1955 | Daily |
| 888 | A-320 | 1900 | 2055 | Daily |
| 864 | A-320 | 2000* | 2155 | Daily |
| CD-7444 | B-737 | 2300 | 0055 | 5 days except on Sat/Sunday |

Jet Airways:

| | | | | |
|--------|-----------|------|------|--------------------------|
| 9W-301 | B-737-800 | 0700 | 0855 | Daily |
| 333 | B-737-700 | 0805 | 1000 | Daily |
| 331 | B-737-800 | 0925 | 1120 | Daily |
| 351 | —do— | 1345 | 1540 | Friday |
| 351 | —do— | 1410 | 1605 | Daily (except on Friday) |
| 353 | —do— | 1700 | 1855 | Daily |
| 311 | —do— | 1750 | 1945 | Daily |
| 361 | —do— | 2010 | 2205 | Daily |
| 2305 | B-737-400 | 2230 | 0025 | Daily |

Sahara Airlines

| | | | | |
|--------|-------|------|------|-----------------------------|
| S2-911 | B-737 | 0645 | 0840 | Daily (except on Sunday) |
| 912 | B-737 | 0920 | 1115 | Daily |
| 913 | B-737 | 2035 | 2230 | Daily |

Seat Configuration of Aircraft:

| Aircraft type | Club Class | Economy Class | Total |
|-------------------------|------------|---------------|-------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| <i>Indian Airlines:</i> | | | |
| A-320 | 20 | 125 | 145 |
| A-300 | 33 | 215 | 248 |
| B-737 | — | 119 | 119 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-------------------------|----|-----|-----|
| <i>Jet Airways:</i> | | | |
| B-737-400 | 24 | 112 | 136 |
| B-737-700 | 20 | 102 | 122 |
| B-737-800 | 28 | 126 | 154 |
| <i>Sahara Airlines:</i> | | | |
| B-737-200 | 8 | 101 | 109 |
| B-737-400 | 24 | 112 | 136 |
| B-737-700 | 12 | 126 | 138 |
| B-737-800 | 12 | 156 | 168 |

[*Translation*]

Losses to ITI

4238. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Telephone Industries has suffered a loss of around six and half crore rupees due to Mobile Radio Trunk Service;

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

(c) whether any survey was conducted before launching the said service; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

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

(c) and (d) No separate survey was conducted since DOT has taken the decision to introduce the Mobile Radio Trunk Service in the Country after assessing the requirement of such similar services.

Telegraph Services

4239. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to review the telegraph services in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any plan to modernise the said services;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) At present, there is no proposal to review the telegraph services in the country.

(c) The telegraph services have already been modernised by inducting microprocessor based electronic switches such as Store and Forward Message Switching Systems (SFMS), Formatted Terminal Concentrators (FTCs) and Electronic Key Board Concentrators (EKBCs).

(d) The details is given in the statement enclosed.

(e) No comments required in view of reply given at (d).

Statement

Details of Microprocessor based systems provided in the country

| | |
|---|----|
| 1. Store and Forward Message Switching Systems 128 lines (SFMS 128 L) | 10 |
| 2. Store and Forward Message Switching Systems 64 lines (SFMS 64L) | 13 |
| 3. Store and Forward Message Switching Systems 32 lines (SFMS 32 L) | 30 |
| 4. Formatted Terminal Concentrators (FTCs) | 31 |

5. Electronic Key Board Concentrators (EBCs) 397
6. Bureau Fax Centres (FAX Machines) 1398

[English]

Telephone Facility in Rudra Prayag

4240. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a faulty Telecommunication service in the hilly areas of U.P. particularly in Rudra Prayag district;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken by the Government;
- (c) the number of Gram Panchayats in Rudra Prayag district without telephone facility;
- (d) whether the Government propose to provide said facility in all the Gram Panchayat of said district and Ratura village;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which said facility is likely to be provided; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) At present, the telecom services in hilly areas of UP particularly Distt. Rudra Prayag are working satisfactorily. However, sometimes the services are interrupted due to adverse climate.

(b) The reasons of interruption are given below:—

1. Land sliding due to heavy rain fall.
2. Falling of trees and breaking of over head alignment.
3. Falling of poles.
4. Difficult approach due to road block causing delay in repair.
5. Shortage of manpower.

All efforts are made by the Department to restore the services in spite of above factors.

(c) At present, 208 Gram Panchayats in Rudra Prayag district are not having telephone facility.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Ratura village has already been provided with telephone facility. One PCO No. 39216 is functioning in the village. There is a plan to provide telephones in all the villages by the year 2002.

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

[Translation]

Allocation of Funds for Ayurvedic Schemes

4241. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Department of Ayurved has not been implementing its scheme for want of funds on one hand and about Rs. 35 lakhs have been lapsed out of the funds allocated to it, on the other hand;
- (b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any inquiry in this matter;
- (c) if so, the findings of the inquiry thereof; and
- (d) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) Budget allocation for the year 1999-2000 could not be fully utilised as some schemes proposed for the year could not be approved.

- (b) It has not been considered necessary.
- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Financial Performance of Major Ports

4242. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have evaluated the financial performance of major ports;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the ratio of the total income/total expenditure had decline to all time low during last three years;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to increase the income of ports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (e) Based on audited accounts of the Port Trusts, the total income, total expenditure as well as total ratio, port-wise, for the years 1996-97 to 1998-99 is given in the enclosed statement.

It would be noticed from the statement that there has been decline in the ratio of total income and total expenditure of seven Major Port Trusts as their expenditure has been increasing constantly. The increase of expenditure is due to rise in salaries and wages, fuel costs and other input costs. The income has not increased commensurately primarily due to non-revision of tariffs in many cases. The managements of Port Trusts have been advised to eliminate avoidable expenditure, increase operational efficiency and get the tariff revised wherever applicable.

Statement

(Rs. in million)

| Name of Port | Total Income | | | Total Expenditure | | | Total Ratio | | |
|-------------------|--------------|--------|--------|-------------------|--------|--------|-------------|-------|-------|
| | 96-97 | 97-98 | 98-99 | 96-97 | 97-98 | 98-99 | 96-97 | 97-98 | 98-99 |
| Calcutta | 5931.5 | 7408.1 | 6832.2 | 4498.9 | 5673.4 | 5704 | 1.32 | 1.31 | 1.20 |
| Chennai | 3837.8 | 4167.6 | 4392.8 | 2139.2 | 2440 | 2683.4 | 1.79 | 1.71 | 1.64 |
| Cochin | 1586.6 | 1774.8 | 1956 | 1360.2 | 1503.1 | 1643.5 | 1.17 | 1.18 | 1.19 |
| Jawahar Lal Nehru | 3175 | 4173.2 | 4822.7 | 1749.7 | 2125.6 | 2468.4 | 1.81 | 1.96 | 1.95 |
| Kandla | 2549.6 | 2881.3 | 3449.2 | 921.7 | 979.3 | 987.3 | 2.77 | 2.94 | 3.49 |
| Mormugao | 1105.5 | 1331.7 | 1484.9 | 891.2 | 1029.7 | 1257.5 | 1.07 | 1.29 | 1.18 |
| Mumbai | 6885.2 | 6852 | 6863.2 | 4966 | 5116 | 5786.8 | 1.39 | 1.34 | 1.19 |
| New Mangalore | 1342.2 | 1785.2 | 1692.3 | 927.5 | 1093.8 | 1300.9 | 1.45 | 1.63 | 1.30 |
| Paradip | 1799.3 | 1890.3 | 1925.1 | 1329.3 | 1383.2 | 1444.5 | 1.35 | 1.37 | 1.33 |
| Tuticorin | 670.9 | 864.9 | 959.3 | 406.3 | 502.5 | 595.6 | 1.65 | 1.72 | 1.61 |
| Vishakapatnam | 2834.9 | 2944.2 | 2930.7 | 2095.1 | 2193.6 | 2242.4 | 1.35 | 1.34 | 1.31 |

[Translation]

Poor Quality of Post, Telegraph and Telecommunication

4243. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the poor quality of essential services available in the post, telegraph and telecommunication sector in Gujarat;

(b) whether the quality of these services is required to be improved there; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR):

(a) *Postal Services*

The quality of essential services in Gujarat Postal Circle is generally Satisfactory. However occasional complaints received against specific postal service are immediately enquired into and prompt redressal is ensured.

Telegraph Services

No, Sir. The quality of Telegraph services measured in terms of percentage of telegrams delivered within 12 day light hours in Gujarat is quite satisfactory. The targets and achievements made during the last five years are as below:

| Year | Target | Achievement |
|-----------|--------|-------------|
| 1995-1996 | 93% | 96.3% |
| 1996-1997 | 95% | 97.2% |
| 1997-1998 | 98% | 97.7% |
| 1998-1999 | 98% | 97.5% |
| 1999-2000 | 98% | 97.6% |

Telecommunication Services

Sir, the performance of Telecom Services in Gujarat is quite satisfactory.

(b) and (c) Postal Services:

Improvement in the quality of Postal services is a continuing exercise and steps taken, in this regard, in Gujarat Circle, include the following:

- (i) The delivery of mails is closely monitored both at the field and headquarters level and necessary corrective steps taken wherever deficiencies are noticed.
- (ii) Mail handling is being modernised and computerised in the mail offices. So far 10 Mail Offices and registration work in two offices in Gujarat have been computerised.
- (iii) 15 Mopeds have been supplied for more efficient delivery of mails in Ahmedabad City from 01.06.99.
- (iv) Expansion of the postal network and improved services ensured during the year 1999-2000 through two new departmental Sub-Post offices, 28 new Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices, 75 new Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras and One additional transit section. 104 multi-purpose counter machines have been provided to modernise counter services. Three new customer care centres and 4 High Speed VSATS with 49 Extended Satellite Money Order Counters have been set up for improved services.

- (v) For prompt settlement of public grievances, effective drives were launched.

Telegraph Services:

Telegraph services in Gujarat have been modernised by inducting micro-processor based electronic message switches like Store and Forward Message Switching Systems (SFMSS) and Electronic Key Board Concentrators (EKBCs), 2 SFMSS, 4 sixteen line concentrators and 18 Electronic Key Board Concentrators have been provided to link and network telegraph offices for quick transmission of telegrams. Also the rates of promotional incentive money to telegraph messengers have been enhanced for expeditious delivery of telegrams. Besides, the improvement in the quality of service is an ongoing process and efforts are made continuously to improve the quality of services.

Telecommunication Services

Improvement in telecom services is an ongoing process. Following steps have been taken in this regard.

- (i) Provision of reliable transmission media to most of the exchanges in current financial year.
- (ii) Wireless in Local Loop is introduced in major cities.
- (iii) Pager have been provided to linemen for prompt attention to complaints.
- (iv) Behavioural training is provided to the line staff.

[English]

Condition of Bridge Over Tamaraparani River

4244. SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the condition of bridge over river Tamaraparani on National Highway-47 is in a very dilapidated condition and outlived its life span; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to rebuild or renovate the above bridge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, since the existing bridge is old, it is proposed to be reconstructed under BOT (Built, Operate & Transfer) Scheme.

*[Translation]***Amendment in Indian Ports Trust Act**

4245. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether necessary amendments have been made in the Indian Ports Trust Act for foreign investment for all round development of major ports of the country;

(b) if so, the salient features of the amendments made in the Act;

(c) whether the same have been implemented;

(d) if so, the date from which these have become effective; and

(e) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

*[English]***Splitting of Kannur SSA**

4246. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request for splitting of Kannur SSA, as 47 Exchanges under the sole control of Kannur SSA are 100 Kms away from subscribers;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) Each Secondary Switching Area (SSA) of Telecom Circles is a basic unit of operation for the purpose of administration, charging, routing and numbering plan. As per the existing policy, SSAs are not bifurcated because of administrative and operational reasons.

Registration of NGOs

4247. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) who has applied for registration during each of the last three years, till-date; and

(b) the details of those NGOs who got registration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) The Department of Indian System of Medicine and Homeopathy in this Ministry has been implementing a Scheme of Accreditation of Organisations for Research & Development in the field of ISM&H. The details of Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) who have applied for registration under this Scheme during the last three years, till date is placed as Statement I

(b) Statement II is enclosed.

Statement I

Details of applications for accreditation received since the inception of the Scheme of Accreditation with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for Research and Development on ISM&H

Applications received during 1998-99

| Sl.No. | Name of organization |
|--------|---|
| 1 | 2 |
| 1. | Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune. |
| 2. | Shri Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi Vishwa Maha Vidyalyaya, Nazarathpet, Tamil Nadu |
| 3. | Dr. M.L. Dhawale Memorial Trust, Mumbai. |
| 4. | Lamding Cherapur Homoeopathic & Unani Association, Manipur. |
| 5. | Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's Swami Prakashananda Ayurveda Research Centre (SPARC), Mumbai. |
| 6. | Rural Health Organisation, Imphal. |
| 7. | Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Institute of Homoeopathic Medical Sciences, Amaravati. |
| 8. | Vidya Chandra Prakash Cancer Research Foundation, Dehradun. |

| 1 | 2 |
|-----|---|
| 9. | The Yoga and Nature Cure Home, Imphal East, Manipur. |
| 10. | Anandasing Yoga and Nature Cure Research Hospital, Kakching, Manipur. |
| 11. | Manipur Khon Khut Singli Thuppa Yengba Marup, Imphal, Manipur. |
| 12. | Ramazini Research Institute of Occupational Health Services, Pune. |
| 13. | Indian Drugs Research Association, Pune. |
| 14. | Swami Dayanand Shiksha Sadan Yoga Ayurvedigyan Sansthan, Fategarh (U.P.). |
| 15. | Nisargropchar Gramsuddhar Trust, Pune. |
| 16. | Yoga Vidya Niketen, Mumbai. |
| 17. | Bapu Nature Cure Hospital & Yogashram, Patparganj, Delhi. |
| 18. | Charik Pareng Child Welfare Association, Manipur. |
| 19. | Yogsadhan Ashram, Ahmedabad. |
| 20. | Lokmanya Medical Research Centre, Pune. |
| 21. | Ashtang Ayurved Maha Vidyalaya, Pune. |
| 22. | Gopababdhu Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya, Puri. |
| 23. | Kunneth Institute of Medical Sciences Trust, Tamil Nadu. |
| 24. | Association of Holistic Medicines, Indore. |
| 25. | Yog Sadhana Ashram, Jaipur. |
| 26. | Centre of Ganga Education Society's Ayurvedic Medical College, Kolhapur. |
| 27. | Vasant Nature Cure Hospital and Pratibha Maternity Hospital Trust, Ahmedabad. |
| 28. | North Eastern Tribal Foundation Metro Ayurvedic Centre, Arunachal Pradesh. |
| 29. | Lonavia Yoga Institute for Research Education & Therapy, Lonavia. |
| 30. | Faculty of Medicine (Unani), Jamia Hamdard, Delhi. |

| 1 | 2 |
|--|--|
| 31. | Viveknanda Kendra Yoga Research Foundation, Bangalore. |
| 32. | Bhagwan Shikshan Prasarak Mandal's Bhagwan Homoeopathic Medical College, Aurangabad. |
| 33. | Bhagwan Shikshan Prasarak Mandal's Bhagwan College of Pharmacy, Aurangabad. |
| 34. | Kaivalydhama Ishwardas Chunilal Yogic Health Centre, Mumbai. |
| 35. | Sir Aurobindo Society, Pondicherry. |
| 36. | Sushrut Medical Care & Research Society, Pune. |
| 37. | Uttan Vanaushadhi Samshodhan Samstha (Uttan Vanaspati Sansodhan Sanstha), Uttan (District Thane). |
| 38. | Society for Specified and Hitech Promotions, Bhopal. |
| 39. | Ayurved Gram-Udhyog Shodh Sansthan, Jodhpur. |
| 40. | Kabiraj Ananta Tripathy Sharma Ayurvedic College, Ganjam (Orissa). |
| 41. | Anjuman-I-Islam's Tibbia College & Hospital, Mumbai. |
| 42. | Shri C.B. Patel Research Centre for Chemistry and Biological Sciences, Mumbai. |
| 43. | JRD TATA Foundation for Research in Ayurveda and Yoga Sciences, Arogyadham, Deendayal Research Institute, Chitrakoot, Dist. Satna, Madhya Pradesh. |
| <i>Applications received during 2000-2001 (upto 17.8.2000)</i> | |
| 44. | Krishnamacharya Yoga Mandiram, Chennai. |
| 45. | Dalmia Centre for Research & Development, Coimbatore. |
| 46. | Sanjeevani Welfare and Care Society, Allahabad. |
| 47. | Shri Veda Bharathi, Hyderabad. |
| 48. | Chandra College for Yoga and Naturopathy and Krishna Dutt Health Centere, Chandrawati Chaudhari Samarak Trust, East of Kailash, New Delhi. |
| 49. | Department of Medical Elementology & Toxicology, Faculty of Science, Hamdard University, New Delhi. |

Statement II

List of NGOs accredited with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for Research and Development on ISM&H

| Sl.No. | Name of organization |
|--------|--|
| 1. | Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune. |
| 2. | Vidya Chandra Prakash Cancer Research Foundation, Dehradun. |
| 3. | Ramazini Research Institute of Occupational Health Services, Pune. |
| 4. | Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's Swami Prakashananda Ayurveda Research Centre (SPARC), Mumbai. |
| 5. | Anandasing Yoga and Nature Cure Research Hospital, Kakching, Manipur. |
| 6. | Lokmanya Medical Research Centre, Pune. |
| 7. | Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Institute of Homeopathic Medical Sciences, Amaravati. |
| 8. | Sir Aurobindo Society, Pondicherry. |
| 9. | Vivekananda Kendra Yoga Research Foundation, Bangalore. |
| 10. | Faculty of Medicine (Unani, Jamia Hamdard, Delhi. |
| 11. | Bapu Nature Cure Hospital & Yogasharam, Patparganj, Delhi. |
| 12. | Sushrut Medical Care & Research Society, Pune. |

[Translation]

Scheme to Avert Mishaps of Air India Flights

4248. SHRI BHAL CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are formulating any scheme to avert mishaps of Air India Flights;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons attributed to such mishaps?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD

YADAV): (a) to (c) There have been no mishaps to Air India Flights in the recent past. However, Air India's Safety Department has initiated various accident/incident prevention programmes such as:

- (i) The safety promotion meeting (SPM) is conducted to discuss various safety aspects and corrective procedure to be followed;
- (ii) Permanent Investigation Board investigates various incidents/accidents and recommends suitable training/corrective measures;
- (iii) Cockpit Voice Recorder monitoring is carried out;
- (iv) Digital Flight Data Recorder monitoring is carried out to enhance the quality of flight operations;
- (v) Periodic safety audit of all Air India Stations;
- (vi) Safety audit of Operations Department of Air India is done by DGCA periodically.

Besides, Pilots are given special training in the area of human factors, crew resource management, Traffic alert and Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) Training; and dangerous good training; etc. They also undergo refresher courses/training periodically to update their skills and knowledge.

Criteria for Allotment of Hanger

4249. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria followed by the Airports Authority of India to allocate hanger and land to the private airlines for their aircraft;

(b) the names of the companies which have been provided with these facilities along with the terms thereof and the number of aircraft on which these facilities have been provided;

(c) the extent of increase in the income of the Airports Authority of India therefrom;

(d) the schemes of the Airports Authority of India with regard to the maintenance and expansion of Airports and for providing facilities to the passengers; and

(e) the routes on which permission has been given to private companies to start its services for the expansion of air traffic in Rajasthan alongwith the names of these companies?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

Telephone Poles in Aram Bagh Area

4250. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that some telephone poles installed in Aram Bagh area and falling under Idgah Exchange are in deplorable conditions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to replace these telephone poles;

(d) whether the Government are also aware that most of the telephone connections provided through these deplorable poles remain out of order for months together and the cables provided to the subscribers from the said poles are also facing the similar fate; and

(e) the steps, Government propose to take to remove the complaints of the subscribers in Aram Bagh Area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) In some pockets of Aram Bagh area, there are a few poles which are not in very good condition and about 2-4 DPs are installed on the one pole. This is due to high density of telephones in that area.

(c) Rehabilitation of external plant has already been planned. It is proposed to install only wall type DP in future and progressively shift the existing DPs to locations nearer to customer premises on the walls thereby removing the poles altogether.

(d) Some of the telephones were affected for a few days due to cable breakdowns on account of ingress of rain water in the cables. However, expeditious action was

taken to repair the cables and restore the services to normal.

(e) Expeditious action is being taken to attend to all complaints booked in the area.

[Translation]

Widening and Development of National Highways

4251. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are contemplating any scheme for widening and development of the National Highways in the country, particularly in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh;

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

(c) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the State Governments; and

(d) if so, the action being taken by the Government and the details of amount being sanctioned in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement giving details in respect of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra is enclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The proposal received from the State Governments have been included in the Annual Plan of the Ministry for the year 2000-2001. Estimates for the works included in the Annual Plan are sanctioned after detailed estimates are submitted by the State Governments.

The amounts allocated to Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra for Development and Maintenance of National Highways in 2000-2001 are as under:—

| State | NH(O) | EAP | M&R |
|----------------|--------|-------|-------|
| Andhra Pradesh | 91.00 | 0.50 | 30.30 |
| Maharashtra | 118.00 | 72.50 | 35.15 |

Statement*Proposed Development/Widening works in Andhra Pradesh & Maharashtra***A: Through State PWD's****(Andhra Pradesh)**

| Sl.No. | Name of the work | Length (in Kms.) |
|--------|--|------------------|
| 1. | Feasibility study for four laning & Missing link | 329.40 |
| 2. | Widening to two-lane | 55.00 |
| 3. | Improvement of riding quality | 189.40 |
| 4. | Construction/reconstruction of bridges | 13 Nos. |

(Maharashtra)

| Sl.No. | Name of the work | Length (in Kms.) |
|--------|--|------------------|
| 1. | Feasibility study for four laning | 592.00 |
| 2. | Widening to two-lane | 45.00 |
| 3. | Improvement of riding quality | 185.00 |
| 4. | Construction/reconstruction of bridges | 18 Nos. |

B. Through National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)

Widening to four lanes in 1011 kms in Andhra Pradesh and 506 kms. in Maharashtra on the Golden Quadrilateral and 753 kms. in Andhra Pradesh and 232 kms. in Maharashtra on North-South corridor is also planned to be done in a phased manner.

[English]

Diversion of Forest Land

4252. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra Government has sent a proposal of diversion of forest land for development of Samadhi place and Temple of God Shiva at village Shirale, Terf, Malakapur, Tal Shahywadi Distt. Kanpur for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any major illegal construction, commercial exploitation of this small piece of forest land is carried out since 1983;

(d) if so, whether villages and Bhatta Mandali have offered an alternative piece of land to the Forest department;

(e) if so, whether Maharashtra Government and various organisations have requested to the Government to consider the proposal; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The Government of Maharashtra vide their letter no. FLD-2392/CR-156/F-10 dated 14th July, 1992 had submitted a proposal to the Central Government for diversion of 1.89 hectare of forest land for development of ancient "Samadhi" places and Temple of God Shiva in village Shirale Terf Malkapur, Taluka Shahuwadi, District Kolhapur under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(c) As per the information made available by the State, Government, a "Math" (monastery) was constructed by villagers on this land in the year 1984 in violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(d) to (f) The Government of Maharashtra, while forwarding the proposal for approval under the Forest (Conservation), Act, 1980, had offered alternate non-forest land for compensatory afforestation. Also, in addition, compensatory afforestation over degraded forest and double in extent to the area being diverted has been proposed in lieu of the violation of the said Act. This proposal was rejected earlier by the Central Government on 5.2.1993. However, Ministry has received requests for reconsideration of the proposal and the same is under consideration of the Ministry.

Assistance for Sports Academy

4253. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the renowned athlete P.T. Usha has submitted a proposal to his Ministry seeking financial assistance for starting a Sports Academy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps, the Government intend to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ms P.T. Usha has given a profile of the Academy she intends to start for Athletics in Kerala. However, she has been advised to formulate a detailed project report and send to the Government for further necessary action in this regard.

[Translation]

Pilot Instructors at Flying Institutes in India

4254. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is mandatory to have a Chief Pilot Instructor/Pilot instructor incharge for running a flying institute;

(b) if so, the reasons and the details of the requirements for the same;

(c) the number of flying institutes in the country which do not have any Chief Pilot Instructor/Pilot instructor incharge and are carrying flying operations;

(d) whether the flying operations at such flying institutes are safe; and

(e) if so, the reasons of not allowing all institutes to operate without/PII/CFI?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. Chief Flight Instructor (CFI)/Pilot Instructor Incharge (PII) is mandatory for running a flying institute.

(b) The CFI/PII should have the prescribed qualification and experience of flying. They should also have a flying records free of any accident/incidents and capable of sending pupil pilots on solo flights.

(c) Nil.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Development of Herbal Drug Sector

4255. SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a High Level Medicinal Plants Board to provide for a systematic and comprehensive development of the herbal drug;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to enlist all the Indian herbal/medicinal plants and get them patented in India to prevent their getting patented in foreign countries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) A proposal is being processed to set up a "Medicinal Plants Board" as an agency which would be responsible to coordinate all matters relating to the development of the Medicinal Plants Sector.

(c) and (d) This Ministry has a proposal to establish a Traditional knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) which would help in bringing the traditional knowledge already in public domain in an acceptable form with a view to prevent patenting of our plants and medicinal remedies.

Irregularities at Patna Airport

4256 SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level team has detected irregularities in the upkeep of the Jayprakash Narayan International Airport at Patna;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have ordered an inquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action being taken on the basis of recommendations of high level team?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (e) No, Sir. However, an incidence of presence of a dog at runway at the time of landing of an aircraft was enquired into by the Airports Authority of India (AAI). In view of the apparent lack of effective supervision, Airport Director, Deputy General Manager (Air Traffic Control) and Inspector, Central Industrial Security Force posted at Patna Airport have been transferred, and action has been taken by AAI to complete the boundary wall at the airport.

Allotment of Foreign Exchange Business Counters at Airport

4257. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India has decided to allot all the foreign exchanges business counters to one single international agency "Thomas Cook" ignoring all Indian Public Sector Banks which have been serving the above business since the airport had become operational;

(b) if so, the reasons for accordingly the permission to an international financial institution and ignoring all Indian Public Sector Banks; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Allotment of money exchange counter by Airports Authority of India (AAI) at various airports has been done on the basis of open tender and the highest bidder has been selected. It is a commercial decision of AAI. State Bank of India and Punjab National Bank, authorised for collection of Custom Duty at airports

would, however, continue to do so from the counters allotted to them for the purpose.

Incorporate Road Safety

4258. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India has incorporated road safety measures in all newly constructed National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Highways in Andhra Pradesh have also incorporated road safety measures;

(d) if not, the reasons for neglecting the safety measures in National Highways in Andhra Pradesh;

(e) whether a large number of representations have been received from road safety experts in Andhra Pradesh regarding various lapses in road safety; and

(f) if so, the facts in this regard and the steps taken by the Government to ensure the road safety on National Highway in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) National Highways Authority of India has been constructing 4-lane divided carriageway on National Highways entrusted to them including those in Andhra Pradesh in which safety features have been duly considered in design.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Some representation has been received. However, the suggested engineering measures have already been taken into account in upgradation of National Highways in Andhra Pradesh.

Telephone Exchange in Gurgaon

4259. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Telecommunications has installed a telephone exchange of 1k capacity with Optical Fibre Cable link at Garhiharsaru in the District of Gurgaon (Haryana);

(b) if so, the number of telephone connections released from this exchange till date and the status of pendency as on date; and

(c) the details of removing the fault of the telephones under said exchange?

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

(b) 800 telephone connections are working in Garhiharasaru exchange. The waiting list is 19, 136 OBs are pending due to some areas being TNF (Technically Non Feasible).

(c) Most of the faults in the exchange are cleared within 24 hours.

[Translation]

Government Doctors Working in Private Hospitals

4260. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the doctors and specialists employed in various Government hospitals particularly those employed in the major hospitals of Delhi and various Metropolitan cities in the country are interested to work in the private hospitals;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the percentage of such senior doctors and surgeons who have resigned and started working in private hospitals during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to retain their services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) to (d) The number of officers of Central Health Service leaving service to joint private hospitals is not significant. During the last three years, only 1.8% doctors of the total cadre strength of Central Health Service have resigned from service. No indications have been given by such doctors about their joining private hospitals. The pay and allowances including Non Practising Allowance of Central Health Service officers have been increased significantly as per the recommendations of the 5th Central Pay Commission.

[English]

Integrated Women Empowerment Programme

4261. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals on Integrated Women Empowerment Programme received in his Ministry from the Non-Governmental Organisations including Upkar Sansthan of Rajasthan during the last three years;

(b) whether some proposals out of them are still pending with the Government for approval;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) No programme in the name of Integrated Women Empowerment is being funded by this Ministry. As such no proposal has been received on Integrated Women Empowerment Programme. However, the schemes handled in the NGO Division like Mother NGO Scheme, Innovative Projects and Support to Gender Issues (SGI) Project have a component for empowerment of women.

A proposal was received from the organisation Upkar Sansthan, Alwar, Rajasthan for funding under the UNFPA assisted "Support to Gender Issues", Project. The Grant-in-Aid Committee of the Department of Family Welfare in July, 1999 considered the proposal, subsequent to which the organisation was requested to submit a revised proposal, which has since been received.

(b) to (d) Meanwhile, on account of financial crunch, the UNFPA has stopped supporting any new proposal under the Project "Support to Gender Issues."

Financial Assistance to Regional Cancer Centre in Kerala

4262. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Regional Cancer Centre has submitted any project or proposal for the Central Government for getting more financial assistance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have decided to provide more financial assistance to the Regional Cancer Centre, Trivandrum in Kerala during the current year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal from the Government of Kerala for financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 5.00 crores for providing a high energy linear accelerator for Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvanthapuram was received.

(c) to (e) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has already cleared the proposal and the same has been forwarded to Department of Economic Affairs for Japanese Debt Relief Grant Assistance.

Regional Cancer Centre, Trivandrum, is an autonomous organisation under the Government of Kerala. This Ministry provides an annual grant of Rs.75.00 lakhs for purchase of equipments to develop the institution as Regional Cancer Centre. Besides the above, an amount of Rs. 1.00 crore was released to RCC, Trivandrum for purchase of brachi-therapy Unit during 1999-2000. It is a one time grant. Health being a State subject, it is for the Institution/State Government to provide additional funds for the purpose.

Mining Legislation

4263. SHRI SAHIB SINGH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present 'Mining Legislation' is comprehensive Act and includes the provisions of other essential acts namely Mining Act, 1952, Mines & Minerals (Development & Registration) Act 1957 and Forests Conservation Act & Environment Protection Act; and

(b) if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make a 'Task Force' to draft such a integrated and comprehensive Act?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) Entry 54 of List I-Union List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution gives powers to the Central Government for regulation of mines and mineral development to the extent to which such regulation and development under the control of the Union is declared by Parliament by law to be expedient in the public interest. Accordingly, Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation), Act, 1957 (MMDR) has been enacted and is being administered by Ministry of Mines. The laws of the

land framed and administered by different Ministries for specific purposes and which have a bearing on the mining sector like the Mines Act 1952, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 etc. are also applicable to the mining sector.

(b) There is no proposal to constitute a Task Force to draft such an integrated and comprehensive Act.

Percentage of Funds Disbursed from CRF

4264. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are lagging behind in terms of deployment of funds for the upkeep and repair of National Highways citing lack of funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of funds disbursed from Central Road Fund to the total allocation set apart for development of National Highways;

(d) whether the Government have considered the increasing liability in terms of settling compensation claims on road accidents due to poor condition of roads; and

(e) if so, whether the Government would consider increased allocation on development/repair of National Highways as a right step to save money on setting accident claims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is annexed.

(c) Funds out of the existing Central Road Fund are not being utilised/dispensed for development of National Highways.

(d) Under Motor Vehicle Act, 1988 compensation is payable with reference to the accident as a whole and not with reference to any causative factor.

(e) The allocation of funds for development/repair of National Highways has been increased by the Government progressively having regard to availability of resources.

Statement**Shortfall in M&R Allocation**

| Year | Requirement projected to finance (Rs. Crore) | Amount Provided (Rs. Crore) | Shortfall (Rs. Crore) | % shortfall |
|-----------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| 1981-82 | 55.55 | 47.00 | 8.55 | 15.39 |
| 1982-83 | 60.00 | 51.00 | 9.00 | 15.00 |
| 1983-84 | 71.90 | 61.00 | 10.00 | 15.16 |
| 1984-85 | 108.30 | 75.00 | 33.30 | 30.75 |
| 1985-86 | 116.82 | 90.00 | 26.82 | 22.96 |
| 1986-87 | 176.78 | 94.25 | 82.53 | 46.69 |
| 1987-88 | 177.24 | 99.03 | 78.21 | 44.33 |
| 1988-89 | 198.00 | 142.36 | 55.64 | 28.10 |
| 1989-90 | 194.50 | 143.55 | 50.95 | 26.20 |
| 1990-91 | 257.91 | 153.12 | 104.79 | 40.63 |
| 1991-92 | 291.29 | 166.76 | 124.53 | 42.75 |
| 1992-93 | 330.00 | 168.67 | 161.33 | 48.89 |
| 1993-94 | 415.00 | 214.50 | 200.50 | 48.31 |
| 1994-95 | 475.00 | 246.90 | 230.50 | 48.52 |
| 1995-96 | 535.00 | 288.43 | 250.50 | 46.80 |
| 1996-97 | 570.00 | 372.00 | 248.00 | 44.00 |
| 1997-98 | 600.00 | 497.50 | 203.00 | 34.00 |
| 1998-99 | 1000.00 | 549.80 | 450.20 | 45.00 |
| 1999-2000 | 1250.00 | 703.00 | 547.00 | 44.00 |
| 2000-2001 | 1350.00 | 702.50 | 647.50 | 48.00 |

* Rs. 547 crore have been made available out of cess fund under plan head to undertake special Repair programme to improve the riding quality but allocations under Normal maintenance programme under Non Plan head have been only Rs. 703 crore for the year 1999-2000.

Reduction in ISD Call

4265. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to reduce rate of international call of VSNL, particularly India-US, is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this proposal is being considered under the pressure of US multi-nationals; and

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

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

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

(c) and (d) International accounting rates are mutually decided by the operating companies on either side (in the case of India, VSNL being the Operator). VSNL has informed that they have been approached by their US counterparts for reduction in the international accounting rate commensurate with the market trend. The operators themselves will decide the issue taking into account all relevant considerations.

[*Translation*]

Revised Pay Scales to Research Officers of ISM&H

4266. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the minimum pay scale of Group-A Rs. 8000/- Rs. 13,500/- *vide* Part B is to be given to Ayurvedic doctors working under Department of ISMH at par with the Allopathic doctors as per the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission Report accepted by the Government;

(b) whether the Research officers working in Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha under the Department of ISMH also included in the revised pay scale;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The recommendations do not automatically extend to Research Councils. At this stage, comparative information relating to similarly placed categories has been sought which has also been furnished.

AIDS Research Centres with World Bank Assistance

4267. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up AIDS research centres in the country with the World Bank assistance;

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

(c) whether the Government are also contemplating set up a AIDS research center in Maharashtra;

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

(e) if so, not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA):

(a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) The National AIDS Research Institute (NARI) at Pune, has been set up and is being funded by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) for promotion of research in the field of HIV/AIDS.

Delhi-Moscow Flight of Air India

4268. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India has discontinued its weekly Delhi-Moscow flight;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Air India was incurring losses due to operation of the said flight; and

(d) if not, the actual reasons for discontinuing the said flight?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Air India has replaced its physical operations on the Delhi-Moscow route by a code share arrangement with effect from 01.08.2000 as it was more profitable.

(d) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Assistance for Hyderabad Bypass Expressway

4269. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has sought Central Assistance for laying 195 km long Hyderabad by-pass expressway; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of Andhra Pradesh has been advised that the construction of the by-pass could be taken up on BOT basis with private investment in view of paucity of resources available with the Ministry and taking into account the heavy traffic volume expected on the proposed by-pass.

[*Translation*]

Telephone Services in Bihar

4270. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level meeting has been held recently for solving the problems related to telephone services in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the names of MPs from Bihar who participated the said meeting;

(c) the details of decisions taken in the said meeting; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) and (c) A high level meeting was taken by Hon'ble Minister of Communications with Hon'ble Members of Parliament from Bihar and top officials of the Ministry of Communications on 15th May, 2000, to discuss about the state of telecommunication services and to ensure its development in the State. Decisions taken in the meeting are given in the enclosed statement I. And the list of names of Hon'ble M.Ps from Bihar who participated in the said meeting are given in the enclosed Statement II.

(d) Action is being taken on the points progressively.

Statement I

Decisions Taken on the issues Raised by Hon. MPs of Bihar

1. Village Telecommunications

- Village Public Telephones (VPTs)—It was decided that wherever VPTs are working on MARR, it will be repaired and in case it is not possible to repair it, the same will be replaced

All such VPTs will be attended to and made in working order within two years.

- It was decided that all Block Headquarters in Bihar be provided with telephone connectivity.

2. Internet Connection in District Headquarters

- It was decided to provide Nodes for Internet at each SSA (Secondary Switching Area) Headquarter by 30th June, 2000 for which orders for equipment have already been placed.

3. Telephone Services

- It was decided that the problem of non-availability of cable will be overcome through WLL (Wireless in Local Loop) technology by November, 2000.
- It was also decided to take immediate steps to solve the problem of malfunctioning of exchanges as well as attending to the complaints in time.

4. Telephone/Telecom Advisory Committee

- It was decided to hold TAC meetings regularly.
- It was also decided that telephone to Members of TAC should be provided quickly.

5. GSM (Global Service for Mobile Communication) & Wireless in Local Loop

- It was decided that GSM services will be introduced in Bihar by Durga Puja and WLL technology by November, 2000.

6. MPs Quota for Out of Turn Telephones

- It was decided that a fortnight/month should be fixed for clearing the backlog of MP Quota cases.
- It was also decided that CGM/GM should intimate the MPs beforehand about the areas where providing of telephones are not technically feasible at present.

7. Telephone Directory

- It was decided to make available/publish Telephone Directory of all the SSAs in Bihar.
- It was also decided that one copy of MTNL Delhi Telephone Directory may be given to each MP from Bihar.

8. *Response to MPs letters*

- It was decided that in Circle office of Bihar Telecom, one particular officer is to be nominated for attending to MPs cases and a final reply sent in a time bound manner.

9. *Miscellaneous*

- It was decided that a strict action may be taken against corrupt employees.

10. *Next Meeting*

- It was decided to hold next meeting at Zonal level in Bihar.

Statement II

Name of Hon. M.Ps who attended the Meeting with Hon'ble MOC on 15.5.2000

| Sl.No. | Name of M.Ps |
|--------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | 2 |
| 1. | Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav |
| 2. | Smt. Abha Mahto |
| 3. | Shri Raghuvansh Prasad |
| 4. | Smt. Kanti Singh |
| 5. | Shri Hukmdeo Narayan Yadav |
| 6. | Shri Naval Kishore Rai |
| 7. | Shri Gaya Singh |
| 8. | Shri Nikhil Kumar Chaudhary |
| 9. | Shri Ramjee Manjhi |
| 10. | Shri Nagmani |
| 11. | Shri Rajo Singh |
| 12. | Shri Raghu Nath Jha |
| 13. | Shri Kirti Jha Azad |
| 14. | Shri Prabhu Nath Singh |
| 15. | Dr. M.P. Jaiswal |
| 16. | Md. Shahabuddin |
| 17. | Shri Ram Tahal Chaudhary |
| 18. | Shri Radha Mohan Singh |

| 1 | 2 |
|-----|---------------------------------|
| 19. | Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad |
| 20. | Shr Parmeshwar Kumar Aggarwal |
| 21. | Shri Tilak Dhari Prasad Singh |
| 22. | Shri Ram Chandra Paswan |
| 23. | Dr. Sanjay Paswan |
| 24. | Capt. Jai Narayan Prasad Nishad |
| 25. | Shri Manjay Lal |
| 26. | Smt. Renu Kumari |
| 27. | Shri Sukdev Paswan |
| 28. | Md. Anwarul Haque |
| 29. | Shri Arun Kumar |
| 30. | Prof. (Smt.) Rita Verma |
| 31. | Shri Shibu Soren |

[English]

Assistance for Sapphires Source in Doda

4271. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to provide any assistance to J&K State for development and protection of country's only sapphire source in Doda;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS, AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) to (c) Mineral Concessions are granted by the respective State Governments in their territorial jurisdictions as per the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 and Rules framed thereunder. As the mineral rights are vested in the State Governments and the State Governments earn revenue from the royalties on minerals, the State Government is responsible for development and protection of minerals including sapphire. Central Government does not provide any assistance to any State Government for development and protection of any mineral in particular.

Separate Arrangements for Burn Cases

4272. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Uchtam Nyayalaya ke Nirdeshon ka Aaj Tak Palan Nahin ho Saka" appeared in the *Nav Bharat Times* dated the June 7, 2000;

(b) if so, whether separate arrangements have been made in Government hospitals to treat the burnt either by fire or bomb blast accident in the country particularly in Delhi;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to permit adequate arrangements for the treatment of such cases in the Government Hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Separate Burn Ward is in existence in Safdarjung Hospital and Dr. R.M.L. Hospital, New Delhi. Facilities of treatment of mild degree of burn cases are available in LHMC & Associated Hospitals, New Delhi. Government of NCT of Delhi has informed that adequate arrangement to treat the burn patients already exists in Lok Nayak Hospital, New Delhi. In Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital, provision has been made of 18 bedded well furnished special burn ward and in Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital separate arrangements are being made with 30 bed strength. In hospitals, where separate burn ward does not exist, the patients brought to hospital are being given first aid/treatment and if required transferred to other hospitals in hospital ambulances in supervision of Doctors.

The AIIMS does not have an exclusive burns unit which can cater to a large number of patients. All such patients reporting to AIIMS casualty are referred to Safdarjung Hospital after being given first-aid and after stabilization.

MCD has informed that there is no separate Burn Department in any of MCD hospitals. However, arrangements to treat minor burn cases upto 12% exist in Hindu Rao Hospital.

NDMC has informed that there is only one 150 bedded hospital for all types of diseases and there is no separate ward for burnt cases. The burnt patients are

immediately informed that there is no burn unit in the hospital.

"Health" is a State subject under the Constitution of India and it is the responsibility of respective State Government to provide separate arrangements for burn patients in the hospital under their administrative control.

(d) All efforts are made and every possible measures are taken to treat burn patients in Central Government Hospitals in Delhi.

[Translation]

Misuse of ISD Facility

4273. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the introduction of Internet, ISD and E-mail facilities has given rise to serious security problems and anti-social elements are supplying intelligence reports of military to Pakistan in the border district Jaisalmer of Rajasthan;

(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 TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Call Charges

4274. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private operators at some places charges less tariff for a three minute call in Delhi and at other places where as the DoT charges more for the same;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the tariff charges for making a one minute call from, Guwahati to Delhi and how much amount is shared by the DoT and the Private operators therein;

(d) whether the private operators are earn more profit despite making use of the T exchange and other

infrastructure whereas the DoT gets only a minor share therein;

- (e) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Tariff charges for telecom services are fixed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) as per the TRAI Act. TRAI issued the Telecom Tariff Order (TTO) 1999 on 9th March, 1999 prescribing tariffs for the various telecom services. These tariffs are only the Ceilings and the Service Providers are free to fix their own tariffs within these Ceilings which in some cases are less than DTO's tariffs.

(c) The maximum tariff charges for making one-minute call from Guwahati to Delhi as per DTO rates is Rs. 28.80. There is no private basic service operator in Guwahati area and, therefore, there is no sharing of revenue with any basic service operator.

(d) to (f) Revenue sharing between DTO and private operators has been fixed by TRAI vide its regulation No. 1 of 1999 dated 28th May, 1999 to compensate DTO for the usage of its network.

Anomaly Committees

4275. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether anomaly committees were constituted in the various Ministries after implementation of the Fifth Pay Commission;
- (b) if so, whether the Anomaly Committee set up in the Ministry of Communications has submitted its report;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the time by which the recommendations of the Committee are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, the Anomaly Committee in Department of Telecommunications was constituted after implementation of the Fifth Pay Commission's report.

- (b) Yes, it has submitted its report.

(c) The recommendations on anomaly cases were sent to Department of Personnel & Training for seeking the approval of Government as per the following details:

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| November, 1998 | Two Cases |
| May, 1999 | One Case |
| October, 1999 | Six Cases |
| November, 1999 | Two Cases |

(d) Implementation of the recommendations of Departmental Anomaly Committee are subject to approval of the Government. The decision for three-cases has been received. They were not accepted by the nodal Ministry i.e. Department of Personnel & Trg. Ministry of Communications shall be able to implement the recommendations of Departmental Anomaly Committee in respect of other 8 cases once the decision of DOP&T and Ministry of Finance is received.

[English]

Third Telephone to Member of Parliament

4276. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have recently announced fifty thousand free calls on third telephone for MPs;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the guidelines framed for the purpose;
- (c) the head from which this expenditure is to be met;
- (d) the reasons for making money from the public and losing the same from MPs;
- (e) the extent to which the Government propose to give similar facility to the general public in the country; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) In view of the recommendations of the Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of MPs and a Gazette Notification No. 272 dated 13.05.2000, a Member of Parliament has been allowed a third telephone with 50,000 free calls in a year for Internet Connectivity

purpose with effect from 13.05.2000 at Delhi/Constituency/State.

(c) The expenditure involved shall be borne by Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

(d) Members of Parliament have been allowed above facility on recommendation of the joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of MPs for which expenditure will be borne by Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

(e) and (f) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in exercise of powers conferred upon it vide TRAI Act 1997; on re-balancing the tariff has rationalized call charges; decreasing the highest slab of Rs. 1.40 to Rs. 1.20 per call w.e.f. 01.05.1999; while recommending a reduction in the number of free calls permitted to a subscriber. Government while accepting the reduction in highest slab decided to retain the existing permissible higher number of free calls to each subscriber.

RPM System

4277. DR. SANJAY PASWAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of RPM System prevalent in almost all big cities in India;

(b) if so, whether the impact of this mode of recreation has ever been ascertained;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Shukla Commission

4278. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shukla Commission has submitted its recommendations on Telecommunication sector in NER;

(b) if so, the details therefor; and

(c) the time by which the said recommendations are likely to be implemented?

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

(b) and (c) The salient recommendations of Shukla Commission on development of telecommunication in the North East in terms of PM's special package are given below:—

Recommendation I

All administrative officers up to the Taluka/Block level should be provided with a fax connection in view of the difficult terrain and long delays involved in mail communications, especially in Arunachal Pradesh. DOT should do so by extending facsimile transmission facilities through the multiple-access radio relay system (MARR) which currently only provides for audio-quality pay-phones operation. This must be given top priority.

Recommendation II

The concerned departments should review the possibility of overall cost savings if the requirements of DOT, the Defence and para-military forces, police, AIR, DD and other can be served through common transmission masts, earth stations and other facilities, including shared sites and buildings.

Recommendation III

Moreh (Manipur) has a separate exchange. This should be provided ISD facilities through VSNL in view of the new cross-border trade opportunities opening up. The same applies to Champhai (Mizoram) and other potential international trade centres. The North-East's telecommunication links with Dhaka, Chittagong, Yangon, Mandalay and Thimphu should be suitably strengthened.

Recommendation IV

Special connections and links should be provided to designated points within the region as well as to Bhutan and Bangladesh for transmission of rainfall, water discharge and flood data in real time. DOT/VSNL should plan this in consultation with the Ministry of Water Resources in the interests of regional cooperation.

Status of the above recommendations are as given below:—

- (i) Fax on Multiple-Access Radio Relay System (MARR) is possible. However, since the MARR technology has not been found dependable, further introduction of this system has been discontinued. FAX facility is possible on the new technology systems under consideration for the provision of Village Public Telephone such as CDOT-PMP and satellite systems. Government

will be able to extend all possible assistance to the State Government as soon as their requirements of FAX is provided.

- (ii) Requirements of Defence, Para-military forces, police, and AIR are normally projected to the DTO. These are being met from the common media of DTO. DTO's network in NE Region is adequate to meet the requirements. Expansion plans are worked out based on the demands.
- (iii) Moreh (Manipur) has 1000 line C-DOT Digital Electronic Exchange which is connected to Imphal through Optical Fibre systems to provide STD/ISD facility. Champhai (Mizoram) is having 512-ILT and 1000 line C-DOT Exchange and it is connected at present with 5+4 circuits on Single Channel Per Carrier on Satellite communication system. Intermediate Data Rate (IDR) system on satellite media and OFC also has been planned for Champhai to improve communication facility to Champhai.

N.E. State's International calls go through DTO's Network to the National Gateway provided with International connectivity to the neighbouring countries. There is a proposal to have a link from Agartala to Brahmanbaria in Bangladesh. Details of existing connectivity to neighbouring countries is given in the enclosed statement.

- (iv) No requirement from the concerned Ministries have been received in this regard. However, any requirement can be met in the telecom network of DTO.

Statement

International Connectivities with Neighbouring Countries

1. *Nepal*

- (a) The medium between Nepal and India is Digital: From Patna to Birganj the digital medium is on Optical Fibre Cable and from Birganj to Kathmandu it is Digital Microwave.
- (b) Out of 30 Mbs capacity available between Patna and Kathmandu eleven PCM slots are occupied at present and five slots are vacant which can be made available for leased lines.

2. *Bhutan*

- (a) The medium between India and Bhutan is Digital: From Siliguri to Hasimara the medium is on Optical Fibre Cable and Hashimara to

Phutsholling is on 2GHz 120 Channel Microwave link.

- (b) Out of the four PCMs available between Phutsholling and Siliguri, three are occupied by TAX circuits and one PCM is available for non-Tax circuits with first order MUX available at Calcutta and Phutsholling. Out of remaining 30 channels available in this M/W route five are occupied at present and twenty five circuits are free which can be utilized for future demand lines.

3. *Bangladesh*

- (a) The medium between India and Bangladesh is Analog M/W. There is a proposal for an optical fibre links from Calcutta to Jessore and a Microwave link from Agartala to Bhamanbaria.
- (b) Between India and Bangladesh no spare slot is available as only one Supergroup is working at present which is occupied by TAX circuits.

Outgoing Telex traffic from Calcutta to Thimpu (Bhutan) and from Calcutta to Dhaka (Bangladesh) have been re-routed via VSNL GATEX Switch.

[Translation]

Harassment of Subscribers by DoT Officials

4279. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have received any complaint regarding the officials of DoT disconnecting telephones of the subscribers and allotting to some other in the rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) No such complaint have been received.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) & (b) above however, the SSA heads are meeting the public without appointment during visiting hours for general public to sort out their grievances. Open House sessions and Telephone Adalats are being held at regular intervals to attend to the complaints, if any, from the public.

Issuance of OB

4280. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether priority for telephone connections is determined after the issuance of OB by the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, Delhi;

(b) if so, the authority who reserves the rights in this regard;

(c) the names of the MPs and the number of letters received therefrom and the number of letters on which priority have been determined;

(d) whether there have been certain cases wherein priority has been awarded to the persons other than the persons recommended by Member of Parliament; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) (a) and (b) Sir, the priority for installation off telephone connections after the issuance of OB in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, Delhi is being determined as per procedural guidelines laid down by DoT vide letter No. 2-41/92 PHA dated 02.03.1998. (copy given in enclosed statement)

(c) 6563 priorities on installation of telephones have given as per procedure during the January 1, 2000 to June 30, 2000.

(d) Details are given as under:

| Sl.No. | Name of the MP S/Shri | No. of letters received during Jan 1, 2000 to June 30, 2000 | No. of letters on which priority determined | Remarks if any |
|--------|--------------------------|--|--|--|
| 1. | Karan Singh | 5 | 5 | — |
| 2. | M.L. Khurana | 49 | 49 | — |
| 3. | Vijay Goel | 23 | 23 | — |
| 4. | Dr. Anita Arya | 13 | 13 | — |
| 5. | L.B. Tiwari | 28 | 28 | — |
| 6. | V.K. Malhotra | 13 | 13 | — |
| 7. | A.R. Kidwai | 1 | 1 | — |
| 8. | Kuldeep Nayyar | 2 | 1 | One case was recommended by Hon'ble MP for out of MTNL, Delhi. |
| 9. | Kartar Singh | 3 | — | All the three cases were recommended by Hon'ble MP for out of MTNL, Delhi. |

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. In view of the guidelines contained in letter mentioned in the reply at (a) & (b) above and enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Government of India
Ministry of Communications
Department of Telecommunications
415, Sanchar Bhawan, 20, Ashoka Road,
New Delhi-110 001

No. 2-41/92-PHA Dated: March 2, 1998

To All CGMs, Telecom. Circles/Telephone Distts.
CGM, MTNL, Delhi/Mumbai
CMD, MTNL, Delhi.

SUBJECT: Reactive priority in shift and installation of telephone connections.

In suppression of this office circular of even No dated 02.11.1993 on the subject mentioned above, it has been decided that the following order of inter-se priority in shift and installation of telephone connections, shall be followed by Telecom. Circles/Distt. with immediate effect:

- (a) Casual Connections/Temporary Connections-upto 3 months for Centre/State level events of National Importance.
- (b) Shift of Telephones.
- (c) TATKAL.
- (d) Non-OYT-G-SWS/Non-OYT-G-SE-DoT.
- (e) Government Connections.
- (f) Temporary Connections other than at (a) above.
- (g) Out-of-turn connections sanctioned by the MPs/ Directorate.
- (h) Non-OYT-SS.
- (i) OYT-Special.
- (j) OYT-General.
- (k) Non-OYT-Special.
- (l) Connections sanctioned on out-of-turn basis on the recommendations of TAC members.
- (m) Non-OYT-General.

As regards Local & STD/ISD Pay Phones, 5% of the exchange capacity would be kept reserved and such pay phones would be allotted/installed, as per our instructions contained in Memo No. 31-13/91 PHB dated 14.08.1992, only from this reserved quota of 5%.

Receipt of this letter may kindly be acknowledged.

Sd/-
(S.K. BHARDWAJ)
Asst. Director General (PHA)

Copy to:

1. PS to Chairman, TC.
2. All Members/Advisors (TC)
3. All Sr. DDSG/DDSG, DoT.
4. OL Section for Hindi Version.

Sd/
(J.P. DOBHAL)
Section Officer (PHA)

[English]

Financial Position of CSBL

4281. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the financial adviser and accounts officer of Calcutta Dock System advised about financial position of CSBL;

(b) if so, whether the CSBL was granted dry dock lease on long term basis by CDS; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Chokhani Shipyard (Bengal) Limited (CSBL) is a duly incorporated company under the Companies Act, 1956. The Board of Trustees of Calcutta Port Trust, after due consideration of all the aspects in detail, decided to allot N.S. Dry Dock in favour of CSBL.

Air India Agreement with Caribjet

4282. SHRI R.L. BHATIA:
SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU:
SHRI BABBAN RAJBHAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India was put to heavy loss on account of Wet-lease agreement with Caribjet for three aircraft operations in India from 1994 to 1997;

(b) the rate of payment made to Caribjet;

(c) whether legal opinion was sought before making the agreement; and

(d) if so, the action taken or proposed for signing 'take or pay' contract?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Air India had taken two A310-300 aircraft on wet-lease from M/s. Caribjet initially for six months *w.e.f.* December, 1994, which was extended upto Dec. 1995 at a lease rate of USD 3285 per hour. The lease was further extended upto December, 1995. Again in November, 1995 Air India concluded a fresh agreement with M/s. Caribjet for wet-lease of two L1011-500 aircraft and one A310-300 aircraft for two years effective 1.1.96 on the following lease rate:

| | For two L-1011-500 | For one A310-300 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Minimum guarantee | 333 | 333 |
| Utilization (Hours/Aircraft/Month) | | |
| Lease Rates (USD/HR) | | |
| 0-333 HRS | 5450 | 4822 |
| 333 + HRS | 4628 | 3825 |

Air India terminated the wetlease agreement with Caribjet with effect from September 4, 1996 on grounds of technical lapses and non-fulfilment of various norms of Directorate General of Civil Aviation. Caribjet, in pursuance of the provisions of the agreement, took the matter to Arbitral Tribunal, London. The Tribunal, despite best evidences put forth, determined that loss of profit was payable to M/s. Caribjet and awarded a net compensation of US\$ 23.63 Million (Rs. 103 crores) to M/s Caribjet for the remaining portion of the lease.

(c) Yes, Sir. The wet-lease agreements concluded with Caribjet in 1994 and 1995 were vetted by Air India's solicitors prior to signing of these agreements.

(d) Ministry of Civil Aviation has asked CBI to investigate into the wet-lease agreements of 1994 and 1995.

Smuggling by Staff of Indian Airlines

4283. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines staff had smuggled gold biscuits from Sharjah in the last week of June on flight IC-881;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to get rid of such anti-national elements?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) It has been reported by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, New Delhi that on 27th June, 2000 Shri Vasudev Prasad, Foreman, Staff No. 278866 retrieved a packet containing 44 gold biscuits of 10 totals each totally weighting 5.130 Kgs. from one of the rear toilets of aircraft which operated flight IC-882 (Sharjah-Delhi) in the morning of 27th June, 2000 while the aircraft was parked at domestic airport after operating its international flight. Subsequently, Shri Vasudev Prasad handed over these biscuits to an outsider. On further interrogation the officers of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence recovered another packet containing 44 gold biscuits concealed in the rear toilet of the said aircraft. Shri Vasudev Prasad was arrested by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and is in judicial custody.

(c) Shri Vasudev Prasad has been placed under suspension by the Competent Authority with effect from 27th June, 2000. Disciplinary proceedings are being initiated against him.

Internet Telephony

4284. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some private companies/individuals have started using internet telephony;

(b) if so, whether the Government have given its approval; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (c) Use of Internet telephony is not permitted. As per New Telecom Policy (NTP) '99, Internet telephony shall not be permitted at this stage. However, Government will continue to monitor the technological innovations and their impact on national development and review this issue at an appropriate time.

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

[Translation]

National Population Stabilisation

4285. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) whether Government have decided to set-up 'National Population Stabilisation Fund' and 'High Powered Working Group';

(b) if so, the composition thereof alongwith the time by which these are likely to be set-up; and

(c) the response of various States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has decided to set up a National Population Stabilisation Fund and Working Groups.

(b) and (c) The composition of the above are being worked out and are likely to be finalised shortly. During the first meeting of the National Commission on Population held on 22nd July, 2000, most State Governments responded favourably to the setting up of the National Population Stabilisation Fund.

[*English*]**Setting up of Ayurvedic Hospitals**

4286. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGØ:

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

(a) whether the Prime Minister has shown keen interest in Ayurvedic;

(b) if so, whether the Government have decided to expand the facilities for Ayurvedic Hospitals, dispensaries and educational institutions in the country;

(c) if so, the details of the proposals, allocation of fund, expenditures incurred thereon, targets fixed and achievements made during each of the last three years and remaining period of the Ninth Plan period, State-wise; and

(d) if not, the steps taken for the expansion of other Indian Systems of Medicines during remaining period of the Ninth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Health is a State Subject. The State Governments and Union Territories establish hospitals, dispensaries and medical institutions keeping in view their needs, intense priorities and financial resource. The Central Government sets up national level institutions. It has already set up National Institute of Ayurveda (NIA), Jaipur, National Institute of Homeopathy (NIH), Calcutta, National Institute of Naturopathy (NIN), Pune, Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY), New Delhi, National Institute of Unani Medicine (NIUM), Bangalore. The construction of the main building of NIUM Bangalore would be undertaken soon.

Apart from this, expenditure has been largely related to supporting the activities of the Research Councils for Ayurveda & Siddha, Unani & Homeopathy systems of Medicine, strengthening and upgrading of under-graduate/post-graduate educational institutions, preparation of agro-techniques, building awareness etc. which have been implemented through the relevant organisations and agencies directly as per the schemes.

During the remaining period of the Ninth Plan, different schemes are at an advanced stage of formulation which *inter-alia* include the establishment of a Medicinal Plants Board and the strengthening of State Drug Test Laboratories and Pharmacies. The fund allocation will be decided after the schemes are approved.

[*Translation*]**Construction on National Highway-2**

4287. DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated so far for the construction of four lane road on National Highway-2;

(b) the length of construction work in kilometers completed on the said National Highway and the time by which the remaining work is likely to be completed;

(c) whether the construction work on this National Highway is held up due to presence of forest on its way; and

(d) if so, the time by which this problem is likely to be solved alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The details of 4 laning work on NH-2 are as follows:—

| | Section | Estimated Cost (Rs. Crore) | Status |
|----|----------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Delhi-Mathura (111.03 km.) | 194.50 | Completed |
| 2. | Mathura-Agra (51.33 km.) | 154.10 | Completed |
| 3. | Agra-Barwa Adda | | |
| | (i) Selected Stretches (477 km.) | 2616.00 | World Bank loan signed Project to be awarded. |
| | (ii) — do — (532 km.) | 2099.00 | World Bank loan to be negotiated. |

| | 1 | 2 | 3 |
|----|--------------------------------|--------|---|
| 4. | Barwa Adda-Barakar (42.69 km.) | 187.60 | On going, completion targeted for Oct. '2000 |
| 5. | Barakar-Raniganj (35.40 km.) | 141.91 | On going, completion targeted for Oct. '2000 |
| 6. | Raniganj-Panagarh (41.24 km.) | 231.90 | On going, completion targeted for Apr. '2001 |
| 7. | Panagarh-Palsit (69 km.) | 310.00 | To be taken up, completion targeted for December, 2003. |
| 8. | Palsit-Dhankuril (65 km.) | 324.00 | —do— |

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Implementation of NPCB in Karnataka

4288. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of General Hospitals which have been upgraded so far to provide clinical and surgical ophthalmic services to rural communities under National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB) in Karnataka; and

(b) the details of hospitals proposed to be upgraded under the above programme during 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA):

(a) 24 District Hospitals have been upgraded under the National Programme for Control of Blindness to provide Eye Care Services to rural communities. Each district has Mobile Ophthalmic Unit, which organizes screening camps in rural areas and brings cases requiring surgical services to the base hospital.

(b) During the year 2000-2001, District Hospitals are being strengthened to perform IOL Cataract Surgery by supply of requisite equipments and training of eye surgeons. Rs. 10 lakh have also been allocated to the State Government for repairs and renovation of Eye Ward and Operation Theatres.

Grounding of Indian Airlines Flight No. 540

4289. SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU:
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESHWARLU:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines Flight No. 540 from Delhi to Chennai was grounded on July 12, 2000;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any responsibility has been fixed on the grounding of this flight;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reasons for not fumigating the plane before embarking the passengers into the aircraft; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future?

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

(b) Flight IC 540 of 12.7.2000 was rescheduled to operate Delhi-Chennai at 2145 hours as against its STD of 1900 hours due to requirement of B4 type of aircraft at Chennai for Singapore operation with incoming IC 539 aircraft VT-EVD. The flight rolled out at 2145 hours with TNB 128 passengers. At 2155 hours, it was informed that a rat had been seen in the aircraft and therefore the Commander of the aircraft decided to return to the bay. The aircraft arrived at the bay and passengers were disembarked and brought to the Terminal Building.

(c) and (d) The matter was considered by Indian Airlines. It was not possible to fix individual responsibility for the grounding of the flight.

(e) Fumigation of the aircraft is not done prior to each flight. As soon as rat was observed on the aircraft, aircraft was fumigated prior to offering for the next flight to ensure safe operation of aircraft.

(f) The caterers have been advised to regularly fumigate the highlifts through which food items are transferred to the aircraft. Catering Section has been advised to exercise utmost vigil against the possible rodent menace.

[*Translation*]

Condition of Ranchi-Gumla National Highway-22

4290. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the condition of the Ranchi-Gumla National Highway-22 has become pitiable owing to the irregularities committed by the contractor;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to repair the said Highway and make it traffic worthy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir. No irregularity in execution of work from contractor side has been detected on Ranchi-Gumla section, which is a part of National Highway-23. Ranchi Gumla section is in traffic worthy condition.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) This section is being maintained in traffic worthy condition within available resources.

Decontrol of Forest Land in Bihar

4291. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to decontrol 100 acres of forest land for operation of delomite mines by the Steel Authority of India Limited in Hasaldag area of Bhavnathpur in Gadhava district of Bihar is pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether 100 acres land of forest land has been decontrolled for exploitation of minerals by Birla Industrial House in Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not decontrolling the forest land in Hasaldag area of Bhavnathpur in Gadhava district of Bihar for delomite mines by the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) A proposal for diversion of 198.24 hectares of forest land for renewal of mining lease of Bhawanathpur limestone mines in favour of Steel Authority of India in district Garhwa was received from the State Government of Bihar under section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 during 1998. During examination of the proposal, certain additional essential information was sought from the State Government of Bihar on 22.03.1999. The requisite information was not submitted by the State Government of Bihar on 22.03.1999. The requisite information was not submitted by the State Government within the stipulated time period of three months and therefore, the present proposal was rejected for want of information on 11.11.1999.

No proposal for diversion of forest land for mining of minerals in district Garhwa in favour of Birla Industrial House is received under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 from the State Government of Bihar.

[*English*]

Clinical Facilities in PGI, Chandigarh

4292. SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether PGI, Chandigarh has failed to recover charges worth Rs. 5.17 crore for providing clinical facilities to indoor and outdoor patients and Rs. 2.30 crore for providing various clinical tests to indoor and outdoor patients for research purpose during 1995-98;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have fixed any responsibility for this loss;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government to recover the said charges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) to (e) Basic and life saving medicines/disposables were being provided to the indoor and outdoor patients by the hospital since its inception in 1962. To augment the hospital receipts, a review was undertaken by the Institute in respect of hospital charges and an order was issued on 24th April, 1995 which *inter-alia* provided that all medicines and disposables would be provided by the patients themselves. However, in emergency, life saving

medicines would be provided by hospital and those would be replaced by the patients. The above order could not be implemented because of following difficulties.

1. Certain life-saving drugs like Inj. Anti Diphtheria Serum, Anti Snake Venom and Narcotic drugs like Inj. Morphine, Tab. Morphine, Inj. Pethidine, Inj. Midazolam which were not available in the market had to be procured and provided by the hospital to the patients.
2. Hospitals are supposed to provide I/V fluid bandages, Gauze Sticking Plaster and other dressing material including spirit, antiseptic solution, cream, lotion disinfectant etc.
3. A number of patients admitted in emergency were unknown. Most of the cases had met with accidents and were brought by either police or ordinary citizens.
4. In the case of patients who died, replacement could not be asked for although patient might not be poor.

Besides the employees of Government of Punjab, Haryana and U.T. Administration posted at Chandigarh were entitled to Free Treatment in the Institute. In addition, employees of the Institute and their dependents were also entitled to the free treatment. Therefore, medicines and disposables were provided to them by the hospital during their treatment at PGI. With this background and keeping in view the functional objectives of the Institute as well as its social responsibility to patients in general, orders issued in April, 1995 were reviewed and held in abeyance.

[Translation]

Postal Services in Bihar

4293. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had formulated any scheme for the development/modernisation and extension of postal services in the rural and urban areas of Bihar particularly in Saharsa, Supaul and Madhepura districts during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure incurred thereon; and

(c) the details of the programme chalked out for the Ninth Five Year Plan for the development/modernisation and extension of the postal services in the State and the said districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) The Development/modernization works of the Department of Posts are implemented through allocation of targets for various postal activities in the rural and urban areas, under the successive Annual Plans. Details of such works implemented in Bihar during Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97) and the first three years (1997-2000) of the Ninth Five Year Plan is given in the enclosed statement I. Details of plan activities implemented in districts of Saharsa, Supaul and Madhepura during the Eighth Five Year Plan and Ninth Five Year Plan is given in the enclosed statement II.

Statement I

Development/Modernisation activities carried out in the Bihar Circle during 8th Plan; and first three years of 9th Five Year Plan

| Development works | Targets achieved in 8th Plan | Targets achieved in First 3 Annual Plans of 9th Plan |
|--|---------------------------------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. Opening of Post Offices | | |
| Extra Departmental Branch Officers | 183 | 154 |
| Sub offices | 21 | 6 |
| 2. Opening of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras | 31 | 57 |

| | 1 | 2 | 3 |
|--|---|-----|-----|
| 3. Installation of Multi Purpose Counter Machines (MPCMs) at offices | | 203 | 274 |
| 4. Installation of Very Small Aperture Terminal Stations(VSAT) | | 6 | 6 |
| 5. Installation of Extended Satellite Money Order (ESMO) | | 20 | 45 |
| 6. Modernisation of Post Offices | | 21 | 21 |
| 7. Modernisation of Mail Offices | | 3 | 11 |
| 8. Construction of Operative Offices | | 16 | 7 |
| 9. Construction of Staff Quarters | | 57 | 12 |
| 10. Construction of Administrative Offices | | 2 | 2 |

An amount of Rs. 13.43 crores was spent in Bihar Circle under the 8th Plan for various Plan activities implemented in the Circle.

Statement II

Development/Modernisation activities carried out in the three districts (Saharsa, Supaul and Madhepur) during 8th Plan and first three years of Ninth Plan

Saharsa District

During 8th Five Year Plan

- 10 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 1 Sub Post office were opened.
- 1 Extended Satellite Money Order (ESMO) station was installed at Saharsa Head Office.

During the first three years of the 9th five year plan (1997-00)

- 5 Extra Departmental Branch Offices (EDBOs) were opened.
- Saharsa Head Office was modernised
- Generator set was supply to Saharsa head office
- Savings Bank LAN system was set up at Saharsa head office.

Supaul District

During 8th Five Year Plan

- One Extra Departmental Branch Office (EDBO) was opened

During the first three years of the 9th five year plan (1997-'00)

- One Extra Departmental Branch Office (EDBO) was opened
- One Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendra was opened
- Extended Satellite Money Order (ESMO) station at Supaul SO is proposed to be opened in next month.

Madhepura District

During 8th Five Year Plan

One Extra Departmental Branch Office (EDBO) was opened.

- Two Sub offices were opened

During the first three years of the 9th five year plan (1997-'00)

- 4 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras were opened
- 112 Letter Boxes were installed
- Extended Satellite Money Order Station at Madhepura Sub Office is proposed to be opened in next month.

Construction of New Bridges on National Highways

4294. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received proposals from State Governments particularly from Uttar Pradesh with regard to construction of new bridges at various places on National Highways;

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

(c) the time by which the construction work is likely to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Two such proposals have been received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh. The details of these projects as well as the proposals received from other States is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) It is too early to indicate the time frame by which the construction is likely to be undertaken as these projects have not been so far sanctioned. The sanctioning of these projects will depend upon the *inter-se* priority of works, availability of funds and technical suitability of the proposal.

Statement**Statement Indicating the Position of Proposals Received from the State Governments**

| S.No. | NH No. | Name of State | Name of Bridge |
|-------|--------|---------------|---|
| 1 | 28 | Uttar Pradesh | Construction of a new bridge over river Rapti at Gorakhpur in Km. 262 |
| 2. | 58 | —do— | Construction of a Road Over Bridge and approaches at Sakauti Tanda in Km. 88. |
| 3. | 12 | Rajasthan | Construction of H.L. Bridge at Km. 190 |
| 4. | 12 | —do— | Construction of Mangli Bridge at Km. 219 |
| 5. | 12 | —do— | Construction of Ghora Pachhar Bridge at Km. 223 |
| 6. | 10 | Punjab | Construction of Khui Khera Bridge at Km. 398 |
| 7. | 47 | Tamil Nadu | Construction of a Kuzhithurai Bridge at Km. 604/4 |
| 8. | 4 | —do— | Construction of Thiruvalem Bridge at Km. 122/4 |
| 9. | 8 | Gujarat | Construction of ROB near Bavade. |

Introduction of Helicopter Service for Simla

4295. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce Helicopter service for Simla keeping in view its importance as a tourist place;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited had offered, against a tender requirement, a helicopter to the State Government of Himachal Pradesh on 19.11.1999 to meet their various requirements including flights to/from Simla. However, no response has yet been received from the State Government of Himachal Pradesh.

Development of Forests in Madhya Pradesh

4296. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA:

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

(a) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government has sent any project to the Union Government regarding development of forests in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be cleared;

(d) whether the Government have conducted or propose to conduct any survey for the development of forests in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has received and sanctioned implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Project (IAEP), Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder

Projects (AOFFP), Conservation and Development of Non-Timber Forest Produce including medicinal plants (NTFP) and Association of Scheduled Tribes and Rural Poor in Regeneration of Degraded Forests on Usufruct Sharing Basis (AST&RP) in the State of Madhya Pradesh during the IX Plan as per the details given in statement enclosed. Besides, a "Madhya Pradesh Forestry Project, Phase II" has been received for covering 8.05 million ha. over a period of 5 years at cost of Rs 1380 crores. This project has been forwarded to the World Bank for consideration. Decision for funding of this project has not been taken by them.

(d) and (e) The Ministry of Environment and Forests have formulated National Forestry Action Programme-India, a 20-year perspective plan for sustainable development of forests and to bring 33% of the total geographical area of the country under forest/tree cover as stipulated in the National Forest Policy, 1988. This Plan envisages rehabilitation of 31 million ha. of degraded forests and extension of 29 million ha. of non-forest lands at an annual rate of afforestation/regeneration of 3 million ha.

Statement

Amount Released and Central Assistance Allocated Under Various Centrally Sponsored Schemes During 1997 to 2001

| Scheme | 1997-98 Released | 1998-99 Released | 1999-2000 Released | 2000-2001 CA Allocated |
|--------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| IAEP | 279.02 | 231.27 | 352.83 | 500.64 |
| AOFFP | 21.18 | 500.5 | 388.13 | 636.5 |
| NTFP | 71 | 68 | 77.5 | 322.94 |
| AST&RP | 47.4 | 48.01 | 50 | 75.58 |

Poor Maintenance of Aircraft

4297. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Aircraft maintenance shockingly poor" appearing in 'The Hindustan Times' dated July 22, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the Government have prepared any ambitious plan for the proper maintenance of the aircraft of Alliance Air;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Engineers had submitted a report to the Government and urged replacement of junk fleet of Alliance Air; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Alliance Air is operating Boeing 737-200 aircraft which are being strictly maintained in accordance with the Maintenance programme given by the Manufacturer M/s. Boeing Company in their Maintenance

Planning Document (MPD) and Director General of Civil Aviation requirements. The Aircraft are inspected by the qualified Aircraft Maintenance Engineers (AME) of Alliance Air at specified intervals in accordance with the Maintenance Programme approved by Director General of Civil Aviation.

Ministry of Civil Aviation have also constituted a task force headed by Director General of Civil Aviation to go into the Aircraft Maintenance Practices and Procedures, their adequacy and recommend improvements.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Grant to Private Homoeopathic Colleges

4298. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private Homoeopathic Colleges are not eligible of the financial assistance for construction of college buildings under the Grant-in-aid scheme for strengthening of the existing under-graduate colleges of Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy during Ninth Plan as per a circular issued by his Ministry on December 23, 1999;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to consider the applications submitted earlier to the said circular requesting for Grant-in-aid for the construction of college building; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA):

(a) As per revised scheme, private colleges of Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy are not eligible for assistance for construction of building etc.

(b) Keeping in view the priorities and resources, only State-run and State-aided colleges are provided assistance for construction work.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal.

[Translation]

Telephones Out of Order in Vikas Kunj

4299 SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the communication system in Gaziabad is not functioning properly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the telephone subscribers of the area have brought to the notice of the Loni Telephone Exchange about the snag caused in their telephone connections deliberately by the resident of Vikas Kunj colony; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir. The communication system in Ghaziabad is functioning properly.

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

(c) No, Sir.

(d) does not arise in view of (c) above.

Survey for New Mines in Madhya Pradesh

4300. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey is being conducted on the possibilities of finding new mines in Chhatisgarh, Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The survey has resulted in locating gold and diamond in Chhatisgarh area of Madhya Pradesh. The details are given below:

GOLD: Occurrences of Gold have been reported from Sonadehi and Gurwandi prospects in Bastar district. Further investigation by GSI is going on. Investigation for gold in Pendripani area, Raigarh district indicated reserves of 0.25 mt. of gold ores.

DIAMOND: Investigations in Payalikhon—Bahardih sector, Manipur tehsil, Raipur district, have proved the existence of diamendiferous kimberlite pipes.

Grounded Ships at Various Ports

4301. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of ships are grounded at various ports throughout the country;

(b) if so, the number of ships grounded at various ports, port-wise;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to undertake repair of these ships;

(d) whether the Government propose to auction these ships and earn revenue from the said auction; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The number of ships (vessels) lying grounded in the limits of port Trusts are as under port-wise:—

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Calcutta Port Trust | 1 |
| Mormugao Post Trust | 7 |
| Mumbai Port Trust | 5 |

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The grounded vessel in Calcutta Port Trust limit is under the charge of the owner of the vessel and they are endeavouring to salvage whatsoever possible. Out of 7 vessels grounded in Mormugao Port Trust limits, notices to the owners have been issued in the case of 4 vessels to remove the grounded ships and 3 vessels (fishing trawlers), are attached to the Income-Tax Department. The grounded vessels in Mumbai Port Trust area do not obstruct navigation in the harbour area, their removal is not considered economical.

[English]

Human Treatment to Animals

4302. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has asked to the Chief Ministers of various States to enforce laws for more humane treatment to animals;

(b) if so, the steps taken by various State Governments in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure basic minimum care to animals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Prime Minister of India has written a letter to the Chief Ministers of all the States on 31st May 2000 to achieve the objective of more humane treatment to animals. A number of State Governments have replied that they have received the letter and are looking into the matter.

(c) The Government is also pursuing the matter with all the State Governments to set up a 'Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' in each district and to activate existing Societies for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, where these have become non-functional.

National Long Distance Telephony

4303. SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Guidelines for opening national long distance telephony to private sector has been formulated;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Planning Commission has made some suggestions to be incorporated in guidelines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) As per the Statement enclosed.

(c) to (e) Planning Commission had made suggestions on the issue of the area of operation of the National Long Distance operators and also the number of entrants in this field. Suggestions of the Planning Commission were taken into consideration while deciding the guidelines for the entry of private sector in National Long Distance telephony.

Statement***Details of Guidelines for issue of Licence for National Long Distance Service***

The New Telecom Policy '99 envisaged the opening up of the National long distance service beyond the service area to the private operators. The Government has decided to open the National Long Distance service without any restriction on the number of operators. Following are the broad guidelines for issue of Licence for National Long Distance Operations (NLDO) in India;

1. The applicant must be an Indian company, registered under the Companies Act' 1956.
2. The applicant company shall submit the application in the prescribed Application form.
3. The applicant company can apply only for one licence for NLDO.
4. The licence for NLDO shall be issued on non-exclusive basis, for a period of 20 years, extendable by 10 years at one time, for inter-circle Long Distance operations within the territorial jurisdiction of India.
5. The total foreign equity in the applicant company must not exceed 49% at any time during the entire licence period. Investment in the equity of the applicant company by an NRI/OCB/ International funding agencies will be counted towards its foreign equity. In this regard the applicant company shall submit a certificate from the competent authority to the effect that total foreign equity in the applicant company does not exceed 49%.
6. The applicant company shall submit, along with the application, the Roll Out plan indicating the names of Long Distance Charging Areas (LDCAs) in each telecom circle for coverage in four phases including the coverage of uneconomic and remote areas.
7. The applicant company shall pay one time Entry Fee of Rs. 100 crores before the signing of the Licence in the form of Demand Draft/Pay Order payable at New Delhi in favour of Pay & Accounts Officer (Headquarter), Department of Telecom and shall be non-refundable. In addition

thereto, four Bank Guarantees (BG) of Rs. 100 crores each shall be given which will be released back on completion of each phase in the manner described below subject to fulfilling the network Roll out obligations by establishing Point of Presence in LDCAs;

- | | | |
|-------|-------------------------|----------------|
| (i) | Completion of Phase I | Rs. 100 Crores |
| (ii) | Completion of Phase II | Rs. 100 Crores |
| (iii) | Completion of Phase III | Rs. 100 Crores |
| (iv) | Completion of Phase IV | Rs. 100 Crores |
8. Any shortfall below the percentage of network coverage - Phase I, II, III & IV will result in encashment & forfeiture of the particular BG relatable to that phase. There will be no carry forward of the unfulfilled network obligation from one phase to another.
 9. The applicant company shall also submit business plan along with its funding arrangement for financing the project.
 10. The applicant company shall make its own arrangements for Right of Way (ROW). However, the Central Government will issue necessary notification on request bringing the NLDO licensee for the purposes of placing telegraph lines under Part III of the Indian Telegraph Act '1885. Provided that non-availability of the ROW or delay in getting permission/clearance from any agency shall not be construed or taken as an excuse for non-fulfillment of the Roll-out obligations.
 11. The applicant company shall have a minimum paid up equity capital of Rs. 250 Crores on the date of the application and shall submit the best proof thereof along with the application for licence.
 12. The promoters of applicant company shall have a combined networth of Rs. 2500 crores. The networth of only those promoters shall be counted who have at least 10% equity stake in the total equity of the company. Here networth shall mean as the sum total, in Indian rupees, of paid up equity capital and free reserves. While counting Networth the foreign currency shall be converted into Indian Rupees at the prevalent rate indicated by the Reserve Bank of India on the date of the application.
 13. The constituent(s) having at least 30% of total equity in the applicant company must have an experience of telecom sector and the proof

- thereof shall be attached with the Application for licence.
14. In addition to entry fee described above the licence fee in the form of revenue share @ 10% plus prescribed contributions towards the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USO fund) with a total cap of 15% is payable.
 15. Provided further that the fee/royalty for the use of spectrum and possession of wireless telegraphy equipment shall be separately payable as per the details and prescription of Wireless Planning & Coordination Wing. The fee/royalty for the user spectrum/possession of wireless telegraphy equipment depends upon various factors such as frequency, hop and link length, area of operation etc.
 16. The applicant company shall submit Financial Bank Guarantee (FBG) of Rs. 20 crores one year after the date of signing the licence agreement or before the commencement of service whichever is earlier. Initially, FBG shall be valid for a period of six months and shall be renewed from time to time for such amount as may be directed by the Central Government.
 17. The dues/fees/royalties for the use of spectrum/possession of Wireless Telegraphy equipment shall be separately securitised by furnishing FBG of equal amount valid for a period of one year renewable from time to time till final clearance of all such dues.
 18. Change in the name of the applicant company or the licensee, as the case may be shall be permitted in accordance with the provisions under the Companies Act, 1956.
 19. The application shall be decided, so far as practicable, within 15 days of the submission of the application and the applicant company shall be informed accordingly. In case the applicant is found to be eligible for grant of licence for NLDO, the applicant shall be required to deposit Entry Fee and submit Bank Guarantees/other documents and sign the licence agreement immediately within a period of three months from the date of issue of the letter failing which it will be presumed that the applicant is no longer interested and the application will stand rejected.
 20. In case the applicant is found to be not eligible for the grant of licence for NLDO, the applicant shall be informed accordingly, whereafter he can file a fresh application removing the deficiencies.
 21. The NLD Service refers to the carriage of switched bearer telecommunications service over a long distance and NLDO licensee will have a right to carry inter circle traffic excluding intra-circle traffic except where such carriage is with mutual agreement with fixed service provider in accordance with their mutually agreed terms. NLDOs can make mutually agreed arrangements with FSPs for picking up the traffic for the leg between Long Distance Charging Centre (LDCC) and Short Distance Charging Centres (SDCCs).
 22. NLDO shall be required to make own suitable arrangements/agreements for leased lines with the Access Providers for last mile.
 23. Licences will be issued without any restriction on the number of entrants for NLD service.
 24. Interconnection between the networks of different service providers shall be as per national standards of CCS No. 7 issued from time to time by Telecom Engineering Center (TEC).
 25. The NLDO Licensee may enter into suitable arrangements with other service providers to negotiate Interconnection Agreements whereby the interconnected networks will provide the following:
 - (a) To connect, and keep connected, to their Applicable Systems;
 - (b) To establish and maintain such one or more Points of Interconnect as are reasonably required and are of sufficient capacity and in sufficient numbers to enable transmission and reception of the messages by means of the Applicable Systems;
 - (c) To meet all reasonable demand for the transmission and reception of messages between the interconnected systems.
 26. The terms and conditions of interconnection including standard interfaces, points of interconnection and technical aspects will be such as mutually agreed between the service providers.
 27. The NLDO Licensee shall for the purpose of providing the service install own equipment so as to be compatible with other service/Access providers' equipment to which the NLDO licensee's Applicable Systems are intended for interconnection.

28. The NLDO Licensee shall comply with any direction on interconnection regulations issued by the TRAI under TRAI Act, 1997.
29. The NLDO Licensee shall operate and maintain the licensed Network conforming to Quality of Service standards to be mutually agreed between the service providers in respect of Network-Network Interface.
30. The charges for access or interconnection with other networks shall be based on mutual agreements between the service providers subject to the restrictions issued from time to time by TRAI under TRAI Act, 1997.
31. The network resources including the cost of upgrading/modifying interconnecting networks to meet the service requirements of National Long Distance service will be per mutually negotiated sharing arrangements between the service providers.
32. It shall be mandatory for fixed service providers, cellular mobile service providers, cable service providers, to provide interconnection to NLD service providers whereby the subscribers could have a free choice to make inter-circle/international long distance calls through NLD service provider.
33. The applicant company shall pay a processing fee along with the application of Rs. 15,000/- in the form of Demand Draft/Pay Order payable at New Delhi in the name of Pay & Accounts Officer (Headquarter) DOT and the same shall not be refunded for any reason whatsoever.
34. The application is to be submitted to the Section Officer, BS-I, Department of Telecommunications, room No. 1119, Sanchar Bhavan, 20 Ashok Road, New Delhi-110 001.

Development of Lakes and Coastal Areas in Maharashtra

4304. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to implement a Master Plan for development of lakes and coastal areas of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether the said plan is likely to be implemented during Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the detail's thereof alongwith funds allocated for the plan;

(d) whether the Government propose to take some other steps to ensure ecology of surrounding areas; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (e) There is no Master Plan for development of lakes and coastal areas of Maharashtra. However, under National Lake Conservation Plan, ten urban lakes including Powai lake from Maharashtra have been identified for conservation and management. However, National Lake Conservation Plan has not been approved by the Government so far. Government also issued the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 under the Environment Protection Act, 1986 to protect and preserve the coastal environment. This notification regulates development in specified coastal areas of the country. No development is permitted in ecologically sensitive areas in the Coastal Regulation Zone. Under a separate scheme on Conservation and Management of Mangroves and Coral Reefs, the Government has identified seven mangrove areas in Maharashtra for intensive conservation and management.

Vacant Posts in PGI, Chandigarh

4305. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI:

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

(a) whether a number of vacancies are lying vacant in PGI, Chandigarh in various categories/cadres;

(b) if so, the time by which these posts are lying vacant along with the reasons therefor;

(c) the measures taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) the aims and objectives of PGI, Chandigarh for which it was established;

(e) whether the management of PGI has failed to achieve the aims and objectives; and

(f) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) to (c) The following posts are lying vacant at PGI, Chandigarh:—

| | |
|------------|-----|
| 1. Faculty | 91 |
| 2. Group-A | 20 |
| 3. Group-B | 43 |
| 4. Group-C | 127 |
| 5. Group-D | 82 |

Some of the faculty posts are vacant due to prolonged litigation on the subject of reservation in the Punjab & Haryana High Court/Supreme Court. Others are routine vacancies occurring due to retirements, death, resignation, promotion etc. Some new posts have also been created recently for the new OPD Block of the Nehru Hospital attached to the Institute. The vacancies have been notified/are being advertised shortly.

(d) to (f) The aims and objectives of the Institute are:

- (i) to develop patterns of teaching in undergraduate and postgraduate medical education in all its branches so as to demonstrate a high standard of medical education;
- (ii) to bring together, as far as possible, in one place educational facilities of the highest order for the training of personnel in all important branches of health activity;
- (iii) to attain self-sufficiency in postgraduate medical education to meet the country's needs for specialists and medical doctors.

The PGI has achieved the main aims and objectives for which it was established.

Telephone on Demand

4306. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the objectives of 'telephone on demand' at affordable rates enshrined in National Telecom Policy in 1994 and 1999 have been received;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No. Sir.

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

(c) National Telecom Policy, 1994 envisaged various important objectives including availability of telephone on demand by the year 1997. Keeping in view that this objective would not be met only out of Government resources, private sector participation in basic services was allowed by the Government. But private sector entry has been slower than what was envisaged in National Telecom Policy, 1994 due to some contractual, legal and revenues related problems. Consequently, the objective of 'Telephone on Demand' could not be met at that time.

As per New Telecom Policy, 1999, Government is committed to provide telephone on demand at affordable and reasonable prices in urban and rural areas by the year 2002.

Payment of Telephone Bills by Credit Cards

4307. DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to extend facility of paying telephone bills through credit cards in certain Banks; and

(b) if so, the names of the Banks authorised to accept telephone bills through credit cards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) DOT has authorized Telecom Circles to negotiate with major banks, with a sound financial standing, to undertake payment of the telephone bills of their credit card holders.

(b) So far, the following banks have been authorized by the Circles to make payment on behalf of their credit card holders:—

Citibank at Bangalore, Calcutta, Chennai and Mumbai;

Standard Chartered Bank at Bangalore and Calcutta;

Canara Bank & Times Bank at Mumbai.

Modernisation of Calcutta Dock System

4308. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount spent on modernisation of Railway track by Calcutta Dock System (CDS) to reduce derailment;

(b) whether the Scheme is working satisfactorily;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Amounts of Rs. 311 lakhs (approx.) and Rs. 146 lakhs (approx.) have been spent during the 7th Plan and 8th Plan periods on Railway Track Modernisation by Calcutta Dock System.

(b) and (c) The expected results from the scheme could not be realised in full as it is still under implementation.

(d) To execute the scheme, support of all concerned agencies including State Government is being obtained.

[Translation]

Protection of Rhinoceros

4309. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Rhinos could become extinct as fund crunch hits Kaziranga" appearing in the 'Rajasthan' Patrika of June 9, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the Government have gone into the threatened extinction of the one horned Rhinoceros due to fund crunch hitting Kaziranga; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to conserve and regenerate the threatened World renowned one horned Rhinoceros?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No Sir, the news item did not appear in the Jaipur edition of Rajasthan Patrika of June 9, 2000.

(b) The population estimate of Rhinos in Kaziranga National Park shows a rising trend. However Central

Government provides financial assistance for improvement of infrastructure and effective protection of Rhinos and their habitat. The Government of India have released following assistance under the centrally sponsored scheme "Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries" during the last three years.

| (Rs. in lakhs) | |
|----------------|---------|
| Year | Release |
| 1997-1998 | 50.89 |
| 1998-1999 | 50.85 |
| 1999-2000 | 0.44 |

(c) Following steps have been taken by the Government to conserve one horned Rhinoceros:

1. Hunting of wild animals included in Schedule I to IV of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been banned by the law.
2. Special projects for protection and conservation of tiger, elephant and rhinos and their habitat are being implemented.
3. Raids are carried out by the wildlife authorities, whenever information of illegal trade in wild animals reaches them.
4. International trade in endangered species of animals and articles made thereof is regulated under the provisions of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
5. Regional and sub-regional offices of wildlife preservation have been set up up mostly at the main export centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wildlife products.
6. Interdepartmental co-ordination has been enhanced with other enforcement organisation like police, BSF, customs, ITBP, coast guard etc. Training programme on enforcement of Wildlife (Protection) Act is also conducted.
7. Staff in national parks and sanctuaries are being provided modern arms, wireless equipments and communication facilities to check poaching in the national parks and sanctuaries.
8. Analogous to the Centre, the States have also been asked to set up co-ordination Committee of all enforcement agencies so that there is effective co-operation to check poaching and control of illegal trade.

[English]

Funds to Zoos

4310. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of zoos in the country, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the amount sanctioned by the Government for their maintenance during the last three years;

(c) the expenditure incurred and the fund unutilised during the above period;

(d) whether the funds sanctioned by the Government have been fully utilised; and

(e) if not, the reasons for non-utilisation thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) There are 199 recognised Zoos all over the country. State-wise details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) Central Government provides grants-in-aid to Central Zoo Authority which in turn gives financial assistance to various zoos in the country. Central zoo authority does not provide any financial assistance for maintenance of zoos. Financial assistance is provided for developmental works like animal housing and health care etc. During the last three years (*i.e.* 1997-98, 1998-99 & 1999-2000). Central Zoo Authority has provided Rs. 1788.21 lakhs to various zoos in the country.

(e) The year-wise position of the funds released by Central Zoo Authority to Zoos and utilisation thereof by the zoos is given as under:

| (Rs. in lakhs) | | | | |
|----------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Year | No. of Zoos | Sanction Amount | Amount utilised | Amount remains unutilized |
| 1997-1998 | 23 | 321.49 | 242.18 | 79.31 |
| 1998-1999 | 20 | 393.14 | 168.75 | 224.39 |
| *1999-2000 | 21 | 1073.58 | — | 1073.58 |
| Total | — | 1788.21 | 410.93 | 1377.28 |

*Utilisation certificates awaited.

1997-1998

I. Funds remains unutilized due to non providing of matching share by following State Governments.

(a) Punjab Government Rs. 41.75 lakhs for developmental work in Ludhiana and Chhatbir zoos.

(b) Assam Government Rs. 19.56 lakhs for Assam State Zoo, Guwahati.

II. Amount remains unutilized due to late finalization/revision of the designs of the enclosure.

(a) Ahmedabad Zoo Rs. 12.00 lakhs

(b) Mysore Zoo Rs. 6.00 lakhs

1998-1999

The work is in progress in all the zoos from where the utilisation certificates have not been received. It is expected that utilisation certificates in respect of full amount will be received shortly.

1999-2000

The work for which grant is sanctioned has to be completed within 18 months. Therefore, utilisation certificates are expected to be received by the Central Zoo Authority from different zoos in due course.

Statement**State-wise Zoo-list****Andaman & Nicobar Islands**

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|------------|-----------|
| 1. | Chidiattapu Biological Park | Port Blair | Small Zoo |
|----|-----------------------------|------------|-----------|

Andhra Pradesh

- | | | | |
|-----|--|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Alisagar Deer Park | Alisagar | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 2. | Deer Park, Chittoor Reserve Forest | Chittoor East Division | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 3. | Deer Park, Kandaleru | Kandaleru | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 4. | Deer Park Kesroram Cement | Basant Nagar | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 5. | Deer Park, Municipal Park, Rajahmundry | Rajahmundry | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 6. | Deer Park, NFCL Green Belt | Kakinada | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 7. | Godavari Wilderness Park at Uppada | Distt. East Godavari | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 8. | Indira Gandhi Zoological Park | Visakhapatnam | Large Zoo |
| 9. | Jawahar Lake Tourist Complex | Shamirpet | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 10. | Kinnerasari Deer Park | Kinnerasari | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 11. | Maanas Arovar Nature Park, Takellapadu | Guntur | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 12. | Mini Zoo Himayat Sagar | Distt. Rangareddy | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 13. | Mrugaya-Michilkur Deer Park | Chilkur | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 14. | Nehru Zoological Park | Hyderabad | Large Zoo |
| 15. | Pillalamarri Deer Park | Mahabub Nagar | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 16. | Sri Venkateswara Zoological Park | Triupati | Small Zoo |
| 17. | Vanavigyan Kendra, Hunter Road, Hanamkonda | Warangal | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |

Arunachal Pradesh

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----------|--------------------|
| 1. | Mini Zoo | Roing | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 2. | Mini Zoo | Miao | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 3. | Zoological Park | Itanagar | Medium Zoo |

Assam

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|----------|-----------|
| 1. | Assam State Zoo cum Botanical Garden | Guwahati | Large Zoo |
|----|--------------------------------------|----------|-----------|

Bihar

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|----------|--------------------|
| 1. | Bhagwan Birsa Biological Park | Ranchi | Small Zoo |
| 2. | Birsa Mrig Vihar | Kalamati | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |

| | | | |
|----|------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 3. | Chandrapura Deer Park | Chandra Pura | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 4. | Deer Park | Maithon Dam, DVC | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 5. | Jaiprakash Park | Bodh Gaya | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 6. | Jawaharlal Nehru Biological Park | Bokaro | Medium Zoo |
| 7. | Sanjay Gandhi Biological Park | Patna | Large Zoo |
| 8. | Satsang Zoo for Children Education | Satsang | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 9. | Tata Steel Zoological Park | Jamshedpur | Small Zoo |

Dadra & Nagar Haveli

| | | | |
|-----|--------------------|----------|--------------------|
| 1., | Hon Sai Ari | Vasone | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 2. | Satmaiya Deer Park | Saimahya | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |

Daman & Diu

| | | | |
|----|-----------|-------|--------------------|
| 1. | Deer Park | Daman | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
|----|-----------|-------|--------------------|

Delhi

| | | | |
|----|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| 1. | Deer Park | Hauz Khas | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 2. | National Zoological Park | Delhi | Large Zoo |

Goa

| | | | |
|----|------------|-------|-----------|
| 1. | Bondla Zoo | Usgao | Small Zoo |
|----|------------|-------|-----------|

Gujarat

| | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Fertilizer Nagar Deer park | Baroda | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 2. | Indroda Nature park | Gandhi Nagar | Small Zoo |
| 3. | Kamla Nehru Zoological Garden | Ahemadabad | Large Zoo |
| 4. | Nature Education Centre | Jamnagar | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 5. | Rajkot Municipal Corporation zoo | Rajkot | Small Zoo |
| 6. | Sakkarbaug Zoo | Junagarh | Large Zoo |
| 7. | Sayaji Baug Zoo | Vadodara | Medium Zoo |
| 8. | Sundervan Nature Discovery Centre | Jodhpur Tekra | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |

Haryana

| | | | |
|----|----------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Deer Park | Chandi Mandir | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 2. | Deer Park | Hissar | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 3. | Deer Park, NFL | Panipat | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 4. | Mini Zoo | Jind | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 5. | Mini Zoo | Bhiwani | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |

| | | | |
|----|---------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| 6. | Mini Zoo | Pipli | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 7. | Mini Zoo, Abushahar | Abushahar | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 8. | Mini Zoo, Pinzore | Pinzore | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 9. | Rohtak Zoo | Rohtak | Small Zoo |

Himachal Pradesh

| | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|----------|--------------------|
| 1. | Dhauladhar Nature Park | Gopalpur | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 2. | Himalayan Nature Park (Kufri) | Kufri | Small Zoo |
| 3. | Pheasantry & Musk Deer Farm | Sarahan | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 4. | Pheasantry at Chail | Solan | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 5. | Renuke Zoo/Lion Safari | Sirmur | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 6. | Rewalsar Wildlife Zoo | Mandi | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |

J&K

| | | | |
|----|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| 1. | Deer Park, Srinagar | Sri Nagar | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 2. | Manda Mini Zoo, Ramnagar | Ramnagar | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 3. | Mini Zoo, Mansar | Mansar | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |

Karnataka

| | | | |
|-----|---|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Bhutanal Deer Park | Bijapur | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 2. | Children Park & Zoo | Gadag | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 3. | Deer Aprkai Kaggiri | Distt Tumkur | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 4. | Deer Children & Snake Park at Kadri Hill | Mangalore | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 5. | Deer Park at Jijihal Reseve Forest, Chigateri | Jajikalgudda, Bellary | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 6. | Der Park at Kaggere | Distt. Tumkur | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 7. | Indira Priyadarshini Sangharahalaya, Aragodu | Davangere Taluk | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 8. | Kempainbudi Deer Park | Bangalore | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 9. | Kittur Rani Cannamma Nisarg Dhama | Bhutramanhatti, | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 10. | Kudremukh Mini Zoo | Chickmaglur | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 11. | Mini Zoo A. M. Gudi Balvana | Chitradurga | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 12. | Mini Zoo Cum Children Park | Gulbarga | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 13. | Mini Zoo Gendenkatte | Gendenkatte | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 14. | Mini Zoo, Chickmanglur | Chickmanglur | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 15. | Namadachilume Deer Park | Tumkur | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 16. | National Park, Bannerghatta Zoological | Bannerghatta | Medium Zoo |
| 17. | Pillikula Wildlife Safari at Madushedde | Mangalore | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |

| | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 18. | Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens | Mysore | Large Zoo |
| 19. | Tiger & Lion Safari, Thyarekoppa | Shimoga | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 20. | Tungabhadra Dam Mini Zoo | Bellary | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 21. | Zoo-Cum Safari Bettadamalleswara | Bettadamalleswara | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |

Kerala

| | | | |
|----|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Deer Park, Ponmudi | Thiruvananthapuram | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 2. | Hill Place Zoo, Emakulam | Thiruvananthapuram | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 3. | Lion Safari Park at Nayyar Dam | Thiruvananthapuram | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 4. | Mini Zoo "Kattu-Arangu" Vandanmedu | Idukki Dist. | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 5. | Snake Park, Malampuzha | Palakkad | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 6. | State Museum & Zoo | Thrissur | Small Zoo |
| 7. | Thiruvanthapuram Zoo | Thiruvananthapuram | Medium Zoo |

Madhya Pradesh

| | | | |
|----|------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Deer Park Tata Export Ltd. | Dewas | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 2. | Deer Part at NCL. HQS. | Singrauli, Distt. Sidhi | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 3. | Gandhi Zoological Park | Gwalior | Medium Zoo |
| 4. | Kamla Nehru Prani Sanghralalay Zoo | Indore | Small Zoo |
| 5. | Kanan Pandari | Bilaspur | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 6. | Maitri Baagh Zoo | Bhilai | Medium Zoo |
| 7. | Van Vihar National Park | Bhopal | Medium Zoo |

Maharashtra

| | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Aurangabad Municipal Zoo | Aurangabad | Small Zoo |
| 2. | Deer Park | Gangapur | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 3. | Maharaja Shahaji Chhatrapati Zoo | Kolhapur | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 4. | Maharajabagh Bagh Zoo | Nagpur | Small Zoo |
| 5. | Mahatma Gandhi Rastriya Udyan Zoo | Solapur | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 6. | Nisargakavi Bai Bahinabai Choudhary | Pune | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 7. | Pai Wild Animal Orphanage | Jalgaon | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 8. | Peshwe Park Zoological Gardens | Pune | Small Zoo |
| 9. | Pratap Singh Udyan & Zoo | Sangli | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 10. | Rambhagirath Park | Chandrapur | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 11. | Rambhagirath Park | Chandrapur | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |

| | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 12. | Sanjay Gandhi National Park | Borivahli (Lasi) | Small Zoo |
| 13. | Seminery Hills Deer Park | Nagpur | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 14. | Snake Park & Aviary | Pune | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 15. | Snake Park, Shikshan Mandal, Kolhapur | Kolhapur | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 16. | Somnath Prakalpa zoo | Chandra Pur | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 17. | Suruchi Zoo (Suruchi Holiday Resort) | Sedung, Panvel, Raigad | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 18. | Vasant Smruti Mrig Vihar, Umarsara | Yeotmal | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 19. | Veer mata Jijabai Bhosale Udyan & Zoo | Mumbai | Large Zoo |

Manipur

| | | | |
|----|---------------------------|--------|------------|
| 1. | Manipur Zoological Garden | Imphal | Medium Zoo |
|----|---------------------------|--------|------------|

Meghalaya

| | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|----------|--------------------|
| 1. | Lady Hydari Park, Animal Land | Shillong | Small Zoo |
| 2. | Mini Zoo | Tura | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |

Mizoram

| | | | |
|----|------------|----------|--------------------|
| 1. | Aizawl Zoo | Aizawl | Small zoo |
| 2. | Deer Park | Thenzawl | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |

Nagland

| | | | |
|----|-----------------|--------|-----------|
| 1. | Zoological Park | Kohima | Small Zoo |
|----|-----------------|--------|-----------|

Orissa

| | | | |
|-----|--|-------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Deer Part at Daitari | Daitari | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 2. | Ghandhamadan Deer Park | Balangir | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 3. | Gharial Research & Conservation Unit | Tikarapara | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 4. | H.A.L. Deer Park, Koraput | Sunabeda | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 5. | Indira Gandhi Park Zoo & Deer Park | Rourkela | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 6. | Kapilash Zoo | Dhenkanal | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 7. | Kuanria Deer Park Nayagarh Forest Division | Nayagarh | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 8. | Motijharan Deer Park | Sambalpur | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 9. | Nandankanan Biological Park | Bhubaneswar | Large Zoo |
| 10. | Tribal Museum | Koraput | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |

Punjab

| | | | |
|----|-------------------------|----------|--------------------|
| 1. | Deer Park, Bir Moh Bagh | Patiala | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 2. | Deer Park, Bir Talab | Bhatinda | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 3. | Deer Park, Nitton | Ludhiana | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |

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|----|------------------------------------|----------|--------------------|
| 4. | Mahendra Chaudhury Zoological Park | Chhaibir | Large Zoo |
| 5. | HGE R Safari | Ludhiana | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |

Rajasthan

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Deer Park, Shri Goverdhan Trust | Udaipur | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 2. | Jaipur Zoo | Jaipur | Medium Zoo |
| 3. | Jodhpur Zoo | Jodhpur | Medium Zoo |
| 4. | Kota Zoo | Kota | Small Zoo |
| 5. | Mrig Van, Chitorgarh | Chitorgarh | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 6. | Panchwati Deer Park | Pilani | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 7. | Safari Park, Haridasji-Ki-Magri | Udaipur | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 8. | Udaipur Zoo | Udaipur | Small Zoo |
| 9. | Zoological Garden | Bikaner | Small Zoo |

Sikkim

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|---------|--------------------|
| 1. | Himalayan Zoological Park, Bulbuley | Gangtok | Small Zoo |
| 2. | Rustomji Deer Park | Gangtok | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |

Tamil Nadu

- | | | | |
|-----|--|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Amirdhi Zoo | Vellore | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 2. | Arignar Anna Zoological Park | Vandalur | Large Zoo |
| 3. | Chennai Snake Park Trust | Guindy | Medium Zoo |
| 4. | Children's Corner | Guindy | Medium Zoo |
| 5. | Deer Park, Udhaigai, Nilgiris | Nilgiris District | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 6. | Gangaikondan Deer Park, Neliai | Kattabomman | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 7. | Hogainakkal Mini Zoo | Dharmapuri | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 8. | Kurumbapatti Zoological Park | Salem | Mini Zoo/Deer Par |
| 9. | Madras Crocodile Bank Trust/Centre for | Mahabalipuram | Medium Zoo |
| 10. | Mukkombu Deer Park | Mukkombu | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 11. | Shivganga Garden Mini Zoo | Thanjavur | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 12. | V.O.C. Park Mini Zoo | Coimbatore | Medium Zoo |
| 13. | V.O.C. Park Mini Zoo, Erode | Madras | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |

Tripura

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Deer Park | Patichari | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 2. | Sepahijala Zoological Park | Sepahijala | Medium Zoo |

Uttar Pradesh

| | | | |
|-----|--|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Aranya Bhawan | Buland Shahar | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 2. | Ban Devi Recreation Park | Mau | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 3. | Cheetal Park, Khatoli | Muzafar Nagar | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 4. | Deer Park | Moradabad | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 5. | Deer Park | Barilly | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 6. | Deer Park Kukrah | Kukrah | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 7. | Deer Park, Hindalco Industries Ltd. | Sunbhadra | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 8. | Deer Park, Narain Tewari Dewal | Almora | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 9. | Deer Park, UCI Chattinag, Jhusi | Allahabad | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 10. | Gharai RE Bagh Hagon CE NTRI | Kukrah | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 11. | Indira Manoranjan Van (Deer Park), Muhuwa | Lakhimpur Kheri | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 12. | Kanpur Zoological Park | Kanpur | Large Zoo |
| 13. | Little Scholars Academy | Amroha | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 14. | Malsi Deer Park | Dehradun | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 15. | Musk Deer Breeding Centre, Kanchula Kharak | Chamoli | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 16. | Nawabganj Deer Park | Unnao | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 17. | Prince of Wales Zoological Gardens | Lucknow | Large Zoo |
| 18. | Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant High Altitude Zoo | Nainital | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 19. | Rampur Mandi Deer Park & Aviary | Kalsi | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 20. | Sarnath Deer Park | Varanasi | Small Zoo |
| 21. | Van Prani Udyan, I.V.R.I. | Bareilly | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 22. | Vinod Van Mini Zoo, Ramgarh | Gorakhpur | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |

West Bengal

| | | | |
|----|---|----------|--------------------|
| 1. | Bellilius Park | Howrah | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 2. | Calcutta Snake Park, Zoological Garden | Badu | Small Zoo |
| 3. | Corporation Park, Jogmaya | Howrah | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 4. | Deepark Mitra's Snake House, Hindustan Park | Calcutta | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 5. | Deer Park (Mini Zoo) | Jhargram | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 6. | Deer Park Dow Hill | Kurseong | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 7. | Gar Chumuk (Ulughata) Deer Park | Ulughata | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 8. | Kumari Kangasabuti Deer Park, Bonpakuria | Bankura | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |

| | | | |
|-----|---|-------------------|--------------------|
| 9. | Marble Palace Zoo | Calcutta | Small Zoo |
| 10. | Mini Zoo Science City | Calcutta | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 11. | Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park | Darjeeling | Small Zoo |
| 12. | West Bengal Snake Park & Laboratory, Badu | 24-Parganas North | Mini Zoo/Deer Park |
| 13. | Zoological Garden | Alipore | Large Zoo |

[*Translation*]

Heart Surgery Facilities in Dr. R.M.L. Hospital

4311. SHRI DHARAM RAJ SINGH PATEL:
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to conduct heart surgery in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital;

(b) if so, the time by which this facility is likely to be started; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA):
(a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

The establishment of Cardio Thoracic Vascular Surgery (CTVS) Department is in progress and Open Heart Surgery is likely to commence in the Dr. RML Hospital in another two months.

[*English*]

Progress of Narmada and Mahi Bridge

4312. SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the latest review of the progress of National Highways—Narmada bridge and Mahi bridge;

(b) whether there is any new project awarded to private investor in Gujarat during 1999-2000;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the foreign investors have shown their interest for taking up such works; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As per the latest review the physical progress in respect of Narmada bridge is 95% and it is targeted to be completed by December, 2000. Mahi bridge has been completed and opened to traffic in April, 2000.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Protection of Wild Life

4313. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to enquire into the cases of flouting of the Wildlife Protection Act at Nandankanan Zoo in Orissa;

(b) if so, the cases of financial irregularities in food procurement process during 2000-2001 pointed out by the Chief Warden; and

(c) the action proposed against those involved in flouting Wild Life Act rules and responsible for financial irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) State Government of Orissa is in receipt of a report about the financial and other irregularities committed by the Director, Nandankanan Zoo, Orissa, State Government has entrusted the enquiry to an officer of the level of Additional Secretary to Government of Orissa.

Losses by Hotel Corporation of India

4314. SHRI CHHATTRAPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the hotels functioning under Hotel Corporation of India are suffering losses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total losses suffered by these hotels during the last three years;

(d) whether there are any plans to sell these hotels;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to make them profit earning?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Out of four Hotel Units under the Hotel Corporation of India, two Units are suffering losses due to following reasons:—

(i) the Centaur Delhi had not been renovated since its inception which resulted in continuous deterioration; (ii) the above factor has led to decline in hotel occupancy and thereby reduction in revenue earnings; (iii) The Centaur Srinagar has been incurring losses since inception except in 1987-88, due to political disturbances in the Valley from 1988.

(c) Details of losses are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

| Year | Centaur Hotel Delhi Airport | Centaur Lake View Hotel Srinagar |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1997-1998 | 0.61 | 2.51* |
| 1998-1999 | 3.87 | 1.37* |
| 1999-2000 (prov.) | 6.86 | 1.64* |

*Before waiver of interest

(d) and (e) Government has decided to disinvest HCl, a wholly owned subsidiary of Air India and the revenue thus realized would accrue to Air India which is suffering from losses since 1995-96.

(f) The steps being taken to turn the loss making units into profitable, include the renovation of 100 rooms in Centaur Delhi, intensive sales campaign covering corporate houses; launching of Millennium offer; introduction of Centaur Gold Card, etc.

Health Scheme in Orissa

4315. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various health schemes being implemented in Orissa;

(b) the funds allocated by the Union Government to the State for implementation of the said schemes and the agency through which the State has spent the funds;

(c) the details of various schemes in the health sector in Orissa for which the World Bank has sanctioned loans during each of the last three years; and

(d) the details of the expenditure to be incurred on each of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) to (d) A Statement showing the details of major National Health Programmes being implemented as Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the State of Orissa and funds allocated to the State during 1997-98 to 1999-2000 is enclosed. This includes funds released under both domestic and World Bank Project components. Funds are allocated as per requirements. Central assistance is mainly provided to supplement the resources of State Government for control/eradication of communicable and non-communicable diseases through supply of drugs, establishment diagnostic facilities etc. The schemes are implemented through the State Governments and District Societies. All these programmes except T.B. Control Programme are being implemented in Orissa with World Bank assistance. The Revised National T.B. Programme in Orissa is being implemented with DANIDA assistance.

Statement

Major health schemes being implemented in the State of Orissa and allocation/release of funds during 1997-98 to 1999-2000

(Rs. in lakhs)

| Sl. No. | Name of the scheme | Allocation/Release | | |
|---------|---|--------------------|---------|-----------|
| | | 1997-98 | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 |
| 1. | National Anti-Malaria Programme | 312.93 | 746.43 | 1342.51 |
| 2. | National T.B. Control Programme | 73.69 | 219.78 | 329.02 |
| 3. | National Leprosy Eradication Programme | 698.59 | 553.04 | 581.09 |
| 4. | National Programme for Control of Blindness | 516.20 | 551.08 | 420.25 |
| 5. | National AIDS Control Programme | 75.00 | 100.00 | 200.00 |

[*Translation*]

Changing of M.C. Marg into National Highway in Bihar

4316. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN alias PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to change M.C. Marg in Bihar into National Highway; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No such proposal has been received.

[*English*]

Bandwidth

4317. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'Bandwidth' facility available with VSNL is very small as compared to the Global Telecom infrastructure;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to upgrade the Bandwidth of VSNL to viably compete in the export market;

(c) whether the VSNL has started a drive known as 'Operation Bandwidth'; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Availability of bandwidth with VSNL is commensurate with the size of service network and capacity requirement in India.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Under the Operation bandwidth the following provisions are being made:

(i) Acquisition of adequate bandwidth based on anticipated demand.

(ii) Meeting all bandwidth requirements within 60 days (end to end provisioning) for capacity upto 2 Mbps and 90 days for capacity above 2 Mbps.

(iii) Online availability of information on bandwidth provisioning.

(iv) Speeding up processes of international tendering and bandwidth acquisition.

(v) National level co-ordination with a Standing Committee under the Chairmanship of Advisor (Operation), Department of Telecom Services to ensure final completion of all steps in provision of domestic and international legs.

Declaration of Road as National Highway

4318. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rishikesh-Srinagar-Badrinath road has been declared as National Highway recently;

(b) if so, whether action (s) have been taken to bring the road to NH specifications;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which this road is likely to be brought to NH specifications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Development of National Highways is a continuous process. Works on National Highways are taken up in Annual Plan based on the inter-se priority subject to overall availability of funds.

[*Translation*]

Cases of Theft and Pilferage

4319. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of theft and pilferage from postal service reported during last three years and amount involved therein, State-wise;

(b) the number of persons found involved therein during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against them so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) 2581

cases of theft and pilferage involving a sum of Rs. 1,76,29,601/- (1.76 crores) have been reported from all the States during the last three years. State wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) 428 persons.

(c) Departmental action was taken against officials at fault. Cases were reported to police by postal circles where outsiders were also involved.

Statement

Statewise Details of Cases of Theft and Pilferage from Postal Service During Last Three Years

| Sl.No. | Name of the State | No. of cases of theft & pilferage | Amount in Rs. | No. of persons found involved. |
|--------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Assam | 75 | 2,88,385 | Nil |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | 5 | 4,249 | 1 |
| 3. | Arunachal Pradesh | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| 4. | Bihar | 57 | 24,76,928 | 57 |
| 5. | Delhi | 57 | 9,68,436 | 3 |
| 6. | Goa | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| 7. | Gujarat | 99 | 1,05,265 | 4 |
| 8. | Haryana | 3 | 5,640 | 8 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 2 | 962 | 2 |
| 10. | Jammu & Kashmir | 6 | 2,14,601 | 1 |
| 11. | Karnataka | 133 | 4,55,381 | 2 |
| 12. | Kerala | 223 | 10,41,541 | 2 |
| 13. | Madhya Pradesh | 16 | 34,837 | 7 |
| 14. | Maharashtra | 844 | 48,76,002 | 82 |
| 15. | Meghalaya | 5 | 13,400 | Nil |
| 16. | Manipur | 2 | Nil | Nil |
| 17. | Mizoram | 3 | 3,100 | Nil |
| 18. | Nagaland | 1 | 4,800 | Nil |
| 19. | Orissa | 6 | 15,370 | 1 |
| 20. | Punjab | 58 | 63,630 | 96 |
| 21. | Rajasthan | 98 | 5,52,358 | 6 |
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | 97 | 1,09,455 | 5 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------|------------------------------------|------|-------------|-----|
| 23. | Tripura | 30 | 20,486 | Nil |
| 24. | Uttar Pradesh | 158 | 50,88,360 | 115 |
| 25. | West Bengal & Andaman & Nicobar | 603 | 12,86,415 | 36 |
| 26. | Sikkim | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Total | | 2581 | 1,76,29,601 | 428 |

[*English*]

Composition of Board of AAI

4320. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the composition of the Board of the Airports Authority of India;

(b) the number of representatives of the workers and the tour operators on the Board; and

(c) the number of vacancies on the board and action taken to fill up the same?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) The Airports Authority of India Act 1994 provides that the Authority shall consist of a Chairperson, Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) as ex-Officio member and not less than eight and not more than fourteen members on the Board of AAI to be appointed by the Central Government. The present board of AAI consists of Chairman, DGCA as ex-officio member, four functional Directors and four official part-time Directors. There are no representatives of workers or tour operators on the Board. Five non-official part-time Directors from categories like social workers, industrialist, etc. may be appointed on the Board of AAI, subject to approval by the competent authority.

Golden Quadrilateral Project of Delhi-Jaipur

4321. SHRI MUDRAGADA PADAMANBHAM:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEWAR:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Golden Quadrilateral Project has been started from Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether four laning of the 126 km. of Delhi-Jaipur National Highway is near completion;

(c) if so, whether the work on development of National Highways stretches spread over five States Haryana, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh has already started with the help of Asian Development Bank;

(d) if so, whether the quadrilateral project also includes the divisions Delhi-Calcutta, Calcutta-Chennai, Chennai-Mumbai and Mumbai-Delhi;

(e) if so, the total funds obtained for these projects; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) Project consists of four/six laning of National Highways connecting four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Calcutta, Chennai and Mumbai and also includes portions in Rajasthan, where work on certain stretches has already been completed.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) Golden Quadrilateral is part of National Highways Development Project which is estimated to cost about Rs. 54,000 crores and funds will be raised from cess, external assistance, private financing and market borrowings. GQ is targetted for completion by 2003.

[*Translation*]

Plantation of Bamboo in Bihar

4322. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a project for plantation of bamboo in the rural and tribal areas of Bihar so as to provide means of livelihood to the rural and tribal people and maintain ecological balance; and

(b) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Development of Bamboo resource is now a thrust area of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. A project for Bamboo Plantation in Bihar has been sanctioned for two years with an outlay of Rs. 102.63 lakhs for treating 1500 ha of degraded forest area in the districts of Dumka and Ranchi. Joint Forest Management is an integral part of the project which ensures of the usufruct with the local population.

[English]

Introduction of New International Airlines

4323. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce new International Airlines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) There is no proposal at present to designate any new airline to undertake international air services to/from India.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

NOCs Issued by Forest Departments

4324. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of land diversion relating to Rajasthan received and the number of them cleared so far;

(b) the number of cases received by the Government for obtaining NOCs' from the department of Minerals and the number of cases under consideration at present;

(c) whether the Government propose to dispose of the cases under consideration; and

(d) if so, the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (d) Since 1996, total 296 number of proposals for diversion of forest land for mining purposes were received under section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 from the State Government of Rajasthan. Out of these 296, 172 have been approved, 28 have been rejected, 15 have been returned/withdrawn/closed for want of information, 65 are pending with State Government for furnishing essential information/reports and 16 proposals are under consideration of the Ministry.

[English]

Raid by Forest Department

4325. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Forest Department has in a recent raid in Delhi recovered two barking deer from there;

(b) if so, whether some persons have been arrested in this context; and

(c) if so, the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) As reported by the Wildlife Department, Government of Delhi, two barking deer were seized from a house on Aurangzeb Road, New Delhi. One person was arrested in this connection. The accused was granted bail by the Court subsequently.

Purchase of Short Expiry Medicines

4326. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the category of General Restricted Medicines/Special Restricted Medicines have been changed to General category very frequently and regularly during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of short expiry medicines converted into general category during each of the last three years, alongwith the cost of each medicine;

(d) the reasons for purchasing these short expiry medicines from the companies by the officials first and later on converting those medicines to general category;

(e) whether an enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

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

(g) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government to curb such activities in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) to (h) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

Insurance Premium to People Below Poverty Line

4327. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to release an insurance premium for five years to the people living below poverty line in the country which undergo sterilization after two children;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of people like to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) to (c) The National Population Policy, 2000 provides for a Family Welfare linked Health Insurance Plan of not more than Rs. 5000.00, to the couples below the poverty line, who undergo sterilisation with not more than two living children. The details of the Scheme are being formulated.

[English]

Health Centres of West Bengal

4328. SHRI PRIYA RANAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of World Bank aided projects being implemented to improve the infrastructure and health care facilities of health Centres of West Bengal;

(b) the total funds allotted to respective each district of West Bengal; and

(c) the present progress of these projects, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Control on ISP

4329. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to regulate and control Internet Service Providers (ISP) from over charging or of poor quality service;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) As per Internet Service Provider (ISP) licence, ISP is free to fix its own tariff to be charged from subscribers. The tariff shall be left open to be decided by market forces. However, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) may review and fix a tariff at any time during the validity of licence which shall be binding on the licensee. The functions of TRAI include, laying down the standards of quality of service to be provided by the service providers.

As per TRAI, there is substantial competition in the internet services sector. Therefore, the tariff are under competitive pressure, and under these conditions regulatory intervention is not contemplated. TRAI has undertaken an exercise to carry out a survey of Quality of Service (QOS) and other problem faced by internet users. The inputs received as a result of survey are being analysed. TRAI will issue a regulation on QOS in respect of internet service provision based on the inputs received.

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

Use of Bagdogra Airport for Defence Purposes

4330. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air-force Authority intends to use Bagdogra Airport exclusively for defence purpose;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any proposal to set up another airport in North Bengal for the purpose of civil aviation to cater to the needs of surrounding region and North East; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Clearance to Small Developmental Projects

4331. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra Government has requested the Union Government to set up a separate Regional Office at Nagpur or Mumbai to expedite clearance to small developmental projects involving forest land below 20 hectares;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Union Government is considering a proposal to shift the Bhopal Regional Office to some other place:

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (e) The Central Government is sensitive to the needs of clearing development

projects in Maharashtra on priority basis but is unable to create a separate Regional Office at Nagpur or Chandrapur because of the policy of the Central Government of not creating any new post. However, Regional Chief Conservator of Forests (C), Bhopal has been directed to dedicate adequate time for disposing off the cases of development projects in Maharashtra.

Increase in Air Fare by Air India on Gulf Sector

4332. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken by Air India to increase the Air Fare in Gulf Sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The fares to Gulf Sectors have been increased by Air India by 10.25% effective from April, 2000.

Delhi Flying Club

4333. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Chief Flying Instructor, Pilot Instructor and Assistant Pilot Instructor in the Delhi Flying club; and

(b) the total hours of flying practice conducted during 1999 and 2000 till date, club-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) the position is as under:—

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Chief Flying Instructor | 1 |
| Pilot Instructor | Nil |
| Assistant Pilot Instructor | 3 |

(b) A statement indicating the total flying hours conducted by various flying clubs is enclosed.

Statement

| Sl. No. | Name of the Club | Total hours of flying during the year | |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | 1999 | 2000 (Till 14/8/2000) |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| <i>Flying Clubs/Schools/Institutes:</i> | | | |
| 1. | Amritsar Aviation Club, Amritsar, | 350.50 | 108.15 |
| 2. | Andaman & Nicobar Flying Training Institute, Port Blair. | Nil | Nil |
| 3. | Andhra Pradesh Flying Club, Hyderabad | 1695.00 | 965.30 |
| 4. | Assam Flying Club, Guwahati | Nil | Nil |
| 5. | Bansathali Vidyapith Flying Club | Nil | Nil |
| 6. | Bihar Flying Training Institute, Patna | 170.40 | 221.05 |
| 7. | Bombay Flying Club, Mumbai | 381.45 | 197.40 |
| 8. | Coimbatore Flying Club Ltd., Coimbatore | Nil | Nil |
| 9. | Delhi Flying Club | 1352.45 | 710.15 |
| 10. | Govt. Aviation Training Institute, Bhubaneshwar | 353.05 | 216.35 |
| 11. | State Civil Aviation, Uttar Pradesh Flying Training Centre, (SCAUPFTC), Lucknow | 1550.35 | 510.15 |
| 12. | Faizabad branch of SCAUPFTC | | |
| 13. | Kanpur branch of SCAUPFTC | | |
| 14. | Varanasi branch of SCAUPFTC | | |
| 15. | Govt. Flying Training Institute, Calcutta | Nil | Nil |
| 16. | Govt. Flying Training School, Bangalore | 35.40 | 13.45 |
| 17. | Gujarat Flying Club, Baroda | 990.35 | 658.40 |
| 18. | Haryaa Institute of Civil Aviation (HICA), Karnal | 1481.30 | 794.20 |
| 19. | Hissar branch of HICA | 1324.10 | 634.00 |
| 20. | Pinjore branch of HICA | 1062.45 | 582.15 |
| 21. | Jamshedpur Co-operative Flying Club, Jamshedpur | (Temporarily closed) | |
| 22. | Kerala Aviation Training Institute, Thiruvanthapuram | 661.55 | 124.40 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|--|----------------------|----------|
| 23. | Ludhiana Aviation Club | 1591.50 | 727.45 |
| 24. | Madhya Pradesh Flying Club, Indore | 3139.50 | 1579.20 |
| 25. | Madhya Pradesh Flying Club, Bhopal | | |
| 26. | Madras Flying Club, Chennai | 658.20 | 508.10 |
| 27. | Nagpur Flying Club, Nagpur | Nil | Nil |
| 28. | Northern India Flying Club, Jalandhar (Camp at Patiala) | 2824.30 | 1397.45 |
| 29. | Patiala Aviation Club, Patiala | 1786.55 | 1167.35 |
| 30. | Rajasthan State Flyng School, Jaipur | 525.00 | 589.00 |
| | <i>(B) Private Flying Clubs/Schools/Institutes</i> | | |
| 1. | Academy of Carver Aviation, Mumbai Akademi, Ahmedabad | 1345.20 | 588.15 |
| 2. | Ahmedabad Aviation | 5056.55 | 1880.30 |
| 3. | Bangalore Aeronautics Technical Service Private Limited (BATS), Bangalore | Nil | Nil |
| 4. | Flytech Aviation Academy, Secunderabad | 1564.25 | 625.50 |
| 5. | Garg Aviation Limited, Kanpur | 1948.13 | 1091.46 |
| 6. | HAL Rotary Wing Academy, Bangalore | — | 8.00 |
| 7. | Orient Flight School, Pondichery | 982.00 | 421.05 |
| 8. | Rajputana Aviation Academy, Jaipur | 960.00 | 282.00 |
| 9. | Taneja Aerospace & Aviation Ltd., Bangalore | 441.35 | Nil |
| 10. | Tata Nagar Aviation, Jamshedpur | 2233.40 | 10.48.35 |
| 11. | Tetra Aviation Academy, Madras | (Temporarily closed) | |
| 12. | Frank Airways Private Limited, Indore | Nil | Nil |
| 13. | Wings Aviation Private Limited, Hyderabad | 1008.50 | 719.50 |
| | <i>(C) Autonomous Organisation Under Ministry of Civil Aviation</i> | | |
| 1. | Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi, Fursatganj | 4603.25 | 3883.30 |

Disposal of Waste by Hospitals

4334. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) whether the Government have issued any instructions to all the State Pollution Control Boards to compliance with the guidelines made by the Union

Government regarding disposal of medical waste by hospitals;

(b) if so, whether not a single State/Union Territory has followed the guidelines;

(c) if so, whether State Pollution Control Boards have not taken any action in this regard;

(d) if so, whether the Government have fixed any responsibility in the matter; and

(e) if so, the action being taken against those violating the guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The management and disposal of bio-medical wastes by hospitals is governed by the Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998. Through the Bio-Medical Waste (Management & Handling) (Second Amendment) Rules, 2000 notified by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on 2nd June, 2000, the Prescribed Authority for enforcement of the provisions of these Rules shall be the State Pollution Control Boards in respect of States and Pollution Control Committees in respect of Union Territories. All pending cases with Prescribed Authorities appointed earlier were to be transferred to the concerned State Pollution Control Boards or as the case may be, the Pollution Control Committees. The Ministry of Environment and Forests have instructed all the State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees to strictly enforce various provisions of the above Rules.

(b) The Ministry has not received any objection/reservation in this regard.

(c) to (e) Question does not arise.

Assistance For Purchase of Equipments by States

4335. SHRI ANIL BASU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provide financial assistance in the form either of grant or loan to the States and also to Central Government hospitals/institutions for purchase of instruments/equipments; and

(b) if so, the total funds provided and also for direct purchase made by the Government during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

State Population Commission

4336. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States which have appointed State Population Commission on the lines of Central Population Commission;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to impress upon all the States to set up State Population Commissions; and

(c) if so, give details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c) All State/UT Governments/Administrations have been requested to constitute State/UT Commission under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister, on the analogy of the National Commission on Population, to oversee and review the implementation of the National Population Policy, 2000 in the States/UTs. This was also reiterated in the meeting of State/UT Secretaries in charge of Family Welfare held at New Delhi on 1-2 June, 2000, and in the first meeting of the National Commission on Population held on 22nd July, 2000.

NHR Commission

4337. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NHR Commission has requested to the Government for making right to health as a fundamental right in the Constitution;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to implement the said suggestion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Workshop on Health and Human Rights with special reference to Maternal Anaemia was organised by the National Human Rights Commission in collaboration with the Department of Women & Child Development and the UNICEF from 26 to 27 April, 2000. The Workshop has inter-alia made a recommendation to Government for making right to health as a fundamental right in the Constitution. The Commission has finalised the report of the Workshop and has adopted certain recommendations of the report for follow up action by the concerned Ministries/Departments.

(c) The Report has just been received and is under examination.

[Translation]

Work on National Highways Development Project in Country

4338. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:
SHRI J.S. BRAR:
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have started the construction work on the National Highways Development Project;

(b) if so, the amount likely to be spent to complete the entire project and the time by which it is likely to be completed;

(c) the date from which this construction work is going on;

(d) the total amount spent so far till March 2000;

(e) whether the tender for the said work have been invited/proposed to be invited; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project is estimated to cost Rs. 54,000 crores and is targetted for completion by December, 2009.

(c) and (d) Work on four/six laning of some of sections of National Highway Development Project (NHDP) had already been undertaken before the announcement of NHDP. Total expenditure on on-going projects on such sections upto March, 2000, incurred by Central Government is Rs. 2050 crores.

(e) and (f) Invitation of tender is a continuous process and bids are invited as and when projects are ready. So far work is in progress on 1007 km stretches.

[English]

Reform in Road Sector

4339. SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has drawn the attention of the Government to the dire need for reforms in the road sector;

(b) if so, the details of areas for reforms suggested by the Confederation of Indian Industry;

(c) whether the Government are of the view that the highway network in the country is in dire need of attention in terms of maintenance, connectivity and quantity;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to make a comprehensive review of the current status of the plan for highway upgradation; and

(e) if so, the details of the steps to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) have suggested certain changes in the Model Concession Agreement for Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) projects as well as policies of the Government with regard to private sector participation in development and maintenance of National Highways.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The Government has already taken number of steps to enhance allocation of funds for development and maintenance of National Highways and to encourage private sector participation in this task. However, development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process. Works for development and maintenance of National Highways are taken up based on the traffic needs, their inter-se priority and subject to overall availability of funds.

[Translation]

Performance of ITI, Mankapur

4340. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether production in the I.T.I., Mankapur has been less than the prescribed quota this year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to modernise I.T.I., Mankapur; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) In view of the induction of new technology equipment in the DOT, MTNL and others, the production of old technology E10 B switching equipment for which the ITI Mankapur Plant was set up is being phased out. ITI Mankapur is now manufacturing new technology Switching equipment like OCB CSN but due to intense competition in the Telecom Sector cost of new technology equipment has come down drastically. Therefore, production in financial terms is reduced.

(c) and (d) ITI Mankapur plant is already modernized with all the infrastructural facilities for manufacture of new technology equipment.

[English]

Research by NALCO

4341. SHRI F.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recent research conducted by the National Aluminium Company (NALCO) has found coal ash to be potential in increasing agricultural production;

(b) if so, whether the Government are contemplating application of the research result in the agricultural production of the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) to (c) NALCO had undertaken a project on "Waste land development by application of fly ash" in collaboration with the Regional Research Laboratory, Bhopal. Encouraged by the findings of the project on a laboratory scale and field experiments, NALCO have now undertaken an R&D project on "Technology Development Project on effect of fly ash on soil fertility and crop yield" in association with the Regional Research Laboratory, Bhopal, and the Fly Ash Mission, Department of Science and Technology. This project is expected to be completed by April, 2002.

Saldanha Committee on CRZ

4342. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals pending for clearance and accorded clearance under the Coastal Regulation Zone as well as Forest Conservation Act, State-wise;

(b) whether public objection on the recommendations of Saldanha Committee on the Coastal Regulation Zone notification have been received by the Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) Public objections/comments on Saldanha Committee recommendations on the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification were not invited by the Government of India.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

(A) *Projects cleared/pending under the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 from June 1991 to July 2000*

| S.No. | State/UT | No. of Projects cleared | No. of Projects pending |
|-------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 09 | — |
| 2. | Goa | 18 | 01 |
| 3. | Gujarat | 17 | 01 |
| 4. | Karnataka | 03 | — |
| 5. | Kerala | 16 | — |
| 6. | Maharashtra | 49 | — |
| 7. | Orissa | 05 | 01 |
| 8. | Tamil Nadu | 16 | 01 |
| 9. | West Bengal | 05 | — |
| 10. | Andaman & Nicobar Islands | 28 | — |
| 11. | Daman & Diu | 06 | — |
| 12. | Lakshadweep | 02 | — |
| 13. | Pondicherry | 05 | — |
| Total | | 179 | 04 |

(B) Proposals cleared/pending under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 from 1994 to November 1999.

| S.No | State/UT | No. of Proposals sanctioned | No. of Proposals pending |
|------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 69 | 02 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 18 | 04 |
| 3. | Assam | 120 | 06 |
| 4. | Bihar | 79 | 05 |
| 5. | Goa | 18 | 01 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 319 | 19 |
| 7. | Haryana | 146 | — |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 128 | 03 |
| 9. | Karnataka | 81 | 14 |
| 10. | Kerala | 30 | 02 |
| 11. | Madhya Pradesh | 264 | 31 |
| 12. | Maharashtra | 445 | 45 |
| 13. | Manipur | 03 | — |
| 14. | Meghalaya | 15 | — |
| 15. | Mizoram | 41 | 01 |
| 16. | Orissa | 134 | 13 |
| 17. | Punjab | 143 | 01 |
| 18. | Rajasthan | 226 | 27 |
| 19. | Sikkim | 24 | — |
| 20. | Tamil Nadu | 31 | 01 |
| 21. | Tripura | 41 | 09 |
| 22. | Uttar Pradesh | 469 | 23 |
| 23. | West Bengal | 18 | — |
| 24. | Andaman & Nicobar Islands | 10 | 02 |
| 25. | Chandigarh | 04 | — |
| 26. | Dadra & Nagar Haveli | 79 | 06 |
| 27. | Others | 17 | 04 |
| | Total | 2972 | 219 |

National Population Policy

4343. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the draft National Population Policy is bereft of health infrastructure in terms of inadequate contraceptive services, specialists and trained manpower and funding; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to allocate more funds to run more health sub-centres to achieve success of the family planning programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) National Population Policy 2000 has identified meeting the unmet needs for contraception, health care infrastructure and health personnel and to provide integrated service delivery as our immediate objective with following interventions.

- (i) Strengthen, community health centres, primary health centres sub-centres;
- (ii) Strengthen skills of health personnel and health providers;
- (iii) At district and sub-district levels, maintain block-wise database of private medical practitioners whose credentials may be certified by the Indian Medical Association. Explore the possibility of accrediting these private practitioners for a year at a time, and assign to each a satellite population, not exceeding 5000 population, for whom they provide reproductive and child health services.
- (iv) Revive the earlier system of the licensed medical practitioners who, after appropriate certificate from the Indian Medical Association, may participate in the provision of clinical services.
- (v) Involve the non-medical fraternity in counseling and advocacy so as to demystify the national family welfare efforts. In addition to the ongoing Government funding towards population stabilisation, a National Population Stabilisation Fund with a seed money of Rs. 100 Crore has been set up to specifically aid projects designed to contribute to population stabilisation efforts inclusive of projects for urban slums. Additionally funds for supplies and equipment essential for meeting the unmet needs for contraception could be provided through re-appropriation within

existing allocations or by additional resources being made available.

Multi-Purpose Counter Machines

4344. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of multi-purpose counter machines installed in the country particularly in Tamil Nadu, location-wise:

(b) whether the Government propose to provide said facility in other post offices of the State during 2000-2001;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) A total of 6257 multipurpose counter machines have been installed in the country out of which 433 have been installed in Tamil Nadu. Location-wise details of the machines installed in Tamil Nadu is given in the enclosed Statement I. The Department proposes to install 1000 such machines in other post offices in India including Tamil Nadu during 2000-2001. Details of the machines proposed to be installed during the year 2000-2001 in Tamil Nadu Circle is given in the enclosed Statement II.

Statement I

Details of Multi Purpose Counter Machines Installed in Post Offices in Tamil Nadu Location-wise

| Sl.No. | Name of Post Office | Number of MPCMs Installed |
|--------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Chennai GPO | 17 |
| 2. | Anna Road HO | 17 |
| 3. | T. Nagar HO | 11 |
| 4. | Mylapore HO | 8 |
| 5. | Graemes Road PO | 5 |
| 6. | NH Road PO | 2 |
| 7. | Shahstri Bhavan | 2 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|-----------------------------|----|
| 8. | Teynampet | 5 |
| 9. | Tiruvallikeni | 2 |
| 10. | Adyar | 2 |
| 11. | Ashok Nagar | 6 |
| 12. | Guindy Indl. Estate | 2 |
| 13. | Besant Nagar | 1 |
| 14. | St. Thomas Mount | 2 |
| 15. | Vadapalani | 2 |
| 16. | Anna Nagar | 1 |
| 17. | Flower Bazar | 8 |
| 18. | Kilpauk | 1 |
| 19. | Chrompet | 1 |
| 20. | Ambattur HO | 2 |
| 21. | Avadi Camp HO | 2 |
| 22. | Abt. Ind. Estate | 1 |
| 23. | Tambaram HO | 9 |
| 24. | Chennai Sorting Sp. Counter | 1 |
| 25. | SPCC | 1 |
| 26. | Vellore HO | 17 |
| 27. | Vellore Fort | 1 |
| 28. | Tirupattur HO | 2 |
| 29. | Kanchipuram HO | 4 |
| 30. | Tiruvallur HO | 3 |
| 31. | Enathur | 1 |
| 32. | Cuddalore HO | 3 |
| 33. | Chidambaram HO | 1 |
| 34. | Pondicherry HO | 8 |
| 35. | Villupuram | 2 |
| 36. | Ranipet HO | 1 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|-------------------|---|
| 37. | INS Rajali | 1 |
| 38. | Tiruvannamalai | 2 |
| 39. | Karur | 8 |
| 40. | Sankarankoil | 1 |
| 41. | Kovilpatti HO | 3 |
| 42. | Ramanadhapuram | 3 |
| 43. | Paramakudi HO | 1 |
| 44. | Manamadurai | 1 |
| 45. | Tiruneveli HO | 3 |
| 46. | Palayamkottai | 8 |
| 47. | Maharajanagar | 2 |
| 48. | Tuticorin HO | 3 |
| 49. | Tiruchendur HO | 1 |
| 50. | Sirivaigundam HO | 1 |
| 51. | Virudhunagar Town | 2 |
| 52. | Virudhunagar HO | 1 |
| 53. | Sivakasi HO | 3 |
| 54. | Rajapalayam HO | 2 |
| 55. | Triplicane | 2 |
| 56. | Kulithalai | 1 |
| 57. | Kumbakonam HO | 4 |
| 58. | Melakaveri | 1 |
| 59. | Karaikkudi | 1 |
| 60. | Devakottai | 1 |
| 61. | Mayiladuthurai | 4 |
| 62. | Sirkali | 1 |
| 63. | Nagapattinam | 3 |
| 64. | Tiruvarur | 3 |
| 65. | Pudukottai | 2 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|------------------|----|
| 66. | Arantangi | 4 |
| 67. | Pattukottai | 2 |
| 68. | Tirutharaipoondi | 1 |
| 69. | Srirangam | 2 |
| 70. | Thuraiyur | 2 |
| 71. | Thanjavur | 22 |
| 72. | Papanasam | 1 |
| 73. | Mannargudi | 1 |
| 74. | Tiruchirapalli | 11 |
| 75. | Teppakulam | 3 |
| 76. | Trichy Fort | 2 |
| 77. | Boiler Project | 3 |
| 78. | Lalgudi | 2 |
| 79. | Vriddhachalam | 4 |
| 80. | Kallakurichi | 2 |
| 81. | Tirukoilur | 1 |
| 82. | Coimbatore | 35 |
| 83. | CBE Central | 2 |
| 84. | Ramnagar | 7 |
| 85. | Ramanathapuram | 2 |
| 86. | R.S. Puram | 2 |
| 87. | Dharamapuriho | 7 |
| 88. | Hosur | 2 |
| 89. | Krishnagiri | 1 |
| 90. | Bhavani HO | 2 |
| 91. | Erode HO | 6 |
| 92. | Tiruchengode | 3 |
| 93. | Pollachi HO | 18 |
| 94. | Udumalpet HO | 1 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|------|-------------------|----|
| 95. | Hasthampatti | 1 |
| 96. | Salem HO | 4 |
| 97. | Suramanagalam HO | 6 |
| 98. | Tiruppur | 3 |
| 99. | Madurai HO | 16 |
| 100. | Tallakulam HO | 9 |
| 101. | Arasardi HO | 3 |
| 102. | Gandhinagar SO | 2 |
| 103. | Munichalai Rd. SO | 2 |
| 104. | Madurai Palace SO | 2 |
| 105. | Madurai Bazar SO | 2 |
| 106. | Tirumangalam SO | 2 |
| 107. | Dindigul HO | 3 |
| 108. | Palani HO | 3 |
| 109. | Kodaikanal SO | 2 |
| 110. | Ngarcoil HO | 8 |
| 111. | Periyakulam | 3 |
| 112. | Bodinayakanur HO | 2 |
| 113. | Theni SO | 1 |
| 114. | Uthamapayalam | 2 |
| 115. | Tenkasi HO | 15 |
| 116. | Ambasamudram | 1 |
| 117. | Saidapet | 1 |
| 118. | Perambalur | 1 |

Statement II

Post Offices Planned to be provided with MPCMs during 2000-2001

| Name of Post Office | Number of MPCMs to be provided |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| (1) Erode | 11 |
| (2) Salem | 16 |
| (3) Thyagarajanagar | 11 |
| (4) Tiruchirapalli | 10 |
| (5) Pondicherry | 5 |
| (6) Tiruvanmalai | 5 |
| (7) Karur | 1 |

Clearance to Mineral Companies

4345. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his ministry has given approval to a number of Mineral Companies engaged in Production of certain Minerals from shore sand and exporting the same of foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the action taken against such Mineral companies for spoiling the environment through over exploitation of sand from sea shore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The Ministry has accorded environmental clearance to the following projects as per provisions of the CRZ and EIA notifications with specific safeguards:

| S.No. | Name of the Company | Mineral Produced |
|-------|---|---|
| 1. | Indian Rare Earths Limited-Orissa Sands Complex | Synthetic Rutile, Sillimanite, Rutile, Zircon, Monozite |
| 2. | Transworld Gemet India Pvt. Ltd. | Gamet Sand |
| 3. | Tamil Nadu Minerals Limited | Gamet Sand |

(c) The Ministry is not aware of over exploitation of sand by the proponents who have obtained environmental clearance from this Ministry.

Clearance to Road Project in Tamil Nadu

4346. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Tamil Nadu Government to improve the roads between Arcot and Thiruvart for environmental clearance;

(b) if so, whether the Government have accorded clearance to the said proposal;

(c) if so, whether the Government have also given clearance for upgrading the Cuddalore-Tuticorin highway; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir. A proposal to improve roads from Arcot to Thiruvart (Northern Corridor) has been received from Government of Tamil Nadu.

(b) No Sir.

(c) and (d) A proposal to improve roads from Cuddalore-Tuticorin (excluding the stretch passing through Karaikal) having a length of 397 kms. was accorded environmental clearance on 6.7.2000 subject to effective implementation of certain environmental safeguards/mitigation measures.

Universal Service Obligation

4347. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has released consultation paper on Universal Service Obligation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether TRAI has analysed the various issues involved in the implementation of Universal Service Obligation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to insist upon the companies desirous to enter Long Distance Telecom Market to have some commitment for the Universal Service Obligation Fund;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the objectives of the said fund and the utilization of funds accumulated therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (g) Under the New Telecom Policy, 1999, the Government is committed to provide access to all people for basic telecom services at affordable and reasonable prices. Funds for meeting this Universal Service Obligation would be raised through the imposition of a universal access levy, which would be a percentage of the revenue earned by all the operators under various licenses. This percentage is to be decided by the Government in consultation with the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

A Consultation paper on the subject of Universal Service Obligations was recently released by the TRAI, in which it has analyzed several issues concerning the USO, including the concept, composition and amount of contribution to the Universal Service Fund, methodologies to assess Net Universal Service Costs, and organizational issues relating to the implementation of USO. The TRAI had sought inputs on the consultation paper (which is a public document and is also available on the internet) from various stakeholders, including Service Providers, consumers and their organizations, and Finance Institutions etc. by 24th July 2000. The matter is presently being examined by TRAI and the Government will take a final decision on it only after receiving formal recommendations from the Authority.

Meanwhile, for the companies desiring to enter National Long Distance operations the Govt. have fixed the licence fee in the form of revenue share @10% plus prescribed contribution towards the Universal Service Obligation with a total cap of 15%.

Tremendous Growth in Traffic Volumes

4348. SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether for the past 50 years the roads length has increased 7 times but the number of vehicles increased 110 times and every year around 3 crores or more vehicles are registered;

(b) if so, keeping in view the tremendous growth in traffic volumes;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to further increase the length of the roads in the country; and

(d) the present status of on-going works on various National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) During the last 50 years the road length has increased by 8 times, number of vehicles by 130 times and every year more than 40 lakh vehicles are registered.

(b) and (c) Expansion of road network is a continuous process and is being undertaken subject to availability of resources.

(d) A statement giving present status of on-going works on various National Highways is enclosed.

Statement

List of On-Going Works on National Highways in various States

| Sl.No. | Name of State | No. of On-going works as on 01.04.2000 | Sanctioned/Revised Sanctioned Cost (Rs. in Crores) |
|--------|-------------------|--|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 65 | 142.00 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | — | — |
| 3. | Assam | 97 | 121.05 |
| 4. | Bihar | 61 | 72.23 |
| 5. | Chandigarh | 04 | 1.39 |
| 6. | Delhi | 06 | 26.32 |
| 7. | Goa | 27 | 43.60 |
| 8. | Gujarat | 37 | 183.57 |
| 9. | Haryana | 21 | 68.45 |
| 10. | Himachal Pradesh | 70 | 108.07 |
| 11. | Jammu & Kashmir | 09 | 5.20 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 100 | 97.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-------|----------------|--------------------|---------|
| 13. | Kerala | 48 | 142.84 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 75 | 115.83 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 166 | 170.18 |
| 16. | Manipur | 51 | 52.35 |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 64 | 62.65 |
| 18. | Mizoram | 10 | 7.61 |
| 19. | Nagaland | 20 | 27.30 |
| 20. | Orissa | 72 | 116.18 |
| 21. | Pondicherry | 07 | 4.01 |
| 22. | Punjab | 27 | 78.84 |
| 23. | Rajasthan | 59 | 106.26 |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 92 | 175.42 |
| 25. | Uttar Pradesh | 98 | 468.02 |
| 26. | West Bengal | 62 | 303.53 |
| Total | | 1348 | 2700.10 |
| | | Say 2700.00 Crores | |

Post Office in Jamnagar

4349. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages having post offices in Jamnagar district of Gujarat;

(b) the number of villages where post offices proposed be opened during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, location-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide post office in each and every village of the said district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) There are 341 villages having post offices in Jamnagar district of Gujarat.

(b) Post offices are proposed to be opened at the following villages during 2000-2001:—

(i) Reliance Petro Chemical Township

(ii) Village Sankhala

(c) The post offices are opened as per Annual Plan as a part of Ninth Five Year Plan subject to fulfilment of prescribed norms. This is further subject to availability of resources and sanctioning of required posts by Ministry of Finance.

Pollution due to Diesel and Petro

4350. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Have a breath of Poison" appearing in the in the *Pioneer* dated July 21, 2000;

(b) if so, whether due to pollution from diesel and petrol more than 10,000 people die in Delhi every year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No such conclusive data is available for Delhi.

(c) Does not arise.

Backlog of Export Cargo at IGIA

4351. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a huge backlog of export cargo piled up at Indira Gandhi International Airport;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to clear the backlog?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Clearance to Projects in Karnataka

4352. SHRI R.S. PATIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of the various projects sent to the Union Government by Karnataka for environmental clearance during the last three years;

(b) whether Upper Krishna Project, Stage-I and II and Uduthorehalla Project have been given environmental clearance; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which environmental clearance is likely to be accorded by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) 25 projects were received during last three years from Karnataka for environmental clearance. A list is enclosed as statement.

(b) and (c) Upper Krishna Project Stage-I consists of Phase-I, Phase-II and Phase-III. Phase-I was not referred to this Ministry for environmental clearance, Phase-II & Phase-III were accorded environmental clearance on 05.04.1989 and 18.07.2000 respectively. Stage-II project was considered by the Expert Committee for River Valley & Hydroelectric projects on 21.07.2000 for environmental clearance. Additional information sought from the project proponent has not been received. Decision on the proposal for environmental clearance will be taken within ninety (90) days of receipt of complete information. Uduthorehalla project has not been received for environmental clearance.

Statement

| Sl.No. | Name of the Projects |
|-----------------|--|
| 1 | 2 |
| <i>Industry</i> | |
| 1. | Foundry unit at Dharwad Distt. by AKAY Ispat Pvt. Ltd. |
| 2. | Mangalore-Bangalore Product Pipeline Project of M/s. HPCL. |
| 3. | Manufacture of Connectors and Inter-connection Devices at Export Promotion Industrial (EPI) Park, Whitefield, Bangalore by M/s. AMP India Ltd. |
| 4. | Bulk Drug Unit at Kattigehalli North Bangalore Dist. by Ms/. Astra IDL Ltd. |
| 5. | Manufacturing of Stamped Metal Parts for Electronic Industry at Bangalore of M/s. Interplex Electronics India Ltd. |
| 6. | Expansion of Bulk Drug Unit at Kallhalli village, Mysore, Karnataka by M/s. Max Pharma Ltd. |

| 1 | 2 |
|-----|---|
| 7. | Expansion of Capacity from 1,00,000 to 2,00,000 m ² per annum for Printed Circuit Board at Nanjangud, Industrial Area, Mysore by M/s. INDAL Electronics Ltd. |
| 8. | Expansion of Distillery from 30,000-45,000 KLPD by M/s. Ugar Sugar Works Ltd. |
| 9. | Expansion of ACC Works from 1.75 MTPA to 6.00 MTPA at Wadi, by M/s. ACC Ltd. |
| | <i>Thermal Power</i> |
| 10. | 65 MW DG Power Plant near Bellari of M/s. Sree Rayalseema Alkalies and Allied Chemicals Ltd. |
| 11. | 20 MW Captive Power Plant of M/s. Ugar Sugar Works Ltd. |
| 12. | 81.3 MW DG Power Plant at Belgaum of M/s. Tata Power Company Ltd. |
| 13. | 1x500 MW Vijayanagar Thermal Power Plant at Torangallu near Bellari of M/s. Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd. |
| 14. | 24 MW Cogeneration Power Plant at Samirwadi of M/s. Godavari Sugar Mills Ltd. |
| 15. | 2,30 MW Thermal Power Plant at Anantapur Road Bellary by M/s. Bellary Power (India) Ltd. |
| 16. | 170 MW Barge Mounted Power Project at Mangalore, Dakshina Kannada by M/s. Smith Co-generation (India) Pvt. Limited. |
| | <i>River Valley & Hydroelectric</i> |
| 17. | Upper Krishna Project Stage-II Ms. Krishna Bagya Jala Nigam Ltd. |
| 18. | Upper Krishna Project Stage-I, Phase-III M/s. Krishna Bhagya Jala Nigam Ltd. |
| 19. | Uper Krishna Power Project-Almati Dam Power House and Narayanpur Tamankal Cascade Power House M/s. Chamundi Power Corporation. |
| | <i>Mining</i> |
| 20. | Expansion of iron ore mine in Bellary District by M/s. Tungabhadra Minerals Ltd. |
| 21. | Open cast iron ore mine in Chitradurga District of M/s. A. Narain Minerals. |

| 1 | 2 |
|-----|--|
| 22. | Timmapur limestone mine in Bagalkot District of M/s. Prahlad H. Pujar |
| 23. | Capacity expansion of Wadi Limestone Mine in Gulbarga District of M/s. Associated Cement Company Ltd. |
| | <i>Infrastructure Development & Miscellaneous</i> |
| 24. | Establishment of a Maritime Operation Room, Communication Station and the Administrative Blocks at New Mangalore Port Trust, Dakshina Kannada Distt. M/s. Coast Guard. |
| 25. | Construction of a Jetty (Tadri Port Area) Minor Port in Uttara Kannada Distt. by M/s. Sree LPG Pvt. Ltd. |

Oriented Construction Practices in Maintenance of National Highways

4353. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the current system of using manually oriented construction practices in the maintenance of National Highways ought to be replaced by equipment oriented methods as the later are cost effective and quick; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Use of equipment is being insisted upon for maintenance of National Highways pavements and shoulders.

[*Translation*]

Concessions to Passengers of Delhi-Mumbai-Delhi Route

4354. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether large scale concession in Delhi-Mumbai-Delhi sector has provided by Indian Airlines/Air India from July to September 1999;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to provide the same concession to the passengers of the said sector during the current year as well; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. As a sales promotion requirement, in order to increase loads on Delhi-Mumbai and vice versa sector, both the airlines had introduced special unilateral fares for the period of 1.7.99 to 30.09.99.

(b) At present, there is no proposal, under consideration, of the Airlines, to introduce similar fares this year.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Changes in Size and Colour of Postal Stationery

4355. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to bring changes in the sizes and colours of the Inland Letter, Post Card, Envelope and other postal articles to make it more attractive, colourful and qualitative;

(b) whether the prices of these articles will also be hiked after bringing the required changes;

(c) if so, the extent to which the prices of these items would be affected;

(d) whether while proposing the hike in prices the plight of poor people of this country has been taken into consideration; and

(e) if so, the details of the subsidy being given on each item?

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

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Sale of Synthetic Milk

4356. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN:
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware about the selling of synthetic milk in Delhi by the milk traders of neighbouring States unabatedly and also marketing of adulterated milk by certain known brands of milk suppliers/producers; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government to identify the shortcoming in the measures, if any, to check such malpractices and to strengthen the measures to check the marketing of adulterated milk in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) There is no food product known as synthetic milk. The term 'synthetic milk' is a misnomer, for a concoction of vegetable fat and chemicals. As per the information made available by the Government of Delhi, none of the samples of milk was found adulterated with cheap vegetable oil, or chemicals like caustic soda, detergent, mineral oil, neutralizer etc.

(b) The Government of Delhi have been very vigilant to tackle the problem of adulterated milk. Milk sold in Delhi comes primarily from the neighbouring States. They have informed that, the enforcement machinery has been geared up and coordinated efforts with local police have been made to take samples of such milk and milk products not only from the entry points to Delhi from the adjoining States but also from all over Delhi where milk is being sold. Delhi has been divided into 9 districts headed by a Deputy Commissioner. Each district is further divided into 3 Sub-Divisions which is headed by SDM. The work of lifting of samples and further investigation for prosecution etc. is now conducted under the supervision of a SDM who has been notified as LHA under the PFA Act/Rules.

[Translation]

Out of Order Solar Telephones

4357. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that 99 percent Solar Telephone (run by solar energy) are lying out of order in Yavatmal district of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by which these telephones are likely to be rectified; and

(d) the investment made so far by the Government on these telephones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir. The percentage of faulty VPTs in Yavatmal district is 10%. The status is as follows:—

| | |
|-----------------|--------|
| Total MARR VPTs | 844 |
| Faulty VPT | 86 |
| % of faulty VPT | 10.18% |

(b) (i) Improper keeping up of equipment by local VPT Holders.

(ii) Worn out batteries.

(iii) Broken solar panels.

(iv) Limited availability of Card repair facility.

(c) The faulty VPTs on MARR will be rectified within 3 months.

(d) The total investment made in Yavatmal district on MARR VPTs is approximately 8 crores.

[English]

Purchase of Medicines Machinery by CCRUM

4358. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Council for Research in Unani Medicines (CCRUM) has purchased costly machinery/equipments without following up any proper purchase and repair procedure during each of the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any quotations were invited for the purchase of such machinery/equipment;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether certain items even the newly acquired items are being auctioned by the Council; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefore stating the estimated loss likely to be suffered as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) to (d) Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, have informed that they have only purchased essential minimum items according to the requirements of different field units after following the prescribed codal formalities.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Question does not arise.

New Telephone Connections in Gurgaon

4359. DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received by the Government regarding installation of new telephone connections in Gurgaon, Haryana during the last six months;

(b) the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to conduct any inquiry in the matter; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No specific complaints have been received on this account. However, inquiries are received at all levels regarding the likely date for providing new telephone connections for waitlisted applicants.

(b) to (d) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

Use of Homoeopathic Medicines in Zoo

4360. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Homoeopathic medicines are being used in Zoo for animals treatment;

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

(c) whether the Homoeopathic medicines can be treated for pets and animals and birds;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) to (e) Medicines for the treatment of animals are available under Homoeopathy. However, these medicines can be administered only by a trained physician in Homoeopathy and not by the veterinary doctor. The Veterinary Council of India has informed that the registered veterinary practitioner can not practice Homoeopathy system till he receives education and training in the use of such drugs.

[Translation]

Mortality Rate in the Country

4361. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the percentage of birth rate and mortality rate in the country during the last three years, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA): As per the Sample Registration System of the office of the Registrar General, India, Ministry of Home Affairs, the estimates of crude birth rates and crude death rates per thousand population for the latest three years are stated below:—

| | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 |
|------------------|------|------|------|
| Crude Birth Rate | 27.5 | 27.2 | 26.5 |
| Crude Death Rate | 9.0 | 8.9 | 9.0 |

Preference to Indian Languages for Health and Family Programmes

4362. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give preference to Indian languages instead of giving preference to English in Health and Family Welfare Programmes as is being done by other foreign countries like Malaysia, China and Sri Lanka in such programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) to (c) Since Health is a State subject, States are free to use their respective languages. As regards centrally implemented Health and Family Welfare Programmes, both Hindi and English are used and wherever possible, materials in local languages are used.

[English]

Chicken Pox Among Children

4363. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:

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

(a) whether Chicken pox is rampant in India especially among children upto the age of fifteen;

(b) if so, whether any efforts have been made to eradicate the disease from the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) to (c) Chicken pox is an acute viral disease with sudden onset of fever and skin eruptions characterised by vesicular rash. It shows seasonal trend and cases occur mostly during first six months of the year. The disease is rarely fatal. So far chicken pox immunization is not a part of Universal Immunization Programme. It is relevant to mention that chicken pox is a self-limiting disease and its treatment is symptomatic. Facilities for treatment of chicken pox and any of its complications are available in various hospitals, both in Government and private sector.

New Pay Scales to Doctors in Government Hospitals

4364. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of medical teachers under the control of his ministry;

(b) whether his Ministry has approved and recommended the pay and professional pre-requisites of these medical teachers working under Central Health Schemes (CHS);

(c) whether the pay and perks of faculty at AIIMS, New Delhi and PGIMER, Chandigarh are cent per cent funded by the Government;

(d) whether the pay and perks of faculty posted at MAM College, New Delhi, Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi and PGI, Pondicherry are also cent percent funded by the Government;

(e) if so, the reasons for the two groups belonging to C&D above are not being treated at par;

(f) whether the Government are aware that medical doctors/professors working in various medical colleges under CHS have been drawing less pay than their junior doctors after the implementation of Fifth Pay Commission report due to non-maintenance of a common seniority list;

(g) if so, whether the Government have received any representation from these doctors/professors; and

(h) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA):

(a) This Ministry is the Cadre Controlling Authority for the Central Health Service. The number of sanctioned posts of the Teaching Specialists of Central Health Service is 623.

(b) The Teaching Specialists of Central Health Service are being granted pay and allowances as per the Government decision on the recommendations of the 5th Central Pay Commission.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The AIIMS, New Delhi and PGI Chandigarh have been established under Acts of Parliament. These Acts have specific provision for their pay structure. Although Teaching cadre of CHS and faculty of AIIMS/PGI perform teaching, research and patient care, both are not comparable. While the standard of the teaching sub-cadre of CHS is good, the standard of similar personnel in AIIMS is much superior. This is reflected in the emoluments difference in AIIMS *vis-a-vis* CHS.

(f) to (h) Government have received representations from some of the Central Health Service Officers for stepping up of their pay with respect to pay of their juniors. Stepping up of pay of Central Health Service Officers with reference to juniors is done as per Government rules.

National Maternity Benefit Scheme

4365. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of beneficiaries in Karnataka under National Maternity Benefit Scheme during 1999-2000;

(b) the amount released under the scheme to Karnataka during the said period;

(c) whether Karnataka Government has sent any proposal for assistance under the said scheme during 2000-2001; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA):

(a) As per information received from 17 out of 27 districts in Karnataka, the total number of beneficiaries under the National Maternity Benefit Scheme during 1999-2000 is 35,264.

(b) Rs. 402.68 lakhs was released to the State of Karnataka for National Maternity Benefit Scheme during 1999-2000.

(c) and (d) Release of the first instalment to a district during a year is automatic if the district lifted the second instalment during the previous year. Accordingly, the first instalment to all the districts in Karnataka except Bangalore (Urban) for 2000-2001, has already been released since these districts lifted the second instalment during 1999-2000. Proposals from the districts for the release of the second instalment during 2000-2001 have not yet been received.

[*Translation*]

Setting up Inland Waterways Authority of India

4366. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI J.S. BRAR:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Inland Waterways Authority of India was set up a few years back in the country;

(b) if so, the date on which it was set up and the objectives thereof;

(c) whether the possibilities of using waterways were explored by this institute;

(d) if so, the number of waterways explored so far for use; and

(e) the details of schemes formulated for the development and expansion thereof and the schemes out of these under implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Inland Waterways Authority of India was set up on 27th October, 1986 for the development and regulation of inland waterways for the purposes of shipping and navigation and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Three waterways, namely the Ganga from Allahabad to Haldia, the Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Sadiya and the West Coast canal from Kollam to Kottapuram alongwith Champakara and Udyogmandal canals, declared as National Waterways, have been explored for use.

(e) Various schemes have been formulated for provision of fairway and other infrastructure in the said three National Waterway. A list of projects under implementation is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

List of Ongoing Schemes for Three National Waterways

| Sl.No. | Name of the Project/Scheme |
|---|--|
| 1 | 2 |
| National Waterways No. 1 | |
| A. Projects under implementation | |
| 1. | Annual fairway improvement/river conservancy works |
| 2. | Acquisition of Hydraulic Surface Dredger |
| 3. | 24 hrs. Navigational aids in Calcutta-Farakka sector |
| 4. | Terminal at Gaihat Patna |
| 5. | Terminal facilities between Haldia and Patna (GR Jetty, Karagola & Ballia) |
| 6. | Infrastructural facilities between Patna and Allahabad (Terminals). |
| 7. | Terminal maintenance |
| 8. | Procurement of survey equipments |
| 9. | Repair of floating crafts |
| B. Schemes formulated | |
| 10. | River training works |
| 11. | 24 hrs. Navigational aids in Farakka-Patna Sector |
| 12. | Acquisition of cutter suction dredgers & survey vessels |

| 1 | 2 |
|---|---|
| National Waterway No. 2 | |
| A. Projects under implementation | |
| 13. | Annual fairway improvement/river conservancy works |
| 14. | Acquisition of Hydraulic Surface Dredger |
| 15. | 24 hrs. Navigational aids in Dhubri-Guwahti sector |
| 16. | Floating terminals |
| 17. | Terminal maintenance |
| 18. | Procurement of survey equipments |
| 19. | Procurement of survey vessel |
| B. Schemes formulated | |
| 20. | Terminal at Pandu |
| 21. | 24 hrs. Navigational aids in Guwahti-Dibrugarh Sector |
| 22. | Acquisition of cutter suction dredgers |
| 23. | Acquisition of new survey vessels |
| National Waterway No. 3 | |
| A. Project under implementation | |
| 24. | Annual maintenance activities |
| 25. | Capital dredging including land acquisition |
| 26. | Land acquisition for terminals |
| 27. | Construction of terminals |
| 28. | Construction of maintenance of locks |
| 29. | Acquisition of survey vessel (completed) |
| 30. | Procurement of survey equipments |
| 31. | 24 hrs. Navigational aids |
| 32. | Bank Protection |

[English]

Kelkar Committee Report

4367. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kelkar Committee has submitted its report on the restructuring of Air India; and

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made therein and the reaction of the Government thereon?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Aid to Family Welfare Scheme

4368. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Govt. seeks foreign aids for family welfare" appearing in the "Statesman" dated May 24, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have sought aid from foreign agencies for family welfare programmes;

(c) if so, the agencies/countries from which aid has been sought;

(d) the details of family welfare schemes for which aid has been sought;

(e) whether the Government propose to ensure proper utilization of funds for the said scheme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Details are given in the statement enclosed.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The Government is making all efforts to ensure proper and timely utilization of the project specific assistance received from donor Agencies/Countries.

Statement

| Sl. No. | Programme | Donor Agency/country | Committed Amount | Purpose/objective |
|---------|---------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Reproductive & Child Health Programme | World Bank European Commission DFID (United Kingdom) KFW (Germany) UNICEF (including bilateral donors like JICA (Japan) and DANIDA (DENMARK)) | US\$ 248.3 million (RCH Phase-I) ECU 200 Million £ 36.31 Million DM 65 Million US\$ 121 Million | Implementation of RCH Programme including Pulse Polio Immunization Programme. —do— Implementation of Pulse Polio Immunization Programme. Implementation of Pulse Polio Immunization Programme. Implementation of RCH Programme including Pulse Polio Immunization Programme. |
| 2. | Immunization Strengthening Project | World Bank | US\$ 142.6 Million | Strengthening of routine immunization and for Polio Immunization Programme. |
| 3. | India Population Project-VIII | World Bank | Rs. 422.01 Crores | Implementation of IPP projects in the States of Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Delhi, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for improving the health and family welfare status of the urban slums population. |
| 4. | India Population Project-IX. | World Bank | Rs. 414.06 Crores | Implementation of IPP projects in the States of Assam, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for improving health and family welfare services in the rural population. |
| 5. | Basic Health Project (Maharashtra) | German | Rs. 47.40 Crores | Four districts of Maharashtra viz. Raigad, Ratanagiri, Sindhurg and Pune have been covered under the project with the objective to ensure improvement in utilisation of health care services, specially by weaker sections in the State. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-----|---|--------------------------|-------------------|--|
| 6. | Health & Family Welfare Project-Phase-III | DANIDA | Rs. 116.39 Crores | Being implemented in the States of Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh with the objective to ensure improvement in utilisation of health care services, specially by weaker sections in the State. |
| 7. | Health & Family Welfare Project | DFID (United Kingdom) | Rs. 14.55 Crores | Being implemented in two districts (Bhadrak and Keonjhar) of Orissa |
| 8. | West Bengal Reproductive and Child Health Project | DFID (United Kingdom) | £1.75 Million | Strengthening of Reproductive and Child Health programme in West Bengal. |
| 9. | SIFPSA Project (Uttar Pradesh) | USAID | US\$ 350 Million | To enhance couple protection rate and to reduce total fertility rate in Uttar Pradesh. |
| 10. | Country Project-V | UNFPA | US\$ 10.0 Million | To strengthen Reproductive Health, Population Development strategies and Advocacy. |
| 11. | Family Welfare (Biennium 2000-2001) | WHO | US\$ 1.4 Million | For Family Welfare Programme |

[Translation]

Construction of NH-83 between Masaurhi-Patna-Gaya

4369. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India propose to start the construction of National Highway-83 between Masaurhi-Patna-Gaya;

(b) if so, the details of the survey conducted in this regard;

(c) the cost likely to be incurred on this project and the area of National Highways proposed to be covered therein;

(d) the sources from which the National Highways Authority of India is mobilising necessary funds to complete this project; and

(e) the target date for the completion thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) This National Highway has been entrusted to the Government of Bihar and not to the National Highways Authority of India. Further, Bihar Road Construction Department has not yet handed over this

section to their National Highway Wing. As such no survey etc. has been conducted so far.

[English]

Ecological Imbalance due to Super Cyclone in Orissa in 1999

4370. SHRI JAGANNATH MALLIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many districts of Orissa on the coastline have been rendered treeless by the super cyclone of rare severity of 1999 causing serious ecological imbalance in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps the Government have taken or proposed to be taken to maintain the ecological balance disturbed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) As per Report of the Central Team on assessment of damages due to cyclone of 1999 in Orissa, extensive damage to Forests, wildlife & Environment had been caused in the Super Cyclone of 29th October, 1999 and the Cyclone of 17th October, 1999. An estimated 90 million trees from the coastal shelter belt plantations, reserve forest blocks, village Woodlot plantations, roadside avenues, private and Government lands and village common lands, city

plantations, research garden and zoological parks and sanctuaries had been uprooted or damaged. About 95,750 hectares of forest area comprising sal, teak and bamboo forests, village woodlot plantations, mangrove forests and coastal wind-brake plantations have been affected, besides loss of tree cover from the cities and vast rural areas, including about 1500 kms on roadsides.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to maintain ecological balance in the cyclone hit districts of Orissa by allocating grants to the State Government of Orissa under different schemes of this Ministry is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

(1) Integrated Afforestation & Eco-Development Scheme (IAEPS)—

After the super cyclone of Orissa, the State Government of Orissa submitted eight project proposals which have been sanctioned during 1999-2000 under Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Project Scheme (IAEPS) for 9th Plan period at a total cost of Rs. 1249.10 lakhs to treat 19500 ha. of degraded forest lands in Cyclone-hit districts of Orissa. The details of the projects are given as under:—

(Area in hectares and Amount in Rupees)

| Districts | Total area | Total cost |
|--------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Cuttack | 2800 | 196.61 |
| Jajpur | 1400 | 117.94 |
| Mayurbhanj, Balasore & Bhadrak | 2000 | 96.00 |
| Mayurbhanj | 2000 | 96.00 |
| Cuttack & Jajpur | 3300 | 206.49 |
| Keonjhar | 2800 | 134.40 |
| Ganjam | 3000 | 214.28 |
| Khurda | 2200 | 187.38 |
| Total | 19500 | 1249.10 |

The State Government of Orissa also submitted project proposals for coastal shelterbelt plantations in the coastal districts of Orissa. These six project proposals have been sanctioned during 2000-2001 for Coastal Shelterbelt Plantations under Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Project Scheme (IAEPS) for 9th Plan

period at a total cost of Rs. 1488.51 lakhs to treat 8000 ha. of coastal areas of Orissa. The details of the projects are given as under:—

(Area in hectares and Amount in Rupees lakhs)

| Districts | Total area | Total cost |
|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| Bhadrak | 100 | 18.40 |
| Balasore | 400 | 73.58 |
| Ganjam | 500 | 91.97 |
| Kendrapara | 2500 | 463.89 |
| Puri | 2500 | 466.82 |
| Jagatsinghpur | 2000 | 373.85 |
| Total | 8000 | 1488.51 |

(2) Conservation and Management of Mangroves and Coral Reefs Scheme

Bhitarkanika and Mahanadi Delta have been identified for intensive conservation and management of mangroves and coral reefs. On the recommendation of the task force constituted by this Ministry to assess the damage caused to mangroves in coastal Orissa, the following three additional areas have been identified. These are Subamarekha, Devi and Dhamra Mangroves. The main activities include survey and demarcation, regeneration and afforestation of mangroves in the degraded areas, protection measures, ecodevelopment activities, education and awareness related to conservation of mangroves and catalytic support for establishment of mangrove genetic resource centre and mangrove interpretation centre in Bhitarkanika.

During 1999-2000, an amount of Rs. 44.06 lakhs was released to the State Government for implementation of Management Action Plans in the following identified mangrove areas:—

| | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Bhitarkanika | Rs. 17.56 lakhs |
| Mahanadi | Rs. 26.50 lakhs |

During the current financial year an amount of Rs. 55.75 lakhs has been released to the State Government for implementation of Management Action Plans in the following identified mangrove areas:—

| | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| Subamarekha | Rs. 23.50 lakhs |
| Devi | Rs. 17.25 lakhs |
| Dhamra | Rs. 15.00 lakhs |

(3) Assistance through Central Zoo Authority (CZA)

For reconstruction of Nandankanan Zoological Park, Bhubaneswar which was damaged due to super cyclone, the CZA has released Rs. 60.00 lakhs in 1999-2000 and Rs. 40.00 lakhs in the current financial year.

(4) Assistance for Fire Protection

An amount of Rs. 98.00 lakhs has been sanctioned during 1999-2000 for salvaging the timber from the cyclone affected trees.

(5) Assistance of Grants from Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development

There is no specific plantation programme under implementation, however an Integrated Wasteland Development Project Scheme (IWDP) is being implemented for development of non-forest wastelands on watershed basis. Under this scheme, an amount of Rs. 1407.00 lakhs were released to the State of Orissa during the last three years. Out of this, Rs. 335.83 have been released in the super-cyclone affected districts of Dhenkanal, Mayurbhanj and Jajpur during the financial year 1999-2000.

[Translation]

Revision of Royalty on Minerals

4371. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA:
SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received requests to streamline the existing system of fixing rates of royalty on different minerals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up a statutory body of experts for revision of rates of royalty on different types of minerals; and

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

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Conventionally a Study Group is constituted in the Department/Ministry concerned to review the rates of royalty on major minerals which comprises representatives of State Governments, the

Industry, the technical institutions and other concerned Ministries/Departments. The Study Group makes recommendations about the rates of royalty after holding broad-based consultations which are considered by the Government and final revision of the rates of royalty is notified in the Gazette. There is no proposal to set up any statutory body of experts for revision of royalty rates.

Protection of Konark Temple

4372. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

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

(a) whether of Konark temple of Orissa is being damaged due to pollution;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take preventive measures for its safety; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

National Population Policy

4373. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a first step towards implementing the National Population Policy, Delhi hospitals would include slums and villages in the National Capital region to provide total health care;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this programme is likely to extended all the States;

(d) if so, the details in the time frame fixed in this regard; and

(e) the funds earmarked for the proposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) to (e) The Action Plan for implementation of the

National Population Policy, 2000 envisages a comprehensive urban health care strategy inclusive of urban slums which will:

- (i) enable service delivery centres to provide comprehensive basic health, reproductive and child health services, in collaboration with the non-Government sector and private sector as necessary;
- (ii) strengthen the social marketing programme in the urban slums and villages to increase outreach and coverage;
- (iii) initiate specially targeted information, education and communication campaigns in respect of family planning, immunization, ante-natal, and post natal checkups and other reproductive health care services; and
- (iv) link the provision of continued facilities to urban slum dwellers with their observance of the small family norm.

All the States/UTs have been requested to initiate further action in this regard.

In addition to the ongoing Government funding towards population stabilisation, a National Population Stabilisation Fund with a seed money of Rs. 100 Crore has been set up to specifically aid projects designed to contribute to population stabilisation efforts inclusive of projects for urban slums. Additionally funds for supplies and equipment essential for meeting the unmet needs for contraception could be provided through re-appropriation within existing allocations or by additional resources being made available.

[Translation]

Shifting of Telecom Office

4374. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the telecom office of Buldana district of Maharashtra is not functioning there;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government propose to shift the said telecom office to district headquarters;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the said office is likely to be shifted therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Telecom office of Buldana District of Maharashtra Telecom Circle is functioning at Khamgaon city.

(b) Khamgaon city is best suited place for Telecom District Manager Head quarter considering the size of Telecom Network, Geographical location, rail and road connectivity, public convenience and other infrastructure.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Not applicable in view of reply of (c).

Reproductive and Child Health Programme

4375. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the amount allocated under the R.C.H. Scheme is not being spent on the training;

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

(c) the number of women likely to be benefited therefrom; and

(d) the places in Madhya Pradesh where training is being imparted and the places where the said amount is being utilized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) Rs. 60.35 crores have been released by National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW), which is the nodal organisation for training under the Reproductive and Child Health, to the States. Out of this, reports on expenditure of Rs. 12.58 crores have been received already. Statement I giving State-wise details is enclosed.

(c) Various medical and non-medical personnel are being trained in Reproductive & Child Health. Around 70 percent of the trainees, including Auxiliary Nurse Mid-wives, lady Health Visitors, Lady Health Assistants, lady Medical Officers and Anganwadi workers are women and are likely to be benefited from the scheme.

(d) Funds have been released by NIHFW to 42 districts of MP, out of which 27 districts have reported on the utilisation of funds and conduct of training. The details are given in the enclosed statement II.

Statement I**Funds Released to States for Training**

(Rs. in lakhs)

| Sl.No | Particulars | Funds Released upto 3/9/2000 | | | | Addition during the week ending 10/8/2000 | | | | | Total funds released upto 10/8/2000 | | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|------------------------------|------------------|----------------|--------|---|------------------|----------------|-------|--------|-------------------------------------|----------------|--------|--|--|
| | | AGT | Inte. Skill Trg. | Sp. Skill Trg. | Total | AGT | Inte. Skill Trg. | Sp. Skill Trg. | Total | AGT | Inte. Skill Trg. | Sp. Skill Trg. | Total | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | | |
| SCOVAs | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. | A&N Island | 5.56 | — | 0.96 | 6.52 | — | — | — | — | 5.56 | — | 0.96 | 6.52 | | |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 73.91 | — | — | 73.91 | — | — | — | — | 73.91 | — | — | 73.91 | | |
| 3. | Assam | 11.66 | — | — | 11.66 | — | — | — | — | 11.66 | — | — | 11.66 | | |
| 4. | Bihar | 48.34 | 147.83 | — | 196.17 | — | — | — | — | 48.34 | 147.83 | — | 196.17 | | |
| 5. | D&N Haveli | 2.44 | — | — | 2.44 | — | — | — | — | 2.44 | — | — | 2.44 | | |
| 6. | Delhi | 18.18 | — | 15.56 | 33.74 | — | — | — | — | 18.18 | — | 15.56 | 33.74 | | |
| 7. | Goa | 3.20 | 7.65 | 1.13 | 11.98 | — | — | — | — | 3.20 | 7.65 | 1.13 | 11.98 | | |
| 8. | Haryana | 99.97 | 158.42 | 4.69 | 263.08 | — | — | — | — | 99.97 | 158.42 | 4.69 | 263.08 | | |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 41.41 | 61.34 | 6.15 | 108.90 | — | — | — | — | 41.41 | 61.34 | 6.15 | 108.90 | | |
| 10. | Jammu & Kashmir | 29.09 | 67.87 | 3.17 | 100.13 | — | — | — | — | 29.09 | 67.87 | 3.17 | 100.13 | | |
| 11. | Kerala | 17.18 | 112.46 | 13.95 | 143.59 | — | — | — | — | 17.18 | 112.46 | 13.95 | 143.59 | | |
| 12. | Lakshadweep | 4.21 | — | 2.38 | 6.59 | — | — | — | — | 4.21 | — | 2.38 | 6.59 | | |
| 13. | Madhya Pradesh | 195.37 | 199.90 | 16.20 | 411.47 | — | — | — | — | 195.37 | 199.90 | 16.20 | 411.47 | | |
| 14. | Manipur | 5.27 | — | 7.63 | 12.90 | — | — | — | — | 5.27 | — | 7.63 | 12.90 | | |
| 15. | Meghalaya | 39.92 | 11.70 | — | 51.62 | — | — | — | — | 39.92 | 11.70 | — | 51.62 | | |
| 16. | Mizoram | 13.58 | — | 6.33 | 19.91 | — | — | — | — | 13.58 | — | 6.33 | 19.91 | | |
| 17. | Nagaland | 7.33 | — | 11.64 | 18.97 | — | — | — | — | 7.33 | — | 11.64 | 18.97 | | |
| 18. | Orissa | 22.40 | 52.35 | 5.26 | 80.01 | — | — | — | — | 22.40 | 52.35 | 5.26 | 80.01 | | |
| 19. | Pondicherry | 10.02 | 4.22 | — | 14.24 | — | — | — | — | 10.02 | 4.22 | — | 14.24 | | |
| 20. | Punjab | 104.91 | 70.11 | 33.77 | 208.79 | — | — | — | — | 104.91 | 70.11 | 33.77 | 208.79 | | |
| 21. | Sikkim | 5.89 | — | — | 5.89 | — | — | — | — | 5.89 | — | — | 5.89 | | |
| 22. | Tripura | 30.30 | 7.96 | 9.58 | 47.84 | — | — | — | — | 30.30 | 7.96 | 9.58 | 47.84 | | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
|-----|---------------|----------|----------|--------|----------|---|---|---|----|----------|----------|--------|----------|
| 23. | Uttar Pradesh | 2,037.54 | 45.33 | — | 2,082.87 | — | — | — | — | 2,037.54 | 45.33 | — | 2,082.87 |
| 24. | West Bengal | 119.89 | 65.25 | 29.78 | 214.92 | — | — | — | — | 119.89 | 65.25 | 29.78 | 214.92 |
| | Total: | 2,947.57 | 1,012.39 | 168.18 | 4,128.14 | — | — | — | — | 2,947.57 | 1,012.39 | 168.18 | 4,128.14 |

Non—SCOVAs

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----------------|--------|--------|-------|----------|---|-------|---|-------|--------|--------|-------|----------|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 267.92 | 194.19 | 4.09 | 466.20 | — | — | — | — | 267.92 | 194.19 | 4.09 | 466.20 |
| 2. | Chandigarh | 1.91 | 4.86 | 1.65 | 8.42 | — | — | — | — | 1.91 | 4.86 | 1.65 | 8.42 |
| 3. | Gujarat | 33.98 | 79.94 | 0.31 | 114.23 | — | — | — | — | 33.98 | 79.94 | 0.31 | 114.23 |
| 4. | Karnataka | 35.82 | — | — | 35.82 | — | — | — | — | 35.82 | — | — | 35.82 |
| 5. | Maharashtra | 59.83 | 65.46 | 13.66 | 138.95 | — | 67.55 | — | 67.55 | 59.83 | 133.01 | 13.66 | 206.50 |
| 6. | Tamil Nadu | 61.27 | 305.77 | 20.68 | 387.72 | — | — | — | — | 61.27 | 305.77 | 20.68 | 387.72 |
| | Total: | 460.73 | 650.22 | 40.39 | 1,151.34 | — | 67.55 | — | 67.55 | 460.73 | 717.77 | 40.39 | 1,218.89 |

Summary of Funds Released upto 10/08/2000

(Rs. in lakhs)

| Sl. | Particulars | Infra./ Contra. | TOT | AGT S. Level & Meetings | AGT | Integrated Skill Trg. | Sp. Skill Trg. | Manag. Trg. | Comm. Trg. | RHHS Workshop | Total |
|-----|----------------------------|--------------------|--------|-------------------------------|----------|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|----------|
| 1. | Collaborating Institutions | | | | | | | | | | |
| | I. Govt. Institutions | 187.85 | 98.03 | 12.69 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 298.57 |
| | II. Non—Govt. Institutions | 41.32 | 64.88 | 6.60 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 112.80 |
| 2. | Nodal Agency (NIHFW) | 68.33 | 9.40 | 29.78 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 127.51 |
| 3. | SCOVA | — | — | — | 2,947.57 | 1,012.39 | 168.18 | — | — | — | 4,128.14 |
| 4. | Non—SCOVA | — | — | — | 460.73 | 717.77 | 40.39 | — | — | — | 1,218.89 |
| 5. | Management Institutions | — | — | — | — | — | — | 92.24 | — | — | 92.24 |
| 6. | Communication Institutions | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 28.70 | — | 28.70 |
| 7. | RFWTC/HFWTC/SIHFV/IIHFV | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 37.54 | 37.54 |
| | Total Funds Released | 317.50 | 172.31 | 49.07 | 3,408.30 | 1,730.16 | 208.57 | 92.24 | 28.70 | 37.54 | 6,044.39 |
| | Less Refunds Received | — | 1.28 | — | — | — | — | 0.002 | — | 7.15 | 8.43 |
| | Net Funds Released | 317.50 | 171.03 | 49.07 | 3,408.30 | 1,730.16 | 208.57 | 92.24 | 28.70 | 30.39 | 6,035.96 |

Summary of Expenditure Reported upto 10/08/2000

| Sl. | Particulars | Infra/ Contra. | TOT | AGT S. Level & Meetings | AGT | Integrated Skill Trg. | Sp. Skill Trg. | Manag. Trg. | Comm. Trg. | RHHS Workshop | Total |
|-----|----------------------------|-------------------|--------|-------------------------------|--------|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|----------|
| 1. | Collaborating Institutions | | | | | | | | | | |
| | I. Govt. Institutions | 17.91 | 61.70 | 6.82 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 86.43 |
| | II. Non—Govt. Institutions | 45.46 | 35.06 | 2.76 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 83.28 |
| 2. | Nodal Agency (NIHFW) | 88.33 | 9.40 | 29.78 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 127.51 |
| 3. | SCOVA | — | — | — | 492.39 | 63.07 | 7.91 | — | — | — | 563.37 |
| 4. | Non—SCOVA | — | — | — | 288.80 | 17.99 | 10.46 | — | — | — | 317.25 |
| 5. | Management Institutions | — | — | — | — | — | — | 66.30 | — | — | 66.30 |
| 6. | Communication Institutions | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 5.91 | — | 5.91 |
| 7. | RFWTC/HFWTC/SIHFW/IHFW | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 8.35 | 8.35 |
| | Total: | 151.70 | 106.16 | 39.36 | 781.19 | 81.06 | 18.37 | 66.30 | 5.91 | 8.35 | 1,258.40 |

Statement II*Expenditure in Respect of 27 Districts of Madhya Pradesh*

| Sl.No. | Name of District | Batches | No. Trained | Expenditure incurred (In. Rs.) |
|--------|------------------|---------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Indore | 17 | 81 | 1,77,354 |
| 2. | Jhabua | 16 | 409 | 1,76,418 |
| 3. | Khandwa | — | — | 4,83,225 |
| 4. | Devas | 30 | 714 | 3,22,150 |
| 5. | Ratlam | 19 | 469 | 2,24,095 |
| 6. | Mandsore | 40 | 1073 | 4,20,225 |
| 7. | Shajapur | 19 | 515 | 2,41,613 |
| 8. | Ujjain | — | 1573 | 7,35,634 |
| 9. | Satna | 6 | 110 | 55,123 |
| 10. | Jabalpur | 15 | 427 | 2,41,669 |
| 11. | Siwani | 16 | 347 | 1,83,200 |
| 12. | Damoh | 20 | 561 | 2,41,612 |
| 13. | Sagar | 41 | 846 | 4,61,886 |
| 14. | Panna | 12 | 201 | 1,03,090 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------|----------|-----|--------|-----------|
| 15. | Shivpuri | 35 | 874 | 3,43,659 |
| 16. | Bhind | 15 | 300 | 2,41,612 |
| 17. | Durg | 32 | 785 | 3,71,778 |
| 18. | Sarguja | 51 | 1527 | 7,24,240 |
| 19. | Raigarh | 45 | 1070 | 4,61,221 |
| 20. | Bhopal | 18 | 477 | 2,33,786 |
| 21. | Raisen | — | — | 1,18,052 |
| 22. | Betool | 28 | 564 | 1,39,668 |
| 23. | Dhar | 54 | 1127 | 4,54,898 |
| 24. | Sidhi | — | — | 2,36,440 |
| 25. | Murena | 20 | 498 | 2,41,612 |
| 26. | Dhatia | 17 | 346 | 1,64,053 |
| 27. | Mandla | 10 | 286 | 1,08,998 |
| Total | | 646 | 15,650 | 78,57,311 |

Satellite Telephone Services

4376. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which various parts of the country has been linked with the Satellite Telephone Service alongwith details thereof;

(b) whether the Government propose to link the Dang region of Karauli district with the Satellite Telephone Service;

(c) if so, the time by which the said work is likely to be completed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) 447 nos. of places in various parts of country have been linked by the Telecom Department with Satellite Telephone Service as on 31.7.2000. State-wise details in this regard are attached herewith in the statement.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. There is a plan for commissioning MCPC-VSATs at Mandrayel & Masalpur

stations of Dang area of Karauli District in Rajasthan. Work is likely to be completed by 31.3.2000, subject to timely availability of equipments and other infrastructure resources.

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

Statement

State-wise Satellite Earth Stations of DOT/DTS Working (As on 31.7.2000)

| S.No. | Name of State | Number of places having Satellite Telephone Service |
|-------|-------------------|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andaman & Nicobar | 20 |
| 2. | Assam | 5 |
| 3. | Andhra Pradesh | 7 |
| 4. | Bihar | 17 |
| 5. | Delhi | 7 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|-----------------------|------------|
| 6. | Gujarat | 25 |
| 7. | Haryana | — |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 34 |
| 9. | Jammu & Kashmir | 54 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 17 |
| 11. | Kerala | 5 |
| | (Lakshadweep-Islands) | 6 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 49 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 12 |
| 14. | North-East | (62) |
| | 1. Arunachal Pradesh | 33 |
| | 2. Manipur | 5 |
| | 3. Meghalaya | 13 |
| | 4. Mizoram | 3 |
| | 5. Nagaland | 4 |
| | 6. Tripura | 5 |
| 15. | Orissa | 15 |
| 16. | Punjab | 1 |
| 17. | Rajasthan | 11 |
| 18. | Tamil Nadu | 16 |
| 19. | Uttar Pradesh | 52 |
| 20. | West Bengal | 13 |
| 21. | Sikkim | 18 |
| | Total | 447 |

[English]

Promotion of Forests and Wild Life

4377. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether various States in the North-East have sought special aid for reinforcing steps for conservation and promotion of forests and wild life;

(b) if so, the details of aid sought by each State; and

(c) the extent to which forest cover and wild life population have been depleted especially Rhinos in these States during the last five Years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Ministry of Environment and Forests has earmarked an amount of Rs. 85 crores for North-Eastern States during the year 2000-2001 for conservation and promotion of forests and wildlife etc.

(c) The details of forest cover and extent of depletion is given in the enclosed statement-I. Amongst the North-East States, one horned Rhino is found in the State of Assam only and the census figure of 1999 shows an increase in its population over the previous census of 1995. The details are given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement I

Details of forest cover and the extent of its depletion

| State | Forest Cover (Sq. Km) | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | 1993-95 Assessment | 1995-98 Assessment |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 68602 | 68847 |
| Assam | 23824 | 23688 |
| Manipur | 17418 | 17384 |
| Meghalaya | 15657 | 15633 |
| Mizoram | 18775 | 18338 |
| Nagaland | 14221 | 14164 |
| Tripura | 5546 | 5745 |
| Total | 164043 | 163799 |

Total loss in forest area (-) 244 Sq. Kms.

Source- State of Forest Report - FSI

Statement II

Census Figures of Rhino in Assam

| | 1995 | 1998/1999 |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| National Parks/Sanctuaries | | |
| Parks/Sanctuaries | | |
| Kaziranga | 1250 | 1550 |
| Manas | 80 | 12 |
| Pobitora | 60 | 74 |
| Orang | 100 | 46 |
| Other Pockets | 40 | — |
| Total | 1530 | 1684 |

Percentage of increase - 1.54%.

[*Translation*]

World Bank Assistance for Medical Facilities

4378. SHRI AKHILESH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has provided assistance to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for the improvement in the medical facilities and setting up new hospitals;

(b) if so, the total funds provided by World Bank so far in this regard;

(c) whether only rich people are provided medical facilities in these hospitals constructed with the said assistance while general public is neglected;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to issue any directions in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The World Bank has approved an assistance of US\$ 110 million (approx. Rs. 495 crores) for the Uttar Pradesh Health Systems Development Project. The objective of the project is to establish a well-managed health system which delivers more effective services through policy reforms, institutional development and investment health services. No new hospital has been proposed under the project and only renovation and strengthening of existing 35 Male District Hospitals, 32 District Female Hospitals, 35 Community Health Centres and 50 Block Primary Health Centres is to be undertaken.

(c) No, Sir. As now new hospital has been constructed or proposed under the World Bank credit, the question does not arise of providing treatment to economically well off classes only and ignoring the common man. On the contrary, clear guidelines have been issued to exempt persons living below the poverty line from paying user charges.

(d) to (f) Question does not arise.

[*English*]

Pollution from Coal

4379. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board is seized of the job of easing environmental problems caused by the use of coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any mechanism to minimise the pollution from coal has been developed or suggested by his Ministry to coal industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the directions issued to coal industry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The environmental problems posed by coal mining, processing and coal combustion include land degradation, water and air pollution.

(c) and (d) The steps taken by the Government to minimise pollution from use of coal include the following:—

(i) Environmental clearance for coal mining projects has been made statutory under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(ii) Environmental guidelines and standards have been notified for coal mining and thermal power plants.

(iii) The coal based power plants located at a distance of 1000 k.m. or more from pithead as well those located in critically polluted areas and ecologically sensitive areas are required to use beneficiated coal with ash content not exceeding 34 percent with effect from June, 2001.

(iv) The thermal power plants are required to provide stack of specified height to minimise the impact of air pollution at the ground level.

(v) Utilisation of fly ash to the maximum extent possible.

Unlicensed Pathology Laboratories

4380. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:
SHRI RASHID ALVI:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that a number of unlicensed pathology laboratories are functioning in the

country without having the minimum infrastructure adequate and unqualified, technicians;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted by the Government to identify such pathology labs;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA):
(a) to (d) Since Health is a State Subject, information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Medical Education Programme of MCI

4381. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Medical Council of India has been organizing continuing Medical Education Programmes in the country;

(b) if so, the number of such programmes arranged during 1999-2000; and

(c) the outcome of such programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) During the year 1999-2000, 66 Continuing Medical Education (CME) Programmes were organised by medical institutions/associations in the country with the assistance of Medical Council of India. A list of C.M.E. Programmes is enclosed as statement. The attendance in such programmes has been helpful in continuing medical education of doctors for patient care.

Statement

*Medical Council of India
New Delhi*

List of CME Programmes held in the year 1999-2000

| Sl.No. | Discipline | Hosting Institute | Date |
|--------|---|--|------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Pulmonary & Cardio Vascular Diseases | JIPMER, Pondicherry, | August 6-8, 1999 |
| 2. | Medicine | Govt. Medical College, Srinagar | August 21-22, 1999 |
| 3. | Emergency Medicine | Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal | August 21-22, 1999 |
| 4. | Cardiology | Sri Ramachandra Medical College, Chennai. | September 2-4, 1999 |
| 5. | Movement Disorders | Bangaur Institute of Neurology, IPMER, Calcutta | September 10, 1999 |
| 6. | Pelvic Ultrasound | Reproductive Medicine Research Foundation, Calcutta. | September 10-11, 1999 |
| 7. | Key to Leprosy Elimination & Multidisciplinary Approach | P.G.I., Chandigarh | September 17, 19, 1999 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|--|---|--------------------------|
| 8. | Neuro Anaesthesia | G.B. Pant Hospital, New Delhi | September 25-28, 1999 |
| 9. | Nephrology | Institute of Medical Sciences, Varanasi | September 28-30, 1999 |
| 10. | Deafness | J.N. Medical College, AMU, Aligarh. | October, 8-9, 1999 |
| 11. | Pancreatic Disease- , Controversies & Challenges | PGIMER, Chandigarh | October 8-10, 1999 |
| 12. | Interventional Cardiology | Bombay Hospital & Lilavati Hospital, Mumbai | October 13-16, 1999 |
| 13. | Paediatric Surgery | Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education & Research, Calcutta. | October, 28-31, 1999 |
| 14. | Haematology | Indira Gandhi Medical College, Nagpur. | October 29-31, 1999 |
| 15. | Challenges of Ageing & Frontier of Geriatrics | Institute of Medical Sciences, Varanasi. | October 30-31, 1999 |
| 16. | Cardio-Thoracic Surgery | Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences, Hyderabad. | November 1-5, 1999. |
| 17. | Cardiac Anaesthesia | AIIMS, New Delhi | November 12-14, 1999 |
| 18. | Geriatrics & Gerontology | Geriatric Society of India Delhi. | November 12-14, 1999 |
| 19. | Cytology | Kasturba Medical College, Manipal. | November 13-14, 1999 |
| 20. | Perinatology | J.N. Medical College, Belgaum | November 13-14, 1999 |
| 21. | Allergy & Immunology | PGI, Chandigarh. | November 13-14, 1999 |
| 22. | Laposcopic Urology Surgery | AIIMS, New Delhi | November 13-15, 1999 |
| 23. | Ophthalmology | Gandhi Medical College, Bhopal | November 16-17, 1999 |
| 24. | Clinical Parasitology | PGI, Chandigarh | November 18, 1999 |
| 25. | Paeditrics | M.S. Ramaiah Medical College, Bangalore | November, 18, 1999 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|--|---|----------------------|
| 26. | Ophthalmology | C.H. Nagri Municipal Eye Hospital, Ahmedabad | November 19-20, 1999 |
| 27. | Critical Care Medicine | Durgabai Deshmukh Hospital & Research Centre, Hyderabad | November 23-24, 1999 |
| 28. | Endoscopic & Laproscopic Surgery | Indian Medical Association Calcutta. | November 25-27, 1999 |
| 29. | Blood Transfusion and Immunohaematology | SGPGI, Lucknow | November 27-30, 1999 |
| 30. | Chemotherapy | K.G. Medical College, Lucknow. | November 28-29, 1999 |
| 31. | Pharmacology | Indian Pharmacology Society & AIIMS, New Delhi | December 1-4, 2000 |
| 32. | Radio-Therapy | Calcutta Medical College, Calcutta. | December 2-5, 1999 |
| 33. | Neuro Sciences | Jiwaji University, Gwalior. | December 6-8, 1999 |
| 34. | Orthopaedics | M.G.M. Medical College, Indore. | December 11-12, 1999 |
| 35. | Oncology | Cancer Institute, Madras. | December 12-15, 1999 |
| 36. | ENT | Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi | December 12-13, 1999 |
| 37. | Childhood Epilepsies and Epileptic Syndromes | Indian Epilepsy Assoc. & Indian Epilepsy Society, Hyderabad | December 15-16, 1999 |
| 38. | Urology | SGPGI, Lucknow | December 16-18, 1999 |
| 39. | Angiology | G.B. Pant Hospital, New Delhi. | December 17-19, 1999 |
| 40. | Medicine | MAMC Old Students Association New Delhi. | December 20, 2000 |
| 41. | Physiology & Pharmacology | M.G. Institute of Medical Sciences, Wardha | December 21, 1999 |
| 42. | Cardiology | H.J. Doshi Hospital, Rajkot. | December 24-26, 1999 |
| 43. | Critical Medicine | Indian Medical Association, Pune. | December 29, 1999 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|---|---|----------------------|
| 44. | ENT & Head and Neck Cancer | Association of Oto-laryngologists of India, Cochin. | January 6-9, 2000 |
| 45. | Ophthalmology | Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai. | January 10-11, 2000 |
| 46. | Airway Management & Venteiatory | Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences, Hyderabad. | January 16, 2000 |
| 47. | Gastroenterology | Sri Ramachandra Medical College, Chennai. | January 20-21, 2000 |
| 48. | Internal Medicine | Association of Physicians of India, Jaipur | January 21-25, 2000 |
| 49. | Community Ophthalmology | Osmina Medical Coleige, Hyderabad. | February 9, 2000 |
| 50. | Mycosis in the New Millinnium Challenges and Strategies | Madras Medical College, Chennai. | February 9-11, 2000 |
| 51. | Surgical Pathology | Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences, Hyderabad. | February 10-12, 2000 |
| 52. | Cardiology | M.L.B. Medical College, Jhansi | February 11-12, 2000 |
| 53. | Issues & Controversies in Clinical Neurological Practice. | G.B. Pant Hospital, New Delhi | February 12, 2000 |
| 54. | Paediatrics | St. John's Medical Collee, Bangalore. | February 12-13, 2000 |
| 55. | Assessment of Clinical Competence | J.N. Medical College, Belgaum. | February 14-18, 2000 |
| 56. | Neonatal Surgery | AIIMS, New Delhi. | February 18-20, 2000 |
| 57. | Healthcare in the New Millinnium | Patna Medical College, Patna. | February 25, 2000 |
| 58. | Paediatrics Intensive Care | PGI, Chandigarh. | February 25-27, 2000 |
| 59. | Endocrine Surgical Pathology | SGPGI, Lucknow | February 26-27, 2000 |
| 60. | Gastro Intestinal Cancer Surgery | S.V. Institute of Medical Sciences, Tirupati. | March 3-5, 2000 |
| 61. | Radio-Diagnosis | Govt. Medical College, Nagpur. | March 4-5, 2000 |
| 62. | Breast Cancer | Bangalore Institute of Oncology, Bangalore | March 8-10, 2000 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|-------------------|--|------------------------------|
| 63. | HIV/AIDS | Sri Parmukshwami Medical College, Karamsad. | March 13-14, 2000 |
| 64. | Colorectal Cancer | Kasturba Medical College, Manipal. | March 19, 2000 |
| 65. | Hipatology | Institute of Medical Sciences, Varanasi. | March 24-26, 2000 |
| 66. | Rhinoplasty | Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi. | March 31 to April 2, 2000 |

Construction of Tunnel at Zojilla Pass

4382. SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ladakh region in Jammu and Kashmir remains totally cut off from rest of the world due to the closure of Zojilla pass continuously for six months as a result of heavy snow fall there;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to construct a tunnel at Zojilla pass; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Waiting List for Telephone Connections in Gulbarga

4383. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are a large number of applicants waiting for release of new telephone connections in Gulbarga Telephone Exchanges of Karnataka especially in rural areas;

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

(c) the number of telephone connections provided in urban and rural areas of the district during the last three years and till date;

(d) the reasons for new connections not being released even after a long waiting period; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to clear the waiting list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. 12292 applicants (as on 31.7.2000) are waiting for new telephone connections in Gulbarga district. 5881 applicants are waiting for telephone connection in rural areas and 6411 applicants are waiting for telephone connection in urban areas.

(b) Exchange-wise details are given in enclosed statement.

(c) The number of telephone connections provided in urban and rural areas of the district during the last three years and till date is given below:

| Year | Urban | Rural |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|
| 1997-1998 | 3780 | 2968 |
| 1998-1999 | 3196 | 2607 |
| 1999-2000 | 7592 | 2141 |
| 1.4.2000 to 31.7.2000 | 1302 | 539 |

(d) Out of the waiting list 12292, 1424 applicants which were pending for long time could not be provided telephone connections as they were requiring large quantity of equipment and cable.

(e) 629 applicants are proposed to be cleared by opening 10 new exchanges during 2000-2001. 795 applicants are proposed to be cleared by installing wireless in local loop equipment progressively during 2000-2001.

Waiting list of 10868 which is mostly pending for less than one year is proposed to be cleared by expansion of existing exchanges.

Statement

Exchange-wise Waiting List in Gulbarga SSA as on 31.7.2000

| Sl.No. | Name of Exchange | Area | Waiting List |
|--------|------------------|-------|--------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Abbetumkur | Rural | 0 |
| 2. | Adityanagar | Urban | 103 |
| 3. | Adki | Rural | 17 |
| 4. | Afzalpur | Rural | 262 |
| 5. | Ainoli | Rural | 119 |
| 6. | Alahali | Rural | 19 |
| 7. | Aland | Urban | 26 |
| 8. | Ambalga | Rural | 24 |
| 9. | Andola | Rural | 35 |
| 10. | Atanoor | Rural | 88 |
| 11. | Aurad (B) | Rural | 76 |
| 12. | B. Gudi | Urban | 106 |
| 13. | Badadal | Rural | 53 |
| 14. | Bagodi | Rural | 1 |
| 15. | Balichakra | Rural | 33 |
| 16. | Callurgi | Rural | 00 |
| 17. | Bandarwad | Rural | 15 |
| 18. | Bhimalli | Rural | 11 |
| 19. | Bhusnoor | Rural | 103 |
| 20. | Chamnal | Rural | 2 |
| 21. | Chandankera | Rural | 54 |
| 22. | Chimmanchod | Rural | 56 |
| 23. | Chincholi | Urban | 104 |
| 24. | Chitapur | Urban | 4 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|---------------------|-------|------|
| 25. | Chowdapur | Rural | 27 |
| 26. | Dandoti | Rural | 39 |
| 27. | Devapur | Rural | 0 |
| 28. | Dorahahalli | Rural | 0 |
| 29. | Faratabad | Rural | 93 |
| 30. | Ferozabad | Rural | 0 |
| 31. | Gadikeshwar | Rural | 65 |
| 32. | Ganagapur (T) | Rural | 86 |
| 33. | Gangapur-RS | Rural | 67 |
| 34. | Ganwar (C. Cross) | Rural | 22 |
| 35. | GGA Main (E10B+CCB) | Urban | 1222 |
| 36. | GGA RSU B. Stand | Urban | 1050 |
| | GGA RLU B. Stand | Urban | 0 |
| 37. | GGA RLU Gung | Urban | 715 |
| 38. | GGA RLU T. Chowk | Urban | 340 |
| 39. | GGA RSU S. Road | Urban | 584 |
| | GGA RSU T. Chowk | Urban | 0 |
| 40. | Gobbur (B) | Urban | 78 |
| 41. | Gogi | Rural | 83 |
| 42. | Gunjanoor | Rural | 14 |
| 43. | Gumittkal | Rural | 32 |
| 44. | Hallisalger | Urban | 25 |
| 45. | Hansoor | Urban | 24 |
| 46. | Harwal | Rural | 16 |
| 47. | Hattigdur | Rural | 2 |
| 48. | Hattikuni | Rural | 0 |
| 49. | Havanur | Rural | 2 |
| 50. | Hayyal | Rural | 3 |
| 51. | Hebbel | Rural | 51 |
| 52. | Hebbel (B) | Rural | 24 |
| 53. | Hipparga (B) | Rural | 0 |
| 54. | Hirenandur | Rural | 15 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|-------------------|-------|-----|------|--------------|-------|-----|
| 55. | Hiroli | Rurai | 0 | 86. | Madiyal | Rural | 5 |
| 56. | Honagunta | Rural | 25 | 87. | Mahagaon | Rural | 64 |
| 57. | Hunasgi | Urban | 148 | 88. | Malgatti | Rural | 11 |
| 58. | Ijeri | Rural | 20 | 89. | Malkhed | Rural | 38 |
| 59. | Jeevangi | Rural | 37 | 90. | Mandewal | Rural | 0 |
| 60. | Jewargi | Rural | 83 | 91. | Mannur | Rural | 55 |
| 61. | Jewargi (B) | Rural | 6 | 92. | Margutti | Rural | 39 |
| 62. | Kadaganchi | Rural | 70 | 93. | Martur | Rural | 1 |
| 63. | Kakkera | Rural | 4 | 94. | Miriyani | Rural | 37 |
| 64. | Kalahangarga | Rural | 56 | 95. | Mudbool | Rural | 0 |
| 65. | Kalgi | Rural | 35 | 96. | Mudhol | Rural | 42 |
| 66. | Kallurd | Rural | 30 | 97. | Mudnoor | Rural | 12 |
| 67. | Kamlapur | Rural | 259 | 98. | Mugalanagaon | Rural | 12 |
| 68. | Karajagi & Mashal | Rural | 49 | 99. | Nagnur | Rural | 45 |
| 69. | Kembavi | Rural | 122 | 100. | Naiwar | Rural | 13 |
| 70. | Khajuri | Rural | 43 | 101. | Narayanapur | Urban | 23 |
| 71. | Khanadal | Rural | 14 | 102. | Naribole | Rural | 10 |
| 72. | Khanapur | Rural | 71 | 103. | Narona | Rural | 48 |
| 73. | Kiranagi | Rural | 16 | 104. | Nelogi | Rural | 0 |
| 74. | Kodekal | Rural | 61 | 105. | Nidagunda | Rural | 17 |
| 75. | Kodla | Rural | 19 | 106. | Nimbal | Rural | 8 |
| 76. | Kodli | Rural | 52 | 107. | Nimbarga | Rural | 119 |
| 77. | Kollur | Rural | 17 | 108. | Pethsiroor | Rural | 16 |
| 78. | Konchur | Rural | 19 | 109. | Rajankollur | Rural | 77 |
| 79. | Konkal | Rural | 0 | 110. | Ramasamudra | Rural | 1 |
| 80. | Krishnapur | Urban | 0 | 111. | Ranjola | Rural | 1 |
| 81. | Kukunda | Rural | 17 | 112. | Ratkal | Rural | 4 |
| 82. | Kurkunda | Rural | 0 | 113. | Revoor (B) | Rural | 37 |
| 83. | Kurkunta | Urban | 105 | 114. | Rudrawadi | Rural | 112 |
| 84. | M. Hipparga | Rural | 48 | 115. | S. Saradgi | Rural | 48 |
| 85. | Maddarki | Rural | 9 | 116. | Sagar | Rural | 33 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|------|--|-------|-------|
| 117. | Saidapur | Rural | 61 |
| 118. | Sarsamba | Rural | 15 |
| 119. | Savalgi | Rural | 60 |
| 120. | Sedam | Urban | 271 |
| 121. | Shahabad | Rural | 490 |
| 122. | Shahapur | Urban | 112 |
| 123. | Shirwal | Rural | 10 |
| 124. | Shorapur | Urban | 216 |
| 125. | Sonth | Rural | 73 |
| 126. | Sulepeth | Rural | 56 |
| 127. | Tadkal | Rural | 106 |
| 128. | Tajsul Tanpur | Rural | 39 |
| 129. | Tengli | Rural | 20 |
| 130. | Udchan | Rural | 32 |
| 131. | V.K. Salgar | Rural | 17 |
| 132. | Wadagera | Rural | 8 |
| 133. | Wadi | Urban | 182 |
| 134. | Wanadurga | Rural | 27 |
| 135. | Yadagiri | Urban | 592 |
| 136. | Yadrami | Rural | 104 |
| 137. | Yalgi | Rural | 10 |
| 138. | Yelheri | Rural | 0 |
| 139. | Yergol | Rural | 5 |
| | Total | | 10868 |
| | Pending demand to be cleared through existing Exchanges | | 10868 |
| | Pending demand to be cleared through new Exchanges | | 629 |
| | Pending demand to be cleared through Wireless in Local Loop Equipments | | 795 |
| | Total | | 12292 |

Family Planning Programmes

4384. SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether the family planning programme in the country has not been successful as per the prescribed target fixed in this regard;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government propose to re-consider the scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA):
(a) and (b) The result of the Sample Registration System reveal that the Birth Rate in the country had declined to 26.5 in 1998 from 40.8 in 1951; the total Fertility Rate, which was 6.0 in 1951 declined to 3.3 in 1997 and the natural growth rate of population has come down to 1.75% during the year 1998. This decline in birth rate has been observed despite death rate declining more sharply and life expectancy at birth increasing almost to double since independence due to improved health services in the country.

(c) to (e) Government has adopted a National Population Policy in February, 2000 which provides for holistic approach for achieving population stabilisation in the country.

The Policy affirms the commitment of Government towards voluntary and informed choice and consent of citizens while availing of reproductive health care services, and continuation of the target free approach in administering family planning services.

[Translation]

Misappropriation of Revenues in Port Trusts

4385. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL:
SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL:
SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:
KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Controller and Auditor General of India in its report of March 1999 has complained over misappropriation of Government Revenues owing to widespread corruption in all the Port Trusts;

(b) if so, the total amount of loss suffered by all these Port Trusts so far; and

(c) the details of the measures likely to be taken to check such corruption in the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Combination of Paracetamol-Nimesulide

4386. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Drug Controller has not approved Paracetamol-Nimesulide combination;

(b) if so, the reasons for not taking any action against those manufacturers who are engaged in manufacturing of such combination without approval;

(c) whether the State Drug Controllers have the powers to approve such drug combinations; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government against the State Drug Controllers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) to (d) The permission for manufacture of Paracetamol-Nimesulide combination was granted by the Drugs Licensing Authority, Maharashtra and not by the Drugs Controller General of India DCG(I). However, based on the directions from DCG(I), Maharashtra State Licensing Authority had withdrawn the permission granted by them. The Manufacturers went in appeal to the Maharashtra Govt. and stay was granted by the Appellate Authority of Maharashtra. The matter was brought to the notice of Drug Technical Advisory Board which has advised for review of this fixed dose combination through an Expert Committee and the same is in progress. The Govt. of India acting upon the recommendations of DTAB, has issued directions to all State Govts. Under Section 33(P) of the Drugs & Cosmetic Act 1940 to instruct their Drugs

Licensing Authorities not to grant licences for manufacture of new formulations without prior approval of DCG (I).

Directions to Assam Government

4387. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Assam Government has implemented the Guidelines and Directives of his ministry regarding matters connected with (i) reforestation of the degraded forest areas inside the forestry within all the Forest Divisions in Northern Brahmaputra Valley with special mention of "Bodoland Territory"; (ii) illegal felling of Trees, encroachment upon forest lands, and Poaching of Rhinoceroses, Tigers and elephants and other rare wild animals; (iii) protection, preservation and management of Forests; (iv) deployment of B.S.F. and other para-military forces in "Manas National Wild Sanctuary, Rajiv Gandhi-Orang Wild Park, Kajiranga Wild Animal Park"; (v) formation of Joint Forests Management Committee both at the State and at local level involving the Tribal People; (vi) utilisation of the share amount in the Forest Divisions in the Northern Brahmaputra Valley for reforestation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the corrective measures the Government propose to take to pressurise the Assam Government to comply with Guidelines/Directives of the concerned Ministry in related matters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (d) Guidelines for management, conservation and development of forests including National Parks, Sanctuaries, poaching, illegal fellings, Joint Forest Management and other related issues are issued from time to time to the concerned State Governments including Assam. For ensuring expeditious follow-up action by the State Government including compliance and monitoring, review meetings are taken at various levels and other administrative steps are taken from time to time.

Panel to Monitor Foodstuff

4388. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Government fails to

set up panel to monitor foodstuff appearing in "The Times of India" dated July 10, 2000;

(b) whether the Government are aware that sixty-six people died due to dropsy caused by adulterated mustard oil in 1998;

(c) if so, the reasons for not setting up the commission for this purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Govt. of NCT of Delhi has intimated that they had contemplated in August/September, 1998 in the wake of the dropsy tragedy to appoint a Commission to go into the question of dropsy cases. However, the CBI investigated one case relating to dropsy death (FIR No. 496/98 dated 25.8.1998 at P.S. Najafgarh, New Delhi) and filed charge sheet against accused persons under various provisions of IPC in the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Delhi on 23.11.1998. Besides the above, 385 FIRs were registered in various Police Stations by the Delhi Police. The Govt. of NCT of Delhi does not contemplate to appoint any Commission at this stage.

Maintenance/Development of National Highways

4389. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of disbursement for maintenance and development of National Highways under NH(O) during the year 1999-2000;

(b) the share of the Karnataka in the above and whether the full share of amount has been utilised;

(c) whether the entrepreneurs were issued letters of Intent for developing passenger-oriented wayside amenities on the coastal highway of Karnataka; and

(d) if so, the locations where these facilities are in operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) A statement is enclosed.

All the States including Karnataka are expected to utilise the full amount allocated to them under Maintenance & Development of National Highways.

(c) and (d) No Letter of Intent (LOI) has been issued for passenger oriented wayside amenities on coastal highways of Karnataka.

Statement

Highways During 1999-2000

(Rs. in lakh)

| Sl.No. | Name of States UT | NH (O) | M&R | SRP | EAP |
|--------|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 5045.00 | 3440.26 | 3457.00 | 50.00 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 3. | Assam | 4186.83 | 3420.00 | 2000.00 | 0.00 |
| 4. | Bihar | 6000.00 | 5807.64 | 6100.00 | 0.00 |
| 5. | Chandigarh | 100.00 | 91.50 | 50.00 | 0.00 |
| 6. | Delhi | 700.00 | 139.84 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7. | Goa | 1700.02 | 826.69 | 600.00 | 0.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-----|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 8. | Gujarat | 7307.17 | 2318.17 | 1502.00 | 0.00 |
| 9. | Haryana | 4200.00 | 1611.70 | 400.00 | 5800.00 |
| 10. | Himachal Pradesh | 4000.00 | 2326.24 | 400.00 | 0.00 |
| 11. | Jammu & Kashmir | 100.00 | 302.36 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 4600.08 | 3921.04 | 4524.00 | 1224.00 |
| 13. | Kerala | 10468.12 | 4059.00 | 1250.00 | 2100.00 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 3226.75 | 5573.14 | 1000.00 | 8810.00 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 10354.31 | 4654.63 | 3994.00 | 7000.00 |
| 16. | Manipur | 1010.75 | 876.08 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 1730.28 | 905.89 | 400.00 | 0.00 |
| 18. | Mizoram | 300.00 | 380.00 | 400.00 | 0.00 |
| 19. | Nagaland | 800.00 | 501.63 | 423.00 | 0.00 |
| 20. | Orissa | 3850.00 | 3622.24 | 2016.00 | 5200.00 |
| 21. | Pondicherry | 319.46 | 105.00 | 164.00 | 0.00 |
| 22. | Punjab | 1819.56 | 1235.80 | 400.00 | 3300.00 |
| 23. | Rajasthan | 4550.30 | 3320.00 | 4500.00 | 200.00 |
| 24. | Sikkim | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 25. | Tamil Nadu | 6500.00 | 5479.66 | 8000.00 | 0.00 |
| 26. | Tripura | 50.00 | 24.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 27. | Uttar Pradesh | 9155.35 | 6105.49 | 4074.00 | 2865.00 |
| 28. | West Bengal | 5138.02 | 3700.00 | 2560.00 | 3680.00 |
| 29. | A&N Island | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 30. | Dadar Nagar Haveli | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 31. | Daman Diu | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 32. | NITHE | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 33. | Ministry | 20.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 561.00 |
| 34. | BRDB | 11230.00 | 0.00 | 93.72 | 0.00 |
| 35. | NHAI | 0.00 | 4000.00 | 0.00 | 49160.00 |
| 36. | Other Institutions | 0.00 | 10.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | Total | 108462.00 | 68758.00 | 48307.72 | 89950.00 |

[Translation]

New Telephone Connection Scheme in Dahod

4390. SHRI BABUBHAI K. KATARA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone connections installed under the new telephone connection scheme in various talukas, cities and villages in Dahod district of Gujarat;

(b) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections under the said scheme; and

(c) the time by which the said connections are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Sir, 151 new telephone connections have been provided under the reduced registration charges scheme introduced during the period 23.03.2000 to 31.03.2000 in various talukas, cities & villages of Dahod district of Gujarat.

(b) 521 persons are on waiting list for provision of telephone connections under the said scheme.

(c) Efforts are afoot to provide telephone connections by 31.03.2001 to the persons on waiting list as on 31.03.2000.

[English]

Air Services between India and Dubai

4391. SHRI NAGMANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between India and Dubai on May 26, 2000 relating to operation of air services between both the countries;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement reached in this regard and the benefits likely to be accrued therefrom;

(c) whether the proposals for such an agreement between India and Dubai were turned down earlier by the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the number of occasions on which the above proposals were turned down alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(e) the justification for reaching an agreement on May 26, 2000 keeping in view of the fact that proposals for the same agreement were turned down by the Government on earlier occasions?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Government of India and the Government of UAE on 26.5.2000 which provides for increase in the existing air seat capacity between India and Dubai from 5400 seats/week to 7400 seats/week in each direction for the designated airlines of both sides in a phased manner by September, 2002. The agreement also enables the designated airline of UAE to operate services to Chennai effective from September, 2000 and to Cochin or Trivandrum, as may be decided by the Government of India, effective from September, 2002 under a commercial arrangement with the designated airline of India. It also enables the designated airline of India to exercise traffic rights beyond Dubai to points in Europe, UK and USA. The increased traffic rights will provide better travel facilities between India and Dubai and better commercial opportunities to the airlines of both sides.

(c) and (d) During the earlier round of bilateral discussions held in January, 2000, no agreement could be reached as the UAE delegation insisted on the immediate increase in air seat capacity from 5400 seats/week to 7900 seats/week.

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

Purchase of Medicines by CGHS Dispensaries

4392. DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred on the purchases of various Allopathic, Homoeopathic and Ayurvedic medicines in the various C.G.H.S. dispensaries in Delhi during each of the last three years, dispensary-wise;

(b) the details of established practice adopted by the Government to maintain the required quality and specifications of Allopathic, Homoeopathic and Ayurvedic medicines to ensure that C.G.H.S. beneficiaries are supplied good quality of medicines;

(c) the details of medicines found adulterated or sub-standard indicating the name, quantity and quality of the medicines in all the three above mentioned systems of medicines; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken against the officials found responsible for these sub-standard medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA):

(a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Village Public Telephone

4393. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether DoT has issued a demand notice to the private telephone companies for not fulfilling the target for the number of village public telephone committee to the given by them for the years for which the license has been in force;

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

(c) the amount of liquidated damages demanded by the DoT from the private telephone companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) The private Basic Telephone Service Licensees have been asked to provide their committed number of Village Public Telephones for the first three years within the said period of three years of licence. The company-wise details of liquidated damages demanded, is enclosed as statement.

Statement

Details of Liquidated Damages Demanded from Basic Telephone Service Licensees

| Name of the Licensee Company | Licensed Service Area | Total Liquidated Damages demanded (in crores of Rs.) |
|---|-----------------------|--|
| Bharti Telenet Ltd. | Madhya Pradesh | 4.00 |
| Tata Teleservices Ltd. | Andhra Pradesh | 13.00 |
| Hughes Telecom (India) Ltd. (formerly Hughes Ispat Ltd.) | Maharashtra | 7.75 |
| Reliance Telecom Pvt. Ltd. | Gujarat | 13.00 |
| Shyam Telelink Ltd. | Rajasthan | 7.30 |
| ECL Telecommunications Ltd. (formerly Essar Commivision Ltd.) | Punjab | 8.00 |
| Total | | 53.05 |

[Translation]

Out of Order Telephone Exchanges in Bihar

4394. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges set up in rural areas of Bihar along with the Number of telephone exchanges out of order during the last three years, district-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to make them functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Sir, district-wise details of telephone exchanges set up in rural areas of Bihar during the last three years are given in the statement enclosed. No exchange was reported lying out of order during last three years.

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

Statement

District-wise number of Telephone Exchanges set up in Rural Areas of Bihar during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000

| S.No. | Name of District | No. of Exchanges set up | | |
|-------|------------------|-------------------------|---------|-----------|
| | | 1997-98 | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Bhojpur | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 2. | Buxar | — | 1 | — |
| 3. | Bhagalpur | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 4. | Banka | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 5. | Saran | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 6. | Gopalganj | — | — | 1 |
| 7. | Siwan | — | 1 | 1 |
| 8. | Palamu | 1 | — | 4 |
| 9. | Garhwa | — | — | 1 |
| 10. | Darbhangha | 2 | — | 3 |
| 11. | Madhubani | 2 | 1 | — |
| 12. | Samastipur | — | — | 2 |
| 13. | Dhanbad | 1 | — | 2 |
| 14. | Bokaro | — | — | 2 |
| 15. | Pakur | — | 1 | — |
| 16. | Sahebganj | — | — | 1 |
| 17. | Godda | — | — | 1 |
| 18. | Dumka | — | 1 | 2 |
| 19. | Deoghar | 1 | — | 1 |
| 20. | Gaya | 2 | — | 1 |
| 21. | Aurangabad | — | — | — |
| 22. | Jahanabad | 1 | — | 2 |
| 23. | Nawada | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 24. | Vaishali | — | 1 | 1 |
| 25. | Hazaribagh | — | 1 | 4 |
| 26. | Giridih | — | — | 4(2) |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 27. | Koderma | — | — | — |
| 28. | Chatra | — | — | 2 |
| 29. | West Singhbhum | — | 1 | 1 |
| 30. | East Singhbhum | 1 | — | 4 |
| 31. | Katihar | — | 1 | 3 |
| 32. | Kishanganj | — | 1 | 2 |
| 33. | Araria | — | 1 | — |
| 34. | Purnea | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 35. | Khagaria | 1 | — | — |
| 36. | Begusarai | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| 37. | West Champaran | — | 2 | — |
| 38. | East Champaran | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 39. | Munger | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 40. | Lakhisarai | — | 1 | 2 |
| 41. | Shekhpura | — | 1 | 2 |
| 42. | Jamui | — | 1 | — |
| 43. | Muzaffarpur | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| 44. | Sitamarhi | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 45. | Sheohar | — | — | — |
| 46. | Patna | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| 47. | Nalanda | — | — | 2 |
| 48. | Ranchi | 1 | 3 | 8 |
| 49. | Gumala | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| 50. | Lohardagga | — | 1 | — |
| 51. | Saharsa | — | — | 1 |
| 52. | Madhepura | — | 1 | 2 |
| 53. | Supaul | — | — | 1 |
| 54. | Rohtas | 1 | — | 2 |
| 55. | Bhabhua | — | — | 2 |
| 56. | Dalkonganj | — | 1 | — |
| Total: | | 28 | 43 | 100 |

*[English]***Conference on Nutrition**

4395. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference on mal-nutrition is likely to be convened in near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures contemplated by the Government to overcome the menace of mal-nutrition especially among poor people and people living below the poverty line in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA):

(a) and (b) The subjects of Nutrition/mal-nutrition are discussed in various conferences/seminars organised by Government/NGOs/Private Sectors from time to time. In 2003, the IXth Asian Congress on Nutrition is proposed to be held at New Delhi.

(c) Government of India adopted the National Nutrition Policy in 1993 which advocated a multi-sectoral approach for controlling the problem of malnutrition and improving the nutrition status of the people. The National Nutrition Policy contains both short term/direct interventions and long term/indirect interventions. A National Plan of Action on Nutrition was developed for 14 Departments/Ministries of Government to serve as a framework for translating the instruments of Nutrition Policy.

Various measures adopted by the Govt. to improve the nutritional status of the population especially of the poor are:—

- Increased agricultural production;
- Improving the purchasing power of the people through income-generating schemes;
- Availability of essential food items at subsidised cost through public distribution system;
- Nutrition education to increase the awareness and bringing about the desired changes in the feeding practices including promotion of breast feeding;
- Supplementary feeding programmes *viz.* (i) Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) Scheme; (ii) Special Nutrition Programme (SNP); (iii) Balwadi Nutrition Programme (BNP);

(iv) Wheat Based Supplementary Nutrition Programme, (v) Mid-Day Meal Programme etc.

In addition, Programmes for prevention of specific nutrient deficiency disorders such as National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme; Prophylaxis Programme to prevent blindness due to Vitamin A deficiency and Nutritional Anaemia due to Iron Deficiency as a part of Reproductive and Child Health Programme and Pilot Project for control of micro nutrient malnutrition are also under implementation.

New Telephone Connections

4396. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the poor quality of telephone services in the rural areas of Orissa; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to bring improvement in the quality of telephone services in rural areas of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Sir, all the telephone exchanges in rural areas are of electronic type and are working satisfactory.

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

*[Translation]***Survey in Regard to Family Planning**

4397. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his ministry has conducted any survey in regard to family planning programmes in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Rajasthan Government has registered progress in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Rapid Household Surveys (at District level) covering 252 districts in Phase I and 254

districts in Phase II were conducted in the country through various professional agencies during the years 1998 and 1999 respectively. The surveys covered a sample of 1000 families statistically chosen in each selected district to cover both rural and urban areas. Another survey called 'National Family Health Survey—II' was conducted during the year 1998-99 covering 26 States/UTs (except the State of Tripura) covering 90,000 ever married women aged 15-49. For both these surveys International Institute of Population Sciences, Mumbai functioned as nodal agency for coordination and supervision.

(c) and (d) Under Rapid Household Survey a total of 30 districts were covered in Rajasthan in both the Phases. The National Family Health Survey-II has been completed in the State of Rajasthan in 1998-99. The National Family Health Survey-I was conducted during the year 1992-93. Statements I and II showing position of certain important indicators of Family Welfare Programme in the State of Rajasthan as revealed from NFHS-I, NFHS-II and Rapid Household Survey are enclosed.

Statement I

National Family Health Survey I & II - A comparative statement showing position of some indicators : Rajasthan

| | Indicators | NFHS II | |
|----|--------------------------------|---------|---------|
| | | NFHS-I | NFHS II |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Neo-natal Mortality Rate | 42.1 | 49.5 |
| 2. | Infant Mortality Rate | 76.3 | 80.4 |
| 3. | Child Mortality Rate | 33.8 | 37.6 |
| 4. | Total Fertility Rate | 3.58 | 3.73 |
| 5. | % of Mothers received ANC | 32.8 | 47.2 |
| 6. | % currently using any method | | |
| | (a) Sterilisation | 26.2 | 31.8 |
| | (b) Spacing method | 3.3 | 5.8 |
| 7. | & of Children fully vaccinated | 21.1 | 16.0 |
| | (a) BCG | 45.7 | 53.9 |
| | (b) D.PT 3 | 29.7 | 26.1 |
| | (a) Polio 3 | 32.8 | 43.2 |
| | (b) Measles | 31.2 | 27.1 |

| | 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|----------------------------|------|------|
| 8. | Institutional Delivery (%) | 11.6 | 21.7 |
| 9. | Safe Delivery (%) | 22.0 | 36.2 |
| 10. | % of Children with anaemia | NA | 76.4 |
| 11. | % of women with anaemia | NA | 48.7 |

NA = Information not available

Statement II

Selected Family Welfare indicators as per Rapid Household Survey (District Level) in Rajasthan in 1998 & 1999

| Indicators (%) | Phase I | Phase II |
|--|---------|----------|
| Contribution to births by births Order 3 and above | 51.2 | — |
| Contraceptive Prevalence Rate | 35.4 | 42.1 |
| Pregnant Women with any ANC Check up | 52.4 | 70.7 |
| Institutional Deliveries | 21.8 | 23.1 |
| Safe Deliveries | 32.3 | 29.8 |
| Children Fully Immunised | 29.8 | 34.0 |

Telephone Exchanges in Haryana

4398. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges functioning in Ambala; Panchkula and Yamunanagar Districts in Haryana;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up some new exchanges in these districts;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The details are given below:

| Sl. No. | Name of District | No. of Telephone Exchanges as on 31.7.2000 |
|---------|------------------|--|
| 1. | Ambala | 80 |
| 2. | Panchkula | 22 |
| 3. | Yamunanagar | 54 |

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There is a plan to set up the following telephone exchanges in Ambala, Panchkula and Yamunanagar districts:

| Sl.No. | Name of District | No. of Telephone Exchanges proposed to be set up | Location |
|--------|------------------|--|---|
| 1. | Ambala | 1 | Barola |
| 2. | Panchkula | 3 | Sector 15, Sec. 21/25 & Swastick Nagar |
| 3. | Yamunanagar | 4 | Ghor Pipli, Kotla, Ranjit Nagar & Lawana. |

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

CGHS Beneficiaries Referred for Private Clinical Test

4399. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CGHS beneficiaries admitted in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital for treatment are referred to a particular private laboratory for the clinical test of blood, urine and other clinical tests being this facility is not available in this hospital;

(b) if so, the details of such laboratories which have been recognized by the CGHS;

(c) whether the bills of such patients who get the clinical test in private laboratories are not verified/counter-signed by the hospital authorities;

(d) if so the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of existing policy or directions for the reimbursement to the beneficiaries of CGHS in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA):
(a) No, Sir.

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

(c) It is not correct that the bills are not verified by the treating doctors/Head of Unit/Head of Department of the Hospital.

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

(e) When a CGHS beneficiary takes treatment/diagnostic test in a Govt. Hospital, the reimbursement is made as per actuals. In case, the treatment/diagnostic test is taken in a private hospital/private hospital recognised under CHGS, the reimbursement of medical expenses is made as per Govt. approved rates. However, if no approved rates for a particular test, etc. is available, then the reimbursement is allowed as per AIIMS rate or actuals, whichever is less. If the AIIMS rate is also not available, then the reimbursement is made as per actuals.

[English]

Replacement of Optical Fibre Cable in Maharashtra

4400. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that due to shortage of optical fibre cables with Divisional Engineers in Maharashtra, especially in Marathwada region, the work on replacement of existing copper cables is going on a very slow speed; and

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to supply sufficient quantity of optical fibre cables in all the districts of Maharashtra especially in the said region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Optical Fibre Cables are generally not being proposed for replacing the existing copper cables. These are being laid mostly to inter-connect different towns for long distance transmission and also to connect different exchanges in the same city. There is no shortage of optical fibre cable for these works.

However, due to rainy season the progress of laying of Cable has been slow. However this will improve.

(b) At present Maharashtra Circle has stock of 3219 Kms of optical fibre cable against their plans for laying 12,000 Kms during the current year. Stock available in 8 districts of Marathwada region is 771.49 Km against this year's requirement of 2252 Km. Action has already been initiated for procurement of balance cable.

Assistance to NGOs for AIDS Control

4401. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

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

(a) whether any financial assistance has been provided to the NGOs for AIDS Control Programme;

(b) if so, the total assistance provided to these NGOs during each of the last three years particularly in Maharashtra and Karnataka, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have monitored the programmes implemented by these NGOs;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof during the above period;

(e) whether the NGOs have requested the Union Government to increase the Central assistance;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The process of funding NGOs for pursuing National AIDS Control Project has since been decentralized to State AIDS Control societies. However, financial assistance for some Model/Pilot Projects including setting up of community care centres for people living with HIV/AIDS, is being provided to the NGOs directly by National AIDS Control Organization. During the last three years one NGO from Maharashtra (Bel-Air Hospital, Panchagani) and two NGOs from Karnataka, M/s. Freedom Foundation, Bangalore and Snehadaan, Bangalore were sanctioned with funds of Rs. 19,48,740/- each during 1999-2000 directly by NACO Statements I and II regarding financial assistance provided to NGOs in Targetted Interventions projects by Maharashtra (including Mumbai Districts AIDS Control Society) and Karnataka State AIDS Control Societies and NGOs funded directly by NACO during the last three years are enclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Most NGOs have been found to be functioning effectively.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

Statement I

| Sl.No. | Name of the NGO | TI sanctioned |
|------------------|--|------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Karnataka | | |
| 1. | Bhoruka Charitable Trust | Truck Drivers |
| 2. | Srikanta Education Society | Truck Drivers |
| 3. | Concerned for Working Children | Street children |
| 4. | Grama Swarajya Samithi | Migrant workers |
| 5. | Citizens Alliance for rural development & training | Migrant workers |
| 6. | Society for peoples action for development | CSW |
| 7. | Janodya Trust | CSWs & Prisoners |
| 8. | Bangalore Oniyavara Seva Coota | Street children |
| 9. | Jagruthi | MSM |
| 10. | Suraksha | Migrant workers |
| 11. | Deeds development education society | Migrant workers |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|--------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 12. | KIDS Karnataka Integrated Development Society | Truckers |
| Maharashtra | | |
| 1. | Manas Vyasamuldi | Truckers |
| 2. | Rachna Society for Social Reconstruction | Truckers |
| 3. | Social Welfare Institute for Needy Neglected | CSW |
| 4. | Bhagini Nivadita Pratisthan | CSW |
| 5. | Manavya | CSW |
| 6. | Akhil Budhwar Peth Devadas Sangathana | CSW |
| 7. | Kayakalp | CSW |
| 8. | John Paul Slum Developers Project | Truckers |
| 9. | Vanchit Vikas | CSW |
| 10. | Civil Hospital | CSW |
| 11. | Muslim Samaj Prabodhan | CSW |
| 12. | Pimpri Chicwad Municipal Corporation | Truckers |
| 13. | Pimpri Chichwad Municipal Corporation | Truckers |
| 14. | Shri Hanumantrao Deshmukh Bahuuddeshiya Sanstha | Rural Ladies |
| 15. | Shrira Ahirrao Memorial Trust | Truckers |
| 16. | G.K. Gujar Memorial Turst | Truckers |
| 17. | Sai Education Society | Truckers |
| 18. | Indian Red Cross Society | Truckers |
| 19. | Indian Red Cross Society | CSW |
| 20. | We Need You Society | Truckers |
| 21. | Humsafar Trust | Mapping of MSM in Five States |
| Mumbai | | |
| 1. | Support | Street Children |
| 2. | Shelter Don Bosco | Street Children |
| 3. | MNP+ | PLWHA |
| 4. | Swayam Siddha Sanstha | PLWHA |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|--|--------------------|
| 5. | The Humsafar Trust | MSM |
| 6. | DAI Welfare Society | Eunuchs |
| 7. | Rashtra Swasthya Prabhodhini | Truckers |
| 8. | Vijay Krida Mandal | Truckers |
| 9. | Population Services International | Truckers |
| 10. | Nagri Seva Prabhodhini | Truckers |
| 11. | Nagri Seva Prabhodhini | Migrant Labourers |
| 12. | Jagruti Kendra | Migrant Labourers |
| 13. | Prafulta | CSW's |
| 14. | Tara Memorial Sanstha | CSW's |
| 15. | Shape up India | CSW's |
| 16. | The Family Planning and Medical Aid Trust | CSW's |
| 17. | Population Services International | CSW's |
| 18. | Asha Project | CSW's Projects (2) |
| 19. | Apanalaya | PLWH/A |
| 20. | Committed Communities Development Trust (CCDT) | Drop in Centre |

Statement II*Grant-in-Aid Released to NGOs During 1997-1998 by NACO*

| Sl.No. | Name of the Organisation | Area of Work | Amount Released (In Rs.) |
|--------|---|---|--------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Bhoruka Public Welfare Trust, Calcutta | Intervention programme with truck drivers | 10,92,332 |
| 2. | Vivekananda Education Society, Calcutta | Telephonic counselling service | 4,20,000 |
| 3. | Child in Need Institute, Calcutta | Telephonic counselling service | 2,20,500 |
| 4. | Durbar Mahila Samanvaya Committee, Calcutta | National workshop for sex workers | 50,000 |
| 5. | Rajsthan, UP Catholic Health Association, New Delhi | Workshop on AIDS awareness | 30,000 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|------------------------------------|--|----------|
| 6. | Inner Wheel Club, New Delhi | Workshop on AIDS awareness | 15,000 |
| 7. | TORCH, New Delhi | Intervention programme with taxi drivers | 1,40,000 |
| 8. | Jan Shakti Vahini, New Delhi | Workshop on AIDS awareness with college students | 5,000 |
| 9. | Jan Shakti Vahini, New Delhi | Awareness programme in slum areas of NCT of Delhi | 2,40,000 |
| 10. | Mirage Gallery of Arts, New Delhi | Exhibition cum sale 'Art for AIDS' | 1,87,500 |
| 11. | Mirage Gallery of Arts, New Delhi | Exhibition cum sale 'Art for AIDS' | 1,87,500 |
| 12. | Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, New Delhi | Mobile counselling services on HIV/AIDS | 2,94,000 |
| 13. | Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, New Delhi | Workshop with practitioners of Indigenous system of Medicine | 1,76,000 |
| 14. | TORCH, New Delhi | Telephonic counselling | 6,31,500 |

Grant-in-Aid Released to NGOs During 1998-1999 by NACO

| S.N. | Name of the Organisation | Area of Work | Amount Released (In Rs.) |
|------|---|---|--------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Model Counselling Centre, Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi | Provision of counselling services in the Deptt. of Skin & STDs in the Safdarjung Hospital | 3,70,200 |
| 2. | CINI, West Bengal | Telephonic counselling services | 2,20,500 |
| 3. | TORCH, New Delhi | Telephonic counselling services | 2,19,500 |
| 4. | Sulabh International Institute of Health and Hygiene, New Delhi | Distribution of condoms through Sulabh Toilet complexes | 5,05,000 |
| 5. | OSERD, Patna | Telephonic counselling services | 4,94,000 |
| 6. | PRAYAS, New Delhi | Comprehensive AIDS Prevention programme through awareness, counselling and treatment of STDs with street children | 4,49,944 |
| 7. | Voluntary Health Association of India, New Delhi. | Distribution of Ananth Video film on AIDS and educational material on HIV/AIDS to NGOs across the country | 1,43,360 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|----|-----------------------|--|----------|
| 8. | DRISHTIKON, New Delhi | Provision of Reproductive health care services to migrant workers care services to migrant workers and their wives in Sagarpur, West Delhi | 5,01,500 |

Funds Sanctioned to NGOs Directly by NACO in 1999-2000

| S.N. | Name of the Organisation | Area of Work | Amount Released (In Rs.) |
|------|--|--|--------------------------|
| 1. | PRAYAS, Delhi | Intervention project for Health/STD/HIV/AIDS amongst street children in Delhi. | 7,07,044.00 |
| 2. | Drishtikon, 1207, Sector-D, Pocket-I, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi | For promoting reproductive health including HIV/AIDS/STD in women and their sexual partners in the project modern reproductive health care | 9,47,500.00 |
| 3. | TORCH, 45 Friends Colony (East), Flat No. 2, New Delhi-65. | NACO Telephonic Counselling | 2,85,100.00 |
| 4. | M/s. SAHARA, Delhi | Setting up of Community Care Centre | 11,88,500.00 |
| 5. | M/s. Freedom Foundation, Bangalore | Setting up of Community Care Centre | 11,88,500.00 |
| 6. | SHALOM, Manipur | Setting up of Community Care Centre | 11,89,240.00 |
| 7. | Leprosy Patients' Welfare Society, Imphal | Setting up of Community Care Centre | 11,89,240.00 |
| 8. | Bel-Air Hospital, Panchaghani, Maharashtra | Setting up of Community Care Centre | 26,01,900.00 |
| 9. | SNEEHADAAN, Bangalore | Setting up of Community Care Centre | 9,74,370.00 |

Co-Promote More Highway Projects

4402. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to co-promote more highway projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have undertaken any study to increase vehicle transport in relation to availability of highway network; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is encouraging private sector participation in development and maintenance of National Highways and this includes co-promotion of projects. As per the present policy, Government can grant capital subsidy upto 40% of the project cost and/or participate in the equity of privately funded projects to the extent of 30% of project equity if required in case of projects taken up on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. In fact the existing road network is considered inadequate to cope up with increasing traffic on our roads and efforts are being made to upgrade and expand the road network within the available resources.

Telegraph Office

4403. SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1249 on July 31, 2000 and state:

(a) whether the Nagercoil Telegraph office in Kanya Kumari District of Tamil Nadu was functioning round the clock before six months;

(b) if so, the reasons for suspending this facility;

(c) whether the Government propose to reconsider it;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (e) The working hours of the Nagercoil Telegraph office are 0700-2200 hrs. on week days and 0800-1600 hrs. on Sundays/Holidays. However, telegram booking facility was available during the closed hours under a system called late fee system in which the customer pays an additional amount of Rs. 3/- per telegram for the service rendered. This late fee system was available till 31st January 2000. The late fee system is a voluntary system where the telegraph staff volunteer to do the duties during closed hours without any cost burden on the Department. The late fee money collected will be personal to the volunteering staff for undertaking such duties during the closed hours of the telegraph office. The volunteer duty is neither treated as a regular duty nor any overtime allowance is paid to the staff members. With effect from 1st Feb. 2000, no staff has volunteered to perform the

late fee duty. The telegraph office opened round the clock will cause additional expenditure. There is no proposal at present to keep the Nagercoil office opened round the clock.

Development of Cochin Shipyard

4404. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Kerala Government for assistance for the development of Cochin Shipyard;

(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 SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Appointment of Full Time Members on Board of AAI

4405. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the members on the Board of Airport Authority of India are only associated with Airports Authority of India as part timers;

(b) if so, whether this has adversely affected the functioning and security of Airports leading to hijacking and air crashes;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to appoint full time Board members as a measure to improve the functioning of the Board/standard of air travel safety in the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The Chairman, Airports Authority of India (AAI), and four Members in the disciplines of Personnel and Administration, Finance, Operations and Planning are full time functional Directors on the Board of AAI, and contribute significantly to the effective functioning of the Board/AAI.

Payment of Deceased Employees Dues

4406. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Employees working in the Central Division, New Delhi, Postal Department, died on duty since January, 2000;

(b) whether death-cum-gratuity, G.P.F., encashment of Leave, C.G.E.I.S. have been paid to the next of kin of deceased;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the time limit fixed for making such payments; and

(f) the time by which the said payments are likely to be made to the victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) S/Shri Dilip Kumar, Mahender Kumar Meena, Ram Gopal, S.R. Malhotra and Mahender Singh.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The claims are under process. All these deaths occurred after May, 2000.

(e) There is no time limit specified for making such payments, but interest is payable for specified periods for delayed payments of death gratuity and GPF if delay is on account of administrative lapse.

(f) At the earliest possible.

[English]

World Environment Day

4407. SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether new schemes were announced on the occasion of World Environment Day for conservation of forests;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) has observed that the

allocation made in this sector are not adequate for research works which is very much essential for forest conservation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No new scheme has been announced on the occasion of World Environment Day this year for conservation of forests.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Manufacture of Condoms in A.P.

4408. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 1.38 crore condoms manufactured by Hindustan Latex Limited have been pumped into at the rate of six lakh per district;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has decided to supply the condoms earmarked for 'Social Marketing' for free distribution;

(c) if so, whether Andhra Pradesh has 6,692 HIV positive cases out of total 76,481 reported in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the State Government to prevent the AIDS spreading in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) Supplies of condoms (Nirodh) under the scheme of free supply are made on the basis of utilisation in previous year as reported by State Governments and upon available budgetary resources. So far, during the current year, 2.5 crore pieces of condoms have been supplied to Andhra Pradesh. The State has been allocated 4.0 crore pieces for the whole year.

(b) The State Government has purchased 25 lakh pieces of condoms from M/s. Hindustan Latex Ltd. for distribution through District Leprosy Officers (DLOs) who are Nodal Officers at District level to sell the condoms to the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), under the scheme for Social Marketing. The State Government also instructed DLOs to distribute condoms free of cost during Janamabhoomi and other health related programmes.

(c) As per information on 30th June, 2000, there were 6,944 HIV positive cases in Andhra Pradesh out of total of 98,451 cases in the country.

(d) In order to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS in India, a comprehensive Programme is currently under implementation throughout the country (including Andhra Pradesh) as a centrally sponsored scheme. The main components consists of:—

- Reducing the spread of HIV in groups at high risk by identification of target populations and providing peer counseling, condom promotion, treatment of sexually transmitted infections.
- Preventive intervention for the general population by Information, Education and Communication (IEC), awareness campaign, provision of voluntary testing and counseling, safe blood transfusion services and prevention of occupational exposure.
- Providing financial assistance for opportunistic infections, home and community based care to people living with HIV/AIDS.
- Strengthening effectiveness and technical, managerial, financial sustainability at National, State and Municipal levels.
- Promoting collaboration amongst public, private and voluntary sectors.

[Translation]

National Environmental Tribunal

4409. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3112 dated July 20, 1999 and to state the details of action being taken by the Government to constitute a National Environmental Tribunal under National Environment Tribunal Act, 1995?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): The Government has initiated the process of setting up the National Environment Tribunal under the National Environment Tribunal Act, 1995.

Relaxation in Rates of Internet Services by VSNL

4410. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether VSNL has taken a decision to provide 50 percent relaxation in the rates of Internet Service and free Internet Service at night in view of increasing competition in internet services; and

(b) if so, the profits likely to be earned by the Government as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. VSNL has offered relaxation in dial-up internet tariff and free internet service at night, as promotional offer for the Monsoon Period of 2 months.

(b) This has resulted in registration of 56,000 new Internet connections and 1.25 lakhs renewals as on 31st July, 2000. In Internet service sector, customer acquisition, quality of service & brand building among the customers are believed to be key success factors in the long term. Keeping in view the stiff competition in internet market and race for acquiring maximum customers, any ISP (Internet Service Provider) hopes to earn a handsome profits in future by way of valuation and offering value added services using internet media.

[English]

Monkey Population

4411. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

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

(a) whether monkey population in the country has lately been growing fast and has assumed menacing proportions, so much so, that the semians are presenting grave threat to tigers and lions in forest reserves and sanctuaries;

(b) if so, whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news items captioned "Honor states still fresh, Sariska shuts door on Jaipur's monkeys", in the "Indian Express" June 11, 2000; and

(c) if so, the steps taken and proposed to be taken to contain and curtail the simian population in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Rise in monkey menace is not linked to increase in the number of monkeys only. It has more to do with the habit of people feeding monkeys particularly Government officials during lunch hours and decline in tree cover in urban area. Because of sharing of half eaten food with urban population the monkeys get infection of Tuberculosis and other infectious diseases. Reintroduction of such animals is against the IUCN Policy on reintroduction of animals in the wild. The decision of Child Wildlife Warden not to allow city bred monkeys in Sariska is in consonance with these guidelines.

(c) Capture, sterilization and release in a planned manner in areas where the *in situ* wild population are not very rich is the only practical solution to the problem. Post release monitoring of animals is crucial.

[*Translation*]

Construction of Highway Connecting India and China Via Myanmar

4412. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a Highway connecting India and China *via* Myanmar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the latest position in this regard; and

(d) the total estimated amount to be spent on this work and the time by which this work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Discretionary Quota of Telephone Connections of M.Ps.

4413. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone connections could be recommended by a Member of Parliament in a year;

(b) whether the Member of Parliament could recommend telephone connections in his/her own constituency only;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to provide quota to the Lok Sabha member on the line of the Rajya Sabha member so that he/she could give telephone connections to the people of constituency who are residing in other States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) A Member of Parliament can recommend hundred out of

turn telephone connections from his/her allotted quota in a calendar year.

(b) Yes, Sir. A Member of Parliament of Lok Sabha can recommend out of turn telephone connection within his/her constituency from which he/she has been elected. A Member of Parliament of Rajya Sabha can recommend within his/her state represented by him/her. The constituency of Member of Parliament of Rajya Sabha has been defined so in the meeting held on May 19, 1970 by the Joint Committee on Salary and Allowances of both the Houses of Parliament which has the power to make rules under section 9 of the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Member of Parliament Act, 1954.

(c) No Sir. There is no such proposal. Besides, Rajya Sabha members also can not recommend for people residing outside their State.

(d) Does not arise.

Illegal STD/ISD Connections

4414. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI: SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department has suffered heavy losses due to the officers who have given connections of STD and ISD violating the rules and nexus with other people;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(c) whether it has been investigated by the CBI; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the number of officers against whom action has been taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) 35 cases involving 65 officials and 19 outsiders have been reported. These relate to provision of illegal/unauthorised STD/ISD without verification of bonafides and on fake names/documents etc. and parties having absconded after making heavy calls.

(c) and (d) The cases where outsiders were involved were investigated by CBI/Police authorities and action based on their investigation for prosecution/departmental disciplinary proceedings has been taken against 65 officials.

*[English]***Tapping of Telephones**

4415. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the growing incidents of tapping of telephones in some States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States from where such incidents have been reported during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to stop such illegal incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) Monitoring of telephones is authorised under the provisions of Section 5(2) of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and the Indian Telegraph Rules, 1951 which prescribe stringent procedure to be followed in such cases. Authorisation orders for interception of telephones are issued by the State Home Secretaries in respect of State Governments and Union Home Secretary in respect of the Central Government. Information regarding details of telephones monitored by the State Governments is not maintained by the Government of India. Ministry of Communications merely provides technical assistance in respect of orders issued as above.

*[Translation]***Shifting of Telephones**

4416. SHRI MANSINH PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaint regarding violation of rules for shifting of telephones from one exchange to another or in the same exchange in MTNL;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Sir, 29 cases of violation of rules for shifting of telephone from one exchange to another or in the same exchange in MTNL during the last three years have been processed.

Regular Departmental Action has been initiated against 12 Gazetted Officers (GOs) and 14 Non-Gazetted Officials (NGOs).

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

*[English]***Security Lapse at Chennai Airport**

4417. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a security lapse at Chennai airport during the Prime Minister's visit recently; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to improve security at Chennai and other airports in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No security lapse was noticed at Chennai airport during the recent visit of the Prime Minister.

(b) Does not arise.

Black Listing of Alliance Air

4418. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "UK blacklists Alliance" appearing in 'Hindustan Times' dated July 21, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several foreign countries have directed their diplomats and visiting tourists not to use Alliance-Air flights; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ward off such actions from other foreign countries?

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

(b) to (d) The thrust of the news item was on the reported directive issued by the British Foreign Office to its diplomats in India not to use Alliance Air because of withdrawal of service contract by Rolls Royce for its engine purportedly on safety grounds.

This was, however, factually incorrect. The Alliance Air B-737 aircraft is not fitted with any Rolls Royce engine,

as alleged in the Article. They are in fact, fitted with Pratt & Whitney engines, which are serviced at the Indian Airlines Jet Engine Overhaul facility in New Delhi. The foreign office of British Diplomats have also confirmed that they have not issued any instructions against use of Alliance Air to their mission in Delhi.

Illness Assistance Fund

4419. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the States which have set up Illness Assistance Fund indicating the funds mobilized by each State;

(b) the details of grant-in-aid provided by the Union Government to each for the said funds; and

(c) the number of beneficiaries who received the said assistance from the said fund and the quantum of assistance received by each of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) The information is given in enclosed Statement.

(c) The information is being collected and would be submitted subsequently.

Statement

(Rs. in crores)

| Year | State | Contribution made by States | Amount of Grant-in-aid released by Central Government |
|-----------|------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1996-1997 | Karnataka | 10.00 | 5.00 |
| | Madhya Pradesh | 10.00 | 5.00 |
| | Tripura | 4.00 | 2.00 |
| 1997-1998 | Andhra Pradesh | 10.00 | 5.00 |
| | Tamil Nadu | 10.00 | 5.00 |
| | Himachal Pradesh | 0.50 | 0.25 |
| | Jammu & Kashmir | 0.45 | 0.20 |
| 1998-1999 | Maharashtra | 4.00 | 2.00 |
| | West Bengal | 1.00 | 0.50 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----------|---------------------------------|------|-------|
| | Kerala | 2.00 | 1.00 |
| | Mizoram | 1.00 | 0.50 |
| | Rajasthan | 2.00 | 1.00 |
| 1999-2000 | Govt. of Goa | 0.30 | 0.15 |
| | Govt. of Gujarat | 2.00 | 1.00 |
| | Rajasthan (II instalment) | 2.00 | 1.00 |
| 2000-2001 | Sikkim | 0.50 | 0.25 |
| | Jammu & Kashmir (II instalment) | 0.25 | 0.125 |
| | Bihar | 2.50 | 1.25 |

Funds for Projects

4420. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the ongoing projects in Maharashtra that have been dropped or postponed for shortage of funds;

(b) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the time by which the said projects are likely to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) There are no such projects which are dropped or postponed for want of funds.

(b) and (c) Not applicable in view of reply at (a) above.

Pollution in Yamuna River

4421. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

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

(a) whether the Supreme Court has recently issued directions to the Delhi, U.P. and Haryana Government to file an affidavit of the steps taken to improve the quality of Yamuna water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Pollution Control Board have found dismal quality of Yamuna water;

(d) if so, whether the State Governments have sought help from the Union Government to keep the Yamuna water free from any pollution; and

(e) if so, the details of assistance the Union Government propose to render these States in this regard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Supreme Court, in its order dated 11th July, 2000 directed the state Government of Uttar Pradesh to file an affidavit within four weeks indicating the effective steps taken or intended to be taken to ensure that the water quality in the drain ultimately reaching Yamuna was within the allowable discharge standards. The Government of Haryana had already submitted its affidavit on this matter. The Supreme Court expressed serious displeasure over the non-compliance of its repeated orders by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi to control the pollution of Yamuna river. Adjourning the matter till 10th October, 2000, the Court directed the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi that if the water quality does not improve by then, not only the earlier penalty which was of fine would be directed to be realized but further action in that regard may also be undertaken.

(c) Yes Sir. The water quality of Yamuna river along Delhi and downstream is much below the desired standards. The Central Pollution Control Board have confirmed this fact in their monitoring reports which are filed regularly in the Supreme Court under a Public Interest Litigation.

(d) and (e) A scheme of pollution abatement of Yamuna which is known as the Yamuna Action Plan was approved by the Government in April 1993. The present approved cost of the Action Plan is Rs. 509.54 crore. Under this Plan, works have been taken up in 21 towns out of which 8 towns are in Uttar Pradesh and 12 towns in Haryana besides Delhi. The approved cost of the

project for the States of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi is Rs. 226.28 crore, Rs. 250.23 crore and Rs. 19.94 crore respectively. The Delhi component of Yamuna Action Plan is small comprising 2 sewage treatment plants each of 10 million liters per day capacity and one electric crematorium. So far, an expenditure of Rs. 431.87 crore has been incurred on this Plan. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi is implementing the major part of pollution abatement programme of Yamuna out of their own plan funds. Under this programme, 14 additional sewage treatment plants along with allied works are to be constructed. Out of these, 7 treatment plants have already been completed and another 6 will be completed by March 2001 and tenders for the remaining one sewage treatment plant have been invited. An amount of Rs. 496 crore has been spent on this programme so far. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi submitted a proposal at an estimated cost of about Rs. 435 crore for rehabilitation of trunk sewerage system of Delhi, which is responsible in a significant manner for the pollution of Yamuna river. The Government posed this proposal to Japan Bank for International Cooperation for allowing the savings of Yamuna Action Plan to be utilized for this purpose. However, Japan Bank for International Cooperation did not agree to the proposal. In addition, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi is also to construct 15 common effluent treatment plants to treat industrial effluents from 21 industrial estates of Delhi at an estimated cost of Rs. 90 crore. This Project is under implementation.

[Translation]

New Post Offices

4422. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal to set up new post offices;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard and the reasons for not giving the approval so far?

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

(b) and (c) The details of proposals received from Postal Circles during the last three years, the number of proposals approved by the Directorate of the Department of Posts and the actual number of Post Offices opened

circle-wise is given in the enclosed statement. The opening of new Post Offices is done as per Annual Plan as part of the Five Year Plan. It is subject to fulfilment of prescribed norms and sanctioning of required posts by Ministry of Finance (M.O.F.). The proposal for sanctioning

of 442 posts of Extra Departmental Agents during 1999-2000 was not agreed to by M.O.F. The figures given in the table include that of Post Offices opened by fresh creation of posts and also those, which were opened by redeployment.

Statement

| | | No. of Proposals received from Circles | | | No. of Proposals approved by Directorate | | | No. of Post Offices Opened | | |
|--------------|------------------|--|------------|------------|--|------------|------------|----------------------------|------------|------------|
| | | 97-98 | 98-99 | 99-2000 | 97-98 | 98-99 | 99-2000 | 97-98 | 98-99 | 99-2000 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 9 | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | 10 | 10 | 4 |
| 2. | Assam | 26 | 63 | 46 | 36 | 54 | 20 | 18 | 54 | 24 |
| 3. | Bihar | 42 | 80 | 90 | 40 | 72 | 51 | 31 | 72 | 51 |
| 4. | Delhi | 05 | 04 | Nil | 4 | 04 | Nil | 5 | 4 | 4 |
| 5. | Gujarat | 23 | 34 | 33 | 14 | 27 | 27 | 18 | 31 | 28 |
| 6. | Haryana | 17 | 14 | 12 | 5 | 12 | 09 | 13 | 13 | 12 |
| 7. | Himachal Pradesh | 10 | 13 | 06 | 7 | 07 | Nil | 4 | 7 | 2 |
| 8. | Jammu & Kashmir | 14 | 27 | 01 | 15 | 23 | Nil | 11 | 23 | 14 |
| 9. | Karnataka | 34 | 09 | 03 | 24 | 05 | Nil | 24 | 12 | 21 |
| 10. | Kerala | 10 | 07 | Nil | 4 | 06 | Nil | 7 | 12 | 4 |
| 11. | Madhya Pradesh | 33 | 13 | Nil | 4 | Nil | Nil | 41 | 50 | 40 |
| 12. | Maharashtra | 26 | 45 | 08 | 11 | 42 | 03 | 34 | 69 | 50 |
| 13. | North-East | 26 | 61 | 19 | 6 | 54 | Nil | 18 | 54 | 19 |
| 14. | Orissa | 31 | 13 | 04 | 19 | 07 | Nil | 21 | 10 | 14 |
| 15. | Punjab | 16 | 03 | 02 | 5 | 03 | Nil | 12 | 12 | 9 |
| 16. | Rajasthan | 33 | Nil | Nil | 6 | Nil | Nil | 33 | 30 | 24 |
| 17. | Tamil Nadu | 11 | 01 | Nil | 3 | Nil | Nil | 21 | 10 | 15 |
| 18. | Uttar Pradesh | 88 | 84 | 43 | 13 | 81 | 07 | 57 | 82 | 10 |
| 19. | West Bengal | 51 | Nil | 43 | 31 | 43 | 41 | 24 | 43 | 41 |
| Total | | 505 | 471 | 310 | 347 | 440 | 158 | 402 | 598 | 386 |

[English]

Migration Package

4423. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the observation made by CAG that the migration package has amounted to undue favour to licensees and double concession to private telephone companies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Sir, a paragraph titled "Package of concessions to existing Cellular and Basic Telephone Services Operators" has been included in the Report of Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) for the year ended March, 1999 (No. 6 of 2000).

Government have not accepted the observations made by the Audit at the Draft Audit Para stage and have indicated that the policy regarding migration of the existing licensees to the New Telecom Policy-1999 (NTP-99) regime of revenue sharing arrangement was formulated as a result of informed and institutionalized decision in best public interest making pragmatic adjustments warranted by ground realities in relation to the Telecom Industry. The uniform application of NTP-99 all over the country would ensure growth of telecom sector by bringing in multipoly, better accessibility and improved/cost effective service to customers and is important for achieving the objectives of New Telecom Policy.

[Translation]

Success in Fertility Enhancement

4424. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a doctor in Maharashtra has achieved success in fertility enhancement by developing a frozen embryo transfer technology which has proved to be effective in conception;

(b) if so, whether Government are contemplating to make public the information pertaining to said technology; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) The technique of freezing embryos for transfer to the females is in use for more than 15 years. Its clinical application is well known, worldwide.

(b) and (c) Not applicable.

Completion of Projects without Cost Overrun

4425. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has alleged that launching of projects without full preparation by the Government results in delays in its completion and the cost overrun;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether only 75% of the allocated funds have been spent due to procedural shortcomings during the first two years of the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) if not, the facts thereof and the new steps proposed to be taken by the Government to complete the projects in time and without cost overrun?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

[English]

Virology Centre at Bellary for Brain Fever Cases

4426. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA:
SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD:

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

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Karnataka Government for setting up a Virology Centre in Bellary in view of heavy incidence of brain fever cases in the States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

STD Lines for Private Sector

4427. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open STD lines jointly with private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of tariff share between Government and private owner;

(d) whether the Government's revenue is likely to be increased thereby;

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Government has decided to allow private sector entry in providing national long distance field.

(b) As per details given in the statement enclosed.

(c) There is no share of tariff between the Government and the private owner.

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

(f) Government has already announced the guidelines on 13.8.2000.

Statement

Details of guidelines for issue of licence for national long distance service.

The New Telecom Policy '99 envisaged the opening up of the National long distance service beyond the service area to the private operators. The Government has decided to open the National Long Distance Service without any restriction on the number of operators. Following are the broad guidelines for issue of Licence for National Long Distance Operations (NLDO) in India.

1. The applicant must be an Indian company, registered under the Companies Act '1956.
2. The applicant company shall submit the application in the prescribed Application form.
3. The applicant company can apply only for one licence for NLDO.
4. The licence for NLDO shall be issued on non-exclusive basis, for a period of 20 years, extendable by 10 years at one time, for inter-circle Long Distance operations within the territorial jurisdiction of India.
5. The total foreign equity in the applicant company must not exceed 49% at any time during the entire licence period. Investment in the equity of the applicant company by an NRI/OCB/International funding agencies will be counted

towards its foreign equity. In this regard the applicant company shall submit a certificate from the competent authority to the effect that total foreign equity in the applicant company does not exceed 49%.

6. The applicant company shall submit, along with the application, the Roll Out plan indicating the names of Long Distance Charging Areas (LDCAs) in each telecom circle for coverage in four phases including the coverage of uneconomic and remote areas.
7. The applicant company shall pay one time Entry Fee of Rs. 100 crores before the signing of the Licence in the form of Demand Draft/Pay Order payable at New Delhi in favour of Pay & Accounts Officer (Headquarter), Department of Telecom and shall be non-refundable. In addition thereto, four Bank Guarantees (BG) of Rs. 100 crore each shall be given which will be released back on completion of each phase in the manner described below subject to fulfilling the network Roll out obligations by establishing Point of Presence in LDCAs:

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| (i) Completion of Phase I | Rs. 100 Crores |
| (ii) Completion of Phase II | Rs. 100 Crores |
| (iii) Completion of Phase III | Rs. 100 Crores |
| (iv) Completion of Phase IV | Rs. 100 Crores |
8. Any shortfall below the percentage of network coverage-Phase I, II, III and IV will result in encashment and forfeiture of the particular BG relating to that phase. There will be no carry forward of the unfulfilled network obligation from one phase to another.
9. The applicant company shall also submit business plan along with its funding arrangement for financing the project.
10. The applicant company shall make its own arrangements for Right of Way (ROW). However, the Central Government will issue necessary notification on request bringing the NLDO licensee for the purposes of placing telegraph lines under Part III of the Indian Telegraph Act '1885. Provided that non-availability of the ROW or delay in getting permission/clearance from any agency shall not be construed or taken as an excuse for non-fulfilment of the Roll-out obligations.

11. The applicant company shall have a minimum paid up equity capital of Rs. 250 Crores on the date of the application and shall submit the best proof thereof alongwith the application for licence.
12. The promoters of applicant company shall have a combined network of Rs. 250 crores. The network of only those promoters shall be counted who have at least 10% equity stake in the total equity of the company. Here network shall mean as the sum total, in Indian rupees, of paid up equity capital and free reserves. While counting Network the foreign currency shall be converted into Indian rupees at the prevalent rate indicated by the Reserve Bank of India on the date of the application.
13. The constituent(s) having at least 30% of total equity in the applicant company must have an experience of telecom sector and the proof thereof shall be attached with the Application for licence.
14. In addition to entry fee described above the licence fee in the form of revenue share @10% plus prescribed contributions towards the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USO Fund) with a total cap of 15% is payable.
15. Provided further that the fee/royalty for the use of spectrum and possession of wireless telegraphy equipment shall be separately payable as per the details and prescription of Wireless Planning and Coordination Wing. The fee/royalty for the use spectrum/possession of wireless telegraphy equipment depends upon various factors such as frequency, hop and link length, area of operation etc.
16. The applicant company shall submit Financial Bank Guarantee (FBG) of Rs. 20 crores one year after the date of signing the licence agreement or before the commencement of service whichever is earlier. Initially, FBG shall be valid for a period of six months and shall be renewed from time to time for such amount as may be directed by the Central Government.
17. The dues/fees/royalties for the use of spectrum/possession of Wireless Telegraphy equipment shall be separately securitised by furnishing FBG of equal amount valid for a period of one year renewable from time to time till final clearance of all such dues.
18. Change in the name of the applicant company or licensee, as the case may be, shall be permitted in accordance with the provisions under the Companies Act, 1956.
19. The applicant shall be decided, so far as practicable, within 15 days of the submission of the application is found to be eligible for grant of licence for NLDO, the applicant shall be required to deposit Entry Fee and submit Bank Guarantees/other documents and sign the licence agreement immediately within a period of three months from the date of issue of the letter failing which it will be presumed that the applicant is no longer interested and the application will stand rejected.
20. In case the applicant is found to be not eligible for the grant of licence for NLDO, the applicant shall be informed accordingly, whereafter he can file a fresh application removing the deficiencies.
21. The NLD Service refers to the carriage of switched bearer telecommunications service over a long distance and NLDO licensee will have a right carry inter circle traffic excluding intra-circle traffic except where such carriage is with mutual agreement with fixed service provider in accordance with their mutually agreed terms. NLDOs can make mutually agreed arrangements with FSPs for picking up the traffic for the leg between Long Distance Charging Centre (ILDCC) and Short Distance Charging Centres (SDCCs).
22. NLDO shall be required to make own suitable arrangements/agreements for leased lines with the Access Providers for last mile.
23. Licences will be issued without any restriction on the number of entrants for NLD service.
24. Interconnection between the networks of different service providers shall be as per national standards of CCS No. 7 issued from time to time by Telecom Engineering Centre (TEC).
25. The NLDO Licensee may enter into suitable arrangements with other service providers to negotiate Interconnection Agreements whereby the interconnected networks will provide the following:
 - (a) To connect and keep connected, to their Applicable Systems;
 - (b) To establish and maintain such one or more Points of Interconnect as are reasonably required and are of sufficient capacity and in sufficient numbers to enable transmission and reception of the messages by means of the Applicable Systems;

- (c) To meet all reasonable demand for the transmission and reception of messages between the interconnected systems.
26. The terms and conditions of interconnection including standard interfaces, points of interconnection and technical aspects will be such as mutually agreed between the service providers.
27. The NLDO Licensee shall for the purpose of providing the service install own equipment so as to be compatible with other service/Access providers' equipment to which the NLDO licensee's Applicable Systems are intended for interconnection.
28. The NLDO Licensee shall comply with any direction on inter-connection regulations issued by the TRAI under TRAI Act, 1997.
29. The NLDO Licensee shall operate and maintain the licensed Network conforming to Quality of Service standards to be mutually agreed between the service providers in respect of Network-Network Interface.
30. The charges for access or interconnection with other networks shall be based on mutual agreements between the service providers subject to the restrictions issued from time to time by TRAI under TRAI Act, 1997.
31. The network resources including the cost of upgrading/modifying interconnecting networks to meet the service requirements of National Long Distance service will be per mutually negotiated sharing arrangements between the service providers.
32. It shall be mandatory for fixed service providers, cellular mobile service providers, cable service providers, to provide interconnection to NLD service providers whereby the subscribers could have a free choice to make inter-circle/international long distance calls through NLD service provider.
33. The applicant company shall pay a processing fee along with the application of Rs. 15,000/- in the form of Demand Draft/Pay Order payable at New Delhi in the name of Pay and Accounts Officer (Headquarter) DOT and the same shall not be refunded for any reason whatsoever.

34. The application is to be submitted to the Section Officer, BS. II, Department of Telecommunications, Room No. 1119, Sanchar Bhavan, 20 Ashok Road, New Delhi-110001.

Post Office Saving Scheme

4428. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that agents of small savings schemes *i.e.* National Savings Certificates (NSC) and Kisan Vikas Patras (KVS) are indulging in looting the Government's revenue worth crores of rupees with the connivance of officials of the local head post offices in the country;

(b) if so, the details of guidelines in this regard;

(c) whether these agents openly flout these norms/guidelines and can be seen with active patronage of postal officials draw the commission which would otherwise accrue to the Government;

(d) if so, whether the customers who want to purchase these certificates are being grabbed by these forms for which they become eligible for one percent commission without any labour in canvassing for funds;

(e) if so, the details of such cases detected and loss of revenue incurred thereon by the Government during each of the last three years; and

(f) the remedial steps taken by the Government to curb such activities in the post offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, to curb such practices, detailed guidelines have been issued which inter-alia allow them to transact their business at hours fixed by the post office, prohibit them to come to Post Office premises during the working hours and encourage them to utilize the intervening period to contact the public to mobilize deposits under the small savings schemes.

(c) No, Sir. However, the post offices being unrestricted public places, the possibility of agents working with them cannot be entirely ruled out.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

(f) From time to time, instructions are issued to all Postal Circles to curb such activities in the post offices.

[Translation]

Telephone Advisory Committee in Bihar

4429. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether no action is taken on the letters of M.Ps for the membership of Telephone Advisory Committee (T.A.C.) in Bihar particularly in Ranchi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the number of M.Ps. who have written letters for Membership of TAC during the last six months; and

(d) the number of letters on whose basis membership was provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir. Action is taken on the letters of Hon'ble MPs for the membership of Telephone Advisory Committee.

(b) Does not arise.

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

Pending Projects of Bihar

4430. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes of Bihar Government pending with the Union Government for environmental clearance; and

(b) the time by which the said schemes are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No scheme of Bihar Government is pending for environmental clearance.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Conservation of Wildlife

4431. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to implement Wild Life Protection Act in Jammu and Kashmir and to fence the wild life sanctuaries in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to stop the violation of Wild Life Protection Act in Jammu and Kashmir;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government have proposed to maintain the forests in the State;

(e) if so, whether the Union Government have also asked the Jammu and Kashmir Government to stop the deforestation of the forests further and launch a vigorous drive in this regard; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The State of Jammu and Kashmir has a Wildlife (Protection) Act of its own. Therefore the question of Wildlife Protection Act 1972 being implemented in Jammu and Kashmir does not arise.

(c) The responsibility of implementation Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife (Protection) Act vests with the State Government.

(d) The protection and management of forests in Jammu and Kashmir is the responsibility of the State Government. The Union Government provides financial support and technical expertise as and when asked by the State Government, within the budget available with the Ministry.

(e) The Union Government have always persuaded all the States including Jammu and Kashmir to protect their forests and take appropriate measures to improve the growing stock.

(f) Does not arise.

Status of Khurda-Bolangir National Highway

4432. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the Khurda—Bolangir National Highway keeping in view the priority to be given to the development of the KBK (Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput) area; and

(b) the time by which the above project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The road from Khurda to Bolangir is not a National Highway, therefore the development of this road is not the responsibility of this Ministry.

(b) Does not arise.

Protection of Animals in Zoo

4433. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRI SURESH KURUP:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Experts for inspection of Zoos" appearing in 'The Hindu' dated July 21, 2000;

(b) if so, whether an expert group has made recommendations to the Government to conduct inspection of zoos all over the country to know the health status of animals there;

(c) if so, the details of recommendations made by expert group and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Central Zoo Authority has blamed the experts on appalling state of affairs in Zoos;

(e) if so, whether the Government have any monitoring programme to check the guidelines by the CZA has complied with;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the funds allocated to State Government for protection of animals in zoos?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Environment and Forests has decided that a group of experts would inspect the major zoos all over the country and submit their report to the Ministry.

(d) No Sir.

(e) to (g) Central Zoo Authority has reiterated the guidelines and the stipulations required to be complied by the zoos in the country. During the year 1999-2000, Central Zoo Authority has released Rs. 1073.58 lakhs to 21 Zoos in different States of the country.

[*Translation*]

Water Pollution in U.P.

4434. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an acute problem of water pollution has cropped up in Uttar Pradesh due to release of industrial wastes by various industrial units into the rivers in the States; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) According to the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board, no acute problem of water pollution is reported to have cropped up in Uttar Pradesh due to release of industrial waste into the rivers by various industries in the State. A total of 241 defaulting industries have been identified which are discharging effluents into rivers and lakes in Uttar Pradesh. Out of these, 175 units have provided requisite pollution control facilities, 59 units are closed and 7 units are defaulting and facing legal action.

Cancer, Kala-Azar, Dengue and Meningitis Cases

4435. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:
SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:
YOGI ADITYA NATH:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

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

(a) the names of the States where Cancer, Dengue, Kala-Azar and Meningitis diseases are rapidly spreading;

(b) the number of deaths occurred due to these diseases during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government have sent any Central team to assess the situation at the spot so as to

consider the measures for the prevention of rapidly spreading of these diseases in States during the last one year, till date;

(d) whether the Government have received any report from the said team so far;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA):

(a) and (b) In so far as Cancer is concerned, no nationwide data is available. It has been estimated that there are approximately 2.00 to 2.50 million cases of cancer in the country at any given point of time and about 7.00 lakhs new cases detected every year. Nearly half of this number die due to the disease each year.

There has not been a rapid spread of Dengue and Kala-azar. Since 1996 Dengue cases have been reported from States namely Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

Kala-azar has been endemic in parts of Bihar and West Bengal and sporadic cases are reported from Uttar Pradesh.

The information in respect of Dengue and Kala-azar is given in the enclosed statement-I and in respect of Meningitis is given in the enclosed statement II.

(c) To assess the situation and to advise the States for effective control of Dengue and Kala-azar one team visited Ludhiana (Punjab) for Dengue and two teams visited Katihar, Madhubani, Nalanda and Darbhanga (Bihar) for Kala-azar.

(d) and (e) The recommendations of the teams visited Bihar and Punjab are given in the enclosed statement III.

(f) To strengthen the National Cancer Control Programme, the Government of India has launched the following schemes for early detection, creating awareness and treatment of cancer:—

1. Upgradation of Regional Cancer Centres in various States/UTs.
2. Development of Oncology Wing in identified Medical Colleges/Hospitals.
3. Setting up of Cobalt Therapy facilities in various parts of the country.
4. District Cancer Control Programme.
5. Financial assistance to NGOs for early detection and awareness activities. Following steps have been taken to control Dengue and Kala-azar.

Dengue:—

1. Close monitoring of the situation;
2. States are provided with material assistance like larvicides etc. for vector control as per the need;
3. Intensified information education & communication activities are undertaken by Dengue prone States/UTs for community awareness and involvement;
4. Case diagnosis and management service in identified hospitals being strengthened by the Dengue prone States/UTs;
5. Periodic reviews by an Expert Committee under the Chairpersonship of Additional Director of Health Services, Government of India with participation of experts in different fields, State representatives, NGOs etc.

Kala-azar:—

Centrally sponsored Kala-azar control programme is implemented by the States of Bihar and West Bengal with the following strategy:

1. Interruption of transmission through vector control by undertaking residual insecticidal spraying in affected areas;
2. Early diagnosis and complete treatment through primary health care system;
3. Health education and community participation in prevention and control of Kala-azar.

Statement I

Number of deaths reported due to these diseases during last three years are given below

| State | Dengue | | | Kala-azar | | |
|---------------|--------|------|------|-----------|------|------|
| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
| Delhi | 01 | 05 | 02 | 0 | 05* | 01* |
| Bihar | 0 | 0 | 0 | 251 | 215 | 253 |
| Karnataka | 04 | 03 | 0 | — | — | — |
| Maharashtra | 05 | 05 | 12 | — | — | — |
| Punjab | 03 | 0 | 01 | — | — | — |
| Rajasthan | 01 | 0 | 0 | — | — | — |
| Tamil Nadu | 21 | 05 | 02 | — | — | — |
| Uttar Pradesh | 01 | 0 | 0 | 01 | 0 | 0 |
| West Bengal | 0 | 0 | 0 | 03 | 06 | 06 |

(*Imported cases from Bihar)

Statement II

Reported Cases/Deaths due to M. Meningitis in States/UT's in India

| S.No. | State/UT | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
|-------|-------------------|----------|----------|---------|
| 1. | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 1859/125 | 2737/161 | 1110/72 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 0/0 | — | — |
| 3. | Assam | 103/4 | 44/0 | — |
| 4. | Bihar | — | — | — |
| 5. | Goa | 2/0 | 0/0 | 3/0 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 9/7 | 0/0 | 0/0 |
| 7. | Haryana | 103/6 | 101/12 | — |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 0/0 | 3/2 | 0/0 |
| 9. | Jammu & Kashmir | 10/NR | 176/NR | 34/0 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 263/38 | 248/36 | 124/7 |
| 11. | Kerala | 27/4 | 30/2 | 252/17 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 496/37 | 304/23 | 100/8 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 324/87 | 337/93 | 310/87 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------|---------------|----------|----------|----------|
| 14. | Manipur | 6/0 | 0/0 | 67/5 |
| 15. | Meghalaya | 301/4 | 0/0 | 1/0 |
| 16. | Mizoram | 0/0 | 36/7 | 16/2 |
| 17. | Nagaland | 4/0 | 0/0 | 0/0 |
| 18. | Orissa | 379/36 | 285/28 | — |
| 19. | Punjab | — | 35/0 | — |
| 20. | Rajasthan | 154/20 | 132/8 | 141/15 |
| 21. | Sikkim | 0/0 | 6/0 | 0/0 |
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | 101/5 | 46/4 | 468/2 |
| 23. | Tripura | 7/2 | 11/5 | 27/0 |
| 24. | Uttar Pradesh | 66/7 | 505/33 | 520/15 |
| 25. | West Bengal | 1586/417 | — | — |
| 26. | A&N Islands | 3/0 | 3/1 | 1/1 |
| 27. | Chandigarh | 43/13 | — | — |
| 28. | D&N Haveli | 5/2 | 3/1 | 0/0 |
| 29. | Daman & Diu | 1/0 | 0/0 | 0/0 |
| 30. | Delhi | 523/17 | 306/27 | 314/32 |
| 31. | Lakshadweep | 0/0 | 0/0 | 0/0 |
| 32. | Pondicherry | 0/0 | 0/0 | 8/2 |
| Total | | 6369/831 | 5348/443 | 3496/265 |

Source: Central Bureau of Health Intelligence, Pushap Bhawan, Delhi.
(May be verified from C.B.H.I.)

Statement III

Katihar District (Bihar)
(Central Team Visit From 29.5.2000 to 2.6.2000)

Recommendations

Short term

1. PHC Medical Officers should be trained, equipped and encouraged to carryout bone-marrow examination of Kala-zar cases. As the same is not being carried out due to various reasons, it is recommended that a central

laboratory in the district/sub-divisional hospital may be established as a reference laboratory for bone-marrow examination.

2. In a focal outbreak mobilisation of neighbouring laboratory technicians from unaffected areas to the sub centre level of the affected PHC to carry out at least Aldehyde testing on the suspected patients of Kala-azar to ensure early diagnosis and prompt treatment may be done.
3. Adequate treatment of all the suspect cases as per the national guidelines, may be ensured by maintaining Patient Treatment Cards. Defaulters should be visited to ensure compliance of treatment.

4. Sufficient quantity of 50% DDT may be made available for scheduling two rounds of DDT spray to the blocks/villages affected by Kala Azar.
5. The spray should be carried out under the direct supervision in order to achieve an adequate room coverage.
6. To intensify community awareness programmes so as to ensure community participation in increasing spray coverage, to avoid mud-plastering etc.
7. Third & Fourth rounds of DDT spray should not be advocated on technical grounds.

Long term

1. Staff vacant positions may be filled up on priority basis to enhance active case detection and monitor regular surveillance of sandflies density.
2. Orientation training courses may be conducted for Medical Officers with emphasis to adherence to national guidelines for case diagnosis and management.
3. Laboratory facilities may be developed in terms of manpower, equipments and quality reporting.
4. Staff associated with spray operation should be trained properly before spray.
5. Supplies of adequate quantity of DDT should be ensured.
6. Research studies may be conducted for primary resistance to Sodium Antimony Gluconate.

NALANDA DISTRICT (BIHAR)
(CENTRAL TEAM VISIT FROM 11.6.2000-14.6.2000)

SUGGESTIONS-made by Dte. of Anti Malaria National Programme and National Institute of Communicable Diseases.

SUGGESTIONS

1. The posts of DMO, AMO, 17 LTs (of the 18 post sanctioned), 77 Health Supervisors must be filled up immediately.
2. The spray staff should immediately be paid their pending wages to ensure their efficient involvement in requisite DDT spray during this year.
3. There should be a separate kala-azar ward in District Hospital with adequate amenities in view of high kala-zar endemicity in the district.

4. The second round spray should be started immediately to interrupt disease transmission.
5. IInd round D.D.T. spray should be done immediately in whole district and villagers should be advised that after D.D.T. spray they will not mud plaster their houses for atleast 2 to 2-1/2 months.
6. District malaria officer should be provided a vehicle for supervising the spray work.
7. Diagnostic facility should be made available at P.H.C. level.
8. P.H.C. doctors should be given Kala-Azar training for proper administration of drug.
9. Kala-Azar patient should be advised not to irregular treatment otherwise they will develop resistance.

Recommendations made by the Dte. of National Anti Malaria Programme and National Institute of Communicable Diseases

All the KA cases in the affected village belong to Musahar caste. They are mostly labourers living in dark poorly ventilated hutments. It is important that awareness about sanitation, living standards and Kala-azar has to be improved. IEC activities should be strengthened for not mud-plastering the houses after DDT spray for atleast 2-3 months.

2. Facilities should be available at PHC level for early diagnosis and treatment.
3. The vacant posts of basic health worker need to be immediately filled up and supervision improved for programme implementation.
4. Strengthening of surveillance by Health workers in the villages should be given top priority so that cases could be reported early and appropriate measures initiated in time.
5. Treatment of the cases should be available in the villages as the villagers are very far away about 10 km. in each cases. Regular supply of drugs should be ensured by the health workers.
6. Through the D.D.T. Spray was done very recently and there is no sandfly at present still it should be closely monitored of periodically by entomologist to watch the situation.
7. Laboratory diagnostic facility should be made available to the patients. It is observed that patients are to go to private clinics for diagnosis of Kala Azar cases.

8. Health Education:

Intensive I.E.C. activities should be initiated by local Health Authority regarding:

- (a) People should be informed that any patient having more than 15 days fever could be a case of Kala Azar and should be reported to Health Centre.
- (b) Village people should be informed about how the disease is transmitted by sandfly and also how it could be controlled by properly executed D.D.T. spray. They should be motivated to cooperate with the D.D.T. spray. They should be informed about the benefit of not mud plastering of the walls for atleast three months after D.D.T. spray.
- (c) They should be motivated to keep the cattle shed away from human dwelling.
- (d) They should be informed of the danger of incomplete and irregular treatment which is the main cause of death.

LUDHIANA DISTRICT (PUNJAB)
(CENTRAL TEAM VISIT FROM 20.10.1999 TO
23.10.1999)

Recommendations: made by National Anti Malaria Programme

1. As the larval index was very high in the town, the special domestic breeding survey should be carried out immediately to eliminate the breeding sources of *Aedes Mosquitoes*.
2. Containers and coolers should be treated by Temephos at weekly intervals. This exercise should be completed as early as possible to check the larval, pupal and adult population of *Aedes Mosquitoes*.
3. Malathion/Pyrethrum fogging is suggested in worst affected areas of the town.
4. Continuous sampling of *Aedes aegypti* should be carried out for implementing timely and suitable control measures.
5. The diagnosis kits should be supplied immediately in all the affected districts of the State.

Table 1: Year wise Kala-azar cases, deaths, CFR and attack rate, Batoua village, Kusheshwarsthan PHC, Darbhanga district (Bihar), 1997-99

| Year | Cases | Deaths | CFR | Attack rate |
|-------|-------|--------|------|-------------|
| 1997 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0.67 |
| 1998 | 44 | 24 | 54.5 | 8.8 |
| 1999* | 49 | 22 | 44.9 | 9.8 |

* Upto 15.9.999

Table 2: Year wise Kala-azar cases, deaths, CFR and attack rate, Missi village, Kusheshwarsthan PHC, Darbhanga district (Bihar), 1997-99.

| Year | Cases | Deaths | CFR | Attack rate |
|-------|-------|--------|-----|-------------|
| 1997 | 0 | 0 | - | 0.67% |
| 1998 | 0 | 0 | — | — |
| 1999* | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1% |

*upto 15.9.99

Investigation of Kala-azar deaths in
Darbhanga district (Bihar)

Summary report

A team from NICD Kala-azar unit, Patna underlook field investigations following news item in "Hindustan", Patna edition dated 31.8.99 reporting 250 deaths due to Kala-azar in four villages under Kusheshwarsthan PHC in Darbhanga district (Bihar). The team visited two of the affected villages (Batoua and Missi) during 13.9.1999-17.9.99. Salient observations made from the report are:

- The approach to the affected villages is very difficult. At the time of the visit, both the villages were marooned with flood water. The sanitary conditions in the area is very poor. The population of Batoua and Missi villages is 500 and 800 respectively.
- The affected PHC area is endemic for Kala-azar with about 60-100 cases being reported annually. Drug resistant cases are also commonly reported.
- Year wise cases, deaths, CFR and attack rate in Batoua and Missi villages are annexed. Comparison with previous years show a rise in number of cases in the current year though month-wise data is not available. Survey in these villages showed very high case fatality

rate (44.9%) and attack rate (9.8%) in Batoua village. However, no death has been reported from Missi village.

- Maximum cases are from 5-30 years age group. There is no significant sex differential among cases. People from low socio-economic strata are worst affected.
- Entomological investigations revealed the prevalence of vector sandfly species, *Ph. Argentipes*, per man hour density being 7.5-10.0 respectively. The DDT spray done in 1998 and 1999 was poorly executed as stated by the community.
- Community Survey was conducted in the two villages to detect and ascertain clinical presentation of cases. During this survey, 134 blood samples of Kala-azar cases and their contacts were collected for serological investigations in NICD laboratories at Delhi.
- Most of the cases are not taking treatment properly with a high dropout rate. Currently, the supply of Inj. S.A.G. is also stopped due to some technical reasons. Though local health authorities have organised camps for treating Kala-azar cases, the results are not satisfactory.
- It is recommended that proper availability of drugs and regular treatment by cases should be ensured. Epidemiological as well as entomological surveillance and control measures need to be initiated and sustained.

Erasing of Evidences for Hijacked Plane

4436. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conspiracy was hatched to erase the evidences detected in the hijacked IC-814 plane;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No evidence of any conspiracy to erase the evidences detected in the hijacked plane has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Dacoity in Forests

**4437. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:**

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

(a) whether his Ministry has asked State Government to engage the Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC), BSF or any other additional force to deal with poachers, dacoits and militants eating into the forests and national parks;

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

(c) the number of poaching, dacoity and militancy in forests that have come to the notice of the Government during the last three years with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) In view of the deteriorating law and order situation and growing insurgency in a few Tiger Reserves the proposal to deploy armed squads under 100% Central Assistance was approved by Government of India. The State Governments may engage State Armed Constabulary, Para-military forces or any other uniformed staff including forest guards and foresters for the protection of wildlife in tiger reserves.

(b) Funds released to different States for this purpose during 1999-2000 are given below:—

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| (i) Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve (Madhya Pradesh) | Rs. 5.00 Lakhs |
| (ii) Bandipur Tiger Reserve (Karnataka) | Rs. 10.00 Lakhs |
| (iii) Kalakkad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (Tamil Nadu) | Rs. 5.00 Lakhs |
| (iv) Kanha Tiger Reserve (Madhya Pradesh) | Rs. 5.00 Lakhs |
| (v) Sariska Tiger Reserve (Rajasthan) | Rs. 3.00 Lakhs |
| (vi) Indravati Tiger Reserve (Madhya Pradesh) | Rs. 15.00 Lakhs |

(c) Records regarding dacoity and militancy are not maintained in the Ministry of Environment & Forests. However the tiger poaching cases reported by the States during 1998 was 9, during 1999 was 12 and during 2000 till 15th August is 11.

[Translation]

Decline in Passengers after Alliance Air Crash

4438. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been steep decline in the number of passengers after the Alliance Air crash at Patna recently; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to dispel the fears of passengers and pilots about public airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) There has not been a steep decline in Indian Airlines passenger carriage (excluding Alliance Air) after the Alliance Air crash. The passenger carriage of all airlines drop during these months being the lean period. The average number of passengers on the Alliance Air network was 3160 per day in the fortnight 18.7.2000-31.7.2000 as compared to average passengers travelling per day at 4350 prior to the crash of aircraft VT-EGD at Patna. The passenger carriage has now improved to 3595 per day in the week 8-14th August, 2000.

(b) Alliance Air air craft are maintained as per the schedule of maintenance prescribed and approved by the Director General of Civil Aviation.

The maintenance schedule of Alliance Air have been put on the internet for greater transparency and to evoke public confidence.

[English]

Software Technology Parks

4439. SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecom Services has formulated a plan to launch Software Technology Parks (STPs) from its existing infrastructure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the location of these Software Technology Parks has been finalised;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the estimated revenue to be generated from the STPs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (e) Telecom Commission has decided that the Department of Telecom Operations may set up STPs jointly with the State Governments. The modalities being considered are provisioning of land, building, maintenance and management of STP by the State Government while DTO will offer total telecommunications solutions. Locations and other details will be worked out in consultation with the State Governments. It is not possible to project the revenue at this stage.

Joint Forest Management

4440. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA:
SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH:

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

(a) whether the Government have constituted a Committee to implement Joint Forest Management programmes to protect and conserve the forest resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof with particular reference to Maharashtra;

(c) the details of funds to be allocated for each programme;

(d) whether any Tribal has been appointed as the member of the said Committee; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (e) No, Sir. Joint Forest Management (JFM) programme is being implemented by the State Governments as per provisions of National Forest Policy, 1988. As reported by State Governments around 10.249 million ha. of forest area is being managed by 36,130 JFM committees in 22 States of the country. A JFM network has been established under the chairmanship of Inspector General of Forests & Special Secretary to ensure wider consultation with State Governments,

non Government organisations (NGO's) and other academic & research institutes. A representative of Government of Maharashtra was invited to attend the meeting of the JFM network held on 27.7.2000. People's participation is mandatory in all the afforestation schemes of the Government and during ninth plan period an amount of Rs. 477.50 crores has been earmarked by the Ministry under the centrally sponsored schemes, for afforestation activities. In the JFM network, representatives of grass root level NGO's working in the field of JFM have been appointed as its member.

PGI, Chandigarh

4441. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Punjab and Haryana Governments owe worth crores of rupees to PGI, Chandigarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to recover the same from these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per requirement of PGIMER, Chandigarh Act, 1966 the Punjab and the Haryana States were required to pay to the Institute maintenance cost of 120 beds and 80 beds respectively. The maintenance cost was increased from Rs. 11,600/- to Rs. 64,500/- per bed per annum w.e.f. 01.04.1990. However, the State Governments revised the maintenance cost from Rs. 11,600/- to Rs. 23,200/- at their own level w.e.f. 1.4.1993 and 1.4.1995 respectively instead of Rs. 64,500/- w.e.f. 1.4.1990. In view of the above facts, an amount of Rs. 502.74 lacs and Rs. 413.92 lacs is due from State Governments of Punjab and Haryana respectively. The matter has been taken up with concerned State Governments to pay arrears.

Loss of Eyes Due to Negligence of Doctors

4442. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have noticed the cases of lost of eyes by the patients during the operation due to negligence of doctors in the country;

(b) if so, the details of cases noticed so far by the Government during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have directed the State Governments to probe the incidents through CBI/CID inquiries;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the respective State Governments thereon; and

(e) the manner in which the Union Government are satisfied with the result of said inquiries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA):

(a) to (e) Cases of loss of eye during cataract surgery as reported by the State Government during the last three years are given below:—

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Maharashtra | 32 |
| Kerala | 24 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 24 |
| Orissa | 06 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 04 |
| Gujarat | 10 |

The respective State Government conducted enquiries into their incidents and necessary action was taken against official responsible for their mishaps. In Maharashtra, our ophthalmic surgeons were transferred and para-medical staff was suspended. Civil Assistant Surgeon in Andhra Pradesh has been placed under suspension. Medical Officer incharge of concerned PHC in Uttar Pradesh was suspended and strict warning was issued to operating eye Surgeon. The mishaps in Orissa and Kerala did not occur due to negligence of doctors. To prevent such mishaps in the future, Government of India issued technical guidelines to the States regarding norms and standards to be maintained in eye camps and fixed facilities providing eye care services for strict compliance. Monitoring and supervision of the Services have also been strengthened through use of standard surgical records, setting up of Sentinel Surveillance Units in various parts of the country and independent review of programme activities.

[Translation]

Setting up of New Airports

4443. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals received by the Union Government for setting up of new airports in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have conducted any survey through its own sources regarding the requirement of the airports in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Airports Authority of India had surveyed and selected the land for setting up an airport in Ajmer, Rajasthan;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the action had been initiated for the acquisition of land for the purpose and the Union Government had also expressed its desire to set up the airport in Ajmer in principle; and

(g) the reasons for changing stand in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Government has received proposals for construction of new airports at Devanhalli near Bangalore, Mopa near Goa, Shamshabad near Hyderabad, Kannur in Kerala and Ajmer in Rajasthan.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) to (g) Yes, Sir. The Airports Authority of India has conducted a survey which indicated that the project was not viable on financial parameters. Moreover, Ajmer is only 136 Kms away from an existing airport at Jaipur and under the existing policy, normally, no greenfield airport is to be developed within an aerial distance of 150 kms of an existing airport.

[English]

Cut in Internet Tariff by MTNL

4444. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited has recently announced upto 30 percent cut in Internet tariff; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. MTNL has introduced cut in internet tariffs on various categories.

(b) The details are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

The following are the tariffs of various internet services of MTNL

TCP/IP PSTN Dial up accounts:

1. TCP/IP PSTN Dial up plan:

| Type of Plan | Duration (in hours) | Charges prior to 21.6.2000 | | Charges w.e.f 21.6.2000 for new a/c & Renewal also |
|--------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------|--|
| | | For new a/c | For Renewal | |
| Plan I | 100 hours | 1600 | 1500 | 500 |
| Plan II | 250 hours | 3500 | 3300 | 1000 |
| Plan III | 500 hours | 5500 | 5100 | 1500 |

* No Registration Fee * Valid for Lifetime.

* 2MB Memory Space will be given free for individual Web Page.

2. PSTN Dial up Unlimited usage plan:

| Type of Plan | Duration (in months) | MTNL's Charges | |
|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| | | Prior to 21.6.2000 (in Rs.) | w.e.f. 21.6.2000 |
| Plan IV | One month | 1000 | 200 |
| Plan V | Three months | 2500 | 500 |
| Plan VI | Six months | 4000 | 1100 |
| Plan VII | Twelve months | 6000 | 2000 |

* No Registration Fees * 4E Mail Ids will be given with 4MB Memory Space *2MB Memory Space will be given free for individual Web Page

TCP/IP ISDN Dial up accounts

3. TCP/IP ISDN Dial up Plan:

| Type of Plan | duration (in hours) | MTNL's Charges (in Rs.) | | | |
|--------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|
| | | Tariff for 64 Kbps | | Tariff for 128 Kbps | |
| | | Prior to w.e.f. | | Prior to w.e.f. | |
| | | 21.6.2000 | 21.6.2000 | 21.6.2000 | 21.6.2000 |
| Plan VIII | 100 | 3000 | 1000 | 6000 | 2000 |
| Plan IX | 250 | 7000 | 2000 | 14000 | 4000 |
| Plan X | 500 | 12500 | 3000 | 25000 | 6000 |

*No Registration fee *Valid for Lifetime

*4MB Memory Space will be given free for individual Web Page

4. TCP/IP ISDN Flat usage Plan:

| Type of Plan | | MTNL's charges for 64 kbps (in Rs.) | | MTNL's charges for 128 Kbps (in Rs.) | |
|--------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| | | Prior to w.e.f. | | Prior to w.e.f. | |
| | | 21.6.2000 | 21.6.2000 | 21.6.2000 | 21.6.2000 |
| Plan XI | 25 per hour | 5 per hour | 30 per hour | 10 per hour | |

*This plan is applicable for minimum subscription of 1000 hours and above in 100 hours slabs.

*No Registration fee

*Valid for lifetime.

*4 MB Memory Space will be given free for individual Web Page. *Four E Mail Ids with 8 MB Memory space.

Pilot error responsible for Crash

4445. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Commercial Pilots Association (ICPA) took strong exception to the remarks by senior civil aviation officials for suggesting that pilot error was responsible for the crash of Alliance-Air Plane;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the further steps likely to be taken by the Government on the demand of ICPA?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) No formal reference has been received from Indian Commercial Pilots Association (ICPA). A Court of Inquiry has been appointed under Rule 75 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, to hold investigation into the cause of the accident to Alliance Air aircraft near Patna airport on 17th July, 2000.

Constitution of Committee on Telecom & I.T. Convergence

4446. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Group on Telecom and Information Technology convergence has constituted a Committee for suggesting a mechanism for fast clearance of right of way;

(b) if so, the details thereof and composition of the Group; and

(c) the time by which said Group is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The said Committee for recommending measures for fast Right of Way clearance mechanism and model arrangement to be followed by all States, was set up under the chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Telecom with its Members as Secretaries of the Ministries of Information Technology, Surface Transport, Environment & Forests, Railways, and Chief Secretaries (or their nominees) of the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra. The Committee has submitted its report.

Clearance to Anandgarh

4447. SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punjab Government has obtained necessary clearance for acquiring forest lands for its proposed project of building a new city Anandgarh on the periphery of the Union Territory of Chandigarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have made any inquiry into the forest land proposed to be acquired for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The Ministry has not received any such proposal from Government of Punjab for getting forest clearance under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. However, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Punjab had met Minister, Environment & Forests to discuss the issue.

The State has held only a prior consultation with the Government of India for preparing a proposal seeking approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 from the Central Government.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Ban on Toxic Waste

4448. SHRI RASHID ALVI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently banned import of toxic waste used for recycling and dumping in the country by the affluent waste;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether studies carried out by the Government of Singapore at Alanag scrap yards shows gross metallic contamination which explains the heavy health problems and death for the workers and families who lives amongst the ship wreck operations; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) As per the Hazardous Waste

(Management and Handling) Rules, 1989, amended 2000, no toxic wastes are allowed to be imported in to the country for dumping or recycling. Import of recyclable wastes listed in List B (Annexure IX) of the Basel Convention are, however, permitted for recycling on a case to case basis to units registered with the Ministry of Environment & Forests.

(c) According to the Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) and Ministry of Steel, no such studies carried out by the Government of Singapore at Alang Scrap yards, have been brought to the notice of the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

Anaemia Among Children

4449. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 67% of the Delhi's Children below the age of three years are suffering from anaemia;

(b) if so, whether the survey has revealed that such conditions also prevail in other States in the country, which have lower prevalence of anaemia amongst children as compared to Delhi;

(c) if so, the details in this regard, alongwith the names of the States; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to create awareness among the people and remove this ailment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) to (d) As per the National Family Health Survey-2 (1998-1999), 69% of children under three years of age in Delhi, were found to have anaemia. The percentages of anaemic children under three years of age in other States is shown in the statement enclosed.

Under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme Iron and Folic acid tablets are distributed to children in the age group 1-5 years for prevention and treatment of anaemia.

Promotion of exclusive breastfeeding upto the age of 4-6 months and appropriate complementary feeding is being done to improve the nutritional status of children. Consumption of iron rich foods is being promoted as a part of the information, education and communication effort.

Statement

Prevalence of Anaemia in Children

| State | Percent of Children Age under 3 years with any Anaemia (#) |
|-------------------|--|
| Delhi | 69.0 |
| Haryana | 83.9 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 69.9 |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 71.1 |
| Punjab | 80.0 |
| Rajasthan | 82.3 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 75.0 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 73.9 |
| Bihar | 81.3 |
| Orissa | 72.3 |
| West Bengal | 78.3 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 84.2 |
| Assam | 63.2 |
| Manipur | 44.1 |
| Meghalaya | 64.1 |
| Mizoram | 53.9 |
| Nagaland | 41.4 |
| Sikkim | 76.5 |
| Goa | 53.4 |
| Gujarat | 74.5 |
| Maharashtra | 76.0 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 72.3 |
| Karnataka | 70.6 |
| Kerala | 43.9 |
| Tamil Nadu | 69.0 |

Anaemia was measured using portable equipment (the HemoCue) to assess haemoglobin levels.

Source: National Family Health Survey-2, (1998-99)

Population Stabilisation

4450. SHRI JAI BHADRA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has recently announced that contributors of the National Population Stabilisation fund will be entitled to income-tax rebates;

(b) if so, whether in the meeting of the 'Jumbo' the National Commission on Population also announced that non-Government representatives would be associated with the management of this fund; and

(c) if so, the details regarding this new National Commission on Population alongwith its composition and functions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. At the first meeting of the National Commission on Population held on 22nd July, 2000, it was announced that non-governmental representatives will be associated with the National Population Stabilisation Fund.

(c) Resolution dated 11th May, 2000 by which the National Commission on Population was set up is enclosed as statement. The composition and functions of the Commission are given in the Resolution.

Statement

Planning Commission

Yojana Bhawan, Sansad Marg,
New, Delhi, 11th May, 2000

RESOLUTION

India was the first country to recognise that population stabilisation is an essential prerequisite for sustainable development and formulated a National Family Planning Programme in 1952. During the next two decades, the country will have to face the challenge and utilise the opportunity provided by the current phase of demographic transition to rapidly achieve both population stabilisation and sustainable achievement in human development. There is an urgent need for planners, programme implementors and the people themselves to expedite this process by focusing on promoting synergy between demographic, educational, environmental and developmental programmes in order to achieve this goal.

To provide overall guidance to this national effort, the Government of India has decided to constitute a NATIONAL COMMISSION ON POPULATION, as under, with immediate effect:—

Chairman

Prime Minister of India

Vice Chairman

Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission

Members

Union Minister incharge of Education

Union Minister incharge of Environment and Forests

Union Minister incharge of Finance

Union Minister incharge of Health and Family Welfare

Union Minister incharge of Information and Broadcasting

Union Minister incharge of Rural Development

Union Minister incharge of Social Justice and Empowerment

Union Minister incharge of Urban Development

Union Minister incharge of Women and Child Development

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha

Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha

Chief Ministers of All States/Union Territories

Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha

Leader of Bharatiya Janata Party (Shri Kusha Bhau Thakre)

Leader of Communist Party of India (Shri A.B. Bardhan)

Leader of Indian National Congress (Smt. Sonia Gandhi, M.P.)

Leader of Nationalist Congress Party (Shri Sharad Pawar, M.P.)

Leader of Janata Dal (United) (Shri Sharad Yadav, M.P.)

Mrs. Margaret Alva, Member of Parliament

Shri Purno Sangma, Member of Parliament

Smt. Shabana Azmi, Member of Parliament

Shri Vinod Khanna, Member of Parliament

President, Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry of India

| | |
|---|--|
| President, Confederation of Indian Industries | Dr. Mahip Singh |
| President, Editors Guild of India | Shri Mammen Mathew, Malayalam Manorma |
| President, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry | Professor Mohd. Amin, Ex. VC., Jamia Hamdard |
| President, Federation of Obst. & Gyna. Society of India, FOGSI | Ms. Mohsina Kidwai |
| President, Indian Medical Association | Shri Narayana Murthy |
| President, Indian Newspapers Society | Shri Narendra Mohan, Dainik Jagaran |
| President, Indian Nursing Council | Dr. Neena Puri, President, FPIA |
| Representative, Jain T.V. (Dr. J.K. Jain) | Mrs. Neidonud Angami, President, 'Naga Mothers' Association |
| President, Medical Council of India | Shri N. Ravi, The Hindu |
| Representative, STAR T.V. (Shri Prannoy Roy) | Dr. N.S. Deodhar, Pune |
| Representative, SUN T.V. | Ms. Padma Sachdeva |
| Representative, ZEE T.V. (Shri Subhash Chandra) | Shri Prabhash Joshi, Jansatta |
| Professor Abad Ahmed | Dr. Pravin Visaria, Director, IEG, Delhi |
| Mr. Abhay Bang, SEARCH, Gadchiroli | Shri P.N. Tripathi, AVARD |
| Shri A.C. Muthiah | Shri Qari M.M. Majari, Urdu, Secular Qayadat |
| Shri Alok Mukhopadhyay, Chairman, VHAI | Ms. Quatarlain Haider |
| Shri Alyque Padamsee | Ms. Ragni Ben Banwari, Seva Ashram, UP |
| Dr. A. Vaidyanathan, Madras Institute of Development Studies | Dr. Rajnikant Arole, Jamkhed Project, Ahmednagar |
| Shri Aveek Sarkar, Telegraph | Ms. Rami Chhabra |
| Dr. Banoo Coyaji, Director, KEM Hospital, Rastapet | Shri Ramoji Rao, ENNADU |
| Shri Barun Sengupta, Bartman | Ms. Rani Bang, SEARCH, Gadchiroli. |
| Dr. Darshan Shankar (ISM), President, Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions. | Shri Ratan Tata |
| Dr. E.K. Iqbal, KSSP | Shri R. Srinivasan, Ex. Health Secretary |
| Smt. Ela Bhatt, SEWA, Ahmedabad | Dr. Saroj Pachauri, Regional Dir. South and South East Asia Population Council |
| Smt. Imrana Qadir, Professor, Population Studies, JNU, New Delhi | Ms. Sharmila Tagore |
| Ms. Jaya Jaitley | Ms. Sheema Rizvi, MLC, UP |
| Ms. Jayanti Natarajan | Dr. Sudarshan (Right Livelihood Awardee), Mysore |
| Shri K. Gopalakrishna, President, JANANI | Prof. Sundar Lal, Rohtak Medical College, Indian Association of Preventive and Social Medicine |
| Dr. K. Srinivasan, President, Indian Association for Study of Population | Dr. Susheela Nayyar, Gandhi Medical College, Wardha |
| | Prof. Swapna Mukhopadhyay, IEG, Institute of Social Studies Trust |
| | Smt. Thelma Narayan, International Health Network of WHO |

Dr. Trilochan Singh

Dr. V.H. Pai Panandhikar, Centre for Policy Research

Member Secretary

Smt. Krishna Singh, Planning Commission

2. In addition to the above composition, the following shall be Permanent Invitees to the Commission:—

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister

Cabinet Secretary

Secretary to the Prime Minister

Secretary, Department of Elementary Education

Secretary, Department of Family Welfare

Secretary, Finance

Secretary, Development of Health

Secretary, Department of Higher and Technical Education

Secretary/Member Secretary, Planning Commission

Secretary, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment

Secretary, Department of Women and Child Development

Joint Secretary to the Prime Minister (Incharge of Health and Family Welfare)

3. The terms of reference of the Commission shall be as under:—

- (i) To review, monitor and give directions for the implementation of the National Population Policy with a view to meeting the goals set out in the Policy.
- (ii) To promote synergy between demographic, educational, environmental and developmental programmes so as to hasten population stabilization.
- (iii) To promote inter-sectoral coordination in planning and implementation across Government agencies of the Central and State Governments, to involve the civil society and the private sector and to explore the possibilities of international cooperation in support of the goals set out in the Policy.
- (iv) To facilitate the development of a vigorous people's movement in support of this national effort.

4. If necessary, the Commission may associate any Expert Body or person in pursuance of its objectives. The Commission shall normally meet twice every year or

as often as may be considered necessary. The Commission may constitute Working Groups/Task Forces to plan and strategise initiatives necessary to implement the Population Policy.

5. The Secretariat to the Commission shall be located in the Planning Commission.

6. In the matters relating to the grant of TA/DA to the Non-Official Members of the Commission for attending meetings etc. of the Commission or its sub-groups, the expenditure will be borne by the Planning Commission and the necessary payment shall be made by it as per the rules Governing grant of TA/DA to Non-Official Members. In the case of Official Members of the Commission, they will draw TA/DA from their respective Offices.

Sd/-

(N.C. Saxena)

Secretary to the Govt. of India

Zudpi Jungle Land

4451. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Zudpi-jungle land in Maharashtra was earlier belonged to the Revenue Department;

(b) if so, whether in Amravati Division of Maharashtra, the Zudpi-jungle land still belongs to the revenue Department;

(c) if so, whether the Zudpi-jungle land in Nagpur Division of Maharashtra, is shown as property of Forest Department and the Forest Department is having its claim over it;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to hand over the Zudpi-jungle land in Nagpur division in Maharashtra to the Revenue Department like Zudpi-jungle land in Amravati division in Maharashtra; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (f) The Zudpi-jungle land, falling in the five districts of Maharashtra namely Bhandara, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli, Nagpur and Wardha belonged to the Revenue Department and still continues to be with the Revenue Department. However, provisions of the Forests (Conservation) Act, 1980 is applicable over such

lands as they are classified as "forest" in the revenue records. State Government requires prior approval of this Ministry under the Act, in case it is to be diverted for non-forestry purposes. Ministry, while according approval, stipulates that such Zudpi lands which have been offered for compensatory afforestation, should be transferred to the Forest Department for notifying as Reserved Forest/ Protected Forest under the provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927.

Pollution Level at IGIA

4452. SHRI SAHIB SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey have been conducted to ascertain the volume of Air, Water and Noise pollution at IGIA; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Clearance to Roads for Petrol Pumps

4453. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is not providing approach roads for the petrol pumps being allotted in NH/SH under Kargil plan and social category;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to take up the matter with the respective States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) The Ministry has been receiving proposals from the State Government seeking permission for construction of approach roads for petrol pumps along the NH/SH and the same are being decided under the framework of the Rules and Guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. However, instructions have been issued to Regional Offices of the Ministry to consider such requests sympathetically and expeditiously if they pertain to Kargil plan and social category.

Construction of Hotel and Shops In Digha Coastal Zone

4454. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of large number of hotels and shops within Digha Coastal Zone in West Bengal in utter violation of Government guideline that no construction is allowed within 500 metres of the high water-line;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government is going to take up the matter with the State Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (d) Construction of some hotels and shops/stalls in the Coastal Regulation Zone in Digha in violation of the provisions of the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 has been reported. Government of West Bengal has initiated steps against these unauthorised constructions in Coastal Regulation Zone in Digha. The steps include issue of demolition notices to illegal hotels and action to remove unauthorised shops/stalls.

Non-Recovery of Income Tax

4455. SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per Income Tax Act, 1961 as amended by the Finance Acts of subsequent year, it enjoins on all postal authorities responsible for making payment on account of (i) payment of lease rentals on leased buildings exceeding Rs. 1.20 lakh per annum to deduct Income tax at source at 20 per cent of the amount paid and (ii) withdrawal under National Saving Scheme (NSS);

(b) if so, whether there have been cases where this mandatory provision has not been followed resulting into non-recovery of lakhs and lakhs of rupees from January, 1994 to May, 1998; and

(c) if so, the details of all those cases together with action taken in the matter?

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

(b) and (c) Income tax is being completely deducted at the time of withdrawal under National Savings Scheme. Reply in respect of tax deduction at source from lease rent being paid by the department shall be submitted in due course as the required information is being collected from all over the country.

Polluted Toxins

4456. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Highway No. 24 connects the capital with Lucknow and passes through Gajraula, among other towns;

(b) if so, many commuters are exposed to high level of toxic odours emanating from a chemical factory called vam organics, on this route;

(c) the level of pollutants and toxic gases released by said unit in the environment; and

(d) the remedial steps being taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) M/s. Vam Organic Chemicals Ltd. (VOCL) manufactures industrial grade alcohol and also produces a number of organic chemicals using alcohol as the raw material. The chemical plants of VOCL generate odour causing gases during the various processes and operations. The ambient levels of sulphur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen, flouride and suspended particulate matter are ranging from 2.5 to 73.6 microgram per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), 1 to 7.3 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, 0.33 to 7.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and 151 to 412 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ respectively.

(d) The Government issued directions under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to VOCL and pursuant to the directions, the industry has taken following steps:—

- Restricting the production of alcohol to 260 kilo litre per day to match the capacity of existing treatment plant;
- Desludging the river Bagad for reducing colour and odour problem;
- Installation of a plant to recover sulphur from bio-gas; and

- Installation of facilities for collection and incineration of odourous volatile organic gases and vapours.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.
 - (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, together with Audit Report thereon.
 - (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library See LT 2251/2000]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table of a copy of the Aircraft (First Amendment) Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 86 in Gazette of India dated the 11th March, 2000 under section 14A of the Aircraft Act, 1934 together with an Explanatory Note.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2252/2000]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 26 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:—

(i) The Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling, (Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. S.O. 201(E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th March, 2000.

(ii) The Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) (Second Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. S.O. 545(E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd June, 2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2253/2000]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

“(1) A copy of the Employees Deposit-Linked Insurance (Amendment) Scheme, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 238 in Gazette of India dated the 24th June, 2000 under sub-section (2) of section 7 of the Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.”

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2254/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Prevention of Food Adulteration (Second Amendment) Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 501(E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th May, 2000, under sub-section (2) of section 23 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2255/2000]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Biologicals, New Delhi, for the year 1992-93, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Biologicals, New Delhi, for the year 1992-93.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2256/2000]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Biologicals, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Biologicals, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94.

(5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2257/2000]

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Biologicals, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Biologicals, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95.

(7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2258/2000]

(8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Biologicals, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Biologicals, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

(9) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (8) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2259/2000]

(10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Biologicals, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Biologicals, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.

(11) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (10) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2260/2000]

(12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Biologicals, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Biologicals, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

(13) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (12) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2261/2000]

(14) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Biologicals, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Biologicals, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

(15) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (14) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2262/2000]

(16) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Biologicals, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Biologicals, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2263/2000]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited and the Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecom Services) for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2264/2000]

(2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Telecommunications Consultants India Limited and the Department of Telecom Services for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2265/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 296 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th February, 1964 appointing the 29th day of February, 1964 as the date on which the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 to come into force, issued under sub-section (2) of section 1 of the said Act.

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963:—

(i) The Major Port Trusts (Adoption of Rules) Regulations, 1964 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 297 in Gazette of India dated the 28th February, 1964.

(ii) The Cochin Port Employees (Temporary Service) Regulations, 1964 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 311 in Gazette of India dated the 24th February, 1964.

- (iii) The Cochin Port Employees (Leave Travel Concession) Regulations, 1964 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 312 in Gazette of India dated the 24th February, 1964.
- (iv) The Cochin Port Employees (Conduct) Regulations, 1964 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 313 in Gazette of India dated the 24th February, 1964.
- (v) The Cochin Port Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Regulations, 1964 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 314 in Gazette of India dated the 24th February, 1964.
- (vi) The Cochin Port (Authorisation of Pilots) Regulations, 1964 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 316 in Gazette of India dated the 24th February, 1964.
- (vii) The Cochin Port Employees (General Provident Fund) Regulations, 1964 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 318 in Gazette of India dated the 24th February, 1964.
- (viii) The Cochin Port Employees (Classification, Control and Appeal) Regulations, 1964 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 319 in Gazette of India dated the 24th February, 1964.
- (ix) The Cochin Port Employees (Retirement) Regulation, 1977 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 750 in Gazette of India dated the 10th June, 1978.
- (x) G.S.R. 644 (E) Published in Gazette of India dated the 31st July, 2000 approving the Tuticorin Port Employees (Leave) Second Amendment Regulations, 2000.
- (xi) G.S.R. 652 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th August, 2000 approving the Cochin Port Employees, (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2000.
- (xii) G.S.R. 558(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd June, 2000 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 603(E) dated the 7th October, 1998.
- (xiii) G.S.R. 650(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th August, 2000 approving the Madras Port Trust Employees' (Appointment, Promotion, etc.) Amendment Regulation, 2000.
- (3) A copy each of the following Notification (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 122 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963:—
- (i) The Major Port Trusts (Procedure at Board Meetings) Rules, 1981 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 725 in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 1981.
- (ii) The Major Port Trusts payment of Fees and Allowances to Trustees Rules, 1981 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 134 in Gazette of India dated the 6th February, 1982.
- (4) A Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1), 2) from item No. (i) to (ix) and (3) above.
- [Placed in Library See No. LT 2267/2000]
- (5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section (10) of the National Highways Act, 1956:—
- (i) S.O. 35(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th January, 2000 directing that the functions in relation to the execution of works relating to the Development or maintenance of the National Highway described in the Notification shall also be exercisable by the State Government subject to certain conditions.
- (ii) S.O. 195(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th March, 2000 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.R.O. 1181 dated the 4th April, 1957.
- (iii) S.O. 355(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th April, 2000 omitting the National Highway No. 4B from the Schedule to the National Highway No. 4B from the Schedule to the National Highways Act, 1956.
- (iv) S.O. 356 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th April, 2000 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.R.O. 1181 dated the 4th February, 1957.
- (v) S.O. 357 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th April, 2000 declaring the highways specified in the Notification to be national highways.

[Place in Library, See No. LT 2266/2000]

- (vi) S.O. 358(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th April, 2000 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.R.O. 1181 dated the 4th February, 1957.
- (vii) S.O. 479(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th May, 2000 directing that the functions in relation to the execution of works relating to the development or maintenance of the National Highways mentioned in the Notification shall also be exercisable by the State Government concerned.
- (viii) S.O. 605 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th June, 2000 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.R.O. 1181 dated the 4th April, 1957.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2268/2000]

- (6) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 196(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th March, 2000 entrusting the stretches of National Highways to National Highway Authority of India.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2269/2000]

- (7) A copy of the Inland Waterways Authority of India (Joining Time) Regulations, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 260 in Gazette of India dated the 8th July, 2000 under section 36 of the Inland Waterways Authority of India Act, 1985.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2270/2000]

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

12.02 hrs.

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 115 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 18th of August, 2000, agreed to the following amendment made by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 16th August, 2000, in the Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Layout-Design Bill, 2000:—

CLAUSE 2

Page 3, line 7,—

for "Vice Chairman" means the Vice Chairman'

substitute "Vice Chairperson" means the Vice Chairman"

12.02 2 1/2 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

Statement

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): I beg to lay on the Table a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing Action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in chapter I and final replies in respect of recommendations contained in Chapter V of Third Report of Committee on Public Undertakings (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on Power Finance Corporation Limited.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want your protection. As I said just now Sir, I always act as per the instructions of the Speaker and will continue to do so.

MR. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh ji, please instruct your members not to come in the Well.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: From whom will the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs seek report, I demand an enquiry by Lok Sabha Committee in this matter. Not only the Election Commissioners have given adverse remark against the said two officers but the Election Commissioner of U.P. Panchayat Raj has also recommended for transfer of the said officers. Still, he is waiting for the report to come. When they are being shielded by the Chief Minister himself, who will give you the genuine report? Election Commissioner of U.P. had written to the Chief Secretary of the State for immediate transfer of the two officers because in his view free and fair election was not possible if they continued.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue raised by Shri Mulayam Singh has been making headlines in all the newspapers of

Uttar Pradesh. It is not a new development. During the elections, the Election Commission also wrote to the Government of U.P. that the conduct of the two said officers was not impartial and other set of officers should be appointed in their place. Despite this, the U.P. Government did nothing this regard. In the recent incident which took place in Etah in which the books and photographs from Samajwadi Party Office were thrown out, it is not known whether all the belongings have been thrown out or taken away. If this really happens then I think that already tense situation of the area is being further vitiated which is not good. I would like to suggest the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to send a Committee consisting of 3-5 Members from ruling and opposition parties to the place to take stock of the situation if Shri Mulayam Singh requests.

I do not see anything objectionable in it. I do not want everyone to go there. One or two persons from the ruling party and one or two persons like Somnath Chatterjee from the opposition parties may go there to take stock of the situation and give their report. If the Government not act even after the report of Election Commissioner, then it indicates that the situation is grim.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): I suggest that during the lunch recess, you please call a meeting. Then, we can take a decision. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, this feeling is there because of the remarks of the Election Commission about the two officers. The matter has been raised here last Friday by Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav against those officers. To get a report from them will not carry any conviction. Therefore, a suggestion has been made. I am requesting the Minister to consider that.

It seems that even the Lok Tantrik Congress has said that this is a serious matter on which they have expressed their protest. And they have expressed their concern. They say that the Samajwadi Party is correct on this. I am sure that there is no love lost between them. But even then, they have supported that. Therefore, this matter may be taken up very seriously.

MR. SPEAKER: We will discuss it in my chamber.

[Translation]

Please sit down.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much. I wish to bring certain things to the notice of the entire House through you. Today, Andhra Pradesh is witnessing a sad and shocking spectacle. More than 90 MLAs have gone on an indefinite fast. ...*(Interruptions)* The health condition of some of the MLAs is not good. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except Shri Jaipal Reddy's speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, no; I have allowed Shri Jaipal Reddy.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: The point I am making, is that this is the culmination of three month old agitation in which millions of people of Andhra Pradesh participated and yet, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has been displaying monumental insensitivity and dictatorial obstinacy in the matter.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: We are encroaching on the rights of the State Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy, this is a State subject. The Assembly is also in session.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, the Congress Party is playing double standards in this country...*(Interruptions)*. Please listen to me Sir.

SHRI. S. JAIPAL REDDY: Let them be given an opportunity of responding to me...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I am appealing to you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you want to put forward anything, I will allow you after him. Now, I have allowed Shri S. Jaipal Reddy.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Not now, please. Shri Yerrannaidu, you can speak later on.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy, please understand it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy, you are a senior parliamentarian. Please understand that this is entirely a State matter. The State Assembly is also in Session, how can we discuss the State matter here? You please tell me first.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you want to discuss everything in the Lok Sabha, what will be the contribution of State Assembly? Please understand this.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): Sir, this is an unprecedented case. Sir, never in the history of this country, 95 Members of a Legislative Assembly have gone on hunger strike...(Interruptions) The condition of a Member is very serious and he has to be admitted to the hospital...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am asking a question to Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, under what rule can you discuss a matter relating to a State Assembly in the Lok Sabha?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please tell me the rule first.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, here the Central Government is involved and secondly the price of electricity has been increased. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, they have no right to say this in the House. They themselves initiated reforms. They should appreciate first. ...(Interruptions) They are playing double standards. They are initiating reforms in Orissa and Rajasthan and here they are questioning Andhra Pradesh...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, you asked me a question, let me answer them. ...(Interruptions) Sir, the Central Government is involved in this case...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, you have called his name, let he be allowed to speak. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I called his name but I asked him a question, under what rule can he raise this matter in the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, I am replying to that only. The Central Government has cleared a loan for the Andhra Pradesh Government, thereby the Central Government is involved in this...(Interruptions) Secondly, the Central Electricity Authority have cleared the power project and thus involved in it...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Yerrannaidu, please understand, if you want to speak you can speak later. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, I would like to know under what rule he can raise a State matter in the House...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Yerrannaidu, I have also put the same question to him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand, what message are we sending to the State Assembly? This is a matter relating to a State.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam): Sir, some people have been beaten by the police there...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, the Central Government is involved, the Central Electricity Authority is involved...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

12.16 hrs.

At this stage, Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions) *

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Stop the telecast.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please go back to your seats. This is not the way.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have permitted Shri Jaipal Reddy and heard him also. Please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

12.18 hrs.

At this stage, Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing to all the hon. Members to go back to their seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy, please hear me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raghunath Jha, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri M.V.V.S. Murthi, please take your seat. I am on my legs. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy, are we to discuss the State matter in the House? Please hear me first.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The national issues have to be discussed in the Parliament. How can we discuss the State matter in this House? Under what provision and under what rule, can you raise this matter here? That too, when the Assembly is in Session, how can you raise this matter here? What signal are you going to send to the Assembly?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, you have raised a question and I have not given the answer. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, the State Government entered into a clandestine agreement with the World Bank through the good office of the Central Government. The situation has also been aggravated on account of the over invoice projects which were cleared by the Central Electricity Authority...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: I am asking the Congress Party. What is their policy?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: They are talking of Andhra Pradesh. They are a national Party. They should have one policy. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Yerranna, please sit down. I will give you a chance after he has spoken, and not now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I am not being allowed to answer.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy, please conclude. There are other matters also.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): He should not raise that matter. How can he raise it?...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury, this is too much.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the State Government has entered into a clandestine agreement with the World Bank through the good office of the Central Government.

Secondly, a part of the problem is because the Central Electricity Authority of India has cleared the project cost of many Independent Power Producers...(Interruptions) Therefore, the Central Government is fully involved in the matter. We are not opposing the reforms per se...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: How can you discuss the matter which took place long back? It was a decision taken by the State and Central Governments long back.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I know. But the problem is coming because of that. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are a senior Member. You have to address the Chair. You please address the Chair. Under what rule, can we discuss this matter? That is a decision which was taken long back. How can we discuss this matter?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Any decision of Government of India should be examined and scrutinised by Parliament. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except the submission of Shri Jaipal Reddy.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Any decision of the Government of India or any action of the institutions of

the Government of India should be scrutinised by Parliament. The House should not be indifferent to the situation in Andhra Pradesh. The situation in Andhra Pradesh is very, very serious. It calls for the intervention by the House...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There are other matters also. Please conclude.

Now, Shri Yerrannaidu.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Yerrannaidu, please wait for a minute.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy, please finish your speech.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: He may be allowed to complete his speech.

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, you should not dictate the Chair as to how to run the House. You are giving a direction. It is too much. You are giving a direction to the Chair. You are not supposed to give a direction to the Speaker. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: So, the Government of India cannot remain unconcerned, nor can Parliament of India be a mute spectator. At any rate, all these things are covered by the Central Electricity Act...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy, please conclude.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: They are also standing on their legs. Will you kindly ask them to resume their seats? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please complete.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, today in Andhra Pradesh, there is a very astonishing thing taking place. Today, the situation is very grim in Andhra Pradesh.

MR. SPEAKER: You have already raised the matter.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Parliament has no role to discuss a State matter...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: They should be allowed to speak.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Congress is a national Party. They should have one in this country. They created the electricity reforms in this country. They initiated it in Orissa. They initiated it in Madhya Pradesh. They initiated it in Karnataka...(Interruptions)

What Shri Janardhana Reddy and Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury are saying is politically motivated. ...(Interruptions) They want to make political capital out of it.

12.26 hrs.

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

MR. SPEAKER: I am also calling their names. Please understand. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanji, Bihar): When will I get a chance to speak?

MR. SPEAKER: I shall call everyone.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: It will be a new precedent in this House.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat, Shri Yerrannaidu. Whoever has given their names, I am calling their names. Please understand. Now please go to your seats.

Shri Janardhana Reddy and Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury can also associate with Shri Jaipal Reddy. They have also given a notice on the same subject. He has also raised the same matter.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There are others also. This is not the only issue today. I have a number of other Members also to speak; please understand. Please resume your seats. Shri Yerrannaidu, please take your seat.

12.27 hrs.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Janardhana Reddy.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: This problem has been represented to the State Government and finally the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh today has gone on record, in today's newspapers that it is not in his hands. That means he has lost it from his hands!...(Interruptions) Whom can we approach?

MR. SPEAKER: Again, you are raising it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury can also associate herself with him.

Hon. Members, please take your seats. Your leader Shri Yerrannaidu is there. Please take your seats.

Now Shri Janardhana Reddy please. He can associate with what Shri Jaipal Reddy has said.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: My friends are saying that it is a State subject. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh now says "I wash my hands and it is not in my hands now". Whom should we go and approach? If a State Chief Minister says that he has washed his hands, what is to be done? Ninety-five MLAs are on a *Dhama*. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are not going to discuss MLA's matter here.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Is it democracy? ...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: How can you discuss all these things here? The State Government is there to look after the law and order problem. You are also a former Chief Minister.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: this will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury, you raised the matter. I heard it You can also associate with Shri Jaipal Reddy and Shri Janardhana Reddy.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: I have got another point also.

MR. SPEAKER: You please understand. How can you discuss it? The Assembly is there. It is in Session.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: I want to lay some facts on the Table of the House. An undertaking was given by the State Government about three years ago for a project costing about Rs. 3,00,000 crore. These were the clauses for the loan to be given to the State Government. ...(Interruptions)

Huge sums have been accumulated for the past five years in the name of hi-tech city whereas not a single mw of power has been added to the State. ...(Interruptions) There is a gross human rights violation. Women have been representing in protest against it. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, this is not correct. Please give me a chance to explain the position.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, I would...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, I want to say...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, she has no right to raise this issue here. In fact, they have no moral right to raise this issue. They are adopting double standards. In Karnataka, in Madhya Pradesh and in Rajasthan, electricity rates have been hiked. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, as a protest, we are walking out of the House.

12.31 hrs.

At this stage, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and some other hon. Members left the House.

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? I have called Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, many of us in this House have been saying...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk): Mr. Speaker Sir, Congress stages a collective drama and then walk out and listens to none. It is shameful for Congress party...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, this problem arises when State issues are raised here. Now, I find that Shri Somaiya is shouting; our friends from this side are also shouting. ...(Interruptions) Therefore, this problem will arise in this House. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Sir, he is trying to score a point. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir. I want to raise an important issue during Zero Hour. He is wasting the time of the House...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall call everyone to speak.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We have been appealing to all sections of the House. I know there are tensions and problems in different States. We are becoming different State Assemblies here from time to

time. My hon. friend from Telugu Desam very seriously objected to the State issues being raised here today. But do not forget it please. Therefore, these problems will arise. ...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, my only request...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: This is a Legislature issue, not a State issue. It should be demarcated. It is a State Legislature issue. It cannot be discussed here. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, if we selectively follow that procedure, then it creates problems. Now, Members feel encouraged to raise State issues here because many a State issue are being raised here in spite of our objections. ...*(Interruptions)*

When I talk of selective responses, our young and ebullient hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs gets upset. This is what happens. There are many important issues, I know. Also, our party Member has joined the strike...*(Interruptions)* I did not raise it although our party Members are participating in this hunger strike. That is an important matter and they will solve it. I would like to know from the Government whether the World Bank has any role to play in this matter. I have nothing else to ask. Therefore, let that matter be clarified. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Somnath Babu has uttered my name. So, I should be allowed to speak.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: If I had to support the Congress all through, then I would have gone out with them. But the Government also should behave. What is happening to this country in economic matters also is important, on which a very serious discussion should take place.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would like to say that the Andhra Pradesh Assembly Session is going on in Hyderabad. All the Congress MLAs there are suspended. They stalled the proceedings continuously for five days. That is why, the Speaker has taken this decision...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Here also we have to adopt that method in the remaining days. Otherwise it is very difficult to run the House.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: That is welcome, Sir.

Sir, Congress is a national party. They initiated the reforms in this country. The then Orissa Chief Minister, Shri J.B. Patnaik initiated the electricity reforms first in his State. After that, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka also did the same thing. Now, under the Electricity Regulatory Authority, under the law, the Andhra Pradesh Government has taken a decision. The Congress party is a national party but they are playing double standards. Now they are asking Shri Chandrababu Naidu to withdraw the increase in the tariff. Therefore, I am asking the Congress Members to learn a lesson from the Chief Ministers of Rajasthan and Karnataka. The Karnataka Chief Minister is on record to say that the Electricity Regulatory Authority is a body constituted under the law and we are, in no way, concerned with the Regulatory Authority. Whatever increase they make, we cannot stop that. The same thing is expressed by the Rajasthan Chief Minister. Congress party is a national party and they should adopt one policy, not double standards. That is why the Congress party is getting eroded in this country. In the year 1996, they had 180 Members; in 1998, they had 140 Members and now their strength is reduced to 110. If they continue to follow these double standards, double policies and everything, they will get further eroded. That is why they should follow one policy. Now, this is a drama. In Andhra Pradesh, the MLAs are playing drama and the same thing is being repeated in this House also.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, my only point is, whatever remarks have been passed against the State Assembly and the Speaker may be deleted from the records.

MR. SPEAKER: That is over now.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Railways. I hail from Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh which is the centre of the activities of leftist terrorists. Gauge conversion project from Gondia to Jabalpur was undertaken and Rs. 22 crore were allocated last year. Due to objections raised by the Railway Board on it, even Rs. 5 crore could not be spent. After that, Rs. 17 crore were allocated by the Government. But the Railway Board has raised objections on the tenders. I have been constantly meeting the Chairman of Railway and the Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways as the Minister of Railways has no time. Sir, through you, I am compelled to raise this issue. On the one hand, my district is affected by leftist. Terrorism and on the other hand the Government has allocated funds for inter-State project. I want that funds to be utilised. Last time, not even ten percent amount

was utilised. Therefore, through you, I would like to urge the Government to instruct the Railway Board to take up Gauge conversion work of Godiya-Jabalpur rail line on priority basis. Entire Jabalpur, Mondala and Chhindawa region is agitated on this issue.

SHRI RAM SHAKAL (Robertsganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards some Scheduled Castes and Backward Castes like Gaur Baiga, Majhi, Panika, Chere, Kharwar, Kol and Dhagar who have been listed as Scheduled Tribe in Madhya Pradesh and Bihar but these have not been included in the Scheduled Castes list in Uttar Pradesh. I request the Government that Gaur, Baiga, Majhi, Panika, Chera, Kharwar, Kol and Dhagar etc. castes should be included in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, A group of India Scientists and philosophers who have been working together for about nine year, have developed a sciences called 'super science'. This explains the origin of the universe and the pre-nuclear stage of the universe which has not been explained so far. This will bring a lot of credit to India because this is based on Indian philosophy and also on some ideologies of Indian epics. As far as the Vedas and our Indian epics are concerned, we have about six *Shastras* which have been mentioned in the Vedas which are designated by them as super astronomy, anatomy, psychology, universal maths, computer maths and higher language wisdom. These are the six branches which they have developed. I think this is a very unique thing. These men who have been working on it for so long have done it and it will be a great contribution to the humanity. Twelve Members of Parliament have already written to the hon. Prime Minister and also the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development to have a deep study into the matter.

I would urge upon the Government to take a serious note of this and to see whether this will bring domain to India in the scientific field. Thank you.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I thank you for permitting me to raise a very important issue concerning the pricing policy of the Central Government. Recently, Food Corporation of India have made a declaration that they would sell wheat at the price of Rs. 650 per quintal whereas they are selling it at Rs. 826 per quintal in Kerala. It is a policy of double standards. It is the declared policy that there will be a uniform price level. But the same Food Corporation of India is collecting Rs. 838 per quintal of wheat from Kerala

whereas it is selling at Rs. 650 in other States. This is highly discriminatory. ...*(Interruptions)* I would request the Government of India to have a uniform pricing policy in the matter of selling wheat. In the case of rice also they have been selling rice at a different price in different States. But, at the same time, in the open market they are selling it at a lower price. ...*(Interruptions)* This is highly discriminatory.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, please understand that there are other Members also to speak.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, the policy of distribution of foodgrains through the public distribution system has been defeated by this policy of the Central Government. I request the Central Government to sell the rice and other foodgrains at a uniform rate throughout the country.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, today many teachers of Several teacher Unions like-Bihar Rajya Sambaddha Degree Mahasangh, Bihar Rajya Intermediate Shikshak Exam Shikshaketar Karmachri Mahasangh, Bihar Pradesh Madhyamik Shikshak Sangh, Bihar Pradesh Sanskrit Shikshak Sangh, Bihar Rajya Arajkeeya Prathmik Shikshak Sangh who have not been getting their salaries, are staging Dharna at Jantar Mantar. These teachers and employees have been working in private schools for the last 15-20 years. They have been given application by Bihar Government. But they are not paid a single paise. Raghu Vansh Babu is present here. Under this Chairmanship a Committee was constituted in 1991 in Bihar in this regard. He made certain recommendations but these had not been implemented. After that, a Committee was again constituted in 1997 under the Chairmanship of Minister of Irrigation of Bihar but he made no recommendations. After the elections, one more Committee has been constituted but it is doing nothing. In Bihar two lakh employees are still working without salary. I request the Minister of Education to take initiative and do something in this regard, if he wishes, although I know that this is a State subject.

Sir, through you, I request the Government to take Cognizance of this information and act at its own level. Two lakh teaching and non-teaching staff have been working without salary in these institutions in Bihar for the last 15 years. I request the Government to take stock of this information. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav and Shri Nawal Kishore Rai can associate themselves with what Shri Prabhunath Singh has said.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): I associate myself with the issue of teachers, deprived of salaries, raised by Shri Prabhunath Singh and want that Government to take stock of the information and respond to it. This issue relates to lakhs of employees.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also associate myself with it and urge the Government to take stock of the information.
...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH (Bikramganj): I also associate myself with it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Is there anything from the Government?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: No, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Arrah): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I wish to draw the attention of Government towards the Arrah railway station of Bihar. This is a very old railway station but unfortunately verandahs of this station have not been repaired for long. Waiting rooms too seep. There are no seating arrangements for the passengers at this station. Even small railway station like Buxor, Sasaram have been provided with computerised reservation facilities but this station does not have this facility. Former Railway Minister Paswanji and present State Minister of Railways Shri Digvijay Singh are present here. Even foundation stone was laid for laying a railway line between Arrah and Sasaram but only a meagre amount has been allocated for this work. This project is pending for years. People have been demanding its completion. I urge the State Minister of Railways, Government of India to take steps to provide a special status to Arrah railway station, provide computerised reservation facility there, carry out construction work and finally allocate adequate funds for laying railway line between Arrah and Sasaram, foundation stone for which has already been laid by the hon'ble Minister himself.

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Sir, there is a very grave situation in my constituency of Visakhapatnam. M/s. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited had, two years back, seen a ghastly incidence of fire in their premises where more than 65 people have lost their lives. There were again two fire accidents on 17th and 18th of this month. M/s. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited is located in a densely populated locality. In the recent incident, one driver, Shri C. Neelakanthan, without caring for his life has rendered timely help. The fire accident occurred when the truck was being loaded. Immediately, showing presence of mind, the driver took away the truck and in that incident he lost his precious life. But he had cared for the property and the installations worth several crores of rupees which would have otherwise been lost. He also saved several lives which would have otherwise been lost in the incident.

I would appeal to the Government, through you, and to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to appropriately help the family of late Shri C. Neelakanthan by at least Rs. 10 lakh immediately and also provide some job to a member of his family. Because of his bravery, the worst situation has been avoided and all the installations were saved.

On 18th of this month, there was a fire again at the crude oil distillation site. There is no maintenance facility there. It could have been a totally disastrous situation.

I request and appeal to the Government to order a through and high-level enquiry to find out as to who are responsible for such incidents and prosecute and take action against them.

MR. SPEAKER: Some Members do not understand other's difficulties. 'Zero hour' is for speaking for one or two minutes only.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Sir, if the above action is not taken, many people will lose their lives. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH (Mandi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I wish to submit before the House that in the intervening night of 1st July and in the morning of 1st August, 100 people were killed, thousands of houses were inundated and people in large number were rendered homeless due to floods in the Tribal areas of Kinnaur and Mandi districts and Rampur area of Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh. With its limited resources, the

Government of Himachal Pradesh is making all efforts for their rehabilitation and assistance. However, I do not wish to go into the details of it, since I alongwith the other hon'ble. M.P.s from Himachal Pradesh have made our points in detail in the discussion on flood situation held under Rule 193. But inspite of request made by us and the Government of Himachal Pradesh, the Centre has not provided any special assistance and as per my information, a report in this regard has already been submitted by the central study group to the Government of India.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to make special submission to the hon'ble Prime Minister and the Finance Minister in particular that:

- (1) Firstly, Himachal Pradesh, which is reeling under flash flood caused by cloud burst and has incurred losses amounting to Rs. 2 thousand crore may be provided Rs. 500 crore advance assistance immediately.
- (2) Secondly, in the Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh where there are no roads in same of its parts and the existing roads and bridges have been washed away due to heavy floods, it is very hard; rather impossible to transport apples to the markets, as such. The farmers of these area should be paid a support price of Rs. 10 per kg. for the apple and transport subsidy should be provided as a relief measures to them by the Government of Himachal Pradesh where apple and other fruits have to be carried on human back, ponies and via long routes to the market places; and
- (3) Thirdly, I wish to convey my gratitude to the Government of India for providing assistance to the cyclone-hit people of Orissa by exempting central excise duty on the materials like iron, cement etc. to construct their houses and want to make this demand that on the same line the flood-hit and homeless people of Himachal Pradesh should also be provided assistance to construct their houses by giving cent-per cent exemption of excise duty on iron, cement and tin-sheets since those areas are located on high altitudes and there is heavy snowfall in those areas.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I wish to draw the attention of this House towards Bihar, particularly North Bihar. At present at least 20 district are wholly reeling under flood and at least 100 villages are facing the threat of soil-erosion and submergence. Hence, through you, Sir, I want to urge the Government of India and all the members of the ruling party of Bihar to request the Government of Bihar to overcome flood situation in the State and provide relief measures to people and help people to rehabilitate and save the villages facing threat of submergence...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): The Government of India has not released even a single paisa to the Government of Bihar. The Minister of Agriculture had been there. The Government of Bihar has not received even a single paisa...(Interruptions) -

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me inform my hon'ble colleague that the Government of Bihar receives full amount from Government of India. However, the work remains half implemented. ... (Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to request you to check the hon'ble colleague. why does he get agitated when I start speaking. My request is that such an agitated member should be controlled. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. A.K. Premajam.

PROF. A.K. PREMAM (Badagara): Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, please understand that this matter has already been raised and the Minister replied also about the Eleventh Finance Commission.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Sir, that day also, I was not allowed to speak on this matter. Today, I want to mention only one point in respect of Eleventh Finance Commission. Yesterday, the Principal and Finance Secretaries of several States, including those of the States ruled by the BJP alliances, came to the Capital, New Delhi. Today, nearly 15 Chief Ministers have come to discuss and decide their *modus operandi* for future activities.

I would like to bring, through you, this important matter to the attention of the Government. Last time, it was decided that we would be able to discuss this matter in the Parliament. But here, in Lok Sabha, we were not

given the opportunity to discuss it. Sir, I request that we may be given the opportunity to discuss this matter and also reconsider the entire recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I draw the attention of the Government of India towards the poor conditions of sugar mills owned by Union Government, U.P. State sugar corporation and private sector in Eastern U.P. Sugar mills are yet to make payment of the outstanding sugar cane dues to the farmers of Eastern U.P. for the last 3-4 years. Similarly employees of the private sector 'Saraiyan Sugar mill' have not received wages for the last 30 months. Entire nation was celebrating independence day, employee of that mill attempted self immolation due to financial crisis. All the sugar-cane growers in that area are facing similar financial crisis. I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to earmark a separate sugar-cane fund for the entire Uttar Pradesh and announce a financial package with a view to revive the sugar industry of that area.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): For the economic upliftment of tribals in Maharashtra 'Shivri Mahamandal' has been formed jointly by Union Government and the Government of Maharashtra. For this, contribution of Union Government is 51% and the Government of Maharashtra is to manage the remaining amount. But the Union Government has not yet provided its share. I, therefore, request the Tribal Development Minister to provide the share to the Government of Maharashtra and extend cooperation in upliftment of the tribals.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Veerappan has kidnapped Shri. S. Krishnaswamy, an advocate of Chennai High Court. Having been in custody of Veerappan for 11 day Shri S. Krishnaswamy wrote a letter on 18.6.1998 to the Union Home Minister wherein it was stated that Veerappan was planning to kidnap Miss Jayalalitha, Shri Devegowda, Shri K. Moopnar, Shri Rajnikant and Shri Raj Kumar. I have got a copy of that letter. Shri S. Krishnaswamy also addressed letters to the Secretary, Government of India, Secretary Government of Tamil Nadu, Secretary to the Government of Karnataka and Joint Commandant, Special Task Force wherein he had mentioned about the discussion he had with Veerappan during his 11 days stay with him and also apprised them his kidnapping plan. Had the Union Government taken initiative and ensured proper security arrangements for the Kannada actor, Raj Kumar, he could not have been taken as hostage. This is a very serious issue. Neither the State

Government, nor the Union Government paid any attention to the letter written by Shri S. Krishnaswamy. I would like that this matter be discussed in the House and the Government should throw light on the situation.

[English]

SHRI M. CHINNASAMY (Karur): Mr. Speaker, it was reported in yesterday's leading national newspapers about a Fullbright Scholar of Ethnomusicology, 34 years old, Mr. Ngwang Choepel, is serving an 18-year sentence in a jail inside China-ruled Tibet. He was arrested by the Chinese authorities in August 1995 in Tibet where he had quietly gone to document the dying folk culture of Tibet. His mother, after a long struggle, was allowed to see him in the jail, that too from a distance. According to her tearful version, the Scholar is suffering from ailments of liver, lung and stomach. He is all bones and skin only.

I, therefore request the hon. Prime Minister, particularly the Minister of External Affairs, to intervene in the matter and see that the Scholar is released.

[Translation]

DR. RAM KRISHNA KUSMARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir Bundelkhand is famous for its natural and cultural resources and rich in Historical and archaeological heritage. But due to neglect the development of this area could not take place and the archaeological heritages are getting destroyed. The famous places of historical and natural importance such as Orcha, Khajuraho, Kalinjar, Chitrakoot, Sarang Mandir, Chaumukhnath, Sidhnath, Kunderpur, Bandakapur, Nayangiri, Drongiri, Bhimkunds, Pandav Prapat, Bhedaghat, National Park Panna and crocodile sanctuary park are lying in beautiful hilly areas.

13.00 hrs.

But due to lack of proper transport facility the development of these areas could not take place. I, therefore, request the Union Government to formulate a package with the help of archaeological, tourism and transport department so that transport facility could be made available and heritage of these archaeological importance could be maintained for ever.

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk): Sir, with a grave concern I would like to raise an important issue. The issue relates to the atrocities and torture that are being

inflicted on the Indian citizens by the police on the pretext of their being Bangladeshis.

Sir, I visited some areas in Delhi on Saturday and I came across a lot of complaints about this matter from the people. It is a very important issue. It relates to the question of one's establishing his citizenship. How can one establish his citizenship? The Police and the Administration does not accept ration card, or electoral rolls or even a certificate from the MLAs or the MPs as a proof of this being a citizen of India. That is why the people are being harassed and tortured. As a result of this, a housewife was killed a few days back. This is what is happening. Persons who are speaking the Bengali language are being treated as Bangladeshis and atrocities and torture are being inflicted on them. This is a matter of serious concern.

Sir, I would like to urge upon the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Home Minister to issue necessary guidelines regarding establishment of citizenship. Otherwise, the Indian citizens would be harassed on the plea of their being Bangladeshis and their citizenship rights would be curbed.

Sir, the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs is present in the House and I would like to request him to respond to this issue. This is a very serious issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Sir, the hon. Member has raised a very important issue...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Sir, the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs should respond to this issue...*(Interruptions)* How will a person establish that he is a citizen of India?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The next speaker is Shri P.D. Elangovan.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: I would like to have a reaction from the hon. Minister on this issue...*(Interruptions)* Sir, there are a more than a million Bengali speaking people living in Delhi...*(Interruptions)* The citizens are being harassed on the plea that they are speaking the Bengali language...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I think, this is the problem with some of the Members here that they go on speaking.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Sir, I request the hon. Minister to sort out this matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should react to this...*(Interruptions)* This is an important matter...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: He ought to know it.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, thousands of Bengali speaking people are being harassed...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, belonging to your Party, has raised this issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Why can the hon. Minister not react to it?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, whatever issue the hon. Member has raised, I would communicate it to the hon. Home Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: The House now stands adjourned to meet again at 1.30 P.M.

13.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till thirty minutes past Thirteen of the Clock.

13.37 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Thirty-seven Minutes past Thirteen of the Clock.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now the House shall take up Matters under Rule 377.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to set up a National Electricity Authority for rural electrification.**

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the supply of electricity in rural homes is in a very pathetic and dismal condition. Less than 50 percent families have got electricity connection even after

50 years of independence and the supply of electricity to them is even more pathetic. They get electricity for an average period of two to four hours only. The main reason behind this dismal State is the pathetic financial condition of State Electricity Boards and the lack of efficiency on their part. There is no hope of benefiting the families in rural areas through these State Electricity Boards.

India is primarily a rural country. Hence it is not possible even to imagine the progress of India without progress of villages.

Hence, I request the Union Government to set up a separate National Electricity Authority for rural electrification and entrust it with the responsibility of supplying electricity to the homes in rural areas.

- (ii) **Need to allot bookstalls and catering/vending contracts on railway stations to unemployed graduates and SC/ST youths**

[English]

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Sir, long back, in 1974, the then Union Minister of Railways had said in Lok Sabha that he was prepared to cancel all the contracts of M/s. Wheeler & Co. and M/s. Gulab Singh & Sons, provided the educated unemployed came forward and took over the work not only on those railway stations where there were bookstalls but even on new railway stations. But the monopoly of M/s. Wheeler & Co. still continues. About 400 bookstalls and one thousand small bookstalls and trolleys mostly on major and important railway stations throughout the country are still in the hands of this Company. Only some 25 roadside stations have been got vacated by the Railways from this Company for allotment of bookstalls to the educated unemployed youth since then. Moreover, special treatment and facilities are given to M/s. Wheeler & Co. The royalty being paid by M/s. Wheeler & Co. is a meagre three per cent to four per cent of the gross turnover and the contracts are renewed for a period of nine years whereas all other bookstalls and catering/vending stalls have to renew their contracts after five years and their royalty/licence fee is fixed at 12 per cent to 15 per cent on their sales turnover. So, I urge upon the Government to honour the promise given by the former Minister on the floor of the House and take steps to end the monopoly of M/s. Wheeler & Co. and allot more bookstalls and catering/vending contracts to unemployed graduates and Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe youths treating all contractors equally.

- (iii) **Need for early completion of new railway line between Hassan and Bangalore**

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA (Hassan): Sir, the acquisition of land for the Hassan-Bangalore new railway line had started four years ago. The total distance of this line is 167 kilometres. But only 56 kilometres of land has been acquired by the Railways till today. At this rate, the entire project may take more than a decade for its completion. The acquisition of land between Hassan and Shraavanabelagola (40 kilometres) and between Bangalore and Nelamangala (16 kilometres) has been completed. The land between Nelamangala and Shraavanabelagola is about 111 kilometres which has to be acquired by the Railways. The people of my constituency are very much agitated about the inordinate delay in the progress of this project which links the port city of Mangalore with the capital, Bangalore. So far, Rs. 45 crore have been spent on this project. Considering the importance of the project, the amount spent is not sufficient. The people in Bangalore, Hassan and Mangalore have already started demonstrations and agitations criticising the slow speed of execution of this project.

I, therefore, urge upon the hon. Minister of Railways to allocate at least Rs. 100 crore for this project immediately and to complete the land acquisition work at least by 31.8.2000 so that laying of rail line can begin during the next financial year. I hope and trust that the Centre would rise to the occasion and help the people of Karnataka.

13.44 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY
GRANTS—GENERAL
AND
DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS—GENERAL

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up the next item—Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) and Demands for Excess Grants. I now call Shri Rupchand Pal to continue his speech.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Mr. Chairman, Sir, while speaking on the 17th August, I had asked the hon. Minister of Finance why he was seeking to have a certain amount for arranging VRS and VSS in respect of seven Central Public Sector Enterprises, namely, MAMC, NBCIL, RIC, TAFCO, WIL, BPMEL and TCIL. Why is he seeking an amount of Rs. 150 crore in this Supplementary Budget for the VSS?

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

In that case, why should he not reconsider the prayer of so many people, including different sections of this House, the Chief Minister of West Bengal, the trade unions and others, that unit-wise study should be made? An Expert Committee had suggested that there was a possibility of revival, if the Government could sincerely try to do it. So, I am again reiterating the demand that these public sector enterprises should be revived and helped. It involves hundreds and thousands of workers and their families.

I had asked a question. After the formation of the small State of Jharkhand, it seems that the Government may have to have a rethinking in respect of Barauni Plant. Here is a Demand for additional budgetary support for Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation, Fertiliser Corporation of India and PPCL. If that be so, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to consider the case of Durgapur Plant also. After the formation of the new State of Jharkhand carving out from the united State of Bihar, when you are considering it sympathetically, I would request you to reconsider the Durgapur Plant.

There is also a provision for IISCO. As far as I understand, the amount that is being proposed is Rs. 381 crore, for IISCO to waive off the outstanding loan including interest, as a part of the package for revival of SAIL. Revival of IISCO under Steel Authority of India—as a part of SAIL itself—has been a longstanding demand. Now, it seems that the blast furnace has reached such a stage that an amount not less than Rs. 370 crore is required immediately for lining and construction of the already damaged blast furnace.

IISCO has got large assets; it includes its captive washery, captive mines, a good township, etc. No less than 26,000 or 27,000 people depend on it. If you add a large number of others who are dependent on it, it will be more than 40,000 people. They are pending on this unit. Members from different sections of this House have been demanding that such a prestigious unit should be helped and revived. While replying, the hon. Minister should clearly spell out what he proposes to have the revival packages.

Many suggestions are pending with the Government. It should consider them. This will be not only in the interest of West Bengal, but also in the interest of the country as a whole.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): Many good suggestions have been rejected in the past.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Yes. You did not apply your mind. You could have helped much more than this.

There is a provision for electronic voting machines. Electronic voting machines have been tried in different parts of the country. But questions have also been raised about its functioning. As you know, in the Bidhan Nagar Municipal Poll, it so happened that in one ward, it got stuck up. What happened is that the engineers from Hyderabad had been brought. They could not explain why it did not work. Ultimately, a repoll had to be arranged.

Even though developed countries, like Japan, have made a lot of progress in electronics, they have decided not to use the electronic voting machine. It may be because that by a prior programming, the result of the elections could be influenced. The Election Commission is going to procure a good number of them. So, the Government needs to convince the people of this country that there is no such possibility that by a prior programming the results cannot be influence in favour of any party. Why is it that developed countries like Japan have decided not to use electronic voting machines?

On the question of construction, and maintenance of roads, I would like to say that our national highways are in a very bad shape. The Government should have a re-look on the question of construction of infrastructure. There should be a full-fledged discussion in the House on the issue of infrastructure, particularly the national highways.

At this juncture, I cannot but mention two or three points. One is about the share market. What is happening in the share market is a matter of grave concern to all of us. Even the business houses are saying that their business confidence have been totally shaken. Even today, there are reports in leading newspapers that out of the study of 200 companies for which quarterly results are available, nearly fifty per cent of the companies recorded decline in operating profit margin. Except the new economy, 23 software companies, 12 fast moving consumer goods and 13 pharma companies, all others have done poorly. Should we depend so much on the new economy? I think the Finance Minister must be aware what the leading economist and Professor of North-Western University, Robert Gordon, has said. Taking into account the experience of the share markets, he has illustrated that the new economy cannot measure up to the greatest innovations of the past.

I know the hon. Finance Minister is again and again emphasising about merger of the bullockcart economy, brick and mortar economy and the new economy, that is the mouse and click economy. I know that. But of late what is happening? Even today's newspapers are giving a grim picture of the economy and its performance. The

withdrawal of the Foreign Institutional Investors is a matter of serious concern. I do not know it is correct or not that nearly 1.8 billion dollars of foreign exchange reserves have been depleted. If I am not correct, I may be corrected. Foreign Direct Investment is declining and declining in spite of all such concessions and red carpet welcome. Nothing is happening. Although the hon. Finance Minister is trying to reassure this House and this nation that he is committed to follow reform process, nothing is happening. The hon. Finance Minister should explain that. I do not agree with what he says. I do not agree not only with the direction of the reforms but also with the pace, sequence and quality of reforms. The Government are yet to explain to this country about the disinvestment process. In the name of reforms and in the name of giving it to the strategic partners, they are actually indulging in out-right sell-out of the firms to their competitors.

I would like to make one or two points before I conclude my speech. The first one is about the savings that are being noticed in the past few years. The C&AG has made scathing comments, about 1998-99, about several departments including the departments of Atomic Energy, Environment and Forests, Space, Electronics, etc. They could not spend an amount to the tune of Rs. 993.14 crore during this period. If that be so, in such a situation when the Government has already embarked on a number of nuclear programmes and when Pakistan is equating it with all sorts of things, for example by getting missiles and things like that—we can debate it on a different occasion—even then the departments have failed miserably to use the money that was allotted to them. The C&AG says that out of the allocated amount, the Department of Atomic Energy could not spend Rs. 214.52 crore, Space could not spend Rs. 206.13 crore, Environment and Forests, Rs. 213.43 crore, and the Department of Non-Conventional Energy, Rs. 109.50 crore. The Minister may kindly explain to this House as to how the Government is coming out with proposals in Supplementary Budget for PSEs so that they can out-rightly sell the very good and prestigious public sector enterprises when they themselves could not spend whatever has been given to them.

I would like to make a mention about another thing. We had raised it in the House also. In 1987, this House had adopted the Jute Packaging (Mandatory Use) Bill, 1987, which later on became an Act. It was for the hundred per cent mandatory use of jute packaging material for foodgrains, sugar, cement and fertilisers. In respect of cement, there was some dilution and the provision of hundred per cent use was taken away. In the case of Urea, it was ultimately limited to 20 per cent

only. Very recently, we find that the Cabinet is taking a decision in this regard. We had met the Prime Minister and raised this issue. We were assured by the Prime Minister that the dilution will not take place and that it has been suspended upto to 30th of September.

As you know, more than one crore of people are dependent on this industry which is concentrated mostly in the Eastern part of India. Economy of West Bengal is dependent on the jute industry. There are about 79 jute mills in total in the country, out of which 59 are in Bengal only. There are about 14 lakh jute producers. We find that even after what we have said and after the assurance given by the Finance Minister, K.P. Geethakrishnan Committee on Expenditure Commission have made a recommendation that less and less use of jute should be made to make food cheaper. We had made a demand that the subsidy in food should continue in the interest of the poorer sections of the people as also for the people who are on the threshold of poverty, maybe one or two points up or down. But what we see today is amazing. The whole world is looking at it. The FCI godowns are flooded with over-supply of wheat and rice. There is no short cut to reduce the stocks before the *kharif* season procurement which is expected to commence in the next few weeks.

14.00 hrs.

The Government is trying several ways. Firstly, they have announced a drastic reduction of Rs. 100 to Rs. 150 per quintal in the issue price of wheat. But the situation did not improve. Then they wanted proposals for export giving loans and offering barter trade of wheat itself. That also did not give any result. It shows that the Government has no thinking at all how the people of this country can be fed. On the one hand food is rotting in the Food Corporation. There is no off take even after slashing down the issue price and even after such proposals of barter trade and all these things. On the other hand, people in Orissa and in the flood affected areas are starving. The Government owes an explanation to the nation that how is it that after 50 years of Independence, such is the position that on the one hand there is so much of food and on the other hand the Government had no policy to distribute it among the poorer sections of the people who are flood affected and who are affected by the natural calamities. People have also lost jobs because of the Government policies of disinvestment and all these things. Today, paddy prices in Bengal and many other States are coming down to such an extent that the agricultural producers are not producing it. We have discussed it many times. Be it in Andhra Pradesh or Maharashtra or Uttar Pradesh, the farmers had no option left but to commit suicide. In such a situation food security is in jeopardy.

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

Lastly, we are fast moving towards BoP crisis. I do not know how the Minister will try to assure us in this regard. He has tried to assure even day before yesterday, maybe in Jamshedpur—where he said that they have inherited the WTO binding and all these things because of Congress who had put their signature and that they have to bear it. So, with self-sufficiency and *Swadeshi*, they are moving and the devaluation of currency and all these things will not affect them at all. But what will happen if the oil prices go up and up in this week? Even now the hon. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas has already stated that maybe very soon they have to hike the prices of petrol and petroleum products.

Sir, steel industry is in doldrums and whatever potential we had for exports is not there now. The American Government has complained that there is too much of dumping and that they have to settle the issue with our steel industry. Sir, this Government is out to destroy everything. I think, if they do not change their economic policy, their desperate and mindless decentralisation policy and liberalisation, things are not going to improve.

Sir, there is a proposal for setting up one Chair at Oxford University for Indian history and culture with an expenditure of Rs. 14 crore. There have been some other Chairs in Oxford and in other Universities of the world. Could the Minister kindly explain what is the speciality about it? The outfits of this Government and particularly the major partners of this Government are out to communalise the educational institutions, cultural institutions, and other Study Centres. These Centres are deprived of the money. They are distorting and re-writing the history. The Minister may explain what they have in their mind about the Indian history and culture. Is it a saffornized presentation of Indian culture? Is it a distorted presentation of Indian history or some objective history that has been a continuous process?

That should be the focus. The Minister may kindly explain about this Chair, the quality of this Chair and particularly what is in their mind about this.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: The Centre for Social Science Research in Calcutta was established in commemoration of Sir. J.N. Sarkar. But nothing has been done thereafter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir we are discussing on the supplementary

demands for grants in respect of Budget. I remember the hon. Finance Minister had stated that he will implement Prime Minister Gramodaya Yojana. We were happy that village would be developed but when we gathered information in this regard we came to know that there was a basic minimum service scheme (BSS) going on during the regime of Shri Devegowda when he was Prime Minister in which there was provision that every State will fix priorities that which work they need to do first. Such as some States gave priority to construction of road, some gave priority to making house for poor and some gave priority to providing drinking water and accordingly they have stated their priorities. Under this scheme the Bihar State was supposed to get 250 crores of rupees every year for construction of houses for pors. But that scheme was abolished and in place of this scheme this Government decided to introduce this Gramodaya Yojana. Five Thousand crore of rupees has been earmarked for this scheme. Out of this amount two and half thousand crore of rupees are likely to be spent on the construction of roads. Under this scheme all villages having a population of one and half thousand and area connected with the roads, will be connected with the roads. I am happy to learn that this N.D.A. Government is taking care of villages.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as per the report of Rural Development Department the money recovered by imposing rupee on as cess on diesel shall be used for construction of roads. With the imposition of this one rupee cess five thousand crores of rupees are likely to be earned out of which two and half thousand crores of rupee will be spent on construction of National Highways and two and half thousand crores will be spent on the construction of rural roads. We are happy to learn that in the basic minimum service programme and even in the Prime Minister Gramodaya Yojana, there is provision of connecting villages with roads and half of the income that will be generated through the imposition of cess on diesel will be utilised on construction of roads in rural areas. This information has been sent to all the State Government that all the villages will be connected with roads. Accordingly the State Governments prepared maps and schemes and sent them to Union Government. But this matter has not been placed before the cabinet. Therefore, this issue is lying pending. We are happy to know that this Government is making all efforts to connect villages with roads and formulating scheme to spend money on this programme through these schemes.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, after gathering the information about all these schemes I came to know that it is not a new scheme but an old one under a new name. It reminds me of an incident in our area wherein^A Ramlila

was being staged but the number of persons playing various characters was falling short. The same person was playing the role of more than one character i.e. playing the role of 'Ravana' as well as Hanuman and Jamwant by a changing the mask according to the character. The same thing is being done by this Government. The name of the scheme is new but the scheme and its proposals are old. Old schemes are labelled with new names and it is claimed by the Government that they have launched a new scheme. If it is so then I would like to know as to where the money collected as cess on diesel has been deposited? Whether it is deposited in Consolidated Fund of India or it has been spent in an irregular manner and what has happened to that scheme? I am aware that the State Governments are ready to adopt the proposal and they sent all the necessary information to the Centre but the Cabinet is yet to take a decision in this regard. Hence I accuse the Government of deceiving and befooling the people by launching old schemes with new names and claiming them as innovative in their spirit. Hence I would like to know from the hon. Minister, when the replies, as to where the money collected as diesel cess is deposited and whether or not it will be allocated under the Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana scheme or else separate allocation will be made thereby running the country without any principle and concrete policy by deceiving the people of this big country?

Who will give clarification in this regard and how the people will come to know about it.

The Government have accepted the recommendations of the 11th Finance Commission. There are Backward States where the economic condition is in much pathetic and dismal...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur): Bihar has got a bonanza.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Orissa is not in better condition than Bihar...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN KUMAR (Jhanabad): Are you running the State on policy and principles. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Sir, you please sit down.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will it not benefit the people? When you go to villages it is not

said that there villages should be connected to roads. ... (Interruptions) 11th Finance Commission has recommended for providing enhanced allocations and better facilities to the backward States. Though it has been recommend, I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister that whether the condition of those backward States is going to improve. Improvement cannot be brought by making recommendations alone. The Constitution of India seeks to provide reservation to the people belonging to backward society, backward castes, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and those belonging to deprived, oppressed and neglected sections of the society. Similarly special incentives, safeguards and preference should be given to the backward States to bring them into the mainstream of the country. Whether the regional inequality is a good thing for the country? Hence the 11th Finance Commission has made recommendations keeping in view all these factors. The developed States should unite and fight against the recommendations of the Finance Commission irrespective of the feeling that they are developed States. Every State is free to raise its own objections. The meeting of the Chief Ministers of some States is taking place. Shri Chandra Babu Naidu, once claimed as the P.M. material is himself jeopardizing his case. He is propagating as to why the 11th Finance Commission has made so much favourable recommendations for the backward States and it is highly irrational. The developed States are being punished for the progress made by them. But it is not right to say so. Whether the self immolation committed by many people is protect against the reservation was right? Supreme Court has also justified the reservation provided for various causes. The talk of providing reservation in constitution is also being disclosed. A constitution amendment Bill will be brought soon. The backward States should be given social and financial justice in view of their deplorable economic condition. The Union Government should even go beyond the recommendations of the 11th Finance Commission providing justice to the backward states. But politics is being played under the pressure of Chief Minister of some states and a meeting is soon to be convened in this regard. Meeting of the Finance Secretaries of the states has already taken place. The meeting of the Chief Ministers might be undergoing. Through you I would like to urge upon the Government to take concrete steps for doing away with the economic disparity of backward States and should even go beyond the recommendations made by the 11th Finance Commission in this regard. Whether our country can make progress and the remaining lag behind? Is it in time with any economic principle. Even the recommendations of 11th Finance Commission are not going to resolve the problem of economic crises being faced and suffered by backward

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

States. Hence steps should be taken to address the problem of the economic rot faced by backward states to bring them back into the mainstream of the country.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have asked two questions, how many more do you want to ask. Is it the last Question?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: WTO laws were enacted to import 714 items and next year 715 more items would be covered thus making a total of 1429 items. It includes salt and milk powder, which will be imported. India is becoming the market for multinationals. Through this House, I call upon common man and the farmers and also draw attention of the hon'ble Members to ponder over the consequences of these things and the adverse impact on the farmers? Like East India Co. Multinational companies would capture our market. Multinationals have been permitted to openly bring flour, turmeric and spices. If we import even milk from outside then what will be plight of cattle owners and our farmers and where we are leading our country...(Interruptions) is it hurting you that I am raising an issue concerning farmers?

My fourth point is relating to rates under PDS. Under PDS, rate of wheat is fixed at Rs. 9 per kg. whereas for BPL it is Rs. 4.50 per kg. But they are getting it @ Rs. 5 per kg. and in open market it is available at Rs. 5.50 or Rs. 6.00 per Kg. Now the question remains how large stock of wheat can be consumed. All allied partners of BJP suggested for price reduction, but they made it a prestige issue. It is not a joke and BJP is at the helm of affairs. BJP is of the view that there is no need to bother about allies. On the recommendation of Expenditure Committee price was reduced by 10-20 paise per kg. This Government has decided to provide the poor and the rural consumer wheat at Rs. 9 per kg. whereas a trader can get it for Rs. 6 or 7 kg. There can be no greater fraud, greater anti-poor, anti-consumer act than this. Now what will happen to our large stock of food grains? You want to stop procurement of foodgrains. In that case what will happen to poor farmer, common consumer? See the policy of this Government. It has decided to sell wheat at Rs. 9 per kg. through fair price shops whereas traders will be buying it at Rs. 5, 6 or 7 per kg. There can be no greater fraud, greater anti-poor and anti-farmer act than this.

My last and fifth question relates to Bihar. The hon'ble Finance Minister was very much enthusiastic about Bihar's division. He thinks that division of a State will lead to its development. I fail to understand this type of Sociology and Economics. The House passed the Bill relating to Division. Shri Rajiv Rudy from Bihar was just saying that

27 districts are inundated and one crore people are affected. Every year some districts face the fury of floods whereas others face drought. What will happen to a state which is facing flood, drought and above all division. Would you like the terrorism to take its roots in Bihar that's why we are pleading for a special category status for Bihar. Today, Marxists-Leninist party held a rally and protest at Jantar-Mantar and demanded special category status for Bihar and writing off of all outstanding loans. Barouni and Sindhri factories are closed. I have learnt that three four meeting had been held in this regard. I have raised the issue relating to Sindri Fertiliser Factory, PDIL, Anjhar Fertilizer Factory and Barauni Factory. All of these factories are closed. The situation is bad; and report of Expert Committee states...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you conclude.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Rs. 40 crore sanctioned by REC for rural electrification have not been released so far. How development can take place without electrification. Today, nine lakh hectare land is submerged. One lakh hectare land in Mokama and eight lakh hectare land in the basin of Ganga, Kosi and Gandak is submerged. Farmers are in trouble. Shri P.C. Thakur, who is sitting here, knows it well. The Government of Bihar has sent Phase-I of Gandak river, but no action has been taken on that. Similarly, Kosi Phase-II also met with same fate.

If these all issues are considered seriously the problems relating to regional imbalance, economic inequality, social inequality can be solved. Therefore, I would like to urge the hon. Finance Minister to consider all these four issues raised by me and tell us what the Government is doing in this regard. Opposition parties are not united and even people from other side say that the Government is not functioning properly. So full preparations have been made to oust this Government and it is necessary also. We are planning a large scale movement to topple the Government. We will also make alternative arrangements. Hence the Government should not be autocratic, anti-poor and anti-farmers. Country is being put on sale through disinvestment. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you oppose disinvestment too. Land of Modern Food Industries worth Rs. 2000 crore had been sold. The Government is bent upon selling our national carrier, Air India. Therefore, we are about to launch an agitation against this Government and will teach them a lesson and would oust them from power.

[English]

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH (Eluru): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Finance Minister has brought the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General). This is not the first time we are having this. This is the routine standard thing. There is nothing new about that. It is always a problem when you prepare a Budget. Somewhere or other, there would be gaps. This time I find that the Departments of Food Processing, Heavy Industries, Power, and Surface Transport are having more demands as compared to other Departments. Whatever it is, today, we are planning for better programming, financial stability, reduction of deficit finance to the maximum extent possible, and controlling the inflation within limits. That is the main part of the subject. However, though the subject is only the Supplementary Demands for Grants, normally on an occasion like this, I would like to speak a bit more about other items concerning finance.

Today, we feel that the Demands for Grants for infrastructure are one of the most important items, and the Finance Minister should take into consideration its requirements and to see that infrastructure is given a top priority. We have been making our best efforts for the last several years but still we are not able to enjoy the fruits of the infrastructure development — roads, power, ports and other requirements. What are the main reasons in not achieving this? Why are people not able to invest money in this field? Maybe, there may be some constraints, which require a longer duration for the tax concessions, financial support, and additional support from both the Central and the States. They are all interrelated between the Centre and the States.

Look at what happened in the case of surface transport? People are willing to come but the land acquisition is a problem. A lot of other issues have also to be settled as early as possible. Same is the case in the field of power generation. We have come across instances where people are willing to invest in the field of power generation but there are issues which have to be resolved carefully to see that it should be made more attractive in order to see that gap in the field of power generation is reduced.

The development of any country depends upon the development of its basic infrastructure. If you do not have proper power supply, you cannot develop the industry. Today, both industry and agriculture depend mainly on power. So, I feel that the hon. Finance Minister has to give more thrust to these important areas. Then, our imports and exports have to move faster. For this purpose, the ports have to be modernised. A small country like

Singapore can handle substantial quantity of imports and exports today very fast and they are able to do that due to the modernisation of their ports. Here also, we need to modernise our ports with better equipment and better system of computer operations. That is the only way in which we can move our imports and exports faster. I am sure that the hon. Finance Minister would look into these aspects.

Sir, the other day, we have discussed as to how the funds are being utilised under various rural development programmes. The development of the rural areas is a very important thing where we are spending a lot of money today. In this context, MPLADS is one of the programmes which is really very useful for implementing various rural development works. Under this scheme, we are able to utilise the funds released by the Ministry of Finance in a much better way than they are used in any other area like irrigation, industry, education or health services. Today, we can see that, with better controls and with better methods of utilisation, we are able to utilise the money in a useful way for rural development. We are spending this money mainly in the field of rural development. The type of controls that we are having now for this scheme is much better than that are there in any other scheme for which the money is released by the Government of India. Everybody is interested in this scheme and I am hopeful that we would be able to convince the hon. Prime Minister also to increase the money allocated to each MP for this scheme. Now, the State Governments are also giving money to every MLA for the development of his constituency and they give near about Rs. One crore to each MLA. Every MP has seven Assembly constituencies covered under his Lok Sabha constituency. Though we are not asking that much money, we would request that the Finance Minister should, at least, increasing the amount to some extent than the existing one.

Sir, earlier, the thinking was that the utilisation of money under this scheme was very poor and an amount of Rs. 1,800 crore is lying unutilised. This was mainly because there was no proper understanding between the District Collectors and the officers of the Central Government. Of late, we are conducting a number of meetings where they could have a lot of interaction between them. Recently, we had a meeting of all the District Collectors of Southern States, officers of the Central Government and the Members of Parliament and in that meeting we realised as to what are the constraints that are coming in the way of utilising this money. Now, after taking proper action, within six months we have been able to release an amount of Rs. 1,844 crore. So, there is a tremendous scope for the utilisation of funds

[Dr. B.B. Ramaiah]

properly for rural development under this scheme. I hope that the hon. Finance Minister would be able to give us additional funds for utilisation under this scheme.

Sir, every now and then natural calamities like cyclone or drought occur in our country. So, the allocation under the National Calamity Relief Fund should be increased substantially, because every time, we find that no enough funds are there and the affected people do not get proper relief. In fact, the funds under MPLAD Scheme were also utilised for providing relief to the people who were affected by natural calamities. We have used this fund for providing relief to the people because we felt that it was very important to do so. So, I am sure that the hon. Finance Minister would be able to give us more funds for this scheme.

Sir, agriculture is the backbone of this country. More than 70 per cent of the population of our country lives in rural areas and they mainly depend on agriculture. There are two aspects here. One is, with the Green Revolution we have been able to improve the production of rice, wheat and sugar in our country. The other thing is, we are not able to get enough storage facilities for our produce, enough financial assistance from the banks, whereas the other countries, who are also following the WTO norms, are able to help their farmers and they are exporting their surplus produce to other countries. Those countries have been giving substantial amount of subsidy on various items. For example, we are producing more poultry products in our country and this is one of the industries which should be given enough subsidy. But, somehow or the other, the Planning Commission is not willing to support such industries. I feel that we have now come to a stage that in spite of the increase in our population we have to take care of them and we have to invest substantial amount of money to control the population. But, despite the increase in our population we are able to increase our production substantially in various sectors.

That requires the Government support. The Government has to give a lot of additional encouragement so that the country is able to earn more than what they are doing now.

The same thing is in the case of software technology. We are only producing software technology on low-cost basis. We have to produce software technology so that our people are able to take it to other countries and earn more from all those things. But we need various facilities for these people like satellite control system and other facilities so that with software technology, the industrial development could come up.

Recently, we have also been talking about disinvestment. The disinvestment policy, started in 1991, is in the right direction. Earlier, we have invested Rs. 2,50,000 crore in public sector whereas the investment at some place or the other is somehow not that good.

To control deficit finance, we have put a brake. The disinvestment policy that we are following is correct. But the main thing required is transparency and the experts who should be able to utilise the disinvestment and do a good job.

The other thing that we have to do is that the funds that come out of the disinvestment should be properly planned and utilised for proper direction, that is, either for VRS or medical education. Once we identify this factor, it will really be a good job so far. In 10 years, we have been able to disinvest only Rs. 18,000 crore out of Rs. 2,50,000 crore. We have done a very little in ten years. That means, we are not really keen to do that. We have to make substantial progress on this front.

Coming to industrial sickness, there is a lot of money which has been blocked either by financial institutions or banks due to sickness of industry. We have only the BIFR which deals with the people in the small sector.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH (Eluru): Sir, you have to give me time because you have used more time than what you were supposed to use. Now, you cannot say that I cannot have more time.

14.31 hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

The BIFR is not able to tackle all this industry so that sickness is avoided. I am sure that the Minister of Finance would be able to find out some methods as to how the mergers and amalgamations should take place so that idle money, idle industrial equipment and idle labour, that is possible, should also be reduced to whatever extent it is possible.

There are some of the items about which there are constraints. I have mentioned earlier about the WTO. The WTO has given a lot of tech for us. If you can use the teeth and take quick decisions, we can have foreign direct investment and a Board where the applications will be processed very fast. We should have direct foreign investment. We have put a separate board where the applications will be cleared very fast. Here also, we have to identify various sectors. Even for agricultural products,

you can put 100 per cent protective duty. But if we are not doing it, sometimes, we will be facing the problems in the case of small scale industry or heavy industry or petro-chemical industry or on the agricultural side. Even people think that we are liberalising too much. The liberalisation is only for the quantitative restrictions. But the tariff protection is a factor that we should utilise it. If we do not use it, we are doing a lot of injustice to this country. It is not the WTO that is wrong. It is not utilising ourselves is a factor that we have take into consideration.

About the Rupee-Dollar tariff, there was a lot of discussion that took place last week. Here are two aspects. One is that the rupee is weak. Imports have become more expensive. So, we are discouraging imports. What we have to do is that production must go up. Today, petroleum is the main product. With the import of petrol at a high cost and such other things, the cost is going up. That is why, I think, the amount of trade balance is now more than \$4 billion. In a short time, our exports have increased. But the balance of trade has gone up because of import of crude at a high price. What we have to do is that inflation should be contained. We have to reduce some of these aspects wherever possible. You cannot increase the prices of all these things simultaneously with an increase in that thing. It may be temporary and may be able to take care of that. But a concern about these factors is very important.

As I put it earlier, there are education, medical and various other things. The hon. Minister of Finance should take care of some of these items. The housing part will also create some issues. But in any case, I hope, the hon. Minister of Finance will take more interest in the basic issues. I support the small quantity that he has asked for as additional supplementary grants. He has to do a lot more for development. I am very thankful to you.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, participating in this discussion on Supplementary Demands for Grants is a very customary one, but it provides an opportunity to have an appraisal of the fiscal management of the country and to understand the direction of the Government in which is it attempting.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, widely debated acclaimed claims of the reforms, rightly or wrongly, have been projected in two directions, that is investment from outside and disinvestment from inside. I am just not going for disinvestment now. I am talking of investment from outside. The reply given by the hon. Finance Minister on 18th August made it absolutely clear that the economic scenario of the country in terms of investment from outside

is really in doldrums. The Government's own commitment on the floor makes it further clear. The Government is not clear as to how it will reach its target.

Sir, in the reply the hon. Finance Minister has said:

"That the foreign investments are allowed in all the sectors except a small negative list subject to a policy and the impact of foreign investment and borrowing on our economy is limited as can be seen from the fact that the investment rate has exceeded the rate of domestic saving only marginally."

He also gave the data. In 1996-97, the savings ratio was 23.3 per cent, and the investment ratio was 24.6 per cent; in 1997-98 the savings ratio was 24.7 per cent, the investment ratio was 26.2 per cent; and in 1999 the savings ratio was 22.3 per cent and the investment ratio was 23.4 per cent. Further he said:

"The role of foreign investment and other borrowings in the national income is quite limited. External sources constituted only 4.4 per cent of the gross investment in the Eighth Plan."

I can understand that because that was just the beginning of the reforms era, which was yet to be crystallised.

"Later on the remaining 95.6 per cent investment are from domestic resource and in the Ninth Plan period the external resources are expected to contribute only 7.45 per cent gross investment."

But in the light of the statement and the present updated position of the foreign investment, as indicated, it cannot even reach 7.45 per cent.

Sir, this being the scenario, what is happening inside the country, let us address the issue. It is not bad to invite all the companies to compete in the gambit of your reforms programme and policy for which we are also substantially committed. I do not like to run away from our responsibility as the Indian National Congress while we introduced the economic reforms under Dr. Manmohan Singh.

Sir, I can give you two classic examples and the hon. Finance Minister will bear me out. He has received the same presentation from the CII. There are five giants in cement industry in the world. I may mention two of them, Lafard of France and Gluble of Europe. Now with regard to the Indian Cement in terms of its quality and capacity, first I talk of quality. It has been tested in the

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

United States and graded as Category-I quality of cement. I do agree that Indian Cement industry was languishing for various reasons, like outdated plant and machinery, capacity augmentation was not substantial, investment and establishment was not at par with the economic and fiscal discipline. I am not going into that.

I give one example. A company came in India called Lafard. It started buying one after another cement units. The question is, it started buying from what capital. It is not Lafard who brought the capital from France. It came in India and started buying one after the other companies asking their names and loans from the banks. It started buying and investment not with foreign investment but from our own public sector banks and financial institutions. It started taking the money from our own reserves, from our hard earned, gained strength in the banks started buying up these companies.

He is jacking up the price or jacking down the price as he desires and the foreign investment is nil. Is it a policy that you are going to encourage? Is it a policy that you are going to follow? We have built up certain empire, may be its health is not good. Somebody may come from abroad and say, 'I want to improve its health, give me money at a lower rate of interest.' I am not going to argue on that. The point is that he is addressing our banks and our financial institutions to pay him the project cost for buying it and he says that he will not spend a single paisa either in terms of dollar or currency or anything. This is what is sickening me. You have got a petition in this regard from CII. I do not know how the Government has reacted to that, whether the Government has any control on that, and whether the Government is superior or those companies are superior.

Mr. Chairman, in regard to disinvestment, I do not have to say much because we have debated enough. Our leader of the Party and the Leader of the Opposition, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, had written a letter to the hon. Speaker on the 18th of August that there should be a Standing Committee of Parliament on disinvestment. Any proposal in regard to disinvestment should come to this Committee for checks and balances, at least to understand what is happening. I hope that the Government will come forward with a decision for achieving that. You wanted to get Rs. 10,000 crore. Mr. Finance Minister, I was too happy—I am not scoring points - and safe as a citizen of India that disinvestment portfolio was linked with the finance because it was the Finance Minister and the Finance Ministry who have to make checks and balances of the entire fiscal administration every second, minute, or month. Such a vast country like India, which is having

so many State Governments, for having these checks and balances, the nodal authority is the Finance Ministry. I do not know what compelled the Government to create a Disinvestment Ministry making it totally free from the Finance Ministry. The Finance Ministry comes to know about what the Disinvestment Ministry is proclaiming after 48 hours or one week. Before they make any quarrel in public in the so-called NDA discipline, they just try to assemble somewhere and try to sort out the issue outside Parliament.

Now, you have proclaimed that you have planned to achieve Rs. 10,000 crore through disinvestment. Did you spell out your policy at any point of time that this amount of Rs. 10,000 crore is not to meet the budgetary deficit but to strengthen the PSUs and to strengthen other social infrastructure, for which you want to invite more foreign investment? No. So, the nation is guessing you, Mr. Finance Minister, and the Parliament is questioning the *boda fide* of your working. Are you taking a fast track of disinvestment? These days, in the modern airports, there is a fast track checking - immigration and everything. I think, your Disinvestment Ministry is a fast track Ministry, with which you cannot keep up your pace because proper co-ordination is lacking. You are not having a fast track and you are standing like a passenger in the common queue and feeling that you will go with your passport when your turn comes. Your Disinvestment Minister, with the fast track approach, is going ahead, and one day you will find that your portfolio will be disinvested because of the way he is behaving and moving. Mr. Finance Minister, today you have got a chance. After this Session there will be recess for two months. I do not know what you are going to do within those two months, and the Parliament would not know about it. The constituents of NDA, with their usual conjunction to keep their electorate with them, will make some statements - TDP from Hyderabad and BJD from Orissa - that they are not happy, they will say, taking their electorate into confidence, that they have made a noise. Then, the Prime Minister and others will call a meeting of the constituents of NDA over a cup of tea and say, 'Look, the country is in a grave situation. If you do not listen to me, Congress and others will gang up against us. Please keep quiet.' This is the usual practice, which you have been doing. You do it. That is not the issue.

Will you really announce in this House today that the amount realised from disinvestment is not aiming to meet your budgetary deficit but precisely it is being reserved or planned, not for transferring into the Consolidated Fund of India, but it is for the specific heads of investments where the PSUs will be strengthened and

developed? Will you please announce it today? If you cannot spell out even today, I think, Parliament has every right and for that reason, the nation has every right to develop suspicion about your way of functioning in so far as the entire finance management of the country is concerned. Therefore, I would request you to spell out that thing.

The scene of capital market is very rough. Mr. Finance Minister, you have received a number of petitions. I do not like to go into this. These days in the capital and share markets, a few foreign institutional investors and casino boards enter in the morning and decide their plan of operation on their own style. The small, medium and indigenous investors of the country have been complaining me that we have hardly a place to play around that casino board. This is the internal scenario. You know better. You are in the job. You can reply properly. I have discussed this matter enough earlier also.

Shri Rupchand Pal has said about a few commodities. It is not only jute but others are also in a bad shape. Of course, jute is in a very bad shape because of your packaging policy. You say, you are for the poor. You say, you are for the people. You, Mr. Finance Minister, come from Bihar. You know if jute is adversely affected, who will cry in the Bihar villages? North Bihar villages will cry because largely most of their one day's *chapati* comes from the jute mills of Bengal. I feel proud that Bengalis and Biharis stay together to struggle to revive both their rural economy and Bengal economy through jute. I feel always proud. In every Holi festival I find in the jute mill areas that we are together and one. Mr. Finance Minister, you represent Bihar. I do not know whether the Ministry of Textile and other Departments consult you. The jute is waning. After this packing order, God save us, the situation is so bad. I also represent a jute growing area. I cannot explain what is happening because I do not know considering the way you are functioning almost casually and the way you are lacking in policy, what you are going to do tonight and what you are going to do day after tomorrow.

Tea is also in a bad shape. I remember while I was handling this Department for four years in the Ministry of Commerce, there was a boom in the tea industry. The Indian tea industries were safe, strong and effective ones. Today, I am not questioning your policy because we have accepted the policy of import and export regime after the GATT agreement in a different manner. Ceylonese teas are dumped in India. Indian tea industry is crying. Therefore, these are few areas where India should feel proud of augmenting its own strength to cater to our cheapest beverage, a cup of tea, even in the villages, and also to export it substantially.

Regarding poverty alleviation programme, Mr. Finance Minister, you make an exclusive appraisal. Here, I think some will agree and some will not agree. The entire poverty alleviation and rural development programmes are done through the *Panchayati Raj*. I know you have no substantial support for this. Being a so-called pro-poor Government and this Budget being *Swadeshi* Budget, you have tried to hit the poverty alleviation schemes and programmes by substantially cutting down the strength. But that is not my point. My point is accountability. You give the money to the States. The States give the money to the districts. In a Private Members' Business, I moved a Constitution (Amendment) Bill. The time has come, Mr. Finance Minister. If I make you accountable as the Finance Minister and you make accountable the Chief Ministers and the Finance Ministers of the States, why should the Constitution not make the *Panchayati Raj* authorities also accountable for their financial indiscipline? I can give instances. I am not scoring political points. Half of the money that you give to *Panchayati Raj* is looted by the rural mafia. If you see the provisions of the Constitution, there is no mandatory accountability of the *Panchayati Raj* authorities to give the audited statement of accounts. A terrible situation is going on. I know in my area three-fourths of the fund that was given to the development of the roads and for supplying drinking water has been looted simply.

[Translation]

Documents were submitted putting fake signature of the poor, thereby making them helpless. As a Member of Parliament, we have some responsibility. The Minister, too has accountability as a Minister, Chief Minister also has accountability. But there is no accountability of Zila Parishad and Panchayat. They may or may not give accounts, you can't hold them accountable as per law even if they commit embezzlement.

[English]

Nobody is there. I am trying. The Government must amend the Constitution. There must be accountability. If accountability is not maintained the entire dream of India for rural development will be shattered.

I will now come to the important point of West Bengal's public sector units. In your Supplementary Grants Demand No. 13, I see that you got Rs. 229.5 crore for seven public sector undertakings, one of which is MAMC of Bengal.

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

[Translation]

Sir, you have always been saying that there should be a debate on this issue. That is why, I am expressing my views. Please give me some time.

[English]

In Bengal, I remember that day, I also crossed the border of the then East Pakistan in the lap of my mother, leaving everything in the then East Pakistan. In the midnight, we crossed to save the honour of my sister. I was too small at that time. A Muslim family protected us and pushed us to India. We came as refugees. In those days a strong Chief Minister called Dr. BC Roy, confronted Jawaharlal Nehru and said that it was the people of the Punjab and Bengal who were the victims of partition leaving their properties while coming to India and that they should be protected in all possible ways.

An industry was formed, the Rehabilitation Industries Corporation taking the people of the community to give them some jobs immediately and understand them well. Lot of people got benefited.

This Government—I specially address the hon. Minister Shri Tapan Sikdar got a mandate of a constituency. Can he deny it where 90 per cent of the members of the electorate are from the then East Pakistan, settled as refugees? Half of them are directly or indirectly involved with this organisation called RIC. He just did not bother! He just did not bother! He simply closed it! He simply closed it, an organisation which was protected by Indiraji, Rajivji and even by Shri Narasimha Rao's Government. He could have told them, "Look, I am getting lot of investors, I am getting a lot of technology. You wait, I will give you different proposals." He could have said it. But they are on the streets now.

I know what amount of embarrassment Shri Tapan Sikdar has to face his constituency. In fact, he cannot speak as he is a member of the Government. I am taking his cause and speaking about it, about rehabilitating that organisation, about reviving it. I will ask him not to close it.

MAMC of Durgapur has been closed. What wrong has Bengal done, I want to know. We paid the highest price and made the highest sacrifices during the Freedom Struggle. Now the Government is taking away one after another the public sector units of Bengal. Why? I want to know. Is it the price we have to pay?

The other day Bihar was crying, after the formation of Jharkhand. -I am crying not because I am a

Congressman; I am crying because we have witnessed one nationalist movement in West Bengal from 1967 to 1971. I was there in those days. Many friends came to us. We know. What is going on? It was not done in those days. And now again you are sending a message of every industry being closed down. It is the National Instruments, which used to make the components of Defence, sophisticated components. The Government gave them a red alert and they are disinvesting all the blue chip companies which are not time-fuse companies.

The last point is regionalism. The time has come for the Government to think of it.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): The National Instruments was founded by Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I am not questioning who founded it. I am saying that the Government of India took it. And the National Instruments produced sophisticated instruments. ...*(Interruptions)* I had been the President of its trade union for 16 years. Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee is not the legacy of Bengal. As you feel proud of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, I also feel proud of him. He is a great son of Bengal. I feel proud of him.

What are you talking? I do not understand as to why you are bringing small things here. ...*(Interruptions)* He was, at that time, the Union Minister with Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Dr. Sengupta, I have this much knowledge. ...*(Interruptions)*

Now, I come to the regional imbalance. The other day we created three States. I told the hon. Minister of Finance the other day; I again appeal to you that after this Parliament Session is over, you, on your own, as a great son of India, as a former bureaucrat, as a devout and committed Minister of Finance for the nation, please have a study with the Minister of Planning, as to which are the areas of India where economic imbalance has gained serious momentum. I am not talking of Bihar. It has been debated here. I am talking of North Bengal. You do not know that from the border of Nepal and Bangladesh, weapons are coming. The most peace loving Scheduled Castes community—Rajbangshi community—a group of them has taken to gun. Gun is coming from Bhutan. They have started killing. The entire North Bengal map, if you take one day—you spend half-an-hour with your Planning Commission people, it is totally finished.

The development pace in terms of the other parts of the Bengal is so poor that you cannot imagine. Bengal Does not mean Bengalis who live in Durgapur and Haldia.

Right from the foothills of *Himalaya* it comes. The teesta tunnel has not been completed till date, which was supposed to be completed ten years back. Where do we go? Where do we get the water for irrigation?

Sir, I got a report from the Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation. Can you dream of it, Mr. Finance Minister? My friends from CPI(M) should not mind it. It is a matter of development. An amount of Rs. 600 crore for education has not been utilised for the last 20 years and Rs. 185 crore for flood management has not been utilised. The bulk share was for North Bengal. An amount of Rs. 216 crore for road infrastructure has not been utilised. More shocking is that Jalpaiguri, Coochbehar, Dinajpur and Malda areas remain under flood. It has not been officially reported to the Government of India. It was answered by our Minister. It is a shocking state of affairs. I have a responsibility to bring this to your notice. I demanded the hon. Prime Minister to publish a White Paper. I requested the West Bengal Chief Minister also and I request you also to immediately make an appraisal. I am not asking for mutiny; I am not asking for an agitation; I am not asking for separation; I am not asking for anything, which may impair the unity of the nation. I am giving you a signal. Please believe me that a serious and explosive situation is generating there. I do not know what will happen in October and November. Therefore, my appeal to you, for the matter of North Bengal, please try to understand how to repair the regional economic imbalance in this Plan document at the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan.

Sir, the entire North-East's main communication channel is National Highway No. 34 of North Bengal. If North Bengal is taken out from the road map, then the North-East, Sikkim, Bhutan and border of Nepal would be in a terrible situation. I was not worried one month before. Now, many people ask me as to why I am worried for the last one month. It is because I feel if the voice of democracy is not honoured and responded, then the sound of gun will rule. That will be the end of the day. Therefore, to represent the voice of the democracy, not as a party, I appeal to you to reconsider the issue of economic imbalance. I am not blaming anybody.

Sir, through you, I would request the Government of West Bengal also, if they are sincere and truthful, then they should also publish a White Paper. The North Bengal is being deprived of its resources. This is an area where you should not do politics. As Shri P.R. Dasmuni is from North Bengal, you should not hear him. It is politics and you do not hear him. I may go out, but the sound

of gun will come in that way when Parliament will debate the issue. Therefore, please respect the voice of democracy and do whatever you can.

Finally, at the end of the speech, I request the hon. Minister of Finance for only four things. Please spell out your policy in regard to the amount generated for disinvestment and whether it is for meeting deficit. Please spell out your target in the Inter-session period of Parliament whether you have something in your desk for bigger disinvestment without the knowledge of Parliament.

15.00 hrs.

A: least we can understand that our fate is going to be sealed and the country will be further looted by X, Y, Z. Thirdly, Mr. Finance Minister, please stop the Casino Board of the Fills in the capital market, and fourthly, advise the MNCs, from LAFARZ to anybody, to come to India, do as you like within the rules, but you have to bring the investment, you cannot take my money from the bank, invest and get the business done which we built on our own strength.

With these words, I conclude and appeal to the Finance Minister to respond in a positive direction during his reply.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Sir, I rise to support the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2000-2001 which amount to Rs. 2,536.66 crore.

Sir, you will see that there are 27 Demands to be met by the House and the most important Demands which have been identified in these papers are: the Agriculture Demands where the amount is about Rs. 410 crore; the Demands of the Ministry of Heavy Industry and Public Enterprises where the amount is Rs. 340.85 crore; the Demands of the Ministry of Surface Transport amounting to Rs. 990 crore; and the Demands of the Ministry of Power where the amount is Rs. 460 crore. So, these are the major Demands where the Government wants to defray the charges which might come in the course of time till the next Budget is presented in the House.

Here, I would like to stress, firstly, on the Government's policies for the future of the country. As you already know, Sir, this Government first came to power in 1998. Then the Parliament was dissolved and this Government was again voted back to power in 1999. So, the legacy which we inherited from the previous Governments which ruled this country, was the drained coffers of the country. So, it will take some minimum time for us to stabilise the whole thing.

[Shri Bikram Keshari Deo]

Sir, if you look at the disinvestment policy or if you look at the situation of the PSUs in the country, you will come to see that the majority of the industries run by the public sector, including some of the *Navratnas* also have become sick. So, it is high time that to compete with the world market, to streamline our economy and to streamline our finances, this major step of disinvestment was taken and a separate Department of Disinvestment was created to see that the industries which have been put up in the country, will run. Today, they are non-unctional. They have idle assets which are lying and rotting. So, some value has to be added to these assets by disinvestment, by which they will start creating wealth for the country. So, this move of the Government, of creating the Department of Disinvestment, will definitely go a long way in improving the economy of our country.

Then, Sir, I would like to stress upon the Resurgent Bonds of the past year which increased our reserves immensely. Because of that, our foreign exchange reserves have gone up. Considering all these things, we are heading towards the right direction. Besides, when the Prime Minister spoke from the ramparts of the Red Fort in 1998, he mentioned about the regional imbalances which are taking place in the country. He mentioned in the name of the KBK district. It is one of the districts in Orissa which is one of the most backward districts of the country.

The Government has forged ahead with the KBK programme by which the poverty in those areas will decrease and the condition of the people will improve. It is not only in KBK area but in other areas of the country like Bundelkhand and places in Uttar Pradesh and places in various regions of the country where regional imbalance is felt. Our Government is sincere about mitigating the sufferings of the people. You will, therefore, see that in the Supplementary Budget itself there is a projection in Demand No. 1 concerning agriculture where the Government has tried to stress upon the agricultural needs, specially on the cotton technological missions, which can boost the economy of the farmer and can make him self-sufficient and also improve his conditions. You will then see that regarding wasteland development, in Demand No. 71 concerning the land resources, it is clearly mentioned that an amount of Rs. 1.90 crore has been kept for the Western Orissa's rural livelihood projects. The Government is thinking in a very big way to mitigate poverty in our country. But, at the same time, I would like to stress that the machinery has to be reformed and mainly the State Governments, who will be executing these projects as these are in the State List, have to do it with sincerity.

I would like to give you the example of Orissa. In Orissa, we inherited a Government which had promised 1,000 industries in 1,000 days. But, you will be surprised to hear this today. I am just quoting one of the reports of the Chambers of Commerce. It is stated that the power consumption by industries in Orissa, about 10 years back, was 57 per cent. But, today the power consumption by industries in Orissa is only 11 per cent. From this you can make it out. The Congress Party ruled Orissa till recently. Today Orissa is loaded with debt burden of Rs. 17,000 crore. Every year we have to pay back Rs. 2,000 crore. In the meantime, a super cyclone lambasted our coastal and affected 14 districts in Orissa thereby completely destroying the resources. Agriculture and the livelihood are completely destroyed. I would like to pray before this august House and the hon. Minister of Finance is also here, that you may kindly waive off the loan burden which is upon the State and secondly the interest burden of Rs. 2,000 crore which the Government of Orissa is to pay every year may be re-phrased so that we can come back on the rail of development. This is the condition of Orissa now.

Another big problem which is facing our country today is a legacy which has been left by the Congress and it is terrorism. You will be seeing that in every corner of the country and especially in Kashmir terrorism is increasing day by day. This is also an area where money and investments are being drained. Our Government has offered a lot of incentives to the terrorists for peace talks. Our Government wanted to talk to Pakistan. Our hon. Prime Minister went to Lahore. Then we want to talk to Pakistan and we also wanted to have peace talks with Hizbul Mujahideen. But it did not work out. This is also a very big drain on our resources.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): They slapped you on the face. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, you cannot say that our government is not making any effort. Our Government is making efforts in all directions to get peace and tranquility in the country.

Before I conclude and as this is only a Supplementary Demand, I would like to lastly mention regarding rural electrification programme. You will see that in most of the States, the Electricity Boards have all gone into red due to bad management and bad policies.

But today, the Government in the Supplementary Demands has shown concern for electrification in the tribal and the *harijan bastis* and has provided Rs. 160 crore for the purpose.

Before I conclude, I would like to mention about *panchayati raj* system also. I am sorry to state that the

non. Chairman, when he was speaking regarding strengthening of *panchayati raj* system in his Private Members' Resolution, he mentioned that there were several States where there was no *panchayati raj* system. I would request that in the States where there is no *panchayati raj*, *panchayat* elections should be held and *zila Parishads panchayati raj* institutions should be made much more stronger, and there should be further decentralisation of power because that is the aim of 73rd and 74th Constitution Amendments, but that is not being implemented in the right earnest by the State Governments. Therefore, the Central Government should intervene and see that it is implemented properly.

Before I conclude, I would like to mention about Orissa and more particularly about the Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput regions. Here is the revised Action Plan for implementation of a long-term programme for Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput districts for the period 1989-1990 to 2006-2007. This was initiated by the Central Government to be implemented in this region, but the same had not been ratified and accepted by the Planning Commission. So, I would request the hon. Finance Minister that this revised Action Plan may be adopted so that poverty in those areas, starvation in those areas, migration in those areas and effects of drought in those areas may be mitigated forever.

With these few words, I thank you.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Brief speeches, are more effective. There is a long list of speakers. It would be better if every member takes just five minutes.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North-West): Sir, are you yourself convinced about this point?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN (Coimbatore): The Chairman has no other alternative now. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI TILAKDHARI PRASAD SINGH (Kodarma): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to participate on the discussion on demands for grants. There are demands of a number of departments and I want to be specific only on Agriculture and Co-operative Department due to paucity of time. That now as hon'ble Member has spoken in detail. Bihar has been divided and Jharkhand has been created as a separate State.

Sir, I congratulate hon'ble Finance Minister. He belongs to my neighbouring area and is aware of the problems prevailing there. The newly created State Jharkhand has only one means of irrigation i.e. big wells. The Minister should take it seriously. The farmers can be provided irrigation facilities through lifting water by linking the hillocks of Chhotanagpur in Jharkhand State. These points should be given serious thought. The second point is about co-operatives. It has been assured by previous Governments that loan of farmers upto Rs. 10,000/- would be waived but this has not been done so far and the farmers are hoping that their loans would be waived but on the other hand they are compelled to repay the loan amount with heavy interest. The Government should ponder over the assurances made by the previous Finance Minister and the farmers should be given relief. Recently there was a discussion regarding flood but unfortunately Jharkhand was not included.

This area is facing the problems of flood as well as drought. Now, cultivation season is over. My constituency Kodarma is near to Finance Minister's constituency. Due to shortage of water in Jharkhand area paddy plantation could not be carried out. What ever was done has been lost. The Finance Minister should take care of this also. This area should be declared drought affected area.

Now, I would like to draw your attention towards Ministry of Rural Development. The Rural development schemes which were initiated here have flopped. Employment Assurance Scheme and Indra Awas Scheme were formulated. The Ministry wrote that Gram Sabha will have utmost power to exercise in respect of these schemes and it will identify the beneficiaries and implement the scheme. In Gram Samridhi Yojana it has been said that if the scheme will be of more than rupees 50 thousand, Gram Sabha would not take any decision nor it identify the beneficiaries. The district administration would take decision in that case. This provision is not proper. Now, the officers always make effort to see that the schemes of more than Rs. 50,000 are formulated so that Gram Sabhas may not remain in a position to exercise any power. The department should bring some amendment in it. Secretary, Bihar Government has written a letter about the Employment Assurance Scheme wherein it has been stated that till the election of the Zila Parishad in Bihar is held, the beneficiaries of Employment Assurance Scheme would be identified under the Chairmanship of the Commissioner. If the elections of the Zila Parishad are not held the Committee should be constituted under the Chairmanship of Local Member of Parliament which should identify the beneficiaries of the scheme. I took up this matter with the department 2-3 months ago but a reply in this regard is still awaited.

[Shri Tilakdhari Prasad Singh]

Now, I will come to the power sector. The work undertaken by REC in the power sector 10 years ago could not yield results. Money has not been properly invested in this case. More funds should be provided for this scheme. power system has totally failed in Chhotanagpur and it should be improved. I would also like to make a submission about the Department of Surface Transport. Day before yesterday, I had a discussion with the State Minister for Surface Transport Shri Hukum Deo Narayan Yadav. The condition of 70 kilometer long stretch of GT Road between Dumri and Barahi is worst. It takes 5-6 hours to cover this distance. Minister had said that the work on this road will be completed by 2002. This 70 K.M. road should be repaired. I would like to urge upon the Finance Minister that a number of schemes were formulated when he was S.D.O. in that region but a large number of schemes are still lying incomplete such as Konar Kesho Penckharo. Those schemes should be completed. However, I do not know whether any demand to this effect has been made or not.

There is a large number of Dalit Adivasi in my area. A, Sub-plan MADA scheme was formulated for them in that area. The amount allocated for this scheme is not being fully utilised. If the amount has been provided for this purpose, why it is not being utilised? Now, Jharkhand is going to be created but it will take time and allocation of various Departments will also take time. Release of funds should not be stopped until and unless everything is decided about Jharkhand region.

Funds should be released. Since election is not being held in Bihar, several hundred crores of rupees are not being released. What is the fault of people then?

Now, Bihar is going to be divided. I want that people of Jharkhand should be given opportunity. Release of fund should not be stopped. It is my request that funds should be released.

With these words I conclude and I again request the Finance Minister to pay attention to my suggestions.

[English]

SHRI TRILCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today the hon. Finance Minister has brought before this House two proposals, namely, the excess Grants and the Supplementary Demands for Grants. The Excess Grants would have to be regularised and the Supplementary Demands for Grants would have to be passed by this House. I am sure, both these Demands would be passed. I am not going into the details of those things. I have my own doubts in regard to three or four points that I feel deserves to be addressed by the hon. Finance Minister.

Sir, three new States have recently been created by this House. These States, when they would come into being, would definitely need funds. There are three ways of allocating funds to these newly formed States. First, the Central Government can allocate funds to these States under article 282 of the Constitution. Second, the Government can allocate funds to these States from the Contingency Fund of India. Third, there should be sharing of resources between the parent State and the new State.

Sir, in regard to the first option I would like to submit that there has been no provision made in the Supplementary Budget for those three States. So, are we to construe that these three States would not come into being during this financial year? In regard to second option I would like to submit that if the Government wants to allocate funds from the Contingency Fund of India, they cannot do it. It is because, for allocating funds from the Contingency Fund of India, two conditions are required to be fulfilled. First, there should be immediacy and the second, there should be an unforeseen expenditure. The condition of immediacy is not fulfilled in this case because the formation of the three States had been contemplated before hand. Also, there has been no unforeseen expenditure involved in this. So, funds cannot be allocated from the Contingency Fund of India for this purpose. The third option is of sharing the resources between the parent State and the new State. But no arrangement for that also has been made here. So, I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister whether the term of the present Finance Commission, which would expire on the 31st of August, 2000, would be extended further so that they could take up the issue of sharing of resources between the States of Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal; Bihar and Jharkhand; and Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh. The hon. Finance Minister owes a specific answer to these points.

Sir, I shall not take much time of the House. I shall end my speech at 3.30 p.m. There are two eminent economists in the panel of the Eleventh Finance Commission. I do not dispute their credentials and scholastic excellence, but in spite of that what has been achieved in the end? There are three things involved in it. First is the devolution of taxes; second is the Grant-in-Aid; and the third is debt relief.

Sir, so far as the question of devolution of taxes are concerned, I would like to inform the hon. Finance Minister—he does know about it—and also bring it to the notice of this august House that after devolution of taxes, the State of Andhra Pradesh has Rs. 5,226.90 crore Post-tax Devolution of non-Plan Revenue surplus for a period of five years. The State of Andhra Pradesh has

got this much of a non-Plan Revenue surplus as per the assessment of the Eleventh Finance Commission.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

[English]

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Sir, I have requested you to allow me to speak till 3:30 p.m. Otherwise, I will sit down.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I can't allow you to speak for more than five minutes, Government reply is scheduled at 3.30 p.m.

[English]

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Bihar got Rs. 2002.66 crore during five years; Gujarat got Rs. 6,680 crore; Haryana got Rs. 6741 crore; Karnataka got Rs. 5875 crore; Kerala got Rs. 2450 crore; Madhya Pradesh got Rs. 3308 crore; Maharashtra got Rs. 6,787 crore Punjab got Rs. 1310 crore; Rajasthan got Rs. 542 crore; Tamil Nadu got Rs. 3252 crore; Uttar Pradesh got 96 crore, whereas Orissa got only Rs. 47.12 crore surplus. This is gross injustice to one of the most backward States of India. Why has this happened/ This has happened because the Eleventh Finance Commission did got by an erroneous parameter of giving weightage to the...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. Please conclude now.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur):*

MR. CHAIRMAN: This will not go on record.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, I believe in the Finance Minister's farsightedness, his motivation and his managerial efficiency in giving a certain direction to Indian economy. However, I would like to draw the attention of the House to two-three points today.

There are a few issues which are generally not discussed in the House. First is the problem of unemployment in the country. We discussed many other issues but we never discussed on the floor of the House the burning problem of unemployment. There has been a ban on recruitment in the Central Government for many years. I would like to know whether the Finance Minister proposes to take any steps to help those who are in search of jobs, who are fighting for survival. Even those who are registered with the Employment Exchanges in the country for nearly 20 years are not being sent call letters. Where would this country go now if no major effort is put in to solve this problem? Taking this opportunity I would request the hon. Minister to think of some new measures to see that unemployment problem in the country is sorted out.

We keep saying that black money is running a parallel economy in the country. We also question in the House from time to time as to why no stern measures are being taken against those who default in repayment of loans to public sector banks and financial institutions. I do not know whether it is a positive signal or negative, but the heads of industrial houses, against whom serious allegations of default of loans are pending, are trying to become Members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha themselves now. I do not know whether they are doing it to try and regularise their sins. I would request the Central Government to take up this matter.

These matters have been raised by a few of our colleagues. Dr. Nitish Sengupta on the other day, very correctly, mention it in the House that as to what is the necessity of the having the Ministry of Disinvestment? The Ministry of Disinvestment can be wound up. It may be given to the Ministry of Public Enterprises. The Ministry of Disinvestment specifically gives an indication that the Government is in a mood to disinvest all the Central public sector units. Its very name itself is causing tremendous anxiety in the minds of the working class of the country.

In addition to that, I must also mention about the regional imbalances of the eastern regions of the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you also hail from the eastern part of the country. Even after long years of Independence, the eastern region, particularly, Bengal and Bihar have been affected very badly economically.

Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi raised the issue of northern part of the West Bengal. Sir, there is a slogan regarding division of North Bengal, which we totally oppose. Even I received a letter from the GNLF leader

[Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay]

Shri Subhas Ghosing also who had extended and asked for our support for the division of Darjeeling from West Bengal. We do not want the division of Bengal. But we certainly want to see that the economic packages and development of North Bengal, Bengal and other eastern parts of India are taken into great consideration.

Sir, though this Supplementary Demands for Grants is a part of the formalities, still we hope that he has enough of ideas, views and foresightedness by which he can give a new direction to the people of India, especially, to the unemployment youths of the country.

With these words, I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Basu Deb Acharia. Please finish it within two minutes.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, please allow me to speak, at least, for about five minutes. How can I conclude within two minutes?

Sir, it has already been pointed out by Shri Rupchand Pal as well as Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi that Rs. 152 crore has been earmarked for the closure of the seven CPSUs out of which four CPSUs are from West Bengal, including Tyre Corporation of India, Tangra. The money required for the revival of these seven CPSUs will be much less than what is earmarked for the closure or for giving VSS.

Sir, what about the MAMC and its capital restructuring? What has been suggested in the case of Hindustan Machine Tools (HMT)? an amount of Rs. 250 crore is being provided for the capital restructuring. As compared to the capital restructuring of all these seven CPSUs, much less money is required for the revival of these seven CPSUs. How much does the Finance Minister provide for giving Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) for the thousands of the workers, the workers of the Rehabilitation Industry Corporation, for MAMC, for TAFCO, for BPMEL, and for WIL? There, an amount of only Rs. 4 crore is required.

Sir, even the Expert Committee nowhere has recommended for the closure of any of these units, rather, this Expert Committee has suggested for other options. Without exploring the other options, the Government of India has now decided to wind up. In the case of MAMC, the workers unions' have gone to the High Court against its closure and the case is still pending there. When it is *sub judice*, how can the Government of India take the decision to close them down?

When the case of MAMC is pending, how can the Government take the decision to close it down?

Another serious matter is that the workers and employees of a large number of Central PSUs like Jessops have not received their salaries. There is a proposal for reviving Jessops. It is an industrial unit located in the State of West Bengal. The workers have not received their salaries for four months. The workers of the National Bicycle Corporation, the Cycle Corporation of India, BPMEL, National Instrumentation Limited and Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited have not received their salaries for months together. But the Ministry of Finance of the Government of India is insisting that unless the workers opt for VSS, the workers will not be paid their salaries. The workers of the National Projects Construction Corporation have not received their salaries for 17 months. The workers are dying of starvation. The statutory dues like gratuity and provident fund have not been paid. What is the total amount of dues outstanding? It is Rs. 1,700 crore. What has been provided in this Supplementary Budget is only for closing down these units. Nothing has been provided for the payment of the statutory dues.

I demand that instead of closing down these units, the Government should review its decision and try to revive all these undertakings. The salaries as well as the statutory dues of the workers should also be paid. That should be provided for here.

Another important issue is the parity in wages. The hon. Minister of Finance knows that the parity in wages of audit and accounts staff with the staff of the Central Secretariat was disturbed in the Third Pay Commission. It still continues in the Fifth Pay Commission. A number of representations were submitted to the hon. Minister of Finance but that anomaly has not been removed. I demand that the parity in wages that was there up to the Fourth Pay Commission should be restored.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the hon'ble Minister.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tiruneveli): Sir, I have to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, we have to start the debate on Jammu and Kashmir at four o'clock.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: I will finish it by that time.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: But you are not replying to the debate. The hon. Minister of Finance has to reply. It takes time for passing the Demands.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: I have to make my submission.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: We had allotted two hours for discussion and we have already taken three hours.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Pandiyan, your name does not appear in the list of speakers. Have you given a notice to this effect?

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: I will be brief in my submission. I will make my submissions in five minutes. I have only two important submissions to make.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have called the hon. Minister.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: I have a right to speak. This is the Appropriation Bill. This is not 'Zero Hour'. I have a right to speak.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you have any point to raise on this issue, please give those points to the Finance Minister.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: I will finish it in five minutes. We are ten in number.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

On 18.8.2000, the hon. Minister of Finance was replying to a Question regarding the double taxation avoidance agreement with Mauritius. He said that the sales tax laws were amended in 1993.

I want to know who is the actual beneficiary of this Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement. At that point of time, I was not able to ask this question.

We have signed a number of WTO agreements. Recently, the Government of India has signed an agreement with a foreign country, to enable us to import

second-hand cars. When we can import second-hand cars, what will be the fate of Indian car companies? Shri Basu Deb Acharya was just now referring to the fate of the employees ...*(Interruptions)* The Parliamentary Affairs Minister has become a Manager of Parliament. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your allotted time is over.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Due to that, if the automobile companies face closure, what will be the fate of their employees? The Government has not informed this House about the import of second-hand cars. When one can buy second-hand cars, nobody will buy the cars of the Hindustan Motors. They would get the second-hand car of any company.

This is a discussion on the Demands for Grants and Appropriation Bills. I just want to know from the hon. Minister, what is the expenditure incurred by a particular Minister towards the expenditure of his Ministry—not the expenditure on staff. I read in one journal that the Minister from Karnataka—I do not know who is the Minister—has been shunting between Delhi and Karnataka every two or three days. It was reported that he is participating in all the functions there. Why is he wasting the money like this? Can he not curb this expenditure?

This is a discussion on Supplementary Demands for Grants; this is to meet any unforeseen expenditure. I would request the Government to look into this matter. I think, the Manager of Parliament will definitely control this. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you; you have graciously given me this opportunity to participate in this discussion. On behalf of the All India Anna DMK Party, I support this. I cannot oppose this because these are Appropriation Bills. But kindly curtail the expenditure of the Ministries. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: We thank you very much.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have had this debate on the Supplementary Demands for Grants extending over two days. According to my calculations, starting with Shri Rajo Singh and ending with Shri Pandiyan, we have had 12 hon. Members who have participated in this debate and raised a number of issues.

[Shri Yashwant Sinha]

Unfortunately, the time at my disposal is less than fifteen minutes. Therefore, I would like to be pardoned and forgiven by the House, if I am not able to reply to each individual point, which has been raised. Hon. Members have raised very important points. But if you want to pass these Appropriation Bills by 4 o'clock, then, I will have to be brief in my reply.

I will try and cover some of the more important issues, which have been raised in the course of the debate. It has been pointed out that this is a routine exercise. This is the first batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants. Wherever we have had unavoidable expenditure which we have had to incur through the Contingency Fund or which could not be anticipated at the time of the preparation of the Budget, such are the items of expenditure which are included in the Supplementary Demands for Grants.

As the House is aware, an amount of Rs. 632.99 crore is the cash outgo through these Supplementary Demands for Grants; the balance of Rs. 1903.55 crore is only technical in nature because it is not a cash outgo. Out of the cash outgo, the Department of Heavy Industry accounts for Rs. 312.55; the Ministry of Law and Justice accounts for Rs. 150 crore.

The Department of Fertilizer accounts for Rs. 150 crore and the Department of Food Processing accounts for Rs. 10.94 crore.

As far as the management of expenditure by the Government of India in the first quarter of this year is concerned, I would like to point out to the hon. House that the management this year has been a little better than it was during the same period last year. According to the Budget Estimates for 2000-2001, the total expenditure budgeted for this year is Rs. 3,38,487 crore, out of this, the actuals up to June were Rs. 57,083 crore which as percentage of BE works out to 17 per cent. When we compare these figures with the actuals of last year during the same period, we find that last year up to 30th June, we had spent 21 per cent of the Budget Estimates. But this year it is only 17 per cent. Even in absolute numbers, we have spent Rs. 1,572 crore less during this year than we had during the last year.

The fiscal deficit during the first quarter of this year has been Rs. 25,073 crore. It is 23 per cent of the Budget Estimates. Last year the fiscal deficit was Rs. 33,512 crore which was 42 per cent of the Budget Estimates. This has become possible because of increase in revenue receipts which have gone up by Rs. 6,382

crore, decrease in expenditure which is Rs. 1,572 crore and increase in non-debt capital receipts which is Rs. 485 crore. The Government of India has pre paid eight high cost fixed rate IBRD loans totalling Rs. 1257.28 crore during this period which amounts to US dollars 280 million. So, this has been broadly the performance of the management on the expenditure front.

Now, a number of issues have been raised by the hon. Members. I would take the general issue, like the direction of the economy at this point of time. But I would like to avoid referring to some of the issues which have been debated in this House in this Session itself, like disinvestment. Some of the hon. Members from the Opposition have raised this issue. We have had a full-fledged discussion on this issue. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi is not here now. He wanted me to clarify as to what we are going to do with the disinvestment receipts. If he had bothered to read my Budget speech or listened to Budget speech carefully this year, he would have noticed that I had clearly said in my Budget speech, that the moneys which will be collected from disinvestment will be used for three purposes alone. First purpose is to restructure or revive the potential and viable PSUs, second is to retire high cost public debt and the third is to spend on social sectors. These are the three areas which have been spelt out as the areas in which moneys from disinvestment will go. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, we were never told as to how much would be spent for reviving the PSUs and how much would be spent for the social sectors...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Let me clarify that the moneys will flow to Consolidated Fund of India. I am not in favour, as Finance Minister of this country, of fragmenting the Consolidated Fund of India for every small purpose here and there. This will completely destroy the financial discipline.

So, the monies will flow into the Consolidated Fund and from there they will go for the purposes that I have just now mentioned.

I do not know why Shri Basudeb Acharia is getting so excited. I have just mentioned that we have pre-paid high cost World Bank loan of 280 million dollars in the first quarter. This is where the money has gone. We will go according to the Budget. I do not want to go into the figures but it is important to remember that the total receipts so far, between 1991 and 1999, through disinvestment has been Rs. 18390 crore only. The Budgetary support to PSUs in this period has been of the extent of Rs. 61211 crore. What are we comparing?

Where is Rs. 18,000 or Rs. 16,000? Therefore, the point I am making is not about these figures. The point I am making is that our commitment to the public sector is not at all in doubt. In the last 28 months, we have taken up 20 public sector units for revival.

But I must hasten to add that drift is not our policy. Maybe this policy is good for the Left Party. They drift, do not do anything and just sit with their hands tight like Shri Basudeb Acharia is probably sitting. I am saying that drift is not our policy and it is under that we are following a proactive policy. I had defined very clearly in this year's Budget the Government of India's policy with regard to the public sector. We will revive whenever we can. We will have to close down where repeated studies show that, and the unit has remained closed for months. And, thirdly, in each case, the interest of the workers shall be protected. This is the policy that we have followed and we will continue to follow it.

Hon. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh has raised the issue of PMGY.

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi): Fortunately, he is in the Chair.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I cannot see him.

The question of PMGY was not merely a rehash of the BMS. It was not. We have also raised the quantum of money which has been made available. Apart from Rs. 8000 crore which we have provided for rural development and for various schemes in the Budget, we have set apart a sum of Rs. 5000 crore separately for the PMGY, which is Rs. 1300 crore more than what was provided last year in the BMS. That is the commitment.

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad also wanted to know where this money which we are collecting through the cess on diesel and petroleum is going. The total amount of money which we are collecting through these two imposts of one rupee is Rs. 5800, crore out of which Rs. 2500 crore stands committed only for rural roads in this country. Another Rs. 2010 crore is for the Prime Minister's ambitious National Highways programme. We are also giving Rs. 990 crore for upgrading the State Highways. For the first time, any Government is making money in a dedicated manner available to the State Governments for upgrading their State Highways. For Railway safety work, we are making available another Rs. 300 crore. This accounts for this amount of money. So, this money is clearly accounted for. My colleague, the Minister of Surface Transport, will come before this House and will move a Bill for creation of a separate pool, a cess, where

all this money will be collected and used for these purposes.

I would like to assure Shri Raju Babu that I have absolutely no ill-will for the State of Bihar even after Jharkhand becomes another State. We are committed to it. The Home Minister has already explained that there will be a dedicated cell in the Planning Commission which will look after the interest of Bihar. But I would like to say that even in the absence of that separation, we have looked after the interest of each State Government. No State Government can today complain that we have not helped the State Government whenever the need for such help has arisen and that will continue to be our policy.

Sir, a very important issue was raised by my friend Shri Kirit Somaiya about the taxation of the foreign telecasting companies. It is true that in 1996, the CBDT decided that a certain calculation will be made in this regard. It is because when the companies operate in India on a global basis and if they are not maintaining their separate accounts for Indian operations—which they do when they are located here—then it becomes somewhat a complex exercise to determine what their global income is and what part of it is Indian income. It is true that in May, 1996 the CBDT came to the conclusion that there will be a presumptive rate of profit of the foreign telecasting companies of 10 per cent of their gross receipts which were meant for remittances abroad. The matter was taken up for review. As soon as this Government came into power, the review was completed. On the basis of the review, I can assure the House that we will be coming out with a new set of principles so that this discrimination, if any, between Indian and foreign telecasting companies, is ended completely. But I may also point out that the tax is on taxable income. As far as taxable income is concerned, the Indian companies are paying 35 per cent plus 10 per cent surcharge which works out to 38.5 per cent. The foreign telecasting companies are paying a tax of 48 per cent on the taxable income. That is the differential which is maintained in regard to the tax structure.

Sir, Shri Kirit Somaiya had also raised an issue of the Electronic Voting Machine expenditure of Rs. 150 crore. He has asked whether it could not have been anticipated in the Budget. It could not have been anticipated in the Budget because at that point of time, there was no demand from the Election Commission. It came to us after the Budget had been passed by Parliament. In fact, it came only recently. We are taking steps to provide for it because we are also convinced along with the Election Commission that Electronic Voting Machine does make for fair voting in this country and

[Shri Yashwant Sinha]

that it is very badly needed in many parts of this country. That is why, we have hastened to provide this.

Sir, the question of post offices and Panchayat Sanchar Seva Kendra was raised by Shri Naval Kishore Rai and Shri Rajo Singh. The scheme is in operation and the Department of Posts is taking care of this particular matter.

Sir, a question has been raised about the state of the economy, about the grim picture where foreign investment is not coming into the country and that FII's are running away. Now we cannot have both these. We cannot, on the one hand, keep cursing them and on the other hand say that they are not coming. I think Shri Rupchand Pal mentioned that the BoP crisis is in the offing. Sir, I had taken the opportunity when I was replying to the Calling Attention Motion to say that we should not become prophets of doom here in this House. According to the estimates by independent national and international observers which I have read, the only debate is whether the growth rate this year will be 6.5 per cent or whether it will be seven per cent. That is the debate which is taking place. This growth rate of 6.5 per cent or seven per cent is one of the highest growth rates today in any country of the world. This is a stage which India has achieved.

There could be temporary problems. I had mentioned in this House that increasing petroleum prices is a matter of concern. But you are talking about the falling down of reserves by 1.8 or 2 billion dollars. I had pointed out to this House that after all, nine billion dollars were our reserves in the last two years. Why have we added nine billion dollars to our reserves? We have added it to be able to use it whenever the need arises. So, where is the worry? There is no question of a BoP crisis. We have enough reserves to be able to take care of all the expenditure in foreign exchange that this country needs. I would plead that we should not send any signal from this House which will create unnecessary panic in the market. Sir, I had also pointed out that despite two months outflow, FII inflows have turned positive in the month of August. After all, this is a good market.

16.00 hrs.

India is a huge country. We have our own attractions. Therefore, we do not have to go out to seek everybody. They will come here if they feel that it is worthwhile for them to come to this country and this is what the world has come to realise. Therefore, let us not have any worry in that regard.

We are committed to *Panchayati Raj*. I have said it very clearly that we would like the *Panchayati Raj* institutions to play their rightful role as the units of democracy in this country. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi was referring to money being looted through the *Panchayats*. I think it will have to be constant vigilance at the grassroots level which will ensure that moneys are not wasted. We have experimented through the bureaucracy in this country for the last many decades. Now we are experimenting with *Panchayats*. We have to find the right kind of delivery instruments in order to be able to take development to the doors of every citizen of this country. I am personally convinced that if we can have democracy through Parliament at the Central level and if we can have democracy through Legislative Assemblies at the State level, there is no reason why we should grudge democracy at the *Panchayat* level or at the district level. I am quite sure they will learn once we thrust responsibility upon them. Therefore, instead of taking away their powers, what we need to do is to give them more powers, so that people become alert. Of course, we should take certain steps in order to safeguard the interests of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, weaker sections and women. We have to make sure that all these special interests are fully protected. There are ample provisions in the Constitution to be able to do that.

Shri Sudhip Bandyopadhyay raised some very important issues. Unfortunately, for want of time, I will not be able to take them up. I hope there will be another opportunity for me to discuss those issues.

I had mentioned this figure when I was moving the National Housing Bank Amendment Bill in the last Session, which this House had then passed. I had said that we in the NDA have set ourselves a target of two million houses or twenty lakh residential houses to be completed each year. We did 1.8 million or 18 lakh houses in the year 1998-99. The figure went up to 32 lakh houses in the year 1999-2000. This year, I was collecting the figures from the financial institutions, there has been a growth of 42 per cent as far as disbursements for housing is concerned. If house constructions are taking place, if road constructions are taking place, then these are all areas which generate employment. The emphasis therefore on infrastructure is extremely important. We have taken a number of steps to ensure that infrastructure is strengthened in this country because we cannot sustain a seven or eight per cent growth rate in the absence of adequate infrastructure both in terms of urban industrial infrastructure as well as in terms of the rural infrastructure.

A very important question was raised by a number of Members including Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay. That was about regional imbalance. I have covered employment generation issue already. Regional imbalances are a serious issue. But it is not the issue which is of yesterday. In fact, a number of developments are taking place. If we do not take care of this problem, then regional imbalances will get accentuated.

A reference was made to the eastern region. Eastern region is poor starting with the eastern part of Uttar Pradesh. We have a lot of problems in the eastern region. There are other parts of the country which are poor. All the Special Category States fall in that category. With information technology the danger of digital divide is also confronting us. So, as a nation, we have to adopt policies which will minimise this growing imbalance between regions.

Here Sir, I would like to plead before this House that while in the Government of India, we will think and we have already thought of a number of schemes—successive Governments had also thought about that—the concern and the worry of the Members of this House can be taken care of only when the Government of India and the State Governments work in total partnership. Otherwise, how does the Government of India make the money available? The Government of India has only one way and that is, the State machinery has to be used in order to take all these programmes to the people.

16.06 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

And I would like to say that we have gone out of the way to cooperate with the State Governments, to take the State Governments on board and to make sure that the fruits of development are taken to the people.

The other issue which has been pointed out here is...*(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER: What about MPLADS?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What about non-payment of salaries and gratuity dues to the workers?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: About the MPLAD Scheme, we have already raised it to Rs. 2 crores. But, I as a Member of Parliament, may say one thing...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The entire House is very anxious on this point.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am asking the Minister to say something. Why are you unnecessarily spoiling the atmosphere?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar): what is the budget allocation for the development of SCs and STs?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I will share the figures. These are all published figures. A situation has arisen in many a State where individual MLAs who form part of the MPs' constituencies are getting much larger sums of money than the MPs—I am told. It is also my experience that for Members of Parliament, Rs. 2 crore is neither here nor there. There amount of Rs. 2 crore is a very small amount that we get to spend but...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): The rest of it must not go on record!...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Especially in the State from where I come, the situation is that the District Magistrates and other officers who are involved in development work really do not bother about Members of Parliament. They do not bother about the Central Ministers. It is true. We cannot get and at least, I have not been able to get a single *Indira Awaas* house built in my constituency on my recommendation. This is the position. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The same is the position in my case also. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is going to give a positive reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: What is needed to be done is and it is not merely a question of raising the money which is available. Shri Prabhu Nath Singh has asked to raise it to Rs. 6 crore. We will find that even Rs. 6 crore would be inadequate because about Rs. 100 crore are flowing into a district for development purposes in which we have absolutely no say. So, this is a more serious matter. Sir, I would suggest that alongwith the Minister for Rural Development, myself and the Minister for Programme Implementation, you may call a meeting of political parties...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am also having a constituency.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN (Coimbatore) You may raise it to at least Rs. 5 crore.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Ruling will not solve the purpose. Funds are required.

[English]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: That is why, as I said, it is not merely a question of increasing the allocation.

It is also a question of the whole institutional revenue. What is the role of a Member of Parliament in the development process of his district? This is the issue which has to be determined.

[Translation]

We have no role unless and until we determine our role...(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I therefore, request that you should convene an all party meeting to decide the amount under MPLADS and determine the role of Member of Parliament in the process of development of the district. We are ready for that. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2000-2001 to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India out of the Consolidated Fund of India to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 2001 in respect of the following Demands entitled in the second column thereof, against Demand Nos. 1,3, 4, 6, 8, 11, 13, 25, 40, 45, 54, 58, 63, 64, 68, 69, 71, 73, 78, 79, 81, 85, 87, 95 and 96."

The motion was adopted.

Demands for Supplementary Grants—First Batch (General) for 2000-2001 submitted to the vote of Lok Sabha

| No. & Title of Demand | Amount of Demand for Grant submitted to the Vote of the House | |
|---|--|-------------|
| | Revenue Rs. | Capital Rs. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Ministry of Agriculture | | |
| 1. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation | 100000 | — |
| 3. Department of Animal Husbandary and Dairying | 25800000 | — |
| 4. Department of Food Processing Industries | 109400000 | — |
| Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers | | |
| 6. Department of Fertilizers | — | 150000000 |
| Ministry of Commerce and Industry | | |
| 8. Department of Commerce | 50100000 | — |
| Ministry of Communications | | |
| 11. Department of Posts | — | 97800000 |
| 13. Department of Telecom Services | — | 100000 |

| 421 Demands for Supplementary Grants—General and Demands for Excess Grants—General | SRAVANA 30, 1922 (Saka) | Demands for Supplementary Grants—General and Demands for Excess Grants—General | 422 |
|---|-------------------------|---|------------|
| 1 | | 2 | 3 |
| Ministry of External Affairs | | | |
| 25. Ministry of External Affairs | | 100000 | — |
| Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution | | | |
| 40. Department of Consumer Affairs | | — | 30000000 |
| Ministry of Home Affairs | | | |
| 45. Ministry of Home Affairs | | 9500000 | — |
| Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises | | | |
| 54. Department of Heavy Industry | | 381400000 | 3027100000 |
| Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs | | | |
| 58. Law and Justice | | 1500000000 | — |
| Ministry of Mines and Minerals | | | |
| 63. Department of Mines | | — | 100000 |
| Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources | | | |
| 64. Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources | | 20000000 | — |
| Ministry of Planning | | | |
| 68. Ministry of Planning | | 100000 | — |
| Ministry of Power | | | |
| 69. Ministry of Power | | 100000 | 4600000000 |
| Ministry of Rural Development | | | |
| 71. Department of Land Resources | | 100000 | — |
| Ministry of Science and Technology | | | |
| 73. Department of Science and Technology | | — | 47500000 |
| Ministry of Steel | | | |
| 78. Ministry of Steel | | 3810000000 | — |
| Ministry of Surface Transport | | | |
| 79. Department of Road Transport and Highways | | 9900000000 | — |

| 423 Demands for Supplementary Grants—General and Demands for Excess Grants—General | AUGUST 21, 2000 | Demands for Supplementary Grants—General and Demands for Excess Grants—General | 424 |
|---|-----------------|---|-----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | |
| Ministry of Textiles | | | |
| 81. Ministry of Textiles | — | 10500000 | |
| Ministry of Urban Development | | | |
| 85. Public Works | — | 90200000 | |
| Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation | | | |
| 87. Urban Emp. and Poverty Alleviation | — | 40000000 | |
| Department of Atomic Energy The President, Parliament, Union Public Service Commission and the Secretariat of The Vice-President | | | |
| | 100000 | — | |
| 95. Rajya Sabha | — | — | |
| 96. Lok Sabha | 55500000 | — | |
| Grand Total | 15862300000 | 9443300000 | |

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put the Demands for Excess Grants (General) for 1997-98 to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the respective excess sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the

Consolidated Fund of India to make good the excess on the respective grants during the year ended 31st day of March, 1998 in respect of the following Demands entered in the second column thereof:—

Demand Nos. 14, 47 and 80."

The motion was adopted.

List of Demands for Excess Grants (General) for 1997-98 submitted to the Vote of the Lok Sabha

| No. & Name of Demand | Amount of Demand for Grant submitted to the Vote of the House |
|---|--|
| 1 | 2 |
| 14. Department of Telecommunications | 356,41,02,812 |
| 47. Transfer to Union Territory Governments | 10,000 |
| 80. Ports, Lighthouses and Shipping | 13,65,98,367 |
| Total | 370,07,11,179 |

16.13 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (NO. 3) BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2000-2001.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2000-2001.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I introduce** the Bill.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I beg to move:**

“That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2000-2001, be taken into consideration.”

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2000-2001, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

“That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill.”

*The motion was adopted**Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.**The Schedule was added to the Bill.*

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I beg to move:

“That the Bill be passed.”

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That the Bill be passed.”

The motion was adopted.

16.14 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (No. 4) BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 1998, in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 1998, in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year.

The motion was adopted

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I introduce** the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I beg to move: **

“That the Bill to provide for the authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 1998, in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year, be taken into consideration.”

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 21.8.2000.

** Introduced/moved with the Recommendation of the President.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 21.8.2000.

** Introduced/moved with the Recommendation of the President.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 1998, in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

16.18 hrs.

MOTION RE: EXPRESSING ANGUISH AND DEEP SENSE OF GRIEF OVER THE INCIDENTS OF KILLING OF INNOCENT PERSONS IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR AND URGING TO APPOINT COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House would now take up Item No. 25.

Hon. Members, before the House takes up discussion on the Motion regarding killing of innocent persons in Jammu and Kashmir, I would like to make an observation.

No words are strong enough to condemn the inhuman killings in Jammu and Kashmir and there can be no doubt about the anxiety of each one of us that all-out efforts need to be made to prevent recurrence of such tragic incidents.

As regards the discussion today, I would like hon. Members from all sections of the House kindly to bear in mind the sensitive nature of the subject.

We should not forget that our Armed Forces are waging a grim battle against terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and doing a laudable job against tremendous odds. I would, therefore, urge upon the hon. Members not to make unsubstantiated allegations or say anything that may lower the morale of our Armed Forces. Members may also refrain from making speeches that may, in any manner, jeopardise the delicate balance of communal harmony prevailing in the country.

Now, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I initiate the discussion, with all due respect to the Chair and the authority to which we all have respect, since the inception of Parliament and Parliamentary democracy, in a democratic institution like this, the highest forum of the nation, when such serious situation is discussed, Sir, I hope your faith in the wisdom of the Members of Parliament to understand what is right and wrong will be upheld. We have abundant faith in our collective wisdom to defend the integrity of India, the secular character of the nation, and to strengthen the morale of our Armed Forces and security forces. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not like to make any comment on the observation but I felt that I should inform, before I initiate the discussion, that during the course of the discussion on this Motion itself, a situation may be created which might demoralise the Armed Forces.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are a matured democracy and not only a matured democracy, but we are also a strong Republic. We are a strong Republic not in the sense that we are participating in the political system but the people of India are never afraid of facing truth and they believe in truth.

Sir, the seal of the Government, the seal of the Constitution, the seal of the three lions carry the message *Satyameva Jayate*, meaning "the truth shall triumph". It is the truth, nothing less than the truth that strengthens

not only the democratic system, but also the public mind and the functioning of the Government. With this understanding, I would like to say that the Indian National Congress, the principal Opposition Party, is second to none in understanding the responsibility towards protecting communal harmony, secularism, the unity of India, the integrity of India and to defend our Armed Forces and the security forces. We have been doing it for years.

Sir, what does the Congress Party desire? Our party desires not to score any political debating point on this issue. Here, I would humbly like to quote what our distinguished Prime Minister of our country, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee—who had the privilege, on a number of occasions, to sit in this chair that our leader, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi is sitting now, as the Leader of the Opposition—had said in a different kind of circumstance of another Amarnath tragedy. He came forward to stall the business of the Government and moved an Adjournment Motion and he said:

"The Government has taken it casually in which the administration of Jammu and Kashmir is also involved. The Centre has also not carried out its work with responsibility in the way in should be done. Under such circumstances, as a Member of the Opposition, it is my duty. We have moved an Adjournment Motion and there is no political motive in it..."

He said further:

"Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have been in the Opposition. What should the Opposition do in such a situation?..."

Finally he said:

"Mr. Speaker, Sir, certainly there are two kinds of tragedy and calamity. One is natural and the other is manual."

He had genuine apprehensions that it was manual. He further said:

"I do not mind if the Adjournment Motion is deferred, but the whole truth should come."

Sir, we are not adopting this line merely because we are in the Opposition. We are expressing the concern of the people. The concern of the pilgrims has not been ventilated by the Congress Party or 'A' Party or 'B' Party. The newspaper, *The Indian Express*, on the 10th of August, 9 days after this incident had taken place, conducted an Opinion Poll on this issue. What does the result of this Opinion Poll say? It says that 73 per cent of the people who participated in this poll said that they

want a judicial inquiry into the matter, 23 per cent said "no" and 4 per cent said "can't say". It was not published in *The National Herald*. It was published in *THE INDIAN EXPRESS*. If 73 per cent of the people who participated in that Opinion Poll say that the truth should be revealed, is it not the responsibility of the principal Opposition Party to respond to the people's urge?

Sir, what is the background? The background is, the dates of *Amarnath Yatra* are not unknown. It is known to the Government that this is the time when the *Rath Yatra* of Puri will be undertaken, this is the time when the Durga Puja will be celebrated, this is the time when the pilgrims go to Mecca for Haj and this is the time when the pilgrims go on *Amarnath Yatra*. These are well-known dates. These are not suddenly fixed. A responsible Government should first evaluate as to under what circumstances the *Amarnath Yatra* dates were fixed. There are many important happenings in the background. The first, is serious hostility of Pakistan and sending of ISI-trained militants, the second is the hijacking of an Indian Airlines plane for which the Government of India had to pay a heavy price by releasing Masud-ul-Azhar and other militants, the third is, in spite of Home Minister's repeated commitments, massacres at Doda went on one after another—Shri Chaman Lal Gupta is present here and he knows it well—the fourth is, the Resolution on Autonomy was debated in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly and was passed, the fifth is, the Hurriyat leaders were released by the Government for negotiations and dialogue and the sixth is, the ceasefire announced by Hizbul Mujahideen and the serious opposition to it by Lashkar-e-Toiba, Harkat-ul-Ansar and few other militant groups. In this surcharged atmosphere, in this atmosphere of total uncertainty and chaos, if the pilgrims of India, be it they Hindus or Muslims, want to go to a holy place like Gurudwara or any other place, the Government has got to protect them.

If I go to *Haj*, it is the '*Khuda*' to protect me. If I go to Amarnath, Lord Shiva will protect me. They are fearless. That was an established faith and tradition of this country for all the pilgrims. The pilgrims to Amarnath did not bother whether Hizbul Mujahideen is talking for peace or not. They felt that it was their time to go and have their '*Puja*' and pay respects and tributes at Amarnath. It is the Government to take a cognisance of this surcharged atmosphere. It is the Government to understand in what circumstances the pilgrims are going there. It is the Government to evaluate the seriousness of this yatra in this type of climate right from Kandahar to the ceasefire line of Hizbul Mujahideen. Therefore, I charge the Government that it did not evaluate the situation. It did not even try to anticipate. It did not take

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cognisance of this whole surcharged atmosphere in the course of the Amarnath Yatra. If you had done it, I do not say that the massacre would not have been there but it could have been avoided. With a leakproof arrangement, it could have been avoided substantially.

The talks have been there that a judicial inquiry will demoralise the security forces. Why? Who are our security forces? They are the great sons of our country. What are they doing? They are defending our country. They are defending the borders. They are taking up very risky jobs. But the nation wants to know about the coordination of the security forces? Were there proper arrangements down the line—to the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, talks up to the Ministry of Home Affairs in the day-to-day business of this situation? The nation has a right to know about that. Even a security Commander can come and tell the Judicial Commission of Inquiry, "Sir, I was only instructed not to use my gun against the Hizbul Mujahideen. I was not briefed furthermore in regard to the Amarnath pilgrims." Why will he speak? Why will he give his views? An executive blunder cannot be inquired into by an executive authority. An executive blunder, if there is any doubt, can only be taken care of by a judicial inquiry. What is a judicial inquiry? Is that a big thing for which the heavens will fall; the security forces will get demoralised?

In 1952, when Dr. Katju, the then Minister of State for Home Affairs piloted the Commissions of Inquiry Bill—it was referred to the Select Committee and brought back—Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee dealt with it very strongly in this House. I have gone through those proceedings. I do not want to take the time of the House to quote from those proceedings. After we got it approved by the Select Committee, the entire House came to a unanimous conclusion here that a matter arising out of important issues right from an inquiry into corruption cases to the administrative lapses, the only forum available is the Commission of Inquiry Act. Through this process, the Constitution-makers and, later on, this Parliament proposed several amendments to that Act.

We are quite aware of the provision in the Constitution. Now, I am not coming to the legalities. I will deal with them a little later. If anything goes on in Jammu and Kashmir, I do not understand why is there a feeling among a section of the population to talk in a hushed tone or to talk less and keep quiet. Otherwise, something will be serious. Why will there be something serious? If a security man cannot defend the life of a Prime Minister in 10, Janpath or in 7, Akbar Road, if a security man cannot defend the security of a Minister travelling in a

State, if a security man is not briefed how to apprehend the danger and how the pilgrims will go in a surcharged atmosphere, is it not a duty of the nation to know and demand what are the lapses? If a security man failed in Calcutta, he should be caught. Is it demoralisation? If a security man creates a mess in Rajasthan, is it demoralisation? If a security lapse is there because of the lapse of the Government in Jammu and Kashmir, and to draw a conclusion that a particular security man was responsible, would he be demoralised?

With all respect to Shri Advani, in the judicial probe it may be revealed. I do not know. It is his Ministry, it is his authority, which did not anticipate the issue and did the thing in the right moment. Why is he feeling like that? Why is he making a pre-judged issue that a particular Constable or a CRPF Inspector or a particular Lieutenant of the Army would be booked, so the entire security forces in the Jammu and Kashmir Valley would say that now they are being called by a Judge in the judicial enquiry so they are demoralised? No, I do not think so.

When Major Purushottam died in Badami Bagh, he was not a soldier in Kargil, he was defending his own Cantment and died. If his wife questions hon. Home Minister and the hon. Defence Minister that, 'my husband died for the nation to defend the country, maybe due to certain lapses, if the lapses are done by the Government, and if you sit on the files on the information of his Intelligence, what is going to happen? And if I want to know the truth, you will take the pretext that security further will be demoralised. Please do not ask that.'

If I ask him the question, if a Commander of the Army asks for ten tanks 20 days before the Kargil War and if he responds to him after two months when the battle is over and if I say let the Commander depose before the judicial enquiry, as to what had happened, you would say it will demoralise.

Truth. A mature democracy always demands the truth and nothing less than the truth. After all what is the prayer of the Hindus to Amarnath? Why do they go there? What is the hymn of Amarnath Yatra, I would like to know this from Shri Advani. I am not talking in tune of BJP or Hindu Mahasabha. I am talking in the true spirit of Hindu philosophy. What is the prayer to Amarnath? It is Satyam Shivam Sundaram. Truth, I want truth. Oh God, give me truth. Truth is Lord Shiva and truth is beauty and the truth. And before praying for the truth, the truth is being gagged, gagged and gagged by denying the judicial enquiry.

16.32 hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

The very purpose of *Amarnath Yatra* is not merely to reach the *Amarnath Temple*, but to say *Satyam Shivam Sundaram*.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Congress Party never tried to make it an issue. Can the hon. Home Minister deny this? Not only the Congress Party but the entire Opposition, in the matter of their peace initiative gave a backing to the Government without making any statement and question. Did we ever raise the issue in the matters of negotiations of peace? Did we ever embarrass the Government, till the hostages are released from Kandhar to question the niceties, wrong things or anything, till the incident was not over? Did we question the Government on any matter pertaining to Kargil? We never did that. We stood by the Government because, at least, we know it from the Congress because we sat there for many more decades than they. We are privileged one to lead the nation for many decades. We know, what is the pain of the Government and what is the joy of the Government. Therefore, we never tried to compromise this issue. We stood by him, we stood by the Government in matters of all such crises that endanger the security of the country, that endanger the security of the nation.

I do not bring in Parliament the election speeches. One has to score his politics to get the vote. Whatever you make, I do not like to say that. But can anybody say on record that the Congress Party, in matters of any grave situation, whether sitting here or there, did try to score politics in terms of communal harmony, in terms of secularism?

I said on the floor of this House, Mr. Chairman Sir, in the Eleventh Lok Sabha. Shri Somnath Chatterjee will bear me out. As a Congressman I do not feel that when the Sikh parents cried during the deadly night in Delhi they cried for nothing, but I feel that they cried genuinely. And if something has gone wrong into it, one has to probe and get the truth and punish whomsoever he may be.

I always and strongly feel that this Parliament has a right to address the issue in the right direction. Well, there can be argument that judicial enquiry is a delayed process. It may take three months or six months or one year and sometimes the Commission's findings are not honoured by the Government.

It is up to the Government and if it feels that it is the problem, then we can amend the Act itself by which

we can make it mandatory. I do not mind that. Simply because there will be a delay and the Government has a discretion not to accept or accept the recommendation, and that is why, it should not be there, then there are many laws which we can declare as scrapped and bring in new laws. That is not the point.

On the massacre of Sikhs in Delhi, a Commission was appointed and the Government felt that it was not enough and appointed another Commission to find out more truth. Nobody has questioned it. The Congress Party did not question that. Yes, you have a right. If the Government feels that the judicial Commission itself is not an operative authority by the Commission of Inquiry Act to bring people to book and the Government is helpless, then you amend the Act. You see whether we are co-operative or not. But without doing all these things, simply taking the pretext that the security forces will be demoralised, there will be a delay, and the Government may agree or may not agree, let the Executive Inquiry be there, and simply we talk about the killing of a few people, express out deep condolences to the bereaved members of the family, pay some compensation, say Rs. 2 lakh or Rs. 3 lakh, and the next *Amarnath Yatra* will be taken care of. No.

Dr. Sengupta, a distinguished Member of Trinamool Congress, is sitting here. It was he who, at the time of Shri Deve Gowda's Government, took the investigation on his own on the *Amaranth Yatra*. At that time Kandahar incident was not there. These kinds of hostilities were not there. Of course, hostilities were there but not of this nature. I congratulate him for that. Did he not recommend at that time the entire route up to the point of *Amarnath*, there should be a security cover of the Army? Did the Government take cognizance to that?

This was not the *Amarnath Yatra* of Shri Deve Gowda's regime. This was *Amarnath Yatra* of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's regime. The situation had further aggravated. So, you try to understand the security perception, precautionary measures and our spending.

Shri Advani, you may disagree with me. The day you have released the Hurriyat people without taking to Dr. Farooq Abdullah, without taking him into confidence, obviously Dr. Farooq Abdullah's Government and this loyal forces might have felt that the Government of India is releasing the Hurriyat people for better talks of peace without taking them into confidence, and might have felt, "Let them do. What is our headache?" This attitude, "Let them do, what is our headache?" is a lapse, it is a gap, it is a co-ordination lapse, it is a distress, it is a misunderstanding, and it is a communication gap, which contributed and culminated to a situation, "Oh, CRPF have

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come. Let them take care. The Government is busy with Hurriyat.

[Translation]

I didn't ask people there do they like autonomy. They will talk to Hurriyat.

[English]

Mr. Home Minister, it was the real situation in Kashmir. The key operative agency in Kashmir is the State Government. It is managed by the Chief Minister. The Chief Minister was demoralised. He gave a proposal in April 1999 and the Government did not agree to that. He fought against the Hurriyat but the Government released Hurriyat people without taking him into confidence. Before I have brought this Resolution for a judicial commission of inquiry, Dr. Farooq Abdullah was substantially demoralised because of the way you have treated him. That was demoralisation number one, and number two was the killing of *Amarnath* pilgrims.

The security forces have been demoralised not because of our demand of judicial inquiry into the incident. None of the security forces has said so. The day the country's External Affairs Minister, without deputing the Home Secretary or the Deputy Secretary, escorted Masud-ul-Azhar, landed in Kandahar and surrendered, they were demoralised. You are now finding a pretext that it will demoralise the security forces and there will be a delay. It is a very interesting logic. I do not understand how do you develop this logic in a parliamentary forum.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our demand for a judicial inquiry is not to score a point but we did want to know answers to a few questions.

What we wanted to know is answers to a few questions. These questions cannot be addressed by an executive inquiry. The Home Minister will also appreciate these questions. What was the route of Amarnath pilgrims covering the districts? In that route, how many specific centres have been finalised by the unified command of security forces and Kashmir Government for the arrangement of the pilgrims?

My next question is this. Did the Government have any serious meeting with the administration of Jammu and Kashmir before the pilgrims arrival to discuss the hostile attitude of Pakistan's ISI, Laskhar-e-Toiba and Hurkat-ul-Ansar who might create a serious situation during the pilgrimage in view of the fact that you have planned to hold a dialogue with Hurriyat followed by an

immediate desire to hold a dialogue with Hizbul Mujahideen? Did you, at any time, have joint and a unified discussion between the Ministry of Home Affairs of India, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir and the operational army wing in Jammu and Kashmir in regard to the safe perception after the Laskhar-e-Toiba reacted sharply against the initiative to hold a dialogue with Hizbul Mujahideen? I would like to know whether the district authorities were sufficiently briefed in Pahalgam, Anantnag, Doda and Kupwara districts pertaining to the security and safety of the pilgrims and to have vigilance in the *Langar* where they are to eat and where they are identified.

The reported pilgrims were given a kind of identity cards. I would like to know whether those identity cards were checked. It is because I understand that when Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and all others went with the Prime Minister, there was a news report that some had said that their identity cards was never checked. What was the total deployment of para-military, security forces and the army in the assembly points of the pilgrims, namely, the bus stand, railway station, Jammu and Srinagar airports and centres of stay, including the *Langars*? What was the logic behind this?

Was there any mechanism to give day-to-day briefing after sunset, if not after every 12 hours, to the Home Minister in Delhi, from the field of Jammu and Kashmir of the detailed security arrangements and the problems arising out there? Why do I say this? It is because when the Home Minister made a statement in the House 24 hours after the incident, he even admitted that the details had not been reaching him and he was yet to receive the details. The massacre took place in the first day evening. You are making a statement the next day. I can quote your statement. You said:

[Translation]

This has to be investigated whether army was there or not.

[English]

It means there was a specific communication and co-ordination lapse between the security command there and the Home Ministry here. You are operating at your behest. This has led to the gravity of the situation in Kashmir. Was there any joint meeting of Jammu and Kashmir administration—I totally isolate Amarnath pilgrims from the general affairs of Kashmir—specially, with Army and para-military forces to have co-ordination and build a strategy? If so, when was this meeting held and who presided over the meeting?

A layman can say, Amarnath pilgrims combine mostly Hindus. Hindus from throughout the country are reaching Amarnath. Pakistan through ISI and Lashkar-e-Toiba, after having failed to engineer communal riots in the country, took many attempts. Thanks to the people of India, they never fell into the trap. Pakistan might have the last design not only to sabotage the peace talks but to hit the pilgrims in such a manner that a communal dimension is given between the Hindus and the Muslims. Did you foresee that? Did your Intelligence Agencies and your Government brief you in that regard that peace perception in regard to the present day context of Amarnath Yatra may be seen in the field reality of Jammu and Kashmir and alert and arm ourselves in that order? If so, what are our decisions? What are our guidelines? Was there any specific direction—I use the words “specific direction”—from the Government of India in general, the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Home Affairs in particular, to the Army, para-military forces and Jammu and Kashmir to deal with the situation of the pilgrims after Hizbul Mujahideen confirmed their talks? Why do I use the word “after”? Mr. Chairman, Sir, I saw on the television one of the finest officers in the country, Lt. General J. N. Mukherjee giving his interview.

He was giving an interview on the TV. He said, “Yes, we got a message of cease-fire, we shall maintain and honour it.” After that a question was asked to another officer, “How do you distinguish if the terrorists come with the ammunition as to who is the *Lashkar-e-Toiba* and who is the *Hizb-ul-Mujahideen*? How do you know where is their Commander or where is the Regiment? I think, the Government was sufficiently informed where the *Lashkar-e-Toiba* is strong whether it is in Doda, or in Kupwara or in Anant Nag or any part in India; whether the *Hurriyat* has been in command in a particular part of Pahalgam. These are all with you.

Forget about bringing them to the notice of Parliament. I am not asking you to disclose all your classified information. But you may have information in your own possession that this may be the map up to Amarnath, showing where the *Lakshar-e-Toiba* is strong and where the *Hurriyat* is strong, that this is the group against the peace talks, consisting of places where the *Hizbul Mujahideen* or *Hurriyat* are strong, and those are areas to beef up security instructions to the paramilitary forces and the Army. Did the Government do that? Whether the Government has done that, how do I know? Has the executive inquiry the authority to direct him? That is there. Who is there to ask the officer of the inquiry to ask either Dr. Farooq Abdullah or you, or your officer Shri Kamal Pandey the Home Secretary, that is

the matter, I want to know. In an executive inquiry one cannot ask questions for lapses of the top because of the simple reason it is treated as insubordination.

I know, for instance, there were several inquiries in our State long time back in the Kalishali murder judicial inquiry. The officers of the judicial inquiry are again protected. If I ask my senior he may treat it as insubordination. That is there. It is security. So, truth cannot come. You can also say that the Government has taken a decision to have an *in camera* Session. We are prepared to cooperate with you. Well, no word should go out. You can report to Parliament in an *In Camera* Session. I do not mind.

But simply to avoid it, not to bring the truth, will it help the future? So many Amarnath Yatras will take place. It will help the developments in Kashmir. Tomorrow you may feel that the entire Parliament Members may go to Kashmir to give another message. We, all the 542 Members may be in the soil of Srinagar to say to Pakistan, “Look here. Do not proceed further. We are all with the people of Jammu and Kashmir. We are all here.”

Suppose if that situation comes, what is the security? You cannot guarantee, you cannot say anything. I still feel, about the team which had visited Srinagar that day, even if the team desired to go to certain spots wherein the incidents took place, with all respect to the Home Minister, I think the situation is still such that the Government of India cannot guarantee yet and say, “You go and inspect, we will give you security.” If that be the case, not because of the Prime Minister, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and many leaders to visit the spots, the Government left all innocent pilgrims, the Government left all Yatris throughout the country, who came and assembled to pray to God, just in the lurch. And the Government is telling now.

[Translation]

We do not know whether army was there or not.

[English]

That is the attitude!

You should be in command, Mr. Home Minister. You should be in total command. I think you are losing your command. I am not charging and accusing. I doubt that there is no coordination between the Prime Minister's Office and the Home Minister's Office. There is no coordination between the three—rather four—CMO's that is the Chief Minister's office in Srinagar, PMO, that is the

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Prime Minister's Office, RMO, that is, the Raksha Mantri's office and the HMO, that is, the Home Minister's Office. In the matter of Kashmir these four are integral parts. Why have I been insisting on judicial inquiry is that there is no coordination.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): The result is only zero.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I do strictly feel that there is no coordination. I got a picture. I am not going to scare anybody. "BJP volunteers in Kashmir turn to burning of the effigies."

[Translation]

It is right that they burnt the effigies of terrorism but terrorists have brutally killed our people there. Don't know how many have been killed. This should be enquired.

[English]

How many people have been killed there, is not important. I will tell you about the report, which was published. I translated it from Hindi into English. It is a four pilgrims' photograph published in *The Nav Bharat Times* -

[Translation]

Sir, please listen to what the pilgrims have said.

[English]

What they say:

"The terrorists either carried a gun or a mauser. The security personnel instead of defending the lives of pilgrims were firing in the air. About 300 pilgrims died in the incident."

[Translation]

The pilgrims were going to Amamath.

[English]

"Near Jawahar Tunnel, the BSF personnel allowed a Tata-SUMO carrying two men and a woman to pass. After covering some distance, these persons started firing on a bus carrying Bihari labourers."

There was no security in the bus to protect them.

[Translation]

Labourer from Bihar were going for work.

[English]

"Terrorists conducted simultaneous raids at nine places."

The hon. Minister of Home Affairs made a statement in the House that terrorists conducted simultaneous raids at six places. But I correct you, it was not at six places but it was at nine places. I again quote:

"The way in which security personnel were firing in the air either showed that they were afraid of the terrorists or were in league with them."

We have not seen any Army there.

I again quote:

"The Amamath pilgrims were running helter-skelter, but could not find any place to save themselves."

They were only crying and crying. According to the Amamath pilgrims, whatever had happened, we expected that we are under the cover. What was their expectation?

[Translation]

Somebody asked police must be there. Then, they say, Don't get panicked. Police must have been sent there in plain dresses.

[English]

They thought that you had given them plain clothes. But when the incidents started taking place, they found that all the plain-clothes people were the pilgrims and the uniform people were less. This way the bus passengers were massacred or the labourers of Bihar were massacred..

This is how you have handled the most auspicious journey. I am not comparing the Amamath yatra to the Ayodhya yatra of the hon. Minister of Home Affairs. Amamath yatra was the pious wish free from all politics, where the Hindus of the country thought of going to Amamath for doing some puja there.

They were innocent people. They depended and relied on you. I could understand if it would have been

in Doda or in Pahalgam, but it happened at nine or ten places. I do not want to disclose the name of the officers, for protecting them. A very senior officer told me of the sensitive pockets where the pilgrims were to come. There was no direction as to how we have to handle them, if the terrorists come. He said that pilgrims were hundred and terrorists may be three and weapons must be superior. If they start firing, then how to segregate them. There was no trained group there of the security forces to segregate them. There was no trained group there of the security forces to segregate the pilgrims. There should have been barricades.

16.53 hrs.

[SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA in the Chair]

Hon. Minister of Home Affairs, I will tell you about Ganga Sagar mela.

[Translation]

Advaniji I request you to visit it.

[English]

Lakhs and lakhs of people gather there. I do not know whether the West Bengal Government is following the plan today or not. I have no idea. I have not gone there.

Sir, I remember, we got an alarming note in 1976 that there might be some trouble of the naxalites. Shri Siddharth Shankar Ray was the Chief Minister at that time. The line of action was drawn. Right from the Howrah station to the point of Maidan and to the *ganga sagar*, each bus was escorted front and behind by the police forces and the para-military forces. At the langar site, each one had to go and take his food. The pilgrims showed their cards and no outsiders were allowed to enter and take food. It was in 1976. Now, this is 2000. What did your Government do?

Therefore, our demand was not a political demand but a genuine demand. Now, I come to the legal part. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (Sangrur); What about the massacre of the Sikhs in Chhatisinghpura?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Shri Simranjit Singh Mann reminded me this morning also about Chhatisinghpura incident. Yes, it was a massacre. It was a massacre of the worst kind. Even demanding judicial

inquiry on that was not wrong and I support it. But why did the Government not do that? The Government might have also felt at that time that if they conducted the judicial inquiry, the security forces will be demoralised. Okay, you demoralise the whole nation under the garb of that. That does not matter. I think legality was questioned the other day by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. While dealing with the subject, he said that as per article 370, if any Government desires to appoint a Judicial Inquiry Commission with respect of Kashmir, it cannot do that because Lists I and III in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution contain the subjects of the Union Government, and List II contains the subjects of the State Governments. No, it is totally wrong.

Entry 97 in List I—Shri Somanth Chatterjee is an eminent lawyer; he will perhaps throw more light on this—speaks about prevention of activities involving residuary powers of the legislation under article 248 of the Constitution. Now, what are the residuary powers of the legislation? Entry 97 says:

“Prevention of Activities:—

(a) involving terrorist acts directed towards overawing the Government as by law established or striking terror in the people or any section of the people or alienating any section of the people or adversely affecting harmony amongst different sections of the people;”

An act which has been done by the terrorists or any other people in Kashmir is an activity involving terrorism directed towards overawing the Government by law established and striking terror among the people. It is fully within the ambit of the Union Government as Entry 97 gives special power to Parliament to enact laws with respect to acts involving terrorism, prevention of activities, those directed towards disclaiming, questioning or disrupting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India or bringing about secession of a part of the territory of India or secession of a part of the territory of India from the Union or causing insult to the Indian National Flag, etc., etc. These are all within the ambit of the Government of India. Since these are the provisions of Entry 97, which Shri Pramod Mahajan has not gone through—of the Union List, not of the Concurrent List, not of the State List, in their application to the State of Jammu and Kashmir, it is clearly the Government of India alone that can appoint a Commission of inquiry under the Act to inquire into the occurrences like the one in question. Therefore, legally, technically and Constitutionally, you are not barred, Mr. Home Minister, to appoint a judicial inquiry under the pretext of article 370 or under the pretext of article 248, but under Entry 97 of List, I which the Parliament has

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amended and has given enough power to itself, you are fully empowered to do that. Therefore, with all seriousness and with all humility, I would submit that do not treat this Motion as a political demand, do not treat this Motion as a demand of the Opposition simply to embarrass you. It will not demoralise the security forces. The security forces will become more stronger to know what are the lapses.

[Translation]

They say why you are defaming us.

[English]

So, possibly it is not the security forces which will be demoralised, I think, to a great extent, your Ministry, if not you, may be demoralised. That is why you are trying to defend a shield that in the name of demoralisation of security forces, this should not be used.

Finally, I request that if you really believe, Advaniji, in 'Satyam, Shivam, Sundaram', if you enchant the hymn 'truth must win and the truth must prevail', let the truth come from the judicious wisdom of the judicial inquiry and let it guide the destiny of the nation, so far as such kinds of incidents are concerned, the security forces, the administration, the Government of the day, of day after tomorrow and of future. With these words, I support this Motion and plead the Government and all sections of the House to support it.

17.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): 12 bombs had exploded on 12 March, 1993, ...*(Interruptions)* Although you knew about it, the bomb blast took place during your Government so many people were killed in Kashmir...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: When you will be given the opportunity to speak you discuss this issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: 350 people were killed in Mumbai. It was their Government at that time...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please speak after the Home Minister

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing should go on record except the speech of Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mohan Rawale, you can speak later and raise the issue.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Madam, Chairperson Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munshi has brought a resolution in regard to a very tragic and terrific incident. Killing of more than 30 people during Amarnath journey, simultaneously, murder of more than 100 people at other places and thereafter talking place of one or the other incidents during last 4-5 days. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): He should correct the number of deceased persons...*(Interruptions)* More than 8 people have been killed in my district alone ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): Madam, You should make him the Speaker. Then he will keep quiet. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The incident was very terrific and the entire country was terrified by it. I also get angered. In reply to questionnaires put by newspapers, 73 per cent people said that there should a thorough probe to this incident of Amarnath. 100 per cent people in this country say that there should be no such incident at all and the terrorists should totally wiped from the area. There was a demand from the all corner of the country in this regard.

I agree with you that the facts should be brought to light. It is not the question of murder of 100-150 people, more than 30,000 people and above 5000-6000 soldiers have been killed in terrorist related incidents in last 10-12 years. The number of soldiers killed in this proxy war is far more than those killed in last 4 wars. He has clubbed several other points along with the situation that was created in Amarnath pilgrimage. I would not like to raise them here. But the facts must come to light. The

Government has set up a commission and constituted an inquiry Committee to bring the facts to light. The points have been placed before the Committee:

[English]

"The Committee in particular will enquire into the following:—

- (a) Whether there has been any security lapse or dereliction of duty on the part of any Government functionary which made the militant attack feasible or facilitated in any manner;
- (b) In the event of findings suggesting security lapse, whether responsibility can be fixed and apportioned among the concerned Government functionaries and to make recommendations in this respect;
- (c) Whether the magnitude of casualty could have been contained after the initial bursts of firing on the camp dwellers."

[Translation]

Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi has put almost the same question. Who are the people who as has been said by him, said that it is only an executive inquiry. The Committee consists of.

[English]

Adviser Security to Government of J&K.

[Translation]

Against which post Lt. General Mukherji has been appointed, the Principal Secretary of the Home Department the District magistrate. The hon. Prime Minister went to the extent of saying that if the House wishes he will not hesitate to institute a judicial probe after this enquiry. Let this enquiry be over, let the facts come to light. Let the facts come before the House. Thereafter we will look into the matter. Do you think that the Judicial inquiry will bring all the facts to light? A judicial inquiry had been done after the assassination of Smt. Indira Gandhi. The report had revealed the needle of suspicion towards a person. The Congress Party gave ticket to the very person. Do facts come out from that inquiry?

After the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, judicial inquiry had been done. Did the facts come out of that? How many years did it take? The inquiry run for 10,15,20 years. It is said that these inquiries only put lid on the

truth. The political parties know very well that a judicial inquiry is ordered when the motive is to cover up the case or not to do a thing at all. It runs for years. By the time the report comes, everybody forgets the case. Nothing comes out of it. Now it has been ordered to complete the inquiry in three months and bring out the facts. Can the facts come out in three months? Besides, if the House wished, additional points can be raised and nobody will have an objection to it. But I am surprised that the Congress party has brought this Resolution under rule 184. For last one month there has been discussions on this issue on the pretext or the other first a discussion took place on the release of Hurriyat leaders. Thereafter, a discussion was held on talks held with Hizbul Mujaniddin. A point was raised here after the Amarnath pilgrimage. A discussion was held when the J&K Government raised the issue of autonomy to this State. Discussions have been held for more than once, sometimes in Zero Hour, sometimes in Special Mention and some times in Debate. It is not for the first time that a debate is taking place on this issue. All the parties have put forth their views on it. But why did they bring it under Rule 184. Do they want voting? Do they want this Government to fall? Do they want a rift among the coalition partners? Do they want to see the stand of various parties on this issue? A discussion could have been held under Rule 193 instead of rule 184. They could have brought an Adjournment Motion. They said that Atal ji had brought Adjournment Motion. They could have brought an Adjournment Motion and held a discussion. There could have been no objection had any such thing been done. They want voting and fall of the Government. They further say that they have no political interest, no political issue in it. By bringing the matter under Rule 184, they want to join political mileage out of the heinous massacre of hundreds of innocent people. Never before this such a hollow instance had ever come to notice. It appears to me that the Congress party have not learnt a lesson. What happened in regard to Kargil? When the Kargil point was raised our soldiers were fighting the enemies at a height of 18,000 & 20,000 feet and becoming martyrs. I know that the hon. Prime Minister Convened a meeting of all parties, placed the facts before them and sought their guidance in the matter. At that time also a demand was being made as to how the intruders came and who was at fault. There was also a demand to hold a judicial inquiry into the matter. The parties were told that a Committee under Shri Subramanayam has been constituted But the parties did not accept that and wanted a judicial probe. Why the parties were making a demand for judicial probe. The enemy was sitting above our head and our soldiers were climbing up and dying. The dead bodies were being brought in the Country and even then they were

[Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

demanding a judicial inquiry. The country gave a befitting reply. In the election held thereafter the people did not give even 115 seats to 115 year old Congress party. The number was less than that. When the Country is engaged in a war and proxy war is taking place the only thing that comes to these people's mind is to hold a judicial probe. Please talk about the point that Advaniji said there. I did not like to quote the old thing there, Nehruji had said when the Indo-China war took place...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: During Kargil War, it was not demanded by us. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria): We listened to Shri Dasmunshi very quietly. So, they should also listen to Dr. Malhotra quietly. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The Congress Party had issued a circular at the time of China war. I quote a sentence from the said circular—

[English]

Meetings, big and small, through out all the districts should be held. Positive action against the criticism about the Prime Minister should be taken. It must be emphasised that those who criticise him are traitors."

[Translation]

I cannot address my brethren Members of Parliament who are patriots to be traitor. I dare not to say so. But the Congress party used to address all those people traitor who criticised the Government at the time of war or proxy war. This was Congress Party's statement which I have put before you and the House.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): But Shri Krishna Menon, at that time, resigned.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I would also like to put before the House what Nehru ji had said at that

time. He had said that many hon'ble Members of Parliament had said that we are not prepared and at the time of war with China many hon. Members of Parliament had said that our forces were sent to war bare footed and unequipped, therefore, there were heavy casualties and we were defeated. Thus Nehru ji stated that he was ready to conduct inquiry, if need arose and was willing to correct faults if detected. But if any one demands for Judicial enquiry at this junction, it is not in Nations interest. There is paucity of time, otherwise I would have read the entire statement. It is not good if you go on changing your statement on different occasions. The Congress Party should think over certain issues.

Madam, you said that we have always extended support. It is good and I think that the steps taken by the Government should always be supported. But, I would like to put 3-4 things before you. When Advani ji said in the beginning that we should play a proactive role there, he did not mean that we should enter Pakistan by making hot pursuit. He had merely said that in the event of terrorist attack, instead of reacting we should go in hide outs, play an effective role and try to stop them. The Congress Party made much hue and cry in Lok Sabha as well as in Rajya Sabha that the BJP wants to wage war. What was objectionable in playing proactive role. Proactive meant to take some measures in view of stand taken by the Congress party today.

Madam, TADA has been abolished. At some places, it was misused. For a long time, it is being said that some law should be enacted to replace it. Hundreds of people who were carrying bombs have been apprehend in Delhi. Three people owing allegiance to Dindar Anjuman were killed in jeep. Unfortunately, nobody mentioned on that day as to how Pakistan is openly provoking riots in India. Neither Congress Party nor any one else mentioned that incident. Three Dindar Anjuman activists were apprehended red handed. Congress ruled States have been voicing as to how Conspiracy is being hatched by Pakistan. But there is no law like TADA to counter and contain such incidents. You should also think over it. Not even a single terrorist in Kashmir has been prosecuted and penalised within a span of ten years. The situation in Kashmir is such that neither any judge nor any other person dares to stand as a witness against any terrorist and you take of judicial enquiry. Someone said rightly that the bomb blast at world tower took place in USA at the same time when there was a bomb blast in Mumbai within a period of two years the guilty persons were penalised for three hundred years imprisonment and capital punishment but here in India cases are still in

progress but its finalisation is yet unknown. You have always been opposing TADA but when we intend to bring on piece of legislation into existence you oppose that also. How can terrorist activities be contained unless and until there is a law. Again you take of article 370 and the existence of a command and that Military should be given a free hand. You have just talked about judicial enquiry and now you are pleading that Article 370 will not prove to be a hurdle in that process. You are not ready to think over Article 370 and state Act. As you have also stated, it pinches me to say whether the terrorists in India will only be set free when any incident like kidnapping of Rubiya or Rajkumar or plane hi-jacking incident takes place?

India is a country where 1 billion people live in but this country is in the grip of some counted terrorists. I was amazed to see this state of affairs. It is not a political question nor I am talking of this side or opposition side or about Congress Minister or any body else but when I and entire country witnessed the Chief Minister of Karnataka is sending tapes to Veerappan and asking him why he kidnapped Rajkumar, I was hurt. He is begging before Veerappan. The Country was demoralised when dreaded terrorists were released at the time of Rubiya episode as well as this case of Kandhar. But this does not pertain to a single party only. The entire country should think over it. Whether the country is passing through such a pitiable condition that we find ourselves totally helpless before a kidnapper or a hijacker? This situation has been developed during the past fifty years and not during the last two years. We all are irresponsible for this deterioration and due to it we had to fight four wars against Pakistan. Although, Pakistan was aware of its small size and the fact that it was not possible to win over India. The options of our country are very soft. Pakistan thinks that India is vulnerable and weak country and it can be attacked any time and the land acquired by India can be retrieved any time. It is a country which can release even 91,000 detainees and ask nothing in return and go on holding peace talks. We are engulfed in such a scenario.

A message should be sent to the entire nation, a message should also be sent to Pakistan and terrorists also that we are ready to hold peace-talks but if a peace is not restored, be ready to bear the brunt. There was a time when these terrorists adopted the same tactics. While fleeing Nalua retaliated and killed in a way that his name became synonymous of terror and fear for children. In Gita, Lord Krishna said:

"Yatra Yogeshwaro Krishna,
Yatra Partho Dhanurdhara,
Tatra Shri Vijayabhurtir,
Dhruvo Nitirmatiramama."

Today there is need of Lord Krishna to lead and initiate for talks and peace-talks and what can be given under the Constitution should be given to them but if this policy does not serve the purpose then policy of Arjuna, i.e., fight should be adopted. We have fought war four times. There is no respite from war. The war is ultimate and one should have vigour to win the war.

"Agrato Chaturo Veda, Krishna Sasharamdhanu"

First of all peace talks should be held having "Vedas" in hands but it should be backed by bow and arrow. Therefore, it isn't possible for our Government or one man but the entire Country can do this together and enthuse such feeling among people. I am just giving an example of a Congress Member. He said, when any thorn pricks in some one's foot, he should not try to find out the whereabouts of the thorn but first he should pull the thorn out. Therefore, priority should be given to end the proxy war with Pakistan and for this purpose everyone should be prepared. After that we would think over the short comings just as we are discussing Subramaniam report. Then we will detect shortcomings and wrong doings and punish the guilty but when the Country is passing through a crisis, raising of such demand is not proper. This time, there is need of sending strong message from the country to Pakistan and terrorists. I hope that this House would associate itself with the Government in sending such a message. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Madam, Chairperson, I am happy that this Motion has come, although I would have liked it to be framed differently. But nobody can deny that this matter is of extreme importance. We have just now heard our esteemed friend, Shri V.K. Malhotra. Except for his reference to the request for a judicial enquiry, he has not said a word about the security lapses.

How did those ghastly incidents happen? We have not tried to go into that question at all! Institution of a judicial inquiry is a method of finding out how it happened. We have not agreed with that method. So far as the seriousness of the issue is concerned, we just cannot brush it aside by abusing our opponents. This is precisely what the esteemed speaker from the ruling party did.

With your kind permission, Madam Chairperson, I would like to quote a few sentences from Shri Jaswant Singh's speech made in this House on 26th August, 1996 with reference to that earlier Amarnath tragedy. He said:

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

"Governmental insensitivity and total incompetence in planning adequate preparations, and thereafter taking care to provide timely succour and relief to the pilgrims who are abandoned there..."

This was the charge made by Shri Jaswant Singh on that day on the floor of this House. At that time he had not anticipated probably that these words would boomerang on him. It was a much worse situation that we witnessed on that day at Pahalgam. In the course of his submissions in this House, Shri Jaswant Singh said:

"Army was not called out in time. Army was not called out because there was simply no one in Jammu and Kashmir to officially call the Army out."

He has discussed some matters, apart from some observations of the Prime Minister which Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi quoted. That is also very important. He made a serious criticism of the then Government's functioning. A much worse incident has taken place now. We had a good opportunity of visiting the place and we have thanked the Prime Minister already for taking some of us with him to Pahalgam.

I have no manner of doubt, I have said earlier that the Home Minister was conspicuous by his absence, that a serious lapse was obviously there. If we try to put this under carpet, nothing will happen. It will not benefit anybody. Two people could create that havoc at Pahalgam! Only two militants! They were foreigners, Prime Minister has said that. How could they enter? What precautions were taken when everybody knew that people in such huge numbers were going to assemble there? Why did it take 45 minutes to apprehend the militants? How is it there were these many casualties caused by just two people? We were given the impression that they came unarmed initially. Through which route did they come? Where did they get the arms from? These are serious matters which I feel, Madam, can be gone into by a serious administrative enquiry.

We suggested that some Members of Parliament be selected by the hon. Speaker to go there to make an on the spot enquiry. I quarrel with the Congress party because of the solution they have chosen. I appreciate the anxiety that has been shown by them. I am sure every section of the House realises the seriousness of what had happened.

Madam, the event happened on 1st and 2nd August, 2000, and we are discussing it today, 21st August, 2000. So many days have elapsed. But till today, the Government has no version. This is very an amazing act of incompetence. This is an illustration of incompetence.

As I have said earlier, there is a total atrophy in so far as the functioning of this Government is concerned. Madam, we must realise that this has happened in Jammu and Kashmir. Today, somebody came to meet me in my house in connection with some matters of Srinagar. He asked me, "Sir, all of you say that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. But do you consider Kashmiris as an integral part of the people of India?" I said, "why do you say this?" He said, "Do you take us into consideration? Do you worry about our problems?" Do you really try to find out why the people are feeling alienated from the mainstream? You are merely saying and declaring that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India but the people are suspicious. They are not getting their due share. There is no proper involvement in the administration. How have they been treated? How have the Government after Government been treated? Today, the State Government is really alienated from the people. They are suspicious about the *bona fide* of the administration."

Madam, Chairperson, I am in no manner of doubt that today the people of Jammu and Kashmir, who are Indians, want peace. They are fed up with what is happening there. The biggest strength, the biggest weapon today to fight terrorism is that the people of Jammu and Kashmir themselves now want peace.

Here, we are really discussing about a very important event that had happened, namely, the killings of innocent people. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi rightly said that the date was known and the occasion was known that there would be huge assembly of people. Dr. Nitish Sengupta, in his other incarnation had not been so politicised then...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Did he say?

SHRI SOMANTH CHATTERJEE: I did not want to say that. I am sure he realise what mistakes he had committed. Because of the Tenth Schedule, he is still there...*(Interruptions)* ...Yes, in your other incarnation you gave a report...*(Interruptions)* ...Very good.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: I was requested by the then Home Minister. Then, I told him that I had joined politics. He told me, 'That does not matter. Forget. But we want a senior person.' Then, I said, 'okay, I will do that'...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Then, you were in the Congress politics...*(Interruptions)* ... Trinamul was not in sight. ...*(Interruptions)* After your report, Trinamul was born...*(Interruptions)* ...Okay. ...*(Interruptions)* ...This is not

a prepared matter...*(Interruptions)* ...I said, in his other incarnation, he gave a report which is of great importance. That is what I wanted to say. You anticipated wrongly. But has that been acted upon?

Madam, I am not here trying to disclose as to what we were told there, what was the manner of protecting the people or what would happen, or who would be the incharge of the route, etc. But one factor was very important. When the Prime Minister was meeting the delegations of the people we had the benefit of being present there. One gentleman said, "I have come all the way from Jammu. We were solemnly given an identity card but up till now, nobody has seen that identity card." If nobody checks it, what was the reason for giving that identity card? Why I am mentioning is that it struck us all, and it certainly struck me, that an unarmed militant can obtain some sort of card, or if he has not got a card even, nobody is there to check it. That gentleman had the identity card but nobody checked it. He said that there was searching, frisking, whatever is the expression.

Obviously, he was not there carrying arms. He reaches Pahalgam and then gets the arms. So what sort of a security is there?

A CRPF camp was nearby; the local police was there; the BSF was there; and the Army was also there. This is the grossest type of negligence. This is the grossest type of failure. If this Government had any honour, some heads would have rolled on that day itself. The only thing that happened was that the hon. Prime Minister went there. He also took us. He says that there were some security lapses. But till today the country has not been taken into confidence even when this Motion under rule 184 came up. I have always been saying that in matters like this, there cannot be a proper discussion unless the Government says something. We are only giving our views. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs will reply to the debate. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Somnath Chatterjee, can I disturb you for a moment? There is supposed to be a Half-an-hour Discussion at 5.30 p.m.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Madam Chairperson, you better hold 'Half an Hour Discussion later on. Such an important discussion is going on.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): I had requested the hon. Member in whose name the Half-an-hour Discussion stands to take it to Thursday because today we have this Motion and tomorrow we have a Constitution Amendment Bill. She has very kindly agreed. If the House also agrees, we will continue this discussion and the Half-an-hour Discussion could be taken up on Thursday.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, that is agreed upon.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Madam, I was saying that when the people had assembled there, at that time, there was a good development, namely, there was a possibility of talks with some sections of the militants. We have been saying that there should be negotiations. When that cease-fire call was given, there was an opportunity to have some dialogue or discussion. But was it not realised by the Government that there are other forces that would try to create serious problems and try to destabilise those talks? If this was known or it was not known, there is a total failure. If it was known, there should have been extra precaution taken. Was that taken? We do not know anything about that.

I now come to what was most surprising. I am not divulging any secret here. Everybody knows that for 45 minutes those two militants covered nearly 300 metres, with all our forces present there. They were ultimately killed. One of them was killed by a BSF *jawan* who killed him with his personal revolver. He was not on duty, but having tea. The other one had taken shelter in the House of the commandant of the CRPF hiding behind a white Maruti car. He was flushed out from there and obviously he was dealt with. If this is the state of affairs, what else is it other than total negligence and total failure to provide the minimum security for hundreds and thousands of people?

Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi had said that they had no ulterior motive except to go to Amarnath on a pilgrimage. They were not there for any other purpose. That is how it is not discouraged by anybody, either by the local administration or by the Government of India. They are, on the other hand, given an impression that special arrangements would be made for their security. Nothing is done for them. No extra steps are taken. At least, we were not told about such extra steps. I got the impression that there was a total complacency on the part of the administration and that they did not take the matter seriously. It was taken as a casual event like any

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

other normal day's activity. If there were special arrangements that were made, they were not visible. Nobody told us about that.

They were like sitting ducks. These two persons crossed the bridge; after crossing the bridge, they found somebody and killed him. They then mingled amongst the pilgrims and they went on shooting; and for 45 minutes, they could not be killed. This is what had happened, as far as we could understand. I could not visit that place. Actually, the Leader of the Opposition, the Railway Minister took the trouble of going there. We were with the Prime Minister, listening to the versions of the delegation. But I have no manner of doubt; there were gross lapses on the part of those who were responsible. I do not want to name anybody, lest I may be misunderstood. Now, the position is this.

What is the inquiry that the Government is doing, we do not know. From the 2nd of August, till today, no further information has been given to us. Subject to correction, I was absent for two days, I think, no statement has been made. So, we do not know the seriousness of the Government.

Even in the other meeting that we had the other day of the Consultative Committee, I tried to find that out, but nothing was said. What has happened for the last three weeks? What has been done to find out the truth? What has been done to identify the persons responsible? What action has been taken? How do you expect that the people will have confidence in the decisions and the actions of the Government?

Madam, let us not forget this. There is no doubt that the issue is very complex. What is the posture taken by the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir? What is the posture taken by the Hurriyat leaders? What is the Hizbul Mujahideen trying to do? What is the stand of the Government on this? Really, nobody knows about it.

The Prime Minister makes certain observations; the Home Minister makes certain observations. What is going to happen to that part of the country? We have got definite reports that the people are getting fed up with what is happening there. This is the proper opportunity to take advantage of it, for the purpose of bringing normalcy into that part of the country. We feel that—this is what is lacking here—the central focus for the democratic forces in that part of the country should be the people of Kashmir. Until you are able to get their confidence and until they feel that this Government is trying to protect them—not only physically, but also to make them feel that you are really concerned about the

development of that part of the country and the people—there cannot be any spontaneous support from the people of Jammu and Kashmir. This is what is lacking. The way the Government behaved so far as the Autonomy Resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir Government was concerned is not good. The Government rejected it straightway. Then, when so many people, including some of their allies, said that there should be some discussion, then the Government said that although they had rejected it, they were open to discussion. This is the price they have to pay for Shri Vaiko's support and the support of friends like him.

On the Autonomy Resolution, - I also said on the floor of the House - we cannot go back to the pre-1953 position. But there are many other issues, which could be discussed.

But no attempt has been made for that purpose. No meeting has been held. No discussion is being held. The Prime Minister has not called a meeting on this. Then, what will happen? People of Jammu and Kashmir are fed up with the State Government. There is no doubt about that. But the question of autonomy is uppermost in everybody's mind. The Government does not take a position, but rejects the autonomy proposal. On the other hand, all sorts of proposals, like dividing Jammu and Kashmir on ethnic and religious lines are coming. In that background, when such serious security lapses are not being properly handled, the situation is bound to become more and more complex. Therefore, we want the truth to be out. We have the greatest reservations. On the other day, I said that we cannot agree to the demand for judicial inquiry. I am not questioning Congress Party's sincerity in this demand. But it would be wholly inappropriate to let this Government go scot-free. Then, they will not explain their conduct here. They will say that now it is a matter of judicial inquiry. So, we should not say anything here. No discussion will be held here. There will be no discussion in the Press. ...*(Interruptions)*

This will become an outlet for them to avoid a proper discussion here and a proper inquiry here. Whatever be the speed, whoever be the judge, it will take years and years to complete that inquiry. And if this Government, unfortunately continues to be in power, if an adverse report is given, then it will meet the fate of the Srikrishna Commission's Report. Therefore, I would request the Congress Party not to divide the Opposition on this issue. This issue is the issue of whole House.

I would request the hon. Speaker to appoint a Committee. There will be no attempt to delay as Members of all the parties will be part of that Committee. I am

sure that facts can be gathered without much difficulty on a visit we paid for an hour and a half. We can get many materials. Then, we can discuss with the Speaker as to what has happened. Let us find out the truth. I have no doubt that this Government is anxious to suppress the truth. On the plea of Army consideration, defence consideration and security consideration, this Government is eager to see that the facts do not come out which will establish positively that this Government is unfit to govern. Security of this country is not safe in the hands of this Government. I should have thought on this issue, Shri L.K. Advani, should have made the gesture which Lal Bahadur Shastri did in his time.

SHRI M.V.V.S MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): Madam, we can understand the anger and anguish of all the Members of this House because of the sad incidents that occurred in Pahalgam, enroute to *Amamath*. It is not the case of only one party thinking that this Government has not taken all the steps that are required to be taken for the safe travel of the *Amamath Yatris*.

In any case the truth should come out. There are no two opinions about it. We should not forget that these incidents have occurred in our sensitive borders. Most of these areas are of very difficult terrain and of a long route. As it was mentioned, the route was known and the dates of the journey were also known. So, the measures that had been taken were felt by this House as inadequate to safeguard the security of the pilgrims and therefore precious lives had been lost. There are no two opinions about it. More than one hundred pilgrims have died. What could be the reason that this incident which had occurred in 1996 has again occurred this year? These incidents are very much similar. They have taken place in the borders.

We should also not forget that today it is a changed situation. Pakistanis are fighting a proxy war. A lot of agents have been infiltrated into the country. In what was considered otherwise to be normal and safe areas like the South India also we have seen some terrorist activities. We have discussed the other day in the House about these incidents also.

Today when we are discussing this issue, it is not proper to say that the Home Ministry has not taken adequate steps. As stated by many Members, these are some of the acts committed by Hizbul Mujahideen or Lashkar-e-Toeba. The question is what our Parliamentary Forces and other security people are doing.

Everybody has appreciated that this has no communal angle. These are the incidents connected with the security

of the country and the safety of our people. However, certain loose ends have to be tied up and intimated to this House by the hon. Home Minister in order to instil a feeling of safety in the minds of the hon. Members also. How the *yatris* are going to be safeguarded from time to time henceforth has got to be told to this House. The killings have occurred on two days and not just on one day. This has occurred at multiple places also. This is also a cause of anxiety to us.

But it is not proper or justified to ask for a judicial inquiry into these incidents. We know what judicial inquiry means and how much time it will take. We also know what kind of truth it will bring out. We have seen how many judicial inquiries have been conducted in the past. By the time the report of such a judicial inquiry comes out, I am sure the Members of this House also will have changed. It will take such a long period. Now a magisterial inquiry has already been initiated.

When once the findings are disclosed, if there would be a need and if there is any scope of doubt left as to how these incidents had occurred, then, as our Hon'ble Prime Minister has already stated, he will take necessary suitable steps. And if there is a need, judicial inquiry also will be there. But, *prima facie*, asking for a judicial inquiry today, I am afraid, will be diverting the issue and we will not find out any solution to the problem. We will be going out in a different route and may not bring immediate results. Unless we get to know the reasons as to why they have occurred, the Home Ministry will not be able to take corrective steps and to take corrective steps, let this official inquiry that has been initiated submit its report. Let action be taken based on that report and then further steps could be taken based on the findings of that report. But we are all feeling sad that innocent people have been killed and had not been given proper protection. Even if we give proper protection even after they have been killed, that opinion will prevail. If there is a casualty even after taking all precautionary measures, that different opinion will be there. ...*(Interruptions)*

Madam, you may have to give some time to our Party also. Please do not look at the clock. If you want me to stop, I will stop.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have got 20 more speakers to speak by this evening.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: But this is a very important matter and Members would like to express their views.

Pakistan are, time and again, uttering that they are there to disturb our borders. There is a demand that our

[Shri M.V.V.S. Murthi]

borders have to be properly secured and these elements who are causing terrorism have to be booked. This is a Herculean task. We have long borders and very unfavourable weather. Unless very affirmative steps are being taken, the situation will continue to be grim like this. We cannot say that the whole of our border is safe and that militants are not coming to our country. Militants are coming and still, they are going from place to place. Our Intelligence have to be tightened and borders have to be secured. Only then we would be able to safeguard the interests of our country and people. But the hon. Home Minister should also give a message to our neighbouring countries who are trying to put up their terrorist activities that our country will not be keeping quiet anymore. We will have to suppress all these militant activities and only then, there will be a feeling that our borders are safe and secure, our people are safeguarded. Till such time, small incidents like this will inflame and create problems. Anyone may say that the Government has not acted properly and has not taken proper steps. They have to bear these things and since the incidents have occurred, it is for the Government to see that such incidents will not occur in future. I am sure our Home Minister will definitely keep this in mind and take necessary steps so that such incidents will not recur in future. Meanwhile, I would appeal to the hon. Members of Opposition and Members of the ruling party also not to politicise the situation. Let us wait for the report of the inquiry that has been initiated. Then we will take appropriate steps - if need be corrective steps - in whatever manner required.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Madam Chairperson, I am of the opinion that the attack on the pilgrims on night of first August at Pahalgaoon in one of the most heinous crimes committed in the history of the country. At the same night, hundreds of peoples were killed at six different places. Those who were killed included the innocent pilgrims, poor workers and labourers belonging to U.P. and Bihar who had migrated there in search of employment. This is the first incident of such kind. Threats were given but the attack on Amarnath pilgrims was never made in the past. The Amarnath pilgrimage is one of the integral part of the culture of Kashmir. The attack on Amarnath pilgrim is a jolt and blow to the culture of Kashmir. This event has served as a cultural link between Kashmir and rest of the country as the pilgrimage has hundreds of years of tradition beside it providing employment to the thousands of muslims every year and it was the same tradition and culture which made Kashmir to decide in favour of merger with India instead of West Pakistan. It is an challenge before our

country. I will dwell on it later on only as to why this incident has take place and who had responsible for it. I had visited the place of the incident. Somnathji told a lot in this regard but on 2nd of August, the President of America, Bill Clinton expressed his sympathy over the incident which went on to please the hon. Prime Minister a big way. He presented his clarification in the House but the entire opposition was in unison over this matter and there were no differences among them if any difference existed it was among the constituent parties of N.D.A.

Second thing is that as to why these incidents have taken place. Firstly, when the Government extended its offer of unconditional talks to Hurriyat we supported the move. When Hizbul Mujahideen announced for unconditional unilateral casefire on 24th July and hon. Prime Minister and Home Minister expressed their happiness over the move, the Centre started to hold talks with militants factions ignoring the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir headed by Farooq Abdullah. I do not know as to what was the content of the talk and what problems came in the way of conclusion the talks and the reasons behind this failure. Whether the talks were being held on the terms and conditions of the militants of vice-versa. Whether the decision to hold talks was taken by the Cabinet or by someone else. The talks ended even before they could be resumed on full scale and now once again effort are being made to resume talks with Hizbul Mujahideen. The entire country is concerned over the Pahalgaoon incident and it has effected the psyche of not only Jammu and Kashmir but of entire nation and even of Parliament.

18.00 hrs.

Recently, very tight security arrangements were made on 15th August, here in Delhi but also through out the country not only because apprehension was there that anything can happen in any part of the country. Not only in Delhi but in the capitals of the States as well as in small cities there was terror and apprehension that anything such as bomb blast may take place anywhere. Such an apprehension developed in such a big country, only after the Amarnath pilgrims were attacked. What Government felt has already been expressed by Shri Somnath Chatterjee ji. It was told earlier that no talks with the Pakistan will be held because there is no democracy in Pakistan and they are promoting terrorist attacks. Terrorists have their hide outs there. Along that it has also been told that newspapers are publishing that the talks will be held in America, but we are not aware as to what will be the subject of talk. I have said it

earlier and today also I would like to say, that our country want to know because Kashmir is facing terrorism continuously for last 11 years. Can the Government explain as to what more our people have to bear for bringing back peace in the country.

Madam I have been to Srinagar in 1996. There, I met the political parties, groups, journalists and all the organisations. Everyone unanimously accepted the fact that there is no single family of a hindu or a muslim in Kashmir, which has not given sacrifice for the country. Thousands of people have become martyr including the soldiers of army and security forces and also the people of Kashmir but people of Kashmir want peace. How you are going to bring peace? Have you taken the people of the country in confidence for this purpose? As per my information, you have not taken the Parliament in confidence. As far as army is concerned, whether or not, you have taken them in confidence I don't want to comment over that. Whom you have taken in confidence and taking them in confidence what steps you have taken or want to take? There is no dispute anywhere on this issue. Entire opposition is with the country as it is not a matter of your Government but of the whole nation. At the time of Kargil the entire opposition stood with the country and even today it is with country. What I don't understand is that what decision has the cabinet taken. The fact is that the decision regarding fate of our, is being taken by some other country. It should be made clear to the nation. I don't think that till date, any work has been undertaken on the decision of the cabinet. If any work is being undertaken then the decision cannot be varying. George Saheb has said that this accident could have been averted. It is possible that some socialist culture might have been alive in him that's why he said this. There no objection should be on his statement. He told the truth. He said that this accident could have been averted. He accepted the lapses. Lapses were there but I don't want to go into the details of lapses.

Shri Somnath Chatterjee and Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi have pointed out those shortcomings. People who were there stated that two terrorists passed from the bridge. I would like to ask whether any checking was going on there or not. Terrorists arrived with weapons crossed the bridge spanning 300 metres. Had the flow of the river not been swift, terrorists would have escaped and entered into the forests. Only the swift flow of the river helped catch them. Security arrangements were so lax that in the absence of the swift flow of the river, terrorists would have escaped and entered the forest, consequently more killings would have taken place. Security arrangements were not upto the mark.

Madam, a question was asked as to whether any report was received from intelligence agencies in this

regard. Whether there was any information? Everybody accepted that information was there in this regard. If such an information was not received, hon'ble Prime Minister or Home Minister should confirm it. Threat perception was already there, inspite of that such an unfortunate incident occurred there. Two points have emerged as matters of serious concern after the attack on Amarnath pilgrims. I do not want to make a lengthy speech. One point is regarding deteriorating relations between Hindustan and Pakistan and the other is that there are apprehensions in the minds of the minorities of our country and they are feeling unsecure in this country. So far as the relations between Hindustan and Pakistan are concerned, it is quite evident. In the past as well as at present, Samajvadi Party has been in favour of confederation. We want to develop cordial relations between the two countries. We should not have any objection if any other country mediates to improve the relations between the two countries. We are in its favour. We favoured it earlier also and at present also we have the same opinion. When Germany can be re-united, why not Pakistan, Hindustan and Bangladesh. We are in favour of making confederation. Hon'ble Home Minister, please speak on this issue as socialists have never accepted the partition of Hindustan and Pakistan and are in favour of reunification of both the countries. In the past as well as at present we have always been in its favour. However, till it is a separate country and not included in the confederation, Pakistan should be taught a lesson if it continues instigating terrorism in our country. If it extends the proposal of friendship and favours confederation of the countries, just like the reunification of East and West Germany, we will also in favour of the concept of confederation. However, we are of the view that till it is a separate country, a lesson should be taught to Pakistan for its involvement in spreading militancy in our country. Strict action should be taken in this regard. We socialists would always remain with the country, but your statements and opinions give rise to certain apprehensions. In my opinion, efforts should be made to eliminate the feeling of insecurity from the mind of the minorities as the Muslims will have to be taken into confidence if the terrorism is to be rooted out.

However, we would not tolerate the interference of any other country. Newspapers are reporting that the hon'ble Prime Minister is going to the USA, and during that tour he will have dialogue on this issue. It has been confirmed also. Earlier it was maintained that the talks with the terrorists will be held only within the ambit of the constitution and later he talked about the ambit of humanity. I don't know, in what ambit talks are being conducted now. But we have reached the conclusion that

[Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav]

the Kashmiris want peace. As far as the question of providing security is concerned, your Government has been totally unsuccessful. A few colleagues have demanded the resignation of hon'ble Home Minister. But he alone is not responsible rather the entire Government is responsible for it. It may be that not the opposition, but the NDA people themselves are conspiring against the Home Minister. They are having difference of opinion among themselves. Even on such a serious issue, there is no difference of opinion from our side, but it exists from your side. Whatever be your reply, we consider the whole Government responsible. When we demand resignation, we will ask the Government to resign and not target the Home Minister alone. But I don't want to play politics at the cost of the country. What action have you taken on the question of security because the security forces have totally failed there, be they the police of the State Government, or the Central Security Forces or any other force. We want the constitution of a Parliamentary Committee to investigate the matter and the names of guilty people should be brought before the country. People want to know about the action being taken against the guilty.

It is true that it will be the first incident of its kind to be covered under a judicial inquiry and we can't even speak about it. It will be said that the judicial inquiry is being conducted and that is why I oppose it. I want to put before you two examples of judicial inquiry. First example relates to what happened to my friend and the second example relates to the riots of 1984. Sikhs have not got justice till date, even after the judicial inquiry. I give an example of Shri Sarmukh Singh Sahni, a resident of 123/406, Factory Area, Fazal Ganj, Kanpur. At present he is 66 years old. In the riots of 1984, his factory was burnt to ashes.

Hon'ble Court in its order dated 8.4.1996 stipulated the payment of Rs. 2,72,86,470/- as compensation and directed that this amount be paid within four months. The Government of Uttar Pradesh filed an appeal in the Supreme Court. On 3.5.1999, the Supreme Court upheld the decision of the High Court and issued orders for immediate payment. Though order have been issued by both Supreme Court and High Court, yet no payment has been made to Shri Sahni so far. This is the outcome of the report of Mishra Commission which is a judicial inquiry.

Madam, I would like to cite one more example. I would like to ask Hon'ble leader of the opposition, who had been my friend and a well-wisher as well, as to what happened to the report of Jain Commission? What happened to the judicial inquiry? Where that has been

dumped? That leader was not only the Leader of Opposition party, he was a leader of the nation, my well-wisher and a friend also. Though I had good relation with him, but where the judicial inquiry report of Jain Commission has been dumped? I have dozen of such examples. Be it Hashimpur, Meerut or Muradabad or the report of Shri Krishna Commission which has taken 14 to 16 years. I would ask my friends in the Congress where the report of Jain Commission has gone which caused the downfall of our Government. Despite that justice has not been done so far. Therefore, we oppose judicial inquiry. We also oppose it because attack on Amarnath pilgrims was not an internal attack rather foreign elements were involved in it. It is as good as an attack on a country by another country. You may call it a terrorist attack but I would call it an attack by Pakistan. Pakistan is sending its troops and funding these operations. Therefore, there is a difference between terrorist attack and attack by Pakistani troops and it needs to be clearly termed as an external attack. When our armed forces or para-military forces are fighting against foreigners and our people are laying down their lives, we cannot accept a judicial inquiry at any cost. Therefore, we oppose it. When our country is in danger and our soldiers or para-military personnel are being martyred while fighting against foreigners, we do not find it appropriate for an inquiry to be conducted. As per my knowledge, in such a situation, no country has got conducted a judicial inquiry, thus we oppose it. At the same time the Government should clarify as to what action is being taken against the persons found responsible for laxity. What crime can be greater than the attack on Amarnath pilgrims. Therefore, I would definitely urge you that if you are able to establish friendly relation with Pakistan, well, it will be a good thing, otherwise, now there is no alternative but to teach a lesson to Pakistan.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri):
Madam Chairperson, we tried to raise in the House on 2 August the issue of the massacre which was committed by the terrorists on 1st August on pilgrims of Amarnath Yatra.

18.15 hrs.

[SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are making a request to the hon. Home Minister regarding the killing of innocent pilgrims of Amarnath Yatra. Shri Madam Lal Khurana was repeatedly asking for expressing condolence in the House for those innocent pilgrims who were killed there. And now I would like to remind you that when the entire

House was demanding for expressing condolence on this incident at that time Shri Dasmunsiji, on behalf of the Congress party was demanding for JPC on the issue of Shri Jethmalani.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We gave a notice before, but it was not admitted by the Speaker.

[Translation]

I wish to make you correct because your facts are wrong. We have given the motion after this incident only but the hon. Speaker had asked for some time. So your statement is not correct.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: On that day proceedings of the House were adjourned due to the issue of Ram Jethmalaniji. The very next day, we again raised the demand for initiating a discussion on the incident that took place during Amamath Yatra. Khuranaji was repeatedly saying this and then the next day hon. Speaker made an obituary reference for all the persons who were killed.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today Shri Dasmunsiji has initiated this discussion in the House under rule 184. I feel that now our Congress colleagues have started understanding their mistakes. Although they have not fully understood this, but are slowly and steadily understanding their mistakes, which is good in the interest of the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the incident which took place is not a matter of pride for the country or for the Government. The discussion on this issue has taken place thrice in the House. Hon Prime Minister also visited the place of incident and many leader from the opposition party accompanied him...*(Interruptions)* This discussion will have no sanctity if you play politics in every dialogue. Politics is required and we have come here to do politics, but the serious matter...*(Interruptions)* So you immediately took the name of hon. Home Minister.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, borders of the country are unsecured today. We are constantly being attacked by Pakistan. On the eve of victory in the Kargil war, we celebrated the 'Vijay Diwas' also. Entire country is proud of the brave soldiers. We are victorious in Kargil war only because of their sacrifice of life. But this war of Kargil was fought on our own land. Though we achieved success in getting back our land. Still it is our victory. Victory in the sence that in all the earlier wars fought before this, be it the war with China or Pakistan on the Indian land, we could not get back our land from them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, for the first time, we have restored every inch of our land back from them. So we consider it a victory. Kargil victory is a momentary delight. Our real victory would be that when we get back Pakistan occupied Kashmir. We need to take back.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have continuously been elected since the 11th Lok Sabha. Whenever there is an attack by the militants, then whether it be Shri Indrajit Gupta, or Shri Lal Krishna Advani as Home Minister meaning thereby, the Government may be of any party, only one statement is given in the House that Pakistan is involved in this attack and Pakistan is giving training to the militants and this training is given in Pakistan occupied Kashmir.

Mr. Chairman, Sir just now Shri Mulayam Singhji was saying here that we have to teach a lesson to Pakistan. Borders of the country are facing the worst situation now-a-days and if we have to combat with Pakistan, then I don't think that problems would be solved through dialogue. I don't think that mere discussion would solve this problem. At the time when Hizbul-Mujahideen had made a treaty for unilateral ceasefire. One of the commodors of Hizbul-Mujahideen was making dialogue for peace in Kashmir and the another on the other hand was making announcement of revocation of ceasefire which means that this is a conspiracy designed by Pakistan. Everyday our borders are being attacked.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had asked a question during the Question Hour. Sir, you may also be catching. I take flight from the Indira Gandhi Airport in order to go to your constituency. You also must have noticed that a permanent 'Centre for Homage' (Shraddhanjali Sabha Sthala) has been made there at this airport of the capital of India. Whenever you go there, you would find that one or the other martyr is being paid homage. One permanent batallion is deputed there. Whenever you will go there, you would find then paying homage to one or the other soldier. Sometimes, I have been as many as 8 to 10 bodies of Martyrs are lying there and homage is being paid. Militants in their attacks kill innocent citizens or our brave soldiers and whenever this happens, we raise a demand and discussion is held here and homage is paid to them. Now this matter is not going to be solved by merely paying homage to them. I remember that a lot of discussion took place in the House when we conducted the Pokhran test. That test was also criticised here. Hon. Prime Minister while replying to this at that time, had said that security of the country is of utmost importance for the NDA Government. We can very well see the attacks made by Pakistan, thereby killing so many innocent people, soldiers etc. and the sacrifice made by the soldiers and money spent in Kargil. This country is

[Shri Anant Gangaram Geete]

fortunate enough for the fact that whenever there is a peril at the borders, people of this country rise in support of the nation, forgetting their mutual conflicts. We have given big sacrifice and can give even more bigger sacrifice than this in future. We are doing nothing except depending ourselves, and feeling that we are victorious. If we really want to solve this problem of Kashmir for ever, then it is the high time to teach a lesson to Pakistan. There is need to destroy all the terrorist camps which exist in Pakistan. Mere words would not defeat the purpose, something practically shall have to be done. Till how many days, we would be so terrorised and subdued. Things would not be solved by merely thinking that they have an atom bomb. This would not continue for long.

India is a great country. Today there is no democracy in Pakistan. We need not discuss the condition of Pakistan here. Pakistan does not want peace in this country. It does not want the development of India and that India may complete with other countries of the world. And so this entire terrorism is being operated by Pakistan. Sometimes pilgrims are killed, sometimes innocent citizens are killed. We will do political discussion here, but if we do not take appropriate steps now to prevent the danger on our borders then the problem of security will be further heightened.

A judicial enquiry or administrative investigation should be conducted for the 'Amarnath pilgrims' episode. An inquiry must take place to find out who is responsible for this tragedy. But to demand a judicial inquiry will have a demoralising effect on our soldiers or would show our faithlessness towards the security forces and also it will be to support Pakistan indirectly. This is not proper.

I do not know that for how long this Government would continue...*(Interruptions)* Merely to complete five years term or only to run the country is not the duty of the Government or...*(Interruptions)*. Please listen to me first, then later on put your comments. ...*(Interruptions)* In my views, years of tenure of a Government are not important, but it is important that for whatever period we remain in power, we should give top priority to security of the country. Government should take stringent step to safeguard the borders of our country, so that the enemies may not look at us with bad intentions.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my colleague Shri Priya Ranjan Dasgupta has set out in detail the rationale for our bringing this Motion before this House. I do not wish to repeat what

he has said, but would wish to sketch in the broader background against which we are demanding this judicial probe.

The Indian National Congress is second to none in backing any move which will restore peace and tranquillity to the troubled State of Jammu and Kashmir. To be partisan on this issue would be to be anti-national. It was the Prime Minister who graciously conceded the other day that as his was an inexperienced Government, "we would listen to the views of others".

I represent a party which has been responsible for Jammu and Kashmir for the better part of the first half-century after Independence. It is based on that experience that I rise to speak. Let me hasten to add that I am not speaking out of my personal experience, for that is limited—after all, I was a school boy when the Prime Minister entered this House—no, not out of my personal experience, but out of the experience of a party which has known J&K intimately and has been involved in all that has happened there for good or for ill, over almost 50 years.

The two cardinal principles for securing peace through dialogue must be consistency and persistence. To this must be added the clear recognition that peace cannot be secured by playing off one Kashmiri against another Kashmiri. We are not negotiating with an outside enemy. We are negotiating with our guys, our kith and kin, our own people. Therefore, the dialogue must span the entire spectrum of political opinion in the State. It must also include all the representatives of the State and finally it must be borne in mind, notwithstanding what Shri Geete has said, that there is an inescapable Pakistani dimension to the problems of the State. Pakistan cannot be wished away.

With these broad principles in mind, let us briefly review how things have turned out in the last few months. First the leaders of the *Hurriyat* were released. Welcome as the step was, a question has since then hung in the air which has remained uncomfortably unanswered. At whose behest were they released? Out of the inner conviction of the Government, at the conclusion of clandestine contacts with this group was this done or because someone else wanted us to do so? Perhaps, the gentleman, now on the verge of retirement, who visited us last March and whom the Prime Minister is so keen to appease although everyone knows that the dearest duck in the business is a lame-duck, U.S. President?

Irrespective of whether the *Hurriyat* leaders were released out of the goodness of your hearts, or to steal the hearts of others, why was the National Conference

not kept fully in the picture when the doors to substantive negotiations with the *Hurriyat* were wedged open? Is it not a fact that one of your Cabinet Ministers, when he was the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, had told the all-party delegation which visited Srinagar in March 1990, in justification of his summary dissolution of Jammu & Kashmir Assembly that his choice for Chief Minister was Shri Shabir Shah who continues to be a leading voice to the *Hurriyat*? He had gone on to say that Shri Shabir Shah was more representative of the people of J&K than Dr. Farooq Abdullah who, he claimed, had won only because of rigging.

I am not raking up history. I am pointing to the dangers of what happens when an ally is ignored. The National Conference, I know will deny this but surely it was not sheer coincidence that just as the talks with the *Hurriyat* were underway, the National Conference dusted off the State Autonomy Report published more than a year ago and brought it before the State Assembly. Would these precipitate moves have occurred if the National Conference was not apprehensive that the *Hurriyat* was being favoured at their expense? The point I am driving at when I say this is, while dealing with our own people we cannot be Machiavellian or Channkya-like. We have to take everybody into confidence.

Having made his astute move to keep the National Conference Centre stage in the State, Dr. Farooq Abdullah visited Delhi to meet the Prime Minister. We are not Privy to what transpired. What we do know is that the Prime Minister office forced Dr. Farooq Abdullah's hand by bruting it about in the Press that the Chief Minister had been persuaded to call off the crisis by not pushing for a vote on the Autonomy Resolution. What was the need to unilaterally made public a confidential understanding between the Prime Minister and not just any ordinary Chief Minister, but the Chief Minister, the most sensitive State of India and when they are allied to it?

Hardly that row has been contained, when the Government pulled out the next rabbit from its hat, that is the cease-fire with the *Hizb-ul-Mujahideen*. Alas! Before the applause died down the sound of gunfire and the explosion or bombs had overtaken the initiative. This time round, the National Conference had no cause for complaint. It was *Hurriyat* that had been upstaged. This marginalisation of the *Hurriyat* in the aftermath of their being taken as the principal interlocutor betrays—I regret to say—the immaturity of a Government which has spent too much time on the Opposition Benches and virtually none at all in office.

Moreover, it is clear that the earlier clandestine contacts of the Government were not with the *Hizb-ul-Mujahideen* but with a section or possibly some sections of that organisation. This should have caused alarm bells to start ringing right across the establishment. It was crystal clear that the *Hurriyat* would do what it could do to sabotage the process and take the pride of place to itself.

More ominously, it was even clearer that recalcitrant factions of the *Hizbul Mujahideen*, especially the so-called leadership based in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir would retaliate. Over and above this, it was certain that the other militant forces especially those comprised of foreign mercenaries, would wrack revenge. The least experience or forethought would have shown that the target for all these dissatisfied groups would be the innocent and the vulnerable and who are more innocent and vulnerable than Hindus from other parts of the country, patiently trekking their way to Amamath or eking out a dangerous living in the brick kilns of the State?

Sir, our colleague from the Trinamool Congress, Dr. Nitish Sengupta asked a question, which to this day remains unanswered. He said that on the request of the then Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Indrajit Gupta, he had submitted a report in which he had *inter-alia* recommended that the Army be deployed along the entire route of the pilgrimage. Shri Indrajit Gupta, for his part, confirmed on the floor of the House that this recommendation had been approved and implemented. Moreover, wondered Dr. Nitish Sengupta, how was the camp in which the tragedy took place so close to the Line of Control? He had recommended that the route and particularly halt camps should be as far away from the LoC as possible. That question too has not been answered. All we know is that several *yatris* and, elsewhere in the Valley, some 70 other innocent people, lost their lives only because the Union Government had started a conversation with one faction, of one group of militants, leaving a trail of bitterness in all other factions, all other militant groups and large sections of political opinion in the State.

is this the way to protect the innocent targets of your flawed negotiating tactics? A judicial probe is necessary because this was not some administrative blunder. The death of these innocents was the reflection of a policy breakdown caused by an inexperienced Government through its inability to comprehend the consequences of its own actions.

While this House was reduced to chaos owing to the Government's refusal to concede the discussion now

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

underway, the first round of talks with the Hizbul Mujahideen opened to unprecedented fanfare. Why, I ask, this publicity? Is this Government out of its mind that at a time when a group of hardcore militants wanted by the State risk their lives to come to the negotiating table, the Government has to mount a battery of cameras to film the occasion. What is this obsession with publicity? Did you ever see G. Parthasarathy's face on TV or an interview in the newspapers when the great G.P. was patiently negotiating with Mira Afzal Beg? Does the Government have so little faith in its own longevity that it must squeeze every minute of prime time viewing to congratulate itself? The tone of self-congratulation, which permeated Treasury Bench statements in and outside the House, would have been nauseous, if it was not so alarming. When will the BJP realise that statesmanship is not theatre and diplomacy is not poetry? What does the Prime Minister mean by '*insaaniyat ke dayare mein*'? Is this a *mushaira*? Does the Constitution have no sanctity? The genius of the Constitution—although the BJP would not know it since they had no hand in drafting it—is that it includes a mechanism for amending itself. The other side is, therefore, free to raise issues which fall outside the present ambit of the Constitution as they did in the Government of India's negotiations with the Nagas, the Mizos, the Darjeeling Gorkhas, the militants in Manipur, Tripura and Punjab. And after the negotiations are successfully concluded, the Government of India are free to come to Parliament to effect or attempt to effect such changes in the Constitution as might be required. So, why should the Prime Minister not portray himself as a Constitutional continuity? Why does he want to portray himself as a particularly talented *Qawaal*? Let the House be informed. In 1979, the present Prime Minister as Minister of External Affairs undertook an unprepared journey to China. Had he checked with even a knowledgeable Under Secretary in his own Ministry, he would have known that China then was on the brink of war with Vietnam. He did not check and, so, it was that while he was on the soil of China, the Chinese invaded Vietnam, and Atalji had to beat a hasty and humiliating retreat out of China. When he became the Prime Minister, this nation was once again subjected to the same passion for grand gestures accompanied by inadequate preparation. We are to discuss the Subramaniam Committee Report shortly, so I am not going into the details. But it is devastatingly clear that no proper preparations were made for the Lahore visit...*(Interruptions)* It was a *yatra* announced in haste and repented at leisure. So also with regard to the flight from Kathmandu to Kandahar, the Government dithered and blundered, embarrassingly exposing its incompetence in preparing itself in advance for serious contingencies. We see—

draw the attention of the hon. Member to this because this is the connection—the same lack of preparation in the opening to the militants in Kashmir and the ambiguity and contradiction which inform Government's policy on Pakistan.

The External Affairs Minister lists before this House a series of conditions which he insists on — but he says they are not conditions at all—for talking to Pakistan. Then, suddenly, out of the blue, the Prime Minister says he will talk to anyone in Pakistan—military dictator or invader of Kargil—*kee farakh painda*.

Our Home Minister once talked of hot pursuit when Pakistan's nuclear bomb blasts took place. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): The only word that I used was 'pro-active'. Even at that time everyone interpreted 'pro-active' as being hot pursuit. I said, No. In the Press conference I was pointedly asked about 'hot pursuit'. I said, No.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Right Sir. I wish to amend myself. I take the Home Minister at face value. I will ignore the newspaper reports. I will amend my remarks.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I am concluding.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): What about zero tolerance? It was his phrase. ...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar): Sir, I wish to raise a point of order. When our hon. Prime Minister was asked to talk on humanitarian grounds by the newsmen he said that our written constitution is a lively example of humanity and they are saying that they were not involved in the making of the constitution. Was he involved in it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: If I am interrupted it will take more time. I request that you give your reply only when I complete my statement...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

Sir, if I am interrupted it will be difficult.

Sir, I am amending my statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

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SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I am just finishing. Please give me a minute to finish my speech. They are interrupting me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That minute is already given to you now.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, our Home Minister once talked of a pro-active policy *vis-a-vis* Pakistan and of zero tolerance, but since then Pakistan's nuclear bomb blast at Chagai has somewhat muted him. Now he is back, I understand from the newspapers—unless he is once again being misquoted—with empty threats.

As for the Defence Minister of India, I invite attention to his foreword—Shri George Fernandes' foreword—to the latest edition of D.R. Mankekar's book *The Guilty Men of 1962*. There, the Defence Minister writes in black and white—it is printed and it is available in all the bookshops—that after Pokhran-II, the threat from Pakistan has become a myth. The Defence Minister of India is writing of his own volition, a foreword to a re-printed edition which he himself demanded in the course of his Mankekar Lecture and, therefore, deliberately he was asked to write a foreword and he chooses to state in his own hand—in black and white—that after Pokhran-II, the threat from Pakistan has become a myth. No wonder the myth came back to haunt him in Kargil.

Sir, this is not a responsible Government. This is not a mature Government. This is a Government of theatrics. If our people are to be saved from the kind of disaster which overtook the Amamath *yatris*, a comprehensive probe that goes into every aspect of that tragedy is indispensable. Such a probe can only be a judicial probe, and I am deeply sorry that Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, leading from the BJP side, does not appear to understand the distinction between a Committee and a Commission. He understands that distinction so little that he first used the word Commission until somebody kicked him under the table and made him change it to Committee. And then he reads out the terms of reference of that Committee. My question is: If those terms of reference can be given to a Committee, why can they not be given to a Commission? What are they shying away from?

Then he comes to the House and tells us that in 1962 the Opposition demanded a judicial inquiry and Panditji said 'no'. Let me refresh his limited knowledge of history. On the 26th October, 1962—we were in the middle of the war and Tawang had already fallen—a leader of the BJP, a young 37 or 38 year old man called Atal Bihari Vajpayee calls on the Prime Minister in the middle of this war and demands *inter alia* that there should be a Session of the Rajya Sabha. And this great

Prime Minister of India, nearly as much older or much older than Atalji is over me, that great Prime Minister listens to him and immediately, concedes that there shall be a Session of the Rajya Sabha.

That Rajya Sabha Session was called on the 8th of November, 1962 while our soldiers, as somebody was trying to mock at us, were walking up in the snows without gumboots. That is all untrue, but that is the kind of myth on which they live. In that Rajya Sabha Session, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who was not even 40 at that time, made a devastating speech and nobody restricted him. We listened to him. We knew that the war was again going to break out, as in fact it did break out. But Nehruji listened, he listened to every word that Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had to say. He took down every single criticism that Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee levelled and then he acted upon it to the best of his ability. In sharp contrast, when the Congress Party demanded not a judicial inquiry into Kargil but the covering of a Special Session of Parliament in order to discuss what was happening in Kargil, in the middle of that war, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee completely forgot what he himself had done in 1962. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Lok Sabha should be dissolved then hold this discussion in Rajya Sabha...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: At that time, Lok Sabha was not dissolved whereas at the time of Kargil War, Lok Sabha stood dissolved. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Aiyar, please conclude.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I am just concluding.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman Sir, it is possible, they could not have understood my statement as I was speaking in English. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY: I am very well understanding this. I belong to the Hindi class but I am listening to the translated version. You should not say like this. If you are saying something, say it with honesty. You are playing politics here. We are discussing about the entire nation in the House and you are playing politics. Don't you remember the incident which happened in Lok Sabha in 1965. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You kindly address the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Chaubey, you are disturbing the House.

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, is it going on the records?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please sit down. This will not go on records.

...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Aiyar, please conclude now.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, we raised a demand for a judicial inquiry into Chattisinhpura incident and it was turned down. We now raise a demand for a judicial inquiry into the Amarnath incident and, yet, the Government is again turning it down. In doing this—Shri Somnath Chatterjee has left—I would wish to say to him that we are not dividing the Opposition. We are seeking the truth. We appreciate the difficulties which some parties of the opposition might have in joining us, but these regional considerations must not be allowed to stand in the way of national consideration. We shall press for a vote and, whatever the outcome, go out to the country to tell the people why.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, I rise to oppose the Motion. Actually, I feel that there is no need to oppose it now because when I listened to Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar with rapt attention, I totally understood that the Congress Party is out of steam after they found that there is hardly any support from anybody in this House and he just went on discussing about everything.

He found fault with everybody in this Government. For him, ...**everything was wrong—Lahore *Yatra* was wrong; Pokhran Test was wrong, and all sorts of policies were wrong. ...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Sir, the words used by him are unparliamentary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him have his say.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, all these points have, time and again, been replied to in this House by the hon. Prime Minister, by Advaniji, and by Members on the Treasury Benches. Moreover, a 'lie' repeated ten times does not become 'truth', as Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar tried to do so here. I am not going to reply to him on all these points because hon. Advani will reply to all these things.

I will just make some suggestions with regard to this. In a World Conference against Terrorism, 'terrorism' was defined as, "Terrorism is the deliberate and systematic murder, maiming and menacing of all the innocents to inspire fear for political ends." This is how 'terrorism' has been defined.

The terrorist, many say, 'is a freedom fighter'. It is said, 'one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter, and he fights for the liberation of his people'. When it is said, it is not true. The terrorist fights against democracy, fights against free society, fights against civilisation, and the terrorist wants to take the society to a pre-historic age, when there was no civil society, when there was no rule of law. He fights like this. The attack by a terrorist is not equal to a calamity. Calamity takes place several times; attack by terrorists also takes place several times, but there is a difference. After the initial shock, the people of a country develop a sense of empathy, sympathy, for the victims of the calamity, be it storms, cyclones, super-cyclone, floods, etc. But in the case of a terrorist attack, after the initial shock process, people develop a sense of anger. There is a Churchillian theory which says, "It is the foremost job of the Government to protect the life of an individual". So, the individual says, after some time, "Look, I have entrusted you with the responsibility of protecting my life, but you could not protect it." He accuses the Government. Public expect the Government to 'give in' and, simultaneously, they also want the Government to 'hold fast'. He becomes confused at that time because on the one side he finds that his relatives have been taken as hostage or his relatives have been killed; on the other side, he wants the country to hold out and remain very powerful. Contradiction and confusion are exactly what the terrorist desires. The terrorist desires that the country should be confused, the leaders should be confused and they should accuse their own Government. That is the thing that they actually desire, and that is what exactly the hon. Members of the Congress Party are doing now—accusing this Government because they are totally confused. They are confused because they do not know what exactly is to be done at this time. ...(Interruptions)

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[Translation]

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (Aurangabad, Bihar): You are in confusion.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not disturb him. Let him have his say. Please continue

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: When the hon. Members from the Congress Party, and even Shri Somnath Chatterjee, were waging a scathing attack on us, I was just listening to them very silently.

19.00 hrs.

All the time I was told that when my time would come I would reply to these points. You told this to Shri Chaube as well. Now, I am replying to the points. It is not that we are unable to reply but I was listening to the debate because this is a democracy. I would listen to the Opposition even at the cost of my life.

Sir, my point is that a terrorist is a cunning fellow. He says that he is fighting for the liberation of his people. But he is the harbinger of tyranny; he is the harbinger of oppression. It is because if you take any terrorist country in the world, the Independence of any country that has been attained by perpetration of violence has never risen high. You can take the example of any country. You take the cases of Iran, North Korea or any other country in the world, never has it risen high.

Sir, Shri Somnath Chatterjee was saying that we could not understand the agony of the people of Kashmir. That is why, the people of Kashmir are fighting. I am an Oriya. I also have a very strong sense of remorse in my heart. Shri Somnath Chatterjee was saying that we could not understand the agony of the people of Kashmir and we could not integrate their minds with India. But how do we do that?

Sir, I have the report of the Reserve Bank of India here with me. How much allocation have we got this time from the Government of India? It is only Rs. 1,396.20 crore. How much have the State of Jammu & Kashmir got from the Government of India? It is Rs. 2,267.50 crore. We have 21 Members of Parliament representing the State of Orissa. The State of Jammu & Kashmir is represented by six Members of Parliament. But they have got more than double of what we have got.

Sir, I would like to invite any hon. Member or any person from Kashmir to the State of Orissa. I would

show him in what way are we any less corrupt than Jammu & Kashmir. I will show him, in what way Orissa is more developed than the State of Jammu & Kashmir. Let any one of them come with me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the relevance of that here.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, he is saying that the State of Orissa is more corrupt than the State of Jammu & Kashmir...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please talk to the point. Please have your say. But please refer to your own subject. Please continue now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, it is being said that the people of Kashmir are not being given representation in the Army and in the Government services. How much of a representation have the Oriyas got in these two services? The Britishers have said that the Oriyas are a non-military race. We do not have much of a representation in the Army or in the Defence Forces...(Interruptions)

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor): Here we are discussing about the *Amamath Yatris*...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, this is surprising...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Swain, we are here discussing about the *Amamath Yatris*. I am giving you time. You take another two or three minutes and conclude.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, you gave so much time to Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, but when it comes to giving me time you are saying like this. I am only the second speaker from the BJP. We are having about 180 Members in this House...(Interruptions) I have taken only five to six minutes so far.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are about 20 Members still to speak.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, if you do not want to listen to me, then I would sit down.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please continue. Do not waste your time.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: All these points of negligence of the State of Jammu & Kashmir by the Government of India in regard to non-provision of finances to the State of Jammu & Kashmir is not true.

It is not true. There might be some reason. How can they say that because more people in Kashmir are Muslims they will secede to Pakistan? This argument is not tenable. What has happened in Kuwait? Yesterday I have received a copy of the Kuwait News. It gives a detailed account of how Iraq invaded Kuwait and what atrocities were committed by Iraqi forces on the Kuwaitis. The Iraqis are Muslims and so are Kuwaitis. This is a book published by Kuwait, an Islamic country. So, how can anybody say that because Kashmir is having more Islamic people it should go to Pakistan? This argument is not tenable. What is there in Pakistan? Is there any democracy in Pakistan? Is there any liberty available to people in Pakistan? Are there elections held there regularly? The military rulers there kick out all the elected people every now and then and yet these people say that they want to go to Pakistan!

It is the design of Pakistan. They do not conform to the feeling that India is a secular country, that India is a great country. They do not want to believe it. Lashkar-e-Toiba and the other terrorist organisations in Pakistan do not accept India as a secular country. They want to take revenge upon India because Bangladesh seceded from Pakistan. They still believe that Junagarh should not have acceded to India. This is their feeling. The only rational for survival of Pakistan is anti-Indianism.

I would like to give a few suggestions to the Government of India on this issue. We allowed cultural delegations from Pakistan to visit India. We allowed Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan to come here and we allowed Ghulam Ali to come here. I just want to know as to how many Indian artists were allowed to visit Pakistan during the past 53 years. Only one person went there just to have...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, may I answer that question? I was Consul-General of India in Karachi. I can answer his question. Shanti Hiranand came to Pakistan then, Amjad Ali Khan came, Munawwar Ali Khan came. We had a whole delegation of Gujarati poets. What is he talking about?

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not question hour. You can speak when your turn comes.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Exactly this is what Pakistan desires that they should have some supporters

in India and also in Indian Parliament. Exactly that is what Pakistan desires and that is what we see here.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, this is irresponsible of him to level these allegations.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, what is his charge against me? I request that this remark be expunged from the record.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Shri Swain, please conclude. You have already taken a time of 17 minutes.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, he is out of his senses.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I have said nothing unparliamentary.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, this is not to disturb the speech of the Member. I only want that the record be put straight. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has said that some cultural delegations had been to Karachi when he was Consul-General of India there. Immediately the Member replied that Pakistan claim that they have their friends in Parliament also. This remark is in a very bad taste. I think it should go off the record. It should be expunged.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I am on my legs. I have not yielded. Have you allowed him to speak?...*(Interruptions)* Sir, will my remark go on record?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Everything is on record. Shri Swain, please conclude now. There are many Members to speak.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I am a Member belonging to a 182-Member party.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already take 22 minutes now.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: My second suggestion is that India should stop playing cricket with Pakistan till the situation normalises...*(Interruptions)* ...There should be no cricket match with Pakistan till the situation normalises...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may send your suggestions to the Government, in writing. Now, please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: My third suggestion is that by this action, we should categorically tell to the

people of Pakistan that we are very annoyed about the role of their rulers as to what they are doing in Kashmir. Till all this stopped, we should not have any connections with them...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Kumari Mayawati.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I am just concluding.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is more than 22 minutes that you have been speaking. Now, please take your seat.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Finally, I would say, Sir, terrorism is a phenomenon which tries to evoke one's feeling, namely, fear. One virtue, most necessary to defeat terrorism, namely, the antithesis of fear is courage. Courage is not the only virtue but it is the single virtue without which all others are worthless. Confusion and vacillation facilitate terrorism. Clarity and courage ensure its defeat. And, the Congress party betrays confusion. There should be no confusion.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

KUMARI MAYAWATI (Akbarpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, besides Amarnath pilgrims innocent people have been killed in Jammu-Kashmir. It is a very serious matter and it should be viewed by rising above the party lines. It is not that people are being killed there since 1st August but are continuing for years. We should view the killings of innocent people seriously. Therefore, it is necessary to go into its background. Not only the present Government but I also hold that party responsible for the killings taking place in Jammu-Kashmir, which remain in power for a long period after independence. The Congress Party was in power during 1971-72 when the war broke out between India and Pakistan. In that war India defeated Pakistani troops on every front. At that point Pakistan accepted defeat. We had the golden opportunity to solve the problem of Jammu and Kashmir at that time when Pakistan had accepted defeat and its troops surrendered before our troops. Pakistan had surrendered before us and large number of their troops were detained by the Indian troops. They should have been freed only after evolving a solution for Jammu-Kashmir.

A written agreement should have been entered into with Pakistan at that time that it would not interfere in Jammu-Kashmir, would recognise Kashmir as an integral part of India, and would have no right over it. Had it been documented at that time, perhaps the killings taking place at present would have been prevented. We lost that golden opportunity. We also have to identify the lapses which are being exploited by Pakistani Militants. The present Government has failed to discharge its responsibility. At present, India's borders are not secure whether be it with Pakistan, Nepal or China. Our borders with these countries are not secure and the threat of attack from any of these countries especially from Pakistan side is always looming. Keeping in view the attitude of the Pakistani people, it is inappropriate on the part of the present Government to adopt lackadaisical approach

in the matter and to keep on propagating peaceful solution of the problem. We also want to evolve the solution peacefully but my submission is that after Kargil war the Government should have changed its attitude of peaceful solution and not to hold talks with the terrorist groups. It should adopt strict posture. It is being observed that whenever, the Government initiates dialogue with terrorists groups or undertakes the Lahore Bus diplomacy large scale killings take place. We must view it seriously. Therefore, the problem of Jammu Kashmir created by Pakistan should be dealt with strictly that too within the ambit of the Constitution. It is not the view of my party to go beyond the ambit of the Constitution.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have to take the strict steps within the ambit of the constitution because our Constitution does not allow the terrorists to enter into any part of the country and kill the innocent people but it states that it is the responsibility of the Government to protect the innocent people. If the people living in any part of the country are unsafe due to the militant activities, the onus to protect them and to look after them rests on the Government. Therefore, I would urge you to evolve a permanent solution of the problem within the ambit of the Constitution. Otherwise, genocide will continue to take place. Besides, we have to leave the path of holding dialogues with the terrorist groups. We have to go into the background. From the very beginning our relations with Pakistan have been strained and in view of that we should stop dialogue with it and we should deal with it strictly within the ambit of the constitution. Stringent action should be taken against the Pakistan trained militants.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Pakistan celebrated its Independence day on 14th August, a day before when we celebrated our Independence Day on 15th August. On electronic media I heard the speech of the President of Pakistan. He had stated that Pakistan should boost the morale of the people who are sacrificing their lives for Kashmir. Sir, we can easily understand their attitude when that country's Head of State itself is giving such statements. Nothing could be more sinister against our country. In spite of all this if we adopt lackadaisical attitude on this issue, I think no solution could be evolved regarding Jammu-Kashmir.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, innocent pilgrims were killed during 'Amarnath Yatra' in Jammu-Kashmir. I have no objection if you want to have judicial inquiry in this regard but I have a very bitter experience regarding judicial inquiry. Legislators of Bahujan Samajwadi Party were lured away but it was not covered under Anti defection law. On this issue we moved to Supreme Court. A bench of three judges was constituted by the Chief Justice. One of the judges of the bench gave the verdict in our favour and the other one against us. The Chief Justice continued the hearing for many days but neither he decided the matter in our favour nor against us. Thereafter, the issue was considered as a constitutional one and sent to the Constitutional Bench. I would like to know from the then Chief Justice of the Supreme Court that why he continued hearing for many more days when the matter was constitutional and why it was not referred to the

[Kumari Mayawati]

Constitutional Bench in the first instance and why the Constitutional Bench has not been set up till date? That's why I am submitting that the issue will not be resolved by the judicial commission. I am aware of the attitude of our judiciary and the results of such enquiries and the manners in which the matters are referred to the Constitutional Bench.

That Constitutional Bench has not been set up till now. Such is the attitude of our judiciary. If the Congress Party members want to have judicial inquiry in this matter. I think the issue will linger on and no immediate relief would be provided to the people. Therefore, instead of conducting judicial inquiry, members of Congress party and the whole opposition alongwith the alliance partners of the ruling party should pressurise the hon. Home Minister and the hon. Prime Minister to evolve a permanent solution to the Kashmir problem. To my mind this issue should be tackled by rising above the partisan interests and the present Government and opposition parties should stand join hands because we should worry about the welfare of the country. Country's interest is supreme. I am not interested in judicial inquiry because I had a personal experience about it. The Government should take action strictly and if the intentions of the Government are clear, then a solution would really be found. It could also have been found in 1971-72 and the present Government can also resolve the issue.

I would like to inform you that when I was the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, it was being stated that ISI agents come through Nepal because we have common border, I replied that I will check it. Special border range was set up there and special officers were deputed there. I set up police posts there and made all the arrangements. Today, I can claim that no ISI agent entered in Uttar Pradesh during my two tenures as Chief Minister. Therefore, the Central Government should take a bold decision fast and make arrangements for the surveillance of our borders and gear up the Intelligence Department, then only a solution can be found and just like 1971-72 war we can again give Pakistan a befitting reply.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to participate in the discussion on the unfortunate incident at Amarnath in August in which pilgrims from all over the country, were attacked. These pilgrims were going to the temple for fulfilment of their desire and pay obeisance to Mahadev. The discussion was also held after this incident and the issue of Kashmir had been discussed many times in the House. The leaders of all the political parties had participated in the discussion on the Amarnath incident. I had also participated in the discussion. However, our Congress colleagues are demanding a judicial inquiry as they have reservations against the inquiry Committee constituted by

the Government. Today we are discussing the issue whether the Amarnath incident should be got investigated by the inquiry Committee of the Government or the judicial inquiry should be conducted.

I would like to submit that there had been several important incidents where judicial inquiry had been conducted. By the way, it is stated that if you want to hush up any incident then you hand over the case to CID, similarly if you desire to hush-up grave incidents then set up judicial inquiry. The issue will automatically be hushed-up. Several hon. Members have cited such examples.

19.30 hrs.

[SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN *in the Chair*]

Same was the fate of the judicial inquiry set up in the case of Ex. Prime Minister late Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Similarly, Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi ji, there had been Hindu-Muslim riot at Bhagalpur during the Congress regime in Bihar in which thousands of people were killed. A judicial inquiry was also set up in that incident. But till today, nobody knows the contents of the report of that judicial inquiry. That is why I think that judicial inquiry is set up to hush-up the incidents. I firmly believe that imparting justice on the basis of documentary evidence and investigating the matter are two different things. The members of judiciary are beyond scrutiny and impartial. They give judgement on the basis of evidence and witnesses but cannot conduct investigation. Regarding the Amarnath incident it is a fact that there was security lapse. If there was no security lapse then such incident would not have taken place. If the Government would not have accepted the security lapse, then the question of constituting inquiry commission would not have been arisen. That is why we all realise that whatever happened was quite unfortunate. The entire nation and the august House are deeply hurt by this incident. But we will have to study the genesis of militancy. We will also have to look into the matter of encouraging and training militants on our soil.

In 1947, during the partition of the country, Pakistan attacked us. Since then a major chunk of our land is under the occupation of Pakistan. I do not want to blame anybody but I do not know as to what were the compelling circumstances under which the then Prime Minister of the country accepted the demarcation of the country though his other cabinet colleague, the Minister of Home Affairs, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel was not in its favour, we had allowed them land for setting up training camps for terrorists. Afterwards, we extended friendship with China. The slogan of Indo-China brotherhood was chanted. We also fought battle with China in that so-called friendly atmosphere and lost our territory. Even today 37,555 sq.km. of our territory is under the illegal occupation of China. Thereafter two more wars were

fought in 1965 and 1971 with Pakistan. I would like to dwell on the post 1965 and 1971 scenario. Shri Zila-ul-Haque was the President of Pakistan during the military rule. Late Shrimati Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister of this country. At that time the President of Pakistan had given a statement that Mujahidin will wage jihad (holy war) in Kashmir. Mujahidin is a person who fights for Allah and Jihad means the crusade. Whenever during discussions reference to Pakistan is made in the House, a few Members raise voice as if they are Pakistani supporters. I see such situation. The way the innocent people are killed in Kashmir and terrorist activities are carried on inside the Indian territory is not tolerable. It is being discussed that there is terrorism in the country for the last 11 years but in my opinion terrorism started in the country 20 years back. For the 11 years there has been phenomenal increase in terrorist activities. The intention of Pakistan behind such activities is known to everybody. Whenever we take concrete steps towards friendship and undertake journey by bus, the infiltrators declare war in Kargil. During the visits of President of United State of America to India, innocent persons were killed in the valley. When we hold dialogue, hundreds of innocent persons are killed in the valley.

I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs and the Hon'ble Prime Minister of our country as to what is the use of nuclear explosion, cannons, arms and explosives and tanks that we possess, as the Government had promised that these are necessary to defend our boundaries? Our defence personnel are being killed and we are doing no more than offering the condolences. I do not want to give a lengthy speech. Now it is the demand of the hour that we should not see our soldiers dying. We should not leave our soldiers to embrace death on the borders. We cannot want the killings of innocent people in the country. Now the time has come to once again challenge the enemy. Presently only four thousand terrorists are there in the valley. We blame the intelligence agencies. It is a failure on the part of our intelligence agencies because they fail to locate the hideouts of terrorists even after the commander of the terrorists comes from the valley and disappears after the dialogue. It is really a matter of shame. I would like to submit that Kashmir should be completely handed over to the military. It will not be a difficult task for the military to trace four thousand terrorists in the valley, once full authority is given to the Armed Forces. That is why I would like to request particularly our Congress colleague, hon'ble Shrimati Sonia ji and Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi ji that they should get swayed by the views of Congressmen and not make speeches in the House as this will send wrong signal to the nation. The Congress party is a national party. You

please do not get guided by them. You please do not demand judicial inquiry. I would like to request you to support the Government's step so that it may sincerely investigate the incident. We collectively will monitor the investigation and if there is any lapse in the investigation the entire House will pressurise the Government to find out the solution of Kashmir problem. With all these words I conclude and extend my thanks to you for giving me the time to express my views.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, I want to make one announcement. Today the proceeding of the House will continue till late night. Therefore, the dinner has been arranged upstairs that will be available for all after 8.30 p.m. This facility is also available for the staff associated with conducting Lok Sabha.

[English]

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI (Salem): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for having given me this opportunity to air my views on this important motion moved by our learned friend, Shri Dasmunsi:

Sir, I rise to support the motion brought forward by our friend Shri Dasmunsi. Before going into the main question as to whether a judicial probe is to be instituted or not, I, on behalf of my Party, AIADMK, condemn this dastardly, barbaric, and inhuman massacre unequivocally in no uncertain terms. Sir, I not only condemn the militants who unleashed this reign of terror, I also condemn the security lapse which led to such a heavy toll and ghastly violence. Sir, even after several such incidents in the past, the Government in power year before and this year do not seem to have learnt the lesson. Therefore, they want to shield everything under the carpet. Sir, it is shameful that since August 1, there has been no response from this Government.

It is a weak Government and an immature Government which takes things lightly even after one hundred innocent pilgrims have been brutally killed. Till date the Government has not come out with a proper version of what happened. My question is, why this Government is afraid of appointing a Judicial Commission? Why is it running away from the factual revelations? Why is this Government insensitive to such an important issue?

Everybody in this august House agreed to the fact and there cannot be two opinions that there has been a serious security lapse on the part of the Government.

[Shri T.M. Selvaganpathi]

Failure of the security and the intelligence agencies is the order of the day right from the Kargil incident. For months together there had been piling up of arms and ammunition. The intelligence agencies in this Government failed to notice it and this took a toll of five hundred Army personnel and left several thousands wounded. What were they doing? Are we not supposed to take cognizance of such an inexcusable slackness on the part of the authorities?

The Home Minister, the Defence Minister and the hon. Prime Minister themselves have directly or indirectly agreed that there has been a security lapse. Even then they do not concede to such a genuine demand. That raises our eyebrows. Shri Nitish Kumar, who is our present Agriculture Minister, owned responsibility for a train accident and resigned. I do not ask Shri Advani to follow the footsteps of Shri Nitish Kumar. Rather, we wish that such an incident does not recur. Therefore, we feel that a judicial probe will unearth the truth and will reveal the facts as to what actually happened.

Why do we demand this? It is because more than one hundred people have been killed. Who is to be held responsible for this? Who is accountable for this? The Government says that let the executive inquire into it. Is this the way such a sensitive issue to be dealt with? This is the moot question.

Please do not think that we alone are demanding this judicial probe. Please also do not think that we alone are accusing of the serious security lapse. Even the *Sangh Parivar* - RSS and VHP - has categorically and openly stated that there has been a security lapse. I would request Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra, who is not here right now, and also the Home Minister to go through the article written by none other than the General Secretary of the RSS, Shri Mohandas Devi which appeared in the mouth-piece of the RSS, *Panchajanya*, dated 13th August.

"The eye witnesses account that serious security lapses and even corruption and harassment of Amarnath pilgrims were carried out."

The article suggests that was none other than the RSS supremo. Some of the Amarnath pilgrims died as a result of the firing of our own forces. We are not accusing like this. The BJP tentacle, the RSS *Sangh Parivar*, is accusing like this. Eye witnesses said that some of the *Yatris* died because of the indiscriminate firing by the CRPF. I am not trying to lower the morale of the paramilitary forces. The same indiscriminate firing took place recently when there was a bomb blast in which a Press photographer of *The Hindustan Times* was also

killed. When it has become the order of the day, when there is a question of combating the terrorists, the paramilitary forces, headed by our Home Minister, Shri Advani, resorted to indiscriminate firing in panic. Sir, I am not questioning the morale of our forces. Their morale is very high. But why is there such a situation? Therefore, we demand a judicial probe.

There are many other moot questions which have to be looked into. One important thing is, many of the victims died not because of the bullets from AK-47 guns but because of the CRPF bullets.

There is another important question. How did the extremists gain entry into a narrow path leading to the kitchen? Nobody is there to explain all these aspects. Sir, several people and *ponywallahs* were killed in the pony stand where the entry to the kitchen started. How did they gain entry especially into a narrow route controlled by two check posts and about 8 CRPF companies spread out near the entire area? Therefore, we demand a judicial probe into this matter.

There are also eye witnesses saying that when the *Yatris* were trying to rescue the injured people, they were stopped by the J&K Police forces. This is not my version. This is the version of none other than the General Secretary of the RSS. They not only prevented them but also said, "If you come for the *Yatra*, you will meet this fate." This is the situation in Kashmir today. We have to learn a lesson from the past. Therefore, we want a judicial probe. If an executive examines the lapse of another executive, will it reveal the truth? The Government is trying to put everything into cold storage.

Sir, you cannot deal these things as a mere law and order problem. It concerns the internal security of our nation. So far, there have been three major incidents. Whenever there had been a move for a peace process, militants strike in an ugly manner. When the Prime Minister undertook a journey to Lahore—the bus diplomacy-Doda witnessed massive killings in February, 1999. During the stay of the US President, Mr. Bill Clinton, there was a severe massacre on that occasion.

Several hundreds of *sikhs* were brutally massacred. When the peace process with the *Hizbul Mujahideen* is on now, this proxy war was carried out. My only question is this. With all these experiences, how did you fail to notice all these things? Did you not apprehend that such a situation might arise in *Amaranth yatra*? Did you not suspect that such an event might take place? Did you not anticipate such a thing? Why have you not learnt the lesson? On whom should the responsibility be fixed for this? Therefore, we want a judicial probe.

Mr. Minister, if you do not want to embarrass the security forces, if you say that the morale will be lowered, you should have thought about it when you shamelessly handed over the terrorists in *Khandahar* in the hands of the terrorist organisation. The Government surrendered before the extremists who were trying to divide this nation. Will it not reduce the morale of the forces when especially hundreds of Army personnel were killed and thousands were wounded in the Kargil front after which this dastardly and inexcusable surrender happened with this Government? Therefore, our point is this. Please do not try to shield anybody. Let the truth come out. The same thing occurred earlier...*(Interruptions)*

There is a saying that the child will only follow in the footsteps of the parents. Mr. Minister, you handed over the terrorists in *Kandhar* to extremists. Now, you can see that in every State, the extremists, who were detained under the TADA, were released. 51 detenus belonging to the Tamil Liberation Army were released from Karnataka and five extremists were released from Tamil Nadu. This is what you teach the nation! This is how you make the people know that tomorrow every extremist in this country will be out and the Government will surrender before the extremists. This is the shameless attitude not only in respect of the Centre but also the States. It is happening in the States also. Where is the check? Who is to be held responsible for all these things?

Sir, Shri Advani is not here. In the same way, a serious bomb blast occurred in Coimbatore where he was the target. I know Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan, the hon. Member from Coimbatore, was there. They all miraculously escaped. Our dynamic leader Dr. Puratchi Jhalavi demanded a CBI probe as there was a nexus between the power centre in the State of Tamil Nadu and the extremists, the persons who planted the bomb. That was denied. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur): Sir, this is objectionable. This should be removed from the records. He has said that there was nexus between the Government and the extremists. ...*(Interruptions)* This should be removed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Palanimanickam, while you speak, you speak, you can reply to it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Palanimanickam, when you get your chance, you can reply. You can refute it.

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA): Anybody can have the right to reply. Simply because he has got the right to reply, a Member cannot say anything in the House...*

It will create a bad precedent. The point is that a Member can speak anything and the other hon. Member can be called to refute it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: I am not yielding...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi) Let the hon. Member confine to the discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Normally, there is no blocking of the discussion. If there is anything to be replied, you can give the reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Selvaganpathy, kindly conclude now.

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, some of the portions should be expunged...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: On the basis of facts and figures, I am speaking...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Unless he speaks something which is not parliamentary, when he speaks on the subject, his text of the speech must be recorded. The other hon. Members will have the opportunity to clarify the point. If there is any unparliamentary expression, you can always look into it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: The thing is that the issue of nexus between the extremists and the State Government is not relevant to this subject. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: These are all the facts. These are all our observations. The nation is observing this. It is a fact that extremists are released from the Tamil Nadu prison following the footsteps of the Government of India. It is a fact. That is why, a CBI probe was asked for which was denied.

None other than Shri Advani was the target. ...*(Interruptions)* Hundreds of people died. Is it not a fact? ...*(Interruptions)*

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MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Palanimanickam, I will give my ruling. Shri Selvaganapathi, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Normally, there cannot be blocking of discussion.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: It is for all the hon. Members. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you want to refute anything, you refute it later.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a consistent view.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: What he said was that there is a nexus between the extremists and the State Government of Tamil Nadu. *...(Interruptions)* He says that there is a nexus. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: I understand the predicament of the Home Minister. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Palanimanickam, while replying, you refute it. That is all.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: The Chair can prevent it. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: What do you want me to do? You cannot block the discussion.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Our demands are well founded. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: This is a very sensitive issue. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is there any allegation against any particular individual?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: I am not yielding. *...(Interruptions)*

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MR CHAIRMAN: Please resume your seats. I will give my ruling.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO: We are discussing a serious issue. He is bringing in party politics into it. *...(Interruptions)* He is deviating from the main discussion. It is not relevant to the discussion. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: I am talking seriously. It is not a question of politics. *...(Interruptions)* It is a fact. It is very relevant. *...(Interruptions)* Our charge is well founded. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will give my ruling. Shri Kuppasami, please take your seat. If there is anything unparliamentary, if there is anything which goes unchallenged - now you are challenging - you can refute it in your reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: It is irrelevant. Inquiry into the Coimbatore bomb blast is already over. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: When a Member is speaking, why does he not respond to it at that time?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra): It is your duty to point out when someone is talking something. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not say 'someone', Shri Rudy. Saying 'someone' is unparliamentary.

Shri Selvaganapathi, please conclude

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I hold the consistent view that no discussion should be blocked.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: We are not defying the Chair. *...(Interruptions)* Tamil Nadu issue is a very sensitive issue. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: There cannot be any blocking of the discussion.

...(Interruptions)

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SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: This is a very sensitive issue concerning Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. Lakhs and lakhs of people of Tamil Nadu are living in Karnataka. Why are you linking these two incidents?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: What do you want to say?

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: He said that there is a nexus between the State Government and the extremists. I would request the Chair to delete that. ...*(Interruptions)* We are addressing the Chair. ...*(Interruptions)* We are discussing the issue of Jammu and Kashmir. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Chaturvedi, kindly resume your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: I am not yielding. I am speaking only the truth. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: He said that there is a nexus between the State Government and the extremists. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: I do not want their explanation. I am only revealing the truth and I am revealing as to what happened in the nation...*(Interruptions)* He is trying to sideline the entire argument. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House consists of 544 hon. Members. With responsibility, they are placing the facts.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: Yes, at the same time, it should not be at the cost of the people. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: After hearing my views, tell me, Shri Palanimanickam.

20.00 hrs.

There cannot be any cross talk here. Please address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please listen to me.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are 544 hon. Members in this House and with responsibility they are placing the facts known to them. We cannot say that they are not responsible.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: We cannot tell him that he is not responsible and he does not know the facts. How will I know that he does not know the facts?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: No; I am not differing with the Chair. My point is, in his speech, he said that there is a nexus between the State Government and the extremists. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: It is my charge. I stand by my charge. ...*(Interruptions)* I continue to stand by my charge. It is a well-founded charge. Let him deny it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: Sir, it is a sensitive issue concerning the lives of lakhs and lakhs of Tamil people living in Karnataka. I only ask him not to aggravate the problem...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Sir, I categorically say that I continue to stand by my charge. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Palanimanickam, please listen to me.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: Sir, I am ready to listen to the Chair. But at the same time, I would request the Chair to control the other side also...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this may be communicated to the respective leaders and this will solve the problem. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rudy, a few minutes back you said: "someone has said." Can you address the Member as someone?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: No.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You said: "someone has said". The word, "someone" is unparliamentary. If a Member is speaking, you cannot refer to him as "somebody" or "someone". He is an honourable and responsible Member.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, some honourable and responsible Members have said that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are saying it only now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Palanimanickam, please listen to me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have different sections and different political parties in the House. A Member from a party is speaking. You, as a Member of your party or the Chief Whip of your Party, can rebut it when you get your turn.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: Sir, I allowed him to speak. When he referred to a very serious thing, then only I objected....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: In that case, the Speaker has to follow the entire proceedings.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: Yes. ...(Interruptions) I objected only when he has mentioned that the state Government has a link with the extremists. What is the meaning of that? ...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Sir, I said the party in power. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Palanimanickam, how can I say that it is unparliamentary? I want to take the sense of the House whether it is unparliamentary...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Sir, I am winding up. I may be allowed to complete my speech. ...(Interruptions)

20.04 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I may be allowed to complete my speech. My point is that the situation in Coimbatore was mishandled. In the same way, the situation in Kashmir is being mishandled. Therefore, Shri Advani should own responsibility for it. It is time that he admits his lapses. It is time that the Government admit the lapses.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Selvaganpathi, please conclude.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a Commission was appointed to inquire into the bomb blasts at Coimbatore and that Commission has submitted its report. Why is he mentioning all those things now?...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are discussing the Kashmir situation now, but he is discussing about the Coimbatore bomb blasts.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Selvaganpathi, please conclude now.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Sir, I am concluding.

Sir, I am comparing a similar situation in which the hon. Home Minister, Shri Advani himself was the target. There was no proper probe into that incident. In the same way, the Government is not listening to the genuine demand of the Opposition to appoint a judicial inquiry into this incident also. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Somehow you got it out of the Action Taken Report.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Selvaganpathi, please conclude.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: He is not allowing me.

MR. SPEAKER: You have taken more than 25 minutes.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: There have been a lot of interruptions.

Everybody is concerned about this massacre. The Government owes responsibility to protect the citizens. Only when there is a judicial probe, the truth will come to light.

I support the Motion brought forward by my learned friend, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi.

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for the opportunity given to me to take part in this important discussion. The 1st August of this new millennium was a day of sorrow and shock to the entire country—a black day - when barbarous, savage, brutal killing of the pilgrims of *Amarnath Yatra* took place. The pilgrims, who undertook the journey to Amaranth, were innocent citizens of this country coming from distant areas of this great nation to get them relieved from mental agony and torture from the day-to-day problems of the life and to attain mental solace and contentment. These were the people who were brutally massacred. I condemn the kills and the killers with all the force at my command who do not deserve to live in a civilised society.

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While I am condemning the killings and the killers, I could not agree with the Motion tabled by my learned friend, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi under Rule 184 for a judicial probe.

My heart goes to the bereaved members of those families. I share their grief and tears. Why could I not agree with them for a judicial probe? In this discussion, let us rise above petty party considerations.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, you are disturbing the Members.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO: I was listening with rapt attention to my friends, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar and Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi. They have made some valid points. But why did killings take place this year particularly of the pilgrims of *Amamath Yatra*? The killings have been taking place in Jammu and Kashmir. There are umpteen number of instances. But it is for the first time that the pilgrims to *Amamath Yatra* have been targeted. In the year 1995-96, there was a threat from Harkat-ul-Ansar that the pilgrims will not be spared and they will be massacred. But that did not take place. So, it is the first incident towards the pilgrims for *Amamath Yatra*. Then, what is the reason? This is not an isolated act of terrorism.

It is a part of a big game plan at the behest of the military establishment in Islamabad. We have to look into the whole scenario. This killing is connected with the talks, the dialogue between the Government of India and the Hizbul Mujahidin. Whenever there is a move from the Government of India to establish peace and normalcy, to establish better bilateral relations with our neighbour, with Pakistan, it is Pakistan which always does this sabotage.

The most commendable journey was performed by the Prime Minister of India, Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee from Amritsar to Lahore. Despite the fact that my friends from that side had criticised it, but, Sir, that was the journey which sent a message not only to the whole country, but to the whole world that India has extended an olive branch for negotiated settlement on bilateral issues and India is only for peace and friendship. We have succeeded in the diplomatic front. The whole country stood like one man during Kargil crisis. The Kargil spirit was witnessed right from Kanyakumari up to the lofty peaks of Himalayas.

Sir, we won not only on the battlefield but we won on the diplomatic front too. That is because not even a single member of the Islamic Organisations came forward to support Pakistan. At that time, when the Lahore spirit was there, it was Pakistan which sabotaged it. They started war in Kargil and the man who was the driving spirit towards confrontation was none other than Parvez Musharraf. Then toppled Nawaz Sharief's Government.

Sir, we do recall that when the President of the United States, Mr. Bill Clinton visited India and when he was giving a message that there should be a dialogue between the two countries, at that time, they targeted Chhatisinghpora. And the killings took place. The people of Sikh community were murdered in cold blood.

Now, this is the third scenario. The first occasion, when the Chief Commander of Hizbul Mujahidin, Abdul Majid Dar announced a unilateral ceasefire, the venue of the announcement was Srinagar. He stated that the objective was to break the deadlock and make the environment conducive for talks. Not only that he made a reference about a craving world-wide that peace and normalcy should return to the sub-continent, which is passing through difficult times.

Sir, on July 24th, when he made the announcement for unilateral ceasefire, there was no mention of the inclusion of Pakistan in the proposed talks. There was not even a murmur. At the Press Conference in Srinagar on July 24th, Shri Dar made the interesting points. First, that the decision to offer a ceasefire was a collective decision taken by the Majlis-e-Shoura and that a consensus had emerged among the Hizbul Mujahidin leadership on both sides of the border for a purposeful dialogue which should result in a peaceful solution to the problem. Secondly, Shri Dar argued that before a ceasefire offer was made, the Hizbul Mujahidin leadership had gauged the public mood in Kashmir and it was realised:

"The desire for a peaceful solution of the issue based unconditional and meaningful dialogue among all sections of society including the local political leadership and the media."

Sir, the second announcement was made by Mr. Syed Salahuddin. His original name was Mohd. Yusuf Shah. He made the announcement of revocation of ceasefire on August 8th. He said that cease-fire has been revoked. This statement was made in Islamabad. So, the first statement regarding cease-fire was made in Srinagar and the second one regarding revocation of cease-fire was made by Syed Salahuddin on the soil of Pakistan,

[Shri Vaiko]

which clearly demonstrates the basic factor, which is a testimony that he is under the thumb and spell of the military establishment of Mr. Parvez Musharraf. So, that is not the voice of Syed Salahuddin, that is the voice of Islamabad, and that is the voice of Mr. Parvez Musharraf.

Sir, a moot question could be raised, if Mr. Syed Salahuddin is under the thumb and spell of Mr. Parvez Musharraf, how did he agree for cease-fire when the announcement was made by Mr. Abdul Masjid Dar? It is very interesting. The Pakistan establishment was under the impression that India would not come forward to have a dialogue with Hizbul Mujahidin. That is the factor. The Pakistan establishment thought that the Indian Government would not come forward, Shri Vajpayee's Government would not come forward to have a dialogue with Hizbul Mujahidin. But, Sir, to their shock and surprise, India came forward, the talks started, and at that time there was no pre-condition that Pakistan should be involved in the talks. When the Pakistan Government realised the fact that India came forward to have a dialogue and the people of Kashmir were really longing for peace, they were terribly shocked. Therefore, they wanted to sabotage the talks, they wanted to sabotage the dialogue between the Government of India and Hizbul Mujahidin, which is under the spell of the Pakistan Government, and therefore, it is under their behest, under their direction and order, Mr. Syed Salahuddin made an announcement that the cease-fire has been revoked.

Sir, even after these barbaric acts of August 1st and 2nd, the Government of India gave the message in very clear terms that we do not go back from the offer of a dialogue, we do not go back on our decision to hold talks even after the diabolical massacres of August 1st and 2nd. Immediately after the cease-fire was revoked, our Indian Army's Divisional Headquarters at Baramulla was attacked with five grenades, several rockets and artillery shells within two hours after the revocation of cease-fire was clearly meant to convey that Hizbul Mujahidin had swung into effective war.

Sir, even after this, our Prime Minister made a statement in the other House, and he said:

"The killing of people and engineering blasts at crowded places will not take the Ultras anywhere. By such gruesome acts, they may be obliging their mentor across the border but their acts are against the tenets of Islam and humanity. But there is no pre-condition that there should be only democracy for holding talks. We are ready to deal with whatever form of Government is there."

So, we have clearly stated that we are for a dialogue. But, Sir, the game plan is very much threaten. I want to share my apprehension with the hon. Members of this House at this late hour when we are discussing. I thought it is my bounden duty to express my fear and apprehension. I am not a pessimist but I felt that I should express my fear and apprehension that we are heading for a major confrontation with our neighbour. That is the serious concern, which I want to share with my friends because the Pakistan establishment is already becoming the most unpopular Government and a frustrated Government.

A frustrated Government is always a dangerous Government. In order to divert the attention of the people, they are preparing on a large and massive scale for a larger confrontation with India. When Shri Nawaz Sharief was holding the reign in Islamabad, he pleased Shri Parvez Musharraf who was the driving force behind the Kargil crisis. Now, he himself has sat on the saddle in Islamabad. What was the message of 14th August? What was the message from Islamabad? That was a war hungry speech and a warmonger approach.

At the same time, I read from the newspapers a very alarming news. Very authentic reports appear in the media, newspapers in Islamabad that we have never heard of in any part of the world that the soldiers of the army are being indoctrinated with venom and hatred. Adolph Hitler was doing through his Gestapo to the storm troopers those days in the 40s' and in the later part of the 30s. Teachings of fundamentalism is injected in the minds of the soldiers of Pakistan army. Through reliable sources, I learn that 17 per cent to 18 per cent of the soldiers of Pakistan army grow beard. It is unheard of even in Iraq and in Iran. It is nowhere in any Islamic country. The Islamic fundamentalism is injected into the veins of the soldiers of Pakistan army. So, when they are preparing themselves on that line, they are trying to mobilise the international opinion against India and they want to make Kashmir an issue of international importance. They want to make the issue as a disputed issue. For that purpose, they are trying heaven and earth to mobilise the international opinion against India. Therefore, we have to be very cautious. We have to be very careful.

I am not against judicial inquiry on matters whenever the killings take place. It is more or less a war like situation. Even when Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi was making an emotional and a passionate speech on the floor of the House, spontaneously the truth came out in his speech that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir is so grave that even the hon. Prime Minister of India,

hon. Leader of the Opposition, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and the leaders like Shri Somnath Chatterjee could not be taken to the remote border areas in Jammu and Kashmir because the risk is so grave. He himself admitted that the risk is so grave in the border areas. When he himself admits that the risk is so grave that the Prime Minister or Shrimati Sonia Gandhi could not be taken to the border areas, how do you expect when two daredevil militants take the gun and shoot people? Shri Somnath Chatterjee stated just now that they easily mingled with the people. Under these circumstances, is it possible to nab them immediately before they enter the area? Is it possible?

Of course, lapses might have taken place. Lapses have taken place. I do not refute it. But they are bound to take place. When there is a cross firing, under such circumstances, people could get killed. There is a possibility. I do not refute that. But when you make a judicial inquiry, we should not forget the security forces, para-military forces and the military personnel.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Vaiko, please conclude.

SHRI VAIKO: I will take only a few minutes. Forgetting their kith and kin, leaving their families, when they are defending the soil of this country in remote areas, they are targeted; they are killed. When the casket, coffins bearing the dead bodies reach the areas, we see the tears of the bereaved members.

So, when they are risking their lives to protect the territorial integrity of this great country, in the name of a judicial inquiry if one incident is spotted, in the cross-firing there, two persons, maybe or may not be, even if it is taken into account, one or two persons get killed, because of the cross-firing, already the Islamabad establishment is giving cock and bull stories through the media and newspapers that our people are getting killed by the security forces of India. They want to mobilise the international opinion against India. We should not afford fodder to this diabolical propaganda of Pakistan. Therefore, I appeal to my friends in the Congress Party, I would appeal to my friends from the Opposition Benches that they should not provide fodder to the Pakistani Cannons. Therefore, for these three reasons I am totally opposed to the move for a judicial inquiry.

When Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi was referring to what happened in the other House when Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee demanded that there should be a discussion when the Chinese debacle took place, he was discourteous to Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. But there was

a Himalayan blunder committed by the then Government against the caution given by General Thimmayya; the Indian Government did not take any steps to strengthen the Armed Forces to make all preparations in the Himalayan region. Therefore, we paid a very high price. That is a fact of history. Even then, we stood as one man, under the leadership of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

It is the same Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee—when the Bangladesh operation took place, and 90,000 soldiers of Pakistan surrendered before General Arora—who, on the floor of Parliament greeted Shrimati Indira Gandhi as the Durga of India.

The spirit was there and my friends were referring about the fifties, sixties and the seventies. Now it is 2000. The situation has totally changed. Therefore, because I am having the apprehension that the military establishment in Islamabad is sliding towards a confrontation with India, we have to fight them. We will fight them. After we proved that India is becoming a mighty nuclear power, the nuclear deterrent has worked its way. But on the border when we were all mobilising all our forces for the major confrontation during Kargil, we imposed a self-restraint, military restraint. We did not cross the LoC at that time. That was appreciated, that got approbation throughout the world.

Under these circumstances when the writing on the wall is very clear, when the military establishment is gearing itself for a confrontation and also to get the opinion in the international arena in its favour, we should not afford any fodder to the establishment of Pakistan.

Now, the mood of the people there is for peace. When I referred about the Hizbul Mujahideen, there are other outfits like Lashkar-e-Toiba and Dindar Anjuman. These outfits, in connivance with the ISI, are trying to create chaos, bloodshed and also communal riots in this country.

Therefore, we have to be very cautious. But I am confident, even if there is a confrontation, we will give a fitting reply under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. After four wars, again, there will be a fitting reply and definitely whatever they try to achieve, they will miserably fail.

Therefore, I would like to make an appeal to my friend, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi to withdraw the Resolution.

Sir, I am opposed to this Resolution.

Sir, with these few words, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Amarnath is a famous pilgrim centre in Jammu Kashmir and the people from all over the country go there with immense faith. Every year, the terrorist keep on threatening that they will attack Amarnath pilgrims. The attack on the pilgrims on first of this month, in which many pilgrims were killed, was not something which happened out of the blue. It was being declared continuously that it is a risky place and a militant attack is possible there. Everybody expressed sorrow in this regard and Hon. Members also raised this question in the House. The Hon. Prime Minister along with some hon. Members of opposition is on a visit to that place and after returning will tell the actual situation that how this incident took place. The Hon. Prime Minister in a short statement said that an enquiry Committee of officers has been constituted in this regard. The demand for judicial inquiry has also been raised here. He said that after the inquiry of officers he will consider whether the judicial inquiry is needed or not? Afterwards the Hon. Home Minister gave a statement and was further probed. Whether the Army was deputed there? The hon. Minister of Home Affairs stated that information is being collected. You can think that what will happen to the country which has such an ineffective and ignorant Home Minister who cannot provide facts while answering the questions on a serious incident such as this in the House. How that country and its citizens could be saved from militants? The plea is being that the judicial inquiry will harm the reputation of the country along with demoralising the security forces deputed there. Thus, whether the inquiry of officers is going to boost their morale? Since then, we are hearing this kind of arguments. If the Government is guilty then such things will be automatically covered in judicial inquiry. If an Officer of lower rank or an employee is guilty then a senior officer of can hold the inquiry against him but, is it possible for an officer to hold an inquiry against the Government for its negligence. The Hon. Home Minister is guilty. I would like to know whether an officer can hold inquiry against him? Therefore a judicial inquiry is being demanded because the Government is guilty. Everybody said that it happened due to security lapse. Even the Defence Minister accepted this. Later on we heard that the Hon. Home Minister expressed his willingness to resign. Although he was persuaded to hold to his post as nothing serious has happened...*(Interruptions)* Whether all this was published in newspapers or not? Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay is one of the active members of the alliance. He is a member of N.D.A. He has raised the issue under rule 377 that many pilgrims are likely to visit Amarnath and expressed apprehension that, militant attack can take

place...*(Interruptions)* and also suggested that proper security arrangement should be made. They did not make arrangements. Therefore, whether this Government is a failure or not? Can anybody from that side explain whether the Government failed in making proper security arrangements or not. Now the Government's fault is that when Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay raised the question in the House under rule 377 and thus informed the House but they didnot taken it seriously. Even Shri Nitish Sengupta is from that party. It was his Committee which made recommendations and during that natural calamity had struck. Many people were killed due to heavy rains at the time of Amarnath Yatra. An Officers Committee was constituted and after the inquiry they recommended that Army should be deputed through out the route of yatra. Even they did not implement the recommendations of that Committee. This mishap happened at the time when the Government claimed that they had enforced ceasefire after holding talks with Hizbul, what a great job!

After talks with Hizbul, they declared ceasefire, and were convinced that now everybody will be secure. During that period pilgrims were attacked by militants. This Government is ignorant and useless that where as on one hand the security of nation and its people is in danger and on the other they are not talking to Hizbul. Can we know why? They are lighting candles and saying that we are celebrating the Vijay Diwas, *i.e.*, Kargil victory...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, this is objectionable. This is not the way to present the things. the whole country dedicated itself to the nation. This is not the right way of presenting the things. Even the hon. Speaker lighted a lamp...*(Interruptions)* It should be expunged from the record, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Let me go through the record. If there is anything objectionable, it will be expunged from the record.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, I think the statement about lighting candles is expunged by the ruling of the hon. Speaker. ...*(Interruptions)* The hon. Speaker also celebrated the *Vijay Diwas* in front of the Parliament House and we all celebrated it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: He is not even allowing him to finish his sentence, Sir...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: These people had intruded at the time of Lahore bus journey...*(Interruptions)* After holding talks, these people are claiming that they are taking the country forward. They are claiming to have befriended Pakistan and found the solution. They claim to have done a great job but in the mean time the militants intruded in our country. Where was our security at the time of intrusion? Is, the intrusion of Pakistani militants in our country, not the failure of this Government? Afterwards our jawans showed exemplary bravery and sacrificed their lives. These people are patting their own backs. What bravery was displayed by your people? It is your failure. The work of turning this failure into victory was of our jawans...*(Interruptions)* It is a national problem. We opposed the talks with Hizbul. Will you hold talks with militants too? Pakistan is no more a democratic country. Militants intruded in our land at the time when Nawz Sharief Government was ruling in Pakistan. They are now facing the consequences of that. Now the military rule has been imposed there by murdering the democracy in the country. Can India have friendly relations with Pakistan? It was said that they will talk about humanity within the ambit of Constitution. No humane person can become a militant or nobody influenced by humanity can become a militant. It was the statement of the Hon. Prime Minister that talks will be held with Hizbul militants within the ambit of the Constitution. Thus anybody who lose faith in humanity and the Constitution is called a militant...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANOJ SINHA (Gazipur): Tell us the formula.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I will tell the formula in a minute, but only a bold Government can work on that formula. However, a weak Government cannot work on that formula...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, what language is being used in the House?...*(Interruptions)* What words are being used, Sir?

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: This Government understands only this language. ...*(Interruptions)* This Government has surrendered before America. During the visit of Mr. Clinton everybody was out to pleasing him. Whether this Government and the country will be on the mercy of Mr. Clinton? At the time

of Clinton's visit to India 36 innocent Sikhs were massacred in Chattisinghpura. After how many more killings, the Home Minister and the Prime Minister will resign? It was security lapse, Hizbul talks failed. This boosted the morale of militants.

Today the morale of the militants and Pakistan is high. You are basking in the glory of Pokhoran test. The democracy was killed in Fiji and their Prime Minister is here presently. He had sought India's help. He was asked about seeking India's help...*(Interruptions)* Today we raise the question of origin. This Government of B.J.P. also raised the question of origin. Both the issues are interconnected. The democracy of Hindustan is well known all over the world...*(Interruptions)* We are eligible to join Security Council of U.N.O. but we have lost the faith and support of underdeveloped countries. We have never been able to speak boldly that is why the democracy was murdered in that country. Our Government argues that Australia and New Zealand should speak. Their deposed Prime Minister, Shri Mahendra Chaudhary, who is on a visit to India, is of Indian origin. Most of the residents of Fiji are of Indian origin and believe in democracy. Democracy is in danger all over the world. For joining the Security Council of U.N.O. this Government had lost faith on poor and underdeveloped countries which were earlier supporting them. This Government had harmed the prestige of the country. Now my first suggestion is...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: How many times you will speak—suggestion number one, two, three, four.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, I am telling in brief...*(Interruptions)* This is a weak Government. It cannot suppress the militants where as problem of militants is a massive one. Mr. Farookh Abdulla is their supporter in Jammu Kashmir and is also in N.D.A. On the one hand you trust him and on the other hand you directly talk to Hizbul, Hurriyat and Toiba without taking him in to confidence. It is dangerous for the country, to take any step without taking the Government of Jammu-Kashmir into confidence. The common man of Jammu-Kashmir is innocent and they have their utmost faith in India and by ignoring them while talking to militant groups will further worsen the matter. All the places of militants hideouts...*(Interruptions)* by talking to militants who are against humanity and that too without taking the State Government into confidence is a deed something resorted to by an Ostrich who hides his mouth...*(Interruptions)* They are claiming that our people are secure. Journalists were killed there in terrorist attack. We express sorrow...*(Interruptions)* The Minister of External Affairs and the Minister of Civil Aviation handed over the imprisoned militants to them so you can imagine what will happen to

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

the security of the country where such incidents take place. Everybody is demanding judicial inquiry. Congress Party is a big party. These people are taking soft stand. We demand that the Prime Minister and the Home Minister should resign because they had failed to provide security to the pilgrims. The security of nation is in danger because of them. They say that the judicial inquiry will delay the matters...(Interruptions) if such incidents take place then a judicial inquiry will become a must. Good and bad occurs everywhere...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record. What is this?

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Sir, I rise to speak on this Motion...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please permit me an intervention. If we keep on hearing such a language.

[Translation]

Our Hindi grammar will become wrong. In this, we need your protection.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Sir, killing of Amarnath yatri shocked the whole world. Sir, on the very 1st August when the incident took place, it automatically reminded us of another incident which had taken place in August, 1996. That was another incident where natural calamities claimed 300 lives out of which 255 were pilgrims.

Sir, this time the number of Amarnath yatri was 1,77,000 approximately in comparison to last year's figure of 1,07,000. This number of Amarnath yatri indicates that the yatri were confident about their safety. This huge number of pilgrims, not less than 1,78,000, is enough indication that the yatri could not ever imagine that such a type of incident could take place.

20.48 hrs.

[SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU *in the Chair*]

Sir, I am grateful to Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh who mentioned the matter raised by me under Rule 377.

On the very 31st July, I had raised this matter under Rule 377 because three of the pilgrims from Calcutta also took part in that Amarnath Yatra and they were calling me over telephone from there that they were apprehending that something might happen as a few people were moving here and there whom they suspected. They requested me to take it up with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. In the matter under Rule 377 which I raised on 31st July, just 24 hours before the incident took place, I stated that I had received some serious complaints and suggestions from the yatri who were undertaking Amarnath Yatra. Sir, I mentioned that the Government should take care of it so that any untoward incident did not take place at this Yatra. It was a long statement, but I expressed my apprehension on the basis of the information received from the yatri who were undertaking this Amarnath Yatra.

Sometimes, I get surprised if the yatri on their own can guess, can make an assessment of such elements, why can it not be done by the Government of India's intelligence agency? There were some lapses. I believe that our Home Minister will certainly not hesitate to say that there were security lapses so far as the protection of Amarnath yatri was concerned.

Sir, I was just going through the Report submitted by Dr. Nitish Sengupta after the tragic incident took place in August, 1996. In his Report, at one place, a very humanitarian side was reflected, which I want to read out here.

In his report, Dr. Sengupta said:

"True heroes during the first few days after the tragedy struck were the Kashmiri villagers who spontaneously took up the rescue and relief work sharing their rooms or tents and their food with the distressed pilgrims. There was not a single case of looting or undignified behaviour towards women. This is in shining contrast with the much talked of apathy among many in the administration."

Really, we shed tears, when we read it, when we hear and discuss that Hindus and Muslims in Kashmir are in loggerheads with each other or fighting with each other. But this chapter is enough indication that both Muslims and Hindus are keen to live together in Kashmir, if they can be guided with proper security and with proper protection.

Sir, the heinous and barbarous killing was operated by Lashkar-e-Toiba, the fundamentalist, Pakistani-based militant outfit, and they are responsible for this. This heinous, inhumane, barbaric attack, no doubt, had shaken

the whole world. It is certainly a positive side on our part, possibly from the Kargil War to this heinous massacre, since the world has now come to know that Pakistan and its terrorists are the aggressors, and Pakistan has, no doubt, been isolated for the first time, so far as India-Pakistan disputes are concerned.

I must give thanks to those Opposition leaders, including you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, because the moment the Prime Minister requested the Leader of the Opposition, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, yourself, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Kumari Mamata Banerjee, Shri George Fernandes and others, all had been there, and it was a good gesture on the part of the Opposition leaders that they promptly responded to the Prime Minister's call and went to visit the spot. It is also a statesmanship on the part of the Prime Minister because he took the leaders of the Opposition, and his attitude was firm enough during the Press Conference in Srinagar, which we witnessed in the electronic media. He was very categorical and assured the nation that such type of heinous and barbaric actions would not be tolerated. Then, Sir, the announcement from Hizbul Mujahideen came up. This did not last for a long time.

Lastly, what we have found is that another group, the Hurriyat, has offered to coordinate talks. What are their proposals? The seven-member executive Committee of the Hurriyat decided to break into two groups—one group comprising four members, and another group comprising three members. They have proposed that the four-member group would conduct a dialogue with India, and the three-member group would conduct a dialogue with Pakistan. I am interested to know whether this proposal by Hurriyat has officially been communicated to the Government of India, whether we are going to accept this proposal of the Hurriyat, and whether 'back channel' for 'track-II' is already there with the Hurriyat leaders or individuals in Delhi, who is representing the Government of India? I would like to know whether the Government of India has any information that these extremist group has now decided to operate through suicide squads. This is another dangerous information that we are receiving. The moment the Government of India became more alert in these border areas in Jammu and Kashmir, then they have started to set up their units through suicide squads, which is a very alarming situation. So far as this part is concerned, we want to know from the Government whether it has any information or not.

Sir, there has been a categorical mention in the Report of Dr. Nitish Sengupta that security corridors should be provided to the Army to protect the Yatris from Jammu to Amamath. But that was not implemented. This is the sad part of the incident.

Sir, we are all very much anxious to see that the situation in Kashmir gets back to normal. The Congress, as an Opposition Party, can certainly make a demand for a judicial probe into the matter. They are a responsible political party of this country. They have enough responsibilities to discharge. It should not be construed that they are doing any injustice to this nation by asking for a judicial probe into this matter. But we certainly believe that this is the time when we should remain united.

Sir, a Motion under Rule 184 entails voting. The whole nation, including of course Pakistan, would keep an eye over the outcome of this Motion to see which Party wins this vote and who is defeated in this voting. Judicial enquiry is a long drawn out process and we are always apprehensive about its outcome. We are in favour of having a judicial enquiry on many occasions. But this issue pertaining to the State of Jammu & Kashmir is a different matter. I am also not sure whether the Central Government has any direct capacity to order a judicial probe or not.

Sir, I believe the Government should make an all-out effort in the matter and should also take the Opposition into confidence. The Congress Party itself has a very positive history. They are also committed to this nation. The Government should interact with the Opposition from time to time to see as to how this burning problem could be solved.

Sir, we want a united India. We want to give a projection to the whole world in general and to Pakistan in particular whereby Pakistan gets the feeling that Indian Parliament, the political Parties in India are one in unequivocally condemning such barbarous and heinous attacks on the innocent pilgrims and all the political Parties stand united to fight this Pakistani regime.

Sir, we firmly believe that the Congress Party would not finally ask for any voting on this Motion for which we have issued a three line Whip regarding this Kashmir issue. This is not desirable at this juncture. We also believe that the Government is aware of the security lapses. We also have raised this question. We do not deny this point. Our only motto should be to teach Pakistan such a lesson that they do not, in future, dare to support these extremist organisations and allow them to have their camps and bases in Islamabad. If necessary, the Government, with the blessings and support of all the political Parties in India, would have to launch an all out attack against them.

[Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay]

Sir, we believe that the Government, at this juncture, should be more broad-minded and they should not try to hide anything. They should tell the truth so that we can make a positive assessment of the situation.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): Mr. Chairman, Sir, before I start my speech I would like to submit that I will try my best to ensure that I do not speak anything irrelevant. I would try to put forth only relevant points. This magazine carries a photograph of a five year old baby whose parents are no more. Everytime I look at this photo memory of my little daughter becomes afresh, least it may be my daughter. I see the photographs of all those widows who are staring at the pyre of their husbands. The entire House is in agreement on this heart rending incident. No member from any party has differed on it. We have not seen so brutal massacre in the recent past and that too of those who have gone to worship the almighty.

21.00 hrs.

Today I rise to speak on this issue. Shri Dasmunshiji has moved this motion with the objective of bringing out truth as to why this heart rending incident took place, before the House and therefore I rise to support this motion.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the question is that why a judicial inquiry should be held. A little while ago some of my hon. colleagues submitted that by rising above partisan interests, we should discuss this issue and I do agree with them. I also do agree with the views expressed that the morale of our soldiers and para military personnel, who are protecting our country in extreme conditions should not suffer. In view of both these things, I would like to submit that despite all this I support conducting judicial inquiry in this regard alongwith the reasons for the same.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to place the reference before the House which I have collected from Parliament Library. Some of our hon. colleagues pointed towards the Congress Members as if the Congress has moved this motion for political gain. I would like to place one reference before you under the caption.

[English]

"Opposition stands by Government on this issue."

[Translation]

In a box just below that it is written.

[English]

"but allies critical"

[Translation]

I would like to quote.

[English]

"Senior BJP leaders Madam Lal Khurana today joined NDA partners Shiv Sena, Telugu Desam Party and Trinamool Congress to attack Government over its failure to apprehend violence in Kashmir and the lack of adequate security arrangements to tackle the cross-border terrorism."

[Translation]

It is not my statement but the statement of Telugu Desam, Shiv Sena and Shri Madan Lal Khurana. Alliance partners of NDA are saying so and it is not my statement. Some of the hon. Members read out statements of RSS and Vishwa Hindu Parishad. I would not waste time in repeating them. Leave along, Shiv Sena and Vishwa Hindu Parishad, even the hon. Defence Minister has said that.

[English]

"Massacre was avoidable - Fernandes".

[Translation]

And further he says that it was avoidable because we know that some terrorist outfits, do not want talks to succeed, had formed suicide squads and these very people attacked the Army Camps in Srinagar. So we should have taken some precautionary steps against these suicide squads. The person who said so is none other than Shri George Fernandes, a Member of the Council of Ministers and it is not a statement of a Member of Opposition. ...*(Interruptions)* See, I listened to you patiently. Have some patience, one by one I will give all the facts.

Now I would like to put forth third point. During discussion, it was pointed out that there was intelligence failure. But it is not correct. No, nothing of that sort happened in this regard.

[English]

"IB warning was ignored."

Let me quote it here, Sir. It says:

"IB Warnings were ignored.

The gruesome killings at Pahalgam came even as Home Secretary Kamal Pande and RAW chief AS Dullat were giving a nod by the PMOs to fly to Srinagar for holding talks with Hizbul leaders.

Despite repeated SOS to the J&K Police by the Intelligence Bureau and despite unprecedented deployment along the yatra route — following the threat of Lashkar-e-Toiba on Monday—a dozen armed militants sneaked into the high security zone and prayed on the yatrīs.

Subsequent SOS were sent to DIG range and district police chief. But as usual, lack of coordination between the Central para-military troops, the State police and the Army served the purpose of mercenaries who were desperate to strike."

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, condition was such that the messages from IB were not passed on to the local police and they were totally confused. It was because of absence of coordination. The Government was not in a position to take any decision and was in dilemma. Because of all these reasons the situation became so bad. I would like to bring out the reasons for such a situation. Long back, when the Government decided to talk to the leaders of Hurriyat conference it annoyed the National Conference because latter was not taken into confidence and thus all this adversely affected the process. It was a political blunder committed by the Government. Similarly, when time came for talks with Hizbul Mujahiddin, the Hurriyat Conference was not taken into confidence and so that latter got annoyed. It also adversely affected their morale. Therefore, even they are not ready to cooperate with you. When time comes for talks on Kashmir issue then you do not take NPA partners into confidence. The situation is such that when you talk with Hurriyat leaders you do not take leaders of National Conference into confidence and when you talk with the leaders of National Conference you do not take Hurriyat leaders into confidence. Thereby nothing is achieved.

I quote :

[English]

"J&K refusal to heed MHA plea provided fatal."

[Translation]

The Ministry of External Affairs sought cooperation from the Government of Jammu and Kashmir which the latter refused. This created chaos. I would like to submit that all these conditions and circumstances which lead to systems failure cannot be pointed out by the executive inquiry. It is only possible when we go into its roots and find out as to where carelessness took place and who is responsible for it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Sir, I am not speaking anything irrelevant. Therefore, allow me to speak for some more time.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: From your party, two speakers have already spoken.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: I will cite one more example about the providing conditions and how it all happened. I am quoting from the Outlook, magazine.

[English]

"A meeting of the unified security command on July 25 decided to reduce anti-terrorist operations drastically. Crackdowns (cordon and search operations) were almost completely suspended except where there was specific information concerning the Lashkar-e-Toiba or one of the other Jehadi outfits. All units were told to avoid engagements whenever possible, even if they sustained injuries in the initial firing."

Precisely this is what has happened.

[Translation]

What will be the consequences of such instructions given without proper consideration and thought. Militants belonging to Laskar-e-Toiba, Harkat-ul-Amar or Hizbul Mujahiddin do not don uniform, so how they can be identified. You said that all the operations had been suspended, but the laxity resulted in massacre of 105 people within 24 hours in different incidents. If I say that

[Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi]

105 people were killed within four hours then it will not be an exaggeration. It is the second point.

Now I come to third mistake of the Government. As soon as the talks started, first the National Conference was annoyed and then the Hurriyat was annoyed. And now I will tell you how the Government annoyed the Hijbul. Two hours before the talks started, Jammu Kashmir police leaked information to the press and entire media that talks will be held at so and so time. Entire media and other people flock at the spot and Hijbul issues a statement criticising the media presence. That's how you created doubts in the mind of those with whom you were going to negotiate. This sort of decisions are being taken. This sort of political maturity you have got. Only God can save you. You do not trust anyone. You do not take anyone into confidence. Neither NDA partners, nor Hurriyat and Hijbul Mujahiddin. One by one you are playing tricks with everyone. And the result is that all those agencies or Organisation who wanted the talks not to succeed at any cost, got a shot in the arm. I agree with Shri Vaiko. Infact Pakistan has manipulated this all. Since long Pakistan nourishes dream that there should be direct talks with it. When its desire was not fulfilled, it provoked Hizbul that they put up the condition of tripartite talks at appropriate time. Salahuddin raised this issue as per Pakistans wish. Pakistan was trying to kill two birds with one stone: If India accepts offer of talks with it then Pakistan would have succeeded in its design. Second if India refuses then Pakistan would have got an opportunity to propagate in the international community that Pakistan wants to have talk with India, even Hizbul Mujahiddin wants to hold talks, but the Government of India do not want. That's why they refused talks. This way we would have lost international support. These were the two aspects of Pakistani design. Based on this they enacted a game plan and we simply got entrapped. We tried to create friction between Abdul Majid Dar and Salahuddin. It heightened tension between them. Salahuddin and Pakistan smelt that Kashmir may slip out of their hands. They decided to derail the talks least the issue slips out of their hands and Government of India became successful. Thus, wrong policies of the Government resulted in killing of so many innocent people. Who is responsible for this all—surely not me or any Member of RJD or Mayawatiji. But someone will have to own the responsibility.

Though, there are a lot of points to make yet I would like to ask two three questions before I conclude. All these conditions have given birth to some questions. And it is not me or my party which wants answer of these questions but 73% people who took part in the elections, want judicial probe for the answer of these questions. So

these issues should be settled. Now one question arises naturally about the purpose of judicial probe which cannot be achieved by executive probe. And its appropriate reply has been given by several people. I would like to know whether a Magistrate has a right to examine the hon. Home Minister, Commissioner, Chief Secretary, DIG or IG etc. Will he not succumb to pressure or will he not be pressurised? How the truth will come out? We have been committing mistake for the last many years. We try to find out instant solution for everything but we do not foresee it's far reaching consequences. Ultimately the problem is solved from the time being but it is never rooted out.

Better late than never. Shri Vaikoji a little while in his speech mentioned about the possibility of war with Pakistan.

[English]

Serious confrontation with Pakistan is a possibility.

[Translation]

It is a bit of an exaggeration. No sensible person will ever accept this sort of statement and no responsible person will make this sort of statement in the House. Senior Member like Shri Vaikoji should surely understand all these things. Kumari Mayawatiji had stated that had an agreement been reached over Kashmir, when Shimla pact was signed immediately after Bangladesh war, this situation would not have arisen. Kumari Mayawatiji is not present in the House now. I am ready to give her full marks for her experience as the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, but I would like to tell that she needs to learn more about central and international politics. Further, I would like to remind her that she forgot that many factors are taken into account before taking any decision at international level. Not withstanding anything, Shimla pact is the result of our efforts. But Pakistan is in the habit of stabbing in the back yet it is a fact that after signing off of the Shimla Agreement Pakistan did not dare any mischief for 27 years i.e. till 1999.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal): Is there any record as to how many people died in proxy war and for how many years the state was under President's Rule.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: I have answer to all the questions. If you are interested to get my answer on all these issues then you make request to the Chair to allot me time. I am ready to answer each of the questions but I would like to conclude at this juncture with the submission that I have looked into the

entire facts. I have conveyed his request to all of you, to the entire House. There are certain serious issues that are required to be investigated at the higher level. The fact will come before us after the investigation and only then we will be able to understand the lacunae of our system and we can improve the system if we face the reality and not escape from the reality. This is not the time to worry. The Congress Party has always extended equivocal support to your Government on the issue of peace talk with Pakistan. We would have raised many uncomfortable questions during that period but we did not do that. We have the realisation of our responsibility.

At the end I would like to request the entire House to support the demand for judicial inquiry so that facts may come before us and on the basis of that fact we may incorporate drastic improvement in our system.

Thus I conclude.

[English]

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur). Mr. Chairman, Sir, I share the grief of the whole nation on behalf of my Party, the DMK and also on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu, caused by the brutal killing of about hundred Amarnath pilgrims by Pakistan sponsored militants in Jammu and Kashmir on the 1st and the 2nd of August.

I also share the serious concern expressed by the hon. Prime Minister before this august House regarding the situation prevailing in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. I appreciate the hon. Prime Minister for having stated that while the fight against terrorism will continue, India will not give up the efforts for restoration of peace in Jammu and Kashmir.

The unilateral cease-fire declared by the Hizbul Mujahidin was an outcome of the matured approach followed by this Government in resolving the issue of terrorist menace in Jammu and Kashmir. Now that the unilateral declaration of cease-fire has been withdrawn by the Chief of Hizbul Mujahidin, Syed Salauddin, it has become clear that he is echoing only 'his master's voice', from across the border.

Sir, the reports that are available indicate that not only the people of Jammu and Kashmir who want to restoration of peace and normalcy but also the Kashmiri youths who have taken to the path of terrorism and destruction are now longing to come back to the mainstream. This is evident from the fact that two of the militants having allegiance to *Hizbul Mujahidin* have

surrendered by laying down arms before the security forces in Rajouri district of Kashmir.

Today, we came to know that four innocent persons were killed by the terrorists. Apart from the brutal slaying down of Amarnath pilgrims, the Pakistan-sponsored militants have engaged themselves in killing innocent people, including brick kiln labour, members of village defence Committee and five members of Muslim family. It has been proved beyond any iota of doubt that this ghastly massacre is the handiwork of Pakistan-based terrorist outfit, namely *Lashkar-e-toiba*. These heinous crimes of Pakistan have attracted the condemnation of not only the people and leaders of this country but also from the international community.

The hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi, expressed sorrow and deep concern over the killing of innocent people in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Leaders of political parties cutting across the party lines have extended their support to the Government for tackling the militants in Jammu and Kashmir. His Excellency, the President of the United States has also conveyed his deepest sympathy over the massacre in Jammu and Kashmir.

Now that the game plan of Pakistan has backfired we should seize this opportunity to bring back the State of Jammu and Kashmir to normalcy by taking effective steps and concrete measures. While keeping the doors open for a peaceful solution, the other option of military action against the foreign mercenaries should also be considered.

It has been widely reported in the media that lack of coordination between the Central para-military forces, the State Police and the Army have given an opportunity to the terrorists who were desperate to strike. The role of Intelligence agencies has come under criticism. The overall security arrangement of *Amarnath Yatra* should be strengthened in order to avoid such incidents in future. Otherwise, the people of Kashmir will lose confidence in the Government of India.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Sir, the Motion has been initiated by hon. Member, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmuni, under Rule 184 demanding a judicial inquiry into the aspect of security lapses during the *Amarnath Yatra*. I appreciate the agony, sentiments and feelings expressed by the hon. Members from the Congress Party. Though I appreciate the deep sense of agony expressed from the Congress side, I respectfully differ and disagree with the views expressed by them.

[Shri Ajoy Chakraborty]

If the Government of India initiates a judicial inquiry on this issue, it will create a lot of legal confusion or legal anomaly. As per the law it is untenable and bad in law also because already an inquiry has been initiated by the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir with the assumption that this is a matter pertaining to public order. Sir, this is a matter which is exclusively within the competence of the State Government as per List-II. As per section 1 of the Commission of Inquiry Act, this is a matter which is not within the competence of the Central Government. I would like to submit that in the context of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, article 370 of the Indian Constitution does not permit the Government of India to do so.

It is an accepted fact, beyond any doubt, that there were serious security lapses in the protection of the pilgrims of *Amarnath Yatra*. There was an utter failure on the part of the Government to protect the lives of the innocent pilgrims from the hands of the miscreants, the enemies of our country. The moment the pilgrims took shelter in a *lunger*, the miscreants, the enemies of our country taking advantage of the opportunity killed them. The Government should have apprehended this situation and should have taken precautionary measures to protect the pilgrims of *Amarnath Yatra*.

During the regime of the United Front Government in 1996, when the father of the House, Hon. Indrajit Gupta was the Home Minister, you were also the Minister in that Government, a serious incident took place in *Amarnath*. In that case the *Yatris* were not attacked by the miscreants but were killed due to some natural calamity. One-man Committee was set up by the then Government under the Chairmanship of Dr. Nitish Sengupta. He made some recommendations which I hope were accepted by the Government. One of the recommendations was that the security men should be deployed throughout the route of the *Yatra*. The Government did not take care of this recommendation. The Government has utterly failed in this regard. To some extent our strong Home Minister, who is compared with Sardar Patel in this august House, has also admitted that there were lapses and failure on the part of the Government of India in protecting the lives of the innocent pilgrims.

I appreciate the feelings of the hon. Members who have demanded resignation of the hon. Home Minister on moral grounds. But the Minister has not taken that responsibility as he has not resigned yet. If any judicial inquiry is instituted, I do not think we would get anything except the lapse of time. A lot of water will flow down

the Ganga, Cauvery, Narmada or Sindhu. Nobody knows as to when the report of that judicial inquiry will be submitted. We know the fate of the Srikrishna Commission. If a judicial inquiry is initiated by the Government of India, it will create a bad effect on the minds of the security forces who are protecting our motherland from the enemies. It is possible that our forces may get demoralised. This may send a wrong message to the security forces. I would like to submit to the august House that an inquiry must be conducted as to what happened during the *Amarnath Yatra* and why this tragic incident took place.

Sir, I think you and the whole House would appreciate my modest demand that instead of a judicial inquiry, a Parliamentary Committee may conduct an inquiry. I appeal to the hon. Speaker, to invite leaders of all the Parties and constitute a Parliamentary Committee. They could visit that place and talk to all the sections of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. They may be asked to submit their report to the House within a specified period. The Committee could find out the reasons for security lapse and for other lapses on the part of the Government. I think the Government will take a lesson from this. A good message will go to the entire country.

[Translation]

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN (Baramulla): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today we are discussing on the Resolution moved by the opposition party in the House. The Resolution reads.

[English]

This House expresses its anguish and deep sense of grief over the incidents of killing of innocent persons including pilgrims in Pahalgam.

[Translation]

I fully associate myself with this part of the resolution and share the grief of all those people who are affected by this unfortunate incident. I would like to say that the worst sufferers in the entire episode are non other than the Kashmiri people. However, I donot associate myself with the second part of the Resolution that seeks to set up a judicial inquiry because the leaders of opposition simply want to know the truth from judicial inquiry itself. I would like to humbly submit that the judicial inquiry alone is not enough to reveal the truth. This unfortunate incident is a blot on the history of Kashmir. In this incident, the pilgrims who had come to our motherland Kashmir on world famous Amarnath pilgrimage were killed

alongwith many innocent people of Kashmir. This is a very unfortunate incident for us. It is my effort, Dasmushiji, that the incident occurred in January 1990 should also be discussed alongwith it. You begin with Handaware massacre in which six hundred houses were burnt and 19 people were killed that includes one Member from the Upper house who was killed in mosque. After it I would like to mention the Sopore and Gaukdal massacre in which dozens of people were killed. After it the incident of carnage have continued. Similarly another gory massacre took place when Maulana Farukh became martyr. I would also like to submit that our respected guests who had come to visit Kashmir did suffer. They were killed. Nobody should think that we Kashmiri are not sorry for their killing. I would like to once again reiterate that majority of the Kashmiris are those who have been always ready to die for the brotherhood and guests. Chamanlal Gupta ji is present in the House. He cannot believe this historical fact that in 1947, we had sent the people of Jammu who belonged to other religion via Tangebano. But some communal people killed them near Tangebani Nagrota. The slogan of our leaders in the valley of Kashmir was 'Friendship with all'. He asked us to die for the cause of humanity and we did that. It may be mentioned that the people of Kashmir are a light of hope who adhere to a philosophy where religious differences do not lead to tension, enmity and oppression. You see our condition. We have been and are being targetted from both sides. Sir, here our friends are annoyed. If they get any start telling that it happened because this thing was done to Farukh Abdullah. I do not say but they say. I would like to submit to my senior friends that the facts about Kashmir are so scattered that even the angels probably cannot reconstruct truth out of those facts.

Sir, my submission is that probably it will create annoyance if the past happenings of Kashmir is discussed. You will be annoyed and the people of Kashmir will also get annoyed. I would like to submit that a Committee should be constituted to find out the facts about what has happened in Kashmir. We should forget our regional identity and assemble together to ponder over the reasons of present sufferings misery, pain and the critical situation that the country is facing and the solution thereof. I have great regards for Member colleagues who are well aware of the reality. However, when everyone of them issue their statements on Kashmir, counting themselves experts on Kashmiri affairs, I am amused. It seems that I am not aware of the facts. Even those people who remained in jail for 22 years with Sheikh Abdullah and suffered the misery are not aware of many of the facts about themselves which are known to our experts and have sympathy for us.

I would like to submit that the majority of people living in Kashmir is suffering. It will further intensify their sufferings if misinformation about Kashmir is kept on propagating and will hamper in solving out the problem. I would like to submit to all my friends that they should try to understand the problem of Kashmir in true spirit instead of just pretending to do so.

There is no objection in extending so beautifully with our fluent arguments but the main point is that we should consider the issue with the intention to find out a solution of the problem honestly.

Our 720 kms long border touches Pakistan. The armed infiltrators from Sudan have entered our border. When I talked about it and raised this issue before the Government in Delhi; he was in the Chair but nobody paid attention towards it. He went on laughing and stated how they can come from across the border? But on the other side of 720 kms long border of our country, a conspiracy was being hatched again our country. In this House you demand that in such a serious situation, instead of deploying 70 thousand security personnel Government should deploy 3 lakh personnel and ask the State Government to ensure that safety of each and every person. I have full sympathy for the people of Kashmir where such an incident took place. I think that it is a blot on us and we are ashamed of it. We are in a state of grief over this issue. Many people have died, several have become orphans and locks are hanging on many houses there. Such type of situation is prevailing in Kashmir. I would like to request the hon'ble Member present in this House to understand the issue with the intention to resolve it. Only then a solution will be evolved. The judicial inquiry cannot resolve the matter. At present Kashmir is in difficulty. Either the court continuously conduct inquiry of the incidents or judicial inquiry can also be considered but that too would not resolve the issue. The judicial inquiry was required at that time also when a young Minister was killed in bomb and at that time also when Chattisinghpura was in trouble. However, such an inquiry is no solution. I would request them to leave the idea instead they should pay attention to evolve a solution of the problem country is facing today.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the entire issue of Kashmir is not under discussion today. There is a limited question of Amarnath yatris and the need for a judicial inquiry.

Sir, no words are sufficient to condemn the massacre, to condemn the carnage at Amarnath. It is reprehensible. It is depreciable that innocent poor people including migrant labourers and a large number of pilgrims were targeted. Words are not sufficient to condemn this

[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

particular carnage. It seems that the violent groups had gone berserk targeting, killing and injuring innocent civilians, migrant labourers, pilgrims and even media people. The violent group seems to have gone totally berserk, as I said. In the car bomb blast, for example, one photo journalist of *The Hindustan Times* was killed along with nearly nine policemen and the owner of a shoe shop. There were several other policemen, journalists, and others injured. But going back to the incidents of Amarnath, as the shocking reports of Amarnath pilgrims came in, the Prime Minister flew to the spot.

It is commendable. It was thoughtful on his part. The entire nation is grateful and thankful to him for his act of immediately going to the spot and looking into the matter. It was a step in the right direction. But now what is the situation? Even the Government itself has admitted that there have been some lapses. The only point is that they want an executive inquiry. But an executive inquiry by the executive against the executive can never be satisfactory. Moreover, it will never be able to have the conviction and the satisfaction of the entire nation. Therefore, a judicial inquiry into the whole aspect is necessary.

I would now like to invite your attention to the situation in Kashmir. Even a cursory survey, a bird's eye view of the militancy in Kashmir presents a frightening picture. The picture that emerges is a matter of serious concern. For example, between January and May, 2000, in just a matter of five months of the year 2000, 195 security personnel were killed while in the whole year of 1999, those killed numbered 148. Why? What has gone wrong? Where are the causes? We have to look into all these things.

Sir, we find that there are targeted attacks by militants including the raid on the 15th Corps in Badamibagh in Srinagar. Here also, in the case of the *Amarnath* incident, we find that hardly two militants got off of it after killing so many *Jawans*. These are the things that have to be looked into. We have to look into what happened and what went wrong. It is not a good commentary on us that two militants get away after killing or injuring 14 *Jawans* in an Army Camp. We will have to find out where the lapse is in order that such incidents do not occur in future. It is in the interest of the entire nation that we should do it.

Consider the scenario with respect to the ratio of casualty of our soldiers to that of the militants. According to the military experts, you will find that the ratio 1:18 is acceptable though with a heavy heart. But here today the ratio has increased. The ratio of our soldiers who

were killed as compared to the militants has gone up to 2:5. We have to find out the cause. We have to go into the whole thing. We have to see the whole situation as to where the lapses have occurred.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI G.M. BANTAWALLA: Sir, you will have to bear with me a little. There are certain aspects which are necessary for me to place before the House. These are the serious things. I can only say that the demand for the judicial inquiry can only be rejected at a great peril to the entire nation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there has been much massive security lapses. Who has paid for it? Our *Yatris* have paid the price for it; our town soldiers have also paid the price. Hardly a dozen armed militants sneak into the high sensitive zone and kill so many *Yatris* and others. Even the *Jawans* want to know as to where such lapses have taken place. Their blood flows. They would also like to know as to who are responsible. When Intelligence Bureau warnings are being ignored, even the *Jawans* would like to know and has the right to know the answer. The answer can only come from a thorough Judicial Inquiry. There were advance warnings, as I said, and they have been ignored. We find a total inability to foresee the escalation of violence from the terrorist outfits. Even the *Jawans* would like to know as to who is responsible for this inability to foresee the escalation of violence. We were so carried away by the unilateral cease-fire announcement of Hizbul Mujahideen that we forgot the danger that can come from other outfits. Let us know as to whether there was any complacency on their part. What did we sitting here in Delhi also found - I saw on the television - security officers coming, making their appearances and announcing suspension of operations, and at the same time saying that it is difficult to say who belongs to Hizbul Mujahideen and as to who belongs to any other outfit. Such is the scenario. A number of our own people were killed by ourselves. It was because, we are told, as a result of cross-fire. It is necessary to look into this entire situation? This is not for the demoralisation of our forces. It is in order to protect our own forces, and also to see that our own forces do not fall prey to lapses that may be from some quarter or the other.

Sir, I must make mention of the fact that the Government reports indicate the hand and the role of Pakistan. This is a very serious situation. It is a very serious situation because even the Chief Executive of Pakistan, in his Independence Day message, declared that Pakistan has always supported and will continue to support secessionists. This is a serious matter and we

need to take it very seriously. We were told that we would be on the alert. But in order to be on the alert, we also have to identify our lapses that may have occurred at any places, and make necessary corrections. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Here, I am reminded of one thing to which I must draw the attention of the House. When India and Pakistan came into existence, a last meeting of the then All-India Muslim League took place. At the conclusion of that meeting, Qaid-e-Milat *Janab* Mohammed Ismail *Sahab* of the then All-India Muslim League rose - who later on became the President of the present Indian Union Muslim League - at the conclusion of that meeting of the then All-India Muslim League, embraced Liyaqat Ali Khan, he said:

"Now, look here, Liaquat Ali Khan, today we part as foreigners; to you your country, to us our country. Take full care of the minorities in your country and remember, never interfere with us. Remember, never interfere with matters concerning India or we shall give you a befitting reply."

These were the historical words. They are there in our history.

Sir, I was going a little astray from the subject. But, then, I cannot forget that at the commencement of this discussion, our hon. Speaker himself made certain important observations and one of the observations was that we must be mindful of the delicate communal balance prevailing. I am happy that when the hon. Home Minister made a statement about the massacre of the *Amamath Yatris* here, in the House, he spoke with firmness, he spoke with restraint and he spoke with dignity befitting the nation. In a very balanced manner he pointed out to the killings not only of the Hindus, but the killings also of the Muslims by these outfits over there in Kashmir. He referred in his statement to Kalarus in Kupwara District where five members of a muslim family were massacred. He made a very statesmanlike statement. But, unfortunately, there are some who, inadvertently or otherwise, fall prey to, or play into the hands of, these terrorists themselves.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Banatwalla, please conclude. A discussion on the Kargil conflict will come. You reserve something for that.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, I will conclude.

I was saying that there were some unfortunate communal repercussions in Surat in the State of Gujarat

where there were attacks on Muslims, mosques and so on. However, I am sure there will not be any communal divide. Unfortunately, some of our reputed magazines also inadvertently, perhaps, fall prey to irresponsible reporting. I refer to *India Today Group Online* dated the 2nd August of this year. It mentions by name the killings of the Hindus and when it comes to this killing about which our hon. Home Minister had clearly mentioned, it simply says that seven members of a family were killed without trying to show who they were. Perhaps, this was inadvertent.

But, then, I would like to see that the nation takes the words of our hon. Speaker very seriously about the delicate communal balance that we have. I am sure there will be no communal divide. Let the Government take the strongest possible measure and, *Inshah Allah*, the entire country will rise like one man for the defence of Kashmir, for the defence of our motherland.

Sir, as I said, the question is limited to the massacre of the *Yatris*.

22.00 hrs.

The lapses are there. But then, we cannot ignore those lapses. It will be at the peril of the entire nation to do so. Therefore, a judicial inquiry is an absolute practical necessity in order to see that the necessary correctives are applied.

I, therefore, support the motion that has been moved by hon. Member Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmuni.

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (Ambala): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the motion by Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmuni. Under the leadership of hon'ble Shri Vajpayeeji, the Union Government had made all arrangements in view of *Amamath Yatra*. As this august House is aware that we have a long border of Kashmir with Pakistan and for border management, dynamic deployment and for special operations in that area, the Government was very much vigilant. However, despite all the arrangements, the *Amamath* pilgrims were attacked on 1st and 1nd of August. The entire House has condemned it. Not only the pilgrims but the innocent brick-kiln workers too who had gone there to earn their livelihood from various States of the country, became victims of the incident.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as we all are aware,

[Shri Rattan Lal Kataria]

[English]

"Amarnath Yatra is the most powerful symbol of 'Kashmiriat'.

[Translation]

Not only the Hindu pilgrims from all parts of the country take part in this pilgrimage but also it is a means of livelihood for 20 thousand Kashmiri families for the whole year. While preparations were being made for this pilgrimage and it was going on, in Srinagar, Hizbul Muzahideen group expressed its intention before the Union Government to join the mainstream of the nation. As soon as the proposal was submitted and this news was published in newspapers, rulers of Pakistan got baffled as to how they would achieve their target in case the talks between the Indian Government and Hizbul Muzahideen became successful. They thought that if the dialogue between our Government and Hizbul Muzahideen group which comprises of local Kashmiri militants, becomes successful and the matter is resolved within our territory, then what will happen to the plan they have concocted for our country. With this view, they created insurgency in Kashmir so that the matter may not be resolved within our boundaries.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, keeping in view the situation prevailing in Kashmir and considering the international aspects of the issue, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee thought to adopt the path of dialogue with the militants to stop the bloodshed and massacre of innocent people in Kashmir because our Government feels that everybody has the right to live and the violence going on in Kashmir should be stopped. Shri Vajpayee himself went to Kashmir and observed the situation there but the Congress Party is blaming that BJP did not take the issue seriously. Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee remained there. It was Shri Shyama Prasad Mukherjee of BJP, the only son of mother India who had opposed the slogan of "do Nishan, do Pradhan aur do Samvidhan". He enlightened the people by advocating a new slogan "ek Nishan, ek Pradhan aur ek Samvidhan". The Bharatiya Janata Party has not forgotten the sacrifice of its leader Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee.

Keeping in view this sacrifice, will our Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee not take the steps to bring normalcy there. Today, Pakistan is feeling embarrassed because entire world is supporting the path chosen by Shri Vajpayee and the issue is being discussed in the Parliament of England also and during the discussion their Prime Minister Shri Tony Blair exposed the terrorist face of Pakistan. It is being stated that by involving in

militancy in Kashmir, Pakistan will not get anything because even the local people are not supporting the militants hired and deployed by Pakistan in Kashmir. When the Vajpayee Government came to power, America also changed its policy. Shri Bill Clinton visited India and observed that people of this country like to live their life peacefully and during his presence in our country, the incident of Chattisinghpura took place which exposed the terrorist face of Pakistan before him...*(Interruptions)* Indian forces killed 1,000 militants in 1998, 1100 in 1999 and till June this year, 700 militants have been killed. Similarly, about 1500 militants were nabbed in 1998, 744 in 1999 and 308 hardcore militants have been nabbed till June this year but my friends from Congress are saying that BJP Government is not serious about the problem of Kashmir. One of my friend from Congress was showing the newspaper clippings that such and such thing has been published in the newspapers. I would like to tell my friends that in the analysis of the news, it has been stated—

[English]

Pak's game plan backfires, India's stand vindicated...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

I have just got tempo. You are confusing me. I can make a lengthy speech...*(Interruptions)* The Union Government want to curb the activities of terrorism prevailing in Kashmir since long. We want that Pakistan should also realize our intention. If Pakistan thinks that it is incomplete without Kashmir, then it is stand of India that India is incomplete without Pakistan. We have given a befitting reply to Pakistan during the last four wars, in Kargil also we have thoroughly defeated it and the Government of hon'ble Shri Vajpayee ji will definitely expose the Pakistan's involvement in creating insurgency in Kashmir. Each and every citizen of our country will be protected and the present Government is committed for it.

In the end, I oppose this motion.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the Motion moved by the hon. Member, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi. There is a good many number of distinguished Members who have already participated in this discussion. May I add a few lines to it?

It is intriguing to note that the Left Parties are also opposing the demand of judicial inquiry on the brutal assassination at Pahalgam. Now-a-days, the Left Parties

are voicing in tandem with the NDA Government and appeasing them as they are under fear and apprehension that some administrative measures may be imposed upon the State Government of West Bengal to prevent them from perpetrating violence against political opponents in West Bengal. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Sir, is there any relevance with this subject?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Sir, the judicial inquiry on the brutal carnage cannot be restricted within the ambit of Jammu and Kashmir administration because it has already got trans-national connotation. It has been alleged that many deaths have occurred due to indiscriminate firing from our own security personnel. It has been further alleged that the victims who had sustained bullet injuries were not from AK-47, which is used by Kashmiri militants. This misconception, if there may be, should be dispelled from the mind of the people.

Sir, if we examine the recurring episode along with the actions and initiatives taken by the NDA Government on Kashmir tangle, then everybody must subscribe to the view that since 1998 the Government has been desperate enough to make a distinction without a difference on Kashmir issue unmindful of whatever be the consequences and ramifications thereof.

Sir, this Government is seemed to have learnt the art of generating misplaced euphoria among the people with a view to garnering political dividend much to the detriment of our nation. Sir, you take note of bus diplomacy and subsequent Lahore Declaration. The Government sought to create euphoria over these issues only to be culminated into a war.

Sir, Kandahar tragedy is still vivid in our memory. But even before these bitter experiences could evaporate, this Government took yet another venture by responding to the unilateral cease-fire call made by Hizbul Mujahidin. What was seen in an unusual haste, this Government deployed a large contingent of powerful officials in chalking out the modalities of cease-fire. It is confusing to note as to what has impelled this Government to send those officials of higher echelons only to work out the ground rules for the cease-fire.

It was believed that the differences of opinion between the PM's office and the Home Minister's office were surfaced and both were vying with each other to take the lead in the peace talks.

Before attending the Millennium summit, our Prime Minister felt it necessary to add another feather in his

cap. May I ask the Government whether they consider the Hizbul Mujahideen as an independent entity who can take decision on its own? This organisation is known to have been drawing sustenance for long from across the border. On the other hand, Kashmir served as glue of holding Pakistan together.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Chowdhary, please conclude.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: May I quote one of the remarks made by the former ISI Chief, Shri Hamit Gul? He has said that Kashmir is a *raison d'être* for Pakistan's army and we are not afraid of waging a war against India to the brink. Now, this same army is in the saddle of Pakistan. Further, after the Afghan war, Kashmir militancy has been more or less *talibanised*. Militant outfits of various denominations in Pakistan are holding an enormous sway over all the institutions in Pakistan. Keeping in view the political equation of Pakistan and the *talibanised* militancy, the Indian Government ought to have been more careful before taking any initiative of holding talks with Kashmir militants. Knowing the enemy to the core is an art of good governance.

This Government, since its beginning, has been fated for failure. The natural corollary the ill-conceived plan and the perfunctory done measure always lead to shameful abortion.

The sequence of events revealed as follows; that the super cop of the world came to visit India with much fanfare. In the wake of the visit, the Indian Government got prompted to release all Hurriyat leaders purportedly to have a peaceful dialogue with them. Being dumb founded by the sudden development on the Kashmir problem, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, who has happened to be the Chief Minister of Kashmir and a partner of NDA, has discovered the autonomy theory as a panacea to the Kashmir problem. The autonomy theory was nothing but a ploy to spare him from being irrelevant in Kashmir issue. Taking the cue, the Hizbul Mujahideen stole a march on the field after having a secret parley with the Government. The content of the secret parley is best known to them. What I would like to say is this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your time is up.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: I am just concluding. This Government, instead of taking any foolproof measure for the safety and security of the pilgrims, was busy with sermonising and inculcating the militants of what is called "humanism". Humanism is a noble concept that everybody should possess. But in the world of diplomacy, it should be set aside, and it is better to face the stark realities with deep patriotism and with intelligence. Therefore, I

[Shri Adhir Chowdhary]

must support the Judicial Inquiry because people are anxious to know of what had actually transpired on that mournful day.

Not only the pilgrims but also the migrant labourers also were killed by the militants from across the border.

Some hon. Members are trying to distort history. May I remind my friends that after the 1962 war the then Minister of Defence, Shri Krishna Menon had preferred to resign acknowledging the failure of the Government? Furthermore, Anderson and Brook Committee was constituted to probe into the failure.

Therefore, before concluding I must say that everybody should come forward to support the motion to have a judicial probe, which has been moved by the Congress Party.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajanj, U.P.): Sir, the problem of terrorism presently prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir is nothing but an adverse turn of the game of checkmate that has been played on the political chess board since independence which started with the adamant attitude of Maharaj Hari Singh in opposing the inclusion and accession of Jammu and Kashmir in India and its subsequent implication of accepting all the conditions put forth by him before the Government of India. Similarly the farce created by BJP in the name of nationalism and Hinduism and playing with the sentiments of people in the name of Hinduism has further complicated the situation instead of resolving it. I would like to urge upon my BJP colleagues to introspect as to why they have been stirred up in the name of Lord Ram and not in the name of Lord Shiva. When China annexed Kailash mountain and Mansarovar during 1962 war it failed to awake any response from BJP and today when more than 36 devotees of Shivas have been killed at Pahalgaoon in Jammu and Kashmir, BJP Members are still at a bay over what to do. You used to claim for doing away with Article 370 and also of making a great noise over even on slightest incident occurring in valley. Now, I ask you that if you feel yourself bound by what you have claimed in your NDA manifesto regarding Article 370 then why did not rehabilitate those Kashmiri families who have been forced to loiter on the roads of Delhi despite being in power for three terms? The question as to whether the present constitution of Jammu and Kashmir might present any problem in the way of rehabilitation of migrated families is looming large at grim faces. You will have to ponder over this.

I would like to convey to my Congress friends that at the time when you had sent Muktiwahini in Pakistan in 1971 to liberate Bangladesh, you were not enjoying the support of Congress alone but of the entire country including all political parties. At that time I was a student of 7th class. I remember that day quite well when our present Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had eulogised Late Shrimati Indira Gandhi by designating her as Goddess Durga. I urge upon you to stop playing political drama and hypocrisy which is threatening to be real factor for our doom. I want to tell it in clear words that the people belonging to BJP have contributed in further complicating the Kashmiri problem by indulging in political game.

The Congressmen are equally responsible for complicating this problem and I have not even the slightest of hesitation in saying so. I want to say that the new controversy of political autonomy in regard to J&K is the ultimate outcome of it. The inclusion of Jammu and Kashmir in the Union of India was done on the basis of facts presented by Maharaj Hari Singh and at the same time the Nizam of Hyderabad had also tried to create obstacles in the way of the inclusion of his state in the union. Name of the conditions put by Nizam of Hyderabad was accepted by the politicians of that time but I fail to understand as to why had they accepted so called conditions of Maharaj Hari Singh. Today, I want to say in a very clear terms that none has suffered as much personal loss due to the Pahalgaoon incident which took place on 1st of the month, than I have 8 persons of my constituency namely Jagarnathji, Dropdiji, Rajaramji, Ramesh Madheshiaji, Trilokinath Guptaji, Rituraj Vermaji, Shankar Jaiswalji and Shyambadanji were killed in that incident. Chunnilaji who hails from my Janpad Maharajanj is still battling for his life in Safdarjung hospital. The Government has become so insensitive that its Minister do not have time even to visit the hospitals to ensure as to whether the patients are properly being taken care of or not? The family of Chunnilaji is struggling. I feel ashamed while informing that four thousands rupees were taken from the family members of late Shri Trilokinath in lieu of handing over his dead body and permitting it to be carried over to Maharajanj. What can be more shameful than it? Earlier whenever one or two persons would die in J&K you used to make a lot of hue and cry over it. Now when Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has assumed the office of Prime Minister your Government has not even announced ex-gratia payment worth even a rupee to the family of the deceased from the Central fund and even to the injured. You have to shun this attitude. Through the House I demand you to provide Rs. ten lakh each to the families of the deceased and Rs. two lakh each to the family of those seriously injured after

the autonomy resolution in the J&K. You will have to display strong political will to improve the present political environment of confusion and crisis. I will not hesitate even to admit that we do not have any other option than to teach a lesson to Pakistan in view of its unabated interference in the matter of India. It is reminding me a few lines to Tulsidasji:

Vinay No Manat Jaldhi Jad,
Gaye teen din beet
Lakshman Ban Sarahiye,
Bin Bhaye Hoi na preet.

Regarding Pakistan, Shri Chaturvediji was saying that we cannot land a direct blow to Pakistan under the prevent international atmosphere. I would like to remind the House about "Tianman Square" incident in China where ten thousand youth were put to death and those talking of humanism were forced to watch the entire episode in silence.

Now it is high time that Pakistan is taught a lesson if we do not do so, then our country will not be able to draw the respect of the world community which has been given a further blow by the recent hijacking incident at Kathmandu. Even at Kargil we were forced to face a humiliating condition. Similar situation is being faced by us in Jammu and Kashmir and our coming generation will not forgive us. The terrorists are increasing their number like Raktabij (a mythological character who used to grow more and more in number in proportion to the drop of blood coming out from his body). Hence the time for the Government and the political parties to teach a lesson to Pakistan by displaying strong political will has come. The people of the entire country have made up their mind to do so. Now, at no cost, even every child of the country is prepared to allow this injustice, oppression and sponsoring of terrorism by Pakistan to go on.

With these words, I want to submit that the demand of judicial enquiry being made by Congress is not in the interest of the country. The people from all political parties are well aware as to what has happened at Pahalgaoon. If more energy is spent in giving shape to those things it would definitely, in some way or the other, go in helping our enemy countries including Pakistan. I would like to ask the Congressmen to stop playing political game and withdraw their demand for judicial enquiry. Instead a Parliamentary Committee should be constituted which may visit Pahalgaoon to assess the situation there and submit a report throwing light on resolving the Kashmir problem. It will certainly lead to the welfare of the country.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon):
Sir, I am trying to express my views on the Resolution moved in the House. Sir, the obvious needs no evidence. I feel that there is no need to conduct judicial inquiry in this regard. Pakistan has been promoting terrorism from the very beginning.

Sir, it is my submission that all the political parties should clearly express their views in this regard. It is a fact that Pakistan has been promoting terrorism. All the parties should cooperate to resolve the problem. When the Government conducted Pokhran nuclear test, the Government felt that peace would prevail in the region but this move further annoyed Pakistan and other countries and the problem kept on increasing. Kargil war was also an outcome of Pokhran.

Sir, the duty of the Government is to defend the country and keep it united and it is my suggestion that all the political parties unitedly rising above party politics, should co-operate for the welfare of the country.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Sir, this discussion is being taken up under the Rule 184. Amarnath Pilgrims were mercilessly killed and it is evident that this attack was made by Pakistan sponsored terrorist outfit. The Congress party wants a judicial enquiry in this regard.

Sir, I on my own behalf and on behalf of my party-Shivsena also want that a judicial inquiry into these killings should be conducted covering all aspects i.e. why and how these killings took place, culprits behind it and the reasons for lack of security. I think that a judicial inquiry is not required. More than 53 years have passed since independence and none of the judicial inquiry has yielded anything positive. This incident which has given a jolt to the sentiments of all the Hindus of India has also shocked us. The entire country is perturbed over this incident.

How far the killings of Hindus and Kashmir will continue? Firstly, they were killed at Pahalgaoon, later on at Rajouri and yesterday it happened in Udampur. Three to four attacks were carried out on Hindus during eight days. Why these attacks have taken place and what is the motive behind these? The Government is conducting probe into these attacks. Inquiry in this regard should certainly be conducted into as to why and how these killings have taken place and whether these killings have taken place due to security lapses and who is responsible for it. Strict action should be taken against those found guilty. The militant outfits of Pakistan, whether it is Laskar-e-Toiba, Dindar Anjum, Hizbul Muzaheddin or any other ISI agent, all want to turn India into a land of carnage

[Shri Suresh Ramrao Jadhav]

and disorder by killing the Hindus. It is essential to know as to how many Hindus have been killed there and there is a need to sternly deal with this issue. It is the need of the hour that if we really want to solve the Kashmir problem then tough measures are bound to be taken. The Kashmir problem is the outcome of the wrong policies of the Congress. We will have to stringently deal with the situation so that such incidents do not recur in future. The Government should take some concrete steps to address this problem. At last I am grateful to you for giving me time to speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The list of the speakers is exhausted. Intervention by the hon. Minister and the reply will be taken up tomorrow.

Now Statement by the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

22.38 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

VACATION OF GOVERNMENT BUILDING IN ETAH,
U.P. ALLOTTED TO SAMAJWADI PARTY OFFICE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND
MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, the House may recall that in the morning when hon. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav raised the issue about Etah. I promised that before the rise of the House I will inquire about it and make a statement.

Sir, as per the information received from the State Government, the official residence of the Deputy Collector, District Etah was allotted to Samajwadi Party for its office by the State Government on 18th August, 1994. This allotment was against the rules. Therefore, the allotment, after due consideration, was cancelled by the State Government on 21st October, 1998. In compliance thereof, the building was got vacated by the District administration on 20th August, 2000. A joint team of Revenue officers and Police officers was constituted for vacation of this building and the possession was taken peacefully.

There was no unpleasant incident in the process.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned. It will meet tomorrow the 22nd August, 2000 at 11 a.m.

22.39 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven
of the Clock on Tuesday, August 22, 2000/
Shravana 31, 1922 (Saka)*

**Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates
(English Version)**

Monday, August 21, 2000/ Sravana 30, 1922 (Saka)

| Col./line | For | Read |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------|
| 111/10 | insert; (c) the number of priorities given during January 1, 2000 to June 30, 2000; | |
| 111/11 | (c) | (d) |
| 112/1 | (d) | (e) |
| 145/12 & 13 (from below) | insert; (d) and (e): position of non-utilisation of funds provided by Central Zoo Authority during the last 3 years is as follows:- | |