

# LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

**Fourth Session  
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)**



*(Vol. VIII contains Nos. 1 to 10)*

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

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# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

Thursday, August 3, 2000/Sravana 12, 1922 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Two Minutes past Eleven of the Clock.*

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

....(Interruptions)

### OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Sarvashri Durga Chand, Palas Barman and Shrimati Ansuyabai Borkar, three of our former colleagues.

Shri Durga Chand was a Member of the Sixth Lok Sabha from 1977 to 1979 representing Kangra Parliamentary Constituency of Himachal Pradesh.

Earlier, Shri Durga Chand was a Member of Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly from 1967 to 1977.

An able parliamentarian, he was a member of various Committees of the State Legislature and was also a member of Committee on Subordinate Legislation of Lok Sabha from 1977 to 1979.

An active political and social worker, Shri Durga Chand was associated with a number of schools and dispensaries. He worked relentlessly for uplift of the weaker sections of the society and development of backward areas.

As a man of letters, Shri Durga Chand contributed a number of articles in various journals.

Shri Durga Chand passed away on 17th May, 2000 at Shimla, Himachal Pradesh at the age of 78.

Shri Palas Barman was a Member of Sixth to Tenth Lok Sabha from 1977 to 1996 representing Balurghat Parliamentary Constituency of West Bengal.

An able parliamentarian, Shri Barman was a member of Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament from 1980 to 1984; Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House and Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture during 1990.

A teacher by profession, Shri Barman was a well known social and political worker. He took keen interest in rural development and cooperative movements. He worked

relentlessly for uplift of the backward and weaker sections of the society.

Shri Palas Barman passed away on 10th June, 2000 at Balurghat, West Bengal at the age of 71.

Shrimati Ansuyabai Borkar was a Member of First Lok Sabha from 1955 to 1957 representing Bhandara Parliamentary constituency of Maharashtra (erstwhile Madhya Bharat).

Hailing from an agriculturist family, Shrimati Borkar was an active social and political worker. She played an important role in imparting education to adult women in Nagpur City.

Shrimati Ansuyabai Borker passed away on 18th July, 2000 at Nagpur, Maharashtra at the age of 71.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

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

11.06 hrs.

*The Members then stood in silence for a short while.*

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (DELHI SADAR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have given you in writing that a condolence resolution should be passed on the killing of innocent people in Kashmir. About 115 people have been killed there, a condolence resolution should be passed on it....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, U.P. Police has tried to harass and blemish the character of some of our leaders by framing false and fabricated cases against them....(Interruptions) The police has tried to tarnish their image, prestige and dignity of the Samajvadi Party leaders...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please speak one-by-one. How can I hear, if all of you speak simultaneously.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a serious and important matter

for the Members of this House as well as for the Members of Rajya Sabha because a question mark has been put as to whether or not we would be again returning to the House. We do not stand up to take permission for some ordinary matter. You should listen to it and resolve the matter. You please listen to me and, I start.

**SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :** This is a very serious matter...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI MAHADAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA) :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, ruthless killings have taken place in Jammu Kashmir. The merciless killings of the Amarnath pilgrims have taken place in Pahalgaoon. The whole country is stunned today and this incidence has taken place due to the gross negligence on the part of the Government that the innocent people have been mercilessly killed there....*(Interruptions)*

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER :** You please listen to me.

**SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV :** If we do not raise this matter, who will raise it. If we are not heard I may be compelled to come to the well of the House....*(Interruptions)* Now it has gone beyond the limit. Two M.L.A.s of Samajvadi Party of Etah district, namely, Shri Rameshwar Singh and his brother have been thrown out of the district and Shishu Pal Singh M.L.A. has been implicated in serious criminal cases. Their property has been declared as Government property....*(Interruptions)* When this incident was raised, Sakshi Maharaj has been implicated in a rape case, which is non-bailable offence. Whether this Government would act in vindictive manner.

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER :** I will allow you to speak. This should not happen that you continue speak while I am on my legs.

**SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV :** I am helpless. When some one is in peril of his life, the people are humiliated then this becomes a compulsion, I never to this, but I am doing this under compulsion....*(Interruptions)*

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER :** This is question hour. After the question hour, whatever resolution you would put forward or point you would like to make may be allowed. This is my suggestion.

**SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV :** If you give me a chance to speak first....*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :** Sir, this sort of massacre has never been seen since Independence ...*(Interruptions)* We do not want to disrupt the Question-Hour but this kind of massacre has never been seen in the history of India.

*[Translation]*

The barbaric and brutal killings have taken place there.

Therefore, I want to ask you that the barbaric killings that have taken place, the reason behind this is that the Government have shown gross negligence in the security arrangements of Amarnath pilgrims and they are responsible for the killings of 100 innocent people. We want to ask many questions about it. What is the position? We would like to have an updated report from the Government on this issue. We want factual report and response of the Government in this regard. We should be informed about the latest position and should be informed soon, this is my request....*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (KHAJURAHO) :** I have given a calling attention notice on this matter ...*(Interruptions)*

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER :** Mr. Madhavrao Scindiaji has already spoken on that. Let us wait for the Government response.

....*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Parliamentary Affairs Minister is asking as to what I have said? I have said that the brutal killings that have taken place in Jammu & Kashmir yesterday, the Government have completely neglected the security arrangements of the Amarnath pilgrims. and they are responsible for the killings of 100 innocent people. You owe an explanation not only to us but to the entire nation and we would like to from the Government as to what is the latest position, what is the latest updated report, tell us about it....*(Interruptions)*

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER :** Now, let us hear Shri Mulayam Singh ji.

*(Interruptions)*

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER :** Sh. Khuranaji. I will listen to you also.

[English]

I have given the floor to Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this was not the first incident. Firstly, it is correct that Sakshi Maharaj joined us after deserting B.J.P. The husband of a lady deserted her on any point and her parents took her to Sakshi Maharaj. She was a poor lady but educated in all respect. Her parents asked him to keep her with himself. After that her parents asked him to treat her as your own daughter. She was adopted on 3.11.98 and one fourth of property was also given to her. She was an educated lady, so she was made the Principal. She eloped with a Computer Instructor of the colleges.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I would like to request to Shri Mulayam Singh Yadavji that there has been so much brutality in Jammu Kashmir that 100 of innocents have been killed there and the whole of the country is shocked. Atleast there should be a response from the Government side and thereafter Mulayam Singhji may express his views....  
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Madhavrao Scindia, let me hear Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav. Please wait a minute. Let him speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : On 29th, they solemnized a love marriage. They solemnized this marriage in room No. 45 of Prabhat Hotel... (Interruptions) Sakshiji removed her from the post of Principal... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav's version.

(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : First allegation was

made that the lady had been murdered by Sakshiji but when the lady came back, a fraudulent case of rape was fabricated and filed by S.P. and D.M. of Etah... (Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : The Government should produce all facts about the brutal incident that took place in Kashmir yesterday and the latest position in this regard about which I have made a request. The entire country is shocked and after seeing this kind of brutality whole country is taken back.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : I have given the notice. Atleast, first, the condolence resolution should be passed.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Madan Lal Khurana, I have received your notice. Let me hear some thing from the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, what do you want to say about this?

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Our two M.L.As. have been thrown out of the district before this....  
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Once you have expressed your point.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am asking the hon. Minister to react.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Let this fact also come to light. (Interruptions) The property of both the M.L.As. have been declared as Government property. (Interruptions) His institution was on the top position and had largest turnover. That also has been declared as Government property... (Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : It is my humble request to Shri Mulayam Singhji that is a such type of incident which has brought to entire country to a state of

shock....(Interruptions) You must speak but later on ....(Interruptions) you should listen to the hon. Minister first ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : We have written a letter to the Prime Minister in this connection and we have also written to the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs... (Interruptions) He has promised us (Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (MAYILADUTURAI) : What sort of patriotism is this... (Interruptions) We want to discuss about Kashmir and they are raising trivial things... (Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : You do not tell me all this... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You please tell your Members to sit down.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Khurana and others have made their points. Now, the hon. Minister.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : We have given notice for the suspension of Question hour .... (Interruptions) You first hear us... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : We have said nothing in this connection so far... (Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he has not spoken as yet... (Interruptions) Only, we have spoken till now... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Today, newspapers have come out with reports that talks have been discontinued.... (Interruptions) What is the situation there? Utter chaos... (Interruptions) There is total lack of security of the people. We do not know as to what the Government is doing. They only say that they are getting the information. It is a total failure... (Interruptions) It is criminal negligence... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : It is a total failure on the part of the Government... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The hon. Parliamentary

Affairs Minister will react. He would be making a statement on this.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : The policemen indulged in dacoity and looting at Sakshiji's Ashram, looted and all the belongings were looted and taken away (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We want to know as to what is the position... (Interruptions) We find that talks have been discontinued. We want to know the position... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I listened to all of you. I asked the hon. Minister to react to it. It appears that you do not want to hear from him. It is very strange, and it is very unfair on your part to do so.

.... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I ask the Minister to react.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Whom do you want me to respond?... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yes, everybody, including Shri Khurana.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, you hear the hon. Minister.

.... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Shri Khurana has raised an issue that we should pay homage to those who died in Kashmir recently. If the House agrees, we do not have any objection.

Secondly, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav has raised an issue regarding Sakshi Maharaj and the alleged cases against him... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Why are you using these phrases?

... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I cannot reply to three

Members at the same time....(Interruptions) I have to start somewhere...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What is this? You give the hon. Minister a patient hearing....(Interruptions) He is responding to each and every issue raised by the hon. Members.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI) : You speak on Kashmir issue first....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Banatwallaji, we are just coming on that issue, you please keep silent for a while.....(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : You first speak about the brutal killings that have taken place in Kashmir...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I am just coming on that issue...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : You speak on Kashmir issue first...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : That is more important. That is why I have kept it last...(Interruptions) I have to make an announcement. That is why, I have kept it last.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri G.M. Banatwalla, have patience. He is announcing something.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : The situation in Kashmir is such that keeping patience is difficult. Sir, you ask the Government to respond effectively....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Do you want me to lose patience?

....(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, you first direct the Government to respond adequately and effectively ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Banatwallaji, I will speak about it also ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That is why the Parliamentary Affairs Minister wants to give some details. Please have patience.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Mulayam Singh ji. You have raised the question about the charges levelled against Shri Sakshi Maharaj, a Member of Rajya Sabha. The discussion has already taken place on this issue yesterday in Rajya Sabha. Perhaps, it has been referred to the Privilege Committee there. Eventhen, the aspects which has been raised here by Shri Mulayam Singh ji, will be referred to the U.P. Government, while drawing the attention of the Home Minister to all these aspects and I will try to do proper justice in this regard....(Interruptions)

SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV (MAINPURI) : The Government of Uttar Pradesh will take no decision..(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very disgraceful matter that the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs does not address the Kashmir issue first and other. Matters raised are given priority. It is a utter of disrespect for those who have been killed...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He is responding to it also.

....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, please do not disturb the House now.

....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Do not hold the House to ransom.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : This is all connivance...(Interruptions) D.I.G. have written, I.G. have written. This matter has also been raised in the Legislative Assembly. All have written adverse reports against him. Even after that, it was not done...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Kashmir is the most serious issue today. It is a utter disrespect for those who have been killed ....(Interruptions). 100 people have been

killed and the people are laughing there....(Interruptions) It is your seriousness...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, I want to respond to him...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Minister is responding now. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, 100 people have lost their lives and the Parliamentary Affairs Minister is responding to something else. This is an insult to those who lost their lives...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would request that Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav be suspended. This is absolutely ridiculous ....(Interruptions) You suspend him. This is ridiculous. This is not the way to behave...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What is happening here?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, will you please resume your seat?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Balram Singh Yadav, please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, please ask your party Member to go to his seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Kashmir has been ruined by Congress...(Interruptions) They will try to speak here also....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav,

I am here to regulate the House. You had your say. I want the Parliamentary Affairs Minister to respond to the issue raised by other Members also. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Madan Lal Khurana, he is going to respond now. Please take your seat. There are important questions listed for today.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I was saying that it is natural for the House and members to be concerned about the situation in Kashmir. That is very important from my view point. In this connection, I would like to say that within an hour the Prime Minister himself is going to Kashmir to assess the situation on the spot. We will inform the House about the latest situation after his return and if it is so required to discuss this matter, then after the return of the Prime Minister, you and the House...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : The Home Minister's statement should come before this.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What is this?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Pramod Mahajan says.

(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Therefore, after the return of the Prime Minister...(Interruptions) Naturally, he would personally assess the situation. We will request in both the Houses on his behalf. If the Chair, the House and the Members so desire. We have no objection to such discussion.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : The time can be announced.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : It would be announced after his return. He is going just at 12-1 hours. I do not know when he will return. As soon as the timing of his return would be known, I will inform you immediately...(Interruptions)

\*Not recorded.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (RATNAGIRI) :  
 \* Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, such a major incident has taken place in Kashmir....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Geete, you raise this after question hour.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : I have given a condolence motion, I beg to move .....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The condolence motion is moved on behalf of the Chair.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, within 24 hours more than 100 people by the Militants ....(Interruptions)

11.27 hrs.

REFERENCE TO KILLING OF INNOCENT PEOPLE  
 BY MILITANTS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF  
 JAMMU AND KASHMIR

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : As the hon. Members are aware, about 100 persons were massacred and several injured in a series of attacks by militants in various parts of Jammu and Kashmir on 1st and 2nd August, 2000. We deeply mourn the loss of lives of these innocent people. The House may please place on record its deep sense of grief on this tragedy.

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

11.28 hrs.

*The Members then stood in silence for a short while.*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House will now take up Q. No. 161. Shri Hannan Mollah.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

11.30 hrs.

Investigation into Import of Ammunitions

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 \*161. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any investigation to fix responsibilities for not carrying out inspection of imported ammunition for army's use by the Controller of Quality Assurance of the Defence Department in the Central Ammunition Depot, Pulgaon case;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) If not, the reasons for not instituting an investigation to check occurrence of such incident in future?

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

Statement

A contract dated 6th August 1990 valued at USD 17.25 million was signed with M/s. Federal Directorate of Supply and Procurement (FDSP), Yugoslavia for procurement of critically needed ammunition by the Army. Part supplies of ammunition were delivered by FDSP. However due to UN sanctions placing restrictions on supply of arms from Yugoslavia, which came into effect from 30.5.1992, the remaining contracted ammunitions were not delivered by FDSP. The Army was pressing for its requirement of the undelivered ammunitions.

2. A contract dated 21.1.1993 was signed with M/s. Pitcare Ltd., Hongkong for the undelivered supply of ammunition contracted with FDSP for an amount of US \$ 6.12 million. It is presumed that this Question relates to this supply.

3. While part of the ammunition supplied was accepted, Central Ammunition Depot, Pulgaon intimated in September 1993 that the 130 mm Illuminating ammunition was received without technical literature and range tables which delayed the checkproof. The checkproof was conducted by Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) in August 1995 on receipt of fuse setting key and range tables from the firm. Ten rounds were fired of which three recorded failures. DGQA subjected the consignment to reproof by firing 13 rounds in December 1995 out of which 12 recorded failures. Thus total is failures were recorded out of 23 rounds fired. In view of the unsatisfactory performance of the ammunition during check proof, the consignment was categorized as not fit for use by DGQA in January 1996. Quality claim was raised against the firm in January 1996. Efforts made to recover the amount paid to the firm were not successful.

4. The transaction was considered by the Comptroller and Auditor General (C & AG) in its report No. 7 of 1999 (Defence Services) who inter-alia recommended that the matter should be investigated through an independent agency to fix responsibility. Accordingly, the case was referred to CBI on 20.4.2000 for independent investigation.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Sir, in the first part of the reply, the Minister says that very essential requirements of our Armed Forces could not be met because of sanctions by the US Government. Our Government is loitering around Mr. Bill Clinton with an attitude of servitude. I do not know whether that Government is destroying, and creating problems for our Armed Forces.

Firstly, I want to know what action has been taken by our Government to lift that ban and assure the supply of these essential ammunition to our Armed Forces.

Secondly, the Government has mentioned regarding the purchase of ammunition of about US \$ 6.12 million from M/s. Pitcare Ltd., Hong Kong. The C & AG had suggested that there was a possibility of collusion between the purchaser and the supplier and have requested for special investigation. But the specified rule is that whenever the consignment arrives in this country, that should be inspected within 60 days. The Directorate of Quality Assurance failed to do that for two years. These types of negligence are there in this case. In spite of specific suggestions by the C & AC for a special investigation into this, no action has been taken so far. Only, recently they have asked the CBI to inquire into this. But for quite a long time no action was taken against these types of things.

I would like to know what is the latest position in this case and whether the culprits have been identified and punished or not.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : On a question relating to Defence, last Thursday also we had turbulence and today also we have turbulence.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, if it is due to me, I feel sorry.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to clarify this first. While mentioning about the sanction, the hon'ble member had mentioned the name of USA. This sanction is not of USA. We had signed an agreement with Yugoslavia on the 6th of August, 1990 regarding purchase of some military equipments. Due to some internal disturbances that happened there, the United Nations Organisation imposed a sanction that banned purchase of any material by anybody from that country. This problem began with the imposition of the said sanction. I would like to correct the hon. Member that this deal was worth 6.12 crore US dollars and not 6.12 crores of rupees as has been mentioned by him. It would become many crores if we calculate it in terms of rupees. The Yugoslavian company had supplied fifty per cent of the arms to us under the agreement. The said sanction came in between when the next consignment was due to arrive. After the imposition of the said sanction the company sent a proposal according to which they had agreed to supply the rest of the consignment through a company named Pitcare of Hongkong. Their representative also came here for this purpose in 1992. We discussed on some of the points and some decisions were taken. The rates too were settled. When the equipments arrived the

question of testing them cropped up, as has been mentioned by the Hon. Member and in the C.A.G.'s report. That report was submitted by the end of the year 1999. One question which was based on the information revealed in the said report, was put before the House in March. I came to know about it only after the file relating to the preparation of the reply of the said question was placed before me. I approved the reply and at the same time ordered that this matter should be directly handed over to the CBI by the Ministry for investigation and the matter was sent to the CBI immediately. The CBI is investigating the matter and we hope that its report would be submitted soon. It was felt that prime facie the deal was not according to the norms therefore, I ordered for the probe apart from sub-mitting the reply.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Sir, we know the difficulties that our *Jawans* are facing in the Siachen Glacier. You are also aware that any patriotic Government will ensure to provide all sorts of necessities to its armed forces posted at such difficult terrains. They are defending the country in a very difficult situation.

I would like to draw the attention of the House to another case regarding the procurement of defective sleeping bags against the contract for supply of 8,588 sleeping bags costing Rs. 7.65 crore for the use of Army in Siachen Glacier. This contract was with the company, Montclair of France. They supplied these sleeping bags, which do not conform to the sample supplied by them. Even though the Army Headquarters and the Ministry were aware of the inferior quality of these sleepings bags, the Letter of Credit was issued on the basis of a decision taken in the meeting convened by an official at the level of a Joint Secretary (O) on 21st May, 1993. There were serious lapses on the part of the Inspector, and the Ministry in clearing the Stores at the time of inspection and not rejecting this despite the knowledge of this defect. Now, the payment of Rs. 7.65 crore were made after the procurement of all those sleeping bags but those sleeping bags were found to be sub-standard and ultimately they had to be rejected.

I would like to know as to why such things had happened, what action the Government had taken against those who had cleared this deal, and whether the Government would ensure that in future such substandard articles would not be supplied to the *Jawans* who are fighting in the difficult terrain in defending our country.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, I am assuming



that the hon. Member is referring again to a comment made by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in his Report.

Insofar as the details of this matter are concerned, again this is matter, which refers to the period between 1990 and 1993. I shall require a notice but I can assure the hon. Member that whatever recommendations the C & AG gives, there are very clear instructions that they shall be immediately looked into and action should be taken, and that is being done.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the question is related to the Army, our borders and it is very sensitive. The Jawans of the army always remain alert in guarding our borders at the risk of their lives. This matter came to light after the submission of the CAG report. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister through you that when the deal was struck in 1992 and the consignment was received in 1993, its testing process was not completed till 1995 because the technical literature, range table and fuse saving key was not supplied alongwith the shells. We would like to know the procedure in this regard. Whether the keys are supplied alongwith the shells or not and if the keys were not supplied then how the shells were received and what was the intention behind it. For two years the testing was not done. What are findings of the experts on the basis of which these shells were found to be sub standard. We want to know that when the hon. Minister went through the file he felt that something wrong has been committed and then handed over the case to the CBI for probe but whether any departmental action has been taken against those people who sat over the file between 1992 to 1999. Who has been found responsible for this and what sort of action has been taken by the department?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : As I have said, I handed over this matter to the CBI as soon as it came before me because nothing much was needed to understand it. As the case was not fair I handed it all to the CBI, therefore, we did not initiate any internal inquiry. We are ready to examine it from this angle as per the suggestion of the hon. Member. We will look into it, however, I thought that no further action is required since the matter had been handed over to the CBI.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Sir, an agreement was signed.

[English]

In 1993, 130 mm ammunition was supplied.

[Translation]

The whole ammunition was kept pending for two years due to non-receipt of the literature. In 1995, it was found

that its quality is sub-standard due to the technical failure.

[English]

My question is this. What were the terms and conditions of the agreement for payment? This is my first question. My second question is regarding the amount of material supplied and the amount which has been paid to the agency. What is the ratio between the amount paid and the material supplied? These are my two questions.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : So far as money is concerned, it is released once the consignment on letter of credit is received so the accounts in this regard were settled on the basis of the letter of credit. The technical papers which should have been sent have not arrived. Continuous efforts were made to bring those papers and they tried to give it a different turn by mentioning some other range and they were told after its testing that it is of inferior quality. We have received this consignment of substandard quality.

[English]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : My question is different. My question is this. What were the terms and conditions of the agreement for the payment?

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : The entire work is done with a letter of credit, when you issue a letter, open the letter of credit, you ask the Bank that you have received the goods and ask it to make payment.

[English]

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN : There should be a quality clause also in the agreement.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : This is true that the place from where you receive the goods that should certify itself that the goods are fit. We have received a certificate from them. Now the enquiry is being conducted to check the goods.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We will conduct a inquiry about it.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform the hon'ble Minister that the Ordinance Depot is located in Maharashtra is Vidarabha. The Hon'ble Minister is not aware that the Comptroller and Auditor

General has raised objection in his audit report and recommended to conduct an enquiry in this regard. The big fire broke out in that Depot and a huge quantity of arms and ammunition was destroyed in fire. But the people there are reported to have knowledge that the fire did not break out rather the arms and ammunition were got burnt. I would like to know from the Government whether the Hon'ble Minister is aware of it or not, and if not, what action has been taken in this regard.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : This is an incident of fire which happened many years ago....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : The fire was caught one year ago and the fire was the massive one and heavy loss of arms and ammunition was caused, so the enquiry should be conducted in the regard.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I have got a report. According to that report the incident took place in Bharatpur and heavy loss of arms and ammunition was caused there. I got it investigated immediately in this regard and the internal court of enquiry has been also completed and the court has submitted its report. The survey work of all arms and ammunition depots including central depot has been conducted and efforts have been made to ascertain all those deficiencies and rectify them. I do not have any report which supports that the fire incident at Pulgaon took place due to some external or internal acts of sabotage.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : The ordnance factories at Chandrapur and Pulgaon were got burnt. The Press has conversed this report and has concluded that it was an act of sabotage.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I do not have such information.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : I request the Hon'ble Minister that this is a very serious matter.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I do not have any such information when the Hon'ble Member is pointing out, I will conduct an enquiry in this regard.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has stated in his reply that when Directorate General of Quality Assurance conducted an enquiry it was found that out of 23 rounds, 15 rounds were found unfit. I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister as to on what basis the arms and ammunition were purchased? Is there any provision by which the test of the arms and ammunition can be conducted before they are actually purchased? My second Question is that various countries supply their arms and ammunition for our forces. We have made full payment to Yugoslavia and received the partial

supply of arms and ammunition. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister as to from how many countries we receive the arms and ammunition, and number of the countries to which we have paid the advance, but the arms and ammunition have not been received so far. What types of action is taken in this regard?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, I require a notice to reply this Question.

#### Exploitation of Tidal Energy

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\*162. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :

SHRI JAI PRAKASH :

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

(a) the progress made in the exploitation of tidal energy in collaboration with France so far;

(b) the power generation capacity of these energy centres along with the details of the scheme made for its utilisation; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard to set up other centres after developing indigenous techniques?

[English]

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

#### Statement

(a) There is no collaboration with France for the exploitation of tidal energy in the country.

(b) and (c) A total potential of about 15,000 MW (3000 MW in Gulf of Kutch, 12,000 MW in Gulf of Cambay in Gujarat and 25 MW in Sundarbans area of West Bengal) has been estimated. A techno-economic feasibility study was carried out by the Central Electricity Authority in the year 1988 for a 900 MW Kutch Tidal Power Project. A revised estimate of Rs. 6184 crores was worked out for the execution of this project in 1993. Besides, project reports on tidal power in Panchapada river in Balasour District of Orissa and in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands were prepared in the year 1983 and 1992 respectively. A detailed project report for setting up of a 3 MW Tidal Power

Project in Durgaduani Creek in Sundarbans in West Bengal is under finalisation.

*[Translation]*

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has laid a statement on the table of the House. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister the quantum of electricity in Magawatt generated from tides at present?

*[English]*

SHRI M. KANNAPPAN : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Sir, Qn. No. 162 is regarding France and Q. No. 163 is regarding Iran. Both of them may be amalgamated so that the entire country will know what exactly is happening in this Government. The Minister is ready to reply.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We are on Q.No. 162 now.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : I am requesting the Chair to amalgamate Q.Nos. 162 and 163.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We will have to reach Q. 163. Then I will take it up.

SHRI M. KANNAPPAN : There are four projects. One is the Kutch Tidal Project of 900 MW capacity and the cost of installation in 1951 was Rs. 1,370 crore approximately. Subsequently the cost was revised and in 1993 it was estimated to be Rs. 6,184 crore and further the latest estimation puts the cost at Rs. 12,000 crore and the cost of generation works out to Rs. 8 per unit.

A committee was constituted in 1999 to assess the present cost of the project to consider the execution through Independent Power Producers route. The Ministry is in the process of discussion with the Government of Gujarat but because of the prohibitive cost of generation it is doubtful whether any entrepreneur will come forward to execute it.

*[Translation]*

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Sir, I had asked the Hon'ble Minister the quantum of electricity in megawatt generated from tides at present. Whether the project has been commissioned or not but the Hon'ble Minister has given a different statement. My second question is that in our country there are hundreds of rivers and the coastal belt is located at thousand of kilometres. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether the government has conducted any survey of those areas where the electricity could be generated from tides. If not, I would like to know whether the government proposes to conduct such an enquiry.

*[English]*

SHRI M. KANNAPPAN : All projects are under investigation. No project has come up. There is no generation.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There is no generation. What about his second part of the supplementary? The second part of the question was with regard to the sea and rivers. He wants to know whether electricity generation could be harnessed or not.

SHRI M. KANNAPPAN : There are four projects. One is Kutch Tidal Project and then in Balasore Project ....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He has asked whether the survey has already been done or not.

SHRI M. KANNAPPAN : The survey has not yet been completed. It is going on.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Sir, my question is very specific. Twenty-five MW in Sundarbans area of West Bengal has been estimated. A detailed Project Report for setting up of a 3 MW Tidal Power Project in Durgaduani Creek in Sundarbans in West Bengal is under finalisation. I thank the hon. Minister for taking the decision. But I would like to know from the Government by what time would be finalised. How long the Government would take for completion of the Project and what is the total cost of the Project? I also want to know whether the State Government has any share in the Project, and if so, what are the details?

SHRI M. KANNAPPAN : The final Report is expected by the end of September, 2000. The Ministry will take further action based on the recommendations.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Sir, I seek your protection. There is no reply...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, can you please repeat it? I would request the Member to hear the hon. Minister.

.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI M. KANNAPPAN : The Ministry prepared a feasibility study for construction of a mini tidal power plant of 3 MW capacity in Durgadauni Creek in Sundarbans. Based on the requisite field study and computer modelling exercise a detailed Project Report is being prepared by the West Bengal Energy Development Agency with an

outlay of Rs. 90 lakh. The final Report is expected by the end of September, 2000. The Ministry will take further action based on the recommendation.

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether in this tidal wave energy which has got the collaboration from France, will the Ministry give preference to Pondicherry, which is a former territory and also a sea-shore. Have you got any idea in that direction? If it is not so, are you prepared to take it over in Pondicherry State as far as the tidal energy is concerned because of the historical relations as well as the natural position?

SHRI M. KANNAPPAN : Discussions with French delegations were held at various levels in different years but the response from the French side is not encouraging. Further, France after establishing the 240 MW tidal power plant in La Rance River in 1966 has not gone for any new tidal power plant in the last 34 years. Regarding other developed countries, not much of progress is made in this area. In Pondicherry, there is no potential for tidal projects... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, the Department of non-Conventional Energy Sources is a newly created Department of the Government of India and it has been functional for over five to six years. This particular Department has been created to harness the potential of energy and other non-conventional energy means in this country. The country is vested with a long sea shore. There are natural drainage flows all over the country and there is possibility to harness and develop non-conventional energy resources. The Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is the nodal agency for the development and harnessing of power and though the methodology requires huge investment initially, yet it is the most eco-friendly and sustainable forms of harnessing power. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister, what is the total power generation in the country today by non-conventional means; how much investment is proposed to be made in the Ninth Plan, both by the Government and the foreign agencies involved; and whether the Government proposes to set up a Non-Conventional Energy Power Corporation or a Non-Conventional Energy Power Finance Corporation for making the projects more viable... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, what is your question? You put the question.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, I am asking a basic question about developing the non-conventional energy resources. I want to know from the Minister : (a) whether he intends setting up a Power Corporation to assess other organisations, State Governments and smaller energy

projects; and (b) whether he intends having foreign partnership for exploring the possibility of development of non-conventional energy sources. My question is so clear, Sir.

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK : Sir, the Minister is not able to answer even the simple and direct questions, and the hon. Member is making the things much more difficult for them by making the things very complicated. How will the answer ever come?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, I have made it so simple. I have raised only one question.

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK : He is unable to answer even the simple and direct questions and you are putting so complicated a question that there is no possibility of any answer at all.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now you form the question, Shri Rudy.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, my question is whether hon. Minister intends to set up a Non-Conventional Energy Power Corporation or any Corporation assisted with Government's corpus money, to assist exploration of non-conventional energy sources. It is so simple. What more is required?

SHRI M. KANNAPPAN : Sir, a total capacity of 1700 MW of renewable energy sources has been installed in the country which includes 1175 MW of wind energy, 271 MW of bio-mass energy, 217 MW of small hydro projects up to 3 MW capacity and 57 MW of solar energy. There is no proposal for setting up a National Corporation. The State agencies will execute these projects.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Sir, here, since only wonderful men are contributing their mite, I want to know why Andhra Pradesh is not being considered for the mini tidal plants because the people of Andhra Pradesh are now paying Rs. 5.25 per unit, which is after the roll back from Rs. 7.40 per unit of current... *(Interruptions)* Please let my complete

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please hurry up. The Question Hour is going to be over.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : The need for a Non-Conventional Energy... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please, let her complete the question.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Sir, if somebody else wants to monitor the House, I cannot ask my question.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Vaiko, please co-operate with the Chair.

.....(Interruptions)

12.00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Madam, you ask the question.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Sir, why are these rude interruptions?... (Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, I would request you to ask Shri Vaiko to reply because the hon. Minister is incapable of replying ....(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Sir, why is Andhra Pradesh- which has rich coastal belt – not considered for a non-conventional energy mini-tidal plant to be set up?... (Interruptions)

SHRI M. KANNAPPAN : Sir, there is no Potential area in Andhra Pradesh for a tidal project ... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : When was it last examined that there is no potential in Andhra Pradesh?... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question hour is over.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

##### Modernisation of Navy

\*163. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

SHRI JAI PRAKASH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan has got an edge over India in respect of modern submarines which has put pressure on India to acquire modern submarines to meet the challenge;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Navy has been demanding for expansion and modernisation of its fleet for a long time; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Pakistan is reported to have purchased

three Agosta 90B submarines, of which one submarine has already joined the Pakistan Navy and the remaining two are expected to join in near future.

(b) and (c) The expansion and modernisation of the Indian Naval fleet is an ongoing process, dictated primarily by the threat perceptions and prevailing external strategic/ security environment, as also the emerging technologies. The Government have already sanctioned a number of projects for construction of naval ships and submarines and taken other measures so as to adequately equip the Navy to meet any challenge to the security of the nation.

[English]

##### Gas Pipeline from Iran to India

\*164. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

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

(a) whether a consortium of nine leading oil and gas multinationals are jointly exploring the possibility of building a pipeline from Iran's off-shore gas fields to India through Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether the companies have decided to conduct a study of Iran's gas utilisation and develop its liquefied natural gas for export;

(c) whether Iran is world's largest reserves of gas after Russia but exports to none at present;

(d) if so, whether the proposed 2500 km long pipeline would stretch from Asaluyeh on the Persian Gulf coast to North Western India;

(e) if so, the approximate cost involved and the target date of supply of gas;

(f) whether the Pakistan's present Government has agreed to this project; and

(g) if so, the terms and conditions thereof including the details of guarantee offered for the safety and securing of pipeline?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (e) The Government of Iran has sent a preliminary proposal to supply natural gas to India through an onland pipeline route passing through Pakistan. An Indo - Iran Joint Committee on Transmission of Gas consisting of representatives of the Governments of Iran and India has been constituted to examine all aspects of the pipeline proposed by the Government of Iran.

(f) This is being discussed as a bilateral project between India and Iran.

(g) Does not arise as the proposal of the Government of Iran is in a preliminary stage.

#### **On Time Performance of Trains**

\*165. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether 'on time' performance of trains is declining;

(b) if so, the percentage of late arrivals of trains during the last one year along with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the performance of trains is declining day-by-day; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to improve the performance of trains?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) to (d) In the "right time arrival" punctuality performance, there has been a marginal improvement of 0.3% on the Broad Gauge and an improvement of 1.9% on Metre Gauge during 1999-2000 compared to last year. The arrivals during the last one year has been as under:-

	Broad Gauge	Metre Gauge
1999-2000	17.4%	2.1%

The reasons for late arrival include factors such as equipment failures due to obsolescence, miscreant activities, agitations, Law and Order Problems, bad weather e.g. fog, breaches etc. alarm chain pulling, accidents, cattle run over, Electricity grid failure and saturated trunk routes.

The following steps are being taken to improve the punctuality performance of trains;

1. Intensive, round the clock monitoring of trains at all the three levels viz. Divisional, Zonal Head Quarters and Railway Board level.
2. Punctuality drives are being conducted by nominating officials to monitor trains.
3. Running of trains at maximum permissible speed subject to observance of safety limits and speed restrictions.
4. Improvement in Time tabling to provide a clear path.
5. Improvement in standard maintenance to reduce equipment failures.

6. Counseling and motivating staff to ensure punctual running.

7. Liaison with State Government to tackle the Law and Order problems and miscreant activities.

*[Translation]*

#### **Import of Missile**

\*166. SHRI AKHILESH YADAV : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of air to air missiles 'R-73' imported sometime back have since become useless;

(b) if so, the number thereof and the reasons therefor along with the expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) the date on which these missiles were imported;

(d) whether the Government have fixed responsibility after conducting an inquiry into this important matter;

(e) if so, the details of action taken in this regard; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (f) Air Hqrs have procured R-73 Missiles during 1995-99 under different contracts. Approximate cost of procurement of R-73 Missiles is Rs. 340 crores in foreign exchange. The missiles were procured from Russia. The missiles are in serviceable/operational condition except a very insignificant number which are being attended to by the vendor under warranty clause. The procurement was done under warranty clause.

#### **Review of Prices of Petroleum Products**

\*167. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to review the prices of petroleum products;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to increase the prices of petroleum products after its review; and

(c) if so, the extent to which and the time by which it is likely to be increased?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) Government continuously monitors the trends of the international prices of crude oil and petroleum products. The impact of the changes in the international prices on the subsidies and cross subsidies on controlled products is also reviewed on a regular basis. There is no proposal under consideration to increase the prices of controlled petroleum products.

**Transportation of Goods by CONCOR**

\*168. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR) is transporting goods through railways;

(b) if so, the places where these facilities are available;

(c) whether the CONCOR is considering to provide transportation facilities to more cities;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the total turnover of CONCOR during each of the last three years and current year so far; and

(f) the net profit earned by CONCOR during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) Yes Sir. CONCOR transports goods in containers primarily through Indian Railways using its rail net work. It also transports goods by road from some of its facilities.

(b) The places where CONCOR's facilities are available are as under :-

**(A) Inland Container Depots**

S.No.	Location	State
1	2	3
1.	Tughlakabad (Delhi)	Delhi
2.	Nagpur	Maharashtra
3.	Whitefield (Bangalore)	Karnataka
4.	Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
5.	Sanatnagar (Hyderabad)	Andhra Pradesh

1	2	3
6.	Amingaon (Guwahati)	Assam
7.	Tondiarpet (Chennai)	Tamil Nadu
8.	New Mulund (Mumbai)	Maharashtra
9.	Belanganj (Agra)	Uttar Pradesh
10.	Guntur	Andhra Pradesh
11.	Anaparti	Andhra Pradesh
12.	Chirala	Andhra Pradesh
13.	Muradabad	Uttar Pradesh
14.	Madurai	Tamil Nadu
15.	Sabarmati (Ahmedabad)	Gujarat
16.	Pithampur (Indore)*	Madhya Pradesh
17.	Muland (Mumbai)*	Maharashtra
18.	Milavittan (Tutiocorin)*	Tamil Nadu
19.	Babarpur (Panipat)*	Haryana
20.	Daulatabad (Aurangabad)*	Maharashtra
21.	Malanpur (Gwalior)*	Madhya Pradesh
22.	Dhandari Kalan (Ludhiana)	Punjab
23.	Wadi Bunder (Mumbai)	Maharashtra
24.	Harbour of Madras	Tamil Nadu
25.	Kandla	Gujarat
26.	Haldia (Calcutta)	West Bengal
27.	Kossipure Road (Calcutta)	West Bengal
28.	Shalimar (Calcutta)	West Bengal
29.	Ballabgarh	Haryana
30.	Chinchwad (Pune)	Maharashtra
31.	Cochin	Kerala
32.	Vadodara	Gujarat

\* These are not rail linked.

**(B) Domestic Container Terminals**

Sl. No.	Location	State
1	2	3
1.	Tughlakabad (Delhi)	Delhi

1	2	3
2.	Dhandarikalan (Ludhiana)	Punjab
3.	Salemmarket	Tamil Nadu
4.	Whitefield (Bangalore)	Karnataka
5.	Tondiarpet (Chennai)	Tamil Nadu
6.	Shalimar (Calcutta)	West Bengal
7.	Cossipore Road (Calcutta)	West Bengal
8.	Kankaria (Ahmedabad)	Gujarat
9.	Wadi Bunder (Mumbai)	Maharashtra

(c) Yes, Sir. CONCOR has plans to provide transportation facilities in more cities in the near future.

(d) The details of the new locations where these facilities are proposed to be set up are as under :-

#### Terminals Under Construction

S.No.	Location	State	Target Date
1.	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh	30.09.2000
2.	Tata Nagar (Jamshedpur)	Bihar	31.03.2001
3.	Balasore	Orissa	31.08.2000
4.	Bhusawal	Maharashtra	31.03.2001
5.	Jaipur	Rajasthan	31.03.2001
6.	Jodhpur	Rajasthan	31.03.2001
7.	Miraj	Maharashtra	31.03.2001
8.	Turbhe (Mumbai)	Maharashtra	31.08.2000
9.	Dadri (Noida)	Uttar Pradesh	31.12.2002
10.	Khodiar (Ahmedabad)	Gujarat	31.03.2001

#### Terminals Under Planning

S.No.	Location	State
1	2	3
1.	Phillaur	Punjab
2.	Dhappar (Chandigarh)	Punjab
3.	Raipur	Madhya Pradesh

1	2	3
4.	Dhankuni	West Bengal
5.	Durgapur	West Bengal
6.	Siliguri	West Bengal
7.	Dronagiri (Mumbai)	Maharashtra
8.	Rewari	Haryana
9.	Pondicherry	Pondicherry
10.	Rajkot	Gujarat
11.	Bharuch/Ankleshwar	Gujarat

(e) and (f) The figures of turnover and net profit during the last three years are as under :

Year	Rupees in Lakhs	
	Turnover	Net Profit
1997-1998	60625	11580
1998-1999	68477	14066
1999-2000	83142	17759
2000-2001	Quarterly accounts upto June 2000 are under finalisation	

*[English]*

#### Review of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme

\*169. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE :

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the implementation of the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme for textile and jute industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of applications received for loan and amount disbursed against these applications till date, State-wise alongwith the criteria for selection;

(d) whether any request for relaxation in norms has been received by the Government particularly extension of scheme to sick and closed textile mills; and

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



THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHI RAM RANA) : (a) Yes, Sir, a 22 member Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee (IMSC) reviews and monitors the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) on a periodical basis.

(b) The IMSC has held 6 review meetings and main decisions taken, amending the TUFS are as under:

- (i) Project proposals which were sanctioned prior to 1.4.1999; but where loans were not disbursed can be considered as fresh cases, if otherwise they are eligible under the TUFS.
- (ii) Project proposals which were sanctioned prior to 1.4.1999 and loan disbursed partly can be considered as fresh cases, if otherwise they are eligible under the TUFS, and re-submission of these proposals afresh now would be at the discretion of the financial institutions concerned.
- (iii) In respect of Captive Power Generation, ceiling on investment has been relaxed.
- iv) Semi-Automatic looms with approved quality parameters are now allowed for decentralised powerloom sector.
- v) The energy saving devices, effluent treatment plants and water treatment plants can be installed without any ceiling on investment.
- vi) Modernisation of cotton ring spinning mills is permissible subject to creation of matching downstream value addition capacity.

vii) The maximum expired life (vintage) of second hand machinery as included in the scheme (except auto coner) has been enhanced from 5 years to 10 years.

viii) Air jet looms of 165 cms. width (Capable of manufacturing 60 inch width Grey fabrics) and similar width in case of Water Jet looms and also automatic shuttle looms are eligible.

ix) Certain machinery falling under NIE Quota System for garment exporters have been approved under the scheme.

x) Installation of compact spinning machine with value addition processes equivalent to 50% of production capacity are covered under scheme.

(c) From 1.4.99 to June 30, 2000, a total of 612 applications with a total project cost of Rs. 8469 crore were received. Out of them, 424 applications with the total loan amount of Rs. 3084 crore have been sanctioned and Rs. 1003 crore has been disbursed against 247 applications. Any viable textile/jute unit meeting the technology norms of the scheme and financial parameters of the financial institution concerned is eligible under the Scheme. State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) Representations have been received for relaxation in the financial norms of the scheme. Representations have also been received from the sick and closed textile mills for covering them under the Scheme. Sick and closed textile mills are not eligible under the scheme. However, IDBI and SIDBI have relaxed certain financial norms to the eligible units only.

#### Statement

(Rs. in Crore)

#### *Progress of TUFS (State-wise) as on 30-06.2000 (Provisional)*

Sr. No.	State/ U.T.	No. of applications received	Sanctioned		Disbursed	
			No. of applications	Amount	No. of applications	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16	10	77.90	8	44.60
2.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	6	4	267.50	4	29.94
3.	Delhi	4	2	1.22	1	0.76
4.	Gujarat	82	63	319.89	37	191.88

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5.	Haryana	33	24	33.86	5	2.44
6.	Himachal Pradesh	4	3	128.50	3	103.00
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	1	13.63	0	0.00
8.	Karnataka	27	22	96.68	14	19.29
9.	Kerala	5	4	44.40	2	11.00
10.	Maharashtra	29	15	266.53	8	69.98
11.	Madhya Pradesh	7	7	90.72	3	41.75
12.	Punjab	57	37	525.59	21	159.10
13.	Rajasthan	134	70	287.53	40	68.02
14.	Tamil Nadu	135	110	557.37	64	142.95
15.	Uttar Pradesh	15	12	231.01	9	40.56
16.	West Bengal	11	8	19.91	2	7.41

[Translation]

**Collision between Howrah Amritsar Mail and Saharanpur Passenger Train**

\*170. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Howrah Amritsar Mail and Saharanpur passenger trains were collided near Ambala Cantt railway station recently;

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

(c) the number of persons killed and injured as a result thereof;

(d) the amount of compensation paid to the families of killed and injured persons;

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

(f) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(g) the measures taken to avoid such type of accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 01.07.2000, 3005 Up Howrah-Amritsar Mail collided in the rear of the empty rake of 2 US Passenger between Ambala Cantt. and Ambala City stations of Northern Railway's Ambala Division. As per Preliminary Report of Commissioner of Railway Safety, North Eastern Circle, Lucknow, this accident occurred on account of mishandling of signaling equipment by Electric Signal Maintainer for which staff of Signaling Department has been held responsible.

(c) Number of persons killed and injured in this accident are as under :

	Killed	Grievous	Minor
Railway staff	2	-	2
Passenger	-	1	4

(d) Ex-gratia payment of Rs. 15,000/- was made to next of kin of two deceased persons, Rs. 5,000/- to one grievously injured and Rs. 500/- to each of 6 persons who received minor injuries. For consideration of compensation claims for which the maximum limit is Rs. 4 lakhs, the next of kin of deceased persons or the injured persons shall have to prefer claims in the concern Bench of Railway

Claims Tribunal that will adjudicate on these claims. Compensation will be paid soon after the claims are decreed by the Tribunal.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir, an inquiry has been conducted by Commissioner of Railway Safety, North Eastern Circle, Lucknow. While Preliminary Report has been received, Final Report is awaited. Action against delinquent staff will be taken after receipt of Final Inquiry Report.

(g) Following measures have been taken to avoid such type of accidents in future:

1. Safety Courses for a week are being held regularly in Signal and Telecom (S & T) training school, Ghaziabad. During the training courses as well as during inspections by supervisors and officers, Electrical Signal Maintainers (ESM)'s are specifically counselled not to adopt any short cut methods while attending signal failures.
2. During inspections, special checks are carried out to detect short out method adopted by the staff, if any.
3. Deterrent action, including dismissal and removal, is being taken against persons held responsible.

#### Modernisation of Hydro Electric Plants

\*171. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had launched any scheme in the year 1987 to increase the hydro-electric capacity by modernising hydro-electric plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a slow progress in some plants;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the expenditure incurred on the modernisation of these plants so far, plant-wise;

(f) whether any time limit has been fixed in this regard; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARA-MANGLAM) : (a) to (g) Government is according priority to renovation, modernisation and updating (RM&U) of power plants, as one of the most cost effective options available for generation of power. 55 number of hydro schemes had been identified in 1987 for RM & U works, to result in a benefit of 2531 MW/7181 MUs. Out of these, 25 hydro schemes have so far been completed at an estimated cost of Rs. 465 crores with an expected benefit of 1313 MW/3263 MUs, 21 schemes are under various stages of implementation, 5 schemes have been declared as closed and work on the remaining 4 schemes is yet to commence. Plant-wise expenditure, physical progress and completion schedule of ongoing schemes is given in enclosed statement.

State Electricity Boards/Utilities are mainly responsible for RM & U of these schemes, implementation of which is governed by their own priorities, availability of shut downs depending upon the grid condition, fund availability, etc. Government of India is providing budgetary support by way of loan at concessional rates through Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and concessional custom duty for the equipment to be imported for RM&U. PFC is also providing grant to SEBs/Utilities for undertaking RLA/uprating studies. All out efforts are being made to get the remaining schemes completed by the end of Tenth Plan.

#### Statement

##### *Ongoing RM & U Hydro Schemes*

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	Installed Capacity (MW)	Est. Cost (Rs. Crore)	Expenditure Incurred (Rs. Crore)	Physical Progress	Completion Schedule
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>						
1.	Lower Sileru	4x115	13.35	7.0723	50%	2000-01
2.	Srisaillam	7x110	16.32	10.2433	60%	2000-01

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Himachal Pradesh</b>						
3.	Bassi	4×15	5.35	3.9145	60%	2000-01
<b>Karnataka</b>						
4.	Mahatma Gandhi	4×12+4×18	33.90	10.49	50%	2000-01
<b>Kerala</b>						
5.	Neriamangalam	3×15	31.92	–	–	Uncertain
6.	Sabarigiri	6×50	163.34	5.186	–	Uncertain
7.	Poringalkuthu	4×8	9.55	0.34	–	Uncertain
<b>Orissa</b>						
8.	Hirakud-I (U-3&4)	2×24	54.3	0.175	–	2003-04
9.	Hirakud-I (Swichyard Equipment)	–	9.85	3.00	30%	2000-01
10.	Hirakud-II	3×24	82.05	42.65	50%	2001-02
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>						
11.	Mettur Dam P.H.	4×10	41.50 (Rev. 78.80)	1.4634	10%	2001-02
12.	Pykara	3×6.65+ 2×11+2×14	17.06 (Rev. 26.06)	19.536	50%	2001-02
13.	Papanasam	4×5.8	40.23 (Rev. 59.08)	0.82	–	2002-03
<b>Bharka Beas Management Board</b>						
14.	Bharka RB	5×120	77.50	84.38	80%	2000-01
<b>National Hydroelectric Power Corporation</b>						
15.	Loktak	3×35	24.4	–	–	Uncertain
<b>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</b>						
16.	Lower Jhelum	3×35	20.00	–	–	Uncertain
17.	Sumbhal Sindh	2×11.3	11.00	–	–	Uncertain
<b>Meghalaya</b>						
18.	Umiam St. I & Stage-II	4×9+2×9	86.92 53.27	– –	– –	2001-02 Uncertain
<b>West Bengal</b>						
19.	Jaldhaka I	3×9	12.6	–	–	Uncertain
<b>Damodar Valley Corporation</b>						
20.	Maithon	3×20	17.34 (Rev. 39.00)	–	–	2002-03
21.	Panchet	1×40	2.17	–	–	2001-02
Total				190.00		

*[English]***Disinvestment in NTPC and NHPC**

\*172. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to disinvestment in National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. and National Hydro Power Corporation Ltd. (NHPC);

(b) if so, whether any global advisor has been appointed in this regard; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to safe guard the interests of the employees and workers of these corporations?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGLAM) : (a) and (b) Disinvestment commission have categorized National Thermal Power Corporation (NHPC) and National Hydro Power Corporation (NHPC) as "Core" and have recommended that on disinvestment be taken up for the present. The Commission, however, recommended that these organisations should study the alternatives for restructuring at this stage before the process of disinvestment could be considered. In terms of this recommendation, M/s. ICICI and SBI Capital, who had earlier conducted a detailed study for financial re-engineering for the purpose of leveraging resources, are being commissioned for taking up a detailed study and suggesting a most appropriate model for restructuring of NTPC. The study of M/s ICICI and SBI caps is likely to start shortly.

(c) Does not arise at this stage.

*[Translation]***All-India Judicial Service Cadre**

\*173. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to create an All India Judicial Service cadre;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) The matter relating to the creation of an All India Judicial Service is under consideration of the

Government. Most State Governments and High Courts are in favour of the proposal. However, for approval, it will require a resolution in the Rajya Sabha to be passed by not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting, followed by an appropriate enactment by Parliament under article 312 of the Constitution of India.

*[English]***Augmentation of Business by IOCL and BPCL**

\*174. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) have any plan to enter into international market in order to augment their business;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the crisis in L.P.G. supply has been reduced to a great extent due to involvement of the private L.P.G. supply units;

(d) whether as a result of competition, interests of PSUs are being adversely affected; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Keeping in view the objective of becoming a major diversified, transnational, integrated energy company, the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) is identifying, evaluating and developing opportunities in the international market. The IOC has taken up the following activities in order to enter the international market and augment its business:-

- Offering and providing training and consultancy to clients abroad.
- Setting up of various facilities for entering the petroleum sector in Mauritius.
- Entered into Franchise arrangement for blending and marketing Servo lubes.
- Appointed lube distributors in Nepal and Bangladesh.
- Exploring Exploration & Production and Liquefied Natural Gas opportunities abroad.

Exploring joint venture opportunities in the downstream sector including petro-chemicals abroad.

The Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) is exploring the modalities of marketing branded lubricants in the SAARC countries starting with Bangladesh. It is already marketing its lubricants in Nepal and Bhutan. However, the BPCL has no immediate plans to enter the international market in respect of other products.

(c) to (e) At present, the demand of packed LPG (domestic) of the registered consumers is being met, by and large, in full by the Public Sector Oil marketing Companies. LPG for domestic use is a controlled product and the interest of Public Sector Oil Companies is not affected in this area by parallel marketeers. However, there is competition from parallel marketeers in bulk and packed (commercial) supply of LPG and Oil marketing Companies are competent enough with their vast resources and network to withstand the competition provided by the private sector.

#### **Allotment of Petrol Pumps**

\*175. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are following the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in respect of allotment of petrol pumps;

(b) if so, the number of petrol pumps allotted, during the last three years and proposed to be allotted, State-wise;

(c) whether the petrol pumps have not yet been allotted in Maharashtra;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to expedite the same?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (e) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its Order, dated 31.3.1995, while disposing of writ petition No. 886 of 1993, issued guidelines for allotment of dealerships/distributorships under discretionary quota of the Government. The discretionary quota was abolished by the Government in July 1996 for the whole country, including the State of Maharashtra and the Government has not made any discretionary allotment since then.

*[Translation]*

#### **Piight of Indian Soldiers in Sierra Leone**

\*176. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of soldiers detained, killed, wounded by the rebel Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in Sierra Leone and the number of those who have since come back;

(b) whether any compensation to the families of killed/wounded soldiers have been given;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) Twenty one Indian soldiers had been detained by the RUF. All of them were released on 29th June, 2000. None of them was wounded. 222 personnel of the Indian contingent in UNAMSIL as well as some personnel from other countries who had been under siege by the RUF in Kailahun were evacuated in a multinational operation on 15/16 July, 2000. During the break out operations, ten Indian soldiers suffered injuries of various degrees, of whom one soldier, who was wounded in a grenade attack, succumbed to injuries on 17th July, 2000, despite emergency surgery.

A claim has been filed with the U.N. authorities for compensation in respect of the deceased soldier. The compensation payable on death is U.S. dollars 50,000/-. Apart from this compensation, the family of the deceased soldier is entitled to ordinary family pension as per the regulations of the Government of India. As regards the compensation for the injured soldiers, the process for claims has been initiated with the U.N. authorities.

*[English]*

#### **Prices of Crude Oil**

\*177. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :

SHRI RAJO SINGH :

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

(a) the prices of crude oil in the international market during each of the last three years;

(b) the impact on domestic prices of petroleum products and oil pool deficit due to increase in the international prices of curde oil;

(c) whether the Government propose to follow policy of market price instead of subsidised price in regard to petroleum products; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) The average published prices of crude oils viz. Brent and Dubai during the last three years are as under :-

Year	Dubai		Brent		Exchange Rate*
	US dollar per barrel	Rs./MT	US dollar per barrel	Rs./MT	
1997-98	16.39	4404.18	17.33	4843.33	37.12
1998-99	11.83	3598.48	12.05	3812.24	42.02
1999-2000	20.54	6450.13	21.77	7110.26	43.38

\* Indian rupees per US Dollar.

(b) Currently prices of crude oil in international market are volatile and are subject to wide fluctuation. The oil prices trend in the international market has an impact on our import bill and the domestic prices.

(c) and (d) Government has decided to dismantle Administered Pricing Mechanism in phases. Currently consumer prices of (i) Motor Spirit (MS), (ii) High Speed Diesel (HSD), (iii) Superior Kerosene Oil (SKO), Public Distribution System (PDS), (iv) Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF), and (v) Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) (Domestic) alone are administered. Prices of other petroleum products have since been decontrolled.

#### Kargil Fund

\*178. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the amount of money collected throughout the country for welfare of victims of Kargil conflict, State-wise;

(b) the quantum of money given to the affected families of army men so far;

(c) whether all the States have since deposited the amount, thus collected, with the Defence Fund or the Prime Minister's Relief Fund;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures taken to compel the State Governments to deposit the amount, thus collected, with the relevant funds maintained by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (e) In the wake of the Kargil conflict, contributions were received from individuals associations, public and private institutions etc. An amount of Rs. 508.62 crore was received in the National Defence Fund (NDF) and Rs. 291 crore in the Army Central Welfare Fund (ACWF). Government do not have information about the funds collected by various State Governments except two. The Gujarat Government has informed that Rs. 22.73 crore was collected in the Chief Minister's Relief Fund during the Kargil conflict. Similarly, the Government of Madhya Pradesh has informed that Rs. 12.85 crore was received in Kargil Mukhya Mantri Kosh.

2. As per information received from the Government of Gujarat out of Rs. 22.73 crore collected in the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, Rs. 5 crore was contributed to the ACWF and Rs. 1.33 crore was spent for providing death relief and welfare facilities to the families of Army personnel belonging to the State of Gujarat. The State Government has also reported to have prepared a comprehensive package to provide various benefits to the Army personnel belonging to Gujarat.

3. The Government of Madhya Pradesh have informed that out of funds collected by the State Government, the families of the soldiers killed in war or war like operations would be paid an ex-gratia amount of Rs. 10 lakhs each. An amount of Rs. 1.10 crore has already been paid to the families of 11 officers/soldiers. The State Government has also decided to pay an ex-gratia amount of Rs. 10 lakhs to the disabled soldiers with 100% disability and proportionately reduce ex-gratia amount for lesser disability.

4. From the NDF, an amount of Rs. 64.65 crore has been provided to the Army Headquarters and an amount of Rs. 35 lakhs has been provided to the Air Force Headquarters for giving various benefits to the families of

soldiers killed in Kargil Operation or disabled out of service. The contribution received in the ACWF are used for rehabilitation and welfare of the families of the deceased soldiers or personnel invalidated out of service during various operations.

5. It is not possible to compel the State Governments or the other private organisations to deposit the funds collected by them in the NDF or the ACWF.

#### Import of Railway Spare Parts

\*179. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :

SHRI ANIL BASU :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent on import of railway spare parts, coaches, locomotives and other related materials during 1999-2000; item-wise;

(b) the volume of orders placed on the Public Sector Manufacturing Units in the country during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01 so far, unit-wise;

(c) whether the volume of orders placed on the Public Sector Manufacturing Units is coming down over the years; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA

BANERJEE) : (a) Indian Railways have not made any substantial fresh commitments for imports of spare parts etc. since the third quarter of the Year 1999-2000. However, in continuation of the earlier commitments, the amount spent on import of Railways spare parts, coaches, locomotives and other related materials during 1999-2000 is as under :-

(Rs. in Crores)

S.No.	Group of Items	Value of Import (1999-2000)
1.	Diesel Loco items	64.61
2.	Electric Loco items	49.82
3.	Coaches	24.50
4.	Rails	327.00
5.	Track Machines	65.80
6.	Wheels	105.90
7.	Spares for Cranes	7.24
8.	Bearings	2.30
9.	Other items	21.33
Total		668.50

(b) Volume of order placed on various Public Sector Manufacturing Units during 1998-99, 1999-2000 & 2000-2001 (upto June, 2000) is as under :-

(Rs. in Crores)

S.No.	Name of PSUs	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001 only for three months i.e. (April-June 2000)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Indian Oil Corporation	1156.45	1215.67	585.27
2.	Bharat Petroleum Corporation	170.33	158.97	42.54
3.	Hindustan Petroleum Corpn.	152.21	136.71	57.28
4.	Balmer Lawrie	9.85	9.16	0.07
5.	Steel Authority of India Ltd.	1266.9	1252.4	1456.58
6.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.	274.45	413.32	96.05
7.	Bharat Earth Movers Limited	110.51	75.3	24.29



1	2	3	4	5
8.	Jessops	29.39	24.16	30.89*
9.	Braithwaite	0	46.03	46.93*
10.	Bharat Wagons	0	28.76	37.71*
11.	Southern Structurals	0	5.87	7.60*
12.	Burn Standard	0.5	24.02	85.06*
13.	Bharat Brakes & Valves Ltd.	0.48	0.64	1.01
14.	Heavy Engineering Corpn.	18.62	29.68	0.08
15.	Balco	4.87	3.24	0.74
16.	Richardson & Crudas	0	7.74	-
17.	Bridge & Roof	0	0	6.46*
18.	National Textiles Corporation	1.24	1.04	-⊙
19.	Hindustan Prefab Limited	0	11.12	-\$
20.	Ordnance factories	1.83	1.39	2.27
21.	Others PSUs	78.37	151.89	46.06
<b>Total</b>		<b>3276</b>	<b>3597.1</b>	<b>2526.9</b>

\*The orders for wagons on these PSUs have been placed on 31.3.2000.

⊙ The tender for the year 2000-2001 yet to be finalised.

\$ The tender for the year 2000-2001 is yet to be issued.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### British Expertise in Power Sector

\*180. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Britain and India have signed Memorandum of Understanding for greater cooperation in power sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the Government of United Kingdom have agreed to help, assist and co-operate with India in power sector; and

(d) the details of the power projects that will be undertaken with the help of UK?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGLAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

#### Draining out of Sulphuric Acid by Cordite Factory

1733. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Cordite Factory in Arvankadu, Ooty in Tamil Nadu is draining out the sulphuric acid instead of selling it;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial steps proposed to be taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) No, Sir. Cordite Factory, Aruvankadu is recycling sulphuric acid for its own use.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

#### **New Power Projects**

1734. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the new projects sanctioned by the Central Electricity Authority;

(b) the details of resources from which the funds are mobilised; and

(c) the details of the power demanded by the North Eastern States at their peak hours and off peak hours?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) A list of new projects which were accorded Techno-Economic Clearance (TEC) by Central Electricity Authority since 1987 is given in enclosed statement.

(b) Funds are mobilised through budgetary support market borrowings (both domestic and external), retained earnings, suppliers credit, private equity etc. Some projects are also financed through bilateral/multilateral agencies like Asian Development Bank, World Bank, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

(c) The total demand for power varies according to the time of day/hour. The maximum peak demand and minimum off peak demand (from the grid) State-wise, during the month of July 2000 are given below:

S.No.	State	Max. Peak Demand (MW)	Minimum off Peak Demand (MW)
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	25	12
2.	Assam	520	300
3.	Manipur	73	42
4.	Meghalaya	96	53
5.	Mizoram	45	23
6.	Nagaland	44	22
7.	Tripura	135	52

#### **Statement**

*Details of Schemes given techno-economic clearance by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) since 1987*

S. No.	Name of the project	Installed capacity (MW)	Date of CEA Clearance
1	2	3	4
1.	Kol Dam HEP (H.P.)	4x200	16.5.2000 (Transferred to NTPC)
2.	Baspa St. II HEP (H.P.)	3x100	29.4.94 & 21.1.98
3.	Chamera St. II (H.P.)	3x100	27.5.98 & 23.7.98
4.	Malana HEP (H.P.)	2x43	27.7.98 & 24.9.99
5.	Parbati St. II HEP (H.P.)	4x200	12.10.1999 (Transferred to NHPC)
6.	Larji HEP (H.P.)	3x42	14.1.2000
7.	Parnai HEP (J & K)	3x12.5	27.11.92
8.	Sawalkot HEP (J & K)	3x200	13.1.93
9.	Baglihar HEP (J & K)	3x150	14.3.91
10.	S.Y.L. HEP (Punjab)	2x18-2x7	18.12.87
11.	Tehri Dam St. II HEP (U.P.)	4x250	10.10.88
12.	Anpara C TPS (U.P.)	2x500	9.8.96
13.	Rishand STPP St.II (UP)	2x500	22.7.99 & 1.10.99
14.	Vishnuprayag HEP (U.P.)	4x100	30.6.97
15.	Rosa TPP Ph.I (U.P.)	2x283.5	19.9.97
16.	Aurlaya CCGT St. II (U.P.)	650	30.11.98
17.	Srinagar HEP (U.P.)	330	14.6.2000
18.	Maneri Bhali HEP St. II (U.P.)	4x76	21.2.2000

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
19.	Kawas CCGT St. II (Guj)	650	1.5.98	42.	Khandwa CCGT (M.P.)	171.17	29.5.98
20.	Gandhi Nagar TPS U-5 (Guj.)	1x210	14.6.94 & 29.5.98	43.	Sipat STPP-I (M.P.)	3x660	17.1.2000
21.	Jhanor Gandhar CCGT St.II (Guj)	650	16.10.98	44.	Korba (East) TPS (M.P.)	2x535	30.12.96
22.	Paguthan CCGT (Guj.)	654.7	25.11.93	45.	Patalganga CCGT (Mah.)	447	22.1.98
23.	Wanakobri Extn. U-7 (Guj.)	1x210	12.12.97	46.	Dabhol CCGT (Mah.)	2015	26.11.93
24.	Hazira CCGT (Guj.)	515	8.8.95	47.	Bhadravati (Mah.)	2x536	29.12.94
25.	Baroda Petrochemical CPP (Guj.)	167	30.10.95	48.	Parli TPS Extn. St. I. (Mah.)	1x250	9.7.99
26.	Surat Lignite TPP (Guj.)	2x125	26.8.96	49.	Ramagundam TPS (A.P.)	2x260	29.5.97
27.	Jamnagar TPP (Guj.)	2x250	25.5.99	50.	Krishnapatnam TPS (A.P.)	2x260	16.6.98
28.	Akrimota TPP (Guj.)	2x125	6.9.99	51.	Ramagundam TPP (A.P.)	1x500	18.11.98
29.	Bina TPS (M.P.)	2x289	17.6.97	52.	Vemagiri CCGT (A.P.)	492	14.1.99
30.	Narsinghpur CCGT (M.P.)	166	27.6.97	53.	Jegurupadu CCGT (A.P.)	216	25.11.93
31.	Korba West TPP (M.P.)	2x210	12.9.97	54.	Priyadarshini Jurals HEP (A.P.)	6x36.9	10.3.92
32.	Pench TPP (M.P.)	2x250	19.9.97	55.	Godavari CCGT (A.P.)	208	3.1.94
33.	Guna CCGT (M.P.)	347.25	19.9.97 & 22.7.98	56.	Nagarjunasagar HEP (A.P.)	2x25	10.11.94
34.	Bhilai TPP (M.P.)	2x287	3.10.97	57.	Vishkahapatanam (A.P.)	2x520	25.7.96
35.	Raigarh TPP Ph.I (M.P.)	2x275	17.11.97	58.	Ramagundam TPP (A.P.)	2x260	26.6.97
36.	Bhander CCGT (M.P.)	342	5.3.98	59.	Kondapalli CCPP (A.P.)	350	22.1.98 & 9.12.98
37.	Pithampur DGPP (M.P.)	119.7	10.2.98	60.	Sarapadi HEP (Kar.)	3x30	4.12.90
38.	Ratlam DGPP (M.P.)	118.63	10.2.98	61.	Raichur St. II (Kar.)	2x210	19.12.95
39.	Marikheda HEP (M.P.)	2x20	23.4.94	62.	Toranagallu TPS (Kar.)	2x210	22.3.96 & 27.3.99
40.	Maheshwar HEP (M.P.)	10x40	30.12.96	63.	Mangalore TPS (Kar.)	4x250	10.7.96
41.	Omkareshwar HEP Multipurpose (M.P.)	8x65	14.12.93				

1	2	3	4
64.	Nagarjuna TPP (Kar.)	2x507.5	29.4.99
65.	Kanininke CCPP (Kar.)	107.6	20.9.99
66.	Adirapally HEP (Kerala)	2x80	22.4.96
67.	Vypean CCGT (Kerala)	679	25.9.98
68.	Kannur CCGT (Kerala)	513	16.2.2000
69.	Neyveli TPS (T.N.)	250	19.8.98 & 3.11.99
70.	Pillaiperumalnallur (T.N.)	330.5	24.11.95 & 7.12.98
71.	North Madras St. II (T.N.)	2x525	3.4.96
72.	Basin Bridge DGPP (T.N.)	4x50	10.7.96 & 18.6.97
73.	Samayanallur DGPP (T.N.)	106	10.2.98
74.	Samalpatti DGPP (T.N.)	106	10.2.98 & 24.12.99
75.	North Madras TPS St. III (TN)	1x525	31.7.98
76.	Cuddalore TPP (T.N.)	2x660	13.8.99
76a.	Tuticorin TPP St. IV (T.N.)	525	31.7.97
77.	Vember CCPP (T.N.)	1873	24.9.99
78.	Balagarh (W.B.)	2x250	16.8.95
79.	Farakka Barrage HEP (W.B.)	5x25	11.11.91

1	2	3	4
80.	Bakreshwar TPP U-4 & 5 (W.B)	2x210	23.6.98
81.	Gouripore TPP (W.B.)	1x150	19.4.99
82.	Teesta St. III HEP (Sikkim)	6x200	4.12.90
83.	Kameng HEP (Ar. Pr.)	4x150	30.4.91
84.	Dhaleshwari HEP (Mizoram)	3x40	10.10.88
85.	Tuivai HEP (Mizoram)	3x70	19.2.99
86.	Jojobera TPP (Bihar)	2x120	17.12.97 & 17.12.98
87.	Talcher STPP St. II (Orissa)	4x500	5.9.97
88.	Ib Valley TPP (Orissa)	2x250	26.2.99
89.	Duburi TPP (Orissa)	2x250	29.4.99
90.	Leimakhong DG Plant (Manipur)	6x6	16.10.97
91.	Loktak HEP (Manipur)	3x30	25.2.99
92.	Dholpur CCGT (Raj.)	702.7	12.3.98
93.	Barsingsar Lignite TPP (Raj.)	2x250	20.4.98
94.	Anta II CCGT (Raj.)	650	19.8.98
95.	Mathania CCPP (Raj.)	140	27.8.99
96.	Myntdu St. I HEP (Megh.)	2x42	20.9.99
97.	Karaikal CCGT (Pond.)	32.5	12.7.99
98.	Pragati CCGT (Delhi)	330	10.2.2000

#### LPG Through Pipeline in Tamil Nadu

1735. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to supply LPG through pipelines to customers in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The Gas Authority of India Limited proposes to lay a 670 K.M. long pipeline from Mangalore (Karnataka) to Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu) via Mysore with a connectivity to Bangalore (Karnataka) to transport 1.1 million tonnes per

annum (MMTPA) of liquified petroleum gas (LPG) in bulk to the mother Bottling plants of the Oil Companies for further supply in bottles to the consumers. The estimated cost of the project is approximately Rs. 600 crores and the project is expected to be completed within 36 months from the date of its approval.

#### Review of Private Power Projects

1736. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the progress of private power projects;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the private projects cleared by the Central Electricity Authority, location-wise and company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The progress of private sector power projects is being reviewed from time to time at different levels through interaction with the respective State Governments/State Electricity Boards and financial institutions, etc.

(b) As per available information, 24 private sector power projects having a total installed capacity of around 5000 MW have already been commissioned, which include some projects not requiring the concurrence of the Central Electricity Authority (CEA). Nineteen projects having a capacity of around 5300 MW including those not requiring the concurrence of the CEA, are presently under construction.

(c) Till date, a total of 57 private sector power projects have been accorded techno-economic clearance by the CEA. The requisite details are given in enclosed statement.

#### Statement

##### *Power Projects Accorded Techno-economic Clearance by Central Electricity Authority*

S.No.	Name of the Project	CAP (MW)	Location
1	2	3	4
<b>Himachal Pradesh</b>			
1.	Baspa Stage-II HEP (M/s. Jaiprakash Hydro Power Ltd.)	300	Kinnaur
2.	Malana HEP (M/s Malana Power Co. Ltd.)	86	Kullu
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>			
3.	Vishnuprayag HEP (M/s. Jaiprakash Power Venture Ltd.)	400	Chamoli
4.	Rosa TPP (M/s. Indo-Gulf Fertilizers & Chemicals Corpn.Ltd.)	567	Shahjahanpur
5.	Srinagar HEP (M/s Duncans North Hydro Power Co. Ltd.)	330	Pauri Garhwal
<b>Rajasthan</b>			
6.	Dholpur CCGT (M/s RPG Dholpur Power Co. Ltd.)	702.7	Dholpur
7.	Barsingsar TPP (M/s. Hindustan Vidyut Corporation Ltd.)	500	Bikaner
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>			
8.	Maheshwar HEP (M/s. Shree Maheshwar Hydel Power Corpn. Ltd.)	400	Khargone
9.	Korba (East) TPP (M/s. Daewoo Power)	1070	Bilaspur
10.	Bina TPP (M/s. Bina Power Supply Co. Ltd.)	578	Sagar
11.	Narsinghpur CCPP (M/s GBL Power India Ltd.)	166	Narsinghpur

1	2	3	4
12.	Korba (West) Extn. (M/s. India Thermal Power Ltd.)	420	Bilaspur
13.	Guna CCGT (M/s. STI Power India Ltd.)	330	Guna
14.	Pench TPP (M/s. Pench Power Ltd.)	500	Chindwara
15.	Bhilai TPP (M/s. Bhilai Power Supply Comp.)	574	Durg
16.	Raigarh TPP (M/s. Jindal Power Ltd.)	550	Raigarh
17.	Bhandar CCGT (M/s Bhandar Power Co. Ltd.)	342	Bhandar
18.	Pithampur DGPP (M/s. Shapoorji Pallonji Power Co. Ltd.)	119.7	Dhar
19.	Ratlam DGPP (M/s. G.V.K. Power Ratlam Ltd.)	118.63	Ratlam
20.	Khandwa CCGT (M/s. Madhya Bharat Energy Corp. Ltd.)	171.17	East Nimar
<b>Gujarat</b>			
21.	Paguthan CCGT (M/s Gujarat Power Gen. Energy Corp.)	654.7	Bharuch
22.	Hazira CCGT (M/s. Essar Power Ltd.)	515.0	Surat
23.	Baroda CCGT (M/s. Gujarat Industries Power Corporation Ltd.)	167.0	Baroda
24.	Surat Lignite TPP (M/s. Gujarat Industries Power Corporation Ltd.)	250.0	Surat
25.	Jamnagar TPP (M/s. Reliance Power Ltd.)	500.0	Jamanagar
<b>Maharashtra</b>			
26.	Dabhol CCGT (M/s. Dabhol Central Power Co. Of M/s. Enron)	2015	Ratnagiri
27.	Bhardravati TPS (M/s. Power Co. Ltd.)	1072	Chandrapur
28.	Patalganga CCGT (M/s. Reliance Patalganga Power)	447.1	Raigarh
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>			
29.	Jegurupadu CCGT (M/s. GVK Industries)	216	East Godavari
30.	Godavari CCGT (M/s. Specturam Tech.)	208	East Godavari
31.	Vizag TPS (M/s. Hinduja National Power Corp. Ltd.)	1040	Visakhapatnam
32.	Ramagundam Extn. (M/s. BPL Power Projects (A.P.) Ltd.)	520	Karimnagar
33.	Kondapally CCGT (Kondapally Power Corpn. Ltd.)	350	Krishna
34.	Krishnapatnam 'B' TPP (BBI Power Krishnapatnam Co.)	520	Nellore
35.	Vemagiri CCGT (Ispat Power Limited)	492	East Godavari
<b>Karnataka</b>			
36.	Toranagallu TPS (M/s. Jindal Tractebel Power Co. Ltd.)	260	Bellari
37.	Mangalore TPS (M/s. Mangalore Power Co. of M/s. Cogentix)	1013.2	South Canara
38.	Nagarjuna TPS (M/s. Nagarjuna Power Corporation Ltd.)	1015	Udupi
39.	Kaniminke (Bangalore CCGP) M/s. Peenya Power Co.)	107.6	Bangalore

1	2	3	4
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>			
40	Neyveli TPS-Zero Unit (Ms. ST-CMS Electric Co.)	250	South Arcot
41.	Pillaiperumainallur CCGT (M/s. PPN Power Co.)	330.5	Thanjavur
42.	North Madras TPS-II (M/s. Videocon Power Ltd.)	1050	M.G.R.
43.	Basin Bridge DGPP (M/s. GMR Vasavi Power Corp. Ltd.)	200	Chennai
44.	Tuticorin TPP St. IV (M/s. SPIC Electric Power Corp. Ltd.)	525	Chidambaranar
45.	Samayanallur DGPP (M/s Balaji Power Corp. Co. Ltd.)	106	Madurai
46.	Samalpatti DGPP (M/s. Samalpatti Power Co.)	106	Dharampur
47.	North Madras TPP (M/s. Tri-Sakthi Energy Private Limited)	525	M.G.R.
48.	Cuddalore TPP (M/s. Cuddalore Power Company)	1320	Cuddalore
49.	Vembar CCGT (M/s. India Power Projects Limited)	1873	Ramanathapuram
<b>Kerala</b>			
50	Vypeen CCGT (M/s Siasin Energy Pvt. Ltd.)	679.2	Ernakulam
51.	Kannur CCGT (M/s. Kannur Power Projects Ltd.)	513	Kannur
<b>Orissa</b>			
52.	Ib Valley TPS (Units 5 & 6) AES IB Valley Corp. Ltd.)	500	Jharsuguda
53.	Duburi TPP Units 1 & 2 (Kalinga Power Corporation)	500	Jajpur
<b>West Bengal</b>			
54.	Balagarh TPS (M/s. Balagarh Power Com.)	500	Hoogly
55.	Bakreshwar TPP (Bakreshwar Power Gen. Co. Ltd.)	420	Birbhum
56.	Gouripore TPP (Gouripore Power Company)	150	North 24 Pargana
<b>Bihar</b>			
57.	Jojobera TPP (M/s. Jamshedpur Power Co.)	240	Jamshedpur

#### **Task Force on Fertilizer Feed Stock Policy**

1737. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have constituted a Task Force to have a relook at the Fertilizer Feed Stock Policy to achieve the foodgrain target;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the composition and terms and references thereof; and

(d) the time by which the Task Force will complete its assigned work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) :

(a) and (b) Government have constituted a Task Force on 7th March 2000 under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Fertilizers consisting of the representatives of Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Power, Fertilizer Association of India, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Projects & Development India Ltd. etc. to explore the possibility of coal based technology for fertilizer sector.

(c) The terms of reference of the Task Force include exploring the possibility of using coal and coal bed methane for use in fertilizer sector, formulation of policy and action plan for development of coal based capacity addition and to examine the incentives required for development of R & D and possibility of creating a fund for financing R & D activities of coal based technology.

(d) The Task Force has been asked to submit its report by 31st August 2000.

[Translation]

**Production of Cotton Textiles**

1738. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a gradual decline in the production of cotton textiles in the country during the last few years;

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

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to bring the production at its previous level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) The production of cotton cloth in the country fluctuated during the last four years. The details of production of cotton cloth during the last few years are given below :-

Year	Cotton cloth production (Million Square Mtr.)
1996-97	19841
1997-98	19992
1998-99	17948
1999-2000	18989

The productions of cotton cloth, largely depends on availability and prices of raw cotton as raw material, cost of other inputs, demand in the domestic and international markets and imports.

(c) In order to improve the production of cotton textiles in the country, the government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) to improve the production, productivity and quality of cotton, ensuring the availability of quality cotton to the textile mills. For modernisation of textile and jute industries including cotton textile industries, the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been launched w.e.f., 1.4.99 for a period of 5 years. A chain of textile testing laboratories have been set up to help industry in assessing the quality of textiles. For import of capital goods, the Export Promotion of Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme has been simplified. Import of cotton is also under OGL to help industry to import requisite quality of raw cotton.

[English]

**Construction of Fly Over at Kollam**

1739. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for constructing flyover at level crossing in Kollam, Kerala;

(b) if so, the total estimated amount of money required for the purpose;

(c) the criteria followed by Railways for construction of fly over at level crossings;

(d) whether the Government of Kerala has deposited money for this purpose; and

(e) if so, details thereof?

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

(b) Rs. 214 lakhs for Railway portion.

(c) Railways undertake construction of Road Over/Under Bridges in lieu of existing level crossings on cost sharing basis or on deposit terms depending upon the density of traffic at the level crossing. Proposals for Road Over/Under Bridges are sponsored by the State Governments concerned duly fulfilling certain preliminary pre-requisites. When the traffic density at the level crossing is one lakh or more TVUs' (train vehicle units), works are taken up on cost sharing basis otherwise on "deposit terms" at the cost of sponsoring Authority. This condition of minimum TVUs for cost sharing is relaxed in case of level crossings located in busy Station yard and on suburban section where frequency of Train services is high.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Rs. 73.4 lakhs has been deposited with Railways by Chief Engineer, National Highways, Truvanthapuram.

[Translation]

**Integrated Energy Policy**

1740. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government in view the high work capacity equal distribution and utilisation and environment conservation have formulated an integrated energy policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Government propose to declare this proposed policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) A Committee to formulate the Energy Policy was constituted by Planning Commission in 1995. The report of the Committee is being finalised. The time frame for implementing the recommendations made by the Committee can be assessed only after receipt of the report.



**Construction of ROBs/RUBs in Rajasthan**

1741. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of proposals for construction of road over bridges and road under bridges at various railway stations/railways lines in Rajasthan pending with the Union Government;
- (b) the number of representations received by the Government in this regard and names of places where these road over bridges and road under bridges are proposed to be constructed;
- (c) the criteria fixed by the Railways in regard to construction of such bridges;
- (d) whether the Government have made estimate for the construction of these bridges;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) the reasons for not bearing total expenditure by Railways in public interest in case the State Governments are not in a position to bear their due share;
- (g) whether the Government are aware that there is a demand for a long time to construct road over bridges and road under bridges in Kishangarh and Vijay Nagar in Ajmer district;
- (h) if so, the details thereof; and
- (i) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No firm proposal, where all preliminary pre-requisites have been completed and which was sponsored by the State Government, is pending for sanction with the Union Government. However, a reference was made by the State Government in the year 1997 for construction of Road Over Bridge at Paliwar and at Basni. Details were furnished by the Railways, but State Government did not pursue the matter further.

(b) Few representations have been received from the public representatives for construction of Road Over bridges at various locations in Rajasthan namely, Barmer Basni, Balotra, Ratangarh, Suratgarh, Kishangarh, Vijay Nagar, Abu Road, Sirhi Road, Ranapratap Nagar, Kota, Jaipur etc. But firm proposals have not been sponsored by the State Government in this regard.

(c) Railways undertake construction of Road Over/Under Bridges in lieu of existing level crossings on cost sharing basis or on deposit terms depending upon the density of traffic at the level crossing. Proposals are sponsored by the State Governments concerned duly fulfilling certain preliminary pre-requisites. When the traffic density at the level crossing is one lakh or more TVU's

(train vehicle units), works are taken up on cost sharing basis, otherwise on "deposit terms" at the cost of sponsoring Authority. This requirement of minimum traffic level is relaxed in case of level crossings located in busy Station yard and on suburban section where frequency of Train services is high.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Construction of Road Over/Under Bridges is mainly necessitated due to increase in road traffic and the major beneficiary is the Road Authority. There is also resource crunch due to which the Railways are unable to meet with the huge requirement of funds for this purpose. Cost sharing by the State Government, as they are the major beneficiaries, is therefore, justified and is based on the provisions contained in the Indian Railway Act.

(g) Yes, Sir.

(h) and (i) Road Over Bridge at Kishangarh in lieu of level crossing No. 28 (Rupangarh Road) is justified on cost sharing basis. Regarding Road Over Bridge at Vijay Nagar in lieu of level crossing No. 41, Railway can take up the work on 'Deposit terms' as the traffic density at the level crossing is less than one lakh TVUs. State Government has not yet sponsored the proposals in regard to replacement of these level crossings with Road Over/Under bridges.

**Construction of Platform No. 2 at Rajgarh Railway Station**

1742. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the platform number 2 of Rajgarh railway station is temporarily erected structure and besides this it's height is very low which is causing inconvenience to the commuters;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Platforms are provided at stations as per norms based on the category of the station. Rajgarh is an 'E' Category station and is provided with rail level moomur surfaced platforms, which are adequate as per norms laid down. There is no temporarily erected platform at this station.

[English]

**Reservation Problems Faced by Kerala Bound Passengers**

1743. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Kerala bound passengers are facing lot of problems in getting reservation during the summer season; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to mitigate the difficulties of the public?

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

#### Performance of Mejia Thermal Power Project

1744. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Mejia Thermal Power Project is giving better performance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the recruitment is being made through the employment exchange; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Mejia Thermal Power Station of Damodar Valley Corporation located in Bankura District of West Bengal consists of three units. Unit-1 started commercial operation w.e.f. of three 1.12.1997, Unit-2 from 15.3.1999 and Unit - 3 from 28.9.1999. The present performance of the Mejia Thermal Power Station is satisfactory. The details of performance of the Mejia Thermal Power Station for the year 1999-2000 are furnished below :

Unit No.	Generation (MU)	Hours available for generation	Capacity Utilisation on available hours
Unit-1	842.155	5762	69.60
Unit-2	1030.778	6591	74.47
Unit-3	246.060	-	-

(c) Yes, Sir. Requisitions are sent to approved Employment Exchanges located within the DVC project area for sponsoring names of candidates fulfilling requisite job requirement for Group 'B' and 'C' categories. Simultaneously advertisements are also made in the newspapers.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Concession to Open-End Spinning Units

1745. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the open-end spinning units are facing tough competition with ring spinning units; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the concessions the Government propose to extend to open-end spinning units to make them viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) These two are of two different technologies producing generally yarns for different end uses. There cannot be said to be competition between the two generally. The question of giving concessions hence does not arise.

#### Diversion of Kargil Fund by Gujarat

1746. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 5993 on May 4, 2000 regarding Diversion of Kargil Fund by Gujarat Government and state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has since sent a detailed report as asked for by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which Report is likely to be received?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) As per information received from Government of Gujarat, the State Government had not instituted any 'Kargil Fund' and that an appeal was issued by the Chief Minister during the Kargil conflict for contribution to Chief Minister's Relief Fund only. During this period a total amount of Rs. 22.73 crores was collected in the CM's Relief Fund. Out of that amount, a sum of Rs. 5 crores was contributed to the Army Central Welfare Fund. Another Amount of Rs. 1.33 crores has been spent for providing death relief and welfare facilities to the Army personnel belonging to the State of Gujarat. Government of Gujarat has also prepared a comprehensive package for Army personnel belonging to Gujarat which provide for the following benefits:

(a) Financial assistance of Rs. 5 lakhs each to the legal heirs of the Jawans of Gujarat State who lost their life in Kargil Sector.

(b) Rs. lakhs for every martyr from Gujarat who died from 1971 Indo-Pak war upto 1999 in various Army Actions.

(c) Rs. 2000/- per month as scholarship to sons and daughters of Kargil martyrs.

(d) Rs. 1000/- monthly payment of relief to old mothers and fathers of Kargil martyrs.

- (e) Free education to sons and daughters of Kargil martyrs. The expenditure will be reimbursed from donations received for welfare of Army personnel of Gujarat.
- (f) Relief of Rs. 2 lakhs for house building to Kargil martyrs' family.
- (g) Allotment of land to family members of Kargil martyrs as per existing pattern.
- (h) Compassionate appointment to one of the family members of Kargil martyrs in Government job.

#### **Increase of Power Tariff in Agriculture**

1747. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the power tariff in agriculture sector;

(b) if so, whether the Government are also considering to split the monolithic State Electricity Boards; and

(c) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The tariff for sale of electricity to different categories of consumers including for agriculture sector is fixed by the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) with the approval of the concerned State Governments. With a view to rationalising electricity tariff and having transparent policies regarding subsidies etc., the Govt. of India have enacted the Electricity Regulatory Commission Act, 1998 enabling the State Governments to constitute State Electricity Regulatory Commissions who empowered to determine the tariff for sale of electricity. The Act provides that the Commission while fixing tariff will be guided by various principles which include inter-alia that the tariff progressively reflects the cost of supply of electricity at an adequate and improved level of efficiency.

(b) and (c) So far, SEBs of Orissa, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan have been corporatised into separate companies for generation, transmission and distribution through their State Reforms Acts. There is a proposal for introducing a comprehensive new Electricity Bill which would facilitate reforms, do away with the statutory requirement of having a State Electricity Board and would provide for corporatisation/unbundling of the State Electricity Boards into separate company/companies.

[Translation]

#### **Doubling and Electrification of Garwa Road-Chaupan Rail Route**

1748. SHRI BRIJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government for doubling and electrification of rail route from Garwa Road to Chaupan under Eastern Railway; and

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

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

(b) Doubling of single line sections is taken up when their carrying capacity is saturated. The traffic on the suggested section has not yet reached the level to justify its doubling. Doubling of the section will be considered once the traffic warrants the same, subject to availability of resources.

As far as electrification of the section is concerned, due to constraint of resources and relative priority for electrification of other high density routes, there is at present no proposal to electrify Garwa Road-Chaupan section.

[English]

#### **Backlog of Vacancies Reserved for SCs/STs**

1749. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee recommended to fill up the backlog of vacancies reserved for SCs/STs during 1993;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon since 1993 and results achieved thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of vacancies reserved for SCs/STs lying vacant as on January 1, 1993 in Class I, II, III and IV category under the Ministry of Power and its autonomous/statutory/attached offices; and

(e) the details of backlog of vacancies reserved for the SCs/STs in Class I, II, III and IV categories as on August 29, 1997?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) No, Sir. Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebration Committee only suggested the methodology to be adopted in situations

where the backlog is very high and adequate number of candidates from the reserved communities with the prescribed qualification are not available. The methodology was to relax the minimum qualification and to make provision for giving them special training to enable them to perform their functions effectively.

(b) and (c) It would not be possible to give relaxation in the basic academic qualification as it is against the spirit of Article 235 of the Constitution.

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

[Translation]

#### Adulteration of H.S.D.

1750. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether several companies got themselves registered to import/buy high speed diesel and other petro-products to prepare paint and other solvents but sell the imported products in the open market fraudulently;

(b) if so, the details of such companies;

(c) the names of the officers who were found in nexus with these companies; and

(d) the action taken against such officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) Some customers who were obtaining petroleum products on concessional sales tax basis are alleged to have been diverting these products for the purpose other than the intended use thereby evading sales tax. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case in the matter on 23rd May, 2000 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

#### Setting up of Power Projects in M.P.

1751. SHRI VISHNUDEO SAI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the areas where permission has been granted for setting up the power projects in private sector in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the installed capacity of the proposed power projects in Raigarh district;

(c) the details of projects which are still pending; and

(d) the action being taken for giving permission for the remaining power projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) Details of the schemes for setting up power projects in Madhya Pradesh, (including the Raigarh Thermal Power Project (550 MW) in Raigarh district being promoted by M/s. Jindal Power Limited) which have been accorded techno-economic clearance by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) are given below :

S.No.	Name of the Project/District	Cap (MW)
1.	Maheshwar HEP (M/s. S. Kumars Ltd.), Kharbone	400
2.	Korba (East) TPP (M/s. Daewoo Power), Korba	1070
3.	Bina TPP (M/s. Bina Power Supply Co. Ltd.), Sagar	578
4.	Narsinghpur CCPP (M/s. GBL Power), Narsingpur	186
5.	Korba (West) Extn. TPP (M/s. ITPL) Korba	420
6.	Guna CCGT (M/s. STI Power Ltd.), Guna	330
7.	Pench TPP (M/s. Pench Power Ltd.) Chhindwara	500
8.	Bhilai TPP (M/s. Bhilai Power Supply Comp.), Durg	574
9.	Raigarh TPP (M/s. Jindal Power Ltd.), Raigarh	550
10.	Bhander CCGT (M/s. Bhandar Power Ltd.), Datia	342
11.	Pithampur DGPP (M/s. Shapoorji Pallonji Power Co. Ltd.), Dhar	119.7
12.	Ratlam DGPP (M/s. GVK Power (Ratlam) Ltd.), Ratlam	118.63
13.	Khandwa CCGT (M/s. Madhya Bharat Energy Crop. Ltd.), Khandwa	171.17

The Detailed Project Reports received from M/s. Alpine Power Systems Limited for the Raigarh CCPP (343.48 MW) in District Raigarh and by M/s. Kedia Power Limited for the Jhabua CCPP (360 MW) in District Jhabua will be taken up for techno-economic appraisal by Central Electricity Authority after the requisite inputs/linkages/clearnaces are tied up by the project promoters.

[English]

#### Enron Project

1752. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the capital cost of Enron Project phase-II is unduly high even taking US \$ at Rs. 32 or so;

(b) if so, the ultimate cost/MW;

(c) the details of the ultimate tariff, total power supply and its effect on revenues of Maharashtra State Electricity Board;

(d) whether such burden be sustained by MSEB without Central subsidy or directly linking costly power to those who want reliable supply; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) has informed that the capital cost of Dabhol Power Project (phase-II) promoted by Enron is US \$ 1581 million including cost of regas terminal.

(b) As informed by MSEB, the cost per MW for the Phase-II project works out to Rs. 3.39 crores considering 1 US \$ = Rs. 32.00.

(c) Commissioning of Phase-II is scheduled in January, 2002 with Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and, therefore, it is not possible to indicate the ultimate tariff, which will eventually depend on a number of factors prevailing at that point of time. However, as informed by MSEB in 2002, the capacity charge of 2184 MW with regas charge works out to Rs. 1.71 per unit considering dollar rate at Rs. 42, US inflation at 3.5% per annum and Indian inflation at 9% per annum with base year of 1999. Energy charge is to be worked out on the basis of the number of unit purchased, variable O & M and cost of LNG prevailing at that time. With LNG cost of year 2000, energy charges in the year 2002, is likely to be Rs. 2.30 per unit. 17219 million units will be available for despatch by MSEB in a year on 90% PLF (Plant Load Factor) basis and therefore total tariff is likely to be Rs. 4.01 per unit. As regards to effect on revenues of MSEB, MSEB have informed that they will be able to collect sufficient revenues from the

consumers and will pay the bills of Dabhol Power Company.

(d) and (e) MSEB have informed that they will sustain such burden without Government subsidy. It has further been informed that with the projected industrial growth in Maharashtra State, and the projected demand thereof, the entire power from Dabhol Power Project will be consumed.

[Translation]

#### Visits to Foreign Countries

1753. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chairmen, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd., (H.P.C.L.), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (B.P.C.L.) and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (I.O.C.L.) und took several visits to foreign countries during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount spent on their visits yearwise; and

(c) the extent to which the respective above mentioned companies have been benefited as a result of their visits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Chairman, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), and Chairmen & Managing Directors of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) have undertaken tours abroad for various purposes which interalia include negotiations and signing of contracts, Memoranda of Collaboration/Agreements etc., to attend International Seminars, Workshops etc. relating to the Oil Sector. The year-wise details of the foreign tours undertaken and the amount spent by each of the above three Chief Executives during the last 3 years are as given below:-

Chief Executive	No. of tours undertaken and amount spent					
	1997		1998		1999	
	No. of trips	Amount Spent	No. of trips	Amount spent	No. of trips	Amount spent
	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chairman, IOCL	9	US\$ 14,533+ actual air fare	8	US\$ 13,026+ Sw/Fr 7000+ actual air fare	8	US\$ 11,285+ air fare
Chairman & Managing Director, HPCL	3	US\$ 6,642+ actual air fare	2	US\$ 3,254 + actual air fare	2	US\$ 5,713+ actual air fare

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chairman & Managing Director, BPCL	3	US\$ 3,934+ actual air fare	3	US\$ 2,118 + actual air fare	1	US\$ 150+ actual air fare

(c) The objectives for which the above tours were undertaken have, by and large, been achieved.

*[English]*

#### **Computerised Reservation**

1754. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open Computerised Reservation System on all major suburban railway stations in Mumbai;

(b) if so, whether local representatives and commuters' organisation have requested to start computerised reservation at Bhandup, Vikhroli and other railway stations;

(c) if so, the action taken thereon;

(d) whether the Government propose to provide computerised season ticket booking system to all suburban railway stations in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action plan and budget provision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) As per the present policy, computerised reservation facility is provided at stations having workload of 200 or more reservation related transactions per day. All such stations have already been covered including major suburban railway stations in Mumbai area.

(b) Bhandup and Vikhroli at present do not qualify for computerised reservations facility as per existing norms. Requests for PRS facility at other railway stations are similarly dealt with as per norms.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Season tickets are issued at a large number of stations in the country including major suburban stations through computerised Self Printing Ticketing Machines (SPTMs). In Mumbai, these tickets are also issued through a dedicated Computer System covering 26 important suburban stations. There is no proposal at present to provide this system at all suburban railway stations in the country.

#### **Use of UAV by Pakistan to Spot Gaps In Indian Defence**

1755. SHRI JITENDRA PRASAD :

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan is reportedly using high altitude Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) to spot gaps in Indian army defences for infiltration of heavily armed mercenaries into J & K;

(b) if so, whether during the last month various UAV sightings have been made by security forces in Palanwala, Sunderbani, Tangdhar, Gurez and Kel sectors along the Line of Control;

(c) if so, whether the detection of UAVs by land based radars had invariably followed heavy shelling by Pakistani troops and under the cover of shelling a bid was made to push large groups of mercenaries across the LoC;

(d) if so, the steps taken to counter the Pakistani attack; and

(e) the extent to which India has been successful to counter the move?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) There have been reports about sighting of flying objects and moving lights during nights in Siachen, Gurez, Kanzalwan, Tangdhar, Naushera sectors during the last two months. From the analysis of these reports, it has been concluded that the sightings at high altitudes are unlikely to be Unmanned Aerial Vehicles. However, no link of these sightings with shelling by Pak troops and pushing in mercenaries has been established.

(d) and (e) A constant watch is maintained on the situation both at the border as well as in the hinterland and all possible measures are taken to frustrate the designs of elements hostile to India.

#### **Construction of Bidar-Gulbarga Rail Line**

1756. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction work of Bidar-Gulbarga Railway line has been started;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the funds allocated therefor during 2000-2001;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the construction work is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) The work of construction of new BG rail line from Bidar to Gulbarga is an approved work which has received the necessary clearances. Presently, the Final Location Survey is in progress. This will be followed by land acquisition and work would be started once the land becomes available.

The outlay provided for the work in Budget at 2000-2001 is Rs. 2.1 crs.

[Translation]

#### Laying of Rail line in NCR

1757. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to connect big towns of Haryana falling under NCR by new superfast trains with Delhi;

(b) if so, whether there has been any demand from the Government of Haryana for laying of new rail lines in this regard; and

(c) if so, the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) There is no such proposal at present. However, introduction of trains including superfast trains is an ongoing process subject to operational feasibility, commercial justification, availability of coaches, etc.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Regularisation of T.T.F.

1758. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways propose to regularise the services of Voluntary Ticket Examiners of Bharatpur in Rajasthan as per the orders of Central Administrative Tribunal;

(b) if so, the time by which these are likely to be regularised; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) Out of 12 candidates, one candidate did not present himself for screening though he was called twice. Hence, 11 candidates have been empanelled for absorption in Group 'D' as Gangmen. Out of 11 candidates, 7 have so far appeared in the Medical Examination and found fit. They will be regularised after Police verification. Efforts will be made to finalise the process as early as possible.

[English]

#### Production of Raffle Shawls

1759. SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Raffle Shawls and Tweed upto 7 counts have been reserved for production by handlooms only under Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985;

(b) if so, whether these are being regularly manufactured on powerlooms in certain States in violation of law;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken against the violators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDARAN) : (a) Raffle Shawls by this name is not reserved under the existing Handloom Reservation Order. However, the Woolen Tweed produced by 100% pure woolen yarn in 3/1 twill weave, in check or stripe designs, irrespective of the count of woolen yarn is reserved for exclusive production on Handlooms.

(b) The State Governments, which are the implementing agencies, under the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 have not reported any violation of the above.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Scheme for Recovering Debts

1760. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved a scheme for recovery of outstanding debts of State Electricity Boards (SEBs) to Central Public Sector Undertakings including the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and Coal India Limited (CIL) on July 31, 2000; and

(b) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Government have recently approved a scheme for securitisation of the dues of the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) towards the CPSUs of the Ministry of Power and Department of Coal. Under this scheme, the concerned SEBs would issue bonds to the CPSUs of the Ministry of Power and the Department of Coal to cover the Principle amount due upto 31.12.1999 or any other mutually accepted date. The other salient features of the schemes are as under :-

- (i) The bonds would be backed by a State Government's guarantee with specific allocations to be made in the concerned State Government's Budget for servicing the bonds in the event of the SEBs being unable to do so.
- (ii) By way of further comfort to the bond holder, the Central Government would undertake to use the existing authorisation to deduct upto 15% of Central Plan allocations of the State concerned for the purpose of redemption of bonds if the State Government is unable to meet the guarantee obligation.
- (iii) The bonds will have tax-free status.
- (iv) With the above features, the bonds are expected to be tradable in the secondary market and the Central PSUs would have the option to recover their money by selling the bonds in the secondary market.
- (v) The above facility of issue of guaranteed tax-free bonds by the SEBs will be available only to those SEBs/ State Governments who agreed to implement a suitable reform package including payment of current dues by the SEB and opening of Letter of credit to the extent of 105% of the current dues; adhering to milestones of reforms formulated by the Minister of Power and the setting up of the State Electricity Regulatory Commission quickly in the concerned States etc.

#### **Reduction In Transmission Charges**

1761. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Power Ministers of North Eastern States have submitted a memorandum to the Union Government in regard to reduction in the transmission charges;
- (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 POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) The North Eastern States had been raising the issue of

reduction in transmission tariff at various forums. Due to weak financial position of the constituent states of the North Eastern Region, the transmission tariff for these states has been pegged at 35 paise per kwh. Which is much less than the transmission tariff to be charged by the POWERGRID as per the norms applicable in other regions. Government of India is considering a proposal to compensate POWERGRID against the revenue loss due to fixation of transmission tariff at 35 paise.

[Translation]

#### **Royalty on Crude Oil**

1762. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have considered to enhance royalty on crude oil;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) With a view to evolve a new Scheme of royalty on crude oil applicable with effect from 1.4.1998, a Committee has been constituted by the Government. Pending introduction of the new Scheme, the provisional rate of royalty fixed from June, 1999 at Rs. 750/- per Metric Tonne (MT), or 20% of well head value of crude oil whichever is less, has been refixed at Rs. 800/- per MT, with the same stipulation, from January, 2000.

[English]

#### **Rail Yatri Niwas at Kanyakumari**

1763. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is proposed to construct Rail Yatri Niwas at Kanyakumari in view of tourism importance;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Although there is no proposal to construct Rail Yatri Niwas at Kanyakumari, setting up of one of the hundred budget hotels to be constructed as per budget announcement 2000-2001, will be considered at Kanyakumari in view of its tourist importance.

#### **Gauge Conversion**

1764. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the metre gauge and narrow gauge rail lines converted into broad gauge during Eighth Five Years Plan and Ninth Five Year Plan and the expenditure incurred on each project zone/State-wise;



(b) the States where gauge conversion has not yet been done; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### Split of SEB of Madhya Pradesh

1765. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any agreement signed by the Government of Madhya Pradesh and the Union Government regarding splitting of State Electricity Board into Corporatised companies for generation, transmission and distribution; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Ministry of Power, Government of India and the Government of Madhya Pradesh on 16.5.2000 to affirm Joint Commitment to reform of power sector in Madhya Pradesh. The details of the Reform Programme of Madhya Pradesh includes reorganization of MP Electricity Board by way of its segregation into generation, transmission and distribution as separate activities including their corporatisation, rationalisation of tariffs, 100% electrification of villages and hamlets, energy audit at all levels taking the sub-station as the unit including metering of all supplies by December, 2001. The Government of India has agreed to allocate an additional 100 MW from Central Generating Station for the State. Powergrid and MPEB will work in close cooperation for strengthening of transmission network in the state. The ongoing hydro power projects of State Government namely Indira Sagar and Omkareshwar would be completed through a joint venture with National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC).

#### Opening of Technical Institutes

1766. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open Technical Institutes on Textiles in the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the details thereof State-wise along with the facilities proposed to be provided there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Textiles has no proposal to open Technical Institutes on Textiles at present. The Government have, however, introduced a scheme for providing financial assistance to the State Governments for setting up jointly

new Institutes on Handloom Technology. Under the scheme central assistance is limited to Rs. 105 crore towards cost of equipments etc. The assistance is released on the basis of technically viable proposals received from the State Government. No proposal has been received under the Scheme from the Government of Tamil Nadu.

#### Transportation of Fodder and Drinking Water

1767. SHRI G. J. JAVIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of fodder and drinking water transported through railway to drought hit States, separately, State-wise;

(b) whether a number of passenger and goods trains were cancelled while transporting these items; and

(c) if so, the loss incurred by the Railways thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) A statement is attached.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Statement

A Statement indicating the quantity of fodder and water booked to drought hit States from 1.1.2000 to 15.7.2000 is as under :

S.No.	Name of States	Fodder* (in tonnes)	Water (in terms of tonnes)
1.	Gujarat	2,60,419	3,81,900
2.	Rajasthan	1,28,528	53,013
3.	Andhra Pradesh	9,031	Nil
4.	Orissa	Nil	5,653
Total		3,97,978	4,40,566

\*Sugarcane though not classified as fodder, was booked to Gujarat for drought relief.

#### Fast Track Projects

1768. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the eight fast track projects have already been cleared by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether out of these projects, counter guarantee was yet to be provided for two projects; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) The Counter Guarantee of the Government of India has been extended to Jegurupadu Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (216 MW) of M/s. GVK Industries Limited, Ib Valley Thermal Power Project (500 MW) of Ib Valley Power Private Limited and Dabhol Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (Phase-I) (740 MW) of M/s. Dabhol Power Company under the pre-revised procedure. M/s. Spectrum Power Generation Limited withdraw their request for counter guarantee for their 208 MW Godavari combined Cycle Gas Turbine Project in Andhra Pradesh.

On 16.5.1998, the Government approved extension of counter-guarantee in the case of the Visakhapatnam Thermal Power Project (1040 MW) of M/s. Hinduja National Power Company Limited (HNPC) in Andhra Pradesh, Bhadravati Thermal Power Project (1082 MW) of M/s. Central India Power Company (CIPCO) in Maharashtra and the 250 MW single unit lignite based Neyveli Thermal Power Project of M/s. ST-CMS Electric Company in Tamil Nadu, through a revised procedure. Government of India counter guarantee has been issued to these projects in August, 1999.

The Ib Valley project was re-negotiated by the Government of Orissa before construction could commence and, therefore, techno-economic clearance was issued afresh to this project on 26.2.1999. Issue of Counter Guarantee of Government of India was approved in the case of this project and the Mangalore Thermal Power Project of M/s. Cogentrix Energy Inc., on 22.12.1999 subject to fulfilment of certain conditions. The decision has been communicated to the respective State Governments. The matter regarding issue of GOI counter guarantee will be processed after the confirmation of the State Governments/fulfilment of the pre-condition of the guarantee is received.

[Translation]

#### Abolition of Reservation in Allotment of Petrol Pumps etc.

1769. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain oil companies have abolished reservation in allotment of petrol pumps/L.P.G. agencies and kerosene outlets; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The reservation provided under the existing guidelines followed by the Oil Companies in the allotment of Retail Outlet dealerships, SKO-LDO dealerships and LPG distributorship is given below :

(a) Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST)	-	25%
(b) Physically Handicapped Persons (PH)	-	5%
(c) Defence Personnel (DC)	-	8%
(d) Paramilitary/Police/Government Personnel (PMP)	-	8%
(e) Freedom Fighters (FF)	-	2%
(f) Outstanding Sports Persons (OSP)	-	2%
(g) Open category (O)	-	50%

33% in all categories is reserved for women belonging to that category.

[English]

#### Theft of Coal

1770. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the theft of coal from Railway wagons during the last two years alongwith the quantity and value thereof; year/zone-wise;

(b) whether any investigation has been conducted in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action taken against those found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Details of theft of coal from Railway wagons during the last two financial years i.e. 1998-99 & 1999-2000 (zone-wise) alongwith the quantity and value thereof is as under:-

Railways	Year	No. of cases	Value of stolen coal (in Rs.)	Quantity of coal (in Kgs.)
1	2	3	4	5
Central	1998-99	46	34950	23700
	1999-2000	53	22741	4763
Eastern	1998-99	88	120903	120879
	1999-2000	39	67730	55300

1	2	3	4	5
Northern	1998-99	6	24406	21806
	1999-2000	9	89130	69790
North	1998-99	2	500	250
East	1999-2000	1	300	140
Northeast	1998-99	-	-	-
Frontier	1999-2000	-	-	-
Southern	1998-99	-	-	-
	1999-2000	-	-	-
South	1998-99	40	113585	77945
Central	1999-2000	27	49555	14864
South	1998-99	18	39970	44325
Eastern	1999-2000	12	18585	12970
	1999-2000			
Western	1998-99	85	15250	4815
	1999-2000	54	12095	3145
Total	1998-99	285	349564	293774
	1999-2000	195	260136	160972

(b) and (c) All cases of theft of coal are registered and investigated by RPF under the provision of the Railways Property (Unlawful Possession) Act, 1966. Offenders are prosecuted in the Court of Law. As and when any instance of involvement of Railway employees comes to notice, suitable action is taken against him in the Court of Law, apart from Departmental disciplinary action.

#### Assam Gas Cracker Project

1771. SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR :

SHRI TARUN GOGOI :

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

- the status of Assam Gas Cracker Project;
- whether any agreement between Oil India Ltd. and Reliance Industries Ltd. for the supply of gas has been executed; and
- if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (c) M/s. Reliance Assam Petrochemicals Ltd. (RAPL), a joint venture of the Assam Industrial Development Corporation (AIDC) and Reliance Industries Ltd., (RIL), holds LOI for setting up Gas Cracker Project in Assam. M/s. RAPL had earlier identified a site at Tengakhat in Dibrugarh District and taken initial steps such as commissioning of Environment Impact Assessment Study, discussions with process licensors and technology suppliers

etc. However, due to objections raised by the Chabua Air Force Authorities against the proposed site, the project was required to be relocated. An alternate site has since been identified at Lapetkata in Dibrugarh District and Environment Impact Assessment Study has commenced. Government of Assam has fixed a time schedule for acquisition and handing over of land for the new site to RAPL. As regards the Gas Supply Agreement, RAPL and Oil India Ltd., (OIL) have resolved all the outstanding issues viz. clauses relating to liquidated damages, technical issues such as composition of gas, flow rates etc. RAPL and OIL have initialled the draft Gas Supply Contract on July 6, 2000. They have further agreed to execute the final Gas Supply Agreement at the earliest, subject to the approval of their respective Board of Directors and acceptance by financial institutions from RAPL side.

#### Outstanding Dues of Neepeco

1772. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- the details of outstanding dues of the North-Eastern States with North-Eastern Electric Power Corporation;
- the details of total outstanding dues, State-wise separately; and
- the steps taken by the Government to realise the amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The details of the outstanding dues as on 30th June, 2000 of North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) from North Eastern States, State-wise are given below :

S.No.	Name of SEB/States	Outstanding dues (Rs. in Crores)
1.	Assam SEB	672.58
2.	Mizoram	21.71
3.	Manipur	110.91
4.	Tripura	34.10
5.	Arunachal Pradesh	15.38
6.	Nagaland	59.02
7.	Meghalaya S.E.B.	10.44
	Total	924.14

(c) NEEPCO Management has been actively pursuing the recovery of dues from the concerned State Governments/ SEBs in the North Eastern Region. State Governments/SEBs are being persuaded to open the Letter of Credit to cover full amount current monthly bills.

As the efforts made by NEEPCO did not yield any results, NEEPCO issued notices to all the beneficiary States for regulation of Power supply w.e.f. 01.06.2000 if the dues

are not settled by 30.05.2000. However, as a result of Public Interest Litigation filed in the Guwahati High Court, Hon'ble High Court passed an Order dated 1.6.2000 restraining NEEPCO from regulating the power. The Court vide its further order dated 16.6.2000 directed the Assam Government and the ASEB to pay Rs. 50.00 crores to NEEPCO within a period of one month and to also file affidavit with the Court as to the liquidation of its dues in phased manner including opening of a Letter of Credit. The High Court has further asked the State of Assam to consider the feasibility of taking up with the Central Government the issue of increase in the percentage of Central deduction to be directly paid to NEEPCO against the outstanding dues. The case is pending in the Guwahati High Court.

The Central Government has recently approved a scheme of securitisation of dues of SEBs to Central PSUs of Ministry of Power and Department of Coal. The Scheme envisages issue of bonds by the concerned SEBs to CPSUs to cover the principle amount outstanding. The bonds are to be backed by a State Government guarantee and provision in the budget of the State Government for repayments of principle and interest. As an added safeguard, 15% of Central Plan Assistance of the concerned State would also be available in case of a default.

#### **Restructuring of Indian Oil Corporation**

1773. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI :

DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN :

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

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) is proposed to be restructured to integrate its diversified business activities including power generation and petrochemicals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the investment plan earmarked for this purpose and source of the fund;

(d) whether IOC intends to create subsidiaries and holding companies for their diversified activities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Southern Air Command**

1774. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH :

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Southern Command of the Air Force has not yet been transferred in accordance with its strategic importance for the Southern part of the country;

(b) if so, whether only three units have been established till October, 1999 against a target of nine units during the period from 1984 to 1995 in the Southern Command;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and whether any responsibility and the time limit fixed in that regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(c) and (d) The operational need for deployment of Air Force assets in other important sectors has put development of Southern Air Command (SAC) in a deferred state of priority. It is being developed in stages.

[Translation]

#### **Production of Thermal Power and Hydro Electric Power**

1775. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of Thermal Power and Hydro-electric power produced in the country every year; State-wise;

(b) whether the Government are giving stress on production of hydro electric power;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of projects approved for production of hydro electric power during the year 2000-01, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) State-wise energy generation from thermal and hydro-electric stations in the country during 1999-2000 is given in Statement-I and II.

(b) and (c) In view of the vast scope for increasing power production from hydro sources, Government of India has announced a policy on hydro power development in August, 1998 which addresses the various issues that have

led to the decline of the share of hydro power in the last three decades and suggests remedial measures required to accelerate it.

The Policy on hydro power development seeks to encourage greater participation by private entrepreneurs and to create the financial administrative and legal environment to encourage massive investment. Steps are also being taken to accelerate the process of survey and investigation of the new hydro-electric sites with a view to create a shelf of projects which could be taken up for execution.

In order to encourage greater private investment, tariff for hydel projects has been rationalised, procedures for transfer of techno-economic clearance have been simplified, a mechanism to cover geological risks has been evolved and State Governments have been made responsible for land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement.

(d) Details of State-wise capacity addition from hydro projects during 2000-01 is given in Statement-III.

#### Statement-I

##### *Generation from Thermal Power Stations in the country during 1999-2000*

State/Organisation	1999-2000	
	Target MU	Actual MU
1	2	3
<b>Sector-wise</b>		
<b>1. Central Sector</b>		
NTPC	107304	123847
Neyveli (NLC)	13350	13308
DVC	7360	7699
NEEPCO	1250	1461
Total Central Sector	129264	146115
<b>2. Private Sector</b>		
A.E. Co. (Gujarat)	3200	3397
Trombay (Maharashtra)	7000	7366
BSEB Co. (Maharashtra)	3600	3778
CESC (WB)	5000	5409
Total	18800	19950
<b>IPP's</b>		
GIPCL (Guj.)	2840	2068
Gujarat Torrent (Guj.)	4860	3863
Essar IMP (Guj.)	2160	1268
Enron (Maharashtra)	5834	3996

1	2	3
GVK Ind. (A.P.)	1600	1631
Spentum P (A.P.)	1500	1617
Inspat Power (A.P.)	600	0
Kondapalli III (A.P.)	850	0
Oakwell (A.P.)	700	0
Gautami (A.P.)	420	0
NCCP (A.P.)	543	0
SNAHLATA (A.P.)	287	0
Jindal (Karnataka)	1200	180
Cochin CCGT (Karnataka)	0	5
GMR Vasavi (Tamil Nadu)	1225	1478
Nalco Imp. (Orissa)	600	694
ICCL Imp (Orissa)	600	398
Total (IPP)	25819	17198

#### State/Organisation

##### 3. State Sector/PSU

DVD	2300	2533
JAMMU & KASHMIR	50	0
HPGC	3450	3792
RSEB	7750	8176
PSEB	12783	13837
UPRVUNL	21300	19096
GEB	23327	22129
GSECL	2400	2136
MSEB	42275	41530
MPEB	19000	20152
APGENCO	20665	21500
APGPCL	1800	2001
TNEB	17867	19076
PONDICHERRY	200	132
KPCL	8650	7764
VVNL (KARNATAKA)	720	708
KSEB	935	579
BSEB	2700	2246
TVNL	1500	1169
OPGC	2000	3159
WBSEB	3275	3543

1	2	3
WBPDC	6100	6235
DPL	700	848
ASEB	1040	1920
TRIPURA	330	251
<b>Total SEB</b>	<b>203117</b>	<b>203513</b>
<b>All India Total</b>	<b>377000</b>	<b>386776</b>

**Statement-II**

*Generation from Hydro Power Stations in the country during 1999-2000*

State/Station/ Region	Installed Capacity as on 31.3.2000 (MW)	1999-2000	
		Prog. (MU)	Actual (MU)
1	2	3	4

**Sector wise****Central Sector**

BBMP	2704.50	10760	12067
NHPC	2175	9200	8693
DVC	144	370	441
NEEPCO	250	1214	753
<b>Total Central Sector</b>	<b>5273.50</b>	<b>21544</b>	<b>21954</b>

**Private Sector**

Tata Hydro (Mah.)	426	1400	1615
Shivpur (Karnataka)	18	88	61
Maniyar (Kerala)	12	28	33
<b>Total Private Sector</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>1516</b>	<b>1709</b>

**State Sector**

J & K	216.75	812	608
HPSEB	289.95	1365	1197
HSEB	48	225	242
RSEB	430	1356	1003
PSEB	541	3700	3220
UPSEB	1489.85	5425	5272
GEB	545	1630	1039
MSEB	2342.30	3793	3807
MPSEB	865	2375	2462
APSEB	2713.75	8712	8668

1	2	3	4
KPCL	2445.20	9774	11692
KEB	206.20	442	398
KSEB	1737.50	7170	7033
TNEB	1988.45	4915	4467
BSEB	174.90	290	207
OSEB	1537.50	5010	4543
WBSEB	156.5	363	396
SIKKIM	24	45	11
MEGHALAYA	185.20	468	634
TRIPURA	15	50	61
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	10.50	20	14
<b>Total State Sector</b>	<b>17962.55</b>	<b>57940</b>	<b>56974</b>
<b>Total All India</b>	<b>23692.05</b>	<b>81000</b>	<b>80637</b>

**Statement-III**

*Capacity Addition Programme for the year 2000-2001*

Sl. No.	Project	State	Installed Capacity (MW)	Capacity Addition during the year (MW)
<b>I. Central Sector</b>				
1.	Doyang	Nagaland	3x25	75
<b>II. State Sector</b>				
1.	Ghanvi	H.P.	2x11.25	22.5
2.	Upper Sindh - II	J & K	2x35	35.0 (Unit.II)
3.	Upper Sindh Ext.	-do-	1x35	35.0
4.	Sewa-III	-do-	3x3	9.0
5.	Chennai - III	-do-	3x2.5	7.5
6.	Pahalgam	-do-	2x1.5	3.0 (Under MNES)
7.	Ranjit Sagar	Punjab	4x150	600
8.	Upper Indravati	Orissa	4x150	300.0 (Unit-III, IV)
9.	Srisaïlam Left Bank Power House	A.P.	6x150	150.0 (Unit-I)
10.	Sharavathy Tail Race	Karnataka	4x60	60.0 (Unit-I)
<b>Total</b>				<b>1297.0 MW</b>

*[English]***Missile Capability**

1776. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has been amazingly tardy in implementing the system capable of countering Pakistani and Chinese missile capabilities as reported in the Pioneer dated July 10, 2000; and

(b) the status of India's missile/nuclear capability to meet any foreign threat?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) India's Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme is progressing as planned. Prithvi surface-to-surface missile system has already been inducted. Agni II, the longer range version of Agni has been successfully flight tested. Government closely monitors all developments related to missile capabilities and strategic modernization programmes in the region and beyond. Government remains fully committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard the nation's security in accordance with its own assessment of threats to our security.

*[Translation]***Disinvestment of Fertilizer Undertakings**

1777. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL :

MOHAMMAD ANWARUL HAQUE :

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL :

SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK :

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO :

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the names and locations of profit making/loss making/declared sick Fertilizer Undertakings during each of the last three years till date, undertaking/plant-wise;

(b) the details of the profit earned/lost suffered by above undertakings during the above period alongwith the reasons for losses suffered thereby, plant-wise, separately;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to receive above plant, plant-wise;

(d) whether Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) provided any revival package for the above plants;

(e) if so, the details thereof; Plant-wise;

(f) whether the Government have any proposal to privatise fertilizer undertakings as part of Disinvestment Policy; and

(g) if so, the details thereof including the percentage of shares the Government propose to sell and names of the buyers, undertaking/plant-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (e) There are nine Fertilizer Public Sector Undertakings under the administrative control of this Department, namely,

- Fertilizer Corporation Limited (FCI)
- Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC)
- Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. (PPL)
- Madras Fertilizers Ltd. (MFL)
- Pyrites Phosphates & Chemicals Limited (PPCL)
- Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT)
- Projects & Development India Limited (PDIL)
- National Fertilizers Limited (NFL)
- Rashtriya Chemicals Limited (RCF)

Of the above, FCI, HFC, PDIL & PPCL have been declared sick by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). The rehabilitation/restructuring proposals of FCI, HFC and PPCL based on their unitwise techno-economic viability are to be submitted to the competent authority in the Government and thereafter for sanction of BIFR, keeping in view the Government's declared policy towards Public Sector, which is to restructure and revive potentially viable PSUs, close down PSUs which cannot be revived, while fully protecting the interest of workers.

As regards PDIL, during the course of the review of the rehabilitation scheme by BIFR approved in July, 1997, BIFR has directed that a revised rehabilitation scheme for PDIL be submitted to the competent authority in the Government and thereafter for sanction of BIFR.

The location of the plants, profit earned/loss suffered and the reasons of sickness of the fertilizer PSUs are given below :

(Rs./Crore)

Name of the PSU	Profit/(loss)			Main reasons for Losses
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	
1	2	3	4	5
<b>FCI</b> Ramagundam (A.P.) Talchar (Orissa), Gorakhpur (U.P.) & Sindri (Bihar)	(735.69)	(838.29)	(813.84)	Technological design and equipment deficiencies, frequent equipment breakdowns, increase in the cost of liquid petroleum products, power shortages, industrial relations problems, and surplus man power and resource constraints,
<b>HFC</b> Durgapur & Haldia Fertilizer Project (W.B.), Barauni (Bihar) & Namrup (Assam)	(647.83)	(514.49)	(580.71)	Technology, design and equipment deficiencies, frequent equipment breakdowns, increase in the cost of liquid petroleum products, power shortages, industrial relations problems, and surplus manpower and resource constraints.
<b>PPL</b> Paradeep (Orissa)	(105.53)	(57.95)	(89.14)	Depreciation of rupee leading to higher cost of inputs, heavy interest burden, inadequate working capital due to continuous cash losses, delay in disbursement of concession, low capacity utilisation of acid plants leading to higher imports of phosphoric acid, and inventory carrying cost on heavy build up of stocks.
<b>MFL</b> Manali (Chennai)	(55.35)	(25.74)	(24.98)	Lower production due to extended shutdown of plants for revamp hook-up & longer period of stabilisation, under recovery in respect of complex fertilizer due to increase in prices of inputs and depreciation of the Rupee, reduction in adhoc concession on DAP and Complex fertilizers, delay in disbursement of ad-hoc concession.
<b>PPCL</b> Dehradun (U.P.) Amjhore (Bihar) and Salidapura (Rajasthan)	(53.40)	(87.49)	(70.18)	Decontrol of SSP and delays in disbursement of concession, withdrawal of the imports substitution incentives, intrinsic cost disadvantage of pyrites based sulphuric acid production, increase in operating costs of pyrites mining of Amjhore, rising costs of deep underground mining at Mussoorie and increased transportation costs
<b>FACT</b> Udyogamandal (Kerala)	53.94	(48.26)	(39.80)	Interest burden on loans used for capital investment in the Ammonia Replacement Project, unremunerative prices of complex/mix fertilizers, increase in cost of petroleum products.
<b>PDIL</b> Catalyst, Unit, R & D Division, Sindri (Bihar), Engineering & Consultancy Division, Noida (Delhi), Baroda, (Gujarat)	6.09	(15.85)	(17.71)	Low level of orders for catalysts and lack of job orders as the new projects envisaged at the time of formulation of the revival package got delayed.



1	2	3	4	5
<b>NFL</b>	189.01	41.5	34.89	It is a profit making company.
Nangal & Bhatinda (Pb) Panipat (Haryana) & Vijaypur (MP)				
<b>RCF</b>	189.37	105.64	35.08	It is a profit making company.
Trombay (Bombay, Maharashtra), Thal (Maharashtra)				

(f) and (g) Based on the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission, Government have decided to disinvest 51% of its equity in NFL out of its current holding of 97.65% and 32.74% of its equity in MFL out of its current 58.74% holding, through sale to a strategic buyer along with transfer of management control. In case of both these companies, the process of selection of Global Advisor/Merchant Banker has been completed. Out of the other four fertilizer public sector companies, namely, FACT, PPCL, PPL and RCF, which have been identified for disinvestment, the decision in the case of FACT and RCF has been deferred, whereas in the case of PPCL and PPL, the process is at an initial stage.

#### Foreign Investment in Power Generation

1778. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :

SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the approval for the construction of various projects with foreign capital has been given in the power generation sector in the country;

(b) if so, their total number upto April, 2000;

(c) the particulars of those projects where construction work has been started; and

(d) the time by which these are targeted to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) As on April 30, 2000, Central Electricity Authority had accorded techno-economic clearance to 49 proposals involving foreign investment for setting up power projects in the private sector (as per tentative financial packages submitted at the time of techno-economic clearance). Of these, 9 projects are under various stages of construction. Details of these projects, indicating their commissioning schedule are given below:-

S. No.	Name of the Project	State	Cap. (MW)	Promoter	Commissioning Expected
1.	Dabhol CCGT-Phase II	Maharashtra	1440	ENRON	October, 2001
2.	Maheshwar HEP	Madhya Pradesh	400	Maheshwar Hydel Pow.	2001-02 : 80 MW, 10th Plan : 320 MW
3.	Kondapally CCGT	Andhra Pradesh	350	Kondapally Power Cor.	October 2002
4.	Pillaiperumanallur CCGT	Tamil Nadu	330.5	PPN Power Gen. Company	December, 2000
5.	Vemagiri CCGT (Naphtha)	Andhra Pradesh	492	Ispat Power Limited	1st Unit-20 mths. IInd Unit-22 mths & last Unit-26 mths from financial closure
6.	Neyveli TPP	Tamil Nadu	250	ST-CMS	September, 2002
7.	Samayanallur DGPP	Tamil Nadu	106	Balaji Power	14-17 months from financial closure
8.	Samalpatti DGPP	Tamil Nadu	106	Samalpatti Power	May, 2001
9.	Ratlam DGPP	Madhya Pradesh	118	M/s. GVK Industries Limited	14-17 months from financial closure.

*[English]*

**Allotment of Petrol Pumps and Gas Agencies to Kargil Victims**

1779. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB :  
 SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :  
 KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:  
 SHRI JAI PRAKASH :

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

- (a) whether the Government had promised to allot petrol pumps and gas agencies to the families of those soldiers who were killed in Kargil War and those were affected by it;
- (b) if so, whether every affected family has been allotted the agency;
- (c) if not, the total number of affected families who have not been allotted the agency so far; and
- (d) the time by which the remaining affected families would be allotted agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) The Government have formulated a Special Scheme for allotment of 500 LPG distributorships/retail outlet dealerships to widows/dependents of Defence personnel killed in action. Allotment under the Special Scheme is made on the recommendation of the Ministry of Defence. The Directorate General Resettlement, Ministry of Defence have so far recommended 431 Names of widows/next of kin of Defence personnel killed in 'Operation Vijay' in Kargil for allotment of dealerships/distributorships under the Special Scheme. Allotments to 281 persons out of these have been approved by the Government. A decision regarding allotments to the remaining persons will be taken on the basis of the economic feasibility surveys of the locations made by the oil companies.

**Rural Electrifications in Northern Area of West Bengal**

1780. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether rural electrification has not been carried out completely in backward areas of Northern Areas in West Bengal; and

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) As reported by the West Bengal State Electricity Board, the status of rural electrification in backward areas of the Northern Region of West Bengal is given below:-

S.No.	District	Total No. of inhabited Mouzas* (as per 1991 Census)	Inhabited Mouzas* Electrified (as on 31.3.2000)	% age of Mouzas* electrified
1.	Malda	1641	1584	96
2.	South Dinajpur	1534	1150	75
3.	North Dinajpur	1511	1250	83
4.	Jalpaiguri	734	725	99
5.	Coochbehar	1140	1117	98
6.	Darjeeling	620	506	82
Total		7180	6332	88

\*Mouzas are in effect villages.

The priorities for electrification are decided by the concerned States/SEB keeping in mind the availability of resources, availability of essential infrastructure etc.

**Disinvestment of IPCL**

1781. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the SOROS-CHATTERJEE (IOC) consortium and Reliance-Mitsubishi combine have been shortlisted for the Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited (IPCL) selloff;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have finally decided to disinvest the Government equity in the IPCL; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (d) Government, on the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission, have decided to disinvest 25% equity in IPCL along with transfer of management control in favour of a strategic buyer through Global Competitive Bids. Pursuant to that decision, the process of disinvestment was taken up and 'Expressions of interest' were invited. Since the stage of calling for financial bids has not yet been reached, it is premature to indicate as to which parties would be participating in the disinvestment of Government equity in Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited.

[Translation]

#### **Inquiry into Sudden Death of Two Generals**

1782. SHRI A. NARENDRA :

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Army Headquarters has ordered a high level inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the untimely death of two serving generals at Army Hospital recently as reported in 'The Hindustan Times' dated July 6, 2000;

(b) if so, whether any preliminary investigations in this regard have been conducted;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether medical negligence has been found to be the main cause of death of the two Generals; and

(e) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to tone up the functioning of Army Hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. The two serving General Officers were correctly diagnosed, thoroughly investigated and provided the best available treatment. However, they could not be saved due to the nature of their illness, in

which mortality is very high. There has been no negligence in their treatment at any stage. The management of both cases were on scientific and professional lines.

(e) Does not arise in view of the reply to parts (a) to (d) above.

#### **Power Generation Through Modern Technology**

1783. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to promote power generation through modern technology to reduce pollution due to the use of coal in power generation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of improvement in power generation through this technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The technologies being promoted include Super critical units, fluidized bed combustion boilers and integrated gasification combined cycle plants. These technologies give better generation efficiencies, thus reducing pollution from coal fired units. In addition, existing thermal units are also being modernized and renovated to improve their reliability, efficiency, safety and environmental management. Energy audits are also being encouraged in generation plants to identify areas requiring immediate attention so as to improve the efficiency by reducing losses.

(c) These new technologies for power generation will improve generation efficiency by 2-8% as compared to conventional coal fired units. Renovation and Modernisation programme is intended to improve generation, increase efficiency and control pollution from the existing units.

[English]

#### **Inquiry into Acquisition of Defective Mine Bodies**

1784. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Army Headquarters placed three tenders for the supply of 3,12,856 Bar Mines on some suppliers during 1992 to 1996 and the suppliers made defective mine bodies;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry was made and the responsibility fixed;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) Army headquarters had placed tenders on Ordnance Factory Board during 1992 to 1996 for procurement of 3,12,856 numbers of Bar Mines.

2. In order to manufacture the mines, Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) had purchased empty plastic mine bodies from trade sources. The empty bodies were inspected and accepted by the concerned quality assurance department. The Bar Mines after being filled with explosives were again inspected and accepted by the concerned quality assurance department and were issued to the Central Ammunition Depot (CAD), Pulgaon.

3. After receipt of the mines at CAD, Pulgaon, defects were noticed in 25,515 mines. The defects were rectified by the concerned supplier at his own cost and were accepted by the ammunition depot and the concerned quality assurance department. Quantity 795 numbers of Mines were finally rejected, for which the cost has been recovered by the OFB from the concerned firm.

4. Fact finding inquiry conducted into the defective mines accepted against supply order of 1994 indicted two Army Officers and four civilian officials. The Army authorities after conducting Summary of Evidence closed the case for want of incriminating evidence. Out of four civilian officials, disciplinary action against one could not be taken being time barred. As regards the other three, major penalty proceedings under Rule 14 of Central Civil Services (Classification Control & Appeal) Rules 1965 were initiated against them in consultation with CVC which culminated in award of major penalties to two officials while departmental inquiry is still in progress against the third.

#### **Production of Petroleum Products from Molasses**

1785. SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set-up projects for producing petroleum products using molasses;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which production of petroleum products are likely to start from the proposed projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) Government propose to take up pilot projects in U.P. and Maharashtra to ascertain the effects of using ethanol blended autofuel on the environment and to examine operational and financial aspects.

*[Translation]*

#### **Demand of Power**

1786. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the power available with the National Thermal Power Corporation is not sufficient to meet the power requirement of the country;

(b) if so, the scheme under consideration of the Government for the generating more power;

(c) whether due to above mentioned situation Maharashtra State has to purchase power from Enron Company at much higher rate; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The National Thermal Power Corporation meets only the partial power requirement of the country. NTPC had a generating capacity of 19291 MW (as on 31.3.2000) which was 19.71% of the total generating capacity in the country. During 1999-2000, NTPC's coal and gas stations had generated 118677 MUs with an availability of 90% for coal stations which is 24.7% of total generation in the country.

(b) According to the Ninth Five Year Plan, the target for capacity addition during the plan period was 40245.2 MW with the following break up :-

Central Sector 11909 MW

Private Sector 17588.5 MW

State Sector 10747.7 MW

The mid-term appraisal of the 9th Plan has indicated that a capacity of 28097.2 MW consisting of 9729 MW in the Central Sector, 8363 MW in the Private Sector and 10005.2 MW in the State Sector, was feasible.

(c) and (d) Dabhol Power Company (DPC) is an Independent Power Producer supplying power to Maharashtra State Electricity Board and power is purchased by the Board from Dabhol Power Company in accordance with their requirement and agreement. Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) has purchased 3560 Million Units from Dabhol Power Company from 13.5.1999 to 31.3.2000. The tariff payable to DPC is based on a fixed charge and a variable charge. According to information available from MSEB, the average rate works out to Rs. 4.34 per unit.

[English]

#### **Restructuring of Mumbai High Oil Fields**

1787. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have proposed to invest crores of rupees for restructuring of the Mumbai High Oil Fields;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any decision to invite international bids for the same has been finalised;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the production of oil and gas from Mumbai High Oil Fields is likely to be increased as a result of the proposed investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) ONGC in association with the international oil field consultants, M/s. Gaffney Cline & Associates (GCA) have taken up extensive studies for drawing up of a redevelopment plan of Mumbai High for improvement in ultimate recovery of oil and gas. Investment plans for the additional development of Mumbai High can be finalised only after completion of these studies.

(e) The likely enhanced production from these fields can be estimated only after the studies are completed.

[Translation]

#### **Allotment of Petrol Pumps, LPG Agencies to SCs/STs, OBCs in U.P.**

1788. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of gas agencies and petrol outlets allotted to the educated unemployed of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes during the last three years in Uttar Pradesh, year-wise;

(b) the number of distributors, and the places where these are proposed to be allotted in the current year;

(c) whether Government propose to open the Gas Agencies in Etawah, Barthna, Orayya, Diviyapur and Jaswant Nagar;

(d) if so, the time by which these Gas Agencies are likely to be opened; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The existing guidelines include 25% reservation for candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) categories in the matter of allotment of LPG distributorships/retail outlet dealerships. The educational qualification prescribed for these candidates is matriculation or recognised equivalent. There is no separate reservation for other backward classes.

The number of LPG distributorships and retail outlet dealerships in the SC/ST category in operation in Uttar Pradesh, as on 1.4.2000, were 110 and 227 respectively. In addition to the locations pending from the previous marketing plans, 109 LPG distributorships and 45 retail outlet dealerships in respect of these categories are included in the marketing plan 1996-98 for this State.

(c) The oil companies have proposals to set up one LPG distributorship each at Etawah, Barthna, Orayya and Jaswant Nagar.

(d) and (e) Selection is made in a phased manner, and it may not be possible at this stage to indicate the exact time frame for completion of selection for the pending locations.

[English]

#### **Surplus Land with HAL**

1789. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the area of total surplus land under HAL, Sunabera in Orissa as on date;
- (b) whether the Government propose to utilise a major portion of the surplus land;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether some of the surplus lands out of the above are proposed to be sold out; and
- (e) if so, the norms prescribed therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Koraput Division at Sunabera (Orissa) has a total 3121.15 acres of land, which is adequate for the current use and future expansion. There is, therefore, no surplus land available in Koraput Division of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited at Sunabera (Orissa).

(b) to (e) In view of (a) above, these Questions do not arise.

#### **Setting up of Electric Courts**

1790. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

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

(a) whether the Law Commission has stressed the need for enactment of more cyber laws and

establishment of electronic courts to deal with cyber crimes; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) No, Sir. The Law Commission has not yet taken up the project related to cyber crimes;

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Vacant posts of Chief Reservation Supervisors and Reservation Supervisors**

1791. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a large number of posts of Chief Reservation Supervisors and Reservation Supervisors are lying vacant since long;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) since when these posts are lying vacant;
- (d) the reasons for not filling up these vacancies;
- (e) the concrete steps being taken to fill up these vacancies; and
- (f) the time by which these vacancies are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

#### **Committee on Safeguarding Chemical Hazards**

1792. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

- (a) the names of chemical industries which are using dangerous chemicals gases for their industrial purposes and funds spend for the safety and security;
- (b) the list of hazardous and dangerous chemicals which are used by various Industries with the proper permission and license and the suppliers;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any Committee to safeguard the hazards in the chemical factories especially those using poisonous/dangerous gases or chemicals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) According to the information supplied by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, over 13,000 units handle hazardous chemicals of which 1436 units handle specific chemicals beyond the threshold quantity.

(b) As per the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, (1989), 646 chemicals have been identified as hazardous.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Environment and Forest, the nodal Ministry, has constituted a Central Crisis Group. Crisis Groups have also been constituted at the State, District and local levels.

[Translation]

#### Export of Petrol by Private Companies

1793. SHRI TARUN GOGOI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are permitting some private companies for export of petrol;

(b) if so, the particulars of such private companies and the quality and the quantity of petrol that are likely to be exported; and

(c) the name of the countries to which it is proposed to be exported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) The export of Petrol has since been decanalised. The export of petroleum products depend upon the overall demand and supply position in the country and the prevailing market condition. Government have initiated steps to take care of the surplus products, if any, in view of increase in domestic refining capacity.

#### Railway Project in Madhya Pradesh

1794. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made regarding on-going railway projects in Madhya Pradesh along with expenditure incurred thereon and funds allocated during 2000-01 to each project;

(b) the reasons for slow progress and steps taken by the Government to complete these projects on schedule; and

(c) the time by which each project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Progress made by on-going railway projects in Madhya Pradesh along with expenditure incurred thereon and funds allocated during 2000-01 to each project, reasons for slow progress if any and steps taken by the Government to complete these projects are given in enclosed Statement. Target dates, wherever fixed, have been indicated. For all other projects target date will depend on availability of resources.

#### Statement

##### Madhya Pradesh

\*Rs in Crores\*

Plan	Project	Year of approval	KMS	Cost	Expenditure upto 31.3.2000	*Budget Outlay 2000-01	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A New Lines	Lalitpur-Satna 2 Rewa-Singrauli	1997-98	627	925	0.51	5.00	Necessary clearances have been obtained. Final location survey for 75 km from Lalitpur end and 60 km from Mahoba end and 22 km from Rewa has been completed and FLS for balance section is in progress. Papers for land acquired are under preparation.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A New Lines	Guna-Etawah	1985-96	348	337.3	246.58	25.00	Guna-Gwalior and Gwalior Nonera sections have already been completed. The next phase work of Gauge Conversion between Nonera and Bhind is in progress and expected to be completed in 2000-2001. The last phase of this project from Bhind to Etawah involves construction of 3 major bridges on the rivers Chambal, Kunwari and Yamuna. The work on Yamuna Bridge has already been taken up for construction of foundation of Yamuna bridge sinking of 10 wells is in progress. The work will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.
A New Lines	Dallirajahara-Jagdalpur	1995-96	235	369	0.13	1.00	This work is included in the railway budget since 95-96. However, this line is to be taken up on a cost sharing basis with Ministry of Steel & MP Govt., the cost of the first phase work from Dallirajahara to Rowghat being borne entirely by the Ministry of Steel. For the rest of the line SAIL is providing finances to the tune of Rs. 75 crs at 7% interest to be adjusted through freight concessions. M.P. Govt. will be providing land free of cost worth Rs. 25 cr and rest of the money is to be given by the Railway. An MOU has been signed and estimate sanctioned. SAIL has been requested to deposit Rs. 50 crore with Railways for taking the work on Dallirajahara-Rowghat section. Final location survey for Jagadalpur to Rowghat, 130 km out of 140 km has been completed and likely to be completed later this year. SAIL are still pursuing clearances from MOEF for use of iron ore mines, and further progress is expected only after they get the same if at all.
A New Lines	Bishrampur-Ambikapur	1997-98	23	58.3	5.30	5.00	Necessary clearance have been obtained. The final location survey and land acquisition has been completed. Possession of full private land has been obtained. However, tree cutting is held up due to Supreme Court orders. State Govt. have been requested to take action to obtain the requisite permission from the Court. Tenders for earthwork and bridges have been opened and are under finalisation.
A New Lines	Godhra-Indore Dewas-Maksi	1989-90	316	597	21.09	10.00	This work is being executed in phases. The first phase work between Dewas & Maksi is now in progress. Work is in progress on 2 major bridges remaining 6 major bridges have been completed. Work on all 49 minor bridges have been completed. The other items like earthwork and ballast supply are also in progress. This sub section is expected to be completed in the 9th Plan period, subject to availability of resources.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A New Lines	Ramganjmandi-Bhopal	2000-01	262	425	0.00	1.00	New work included in the Budget 2000-01. Final location survey is being taken up.
B Gauge Conversion	Jabalpur-Gondia including Balaghat-Katangl	1996-97	285	391.3	5.04	16.80	Final location survey from Gondia to Balaghat including Balaghat-Katangl has been completed including geotechnical investigations of major bridges. The survey between Balaghat-Jabalpur is in progress. Land has been acquired upto Balaghat. Formation work, bridge work and ballast supply are in progress between Gondia and Balaghat.
B Gauge Conversion	Neemuch-Ratlam	1993-94	135	116.7	9.01	5.00	Work on long lead items has been taken up. 8 Substructure works on 31 bridges out of 32 have been completed. Works of substructure on 97 out of 130 minor bridges have been completed. The work will be progressed and completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.
C Doubling	Nishatpura A & D Cabin	1995-96	1.5	3.97	3.87	0.10	The work has been completed and commissioned.
C Doubling	Hatempur-Gher-single line	1990-91	7	44	43.00	1.00	Work completed.
C Doubling	Korba-Saragbundia	1996-97	15	32.13	28.93	1.00	Project completed and commissioned. From Saragbundia to Uрга. Uрга-Korba has been completed. Rest is planned in August 2000.
C Doubling	Akaltara-Champa	1994-95	25	53.6	51.20	1.00	Akaltara-Naila (16 km) completed. Naila - Hasdeo (7 km) completed, except the Hasdeo bridge which will be completed by December 2001. commissioning is awaiting CRS's sanction which will be after condonation of grade infringement from Board.
C Doubling	Bilaspur-Urkura	1997-98	100	151.5	5.22	14.00	Final location survey for Bilaspur to Bhataparo has been completed. Contracts for bridges and ballast have been awarded and for earthwork are in progress.
C Doubling	Sarona-Bhillai 3rd line	1997-98	18	47.68	13.51	10.00	Earthwork and minor bridges are in progress. Site investigation for important major bridge Kharum has been taken up. Kumbhari-Bhillai (11 km) is expected to be completed by February 2001.
C Doubling	Champa-Saragbundia	1997-98	22	56.55	31.76	3.00	Three block sections covering 15 km section from Saragbundia-Kathari road-Bolpur (15 km) have been commissioned in May 2000. Work on flyover bridge on Bolpur-Champa section is in progress and will be completed by Feb' 2001.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
C Doubling	Korba-Gevra Road	1998-99	8	29.39	0.03	10.00	Work of bridges and formation has commenced.
C Doubling	Urkura-Raipur-Sarona	1995-96	11	31.05	26.05	5.00	Work completed and commissioned.
C Doubling	Kalapipal-Phanda/Maksi-Bhopal	1990-91	41.5	53	0.80	0.10	This work has been temporarily frozen owing to low operational priority and constraint of resources.
C Doubling	Bolai-Kalisindh-Kisoni-Bercha	1992-93	25.7	49.28	28.29	16.00	Work is in good progress. 2 block sections have been completed. The remaining section will be completed by 28.2.2001.
Total				3771.81	520.32	130	

[English]

**Use of Wired Aircraft by Pak during Kargil Conflict**

1795. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that during Kargil operation Pakistan had used 'wired' aircraft duly escorted by planes—which was having the capacity of delivering nuclear bombs to a strategic base close to Indian Border; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to counter the use of such sophisticated aircraft by enemy country in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir. Government have no information in this regard.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Commercial Use of LPG Cylinders**

1796. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

SHRI SURESH PASI :

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to take action against the persons using L.P.G. commercially;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the action is likely to be taken against them; and

(d) the quantum of domestic fuel likely to be saved as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) Regular checks of the LPG distributors are carried out by officers of Oil Marketing Companies at different levels and if any distributor is found indulging in diverting of domestic LPG for other use, action is initiated against such distributors in terms of LPG Control Order/Distributorship Agreement.

**Conversion of Solar Energy into Electricity**

1797. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL :

SHRI C.N. SINGH :

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of an easy, cheap and durable system development by Japan to convert solar energy into electricity;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to adopt this system for the development of non-conventional energy source; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES : (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) Japan is among the leading countries in the world which are actively engaged in the development of solar photovoltaic (PV) technology for direct conversion

of solar energy into electricity. Research and development work is being undertaken on a variety of solar cell technologies, materials and applications. Among the recent developments in this field in Japan are:

(i) A Japanese company (Toshiba) has announced the development of an organic dye-sensitized solar cell using a solid electrolyte with a conversion efficiency of 7.3%. Such cells are claimed to be easier to manufacture and cheaper than silicon based solar cells. The new type of cells are not yet in commercial production.

(ii) Another company (Sanyo) has developed hybrid solar cells which use amorphous and crystalline silicon materials. A conversion efficiency of 17.3% has been claimed with this type of solar cells. The technology has reached commercial production.

Besides funding research on other types of thin film solar cells, the Japanese Government is also supporting the installation of rooftop power systems in individual homes which are connected to the electricity grid. About 33000 such systems have been installed since 1994.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing a comprehensive programme for the development and utilization of photovoltaic technology in India. Research projects on thin film technologies such as amorphous silicon and copper indium diselenide are being supported. Work is in progress in Indian organizations on organic dye cells and cadmium telluride solar cells. A variety of applications are being supported through subsidies and other incentives. Government is also following developments in Japan and other countries. Introduction of any new technology in production depends on the commercial availability of the technology and the arrangements worked out by the companies involved in it.

#### **Guarantee to Private Power Projects**

1798. DR. ASHOK PATEL :

SHRI SURESH PASI :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to give guarantee for the major private power transmission projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) The

Prime Minister in his speech delivered at the India-European Union Business Summit at Lisbon, Portugal on June 27, 2000 announced that the Government is willing to consider a new guarantee structure for large transmission projects and power purchase systems as well as accelerating the international competitive bidding (ICB) process for renovation and modernization of the country's power generating companies. The details of the new guarantee scheme are being worked out.

*[English]*

#### **Spending of Surplus Funds by the Oil Companies**

1799. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the PSUs of oil sector are spending their surplus funds on advertisements, decoration of the sales outlets and other such frivolous heads of expenditure;

(b) if so, the details of the expenditure incurred by each PSUs during the last three years; and

(c) the steps proposed to call to account on each PSU for such expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have reported that in the changed scenario of liberalisation where they are competing with well known Multinational Companies, advertising and up-gradation of retail outlets are essential for marketing of their products and such expenses are not considered frivolous.

The expenditure incurred by the marketing oil companies on advertisement and upgradation of retail outlets during the last three years is as under :-

		(Rs./Crore)				
		PSUs	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	
		1	2	3	4	5
Advertisement Expenses	IOC		25.64	26.93	32.08	
	BPCL		4.87	4.47	5.14	
	HPCL		12.69	14.35	24.86	
	IBP		1.41	4.10	5.88	

1	2	3	4	5
Upgradation of Retail Outlets	IOC	78.90	103.03	146.41
	BPC	79.00	190.00	200.00
	HPC	10.5	15.00	55.80
	IBP	-	-	-

#### **Bilateral Agreements with Oil Producing Countries**

1800. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have decided to sign several bilateral agreements with various oil producing countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the extent to which India has succeeded in achieving self sufficiency in the oil sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The Term contracts finalised for import of crude oil during 2000-01 with oil producing countries alongwith quantities of crude oil are as under :-

Country	Quantity (MMT)
UAE	4.0
Iran	2.5
Iraq	1.48
Saudi Arabia	7.50
Kuwait	6.7
Malaysia	1.5
Nigeria*	1.0

\*Under finalisation

(c) Steps are being taken to increase crude oil production in the country through application of improved technologies, better understanding of reservoir behaviour,

development of new fields, additional development of existing fields and by inviting foreign and private capital in the upstream sector. The refining capacity is also being increased in the country by expansion of existing refineries in the public sector and setting up of refineries in joint sector and private sector.

[Translation]

#### **Criteria for Opening of L.P.G. Agency/ Petroleum Pumps**

1801. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI :

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA :

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

- (a) the minimum criteria for opening L.P.G. agency/Petrol pump/Kerosene oil depot as prescribed by various oil companies;
- (b) the district-wise details of the L.P.G. agencies/ Petrol pumps/Kerosene oil depots sanctioned/proposed/ surveyed for in Bihar;
- (c) the reasons for not calling the persons for interview for sanctioning LPG agency/petrol pump after submitting the applications by them at many places in Bihar during the last one year; and
- (d) the time by which more applications proposed to be sought for allotment of LPG agencies/petrol pumps/ kerosene oil depots at the remaining surveyed/proposed places in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) As per the existing policy, the following criteria are adopted for setting up economically viable LPG distributorships in different parts of the country including small towns and villages:

- (i) All urban locations with a population of 10,000 and above by including potential of adjoining villages falling within the radius of 15 kms.
- (ii) Urban locations having population of 5,000 and above taking into account the potential of adjoining villages falling within 15 Kms radius.

- (iii) Cluster of villages within 15 Kms radius of nucleus villages having a population of 10,000 and above.
- (iv) Villages within 15 Kms radius around towns having population of 1 lakh and above.

The criteria for setting up of Retail Outlet dealerships and SKO-LDO dealerships are based on Volume-Distance Norms.

(b) As on 1.4.2000, there were 231 LPG distributorships, 1160 retail outlets (RO) dealerships and 431 SKO-LDO dealerships respectively in various districts of Bihar.

In addition to the locations pending from the previous Marketing Plans, 105, 102 and 18 locations respectively have been included in the LPG, RO and SKO-LDO Marketing Plans 1996-98 for the State of Bihar.

(c) The selection of dealers/distributors for some of the locations could not take place owing to the non-functioning of the Dealer Selection Boards (DSBs) on account of the announcement of General Elections 1999 and the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct and the dissolution of these Boards subsequently. Now, 57 new DSBs have been set up, which include 7 for Bihar, for early selection of dealers/distributors.

(d) The locations included in the Marketing Plan are advertised by the oil companies and selection of dealers/distributors are made through interviews by the Dealer Selection Boards as per procedure. It generally takes about 6-12 months for commissioning of the dealerships/distributorships from the date of interview.

*[English]*

#### **Production of brake blocks**

1802. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the production of brake blocks in Dahod and other workshops in Western Railways;
- (b) the rate at which these are being supplied to Western Railway;
- (c) whether these workshops are not able to fully meet the demand;

(d) if so, the rate at which the same are being purchased from open market;

(e) whether the Government have asked Dahod and other workshops to increase the output;

(f) if so, the response of the workshops thereto;

(g) whether the Government would continue to purchase the above items at higher cost from open market; and

(h) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

Workshop	Avg. per month during 1999-2000 (Nos)	Weight (Tonnes)
Kota	13070	190.795
Dahod	45121	644.797
Ajmer	36094	444.662
Total	94285	1280.254

(b) The brake blocks manufactured in the Railway Workshops are being supplied to Western Railway at rates varying from Rs. 113 to Rs. 375 per brake block depending upon the design of the brake and block and the type of rolling stock. This includes both Metre Gauge and Broad Gauge stock.

(c) Dahod and other workshops are able to fully meet the demand of Western Railway.

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

(e) Increase in output is not required as the demand is being fully met. Moreover, composition brake blocks are being increasingly introduced in a phased manner.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Does not arise. However, the Railways have taken a conscious decision to switch over to the use of composition brake blocks on its rolling stock. These brake blocks cost 2 to 2.5 times more but give a life of more than 5 times that of Cast Iron brake blocks and are, therefore, economical to use. The Asbestos free composition brake blocks being inducted are also environmental friendly.

(h) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Raising of Platforms' Level**

1803. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the level of platforms enroute Varanasi to Bhatni via Audihar and Ghazipur-Ballia-Chapra via Audihar have been raised as per the requirements;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the level of the different offices of railways located on these platforms gone down substantially as a result of conversion of both lines into broad gauge thus causing lot of inconvenience to the employees; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to raise the level of said platforms and offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) While undertaking large scale gauge conversion of various routes all over the country, simultaneous raising of Platforms to bring it to broad gauge standards could not be done due to resources constraints. Raising of platforms at stations, wherever required, was subsequently taken up in phases and according to priority. Platforms at Bhatni, Salempur, Belthara Road, Mau Jn., Ballia and Ghazipur have already been raised to Broad gauge standards. Raising of platforms of the remaining stations, wherever warranted, will be taken up through annual Works Programme of the Railways subject to availability of funds.

Wherever floor level of buildings became lower due to raising of platforms, ramps have been provided for easy access. Reconstruction of the station buildings is not contemplated for the present as it involves a large expenditure, which is not justified.

[English]

**Doubling of Trivandrum-Kollam Railway Line**

1804. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the doubling work of Trivandrum-Kollam Railway line remains incomplete for the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons for the slow progress; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to speed up the above doubling work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. The work has been completed and commissioned on 19.06.2000.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Modernisation of Powerloom Industry**

1805. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :

SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTY :

Will the Minister of TEXTILE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Powerloom Industry is passing through severe crisis;

(b) if so, whether powerlooms are being closed down and being sold away at scrap value;

(c) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for the modernization of Powerloom Industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (c) Textile sector including the decentralized powerloom sector is passing through the general recessionary condition prevailing in international and domestic markets. Powerloom sector is also facing problem due to technological obsolescence, hike in Power tariff in certain states etc. As per sample survey carried out in different powerloom concentrated areas of the concerned States during the quarter April-June, 2000, the details of the closure position of powerlooms are as follows:

States	Position of Powerlooms closure in the quarter ending in June, 2000
1	2
Gujarat	5.92%
Karnataka	7.14%
Maharashtra	24.15%
Orissa	1.28%
Punjab	4.32%

1	2
Rajasthan	7.77%
Tamil Nadu	8.16%
Uttar Pradesh	35.93%
West Bengal	12.5%

**CNG Stations**

1806. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open more CNG stations in the country during the financial year 2000-2001;

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

(c) the number of CNG stations awaiting clearance; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to clear the same?

(d) The Government of India has taken the following steps for the development of powerloom sector;

i) Modernisation of Powerloom industries under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS);

ii) As the large chunk of powerloom sector is not adequately and properly trained, all the 44 Powerloom Service Centres have been geared to provide training to powerloom workers, consultancy to powerloom owners and other types of technical assistances, including design support and testing facilities. In order to reinforce these PSCs, the Government has started modernisation of 21 PSCs during the 9th five year plan period with an estimated cost of Rs. 16.09 crore. The implementation of this programme is underway.

(iii) To provide support to manufacture good quality fabrics, the Government has undertaken a phased plan programme for the upgradation of textile testing laboratories. So far the laboratories of 14 PSCs have been upgraded at a cost of round 11.27 crore.

(iv) The Government is formulating a revised Group Insurance Scheme in consultation with the various State Governments and industries for the benefits of the powerloom weavers.

(v) The workshed scheme for the powerloom weavers is under preparation in consultation with the powerloom concentrations states and concerned industry bodies.

(vi) To encourage the decentralised powerloom sector in the direction of direct exports of its products to quota markets such as USA/Canada/EU, Powerloom Exporters' Entitlement quota system was introduced in 1992. The annual export quota level under the PEE for the sector has been increased to 15% from the current year.

(vii) In order to rationalise the power tariffs for powerloom sector, Ministry of Textiles has taken up matter with the major textile manufacturing states in the country.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The State and city-wise status of CNG stations to be opened during 2000-2001 is indicated below :-

State	City	No. of Stations
Maharashtra	Mumbai	8
Delhi	Delhi	36
Total		44

(c) and (d) 8 CNG stations are awaiting clearance in Delhi. The allotment of land and obtaining various clearances etc., is an ongoing and continuous process.

**Foreign Investment in Drugs Sector**

1807. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of foreign investment made in the drugs sector during each of the last three years and proposed for 2000-2001; and

(b) the steps taken to encourage the foreign investment in drugs sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Foreign Direct Investment inflows in the Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Sector during the last three years is as under:

(Rs. Crores)			
1997	1998	1999	2000 (upto 31.5.2000)
188.15	83.84	75.73	177.55

(b) The following steps have been taken by the Govt. to encourage foreign investment in the drugs and pharmaceuticals sector :-

- i) 74% foreign equity has been permitted under the automatic route
- ii) Manufacture of drugs and pharmaceuticals has been by and large de-licenced
- iii) The Foreign Investment Implementation Authority (FIIA) has been set up to provide a single point interface between foreign investors and the Government machinery both at the Central and State level. The short term objective of this authority is to remove procedural delays in the setting up of the project. The longer term objective is to create an atmosphere congenial to foreign direct investment.

[Translation]

#### Setting up of a Bottling Plant at Ranchi

1808. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Bharat Petroleum propose to set up a bottling plant in and around Ranchi (Bihar);
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

#### Construction of New Railway Projects

1809. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to involve non-governmental organisations for laying of new rail lines, doubling and gauge conversion of rail lines;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the routes identified for private participation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) In order to involve the stake-holders in the development and implementation of Railway projects, efforts are being made by the Government to involve the user agencies such as Ports, Public Sector Undertakings as also the State Governments in the Public-private partnerships.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with M/s. Gujarat Pipavav Port Limited for forming a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for Gauge Conversion of Surendranagar-Pipavav and New Line extension to Pipavav port has been signed. The SPV shall undertake the work of Broad Gauge connectivity between Surendranagar and the Port of Pipavav.

#### Free Railway Passes

1810. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of free railway passes issued during the last six months;
- (b) the basis for issuing the said free passes;
- (c) whether the Government propose to provide the facility of free railway journey for treatment of serious ailments to the poor; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) As a measure of economy and austerity, Complimentary Card passes are not being issued. Regarding Complimentary Cheque passes, issued to meet emergency requirements, information is being collected from the Zonal Railways.

(c) and (d) Rules provide for the issue of Cheque Passes (For single journey/to and for journey) to individuals on medical grounds for major treatment/surgery etc. involving long distance travel, taking into account the financial position of the applicant and the medical need.

#### Shortage of Technical Manpower in Army

1811. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :



(a) whether there is an acute shortage of technical manpower in the Armed Forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof in each of the three services and the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to fill up the vacancies;

(d) whether the Government propose to encourage the talented youths for recruitment in the armed forces; and

(e) if so, the details of the action plan chalked out therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The current shortage of technical manpower in the Armed Forces is as follows:-

	Officer	PBOR
Army	27-30%	Nil
Navy	20%	19%
Air Force	6%	Nil

This is mainly due to the job opportunities available to technically qualified personnel in the private sector.

(c) to (e) Various steps have been initiated to improve the position. Image Projection Campaign has been launched for technical graduates; Campus Interview Teams visit Technical Institutions to motivate the students; discussion and seminars are held in Technical Institutions to generate awareness about the career prospects of Technical Services in the Armed Forces and a new 10+2 technical stream entry has been introduced since July, 1999.

[English]

#### Oil Pool Deficit

1812. SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the oil pool deficit is rising at the rate of Rs. 500 crores every month; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to restrict the oil pool deficit on a long term basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Oil Pool deficit was around of Rs. 6,000 crore as on 31.3.2000. The deficit as on 31.7.2000 is estimated at around Rs. 7,500 crore. For the future, it is not possible to estimate the pool position with accuracy because of the following factors which affects the position of the Oil Pool Account.

i) Materialisation of the quantities of estimated demand;

ii) Fluctuation in the international prices of controlled petroleum products which in turn affect the Domestic Tariff Adjusted Import Parity Prices;

iii) Fluctuations in the international prices of crude oil and price payable to PSU crude oil producers;

iv) Foreign exchange variation in the Indian rupee;

v) Domestic prices of controlled petroleum products;

(b) With a view to contain the deficit in the oil pool account, the Govt. have taken a number of measures such as moving product prices towards import parity and gradual phasing out of subsidy on petroleum products.

[Translation]

#### Sugar Mills

1813. YOGI ADITYA NATH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the names of sugar mills running under the Ministry of Textiles in the country and number of employees working there at present, Mill-wise;

(b) the profit earned and loss suffered by these mills during each of the last three years, till date, mill-wise;

(c) the names of mills declared sick/closed during each of the last three years, till date, State-wise;

(d) the number of workers affected due to closure of sick mills and the steps taken for their rehabilitation; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to re-open the closed mills and to revive the sick mills and amount incurred thereon, mill-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) There is only one sugar mill namely, Ganesh sugar Mill, Anand Nagar, Pharinda, District Maharaj Ganj, UP, a unit of Swadeshi Mining and Manufacturing Co. Limited (SMMCL) which is a subsidiary of NTC (UP). The unit had 755 employees on roll.

(b) Losses suffered as per audited accounts for the year 1996-97, 1997-98, and 1998-99 are given below :-

Year	Net Loss (Rs. in lakhs)
1996-97	352.79
1997-98	380.00
1998-99	466.65

(c) The SMMCL became a sick company under the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA) and was referred to BIFR in 1996. In the absence of any viable proposal for reviving the company, BIFR recommended winding up of the company. On 29.9.99 the Allahabad High Court issued orders for winding up of the company and appointed official liquidator

(d) The number of workers affected due to closure of the mill was 755 as on 29.9.1999, the date of issued of orders for liquidation of company (including the mill) & appointment of Official Liquidator by the Allahabad High Court.

(e) The Company including the sugar mill is under liquidation, since further steps for the re-opening and revival of the unit were not feasible. The official liquidator has to take further action as per provisions of the Companies Act.

[English]

#### Linking of Chandausi-Badaun by Rail

1814 SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to link Chandausi and Badaun towns by rail; and

(b) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Due to constraint of resources.

#### Investment in Power Projects in J & K

1815. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government and the Government of Jammu and Kashmir are ready to invest on nine power projects in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) The National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) has been entrusted with the execution of the following seven hydro electric projects in Jammu and Kashmir in the Central sector.

1. Kishenganga HEP (330 MW)
2. Uri HEP Stage-II HEP (280 MW)
3. Sewa-II HEP (120 MW)
4. Pakaldul HEP (1000 MW)
5. Bursur HEP (1020 MW)
6. Nimoo Bazgo HEP (30 MW)
7. Chutak HEP (18 MW)

Jammu and Kashmir would get 12% free power from these projects. The State would also get 15% Central share of unallocated quota to meet winter peak needs. The Government of Jammu and Kashmir have been requested to transfer the projects along with necessary data to NHPC.

The Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Kishenganga H.E. Project (330 MW) has been submitted by NHPC to CEA for techno-economic clearance on 17.7.2000.

Separately, two hydro-electric projects namely, Baglihar Hydro Electric Project (3x150 MW) and Sawalkot H.E. Project (3x200 MW) in Doda district of J & K State were accorded techno-economic clearance by CEA in March '91 at an estimated cost of Rs. 1046.51 crore (Sept. '90 price level) and January '93 at an estimated cost of Rs. 1854.55 crore (Nov. '91 price level), respectively for execution in the Central Sector. At the request of the Government of J & K, the projects were transferred to the State Government by the Ministry of Power, Government of India in 1997. The DPR for the remaining projects are being prepared/updated.

**Market Share of Railway in Freight**

1816. SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways's share in the total freight traffic has come down drastically during the past year;

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

(c) whether any study was conducted by the Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the remedial measures taken to increase the rail freight share; and

(e) the extent to which these measures are helpful to gain the rail freight share?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Apart from Railways, freight traffic is moved by various other modes such as trucks, pipelines, coastal shipping and even by cycle vans and bullock carts. No reliable data are available in the recent past regarding the total freight traffic generated in the country so as to determine Railways' share, which was, broadly speaking, high, when roads, pipelines, shipping etc. were not developed. As various modes of transport have developed in course of economic development, relative demand of rail transport did not register growth. In absolute terms however, Railways' freight traffic grew steadily over the years, as borne out by the following figures:

Year	Freight Loading (In million tonnes)
1950-51	73.2
1960-61	119.8
1970-71	167.9
1980-81	195.9
1990-91	318.4
1999-2000	456.3

(c) A study was conducted in 1997 by RITES, a PSU under the Ministry of Railways. According to the study, for traffic moving beyond 300 Kilometers, which Railways are logistically suited for moving, Railways' share was 65%. The study, however, took into consideration the modal split of traffic only between road vehicles and Railways.

(d) Achieving a high rate of growth has been Railways objective. Various steps taken to put the Railways on a high growth path are:-

- i) strengthening high density corridors;
  - ii) modernising various traffic facilities and terminals;
  - iii) upgradation of technology;
  - iv) providing multi-modal infrastructure to capture non-bulk piecemeal goods traffic through Container Corporation of India Limited;
  - v) simplification of rules relating to sidings;
  - vi) setting up warehousing facilities near Railway terminals;
  - vii) better customer interaction,
  - viii) launching of computer based Freight Operation Information System to obtain operational information on real-time basis and provide the same to customers.
- (e) The above measures are expected to accelerate the growth of Railways' freight traffic.

[Translation]

**Passenger Amenities at Railway Stations**

1817. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA :

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of complaints received by the Government regarding declining standard of passenger amenities at railway stations and also in the trains during 1999-2000 and till date;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to bring about improvement in passenger amenities at the Railway Stations and in trains;

(c) whether the Government to provide more amenities in the trains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) The number of complaints received regarding passenger amenities at

railway stations and in trains during April, 1999 to June, 2000 was on an average 12 per day.

(b) to (d) Provision and augmentation of facilities at stations and in trains is a continuous process.

Provision of additional amenities at stations is taken care of by way of including appropriate works in the annual works programme of the Railways. Adequate funds are being earmarked for this purpose. This year also an all time high allocation of Rs. 200 crore has been made for augmentation/provision of passenger amenities at railway stations. Moreover, 186 stations have been selected as model station for provision of upgraded facilities at those stations.

For improvement of passenger amenities on coaches, various measures taken are as under :-

- i. Provision of improved PVC flooring and Stainless steel toilet inlays.
- ii. Fitment of modern UIC type of vestibules.
- iii. Pest control in all coaches through specialised agencies.
- iv. Restoration of passenger amenity fittings during maintenance and monitoring of selected trains through "Zero Missing Fitting" drive.
- v. Renovation of rakes in between overhauls.
- vi. Refurbishing of coaches to renew interiors.
- vii. Mid-life rehabilitation of coaches of 12-15 years age group.
- viii. Provision of 110 Volts electrical fittings in place of conventional 24 Volts.
- ix. Provision of cushioned berths/seats in second sleeper and day coaches.
- x. Use of high pressure jet cleaning plants at maintenance depot and mobile jet cleaning plants at enroute stations.
- xi. Strengthening of facilities for watering at nominated stations.

[English]

**Completion of on-going Railway Projects in Tamil Nadu**

1818. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :

SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of on-going railway projects viz. gauge Conversion/doubling/electrification/laying of new lines in Tamil Nadu along with the expenditure incurred thereon so far and funds earmarked during 2000-01;

(b) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed;

(c) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has requested the Union Government for timely completion of these projects;

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

(e) the details of the surveys conducted/on-going survey in Tamil Nadu during the 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01 so far;

(f) the action taken thereon;

(g) whether the Union Government have received some new proposals for gauge conversion/doubling/electrification/laying of new rail line from the Government of Tamil Nadu; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (h) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

**Defaulted Companies**

1819. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

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

(a) the details of the companies which have defaulted in filing their returns etc. with the Registrar of companies during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the action taken by the Government against such companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) The information is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Appropriate action is taken by the Government against such companies under relevant provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 viz. Sections 161, 192, 220, 302 etc. of the Companies Act. 1956.

**Statement**

*Number of Defaulted Companies,  
State-wise as on 31.7.2000*

Region/States	No. of defaulted companies
1	2
<b>Southern Region</b>	
Chennai	21,700
Bangalore	8,850
Hyderabad	21,000
Cochin	4,640
Coimbatore	5,750
Pondicherry	500
<b>Total</b>	<b>62,440</b>
<b>Northern Region</b>	
Delhi	54,741
Kanpur	14,119
Jalandhar	12,060
Jaipur	8,029
Jammu	700
<b>Total</b>	<b>89,649</b>
<b>Western Region</b>	
Bombay	32,908
Ahmedabad	11,204
Pune	10,709

1	2
Gwalior	8,875
Goa	694
<b>Total</b>	<b>64,390</b>
<b>Eastern Region</b>	
Calcutta	29,048
Cuttack	3,312
Patna	4,300
Shillong	4,414
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,074</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,57,553</b>

**Investment by Foreign Companies**

1820. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of investment made by the foreign companies engaged in specific area for exploration of oil and gas;

(b) whether any zero date has been fixed to start production by these companies;

(c) if so, details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Since 1994 up to March, 2000 investment made by foreign companies engaged in exploration in India is around US \$ 93 million.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Since these are exploration blocks, production from these blocks can start only after discovery of crude oil and/or natural gas is made and commercial viability of the discovery is established.

**Gap between Demand and Supply**

1821. SHRI M. CHINNASAMY :

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK :

MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN :

SHRI SAHIB SINGH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had called a meeting to bridge the growing gap between demand and supply of power in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the issues discussed and decisions taken therein; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the requirement of power in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) A meeting was held by Secretary, Ministry of Power to review the Ninth Plan capacity addition programme with the officers of Central Electricity Authority and Central Sector Power Utilities. The status of various projects to be commissioned during the Ninth Plan was reviewed and discussed in the meeting. The projects which have become critical and required special efforts for their timely completion were earmarked for monitoring by CPSUs.

The various steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the requirement of power in the country are given below:-

- (i) Expedient implementation of capacity addition programme. Various task forces have been set in the Ministry for timely implementation of power projects.
- (ii) Promotion of measures for energy efficiency and demand side management.
- (iii) Renovation and Modernisation of old existing generating units.

(iv) Disbursement of loans by Power Finance Corporation for improving operation and maintenance of thermal power stations under the accelerated generation programme.

(v) Promotion of power trading and inter-state and inter-regional power transfers.

(vi) Coordinated operation of hydro, thermal, nuclear and gas turbine power stations in the regional power system.

(vii) Augmentation of transmission, transformation capacity in the power system and installation of shunt capacitors to improve the voltage.

(viii) Reduction of transmission and distribution losses.

(ix) Improving the viability of State Electricity Boards through power sector reforms.

**Speed of Trains**

1822. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the prescribed speed limit for Rajdhani, Shatabdi, Superfast and Mail trains in the country;

(b) whether these are running as per the prescribed speed limit;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken to accelerate the speed of all the trains in the country;

(e) whether the Government were to introduce trains running with the speed of 160 Km. per hour by the year 2000; and

(f) if so, the time by which the trains of such speed are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Speed of trains is dependent upon various factors like type of section, gradient, standard and quality of track, the category of locomotive, type of coaches, number of stoppages etc. The

speed limit vary from section to section and are not uniform over Indian Railways. However, superfast trains have a minimum commercial speed of 55 Kmph.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Speeding up of trains is an ongoing process on Indian Railways.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

### Boosting of Solar Energy

1823. SHRI RAMSHEETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to boost in Solar Energy sector during the last three years;

(b) if so, the subsidy provided by the Government to boost the non-conventional energy sector to various institutes during the last three years indicating especially the names of such institutions in Maharashtra;

(c) whether the institutions of Solar Energy and others have asked for subsidy for this sector;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) Solar energy can be used through two principal routes—the thermal route for heating, cooling, drying, water purification, power generation etc. and the photovoltaic route for converting the light to electricity which can be used for a variety of purposes such as lighting, pumping, communication, and refrigeration. To promote utilization of solar energy in the country the government has taken several initiatives during the last three years apart from the existing fiscal and financial incentives. These include the following :

(i) Expansion of the soft loan scheme for solar water heaters through more banks.

(ii) BIS certification for solar water heating collectors to ensure deployment of quality products in the field.

(iii) Drafting a model building bye-law for making solar assisted water heating systems mandatory in certain categories of buildings and circulating the same to all state governments for implementation.

(iv) A Self Employed Workers' Scheme for promoting solar cookers.

(v) A demonstration scheme on cost sharing basis for newer technologies like concentrating solar cooking systems.

(vi) Designating certain regions in the country as high focus areas (HFAs) for implementation of the Solar Photovoltaic Programme etc.

(b) to (e) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing several programmes to support the use of different renewable energy sources in the country and to promote awareness about them. Subsidy is provided under some of the programmes. Grants are also provided to educational and other institutions for establishment of Energy Parks where different renewable energy systems are displayed or demonstrated. The programmes of the Ministry are implemented mainly through State Renewable Energy Agencies.

Educational and other institutions are eligible for support under some of the programmes of the Ministry. Requests for subsidy and grants from institutions in Maharashtra are routed through the state nodal agency, namely, Maharashtra Energy Development Agency (MEDA). Financial assistance as applicable under different programmes is made available to these institutions after scrutiny of the proposals and under the terms and conditions of the respective programmes. The list of institutions in Maharashtra which, according to MEDA, have received subsidy or grants for installation of solar, wind and some other renewable energy systems is given in the enclosed Statement.

The financial assistance provided by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources to various implementing agencies during the last three years is Rs. 465.06 crores.

out of which an amount of Rs. 31.13 crores has been disbursed to organizations in Maharashtra.

**Statement**

*The Institutions in Maharashtra which have received subsidy in the non-conventional energy Sector*

Sr. No.	Institute	Programme
1	2	3
1.	Sinhagad College of Engineering, Pune	Solar/Wind Hybrid system
2.	Tatyasaheb Kore Tech. Institute, Warnanagar Dist. Kolhapur	Wind Aerogenerator
3.	Shivaji University, Kolhapur	Wind Aerogenerator
4.	M.I.T. College, Pune	Solar/Wind Hybrid system
5.	Dr. Pamashri Vitthalrao Vikhe Patil College of Engineering, Ahmednagar	Solar/Wind Hybrid system
6.	Vishveshvariya Regional College of Engg., Nagpur	Energy Park-all systems
7.	Jnana Prabodhni Medical Trust, Sanjeevan Hospital, Pune	Energy Park-all systems
8.	University of Pune, School of Energy Studies, Pune	Energy Park-all systems
9.	Gandhi National Memorial Society, Agakhan Palace, Nagar Road, Pune	Energy Park-all systems
10.	Jana Prabodhini, Shiv Pradesh, Pune	Energy Park-all systems
11.	Maharashtra Institute of Technology, Pune	Energy Park-all systems
12.	Dr. Punjabrao Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola	Energy Park-all systems
13.	College of Engineering Ambejogai	Energy Park-all systems

1	2	3
14.	North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon	Energy Park-all systems
15.	Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Sindhudurg	Energy Park-all systems
16.	Amravati University Amravati	Energy Park-all systems

*[English]*

**Joining of U.S. University by Former Chief of DRDO**

1824. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the former Chief of Defence Research and Development Organisation and Scientific Advisor to the Government has joined an American University after retirement;

(b) if so, whether the said American University is involved in the US Defence Research programme;

(c) whether the former Chief of D.R.D.O. was permitted to join US University; and

(d) if so, the precautions taken to ensure that country's Defence secrets are not revealed in any manner at any stage?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Dr. VS Arunachalam, the former Scientific Adviser to Defence Minister and subsequently the Director General, Aeronautical Development Agency was granted permission to go on extra-ordinary leave to pursue scientific reserach and to accept assignment as a Distinguished Services Professor at Carnegie Mellon University, USA. He continued in the same university after his retirement. The Government are not aware of involvement of Carnegie Mellon University, USA in any US defence research programme.

(d) Provisions already exist in various statutory enactments which prohibit former Government servants from indulging in disclosure of any secret information affecting prejudicially the sovereignty of India and the security of the State.



**Pending Proposals for Power Plants**

1825. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of the proposals pending with the Union Government for setting up of power plants in the State of Manipur as on November 30, 1999;
- (b) the installation capacities of these plants; and
- (c) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) A proposal to execute the Loktak Downstream HEP (90 MW) by the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC), as a Central Sector Project in Manipur has been accorded investment approval in December, 1999 at an estimated cost of Rs. 578.62 crore. The project is to be completed in the year 2006-07. Further, Tipaimukh hydel project with an installed capacity of 1500 MW was also contemplated to be executed in Manipur as Central Sector project by North-Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) subject to the conclusion of an agreement between the Government of Manipur and NEEPCO. After conclusion of agreement, NEEPCO would need to submit a revised detailed project report for obtaining techno-economic clearance, other statutory clearances as well as investment approval for the project.

[Translation]

**Impacts of Privatisation of Tele-communication System on Defence**

1826. SHRI BALI RAM KASHYAP : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether his Ministry has opposed privatisation and corporatisation of the Department of Telecommunications for security reasons; and
- (b) if so, the facts thereof and the details of security risks expected therefrom?

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

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

**Development of Gaya-Kiul Rail Route**

1827. DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have not paid any attention towards the development of the only existing rail route from Gaya to Kiul since independence;
- (b) if so, the steps likely to be taken by the Government for improvement and development of this rail route;
- (c) whether the Government intend to connect Nawada station under the Danapur division with Delhi and Calcutta; and
- (d) if so, the time by which this target is likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Various measures have been taken by Railways for improvement and development of Gaya-Kiul route like construction of new line between Rajgir-Tilaiya, an approved work which is presently in progress. Besides three surveys for different projects are also in progress on the section. These are as under :-

- (i) Survey for doubling of Gaya-Kiul section.
- (ii) Survey for Nawada-Banka new line.
- (iii) Survey for Koderma-Tilaiya New line.

Further consideration of the above projects would be possible once the results of the surveys become available.

(c) and (d) Nawada station is already linked to Delhi and Calcutta by a BG line and passengers for Delhi can travel via Gaya, and for Calcutta via Kiul or Gaya. There is no proposal at present to introduce a direct train connection between Nawada and Delhi/Calcutta.

**Development of Nuclear Biological Clothings by Kanpur Ordnance Factory**

1828. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Ordnance Factory at Kanpur, has developed nuclear biological clothings for safeguarding the soldiers from nuclear zone against radio-activity;
- (b) if so, the specifications thereof;
- (c) the facilities armed forces are likely to get besides the uniforms and snow boots at high altitudes;

(d) the time by which the production and testing of new defence logistics are likely to commence and handed over to Army for use;

(e) whether the ordnance factory, Kanpur has imported machines from Japan for this purpose; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) to (f) Nuclear, Biological & Chemical (NBC) Warfare Clothing items have been developed by DRDO and are being productionised by Ordnance Equipment Factory and Ordnance Parachute Factory, both located at Kanpur.

These clothing items will be governed by the following specifications formulated by DRDO:-

S.No.	Item	Specification No.
(i)	NBC Sult Permeable :	DMSRDE/T & GS/97/415/Tex 4/4(b) & 5 (b)
(ii)	Haversack :	DMSRDE/T & GS/97/415/Tex 4/9(b)
(iii)	Casualty Bag Half	DMSRDE/T & GS/97/415/Tex 4/7(b)
(iv)	Casualty Bag full	DMSRDE/T & GS/97/415/Tex 4/6(c)
(v)	Facelet Mask 'B'	DMSRDE/T&GS/97/415/Tex 4/8(b)

Besides uniforms and snow boots, the troops deployed in high altitude areas will be provided with adequate protective clothing to survive in a hostile NBC environment.

The demand for supply of NBC Warfare Clothing items developed by DRDO has been placed by Army HQ on Ordnance Factories after successful trial evaluation by the Army. Supply of targeted quantities for 2000-2001 is scheduled for completion by 31st March 2001. No. special type of machines have been imported for manufacture of these items, which will be manufactured with available infrastructure.

#### Advertisement by Eastern Railways

1829. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Eastern Railways issues many advertisements through Print Media every year;

(b) if so, the amount spent on these advertisements during 1999-2000; and

(c) the details of advertisements given to each publication during 1999-2000 and the areas where these are published?

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

(b) During 1999-2000, an amount of Rs. 4.98 crores (provisional) was spent on press advertisements by Eastern Railway.

(c) A statement is attached.

#### Statement

*Details of the advertisements released Publication-wise for the year 1999-2000 (Major dailies only in the jurisdiction of the Eastern Railway)*

S. No.	Name of Publication	Place/s of Publication	No. of Advertisements
1.	Stateman	Calcutta	753
2.	The Telegraph	Calcutta	576
3.	Anand Bazar Patrika	Calcutta	587
4.	Bartman	Calcutta	370
5.	Sambad Pratidin	Calcutta	625
6.	Aaj Kal	Calcutta	601
7.	Sanmarg	Calcutta	708
8.	Dainik Vishwamitra	Calcutta	650
9.	Times of India	Patna	385
10.	Hindustan Times	Patna	579
11.	Hindustan	Patna	459
12.	Aaj	Patna	552
13.	Quami Tanzeem	Patna	192
14.	Sangam	Patna	276
15.	Aaj	Varanasi	268
16.	Dainik Jagran	Varanasi	251

*[English]***Wind Power Potential**

1830. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the total wind power potential in the country and percentage tapped thereof so far, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have formulated a comprehensive action plan and strategy to tap wind power potential in the country and western coast in particular in collaboration with countries having superior technology for harnessing wind power;

(c) if so, the details of major project under execution and projects recently cleared/under active consideration of the Government, and

(d) details of investment made/proposed by PSUs in power sector and State Electricity Boards State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) The gross wind power potential in the country has been estimated at 20,000 MW. The technical potential which depends on available grid capacity is, however, limited to about 9000 MW. A Statement on the gross/technical potential, and percentage of potential tapped, is enclosed.

(b) Wind power projects are mainly being set up, including the western coast, as commercial projects through private investments. Various fiscal and promotional incentives and soft loans are available, and attractive policies have been announced by the potential States for power generated from these projects. Wind turbines with state-of-the-air technology are being manufactured in the country under licensed production/joint ventures.

(c) Commercial wind power projects aggregating to 97 MW capacity are under execution in four States, and another 136 MW capacity is under different stages of planning and implementation in those States. Wind power projects are cleared by the respective State Electricity Boards and State Governments.

(d) Demonstration projects of 57 MW aggregate capacity have already been installed by State Govts/State Electricity Boards in eight States. National Thermal Power Corporation are planning two 20 MW wind power projects in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. National Hydroelectric Power Corporation are also planning a 25 MW wind power project in Tamil Nadu.

**Statement***State-wise Gross/Technical Wind Power Potential and Potential Tapped*

S.No	State	Gross Potential (MW)	Technical Potential (MW)	Percentage of Technical Potential Tapped
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2200	1240	7.1
2.	Gujarat	3100	1450	11.5
3.	Karnataka	4120	875	3.9
4.	Madhya Pradesh	3000	875	2.6
5.	Maharashtra	1920	1920	4.1
6.	Orissa	840	400	-
7.	Rajasthan	1210	500	0.4
8.	Tamil Nadu	900	900	85.6
9.	Others	2710	560	0.6

**Construction of Jeypore-Kesinga Rail Line**

1831. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal regarding construction of Jeypore-Kesinga rail line via Nawarangpur;

(b) if so, the progress made so far in this regard;

(c) the funds earmarked during 2000-01; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) Survey for a new line from Jeypore to Nawarangpur (45 Km.) has been taken up. The Survey Report is expected during the year. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available. At present, there is no proposal for a new line beyond Nawarangpur upto Kesinga.

**Espionage by Defence Personnel**

1832. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN :

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY :

SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL :

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a serving army person and a retired Naval Officer have recently been found involved in espionage case;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating their modus operandi and the nature of the secrets being passed on by them to the country for which they were working; and

(c) the outcome of the inquiry conducted and the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) A case involving a Non-Commissioned Officer of the Indian Army and a retired Petty Officer of the Indian Navy was detected in May, 2000. It has been revealed that the intelligence agency of a neighbouring country cultivated low level sources who indulged in passing military information of a general nature.

Both the personnel were arrested by the Delhi Police in May, 2000 and are currently in judicial custody. Investigation in the case has been completed after a case U/Ss 3, 9, of the Official Secrets Act, 1923 and Section 120 of the IPC was registered against the accused.

One more serving Petty Officer of the Navy whose name was revealed by the said retired Petty officer during the investigation has been placed under close custody and the extent of his involvement in the espionage activities is under investigation by Naval authorities.

**Salaries to Soldiers on Peace Keeping Mission in Sierra Leone**

1833. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian soldiers sent in the U.N. Peace Keeping Mission in Sierra Leone have not yet received their salaries from the U.N. and they could not get letters sent to them by their families;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to resolve the issue; and

(d) the details of other problems reportedly faced by the Indian soldiers in Sierra Leone, and the reaction of the Indian Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Full entitlements of overseas allowances are being disbursed to Indian soldiers serving in the UN Peace Keeping Mission in Sierra Leone viz. UNAMSIL and the same are being credited in their individual accounts in banks in India. It has not been possible so far to disburse overseas allowances to the Indian soldiers in Sierra Leone in US dollars because the banks in Sierra Leone are unable to handle cash in dollars. Due to the disturbed situation prevailing in Sierra Leone as well as irregular flights from Accra to Freetown, there was a disruption in the mail service.

(c) Efforts are being made to disburse overseas allowances in US Dollars to the Indian soldiers in Sierra Leone through a neighbouring African country. The problem of disruption in mail service has since been resolved by re-routing of the mail through Conakry, and the troops are receiving their mail regularly now. Meanwhile, orders have been issued for sending one IAF aircraft on courier service to Sierra Leone every month with a view to facilitate disbursement of overseas allowances and also carry mail and other items of personal use for the Indian troops.

(d) There are no other problems faced by the Indian soldiers in Sierra Leone, that have not been addressed and resolved.

**Projects Implemented by IREDA**

1834. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of projects being implemented by Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) at present;

(b) the progress of these projects as on date;

(c) whether IREDA has earned dividends during 1999-2000; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M.KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) is a financial institution and

provides loans for implementation of projects under various renewable energy sectors. As on 30/6/2000, a total of 1316 projects have been sanctioned with loan commitments of Rs. 3078.69 crores, and Rs. 1642.85 crores has been disbursed under these projects. Projects of an aggregate capacity of 596.96 MW have been commissioned against the projects of 1400 MW sanctioned.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, IREDA has received an amount of Rs.3.36 lakhs, as dividend, in 1999-2000 for the year 1998-99 from M/s. MP Wind Farms Ltd., a joint venture company of IREDA.

#### **Benches of Supreme Court**

1835. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH :

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN :

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

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

(a) whether the Government have received the proposal from the Government of West Bengal regarding setting up of Circuit Bench of Supreme Court in Calcutta;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry had also sent a proposal to the Chief Justice of India regarding setting up of more benches of Supreme Court outside Delhi; and

(c) if so, the details of the decision taken on the proposals by the Chief Justice of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) According to article 130 of the Constitution, the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places, as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint.

Representations/suggestions have, however, been received from time to time from certain State Governments, including the Government of West Bengal, Bar Associations etc. for establishing Benches of Supreme Court in various parts of the country, including Calcutta.

(c) The recommendation of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee contained in its 61st report for setting up of Benches of the Supreme Court in Southern, western and North-eastern parts of the country was communicated to the Chief Justice of India

on 29th June, 2000. The Chief Justice of India has intimated that the recommendation of the Committee would be placed before the Full Court of the Supreme Court of India for appropriate consideration.

#### **Rail Link with Nepal**

1836. SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to provide a railway link from Raxaul to a dry port inside Nepal as reported in the Economic Times dated July 12, 2000;

(b) if so, the total amount is likely to provide to Nepal in the form of non-refundable grants; and

(c) the time by which new rail line between Raxaul to Nepal is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) A Rail link is being provided between Raxaul (India) and Birgunj (Nepal).

(b) Rs. 5.12 crores. This is being provided by Ministry of External Affairs.

(c) The project is targetted to be completed during the current financial year.

[Translation]

#### **On going Railway Projects in Maharashtra**

1837. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made regarding on-going railway projects in Maharashtra along with expenditure incurred thereon and allocation made during 2000-01 for each project;

(b) the details of on-going railway projects which are lagging behind the schedule along with the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Details of the ongoing railway projects for new lines, gauge conversion and doubling in Maharashtra including the expenditure incurred thereon and allocation made during 2000-01 to each project, are given in the enclosed Statement.

Status of each project and target dates for completion, wherever fixed, are also given in the Statement.

**Statement***Ongoing Project in Maharashtra*

S. No.	Project	Plan-Head	Cost	Exp. up to Mar. 2000	Budget Outlay 2000-01	Status of Work
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Divya Kaylan doubling of 5-6 line	DL	47.70	0.50	13.00	This is a new work of 1999-2000. Earthwork and Bridges in Diva-Dombivali and Dombivali-Kaylan will be taken up during 2000-01.
2.	Divya-Panvel	DL	63.00	59.60	3.40	Work has been completed.
3.	Divya-Vasai	DL	133.99	100.70	20.00	In phase-1, 11 km. from Vasai Rd. to Kaman has been commissioned and 17 Km from Kaman to Bhiwandi has been completed and ready for CRS inspection. Bhiwandi to Diva is targetted for March 2001 subject to removal of encroachments.
4.	Panvel-Jasai-JNPT	DL	48.00	0.00	1.00	This is a new work of 2001-01. Detailed planning has been taken up.
5.	Panvel- Roha-Land acquisition	DL	4.10	2.68	1.41	Land acquisition is expected to be completed in July 2000.
6.	Sewagram Chitoda	DL	12.60	11.40	1.20	Earthwork and minor bridges has been completed. Ballast supply, building work and track linking is in progress. Work completed and ready for CRS inspection.
7.	Miraj-Latur	GC	314.02	93.99	15.00	The work is being progressed in phases. In the first phase, work from Kurduwadi to Pandharpur has been completed and CRS inspection is being arranged. On Latur Road-Latur (42 km) earthwork and bridges are nearing completion. Work between Kurduwadi-Latur (1.43 Kms) will be taken up after work of Latur-Latur Road has been completed.
8.	Akola-Purna	GC	228.00	0.00	10.00	New work included in the Budget 2000-01. Arrangements are being made to take up earthwork and bridges.
9.	Mudkhed-Adilabad	GC	117.96	7.75	2.00	The work is in progress under BOLT. The work is expected to be completed in about a year's time.
10.	Mudkhed-Adilabad	GC	117.96	7.75	2.00	The work is in progress under BOLT. The work is expected to be completed in about a year's time.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11.	Secunderabad - Mudkhed & Janakhampet Bodhan	GC	287.83	17.52	20.00	The work has been taken up in first phase from Mudkhed-Nizamabad (96 km.) Earthwork, ballast procurement and minor bridges are in progress. The phase will be completed in coming years subject to availability of resources.
12.	Solapur-Gadag	GC	265.77	120.09	10.00	The work is being done in phases. The work Solapur-Hotgi and Hotgi to Bijapur has been completed. Work is in progress on rest of section which will be completed in the coming years depending upon availability of resources.
13.	Gondia-Chandafort	GC	234.23	232.97	1.26	The work has been completed. Financial adjustments are being made.
14.	Belapur-Panvel Doubling	MTP	279.83	116.14	42.39	Double line been commissioned and opened for commuter traffic on 14.4.2000. Balance works to be executed by CIDCO are in progress.
15.	Kurla-Thane 5th & 6th line (phase-I)	MTP	97.39	47.82	14.00	Work of earthwork, supply of Ballast, Track linking, Major Bridges, Foundation and erection of OHE structures and other works are in progress in stretches which are free from encroachments. Anticipated date of completion is March 2001.
16.	Kurla-thane 5th and 6th line (Bhandup to Thane) ph.II	MTP	56.79	11.71	10.00	Earthwork, supply of Ballast, Bridges and 22 KV aerial feeder obstructing 5th and 6th line by underground cable between Bhandup-Mulund and Mulund-Thane section is in progress. Anticipated date of completion is March 2001.
17.	Seawood Uran electrified line	MTP	495.44	18.06	45.37	Work of important bridge on Panvel creek, construction of minor bridges, sub way at Seawood and work at Sanpada crashed are in progress. Due to financial crunch being faced by CIDCO, execution of project has been divided in two phases. Under first phase single line will be laid in the section. Anticipated date of completion is March 2004.
18.	Thane Turbhe Nerul/Vashi part of corridor no. 2 in Navi Mumbai	MTP	403.39	161.32	51.30	Civil works for second line are nearing completion. Electrification and signalling works are in progress. Anticipated date of completion is March 2001.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
19.	Thane-Mumbra 5th and 6th line	MTP	49.34	0.00	0.01	New work has been included in the Works Programme of 2000-01 subject to the condition that expenditure on the project will be incurred only after taking necessary clearances.
20.	Autoblock signalling of Virar-Dahanu Road	MTP	25.68	8.36	6.99	Construction of Relay Huts and laying of cables & erection of signals for Saphalka-Palghar is in progress. Anticipated date of completion is March 2001.
21.	Quadrupling between Borivali and Virar	MTP	401.66	32.89	30.00	Work for earth work, major & minor bridges yard remodelling and quarters is in progress.
22.	Santacruz-Borivali 5th line	MTP	82.42	74.64	12.00	Work on all minor and major bridges have been completed. Work is held up at certain locations due to delay in removal of encroachment.
23.	Thane-Mumbra 5th and 6th line	MTP	49.34	0.00	0.10	Work has been included in the Budget of 2000-01 subject to necessary clearances.
24.	Virar Dahanu Road Development of facilities for introduction of EMUs and terminal facilities	MTP	25.82	0.00	0.01	Work has been included in the budget of 2000-2001 subject to necessary clearances.
25.	Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli Vajjnath	NL	353.08	0.44	3.00	Final location survey has been completed for 15 km from Ahmednagar end. Land acquisition plans & papers have been submitted to the State Govt. for 15 km from Ahmednagar end. The work would be progressed once the land available. Station building at Beed is under progress.
26.	Amravati Narkher	NL	175.03	34.27	6.00	70% of the land has been acquired. Earthwork and bridges for 18 section out of 27 has been taken up and work is in progress. Contracts for 9 major bridges have been awarded. Work is being progressed as per availability of resources.
27.	Baramati-Lonad	NL	75.00	0.10	0.10	Necessary clearances have been obtained. Final location survey has been taken up and expected to be completed by March 2001.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7
28.	Panvel-Karjat	NL	106.89	18.03	14.00	All land except 9.6 hect. forest land has been acquired. Land acquisition process for forest land is in progress. Earth work in 7 sections out of 9 and work on all bridges and the 2.7 km. long tunnel is in good progress where 1.49 km tunnel have been completed.
29.	Puntamba-Shirdi	NL	30.22	0.00	1.00	Necessary clearance has been received. Final location survey has been taken up.
30.	Udhna-Jalgaon	RE	138.12	14.98	25.20	Only 11 RKMs from Udhna to Chaltham have been electrified during 1999-2000. The entire section is planned for completion by March, 2003.

Legends :-

DL : Doubling

GC : Gauge Conversion

NL : New Line -

RE : Railway

MTP : Metropolitan Transport Project

*[English]***Requests from Kerala Government for Kerosene**

1838. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR :

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :

SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

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

(a) whether the Government have received request from the Government of Kerala to reconsider the increase in price of Kerosene and to increase the quota to the State of Kerala; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government had decided in November, 1997 that the subsidy on PDS Kerosene will be reduced in phases to reach the level of 33.33% of the import parity price by 2001-02 and the subsidy will be transferred to the fiscal budget from the year 2002 onward. Accordingly, the ex-storage point price of PDS Kerosene was revised from

Rs. 2.00 per litre to Rs. 4.50 per litre with effect from midnight of 22nd - 23rd March, 2000. The retail selling prices of SKO (PDS) are fixed by the respective State Governments.

Kerosene is a deficit product. The annual allocation of Kerosene to the State of Kerala has since been increased from 3,88,171 Kilo litre for the year 1999-2000 to 3,97,257 Kilo litre for the year 2000-01.

**Sovereign Guarantee Scheme**

1839. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently announced a proposal to offer sovereign guarantee scheme for transmission companies to attract more investments from abroad in Indian power sector;

(b) if so, whether some generating companies who were given counter-guarantees in the last few years are still searching for investors from abroad; and

(c) the factors which are inhibiting the inflow of Foreign Direct Investment into Indian power sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The Prime Minister in his speech delivered at the India-European Union Business Summit at Lisbon, Portugal on June 27, 2000

announced that the Government is willing to consider a new guarantee structure for large transmission projects and power purchase systems as well as accelerating the international competitive bidding (ICB) process for renovation and modernization of the country's power generating companies. The details of the new guarantee scheme are being worked out.

(b) 3 of the 8 fast tract power projects which were selected for extension of the counter guarantee of the Government of India have completed construction activities and have commenced generation. 1 project has achieved financial closure and has commenced constructions. No report has been received from the promoters of the remaining 4 projects of difficulties in locating investors from abroad for their projects.

(c) The main factor responsible for the poor inflow of Foreign Direct Investment into the Indian power sector is the poor financial health of the State Electricity Boards and the non availability of adequate payment security mechanism.

The Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998 has facilitated establishment of regulatory commissions in States with a view to rationalise tariffs and subsidies. States have been asked to complete metering within a specified period and chalk out a plan for reduction of transmission and distribution losses. All these steps are expected to improve the financial condition of the SEBs and attract FDI into India's power sector.

The framework is now available for substantial participation of private enterprises in India's Power sector. Many States have realised the necessity for reforming the SEBs and have initiated the process of introducing competition. The progress of private investment in power is critically linked to the success of States in rationalizing the tariff, improving the realization of dues and providing a reliable payment security to the private investors.

#### **Equity in NTPC and Power Grid Corporation**

1840. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:  
Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to sell off equity in National Thermal Power Corporation and Power Grid Corporation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have also laid down broad guidelines for restructuring plan of the power plants;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) In view of the above, do not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Review of Recruitment System In Army**

1841. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Army has rolled out a new Plan to make its recruitment system fast, transparent and candidate friendly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the new system is likely to encourage the youths to join Indian Army; and

(d) the details of existing recruitment policy of the Government for Armed forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) The recruitment of officers in all the three wings of the Armed Forces is carried out on an All-India merit basis depending on the availability of the vacancies.

2. So far as the recruitment of Personnel Below Officer Rank (PBOR) is concerned, recruitment of airmen and sailors in Air Force and Navy respectively is carried out on an All India merit basis depending upon the number of vacancies. However, in the case of the Army, recruitment is done based upon the quota allotted to the State on the basis of its Recruitable Male Population (RMP) and fixed class percentages.

3. With effect from 1.4.1998, the system of recruitment in the Army through application was discontinued and recruitment is being made through open recruitment rallies. Recruitment is done by a recruitment team selected by the concerned Zonal Recruiting Office (ZRO) from a Branch Recruiting Office (BRO) other than the one in whose area of responsibility the rally is held.

Thus the local BRO is not involved in the recruitment process and the recruitment process is completed at the rally site itself.

4. The new system is open, transparent, totally fair and candidate-friendly as rallies are conducted in full view of public. It ensures better and faster process of selection, and eliminates/minimises the involvement of agents and touts.

5. The new recruitment system has been successful and has resulted in encouraging youth to join the Army.

[English]

#### Construction of Flyover at Morigram and Bagnan

1842. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to expedite the construction of flyover at Morigram station of South Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be completed;

(c) whether the Government propose to start construction work of flyover at Bagnan of South Eastern Railway; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The work has been sanctioned on cost sharing basis with the State Government of West Bengal. Works on bridge portion across tract will be executed by the Railways and on bridge approaches by the State Government.

(b) Railways have already started the work on bridge portion and testing of soil for foundation is in progress. Similarly State Government has also started the work on one side approach and pile foundation is in progress. Work shall be completed as early as possible in coordination with the State Government.

(c) Yes, Sir. The work has been sanctioned on cost sharing basis with State Government of West Bengal in the budget for the year 2000-2001. Work on bridge portion across Railway track will be executed by the Railways and on bridge approaches by the State Government.

(d) Work is at planning stage for Railway portion as well as approaches in consultation with the State Government.

#### Mobilisation of Extra Resources

1843. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether having taken on a Rs. 11,000 crore plan and consciously rejecting any fare increase this year, the Indian Railways have launched initiatives to mobilise the extra budgetary resources;

(b) if so, whether the Railway Board has drawn up a scheme to set up a Telecommunication Corporation of the Indian Railway; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be set up?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government has approved setting up of a Broadband Telecom and Multimedia Corporation of Indian Railways for laying the network and to commercially exploit the created Telecom capacity and bandwidth.

#### Career Prospects of Defence Personnel

1844. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to prevailing poor service conditions and other facilities available to Indian Armed Forces, bright young men are not coming in more number to join the Forces keeping in view the wider opportunities available in the private sector due to globalisation of economy;

(b) if so, whether any task force has been appointed by the Government to study the matter in depth and to evaluate further the pay-scales, facilities and other opportunities to the bright young men and women to attract them to Indian Armed Forces, particularly in the Commissioned ranks to strengthen position of our Armed Forces; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) There is no shortfall in the intake of Personnel Below Officer Rank (PBORs) in the Armed Forces. Some shortfall has been there in the officers' cadre mainly in the Army. However, with the launching of the Image Projection Campaign since September 1997, and due to improved pay scales and allowances with the implementation of the Fifth Pay Commission's recommendations and other promotional measures, the response has improved considerably. The intake of the training academies of the Army has registered a definite upward trend and the training courses are now fully subscribed except in certain technical streams.

[Translation]

#### Samagra Rasayan Pariyojana

1845. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open up the Samagra Rasayan Pariyojana for private investment for modernisation of research and production of the chemicals, petrochemicals and drug sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the estimates cost of said pariyojana;

(c) whether the Government propose to invite foreign investment for this sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) :

(a) to (d) The need to set up integrated chemical industrial estates for the chemical and petrochemical industry; in collaboration with State Governments has been identified. No decision regarding the development of such estates or their location has been taken.

[English]

#### Gas Connection on Demand in Urban Areas

1846. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to open a gas agency over a population of 15000 in each block/tehsil headquarter and municipal area;

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

(c) whether Government are aware that the existing gas agencies and oil companies are opening their sub-counters at tehsil headquarters and if so, the policy of the Government in this regard;

(d) whether Government will allocate the new gas agencies through tenders/advertisements or any changes have been made in the policy in this regard;

(e) the time by which Government propose to exhaust the waiting list for gas connections; and

(f) the reasons for not providing LPG connections by the Gas companies in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) As per the existing policy, the following criteria are adopted for setting up economically viable LPG distributorships in different parts of the country including small towns and villages :

(i) All urban locations with a population of 10,000 and above by including potential adjoining villages falling within the radius of 15 Kms.

(ii) Urban locations having population of 5,000 and above taking into account the potential of adjoining villages falling within 15 Kms radius.

(iii) Cluster of villages within 15 Kms radius of nucleus villages having a population of 10,000 and above.

(iv) Villages within 15 Kms radius around towns having population of 1 lakh and above.

(c) The Government have permitted the opening of extension counters by the existing LPG distributorships upto a radius of 30 Kms in the plains and 75 Kms in the Hilly areas subject to certain conditions.

(d) According to the existing policy for selection of dealers/distributors of petroleum products, the locations included in the Marketing Plans are advertised by the oil companies and the selection therefor is made through the Dealer Selection Boards (DSBs) as per the procedure.

(e) and (f) Government have decided to release 1 crore LPG connections during the calendar year 2000 to liquidate the waiting list existing with LPG distributors of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies as on 1.12.1999. LPG distributors operating in rural areas are also releasing LPG Connections as per the above enrolment plan.

#### **Damodar River Railway**

1847. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made in construction of Damodar River Railway so far sector-wise

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon so far and the funds earmarked during 2000-01; and

(c) the time by which the above project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Tenders for earthwork and minor bridges have been finalised between Km. 0.6 to Km. 57.1. Tenders have been invited for Earthwork and Minor bridges between Km 57.1 to Km. 96. Soil exploration for major bridges is in progress and ballast supply tenders are being invited for 50% of the length.

(b) An expenditure of Rs. 0.45 cr. had been incurred on the project till 31.03.2000. Funds earmarked for the project during 2000-01 is Rs. 40 Cr.

(c) The project will be progressed to completion as early as possible.

#### **Gauge Conversion of Mudkhed-Adilabad Rail Line**

1848. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of gauge conversion on Mudkhed-Adilabad rail line under South Central Railway;

(b) the reasons for delay in completion of work which was targeted to be completed during 1998-99;

(c) the details of work done since the new BOLT contractor has taken over the work; and

(d) the time by which the gauge conversion work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) The work of gauge conversion of Mudkhed-Adilabad section on South Central Railway had been awarded to M/s. Shakthi Concrete Industries Ltd., (SCIL), Hyderabad under the BOLT scheme. The work was originally targeted for completion by 30.9.97. As the Agency was experiencing problems in getting its finances tied up, the date was extended to 31.3.99. However, the progress of the work still remained very slow and the Agency could not tie up its finances. M/s. SCIL then floated a sister concern viz. M/s. Shakthi Infrastructure Investment and Leasing Ltd., (SIILL), as a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) and have assigned them all the contractual rights. The new Agency, M/s. SIILL, is now understood to have tied up their finances with the Housing & Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO).

(c) The new Agency, M/s. SIILL, have not yet started actual execution.

(d) Subject to the required funds becoming available from HUDCO, it is expected that the project would be completed by 31.12.2001.

[Translation]

#### **Action Against LPG Dealers for Committing Irregularities**

1849. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of complaints received and cases registered against L.P.G. agencies in Bihar for committing irregularities during each of the last three years;

(b) the action taken by the Government against them; and

(c) the details of LPG agencies closed down due to various irregularities during the above period in Bihar, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The total number of established complaints against LPG distributors in Bihar for committing irregularities during the last three years, are as under:-

Years	Number of complaints	
1997-98	-	67
1998-99	-	28
1999-2000	-	20

(b) Action was taken against such distributors for the established malpractice/irregularity, depending upon its nature as per the Distributorship agreement in vogue.

(c) 3 LPG agencies were terminated/closed down due to various irregularities during the above period in the State of Bihar.

#### Import of Petroleum Products

1850. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

#### Statement

##### *Imports of Crude Oil and Petroleum Products*

(Qty. '000' Tonnes, Value : Rs. Crores)

Item	1997-98		1998-99*		1999-2000*	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
A Crude Oil**	34494	15897.15	39808	14876.46	449.39	30695.33
B. Petroleum Products (⊕)	19530	12431.92	18780	9836.52	13067	11119.02
I. Light Distillates	1422	1162.59	1947	1414.08	1618	1810.39
1. LPG	1087	902.57	1525	1130.35	1377	1558.95
2. Others	335	260.02	422	283.73	241	251.44
II. Middle Distillates	17942	11149.97	16308	8203.91	10900	8889.62
1. ATF	55	34.23	0	0.00	1	3.60
2. SKO	3812	2528.77	5823	3244.11	5491	4844.59
3. HSD	14075	8586.97	10485	4959.80	5408	4041.43
III. Heavy Ends	166	119.36	525	218.53	549	419.01
1. Furnace Oil	141	55.31	514	182.85	483	313.06
2. Lubes	25	64.05	11	35.68	66	105.95
<b>Total (A+B)</b>	<b>54024</b>	<b>28329.07</b>	<b>58588</b>	<b>24712.98</b>	<b>58056</b>	<b>41814.35</b>

⊕ Includes NOC imports but excludes import by private parties.

\* Provisional.

\*\*Imports by IOC, Mumbai.

(a) the details of the petroleum products which have not been banned for import by the Government; and

(b) the quantity of each petroleum products imported during the each of last three years alongwith the expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Till date no petroleum product has been banned for import by the Government.

(b) The information is given in the attached Statement.

**Construction of Terminal at Raigarh Railway Station**

1851. SHRI VISHNUDEO SAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which approval was given for construction of Terminal at Raigarh Railway Station under Bilaspur Railway Division and for laying of new rail line from Bishrampur to Ambikapur; and

(b) the allocations made therefor during 1999-2000 and 2000-01 along with progress made in regard to the above projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Approval for construction of Raigarh Terminal under Bilaspur Division was given in 1998-99.

A new Railway line from Bishrampur to Ambikapur was included in 1997-98 (Supplementary Budget). Approval of Planning Commission was received in August, 1998.

(b) Allocations made for construction of Raigarh Terminal during 1999-2000 and 2000-01 were Rs. 87.89 Lakhs and Rs. 40.00 Lakhs respectively. Land acquisition for the project is being processed.

Allocations made for construction of Bishrampur-Ambikapur new line during 1999-2000 and 2000-01 were Rs. 5.3 Crores and Rs. 5 Crores respectively. Physical possession of full private land has been obtained in December 1999. Tenders for earth work, bridges and buildings are being processed.

[English]

**Tax Free Oil to Foreign Aviation Companies**

1852. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum have paid huge amount to various States in lieu of filling of fuel tax free in aircraft of foreign aviation companies as reported in the Rashtriya Sahara dated June 20, 2000;

(b) if so, the amount paid by each oil company, State-wise;

(c) whether the oil companies want to make up this loss from the oil pool; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not recovering the amount from foreign aviation companies as sales tax or in any other manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The oil marketing companies have paid Rs. 505 crores (approximately) to various States towards sales tax on supplies of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF). The State-wise details are given in enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Air Services Agreement signed by the Government with other countries (93 in all) have an article which provides, on reciprocal basis, either

(i) grant of outright exemption from payment of customs duties, local duties etc. on Aviation Turbine Fuel and other items uplifted by aircraft of one Contracting State from the territory of the other Contracting country.

OR

(ii) grant of most favoured nation treatment in these matter to the airlines of the Contracting Countries.

Sales tax is a State subject. There is no provision to reimburse under-recoveries of sales tax from the oil pool account.

**Statement**

Sl.No.	State	Amount
1.	Delhi	Rs. 164.25 Crore
2.	West Bengal	Rs. 14.48 Crore
3.	Maharashtra	Rs. 256.88 Crore
4.	Tamil Nadu	Rs. 55.56 Crore
5.	Andhra Pradesh	Rs. 0.91 Crore
6.	Karnataka	Rs. 6.47 Crore
7.	Kerala	Rs. 6.66 Crore
Total *		Rs. 505.20 Crore

\* In the State of Rajasthan, an amount of Rs. 0.01 lakhs has been paid by oil marketing company.

**Destruction of Ammunition  
In Fire at Bharatpur**

1853. SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the destruction of over 3000 tonnes of explosives in 400 acre ammunition depot in Bharatpur is to affect army's preparedness for offensive strike in desert and also retard its ongoing post Kargil modernisation drive; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to make up the losses?

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

(b) The losses suffered in the fire are being made up by procurement from the Ordnance Factories and ex-import.

**Construction of ROB in Ghatkopar**

1854. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction work of Road Over Bridge at Railway station Ghatkopar in Mumbai has been completed;

(b) if not, the reasons for delay along with its original time schedule for completion and cost escalation; and

(c) the present status of the project and the time by which it is likely to be completed?

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

(a) No, Sir. Work is in progress.

(b) The work got delayed mainly due to delay in removal of five shops by Mumbai Municipal Corporation on west side, delay in getting traffic blocked for the road, site being in busy area with constricted approaches etc.

Work was originally planned to be completed by 30.6.2000 at the cost of Rs. 175.90 lakhs. No cost escalation is expected.

(c) Sub-structure has been completed up to bed block level. Temporary arrangements for casting of the girders across the railway track have been erected. The work is targeted for completion by 31-12-2000 subject to depositing of balance amount of Rs. 95.90 lakhs by the Mumbai Municipal Corporation as so far they have deposited only Rs. 80 lakhs against the estimated cost of Rs. 175.90 lakhs.

**Purchase of Diesel Engines**

1855. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether more than the requisite number of diesel engines for KRAZ vehicles were purchased in 1991 causing extra expenditure to the exchequer;

(b) if so, whether the Government have looked into the matter and brought to the book the guilty officials; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) A total of 125 diesel engines for Kraz vehicles were last procured in 1991 as per laid down procedure. Some of the engines became surplus due to non-availability of spares from the Soviet Union and also because of shortage of repairable vehicles as the Kraz fleet was 20-25 years old. Further, it was found that repair/overhaul of some of these vehicles was not cost effective. However, since Kraz vehicles are still in service the available remaining engines are being effectively utilised progressively for maintenance purpose. Thus no extra expenditure to the exchequer is visualised.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Exemption of Customs Duty for  
Mega Power Projects**

1856. SHRI P. S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have issued a



notification wherein the field of exemption of customs duty is extended for a Mega Power Project;

(b) if so, whether the River Bed Power House (RBPH) of Sardar Sarovar Project is exempted from payment of import duty;

(c) if so, whether the proposal for import duty exemption on TG sets for River Bed Power House was submitted to Ministry of Power;

(d) if so, the State Government of Gujarat has written to Ministry of Power to recommend exemption of customs duty as a special case; and

(e) if so, the time by which the Union Government are likely to issue orders in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The Government of Gujarat had submitted a proposal to the Union Government for accordng the status of deemed mega power project and exemption from payment of import duty on Turbo Generator sets, as a special case, in the case of Sardar Sarovar Project. The State Government have been requested to furnish additional information in connection with their proposal and confirmation from the State Government for adhering to all the conditions of the revised mega power policy applicable to public sector mega power projects. Response from the Government of Gujarat is awaited.

#### **Fur Trade**

1857. SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Jammu & Kashmir took a decision to stop fur trade keeping in view the conservation concerns;

(b) if so, whether an inventory of fur stocks available with the traders was got prepared and assessed by a Committee consisting of State and Union Government officials;

(c) if so, these details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government had agreed to provide necessary funds so that the stocks could be taken from traders and got disposed of; and

(e) the reasons for not providing the funds till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

#### **Domestic Foreign Investment in Power Sector**

1858. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state the names of domestic and foreign companies willing to invest their capital in power generation in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa along with the amount of money invested by them, Company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : Details of the proposals for setting up power projects in the private sector in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa, which have been accorded techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority (CEA), are given in the enclosed statement. The actual amount of money invested by the promoters will be known only after the promoters of the projects achieve financial closure, complete construction activities and the firm financial package is approved by CEA.

#### **Statement**

S.No.	Name of the project/ Promoters	Capt. (MW)	Estimated completion cost as per techno-economic clearance of CEA
1	2	3	4

#### **Uttar Pradesh**

1.	Visnuprayag , HEP (M/s. JPIL)	400	US\$ 107.35 million +Rs. 1233.57 crores (1US\$=Rs. 35.5/-)
----	-------------------------------	-----	--

1	2	3	4
2.	Rosa TPP (M/s. Indo-Gulf Fertilizers)	567	US\$ 280.726.million + Rs. 1435.5284 crores (1 US\$=Rs.35.5)
3.	Srinagar HEP (M/s. Duncans North Hydro Power Co. Ltd.)	330	US\$ 95.054 million + Rs. 1299.89 crores (1US\$=Rs. 42/-)
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>			
4.	Mareshwar HEP (M/s. S. Kumars Ltd.)	400	US\$ 213.29 million + Rs. 812.09 crores (1 US\$ = Rs. 35.5)
5.	Korba (East) TPP (M/s. Daewoo Power)	1070	US\$ 213.29 million + Rs. 812.09 crores (1 US\$ = Rs. 35.5)
6.	Bina TPP (M/s. Bina Power Supply Co. Ltd.)	578	US\$ 175.412 million + Rs. 1820.627 crores (1 US\$=Rs. 35.5)
7.	Narsinghpur CCGP (M/s. GBL Power)	166	US\$ 77.74 million + Rs. 253.697 crores (1 US\$ = Rs. 35.5)
8.	Korba (West) Extn. (M/s. ITPL)	420	US\$ 164.646 million + DM. 169.73 million + Rs. 834.351 crores (1US\$ = Rs. 35.5 & 1 DM=Rs. 20.50)
9.	Guna CCGT (M/s. STI Power India Ltd.)	330	US\$ 160.50 million + Rs. 509.54 crores (1 US\$ Rs. 35.5)
10.	Pench TPP (M/s. Pench Power Ltd.)	500	US\$ 284.908 million + Rs. 1172.155 crores (1 US\$=Rs. 35.5)
11.	Bhilai TPP (M/s. Bhilai Power Supply Comp.)	574	US\$ 419.699 million + Rs. 999.78 crores (1 US\$=Rs. 35.5)
12.	Raigarh TPP (M/s. Jindal Power Ltd.)	550	US\$ 85.176 million + DEM 240.676 million + Rs. 1628.075 crores (1 US\$ =Rs. 35.5 and DM=Rs. 20/-).
13.	Bhander CCGT (M/s. Bhander Power Ltd. )	342	US\$ 197.622 million + Rs. 346.514 crores (1 US\$= Rs. 35.5)
14.	Pithampur DGPP (M/s. Shapoorji Pallonji Power Co. Ltd.)	119.7	US\$ 68.729 million + Rs. 174.053 crores (1US\$ = Rs. 39/-)
15.	Ratlam DGPP (M/s. GVK Power (Ratlam) Ltd.)	118.63	US\$ 73.88 million + Rs. 163.163 crores (1 US\$=Rs. 39/-)
16.	Khandwa CCGT (M/s. Madhya Bharat Energy Corp. Ltd.)	171.17	US\$ 76.0345 million + Rs. 250.3315 crores (1 US\$=Rs. 39.5)
<b>Orissa</b>			
17.	Ib Valley TPS (Units 5 & 6) (AES IB Valley Cor.)	500	US\$ 326.02 million + Rs. 983.90 crores (1 US\$ = Rs. 42.5)
18.	Duburi TPP Units 1 & 2 (Kalinga Power Corporation)	500	US\$ 313.596 million + Rs. 952.83 crores (1 US\$ = Rs. 39.5)
<b>Bihar</b>			
19.	Jojobera TPP (M/s. Jamshedpur Power Co.)	240	Rs. 1025.19 crores

*[English]***Voters In Karnataka**

1859. SHRI R. L. JALAPPA : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of voters in Karnataka;
- (b) the number of voters who have been issued Photo Identity Cards in Karnataka;
- (c) whether the Union Government have released 50% of the total cost to Karnataka for the purpose; and
- (d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to provide Photo Identity Cards to all the voters in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) The total number of voters in the State of Karnataka is 3,49,03,320.

(b) The total number of voters who have been issued with defect - free photo identity cards is 2,44,07,863.

(c) Against a total amount of Rs. 44,19,05,000/- estimated by the State Government to be spent on the scheme, a total sum of Rs. 22,09,53,000/- (being 50% thereof) as the Government of India's share was released to the State Government during the financial years 1994-95 and 1995-96.

(d) The Election Commission of India has already issued detailed guidelines to the Chief Electoral Officer of the State to launch the programme for covering the residual voters at the earliest. It is expected that at least 85% or more of the voters will be covered under the scheme in the first phase of the campaign. It may, however, be stated that the process of registration of voters and preparation of Photo Identity Cards of voters are continuous and on-going processes. It is not, therefore, possible to cover all the voters under the scheme of issue of Photo Identity Cards at any given point of time.

*[Translation]***Wind Energy**

1860. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the names of sectors developed for promoting the use of non-conventional energy sources particularly wind energy in the rural areas;

(b) the generation capacity of each centre and the number of villages benefited; and

(c) the measures being taken to set up wind energy centres in the plains of Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) The use of non-conventional energy sources, namely, solar energy, wind energy, biomass and small hydro power is being promoted for various decentralised applications, such as cooking, lighting water pumping and water heating throughout the country, including rural areas. Programmes are also being implemented for generation of grid quality power from these sources.

About 30 lakh biogas plants, 320 lakhs improved chulhas, over 7 lakh solar photovoltaic systems, and about 650 water pumping wind mills have been installed in various parts of the country. In addition, a non-conventional power generation capacity of about 1700 MW has also been set up.

(c) 42 water pumping wind mills have been installed in Bihar. However, wind resource assessment studies have indicated that there is no potential for wind power generation in the State.

**Committee on Problems on BRDB**

1861. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have constituted a Committee to look into various problems faced by the Border Roads Development Board (BRDB);

(b) if so, the composition of the Committee alongwith its terms of reference;

(c) the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report; and

(d) the concrete steps taken by the Government to remove discrimination between the personnel of armed forces and BRDB in terms of benefits and facilities?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) A Committee has been constituted vide No. 197/JS(E)/Pers/2000, dated 7.6.2000 to consider the improvement in the terms and conditions of the GREF personnel.

(b) The composition of the Committee is as below:-

- |       |                   |   |   |
|-------|-------------------|---|---|
| (i)   | Chairman          | - | Addl. Secretary   |
| (ii)  | Member            | - | (i) Secretary, BRDB<br>(ii) Jt. Secretary, BRDB<br>(iii) DDG Pers, BRO<br>(iv) Director (AG), MoD |
| (iii) | Members-Secretary | - | Dr. A.R. Goyal,<br>DFA (MoD)  |

The terms of references of the Committee are given in enclosed statement.

(c) The committee was to submit its report within one month.

(d) The personnel of Armed Forces and those of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) are governed by different terms and conditions of service. Consequently, the benefits and facilities available to them are different.

#### **Statement**

##### *Terms of Reference of the Committee*

1. The Committee will consider various proposals initiated from time to time by HQ DGBR relating to improvement in terms and conditions of GREF personnel.
2. The Committee will examine the reasons for the poor intake of officers in the Organisation and subsequent resignation of such officers, the working environment in which the GREF personnel execute the tasks entrusted to them and the facilities available in such places, and the deployment of GREF personnel in far flung, inhospitable, uncongenial, hostile and militant prone areas leading to disruption in social and family life as well as non-availability of educational and other civic facilities.
3. Examine various concessions given to other Central Government employees including Army and para-military forces employed in similar environments vis-a-vis militant/insurgent prone and inhospitable terrain conditions and consider applicability of these, mutatis mutandis, to GREF personnel.
4. Having considered the above issues, the Committee will make necessary recommendations to appropriately

improve the terms and conditions of service of GREF personnel for consideration by the Government.

*[English]*

#### **Subsidy to Consumers on LPG Cylinder**

1862. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of component of the price structure of each LPG domestic cylinder viz. cost of production, bottling, transport distribution etc.;

(b) whether this price structure is on the lines of internationally settled price structure;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the manner in which the subsidy is being distributed between the producers and distributors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) The production cost of petroleum products can not be identified separately since all the products are produced jointly. The production cost for any company would include cost of crude oil, processing charges, marketing cost, filling charges, freight, distributors' commission, taxes, other duties etc.

However, the oil companies are paid import parity price for LPG unlifted in bulk. The tariff adjusted import parity refinery gate price for the month of July 2000 has been provisionally fixed at Rs. 14297. 98/MT.

As LPG is an essential fuel for domestic consumption, international prices are not being charged for LPG (Domestic) and the same is being subsidized. The current estimated subsidy on LPG (Domestic) cylinders is about Rs. 125/cylinder. This subsidy is not borne by the producers or the distributors but is borne by the Oil Pool Account.

*[Translation]*

#### **Black Marketing of Returned Tickets**

1863. SHRI AKHILESH YADAV :

KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether with the nexus of the dealing clerks cancelling the reserved tickets and the touts, a large number of returned tickets are being resold in various parts of the country, particularly in Lucknow;

(b) if so, whether these black marketeers are also having the blessings of the Chief Commercial Managers (Computer Reservation) particularly in Lucknow;

(c) if so, whether the Government have enquired into the role of such black marketeers and the Chief Commercial Managers (Computer Reservation); and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No such complaints has been received.

(b) There is no post of Chief Commercial Manager (Computer Reservation) at Lucknow.

(c) and (d) Regular checks are conducted by Commercial department, Vigilance department and Police against touts and other anti-social elements in reservation offices besides checks in trains to check reservations on fake names. Checks are also conducted against reservation staff and strict disciplinary action is taken against staff found conniving in malpractices in reservation. Railway Protection Force has also been activated to ensure that such elements are driven away from the railway premises including reservation offices. Checks are also conducted on the premises of authorised Travel Agents to see if any irregularities are being committed by them. Campaigns and launched from time to time through various media for educating the general public to desist from purchasing tickets from unauthorised persons.

[English]

#### Setting up of Triangular Railway Station at Shoranur

1864. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Kerala to establish a Triangular Railway Station at Shoranur; and

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

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

(b) A representation dated 22.4.2000 from Shri K.E. Ismail Minister for Revenue, Kerala demanding provision of a new triangular Railway station at Shoranur for facilitating stoppage of all trains from all directions was received. Railway considers that the present junction arrangements at Shoranur station adequate to meet the existing passenger traffic to and from various directions. However, consequent to Shoranur-Calicut doubling project, two additional platforms of 26 coach capacity each are being planned. No need is felt for provision of a new triangular railway station at Shoranur.

#### Foreign Direct Investment In Textile Industry

1865. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the textiles mills running with foreign assistance in the country at present location-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to invite fresh Foreign Direct Investment in the Textile Industry; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the areas selected for such investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The location-wise information on induction of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is not centrally maintained. However, during the period from 1.8.1991 to 31.5.2000, a total of Rs. 3302.61 crore of Foreign Investment has been approved in the textile sector. The project details which include information about location, proposed investment, etc. are given in the Monthly SIA Newsletters brought out by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, which is widely circulated including to the Parliament Library.

(b) and (c) It has been the endeavour of the Government to attract more and more Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). The FDI Policy is reviewed from time to time in order to make it more investor-friendly. In the recent past, the Government has permitted FDI/NRI/OCB investment upto 100% in all items/activities including textiles under automatic route except a specified negative list.

[Translation]

#### Issuing of Reservation Tickets by Reservation Clerk

1866. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any number has been prescribed for

the reservation tickets to be issued by the reservation clerk while on duty so that the passengers may get their tickets easily within the stipulated period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether travel agents and touts get more than one ticket at a time in connivance with the reservation clerks whereas long time is taken to issue tickets to the passengers who are in queue; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check such malpractices?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) :** (a) and (b) The number of transactions dealt with by an operator depends on the nature of transaction being handled at that counter, such as issue of normal tickets, against credit cards, blank paper tickets, group tickets, military warrants etc. As such, limit prescribing the minimum number of requisitions to be handled at each of these counters has not been fixed. However, at a counter where normal tickets are issued, 120 requisitions per shift are expected to be handled.

(c) As per extant instructions, normally one ticket is issued at a time. However, more than one tickets are also permitted at a time if it is for onward/return/multi-lap journey of the same party. This is applicable both for general public as well as agents authorised by the railways.

(d) Surprise checks are conducted from time to time to check the malpractices in reservation. Any violation of instructions is viewed seriously and suitable action is taken against the staff found guilty.

#### **Sales Tax Rebate Eligibility Certificates**

1867. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

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

(a) the basis on which the sales tax rebate eligibility certificate is issued for the sale of high speed diesel and other petroleum products alongwith the status of the officer authorised to issue such a certificate;

(b) whether complaints with regard to the misuse of it in certain cases have been received during the last three years; and

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

(d) the steps taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF**

**STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) :** (a) The sales tax being the State subject, the matter is regulated by the Sales Tax Laws of the respective State Governments.

(b) to (d) Some customers who were obtaining petroleum products on concessional sales tax basis are alleged to have been diverting these products for the purpose other than the intended use thereby evading sales tax. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case in the matter on 23rd May, 2000 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

#### **Guidelines for Out of Turn Allotment of Petrol Pumps**

1868. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have issued new guidelines for the out of turn allotment of petrol pumps, L.P.G. agency and kerosene oil depots;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) :** (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Construction of Border Roads**

1869. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the length of road required and constructed separately along the Indian borders for checking crimes and infiltration;

(b) whether such roads are invariably washed out due to rains or some other reasons;

(c) if so, the steps taken to repair them timely; and

(d) the time by which the planned border roads are likely to be completed?

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) :** (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Private Sector Power Projects**

1870. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had set a dead line of June 30, 2000 for the 57 Private Sector Power Projects to tie up their financing proposal;

(b) if so, the details of the Private Sector Power Projects which were able to meet the said dead line; and

(c) the action taken against those Privated Sector Power Projects which are not meeting the stipulated dead line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The Techno-Economic Clearance (TEC) accorded by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) to private sector power projects stipulates, inter-alia, that the Firm Financial Package (FFP) should be submitted to CEA within a prescribed time schedule. The prescribed date for submission of FFP has been extended from time to time in some cases after considering the relevant factors and State Government recommendations, etc. The following projects out of a total of 57 private power projects accorded TEC by CEA have been given extension upto 30.6.2000 for submitting the FFP.

S.No.	Name of the Project	Cap (MW)	State
1.	Vishnuprayag HEP (M/s. JPIL)	400	U.P.
2.	Rosa TPP (M/s. Indo-Gulf Fertilizers)	567	-do-
3.	Ratlam DGPP (M/s. GVK Power (Ratlam) Ltd.)	118.63	M.P.
4.	Visakhapatnam TPP (M/s. HNPCL)	1040	A.P.
5.	Nagarjuna TPP (M/s. Nagarjuna Power Corporation Ltd.)	1015	Karnataka
6.	Vypeen CCGT (M/s. Siasin Energy Pvt. Ltd.)	679.2	Kerala
7.	Balagarh TPS (M/s. Balagarh Power Com.)	500	W. Bengal
8.	Bakreshwar TPP (Bakreshwar Power Gen. Co. Ltd.)	420	-do-
9.	Jamnagar TPP (M/s. Reliance Power Ltd.)	500	Gujarat

(b) and (c) None of the above mentioned projects have been able to submit the firm financial package to CEA by the extended dead line of June 30, 2000. Since poor financial health of the State Electricity Boards and the insistence by lenders on the strong payment security packages have been the main problems in the private power projects achieving financial closure, the Government has initiated several measures to address these issues. These include close monitoring at various levels to expedite clearances, removal of bottlenecks and the 'last mile', problems in achieving financial closure, exploring alternative security mechanisms for financing power projects in private sector; providing for automatic approval for foreign equity in selected categories and liberalisation of the Foreign Direct Investment regime by removal of the upper limit for foreign direct investment in respect of projects relating to electric generation, transmission and distribution (other than atomic reactor power plants). If the delays are on account of the deve-

lopers, steps are taken to cancel the fuel linkages and other clearances given to them.

[Translation]

#### Poll Reforms

1871. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :  
SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :  
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAULTALA :  
SHRI R.L. BHATIA :

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

(a) whether the Chief Election Commissioner has recently urged the Government to make reforms in

the existing system of conducting the elections more effectively;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereon;

(c) whether the Government propose to bring State Election Commissions (SECs) under the control of Election Commission;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) The Election Commission of India has been, from time to time in the past, recommending to the Government various proposals on reform of electoral laws. A statement containing a summary of the various recent proposals of the Commission in this regard is laid on the table of the House. These proposals along with other proposals on reforms of electoral laws are under examination of the Government some of which may be discussed with political parties at an appropriate time.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. No such proposal is pending with the Government .

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Statement**

#### *Proposal of the Election Commission on "Electoral Reforms" sent to the Government*

#### **I. Proposals requiring constitutional amendments.**

1. There should be a maximum of two Election Commissioners, along with the Chief Election Commissioner.

2. The method of appointment and the constitutional protection after appointment should be the same for the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners.

3. The Election Commission should have an independent Secretariat and the expenditure of the Commission should be a charged expenditure on the Consolidated Fund of India.

4. Anti-defection law may be amended leaving it to the President and the Governors concerned to decide

cases of disqualification under the Tenth Schedule, after obtaining the opinion of the Election Commission.

#### **II. Proposals requiring amendments to Representation of the People Acts of 1950 and 1951.**

1. Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 should be amended to disqualify any person convicted of any offence and sentenced to imprisonment for six months or more from contesting elections for a period totalling the sentence imposed plus an additional six years. Further, a person who is accused of any offence punishable with imprisonment for five years or more should be disqualified, even when his trial is pending, provided that the competent court of law has taken cognisance of the offence and framed the charges against him.

2. Section 13CC of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and section 28A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 should be amended to make express provision empowering the Election Commission to frame rules for taking disciplinary action against electoral officers on deputation to the Commission in connection with elections. (Action already taken on this).

3. Political parties should be required to publish their accounts annually and these should be audited by agencies specified by the Election Commission.

4. Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, should be amended to expressly authorise the Election Commission to issue orders regulating registration and deregistration of political parties.

5. Number of proposers for candidates of recognised parties should also be ten as in the case of independent candidates and candidates of unrecognised parties.

6. Proxy voting facility should be granted for all service voters and their spouses.

7. Expenditure incurred by political parties should be included in the election expenses of the candidate concerned [omitting of Explanation (1) under section 77(1)]

8. No-maintenance of true account of election expenses or not filing its true copy as required under section 78 should be punishable with imprisonment and fine, and on conviction, the candidate should be disqualified for 6 years.

9. A candidate who fails to lodge his election expenses' account within the prescribed time as required under section 78 of Representation of the People Act, 1951, should automatically stand disqualified for a period of 5 years with elections.



10. The Election Commission should be given rule-making powers under the Representation of the People Acts.

11. The Election Commission should be empowered under section 58A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 to countermand election due to booth capturing even otherwise than on the report of the Returning Officer.

12. The Election Commission should be empowered to issue instructions to any officer in connection with conduct of elections and to make recommendations for referring any matter for investigation to any agency specified by the Commission and for prosecution of any person who has committed any electoral offence.

13. District Election Officers should be statutorily required to be consulted regarding police arrangements during elections.

14. There should be statutory ban on transfer of election officers on the eve of elections.

15. Unauthorised possession of ballot box or Electronic Voting Machines and unauthorised printing of ballot papers should be made cognisable offences.

16. Making of a false declaration in connection with elections should be an electoral offence.

17. Simplification of procedure for disqualification of a person found guilty of corrupt practice—Secretary to the Election Commission of India, instead of the existing provision for Secretary of the concerned Legislature, be specified as the authority under sub-section (1) of section 8A of Representation of the People Act, 1951, to submit cases of disqualification under that section to the President;

18. Entrusting the Election Commission with the job of delimitation of constituencies instead of setting up of a Delimitation Commission.

19. Model Code of Conduct and measures in enforcement thereof to be made effective from the date of announcement of elections by the Election Commission of India so as to ensure free and fair elections;

20. Appointment of an appellate authority in districts against orders of Electoral Registration Officers.

[English]

#### **Restriction on Urea Import**

1872. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Fertilizers companies have urged the Government not to remove the quantitative restriction on the import of urea for the next five years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Fertilizer Association of India (FAI) has in different memoranda to the Government requested on behalf of the industry that the Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) on import of urea should not be lifted for another five years and that removal of restrictions should be accompanied by levying of import duty on urea. However, lifting of QRs w.e.f. 1.4.2001 has become inevitable following the commitment by India in an Agreement with USA in December, 1999 after the ruling of the Dispute Settlement Body of WTO that India's quantitative restrictions were not justified on balance of payments grounds. The Government has appointed a Task Force to study and recommend the arrangements which should be put in place for imports of urea as well as the protection that the indigenous urea industry shall require. The recommendations of the Task Force shall form the basis of further action including the levying of tariffs for protection of indigenous industry.

#### **Construction of Roads by B.R.O. In North-West-Regions**

1873. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Border Roads Organisation has been entrusted with the work of the constructing roads for North-West Regions;

(b) if so, the annual budget sanctioned therefor; and

(c) the details of major works in hand for the region?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The construction/maintenance of roads of operational importance only have been entrusted to Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in North-West Regions.

(b) The annual budget is sanctioned for all the roads, which have been entrusted to BRO. Out of this, a sum of Rs. 164.12 Crs. has been earmarked during 2000-2001 for the roads in North-Western Regions.

(c) It will not be in the interest of National Security to disclose this information.

**Refineries in Assam**

1874. SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the capacity of each of the refineries located in Assam;

(b) whether the production of crude oil in Assam is sufficient to meet the need of these refineries; and

(c) if not, the other arrangements being made to fulfil the requirement of crude oil for these refineries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The present capacity of the refineries located in Assam is given as under:-

Refinery	Capacity in Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA)
Digboi	0.65
Guwahati	1.00
Bongaigaon	2.35
Numaligarh	3.00

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Imported crude oil is planned to be supplied to Bongaigaon Refinery.

**Survey for Gadchiroli-Desaiganj-Gondia Rail Line**

1875. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey for Gadchiroli-Desaiganj-Gondia rail line in Maharashtra was conducted in recent past;

(b) if so, the details of the survey and action taken thereon;

(c) the length of the above rail line and the amount of money required for the project; and

(d) the time by which the Gadchiroli is likely to be connected with Chandrapur-Desaiganj-Gondia upto Jabalpur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) Survey

for a new line (about 50 km. long) between Gadchiroli and Desaiganj (Wadas) on Gondia-Chanda Fort new broad gauge line has been taken up. The survey report is expected later this year. Cost of the project and other details will be known and further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available. In case the project is considered to be taken up, the desired linkage between Gadchiroli and Gondia will be established.

**Indo-Oman Urea Project**

1876. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY :

SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO :

SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister has directed the concerned Ministries to resolve all the issues pertaining to Indo-Oman urea project.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken up this issue with the Government of Oman for consideration of this project afresh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the present status of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (d) Government have approved investment of IFFCO & KRIBHCO in the revised and restructured Oman India Fertilizer Project on 20.6.2000, subject to early resolution of certain outstanding issues, which are being pursued.

[Translation]

**Imports by Railways**

1877. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL :

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether computerised secured weight indicator system and 140 tonne diesel Hydraulic cranes having highly sophisticated technique are imported; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the expenditure incurred thereon during the 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. 140 tonne Diesel Hydraulic cranes equipped with computerised self load indicator system have been imported on the basis of tender finalised in 1996-97.

The Self Load Indicator System has now been indigenised for the cranes being manufactured at Jamalpur workshop, Eastern Railway.

(b) Railways had placed two orders for procurement of 140 Tonnes Accident Relief Cranes. One order was placed on M/s. Mannesmann Goitwald, Germany with total FOB value as Deutsche Marks 24,905, 184.20 for 8 cranes and other orders on M/s. Cowans Sheldon, UK for 4 cranes with total FOB value as Pound Sterling 5,423,442. Expenditure incurred thereon during 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01 are as follows:

Year	Expenditure
1997-98	Rs. 2.98 crore
1998-99	Rs. 115.31 crore
1999-2000	Nil
2000-01 (till 31.7.2000)	Nil

[English]

#### Utilisation of Coal for Production of Urea

1878. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to use coal as feedstock or the production of Urea;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all coal based fertilizer units have been closed down; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) Government have constituted a Task Force on 7th March, 2000 under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Fertilizers consisting of the representatives of Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Power, Fertilizer Association of India, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Projects & Development India Ltd., etc to explore the possibility of coal based technology for fertilizer sector. The Task Force has been asked to submit its report by 31st August 2000.

(c) and (d) Ramagundam (Andhra Pradesh) and Talcher (Orissa) are the two coal based urea plants of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. in the country. The operations of these plants have been suspended from April 1999 due to an exorbitantly high cost of production and continuing operational losses.

[Translation]

#### Doubling of Jalandhar-Jammu Rail Line

1879. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have obtained necessary clearance for doubling of rail line between Jalandhar and Jammu;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to start doubling work on this railway line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) The clearances have not yet been received. This survey report is being sent to Planning Commission for their appraisal. Once this is done, the project will be considered by Expanded Board and thereafter the proposal will be sent for necessary clearances.

(c) The work will be started after the clearances become available.

[English]

#### Increase in Drug Price by Pharma Companies

1880. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :

DR. BALIRAM :

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE :

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the Pharma Companies have been found involved in unhealthy trade practices including charging of high prices for generic drug and resorting to unreasonable increase in drug prices as reported in Times of India dated May, 25, 2000.

(b) whether the National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority has warned these Pharma companies against such unhealthy trade practices;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the names and action proposed to be taken against the companies found involved in violation of the said guidelines; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for ensuring availability of generic drugs to the public at reasonable price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (d) The news item in the Times of India dated May 25, 2000 mentions 12 medicines, out of which 3 are in the scheduled category of drugs that are under price control. The rest are in the non-scheduled category. The news item does not indicate the selling units of the medicines for which the prices have been mentioned.

The NPPA fixes/revises the prices of scheduled drugs and formulations. The ceiling prices notified for formulations are applicable to all formulations, including those sold under generic names. Cases of overcharging are dealt with under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995.

(e) The Drug Policy of the Government is directed towards ensuring abundant availability of drugs at reasonable prices.

**Appointment on Compassionate Grounds**

1881. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB :

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI :

SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of appointments made on compassionate grounds and during the last three years and the current year so far;

(b) the number of cases still pending in different zones, division-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Instructions have been issued and reiterated from time to time to make all out efforts to provide compassionate appointments to the eligible candidates as early as possible within the guidelines laid down for the purpose.

**Setting up of New Power Projects**

1882. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some new power projects have been set up in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some proposals are pending for clearance with C.E.A.;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to set up some power projects in the private sector in Andhra Pradesh; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The details of power projects which have been set up in Andhra Pradesh in the last three years are given as under :-

S.No.	Name of the Projects	Cap. (MW)		Date of Commissioning
1.	Singur HEP Unit 1 & 2	2x7.5	U-1 U-2	6.12.1999 31.3.2000
2.	Kothagudem-IV Unit-10	250		28.2.1998
3.	Godavari CCGT GT-1 ST	47 67		21.6.1997 31.3.1998
4.	Kondapalli CCGT GT-1	112		22.6.2000
5.	Jegrupadu CCGT ST	77		20.6.1997

(c) and (d) No proposal for setting up of a new power plant is pending in Central Electricity Authority.

(e) and (f) The following projects are proposed to be set up in Andhra Pradesh in Private Sector:-

1.	Kondapalli CCGT	GT-2, ST	2x112 MW
2.	Ramagundam TPP	U-1, U-2	20x260 MW
3.	Peddapuram CCGT	GT, ST	200 MW
4.	Visakhapatnam TPP	U-1, U-2	2x520 MW
5.	Krishnapatnam B TPP	U-1, U-2	2x260 MW
6.	Vimagiri CCGT	GT-1	107 MW
		ST-1	51 MW
		GT-2	221.5 MW
		ST-2	112.5 MW
7.	Gautami CCGT	GT-1, GT-2 ST	2x118.1 MW 122.7 MW
8.	LVS Power Project	DGs	37.8 MW

[Translation]

#### Utilisation of Full Capacity of Trains

1883. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA :

SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are many trains in the country which run for few hours daily and thus could be utilised properly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to extend the railway lines for proper utilisation of these trains;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. Train services are time-tabled to meet the travel needs of passengers Minimum of 6 to 8 hours of lie-over for the rakes is essential to provide primary and secondary maintenance schedules for the purpose of ensuring safety.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

[English]

#### Mumbai Urban Transport Project Phase-II

1884. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL :

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work on Mumbai Urban Transport Project Phase II has been started;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Mumbai Rail Vikas Corporation are seeking any loan from World Bank for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some Railway projects in Mumbai area, included as a part of Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP-II), are already in progress. Details of these are as under:

(Rupees in crores)			
Project	Year of Approval	Cost (Rs. Cr.)	Outlays proposed for 2000-2001 (Rs. Cr.)
Kurla-Thane phase-I	1995-96	97.39	14.0
Kurla-Thane phase II	1997-98	58.30	10.0
5th line Santacruz-Borivali	1995-96	82.42	12.0
Borivali-Virar quadrupling	1995-96	401.66	30.0

(c) and (d) Ministry of Railways and Government of Maharashtra have jointly approached World Bank for funding of MUTP-II projects to be executed by Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation (MRVC).

#### Power Trade in Private Sector

1885. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether power trading between deficit and surplus regions restricted to Power Trading Corporation is proposed to be opened up for private sector as well;

(b) if so, whether a legislation is being introduced in regard to setting up of private power trading and energy service companies;

(c) if so, the time by which this new legislation is likely to be introduced; and

(d) the main features of the proposed legislation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) The Ministry of Power has been contemplating a legislation which would replace the three existing laws viz. the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 and the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998. The legislation under consideration i.e. the Electricity Bill, 2000

envisages inter alia that appropriate Regulatory Commission may grant any person licence to undertake trading in electricity as an electricity trader. Thus, power trading between deficit and surplus regions will not be restricted to Power Trading Corporation only. The Bill is likely to be introduced shortly. The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) Was engaged as a consultant to suggest the legislative changes required for accelerating the reform process in the power sector in the country. The NCAER has submitted draft Electricity Bill, 2000 to replace the existing three Electricity Laws (The Indian Electricity Act, 1910, The Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 and the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998). The salient objectives of the proposed legislation are :-

- The draft Bill suggests corporatisation of all the state Electricity Boards and their restructuring into separate entities that would provide for accountability based on profit centres, whether public or private; and setting up/reinforcing the Regulatory Commissions on the lines of the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998. The Bill proposes development of wholesale market and trading in power. It stresses the need for efficiency and competition with the objective of providing reliable power supply to all consumers at competitive prices. It also provides for a clear delineation of roles and responsibilities.
- Detailed discussions have been held with States, State Electricity Boards, Regulatory Commissions, Experts, Chambers of Commerce and Private Utilities etc. The draft Bill is being discussed at various levels before finalisation.

#### Jurisdiction of East Coast Railway

1886. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether 181 km. length of Bhadrakh-Kharapur broad Gauge line, 90 km length of Rupsa-Bangriposi narrow gauge line and 90 km. length of Tatanagar-Badamphar line have been brought under the administrative control of East Coast Railway line;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to bring these lines under the jurisdiction of East Coast Railway Zone?

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

(b) The jurisdiction of East Coast Railway has not yet been finalised and East Coast Railway has also not become functional.

(c) The entire issue of reorganisation is under review in the light of the resource crunch presently faced by the Railways.

#### **Import of LPG**

1887. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have finalised a policy for the import of Liquefied Natural Gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken to set up a Committee for finalising the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) The Government has set up a Group of Secretary-level Officers to examine all the issues involved in the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) sector with a view to arrive at an integrated LNG policy for the country.

#### **Demurrage Charges Paid by Oil Companies**

1888. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have to pay huge sum as demurrage charges for the various oil containers in ships which were kept ashore for a long time;

(b) if so, the details of the demurrage charges paid to various shipping corporations during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have worked out any plan to avoid the demurrage charges paid to shipping corporations for retaining their oil containers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) Oil Companies have not used oil containers in ships for import of crude oil and petroleum products. Hence, the question of demurrage charges paid by them to Shipping Corporation does not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Review of Railway Projects**

1889. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways here constituted any Committee to review the on-going railway projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether the public representatives have also been appointed in the said review Committee; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) To bring about closer interaction with the State Governments in the matter of progress of Railway projects in respective States, it has been decided to earmark Nodal Officers of the Railways for each of the States.

This Nodal Officer would maintain close liaison with the State Government mainly in respect of :

- (i) Facilitating better coordination between the Indian Railways and the State Governments regarding proper implementation of on-going Railway projects and for developing appropriate proposals for new projects in various States.
- (ii) Enlisting required administrative and other assistance from the State Governments with regard to expeditious completion of sanctioned projects specially in the areas of faster land acquisition.
- (iii) Ensuring participation of the State Governments and funding of rail projects.
- (iv) Developing a coordinated approach for arranging funding for ROBs and RUBs and manning/closure of level crossing gates. Facilitating availability of MPLAD funds for manning of level crossings.
- (v) Coordinating security related issues on the Railways with various State Governments.
- (vi) Assisting State Governments in developing and comprehensive inter-modal transport infrastructure.

Various State Governments have shown increasing involvement in expeditious implementation of Railway projects. With the objective as enlisted above, Nodal Officers from Railways are being appointed and State Governments are being approached to nominate their respective Nodal Officers to interact with the designated Railways Officers for each State.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

*[English]***Exploration of Oil**

1890. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are giving emphasis on oil exploration;

(b) if so, whether oil PSUs have come up with some proposals to increase the intensity of oil exploration;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to freeze the surplus funds available with the PSUs oil companies and divert them to fruitful investment; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) A focused exploration approach, as below is being adopted by the National Oil Companies (NOCs) viz. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL):-

(i) ONGC

- exploring for the deeper objectives and stratigraphic plays in the producing basin.
- opening up of onland frontier sectors, by planning and taking up exploratory drilling at Himalayan foothills, Vindhyan basin and Mesozoic in Kutch offshore (Pretrappeans), etc.
- better imaging of geologically complex terrains through improved data acquisition, processing and interpretation.
- undertaking an ambitious deep-water exploration programme under which ONGC has drilled four wells in its deepwater PELs during the last three years (1997-2000) and envisages drilling of eight wells in the period 2000-2002.

(ii) OIL

- drilling exploratory wells in the deeper prospects in the South Bank of river Brahmaputra and continuing exploratory work in North Bank of river Brahmaputra in Assam.
- undertaking survey in Brahmaputra river bed in Assam.
- taking Geo-scientific studies to identify new plays and prospects in South Bank of river Brahmaputra.
- exploring through joint venture in Assam-Arakan Basin.
- undertaking additional exploration efforts in Rajasthan, Ganga basin, UP and Saurashtra Offshore.

(iii) To enhance their exploration activities ONGC and OIL have participated in NELP-99 round.

(d) and (e) Oil PSUs have generally no long term surplus funds available with them. The temporary surplus funds available with oil PSUs are utilised by them for their various ongoing projects or short term deposits in the Banks etc. as per the guidelines laid down by Department of Public Enterprises.

*[Translation]***French help in Sub-Marine Programme**

1891. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether France has given assurance to India to help its Sub-Marine Programme;

(b) if so, the salient features of this programme; and

(c) the time by which the said programme is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) The Government have approved plans for indigenous construction of submarines for the Navy with foreign technical assistance, as may be required. France is one of the likely to sources from whom such assistance can become available.



*[English]***Army Recruitments In Ahmedabad**

1892. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Army Recruitment Camps were held in Ahmedabad in June, 2000; and

(b) if so, the number of persons appeared for recruitment and recruited in the Army, separately?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) : A recruitment rally was held from 19th to 25th June 2000 at Ahmedabad. Details of candidates screened and selected in this recruitment rally are as under :-

(i) Total screened	4327
(ii) Rejected in physical fitness test, documentation and medical grounds	4107
(iii) Appeared in written Exam	220
(iv) Total passed and selected	154

*[Translation]***Setting up of Freight Terminals In Private Sector**

1893. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have prepared any plan to set up freight terminals in private sector;

(b) if so, the details and the time by which the project is likely to be taken up;

(c) whether some freight and container terminals have already been set up; and

(d) if so, the total number of terminals set up so far, station-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) In order to provide value added service to rail customers and in view of scarcity of resources for funding terminal infrastructure, it has been decided, in principle, to invite private parties with sound credentials to set up freight terminals. A proposal has been received from a party to set up such a terminal.

(c) and (d) Container terminals are set up by the Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR), a Public Sector Unit under the Ministry of Railways. The Government has allowed private parties to set up rail linked container terminals. However, no container terminal under private sector has been set up so far.

*[English]***Allocation of Power**

1894. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any Memorandum from the State Governments of Southern Region regarding allocation of unallocated power from the Central Pool;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have consulted the State Government before taking a decision;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (e) The Central Electricity Authority reviewed the power supply position in the Southern Region in Dec., 1999 and the allocation to Andhra Pradesh from the Central unallocated quota was increased by 5% and the allocation of Kerala was reduced by 5%. Two letters dated 21.12.1999 and 17.1.2000 were received from the Ministry of Electricity and Co-operation, Government of Kerala regarding the reduction in the allocation out of unallocated quota to Kerala to which a reply was sent on 24.2.2000 to the Minister of Electricity and Cooperation, Government of Kerala, by the Union Minister of Power clarifying the situation.

A Memorandum of Agreement was signed between the Ministry of Power, Government of India and Government of Karnataka on 12.2.2000 for implementation of reforms in the power sector in Karnataka. According to the agreement, 80 MW of power out of the unallocated quota from Neyveli Stage-II has been allocated to Karnataka in March 2000 by making corresponding reduction in the allocation to Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu in the unallocated quota of Neyveli Stage-II. Letters were received from the Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh and the Minister for Health and Electricity, Government of Tamil Nadu in March 2000 addressed to Union Minister of Power regarding reduction in the allocation to their States unallocated quota

of Neyveli Stage-II. Minister of Power sent replies to the letters of Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh and Minister for Health and Electricity, Tamil Nadu on 30th April, 2000 and 9th June, 2000 respectively.

15% of power in the central sector power stations is kept unallocated to meet the emergent/seasonal requirements of the constituent States/UTs in the region. The power supply position in the region is reviewed from time to time and allocation out of unallocated quota is made based on the relative power shortages in the States/UTs in the region. In addition, weightage is also given now to reforming states in allocation of power out of the unallocated quota.

#### **Restructuring of Drugs and Pharmaceutical Undertaking**

1895. SHRI V. SAROJA :

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of Drugs and Pharmaceutical undertakings running into losses/declared sick till date alongwith the losses incurred thereby, undertaking/plant-wise;

(b) whether the Government have set up a committee to look into the revival of above plants;

(c) if so, the details thereof and recommendations made by the committee, plant-wise;

(d) whether Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) provided any revival package for the above undertakings particularly I.D.P.L. at Chennai;

(e) if so, the details thereof, undertaking/plant-wise;

(f) the other steps taken by the Government to make these undertakings economically viable;

(g) whether the Government have any proposal to privatise any of the undertaking as part of its Disinvestment Policy; and

(h) if so, the details thereof including the percentage of shares the Government propose to sell and the buyers, undertaking/ plant-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) The Central Drugs & Pharmaceutical Public Sector Undertakings which have been declared sick are : Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited, Hindustan Antibiotics Limited, Smith Stanistreet Pharmaceuticals Limited, Bengal Immunity Limited, Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Limited. The cumulative losses of these companies on 31.3.1999 were about Rs. 1216 Crores Rs. 134 Crores, Rs. 63 Crores, Rs. 93 Crores and Rs. 59 Crores respectively.

(b) and (c) Government have not set up a Committee to look into the revival of all the five sick Central PSUs.

(d) to (h) The BIFR approved revival packages for IDPL, BIL, SSPL and BCPL 10.2.1994, 3.1.1995, 31.8.1994 and 4.4.1995, respectively. The performance being far behind the targets, the sanctioned revival packages of IDPL, BIL and SSPL are not under implementation at present. The revival package for BCPL is under implementation. The future of the companies, including revival would be determined by the proceedings and the final decision of the BIFR.

[Translation]

#### **Setting up of Petrol and LPG Outlets in Haryana**

1896. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of petrol and gas outlets in district Ambala, Haryana;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up more petrol outlets and gas agencies in this area;

(c) if so, the names of places where these outlets are proposed to be set up; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) At present, there are 36 retail outlets and 18 LPG distributorships in operation in Ambala district, Haryana.

(b) and (c) One retail outlet dealership is proposed to be set up on Chandigarh Ambala Road near Ambala and one LPG distributorship each is proposed to be set up at Naraingarh and Babiyaal in Ambala district.

(d) Selection of dealers/distributors is made in a phased manner, and it may not be possible at this stage to indicate the exact time frame for completion of selection for the pending locations.

#### **New Power Projects in Bihar**

1897. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of new power projects to be set up in Bihar;

(b) the number of projects sanctioned by the Planning Commission during the current financial year;

(c) the stage where the proposals are lying pending;

(d) the estimated cost of these projects and their installed capacity; and

(e) the steps taken to sanction these projects at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The following four inter-state/inter-regional mega projects are

proposed to be set up in Bihar in 10th and 11th Plan period:-

Name of the project	Capacity (MW)
North Karanpura (NTPC)	1980
Barh (NTPC)	1980
Kahalgaoon Stage-II (NTPC)	1320
Maithon Right Bank (Joint Venture Company of DVC and BSES)	1000

(b) No power project for the State of Bihar has

been given investment approval by the Planning Commission in the current financial year (2000-01).

(c) and (d) Details of various CEA cleared schemes are given in enclosed Statement-I. Schemes returned to project authorities during the last three years for re-submission of the DPR is given in enclosed Statement-II. The estimated cost, installed capacity of each project is indicated against each project.

(e) Pending Projects would be considered for techno-economic clearance as soon as the necessary inputs/clearances are tied-up and clarifications are furnished by the project authorities.

#### Statement-I

##### A. CEA Cleared/Appraised

S.No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)	Est. Cost (Rs. Crore)
<b>Thermal</b>			
1.	Jojobera TPP U-1 & 2 M/s. Jamshedpur Power Co.	2x120	1025.19
	<b>Status</b> Financial closure achieved on 17.12.98 Order for main plant and equipment placed on BHEL in 4/98 Availability of land for ash disposal and signing of fuel supply agreement with MCL are some of the critical areas.		
<b>Hydro</b>			
2.	Koel Karo	4x172.5+1x20	2368.41
	<b>Status</b> Works are at standstill due to funds constraints and local agitation.		
3.	Chandil LBC	2x4	32.49
	<b>Status</b> Civil works are nearing completion. Erection of TG sets is in progress		
4.	North Koel	2x12	47.34
	<b>Status</b> Civil works are partly completed. Further, civil works are at standstill due to contractual problem with NPCC. TG sets received at site.		

#### Statement-II

S.No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)	Est. Cost (Rs. Crore)
<b>Schemes returned to project authorities</b>			
1.	Kahalgaoon TPP St. II	2x660	4669.22
	<b>Status</b> Scheme returned on 28.4.2000. NTPC was advised to tie-up inputs/clearances such as water availability, clearance from Ministry of Environment & Forests, State Pollution Control Board clearance, fuel availability etc.		
2.	Barh STPP (NTPC)	3x660	7098.88
	<b>Status</b> Scheme returned on 3.7.2000. NTPC was advised to tie-up inputs/clearances such as clearance from Ministry of Environment & Forests, State Pollution Control Board clearance, fuel availability, comfort letters from States etc.		
3.	Kanhar PSS (H)	3x100	252.8
	<b>Status</b> Scheme returned on 21.7.99 M/s. BHPCL was advised to tie-up inputs/clearances such as land and water availability, clearance from Ministry of Environment & Forests etc.		
4.	Sankh St. II. HEP	186	526.7
	<b>Status</b> Scheme returned on 13.1.2000. M/s. BHPCL was advised to revise the DPR based on latest price level and after taking into account various comments of CEA/CWC.		

[English]

**Utilisation of Electricity from Central Pool by Kerala**

1898. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has not taken electricity from Central pool; and

(b) if so, the total amounts of M.W. electricity which has not been utilised by the Kerala Government and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Kerala has been drawing electricity by and large as per their entitlement in Central Pool of the Southern Region, the details of which, for 1999-2000 & 2000-01 (upto June, 2000) are given below :-

Period	Entitlement	Drawal
2000-2001 upto June, 2000)	740.9 MU	735.1 MU
1999-2000	3020.6 MU	2976.0 MU

Apart from the above, Kerala State Electricity Board has not been able to utilise full power from NTPC's Kayamkulam CCPP (350 MW) which is fully dedicated to Kerala. According to NTPC, there has been backing down of generation of about 160 MUs during 1999-2000 and about 58 MU during 2000-2001 (upto July, 2000) at this power station.

[Translation]

**Electricity Bill 2000**

1899. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Electricity Bill 2000 is in the final stages and is likely to be placed before the Parliament for approval very soon;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government during the last one year to bring about reforms in SEBs and improvement in the power situation in the country and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)

was engaged as a consultant to suggest the legislative changes required for accelerating the reforms process in the power sector in the country. The NCAER has submitted draft Electricity Bill, 2000 to replace the existing three Electricity Laws (The Indian Electricity Act, 1910 The Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 and The Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998).

The draft Bill suggests corporatisation of all the State Electricity Boards and their restructuring into separate entities that would provide for accountability based on profit centres, whether public or private; and setting up/reinforcing the Regulatory Commissions on the lines of the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998. It stresses the need for efficiency and competition with the objective of providing reliable power supply to all consumers at competitive prices. It also provides for a clear delineation of roles and responsibilities. The draft bill is under discussion at various level before finalisation.

(c) Following steps have been taken by the Government to bring about reforms :-

1. Enactment of Electricity Regulatory Commission Act, 1998 for rationalisation of tariff.

2. A Chief Ministers/Power Ministers Conference was organised on 26.2.2000 wherein it was resolved that reforms must be undertaken with determination, vigour and a sense of urgency for achieving commercial viability and providing power at reasonable rates to all. The Key elements of the reforms strategy are :

- i) Energy Audit at all levels.
- ii) Time-bound programme of 100% metering of all consumers by Dec., 2001.
- iii) Reduction and finally, elimination of power theft within a specified time frame.
- iv) Strengthening /upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution system by taking sub-station as an unit on a priority basis.

If the above appears unattainable in the existing set up, corporatization/cooperatization/privatization of distribution, would have to be undertaken.

3. Memorandum of Understanding entered into with Government of Karnataka, UP & MP to support the reform process.

4. Government of India has been assisting the States in availing loans from the International financial institutions like World Bank, for undertaking reforms.

5. For improvement of power situation in the country, the following steps have been taken:

- i) Expedient implementation of capacity addition.
- ii) Promotion of measures for demand side management.
- iii) Renovation and Modernization (R & M) of old existing generation units.
- iv) Assistance by way of loans by Power Finance Corporation (PFC) for improving operation and maintenance of thermal power stations under accelerated generation programme.
- v) Promotion of inter-stage and inter-regional power transfer and increasing export of power from surplus Eastern Region to neighbouring regions.
- vi) Coordinated operation of hydro, thermal, nuclear and gas turbine power stations in the regional power system.
- vii) Augmentation of transmission, transformation capacity in the power system and installation of shunt capacitors to improve the voltage.
- viii) Reduction of transmission and distribution losses.

6. As a result of enactment of Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998, 14 States have notified setting up of State Electricity Regulatory Commissions. Regulatory Commission of Orissa, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and UP have already issued tariff orders.

Further, SEBs of Orissa, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan have been corporatised into separate companies for generation, transmission and distribution. Orissa has fully privatised distribution.

[English]

#### Import of Formulations

1900. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Multi National companies like Fulford, Novartis and others are importing finished formulations and selling at exorbitant prices;

(b) if so, the names of major importers of formulations and action taken by the Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS : (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Imported formulations, which are under price control under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 are required to be sold by the companies at the prices fixed by the Government.

The prices of non-scheduled imported formulations are decided by the companies concerned on the basis of market conditions.

#### Survey for Manmad - Dhule Rail Line

1901. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the survey for Manmad-Dhule-Indore railway line had been completed;

(b) if so, the time by which the construction of above line is likely to be started; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in this regard and the time by which the survey work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) A survey for construction of a new BG line from Manmad-Dhule-Nardana-Shirpur was conducted in 1997-98. It was revealed that the cost of the 159.88 km long line would be Rs. 248.5 crores with negative rate of return. In view of the grossly unremunerative nature of the line and acute constraint of resources, it has not been possible to consider taking up construction of this line at present.

A survey for construction of a new line from Shirpur to Mhow is in progress. Further consideration of the project would be possible, once the survey report becomes available. A metre gauge line already exists between Mhow and Indore.

[Translation]

#### On-going Railway Projects in Bihar

1902. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV :

SHRI ARUN KUMAR :

SHRI RAJO SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made regarding completion of on-going railway projects in Bihar, project-wise;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon so far and allocation made to each project during 2000-01 and the time by which these projects are likely to be completed;

(c) the details of the projects for which foundation stone have been laid but work could not start along with the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of the on-going surveys and the time by which these are likely to be completed;

(e) the details of the new rail projects for which the survey report has been received during the recent past and the result thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Details of the ongoing railway projects in Bihar including the expenditure incurred thereon and allocation made during

2000-01 to each project, are given in the enclosed statement I. Status of each project including target dates for completion wherever fixed are also given in the statement-I.

(c) Preparatory work has been started on all the projects for which foundation stones have been laid. Details of works awaiting procedural clearances have been included in Statement. Necessary action for obtaining the clearances for these projects has been initiated.

(d) to (f) Details of completed and ongoing surveys including their targets for completion wherever fixed, survey reports which have been received in the recent past and the action taken by the Government thereon are given in enclosed statement-II.

#### Statement-I

#### *Status of Ongoing Railway Projects in Bihar : 2000-01*

S. No.	Project	Plan-Head	Rly.	Cost	Exp. up to Mar. 2000	Budget Outlay 2000-01	Status of Work
(Amount in Crore of Rs.)							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Monghyr-Rail Bridge on Ganga	NL	ER	600.00	0.50	2	The work would be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained. Surveys and detailed investigations have been taken up through M/s. RITES.
2.	Patna-Ganga bridge	NL	ER	600.00	1.00	5.00	The detailed investigation & final location survey has been taken up by RITES. CCEA clearance is yet to be obtained. Model studies are being done by Uttar Pradesh irrigation Research Institute, Roorkee and are likely to be completed by Nov. 2000 after which the alignment and configuration of the bridge will get finalised. Once the design and alignment of the bridge is finalised, the cost estimates shall be firmed up and the proposal will be processed for obtaining requisite clearances. Proposals for approach alignment on Patna side is under approval of State Govt.
3.	Koderma-Ranchi	NL	ER	491.20	14.00	25.00	The requisite clearances has since been obtained. Final location survey has been completed up to Hazaribag (63 km). Paper for Land acquisition has been submitted for 37.5 km. Work will be taken up once land is made available by the State Government.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4.	Deogarh-Sultanganj	NL	ER	282.00	0.00	6.00	New work included in the Budget 2000-01. Final location survey has been taken up.
5.	Katihar-Jogbani (including Katihar-Radhikapur)**	GC	NFR	257.00	0.00	10.00	The work will be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained. The gauge conversion of Katihar Radhikapur will be taken up as a material modification to main work.
6.	Sonenagar-Mugalsarai	DL	ER	241.00	202.00	38.00	This project is partially funded out of ADB loan. Work is progressing well. Out of 16 block sections, 8 have been commissioned covering 48 kms. The entire work will be completed in 2000-01.
7.	Jayanagar-Darbhanga-Narkatiaganj	GC	NER	233.00	3.55	8.00	Jayanagar-Dharbanga is to be done in first phase. Work is in progress. Earthwork for 3 km completed. Tenders for earthwork and ballast supply have been finalised.
8.	Ranchi-Lohardaga with extension to Tori	GC	SER	193.19	19.45	3.00	The earthwork and minor bridges have been taken up on the Phase - I Ranchi-Lohardaga section. Work of 14 arch bridges casting RCC Box is in progress.
9.	Coelkera-Manoharpur 3rd line (Chakradharpur-Bondamunda Section)	DL	SER	186.91	2.67	10.00	Final location survey and preparation of land acquisition plan and papers has been taken up. 74 hect. of land is to be acquired for which paper have been submitted to State Govt. Work in railway land at Manoharpur has been taken up. Work on other sections will be taken up when once the land is made available by the State Govt.
10.	Deogarh-Dumka	NL	ER	180.00	2.00	1.00	Necessary clearances have been obtained. Final location survey has been completed. Proposal of land acquisition for 10 km has been submitted. Work will be taken up once land becomes available.
11.	Giridih-Koderma	NL	ER	145.00	4.00	5.00	The requisite clearances has since been obtained. Final location survey has been completed. Paper for land acquisition of first 20 km have been submitted to State Govt. Work will be taken up once land becomes available.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12.	Ara-Sasaram	NL	ER	120.00	12.54	6.00	Final Location survey has been completed for 50 km length. Land acquisition papers for stretch between Sasaram and Nokha have been submitted to State Government. Part land falling in 7 villages have been acquired. In the remaining portion, final location survey is in progress. Work has been started at both ends wherever land is available.
13.	Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi	NL	NER	100.00	1.11	0.10	Final Location survey for 60 km has been completed and balance will be completed by Aug-2000. Preparation of land plans & papers & other preliminary works are in progress. Earthwork in Sitamarhi Yard for one km length has been completed. The work would be taken up once the land is made available by State Govt. Papers for acquisition of 67.55 acres of land have been submitted on State Govt.
14.	Muzaffarpur-Raxaul	GC	NER	96.71	94.71	2.00	The work has been completed and commissioned. The work for Birgunj to Raxaul which is sanctioned as a material modification is in progress and will be completed in 2000-2001.
15.	Sakri-Hassanpur	NL	NER	89.70	18.05	0.10	Land acquisition papers have been submitted to the State Govt. for the entire length and 893 acre land has been acquired. Earthwork from Sakri to Jagdishpur is in progress.
16.	Khagaria-Kusheshwarsthan	NL	NER	78.00	1.11	0.10	Final location survey has been completed & preparation of land acquisition plan and papers has been taken up. The land acquisition proposals for 20.63 km length have been submitted to State Govt. Earthwork in Khagaria yard has been completed. The work would be taken up once the land is made available by State Govt.
17.	Hajipur-Bachwara	GC	NER	72.46	69.46	3.00	Work completed & commissioned.
18.	Samaestipur-Khagaria**	GC	NER	70.00	0.00	0.10	The work will be taken up after the necessary clearances have been obtained.
19.	Mansi-Saharsa-Forbesganj Ph-I	GC	NER	64.50	20.51	3.00	Work is in progress. Earthwork has been completed in 23 km. 9 out of 13



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
							minor bridges completed. 1 major bridge out of 10 completed. 2 bridges on Bagmati river are in progress . Tender for 3 major bridges are under finalisation. Completion of these bridges are under finalisation. Completion of these bridges would take 2-3 years period.
20.	Sagauli-Narkatiaganj	GC	NER	64.22	56.52	0.10	Work is completed.
21.	Narkatiaganj-Valmikinagar	GC	NER	59.00	55.84	3.00	The work has been completed and commissioned.
22.	Chhapra-Hajipur	DL	NER	49.64	1.00	0.10	New work of 1999-2000 and will be taken up after obtaining the requisite clearances.
23.	Fatua-Islampur Restoration	NL	ER	49.50	15.00	12.10	Earthwork has been completed for 16 km length between Islampur & Hilsa. Work of bridges have been taken up between Islampur and Hilsa. For the rest of the section land acquisition is in process and work would be taken up as soon as the land becomes available.
24.	Rajgir-Hilsa-Tilaya	NL	ER	49.50	14.16	2.00	Final Location Survey has been completed and land acquisition papers for 20 kms. stretch covering 70 hectares of land have been submitted to State Govt. Work will be done by IRCON. The alignment in Rajgir area is under re-consideration due to restrictions around archaeological monuments.
25.	Chandil-Muri-Barkakana	RE	SER	45.06	37.03	8.03	Work has been completed. Residual jobs are in hand.
26.	Punpun-Taregna (Patna-Gaya, Phase-III)	DL	ER	42.53	5.00	1.00	New work included in the budget 1999-2000. Preliminary arrangements are being made for taking the work.
27.	Samastipur-Darbhanga	GC	NER	41.54	35.65	0.10	Work is completed.
28.	Patna-Gaya	RE	ER	41.23	0.10	0.10	The project proposal has been sent to Planning Commission for clearance.
29.	Karpurigram-Siho	DL	NER	32.67	1.43	0.10	New work of 1999-2000. Preliminary arrangements are being made for starting the work.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
30.	Kusunda-Kastraagarh-Jamuniatanda	RE	ER	16.42	4.00	2.00	The work is targeted for completion by March 2001.
31.	Patna-Parsa Bazar (Patna-Gaya, Phase-I)	DL	ER	9.97	7.97	2.00	Earthwork, bridges and Track linking completed. Ballasting is in progress. Work is targeted to be completed by Dec. 2000.
32.	Parsa Bazar-Punpun (Patna-Gaya, Phase-II)	DL	ER	7.00	0.60	2.80	Plans and estimates have been prepared. The work is being taken up.
33.	Duraunda-Maharajganj	NL	NER	3.57	0.34	0.10	The work will be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained.
34.	Bokarao, Steel City Muri-Hatia-Bondamunda-Bimlagarh-Kiriburu/Barsuan incl. Purulia-Kotahla	RE	SER	269.40	202.59	25.00	221 RMKs energised till Mar., 2000. An entire section targeted for completion by Mar, 2002. The project has been delayed due to bad law and order problem and failure of OHE contractor and delay in release of 132 KV supply by DVC/BSEB.
35.	Sitarampur-Danapur-Mugalsarai	RE	ER	363.36	321.13	40.20	389 RKM's since energised till Mar' 2000. The progress has been slow due to law and order problem and failure of contractor. Work is now targeted for completion by March, 2002.
36.	Kaptanganj-Thave-Sivan-Chhapra**	GC	NER	268.00	0.00	0.10	New work of 1999-2000. The work will be taken up after necessary clearances have been obtained.
37.	Mandarhill-Rampurhat via Dumka	NL	ER	170.47	4.46	4.00	Final location survey has been completed. Preparation of land acquisition plan & papers is in progress. Land acquisition papers for 23 km stretch from Mandarhill side have been submitted to State Government. The work would be started once the land is made available by the State Govt.

## Legends :-

DL : Doubling

GC : Gauge Conversion

NL : New Line

RE : Railway Electrification

**Statement-II***Completed Surveys in Bihar*

Plan head	Railway	Name of the project	Length	Cost	Status
(Amount in Crores of Rs.)					
1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Doubling</b>					
	ER	Patna to Gaya			Completed Project is being sanctioned in phases.
	ER	Ranchi-Hazaribagh-Koderma	200	653	Completed and included in the budget

1	2	3	4	5	6
	SER	Sonua & Manoharpur 3rd line			Completed, Goelkara- Manoharpur Sanctioned.
<b>Gauge Conversion</b>					
	NER	Bachwara-Hajipur	71.45	56.51	Work completed & opened to traffic in 1997.
	NER	Duranda-Maharajganj & provision of new BG line from Maharajganj- Masrakh	42	84	Completed, Work of Duranda- Maharajganj has been included in the budget to be taken up after necessary clearances have been obtained.
	NER	Kaptanganj-Siwan, Tawa-Chapra	233.5	268.06	Completed, Work included in the Budget 1998-99.
	NER	Mansi-Forbesganj	154.35	211.57	Completed, work included in budget
	NER	Sakri-Jhanjharpur- Laukahabazar	95.32	89.72	Completed. Under examination.
	NER	Samastipur to Khagaria	85.88	94	Completed, Work included in the Budget.
	NER	Darbhanga-Raxaul- Narkatiaganj	226.93	180.83	Completed, Work included in Budget.
	NER	Darbhanga-Sakri Jaynagar	68	52.14	Completed, Work included.
	NER	Sakri -Nirmali	52.32	53	Completed and report is under examination.
	NER	Katihar to Jobani	107	137	Completed. Work included in the Budget.
<b>New Line</b>					
	ER	Danapur-Fatuah via Daniwan, Punpun	50	87.58	Survey completed. Approval of project not considered justified at present.
	ER	Deogarh-Sultanganj	110	282	Completed, Work included in the Budget.
	ER	Dhaniawan-Shekhapura BIHsharief	73.4	128.2	Completed, 2nd alt. Being examined.
	ER	Ara-Sasaram			Completed, Project sanctioned.
	ER	Fatua-Islampur-Rajgir	130	105.86	Completed, Work included in the Budget 1998-99 for Fatua-Rajgir

1	2	3	4	5	6
	ER	Gaya-Chatra via Tori		284.2	Completed, Updation in progress.
	ER	Rajgir-Hisua-Tilaya			Completed and included in the budget
	ER	Chunar to Sasaram	124	211	Survey completed. Approval of project not considered justified at present.
	ER	Dumka to Baidyanath Dham	60	180	Completed and included in the budget
	ER	Gaya to Daltanganj via Guraru, Gurva, Sherghati and Imamganj	135	318	Survey completed. Approval of project not considered justified at present.
	ER	Ranchi-Hazaribagh-Gaya	279	663	Completed. Under examination.
	NER	Madhepura to Pratapganj via Singheswar asthan and Triveniganj	60	126.12	Completed
	NER	Motihari to Sitamarhi via Shivhar	76.70	137.06	Survey completed. Approval of project not considered justified at present.
	NER	Darbhanga and Saharsa via Kukeshwarasthan	93.6	165.66	Survey completed. Approval of project not considered Justified at present.
	NER	Hassanpur to Barauni	43	61.3	Survey completed. Approval of Project not considered Justified at present.
	NER	Muktapur to Kukeshwarasthan	54.10	117.13	Survey completed. Approval of project not considered. justified at present.
	NER	Muzaffarpur-Darbhanga	66	107.78	Survey completed. Approval of project not considered justified at present.
	NER	Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi	63	96.76	Completed, Work included in Budget.
	NER	Sakri-Hasanpur road	76	107.56	Completed, Project included.
	NER	Badlaghat-Alamanagar-Bhawanipur-Purnea-Dalkhola	160	290	Survey completed. Approval of project not considered justified at present.
	NER	Bihariganj-Chattarpur Rd. via Murliganj	85	170	Survey completed. Report under scrutiny.
	NER	Hazipur and Sagauli via Vaishali	148	227.61	Completed and report is under examination.

1	2	3	4	5	6
	NER	Janakpur Road to Jayanagar via Madhubani	50	87.5	Completed
	NER	Koparia/Semribhakhtiy-arpur-Alamnagar-Bihariganj	56.5	174.00	Survey completed. Approval of project not considered justified at present.
	NER	Kusheshwar Asthan-Khagaria	44	78.23	Completed, Work included.
	NER	Laheria Sarai to Kusheshwarasthan	70	118.64	Survey completed. Approval of project not considered justified at present.
	NER	Salauna (Bakhri)-Alauli	20	40	Survey completed. Approval of project not considered justified at present.
	NER	Simari-Bakhtiarpur to Bihariganj	54.5	98	Survey completed. Approval of project not considered justified at present.

*Ongoing Surveys in Bihar*

Name of the Project	Completed on	Length	Cost (Amount in Crores of Rs.)	Status
1	2	3	4	5
<b>Plan Head</b>	<b>Doubling</b>			
<b>Railways</b>	<b>ER</b>			
Gaya-Kiul		126		In progress Target Date of Completion 31.12.2000
<b>Railways</b>	<b>SER</b>			
Chakdhapur-Bandamunda third line		93		In progress. Target Date of Completion 30.9.2000.
<b>Plan head</b>	<b>Gauge Conversion</b>			
<b>Railways</b>	<b>NFR</b>			
Mansi-Saharsa-Banmankhi-Kathiar		67		In progress. Target Date of Completion not fixed.
<b>Railways</b>	<b>NFR</b>			
Katihar to Tejnaranpur line via Manihari with extension upto Bhaluk Rd. via Amdabad		67		In progress. Target Date of Completion 30.9.2000. Field work completed.

1	2	3	4	5
<b>Plan head</b>	<b>New Line</b>			
<b>Railways</b>	<b>ER</b>			
Dehri-on-Sone to Barwadih		120		In progress. Target Date of Completion 31.8.2001
Dehri-on-Sone to Jadunathpur via Banjari		99		Dehri-on-Sone to Akbarpur Completed, balance to be taken up.
Hazaribagh-Garwa Rd.		200		Not yet taken up. Target Date of Completion 30.9.2000
Koderma-Tilaiya		55		In progress Target Date of Completion 31.12.2000
Pirpainty to MGR		20		In progress, Target Date of Completion 31.12.2000
<b>Railways</b>	<b>NER</b>			
Kursela-Manihari via Bhavanipur-Jarlahi		50	88	In progress. Target Date of Completion 30.9.2000.
Pratapganj-Bhimnagar -Bathanaha		75	150	In progress. Target Date of Completion 30.9.2000
Sitamarhi to Jayanagar via Sonbarsai		115	201.25	In progress. Target Date of Completion 31.10.2000.
Supaul-Araria via Trivenjiganj and Raniganj		100	175	In progress. Target Date of Completion 31.12.2000
Deoria Sadar-Padrauna		62.7		Yet to be taken up. Target Date of Completion not fixed.
Hajipur-Samastipur via Mahuwa		75		Yet to be taken up. Target Date of Completion not fixed.
Janakpur Rd-Madhubani via Benipatti		50		In progress Target Date of Completion 31.10.2000
Koparia-Banma-Sonbarsaraj-Alamnagar		45		In progress Target Date of Completion 31.12.2000
Kursela-Rupali-Saharsa				Yet to be taken up. Target Date of Completion not fixed.
Nirmali -Bhaptlai		39.71	276.68	In progress, Target Date of Completion not fixed.
<b>Railways</b>	<b>SER</b>			
Lohardaga to Korba		290		In progress Target Date of Completion 31.12.2000
Berwadih-Chirmiri Restoration.		202		In progress. Target Date of Completion 31.3.2001
Merry Go round of NTPC		20		In progress Target Date of Completion 30.6.2000
<b>Plan head</b>	<b>Traffic Facilities</b>			
<b>Railways</b>	<b>ER</b>			
Patna optimisation of maintenance facilities				RITES being considered as Survey agency.

**Direct Foreign Investment**

1903. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA :

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the proposals sanctioned by the Government in regard to the direct foreign investment in power generation;

(b) the details of terms accepted by the Government and the period fixed for starting generation;

(c) the total quantity of power likely to be generated by these projects; and

(d) the details of the proposals pending for approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) As on date, Central Electricity Authority has accorded techno-economic clearance to 50 proposals involving foreign direct investment for setting up power projects in the private sector. Details of the commissioning schedule in respect of each of these projects and the total quantity of power likely to be generated after these projects are commissioned, are given in enclosed Statement-I. Besides these, nine proposals for setting up power projects in the private sector have been received in CEA for techno-economic clearance. These proposals will be taken up for detailed scrutiny by CEA after the requisite inputs/linkages are tied up by the project promoters and the necessary clarifications furnished. Details of these projects are given in enclosed Statement-II.

**Statement-I**

*Details of schemes for setting up power projects in the private sector involving foreign direct investment which have been accorded techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority*

S.No.	Name of the Project	CAP (MW)	Commissioning schedule
1	2	3	4
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>			
1.	Rosa TPP (M/s. Indo-Gulf Fertilizers)	567	40 months from financial closure.
2.	Srinagar HEP (M/s. Duncans North Hydro Power Co. Ltd.)	330	62 months from financial closure.
<b>Rajasthan</b>			
3.	Dholpur TPP (M/s RPG Dholpur Power Co.)	702.7	28 months from financial closure.
4.	Barsingar TPP (M/s. H.V. Corp. Ltd.)	500	38-42 months from financial closure.
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>			
5.	Maheshwar HEP (M/s. S. Kumars Ltd.)	400	55-56 months from financial closure.
6.	Korba (East) TPP (M/s. Daewoo Power)	1070	41-47 months from financial closure.
7.	Bina TPP (M/s. Bina Power Supply Co. Ltd.)	578	33-36 months from financial closure.
8.	Narsighpur CCGP (M/s. GBL Power)	166	23 months from financial closure.
9.	Korba (West) Extn. (M/s. ITPL)	420	33-36 months from financial closure.
10.	Guna CCGT (M/s. STI Power India Ltd.)	330	12-25 months from financial closure.
11.	Pench TPP (M/s. Pench Power Ltd.)	500	38-41 months from financial closure.
12.	Bhilai TPP (M/s. Bhilai Power Supply Comp.)	574	39 months from financial closure

1	2	3	4
13.	Raigarh TPP (M/s. Jindal Power Ltd.)	550	36-39 months from financial closure.
14.	Bhander CCGT (M/s. Bhander Power Ltd.)	342	12-25 months from financial closure.
15.	Pithampur DGPP (M/s. Shapoorji Pallonji Power Co. Ltd.)	119.7	14-17 months from financial closure.
16.	Ratlam DGPP (M/s. GVK Power (Ratlam) Ltd.)	118.63	14.17 months from financial closure.
17.	Khandwa CCGT (M/s. Madhya Bharat Energy Corp. Ltd.)	171.17	22 months from financial closure.
<b>Gujarat</b>			
18.	Jamnagar TPP (M/s. Reliance Power Ltd.)	500	36-39 months from financial closure.
19.	Surat Lignite TPP (M/s. GIPCL)	250	Commissioned in 1999.
<b>Maharashtra</b>			
20.	Dabhol CCGT (M/s. Dabhol Power Co.)	2015	Stage-I Commissioned in 1998 Stage-II expected in 2001-2002
21.	Bhadravati TPS (M/s. Central India Power)	1072	42-48 months from Financial Closure.
22.	Patalganga CCGT (M/s. Reliance Patalganga)	447	24 months from financial closure.
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>			
23.	Jegurupadu CCGT (M/s. GVK Industries)	216	Commissioned in 1997.
24.	Godavari CCGT (M/s. Spectram Tech.)	208	Commissioned in 1998.
25.	Vizag TPS (M/s. HNPCL)	1040	38-44 months from Financial Closure.
26.	Ramagundam Extn. (M/s. BPL Group)	520	33-39 months from Financial Closure.
27.	Kondapally CCGT (Lanco Industries Ltd.)	350	August 2000.
28.	Krishnapatnam 'B' TPP (BBI Power Krishnapatnam Co.)	520	36-42 months from Financial Closure.
29.	.Vemagiri CCGT (Ispat Power Limited)	492	20-26 months from Financial Closure.
<b>Karnataka</b>			
30.	Torangallu TPS (M/s. Jindal Tractebel)	260	Commissioned in 1999.
31.	Mangalore TPS (M/s. Cogentix)	1000	33 months from Financial Closure.
32.	Nagarjuna TPP (M/s. Nagarjuna Power Corporation Ltd.)	1015	38-42 months from Financial Closure.
33.	Bangalore CCPP (M/s. Peenya Power)	107.6	19 months from financial closure.



1	2	3	4
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>			
34.	Neyveli TPS-Zero Unit (Ms. ST-CMS)	250	34 months from Financial Closure.
35.	Pillaiperumalnallur CCGT (M/s. PPN Power)	330.5	December, 2000.
36.	North Madras TPS. II (M/s. Videocon Power)	1050	42-46 months from Financial Closure.
37.	Basin Bridge DGPP (M/s. GMR Vasavi)	200	Commissioned in 1999.
38.	Tuticorin TPP St. IV (M/s. SPIC)	525	39 months from Financial Closure.
39.	Samayanallur DGPP (M/s. Balaji Power Corp. Ltd.)	106	14.17 months from Financial Closure.
40.	Samalpatti DGPP (M/s. Samalpatti Power Co.)	106	May, 2001.
41.	North Madras TPP (M/s. Tri-Sakthi Energy Private Limited)	525	37 months from Financial Closure.
42.	Cuddalore TPP (M/s. Cuddalore Power Co.)	1320	39-44 months from Financial Closure.
43.	Vembar CCGT (M/s. Indian Power Projects Ltd.)	1873	38-50 months from Financial Closure.
<b>Kerala</b>			
44.	Vypeen CCGT (M/s. Siasin Energy Pvt. Ltd.)	679.2	27 months from Financial Closure.
45.	Kannur CCGT (M/s. Kannur Power Projects Ltd.)	513	27 months from Financial Closure.
<b>Orissa</b>			
46.	Ib Valley TPS (Units 5 & 6) (AES Ib Valley Cor.)	500	33-36 months from Financial Closure.
47.	Duburi TPP Units 1 & 2 (Kalinga Power Corporation)	500	33-36 months from Financial Closure.
<b>West Bengal</b>			
48.	Balagarh TPS (M/s. Balagarh, Power Com.)	500	33-36 months from Financial Closure.
49.	Bakreshwar TPP (Bakreshwar Power Gen. Co. Ltd.)	420	30-33 months from Financial Closure.
50.	Gouripore TPP (Gouripore Power Company)	150	32 months from Financial Closure.
		27000	

**Statement-II**

			1	2	3
<i>Details of schemes for setting up power projects in the private sector received in Central Electricity Authority for techno-economic clearance</i>					
S.No.	Name of the Project/State/promoter	Capacity (MW)			
1	2	3			
1.	Dhamwari Sunda HEP, Himachal Pradesh (M/s. Dhamwari Power Co. Ltd.)	70	3.	Rajgarh CCPP, Madhya Pradesh (M/s. Alpine Power System Ltd.)	343.48
2.	Jawaharpur TPP, Uttar Pradesh (M/s. Jawaharpur Power India Pvt. Ltd.)	800	4.	Jhabua CCGT, Madhya Pradesh (M/s. Kedia Power Ltd.)	360
			5.	Hassan CCPP, Karnataka (M/s. Hassan Power Supply Co. Ltd.)	189
			6.	Nanjangud CCPP, Karnataka (M/s. IPS Power Co.)	96.7
			7.	Mandya CCPP, Karnataka (M/s. Mandya Power Partners Ltd.)	164.4

1	2	3
8.	Telgi TPP, Karnataka (M/s. KEI Energy Pvt. Ltd.)	350
9.	Srimushnam Lignite TPP, Tamil Nadu (M/s. TICAPCO)	250

[English]

**Performance of Oil PSUs in First Quarter**

1904. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that public sector oil companies have showed poor results in the first quarter of current financial year;

(b) if so, the causes therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to save these Public Sector Undertakings of the Oil Sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) The Public Sector oil marketing companies & refineries have reported decline in their profits during the first quarter of the current financial year as compared to the corresponding period of the year, 1999-2000. The reasons for decline in profits, inter-alia, include increase in input costs on account of steep rise in prices of crude oil in international markets, depressed refining margins, high inventory costs, high interest rates and depreciation costs etc. Further they had no adventitious gains as in 1st quarter of 1999-2000/ The oil and gas exploration companies namely Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd., Oil India Ltd., as also Gas Authority of India Ltd. have, however, reported better financial results in the first quarter of the current financial year. Neither the Oil PSUs nor the Government have any mechanism to control and influence the prices of crude oil and petroleum products in the international markets though this element impacts the financial performance of oil PSUs. The Government have however, taken a number of steps to improve the performance of the Oil Sector companies. These, inter-alia, include improvement in productivity, various cost control measures, reducing cost of borrowing etc. Government constantly monitors the performances of Oil companies. The process of review of their performance is a continuous one.

**Ad-hoc Appointments in PSUs**

1905. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under his Ministry resort to Ad-hoc appointments at various levels and subsequently regularised them as permanent employees;

(b) if so, the number of ad-hoc appointments made in the officers, supervisory and workmen grades during each of the last three years, undertaking-wise;

(c) the mode of selection adopted for ad-hoc appointments in various PSUs;

(d) whether prescribed mode of selection adopted for ad-hoc appointments were/are being followed; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes Sir. RITES Ltd. and Container Corporation of India Ltd., PSUs under the Ministry of Railways, have made some ad-hoc appointments.

(b) **RITES**

	1997	1998	1999	2000
Officers	01	01	01	-
Supervisory	04	02	14	-
Workmen	03	-	-	-
<b>Concor</b>				
Officers	-	-	-	-
Supervisory	-	-	-	-
Workmen	22	13	17	9

(c) The ad-hoc appointments are made on the basis of the recommendations of the nominated Selection Committee/HODs.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Non Payment of dues of SEB to Coal**

1906. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Coal Companies have decided to discontinue the supply of coal to SEBs due to non-payment of their dues and have demanded the minimum prescribed amount for the supply of coal;
- (b) whether this decision of coal Companies has adversely affected the SEBs;
- (c) the details of the dues till June, 2000; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) In order to enforce financial discipline, coal companies are strictly following "Cash and Carry" scheme w.e.f. 1.11.1998 for supply of coal to power stations. Under this scheme, coal companies have to be paid in advance equivalent to 90% of the value of coal plus 100% of royalty, transportation charges etc. and statutory levies. Coal companies make efforts to recover the outstanding dues through negotiations with consumers. However, in certain cases of lack of response from defaulters, coal supply is regulated with prior intimation to the concerned party and the State Governments.

(b) By and large, coal supply to various thermal power stations has been satisfactory. However, discontinuance/regulation in coal supply affects the power stations leading to a critical level of coal stock.

(c) and (d) According to the Coal India Ltd., the total outstanding dues payable to coal companies are Rs. 5614.33 crores as on 30th June, 2000 out of which Rs. 1806.3 crores are disputed. The following steps have been taken by the Government/Coal India Limited to recover the outstanding dues from the State Electricity Boards:

- (i) Coal India Limited (CIL) has been advised to supply coal to power utilities only against advance payment of letter of credit.
- (ii) CIL and its subsidiary coal companies have been persistently following up with the consumers in diverse sectors for settlement of dues.
- (iii) Recovery of dues by way of adjustment against power bills is also being done in respect of certain power utilities.
- (iv) Umpires have been appointed for resolving the disputed dues between the coal companies and SEBs.
- (v) Government has also decided to deduct the outstanding dues of CIL as on 31.12.1996

through the mechanism of diversion from the Central Plan Assistance of the State Governments, Subject to a ceiling of 15%.

*[English]*

#### **Expansion of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited**

1907. SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK :

SHRI G.J. JAVIYA :

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

(a) whether the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has cleared the expansion and modernisation programme of the Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited;

(b) if so, the amount that has been sanctioned along with the estimated cost of the project and foreign exchange required for modernising it; and

(c) the time by which the expansion programme is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) Yes. Sir. The 3 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) refinery capacity expansion - cum - modernisation project at Manali, Chennai has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 2360.38 crores, including foreign exchange component of Rs. 333.82 crores and the project is to be completed within 36 months i.e. by July, 2003.

#### **Expansion of Kayamkulam Project**

1908. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR :

SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representations from the Government of Kerala regarding the expansion of Kayamkulam project;

(b) if so, whether the Government had agreed for setting up Natural Gas terminal at Kochi and expansion of Kayamkulam power project; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

**POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) :** (a) The Government of Kerala have requested the Ministry of Power/National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) to take up expansion of Kayamkulam combined Cycle Power Project (CCPP) in Kerala.

(b) and (c) Kayamkulam CCPP stage-I (350 MW) was dedicated to Kerala on its insistence. However, Kerala Electricity Board (KEB) has not been able to utilise full power from this project. Further, KEB has not made payments towards fixed charges for supply of power from GT-I and GT-II of the project declared commercial with effect from 1st January and 1st May, 1999 respectively during their open cycle operation. This has resulted in accumulation of liability of Rs. 185 crores against KEB. NTPC is incurring huge loss from this project.

Nevertheless, NTPC is pursuing Kayamkulam expansion project of 1950 MW (tentative) capacity. Towards this end, Ministry of Power has accorded necessary clearance under Section 18 A of Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948. Water commitment of 59 cusecs sufficient for both Stage-I and II is available and action taken for initiating site specific studies. As regards LNG terminal, NTPC has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with petronet for taking a 10 % stake in the equity of petronet LNG. The implementation of the project, as a regional station, would be contingent on a number of factors including availability of LNG in an appropriate time frame, price and terms, signing of Power Purchase Agreement with the State Electricity Board of the Southern States (for utilising its full capacity) with sufficient payment safeguards etc.

[Translation]

#### **Free Diesel to Tanker Owners for the Supply of Water in Rajasthan**

1909. **SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had decided to provide water to the people of famine affected areas in Rajasthan through water tankers;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the date on which it was decided; and

(c) the quantum of diesel provided free of cost by the various companies for providing water in the famine affected areas of Rajasthan, oil company wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) The Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry had decided to reimburse the cost of diesel to be used in the transportation of drinking water to the drought affected

villages in the States of Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat.

Government of Rajasthan had claimed a sum of over Rs. 37 lakhs towards the cost of diesel for transportation of drinking water. The amount claimed has since been released to Government of Rajasthan.

[English]

#### **Reservation Facility at Jammu Railway Station**

1910. **SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether pilgrims visiting Mata Vaishno Devi are facing problems to get reservation tickets at Jammu Railway Station;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Railway authorities are in league with the ticket blackers in selling the tickets; and

(d) if so, the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) Most of the pilgrims visiting Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine make advance return programme and book their accommodation in advance before starting their journey from the originating stations. However, thirteen reservation windows at Jammu Tawi station and two counters at Katra have also been provided for seeking reservation. Moreover, during the seasonal period of rush like, summer, pooja, Christmas, Navratras, etc. extra windows are also open.

In order to bridge the gap between the demand and supply, various steps have been taken which include :-

(i) Augmentation of capacity of 2403/2404 Jammu Tawi Pooja Express by running it with 24 coaches.

(ii) Augmenting the load of the existing trains running between Jammu and other cities.

(iii) Running of special trains during rush periods.

To curb the activities of unscrupulous elements including railway staff indulging in malpractices in reservation, frequent checks are conducted by the Commercial and Vigilance Departments and action is taken against the persons apprehended.

[Translation]

#### **New Private Projects**

1911. **MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN :** Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether only nine out of 57 promoters of

private projects regarding power generation have mobilised the required money so far;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government so far in regard to the remaining projects;

(c) the target fixed for the private sectors regarding power generation under Eighth Five Year Plan;

(d) whether this target has been achieved;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the concrete steps being taken by the Government to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) As per available information, out of a total of 57 private sector power projects accorded, Techno-Economic Clearance (TEC) by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), 15 projects have achieved financial closure so far.

(b) The steps taken to ensure that these projects achieve financial closure at the earliest include regular monitoring of projects by the Crisis Resolution Group and Task Force constituted by Ministry of Power so as to remove the various bottlenecks, organising special Meetings with financial institutions and concerned State Governments, etc., setting up of Regulatory Commissions, Reforms and Restructuring of power sector, 100% automatic approval of Foreign Direct Investments, delegation of powers to the State Governments in regard to environment clearance, etc.

(c) to (e) The target for capacity additional by private sector power projects during the Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97) was 2810 MW against which, a total capacity of 1430.4 MW could be added. The foremost reason for short-fall in the planned capacity addition has been the lack of investors confidence on account of poor financial health of State Electricity Boards (SEB) and the lack of the adequate security arrangements with the SEBs. The other reasons include the unresolved issue in fuel linkages, cancellation of projects by respective State Governments, non-fina-lisation of different contracts such as Power Purchase Agreement and Fuel Supply Agreement and non-seriousness among some of the promoters of projects on the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) route.

(f) Does not arise since the said Plan is already over.

*[English]*

#### **Change in Force Profile of Navy**

1912. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Navy plans to exercise a Kilo

class submarine and a maritime reconnaissance aircraft in the South China Sea during the current year;

(b) if so, whether this Naval operation was presented during the Naval Commanders' Conference in the second week of April, 2000;

(c) if so, whether the Indian Navy is toying with the idea of changing its force profile;

(d) if so, whether the Indian Navy is likely to be in forefront of defence diplomacy in order to promote goodwill with the navies in the region; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (e) Naval exercises in the South China Sea involving a Kilo class submarine and a maritime reconnaissance aircraft have not been planned for this year. However, a goodwill visit by the Naval ships, including a submarine, to some countries of South East Asia and East Asia is planned in September/October, 2000 during which Passage Exercises with the host Navies are proposed to be conducted. No maritime aircraft is scheduled to take part in these exercises.

The Naval Commanders were apprised of the forthcoming goodwill visit programme and the Passage Exercises that would be conducted with the host Navies, during the Commanders' Conference, 2000.

The Navy do not envisage that these visits will require any change in its force profile. Goodwill visit by the Indian Naval ships to friendly foreign countries is a regular feature to promote navy to navy cooperation with friendly foreign countries.

#### **Enhancement in Pension to Pre-1986 Pensioners**

1913. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have considered the proposal of enhancement of pension for the Pre-1986 Pensioners of the Indian Armed Forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a large number of such pensioners have applied for the same; and

(d) if so, the action taken on those applications?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) In pursuance with the

recommendations of V Central Pay Commission, orders for consolidation of existing pension of all pre 1.1.1996 Armed Forces Pensioners including pre 1.1.1986 pensioners, were issued on 24.11.1997. These orders provide for consolidation of pension by merging basic pension, Interim relief I & II, dearness relief ranging from 95% to 148% on the basic pension and 40% fitment weightage on the basic pension. Orders revising pension of all pre 1.1.1996 (including pre 1.1.1986 pensioners) were issued on 27th May 1998 in respect of officers and 14th July 1998 in respect of Personnel below officers rank. These orders provide for complete parity in pensions of pre and post 1.1.1986 pensioners. Further, where the pension as revised is less than the pension admissible for equivalent qualifying service at the minimum of the revised scale of pay of the rank from which pensioner had retired/discharged from service, his revised pension is to be stepped up to that level. Orders to this effect have been issued on 7.6.1999.

(c) and (d) So far, 4,60,613 applications from pre 1986 pensioners have been received out of which pension has been revised in respect of 3,81,527 pensioners. Remaining 79,086 cases are pending for verification of service particulars. Instructions have been issued for expeditious finalisation of pending cases.

[Translation]

#### Import of Cotton

1914. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the government require to import good quality cotton to meet its domestic demand; and

(b) if so, the quantity of cotton imported during each of the last three years and estimated for the current year along with the name of countries and expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Import of cotton is under Open General Licence (OGL) since 10th April, 1994. However, from 1999-2000, an import duty of 5% (with 10% surcharge) has been imposed. The user mills and other relating to cotton and textile industry can import cotton within the framework of the Government Policy.

(b) The quantity of cotton (including cotton waste) imported during the last three years are as under :

Quantity : In ton value : In Rs. Lakh					
1996-97 (Oct.-Sept.)		1997-98 (Oct.-Sept.)		1998-99 (Oct.-Sept.)	
Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
4728.0	4846.0	45802.0	31373.3	101223.0	57872.2

Source : Foreign Trade Statistics of India

The major countries from which cotton is imported are Australia, South Africa, USA, Egypt, Uzbekistan, Sudan, Turkey etc. For the cotton year 1999-2000 (Oct.-Sept.), the Cotton Advisory Boards, on 18.7.2000, has estimated import of 3,23,000 ton of raw cotton.

#### Life Saving Drugs

1915. SHRI VISHNUDEO SAI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of medicines included in the list of life saving drugs;

(b) the approved and administered price of bulk drugs and manufactured medicines at present;

(c) the number of times the prices of these medicines have been increased during the last five years alongwith the percentage of increase made; and

(d) the reasons for approving such unprecedented price hike?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (d) The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority fixes/revises the price of scheduled drugs and formulations as per the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 which does not distinguish drugs as life saving drugs or others. Drugs have been identified for inclusion in the price control category on the basis of criteria mentioned in the "Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986", announced in September, 1994. Presently, 74 bulk drugs and their formulations are under price control.

[English]

#### Supply of Fertilizers to Farmers

1916. SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are supplying controlled fertilizers to the farmers by paying the actual cost of production to the manufacturers and reimbursing the primary cost of transport i.e. freight from the plant/port

to the nearest railway station and secondary cost of transportation from railway station to the block headquarters;

(b) if so, whether Union Government are aware that the secondary freight rate fixed for hilly States was far less than that of actual freight;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Union Government have decided to reimburse the transportation charges from railway station Jammu to the block headquarters as per actual freight from March, 1997;

(e) if so, the reasons that reimbursement claim of urea are not received by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir and no decision is taken to give reimbursement prior to March, 1997.

(f) whether the Government propose to declare that transportation of fertilisers would be fully subsidized to Government of Jammu and Kashmir; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) :

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Urea is the only fertiliser which is under price, movement and distribution control of the Government of India. The Government of India has been paying the differential between the retention price of each manufacturing unit which includes cost of production with return on network and maximum retail price of urea as-subsidy under retention price cum subsidy scheme. Besides, the cost of distribution of urea is reimbursed on normative cum actual basis under Equated Freight Scheme consisting of primary freight—applicable from production point to railhead and from railhead to warehouse or godowns—and secondary freight—from warehouse or godowns to block headquarters.

The Secondary Freight rates for seven hill States including Jammu & Kashmir were last revised with effect from 25.8.1992. Further revision of secondary freight is proposed to be done with 7th Pricing Policy revision.

(d) to (g) Yes, Sir. Special Freight Reimbursement Scheme (SFRS) in lieu of Equated Freight Scheme (EFS) has been made effective in the State with effect from 1.4.1997. The scheme is given prospective effect. The cost of transportation of urea before 1.4.1997 was reimbursed under EFS which was in force till then.

#### Joint Venture in Bhadrawati Power Project

1917. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI DINSHA PATEL :

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a German Company in joint venture of Bhadrawati Power Project of Maharashtra has withdrawn its hand from the projects;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have examined the reasons for which German Company withdrew its hand from the project; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon and further steps likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) No, Sir. However, as informed by the Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB), M/s. Electricite de France (EDF) a French Power major, who was the co-promoter in the 1082 MW Bhadrawati Power Project, has conveyed to the Central India Power Company (which is the generating company established to develop the project), its decision to pull out from the project.

(b) According to MSEB, EDF has indicated the following reasons for pulling out of the power project:-

- (i) Inordinate delay in getting clearances from various authorities.
- (ii) A very high coal price sought by the Coal supplier.
- (iii) Lack of proper commitment to escrow arrangements.

(c) and (d) So far as the Central Government is concerned, the two major clearances viz. the Techno-Economic clearance of the Central Electricity Authority and counter guarantee have already been issued. However, it is true that several private sector power projects, including the Bhadrawati project, have been inordinately delayed for various reasons, the foremost reason being the poor financial health of the State Electricity Boards (SEB) and their inability to provide adequate security cover such as escrow arrangement, etc. As regards the supply of coal to the project, the proximity of the earlier allocated captive coal mines to an Ordnance Factory, led to change in the mining arrangements and consequently, a new coal supply arrangement became necessary. Government will provide

all necessary assistance to the project to ensure that it overcomes the remaining hurdles and achieves financial closure at the earliest possible. The Government of Maharashtra (GOM) have also constituted a Task Force under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary to expedite all clearances. The Task force members have been discussing all pending issues from time to time with a view to resolving them. This mechanism is stated to be a functioning very effectively and most of the issues have been sorted out.

#### Test Fire of Prithvi

1918. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Prithvi Missile was again test fired on June 16, 2000 from Interim Test Range at Chandipur near Balasore; and

(b) if so, the precise findings and extent of success of the test and conclusions reached as a result thereof, indicating the reasons for the fresh test?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Prithvi-II, the Air Force version of Prithvi was test fired on June 16, 2000 from Interim Test Range at Chandipur near Balasore. However, the Army version of Prithvi has already been developed, inducted and is under production.

(b) This test was a part of the developmental trial programme of Air Force version of Prithvi. Valuable data has been obtained from the test for use in development of this system.

#### Killing of Soldiers In J & K

1919. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of soldiers killed in terrorists' attacks in Jammu and Kashmir and north-east region during the last three years;

(b) whether families of the killed soldiers have since been received relief, compensation etc. in all the cases;

(c) the number of complaints received during the last three years from the families of the soldiers killed and injured for want of rehabilitation; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to redress the grievances thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected.

(c) and (d) 63 complaints have been received in Army Hqrs. during the said period. Out of this, 40 complaints have been resolved/redressed and the rest are being examined in Army Hqrs. and other concerned offices.

#### Installation of NCE Power Project

1920. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received the proposals from the States, for setting up of new non-conventional energy power projects;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) A Statement on proposals received from States for setting up of new non-conventional energy power projects is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Clearance of project proposals is a continuing process which depends upon fulfilment of eligibility criteria and other terms and conditions of the respective schemes/programmes.

#### Statement

*Project proposals received from States during 2000-01*

States	Demonstration wind power project	Small Hydro Power Projects	Biomass Gasifier Projects	Stand Alone SPV Power Plants
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	1			
Arunachal Pradesh		3		
Assam				3
Himachal Pradesh		1		2
Madhya Pradesh	1			



1	2	3	4	5
Maharashtra			1	
Manipur				2
Meghalaya				14
Mizoram		1		
Nagaland		1		
Tamil Nadu			1	
Uttar Pradesh		9		

#### Setting up of Coach Factory at Palakkad

1921. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of a demand of Kerala Government regarding setting up of a Coach Factory at Palakkad in Kerala;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have taken any action in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not considering the demand?

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

(b) and (c) At present, there is no need to set up another coach factory as the coach manufacturing capacity already available both in the Railways own production units as also in the Public Sector units is adequate to meet the Railway's current requirements.

[Translation]

#### Grants for Setting up of Bio-Gas Plants

1922. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government provide financial assistance for setting up of Bio-Gas plants with the Public toilets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of grant provided to various States during each of the last three years;

(d) whether the grant is likely to be given to the Madhya Pradesh Power Development Corporation for the construction of public toilets at Jabalpur; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is providing financial assistance for setting up of night-soil based biogas plants linked with public as well as institutional toilets.

(b) The details of the financial assistance being given for setting up of night-soil based biogas plants during the year 2000-2001 under the Central Sector Scheme-Community, Institutional and Night-soil based Bio gas Plants (CBP/IBP/NBP) Programme are mentioned below:

Plant capacity (cubic metres)	Maximum amount of Cenral Financial Assistance given for a night-soil based biogas plant	
	North Eastern Region States and Sikkim	Other States
15 and 20	Rs. 2.50 lakh*	Rs. 0.70 lakh
25	Rs. 4.60 lakh*	Rs. 1.50 lakh
35	Rs. 4.60 lakh	Rs. 4.60 lakh
45	Rs. 6.25 lakh	Rs. 6.25 lakh
60	Rs. 8.00 lakh	Rs. 8.00 lakh

\*This provision includes support for construction of requisite number of toilets also.

(c) The information is given in enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) The CBP/IBP/NBP programme does not provide financial assistance for construction of toilet to Madhya Pradesh or any other State Union Territory, except North Eastern Region States and Sikkim.

#### Statement

*Funds released to different States for setting up of night-soil based biogas plants during each of the last three years i.e. 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 under the Community, Institutional and Night-soil based Biogas Plants (CBP/IBP/NBP) Programme*

States	Funds released (Rupees in lakh)			
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	Total
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	-	5.52	11.04	16.56
Bihar	-	1.65	-	1.65
Goa	-	5.52	-	5.52

1	2	3	4	5
Gujarat	-	0.77	0.77	1.54
Haryana	-	11.04	11.04	22.08
Karnataka	-	0.77	-	0.77
Kerala	-	-	7.22	7.22
Madhya Pradesh	-	11.04	11.04	22.08
Maharashtra	37.30	84.72	39.77	161.79
Manipur	-	11.04	5.52	5.52
Nagaland	19.25	3.85	-	23.1
Orissa	-	-	5.52	5.52
Punjab	99.42	68.09	64.80	232.31
Rajasthan	2.50	20.50	15.64	38.64
Uttar Pradesh	203.98	223.42	200.21	627.61
West Bengal	17.80	21.55	7.60	46.95
Total	380.25	469.48	380.17	1229.90

#### **Rail Ticket Reservation by Private Agencies**

1923. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

SHRI SUNDERLAL TIWARI :

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKER MAHALE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to grant railway ticket reservation rights to certain selected travel agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of cities where this facility is being provided;

(c) the criteria for selection of such travel agencies and cities; and

(d) the time by which this facility is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) It has been decided to provide Computerised Passenger Reservation System Terminals as a Pilot Project in Mumbai (Central Railway) and Chennai (Southern Railway) to three travel agents authorised under Rail Travellers Service Agents (RTSAs) and Rail Tourist Agents (RTAs) schemes.

(c) The criteria for selection will be the performance of the agent, financial capability, type of premises, sales turnover, etc.

(d) This facility is likely to be started before the end of the current calendar year.

[English]

#### **Withdrawal of Trains**

1924. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether three trains have been withdrawn from Katwa-Bardhaman and Sealdah line;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to re-start the above trains; and

(d) if so, the time by which these are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Two pairs of Narrow gauge trains each on Barddhaman-Katwa and Ahmadpur-Katwa sections were withdrawn from 01.07.2000 due to poor patronage.

(c) and (d) The trains have been restored with effect from 25.7.2000.

[Translation]

#### **Computerisation in Courts**

1925. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE :

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

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

(a) whether a decision to set up enquiry offices in all the High Courts/Subordinates Courts of the country on the lines of the Supreme Court, besides starting the use of information technology for the immediate disposal of cases in the district courts has been taken in the meeting of the law secretaries of States convened in June, 2000 in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) As far as the setting up of enquiry offices in High Courts on the pattern of the Supreme Court is concerned, it is an ongoing programme. Its implementation was monitored in the meeting of June, 2000. As per available information, facilitation centres/enquiry counters for the convenience of litigant public have been established in the High Courts of Andhra Pradesh, Calcutta, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh. Funds were earmarked in the aforesaid meeting for the High Courts of Gauhati, Karnataka, Kerala and Rajasthan who had projected their demands for funds for setting up of such facilitation centres/enquiry counters. The remaining High Courts have also been requested to establish such centres.

As regards the use of information Technology in the district courts, a decision was taken during the meeting to release a sum of Rs. 208.00 lakhs to various States and UTs in accordance with the guidelines of these Planning Commission. The State Governments/UTs are free to utilise their allocation for setting up of facilitation centres/enquiry counters in district courts also in consultation with the respective High Courts. The amount of Rs. 208 lakhs

allocated for use of information Technology in courts has been released to various States and UTs on 5.7.2000.

#### Hydro Electric Power Project

1926. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals of Hydro electric power projects of Assam, Nagaland, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and other States are under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the reasons for not sanctioning these projects for long time;

(c) the details of power capacity to be added from these proposed projects;

(d) whether the Government propose to conduct an enquiry into the activities of National Hydro Electric Power Corporation; and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be conducted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Seven hydro-electric projects of various States as per details given in enclosed statement are under examination/appraisal for techno-economic clearance in Central Electricity Authority. However, a number of schemes have been returned to the States/project authorities for re-submission after tying up of various inputs and provisions of requisite details.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

#### Statement

Sl. No.	Scheme	Sector	Installed Capacity (MW)	Estimated Cost (Rs. Cr.) (Price level)	Energy (Gwh)	Date of Receipt of DPR	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Dhamwari Sunda H.P.	Private	70	583.00 (Completion)	285.00	2/99 (Re-submission)	SPAC held on 13.3.2000. IPP furnished replies to issues raised in the meeting are under examination.
2.	Uh1 St-II H.P.	State	100	464.80 (6/99)	401.76	11/99	Hydrology cleared, hydro power planning and power potential studies finished.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Matnar M.P.	State	60	253.64 (9/98)	192.92	6/2000	DPR under examination
4.	Humbarli PSS Maharashtra	State	400	838.92 (96/97)	751.00	9/99	DPR under examination
5.	Balimela Extn. Orissa	State	150	200.09 (Completion)	0.00	5/98	TEC held on 25.10.99. Formal clearance to be issued after sorting out issues.
6.	Bairabi Dam Mizoram	State	80	429.01 (3/2000)	213.55	6/2000	DPR under examination
7.	Kolodyne-I Mizoram	State	120	1174.13 incl. IDC 369.50 (3/99)	392.86	6/2000	DPR under examination
980 MW							

*[English]*

**Compensation to the Victims of  
Gaisal Train Accident**

1927. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have paid any compensation to the families of deceased and victims of the train accidents which occurred between Brahmaputra Mail and Awadh Assam Express at Gaisal on August 2, 1999;

(b) if so, the amount paid to the family of each of the deceased; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) and (c) Compensation amounting to Rs. 4 lakhs each has already been paid to the families of 116 deceased. Compensation shall be paid in the balance cases as soon as decrees are passed by the Railway Claims Tribunal.

**National Law University**

1928. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

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

(a) whether the Government have proposed to establish a National Law University at Delhi with regional centres of excellence in Law at Ahmedabad, Mumbai and Calcutta;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the proposed National Law University with its regional centres will start functioning;

(d) whether the Government are also considering to set up centres of excellence in Law under the proposed National Law University in all the State capitals of the country at a later stage; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (e) A proposal to establish a National Law University at Delhi with its three National centres in the Northern, Western and Eastern regions of the country on the pattern of the National Law School at Bangalore, with an enabling provision to create more such Centres, is under consideration of the Government. No time-frame has yet been finalized.

*[Translation]*

**Electrification of Jabalpur-Itarsi Rail Route**

1929. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

remaining on the Jabalpur-Itarsi rail route under Central Railway;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the above work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Due to constraint of resources and relative priority for electrification of other high density routes, there is, at present no proposal to electrify Jabalpur-Itarsi section of Central Railway.

[English]

**Establishment of "Knowledge Parks"**

1930. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to establish "knowledge parks" in the petrochemicals sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details and objectives thereof; and

(c) the places selected for establishing such parks along with the estimated cost to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS : (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) A proposal to set up "knowledge parks" for chemical, petrochemical and pharmaceutical sectors is under the consideration of the Government.

(b) and (c) The details have not yet been finalised.

[Translation]

**Electrification of Railway Routes**

1931. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of railway routes electrified during the last three years and current year so far along with the expenditure incurred thereon;

(b) the rail sections which are proposed to be electrified during the current year;

(c) whether there is any proposal to give priority to Mughalsarai-Patna and Patna-Barauni railway routes;

(d) if so, the time by which these routes are likely to be electrified; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) The details of railway routes electrified during the last three years and current year so far along with expenditure incurred thereon are as under :-

**Sections energised during the year 1997-98 :**

Section	Route Kilometer
1	2
<b>Eastern Railway</b>	
1. Danea-Gumia-Jarangdih	29
2. Jasidih-Nargungoo	36
3. Jhajha-Kiul	56
4. Nischintpur-Kashipur	09
<b>Northern Railway</b>	
5. Jagadhari Workshop-Saharanpur	36
<b>Southern Railway</b>	
6. Vallatolnagar-Punkunnam	21
7. Salem-Salem Market	04
<b>South Central Railway</b>	
8. Duvvada-Vadlapudi	04
<b>South Eastern Railway</b>	
9. Bokaro Steel City-Radhagaon	04
10. Chandiposh-Bimlagarh-Barsuan	37
11. Bimlagarh-Rangra	21
12. Tiruldih-Ramgarh	89
13. Adra-Bankura-Bheduasol	60
14. Simhachalam-Kottavalasa-Amamanda	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>445</b>

1	2
<b>Sections energised during the year 1998-99 :</b>	
<b>Eastern Railway</b>	
1. Nargunjoo-Jhajha	08
2. Mokama-Fatuha	68
3. Mughalsarai-Kuchhman	07
4. Jerangdih-Phurso	09
<b>Northern Railway</b>	
5. Ambala-Chandigarh	42
6. Sirhind-Morinda	24
7. Saharanpur station	02
8. Kanpur Bridge-Unnao	14
<b>Southern Railway</b>	
9. Punkunnam-Chovvara	56
<b>South Eastern</b>	
10. Alamanda-Chipurupalli-Srikakulam Road	82
11. Palasa-Tilaru	48
12. Simhachalam Yard	08
13. Radhagaon-Muri-Kita	64
14. Purulia-Kotahila	36
15. Rangra-Kiriburu	20
16. Bondamunda Yard	08
17. Bhedussole-Chandrakona Road-Salboni	65
18. Meramandoli-Talcher	16
19. Hijli-Bakhrabad	24
20. Bhadrak-Kenduapada	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>617</b>
<b>Sections energised during the year 1999-2000:</b>	
<b>Eastern Railway</b>	
1. Kiul-Mankatha	04
2. Mokama-Barhaiya	18
3. Fatuha-Danapur	32

1	2
4. Kuchhman-Dildarnagar	49
<b>Northern Railway</b>	
5. Chandigarh-Kalka	25
6. Morinda-Ropar	27
7. RTP Siding	10
8. Saharanpur-Khanalampura Yard	08
9. Kanpur-Kanpur Bridge	04
10. Unnao-Lucknow	56
<b>Southern Railway</b>	
11. Chovvara-Ernakulam	35
<b>South Eastern</b>	
12. Salboni-Midnapur	30
13. Srikakulam Road-Tilaru	20
14. Palasa-Golanthara-Berhampur	76
<b>Western</b>	
15. Udhna-Chalthan	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>405</b>

**Section energized during the current year (2000-2001)**

During the current year, the section Mankatha-Barhaiya (12 Route Kilometres of Eastern has been electrified so far).

**Expenditure Incurred:**

The expenditure incurred on the Railway Electrification Projects during these years is as under :

Year	Expenditure
1997-98	Rs. 320 crores
1998-99	Rs. 329 crores
1999-2000	Rs. 316 crores
2000-01 (upto June)	Rs. 74.98 crores

(b) The following sections are proposed to be electrified during the current year:

Section	Route Kilometre
1	2
<b>Eastern Railway</b>	
1. Mankatha-Barhaiya	12

1	2
2. Danapur-Ara	40
3. Dildarnagar-Buxor	36
<b>Northern Railway</b>	
4. Roopnagar-Una	69
5. Ludhiana-Ladhowal	09
6. Mughalsarai-Varanasi	17
<b>Southern Railway</b>	
7. Tambaram-Chengalpattu	30
<b>South Eastern Railway</b>	
8. Bondamunda-Bano	62
9. Bakhrabad-Jaleswar	40
10. Chatarpur-Gangadharpur	68
11. Berhampur-Chatrapur	22
<b>Western Railway</b>	
12. Chaitan-Madhi	40
13. Jalgaon-Amalner	55
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The electrifications works of Mughalsarai-patna and Patna-Barauni railway routes are in progress and the entire section Sitarampur-Patna-Mughalsarai including Patna-Barauni section is targeted for completion by March, 2002.

[English]

**Export of Petrol and Diesel**

1932. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI:  
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :  
SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI :  
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:  
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :  
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

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

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to export petrol and diesel during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the countries to which these items are likely to be exported;

(c) whether the export of the petrol and diesel likely to effect country's Oil Import Bill; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The export of petroleum products depend upon the overall demand and supply position in the country and the prevailing market condition. Government have, initiated steps to taken care of the surplus products, if any, in view of increase in domestic refining capacity. The export of Petrol and Diesel has since been decanalised. These are freely traded commodities in the international market and export destination are decided by market consideration.

(c) and (d) The oil import bill depends on the overall consumption, indigenous production and prices of petroleum products and crude oil in the international market.

**Sale Tax on Drugs**

1933. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to abolish Sale Tax on all drugs throughout the country with a view to marking available drugs at a cheaper rate; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Sales Tax is within the purview and jurisdiction of States.

[Translation]

**Foreign Planes Intercepted for Spying**

1934. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether our armed forces have even intercepted any planes that came with the purpose of spying in the country's air space;

(b) if so, the details of such cases during each of the last three years; and

(c) the name of the countries to which these planes belong?

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

(b) and (c) During the last three years there has been one case in 1999 when on 10th August, 1999, a Pakistan Navy Atlantique combat aircraft while carrying out aerial reconnaissance and photography mission on our territory was engaged by our Air Defence interceptors and shot down well inside the Indian air space.

#### Laying of Pipeline in Gujarat by Reliance Group

1935. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reliance Group is laying pipelines at many places in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the above mentioned work is being carried out on the local farmer's land despite their opposition;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the manner in which the Government is protecting the interest of these farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (e) Government is not aware of the laying of pipelines by Reliance Group in Gujarat. However, Petronet V.K. Limited, a joint Venture Company promoted by Petronet India Limited (PIL) and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has laid a pipeline for transportation of petroleum products from the refinery of Reliance Petroleum Limited (RPL) at Sikka near Jamnagar, Gujarat to the oil installations of IOCL at Kandla. RPL is holding 13% equity in Petronet V.K. Limited. This pipeline has been laid after acquiring Right of User as per the provisions of Petroleum & Minerals Pipelines Act, 1962. Land and crop compensation have been paid to the land owners along the pipeline route as per the provisions of Petroleum & Minerals Pipelines Act, 1962.

#### Recruitment in C.O.D., Kanpur

1936. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Group 'D' employees selected for recruitment by the Central Ordnance Depot, Kanpur during 1999-2000;

(b) the number of persons recruited and appointed so far; and

(c) the time by which all the appointments are likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Nil.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

#### Firing Incidents in Courts

1937. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA :

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

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

(a) whether incidents of firing in the courts oftently occur in the absence of adequate security arrangements;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of persons killed in these incidents during the last three years and till date, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve security arrangements in the courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) Maintenance of law and order in the courts is the responsibility of the State Governments. Accordingly, the information has been sought from the State Governments and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Unprofitable Rail Routes

1938. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways are operating several trains on loss marking routes;

(b) if so, the details of such routes and the total loss suffered by Railways on this account during 1999-2000;

(c) whether the Government have received some plans from experts to make these routes profitable; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?



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

(b) The details of such routes and the loss suffered by the Railways during 1999-2000 are not yet available. However, the relevant information for the year 1998-99 is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Statement

*Names of Unprofitable Rail Routes and their Losses during 1998-99 in Operation of trains on these routes*

Loss in thousands of Rupees

#### Central Railway

1. Neral-Matheran (NG-21Kms)	54828
2. Karjat-Khopoli (BG-15 Kms)	11609
3. Gwalior-Bhind (NG-84 Kms)	35120
4. Gwalior-Sheopur-Kalan (NG-200 Kms)	104969
5. Dholpur-Tantpur-Sirmutra (NG-89 Kms)	32447
6. Ait-Konch (BG-14 Kms)	16817
7. Kurduwadi-Miraj-Latur (NG-327 Kms)	95808
8. Pachora-Jamner (NG-56 Kms.)	13276
9. Majri-Rajpur (BG-21 Kms)	5206
10. Guna-Maksi (BG-193 Kms)	43191
11. Daund-Baramati (BG-44 Kms)	12900
12. Panvel-Uran (BG-27Kms)	18935
Total	445104

#### Eastern Railway

13. Bhimgarh -Palashtali (BG-27 Kms)	3204
14. Barasat-Hasnabad (BG-53 Kms)	28339

15. Santipur-Nabadwipghat (NG-27.5 Kms)	9653
16. Bardhaman-Katwa (NG-53 Kms)	27855
17. Bhagalpur-Mandarhili (BG-50 Kms)	10648
18. Barulpur-Lakshmikantpur (BG-37 Kms)	21534
19. Jamalpur-Monghyr (BG-10 Kms)	5587
20. Sonarpur-Canning (BG-29 Kms)	14659
21. Dildarnagar-Tarighat (BG-19 Kms)	2991
22. Kalyani-Kalyani Simanta (BG-4 Kms)	9063
23. Tinpahar-Rajmahal (BG-12 Kms)	2332
24. Lakshmikantapur-Kulpi (BG-10 Kms)	58183
Total	194048

#### Northern Railway

25. Rohtak-Gohana (BG-32 Kms)	12157
26. Gohanda-Panipat (BG-39 Kms)	12217
27. Rohtak-Bhiwani (BG-49 Kms)	38217
28. Shamil-Saharanpur (BG-64 Kms)	44173
29. Delhi-Shahadra-Shamli (BG-87 Kms)	17393
30. Tuglakabad-Shakurbasti (BG-26.60 Kms)	29953
31. Kalka Shimla (NG-97 Kms)	116132
32. Lalgarh-Srikolayat Jee (BG-46 Kms)	15500
33. Garhi-Harsaru-Farukhnagar (MG-11Kms)	2816
34. Sardar Shahar-Ratangarh (MG-43 Kms)	9724
35. Dalmau-Daryapur (BG-25 Kms)	4788
36. Amritsar-Attari (BG-25 Kms)	11085
37. Phagwara-Nawan Shahar Doaba (BG-36 Kms)	31117
38. Batala-Quadian (BG-19 Kms)	14903
39. Verka-Derababa Nanak (BG 46 Kms)	73285

40. Amritsar-Khemkaran (BG-77 Kms)	8082
41. Rai Ka Bagh - Pokhran (BG-192 Kms)	21996
42. Merta Rd.-Merta City (BG-14.5 Kms)	3278
43. Raniwara-Bhildi (MG-71 Kms)	51669
44. Samdari-Munabao (MG-248 Kms.)	83242
<b>Total</b>	<b>601727</b>

**North Eastern Railway**

45. Banmankhi-Bihariganj (MG-27 Kms.)	19315
46. Sakri-Jayanagar (MG-70 Kms)	60078
47. Narkatiaganj-Bhikhanatori (MG-47 Kms)	15414
48. Salempur-Barhaj Bazar (BG-22 Kms.)	7433
49. Indara-Dohrighat (MG-40 Kms)	14229
50. Mankapur-Katra (BG-30 Kms)	
51. Anandnagar-Nautanwa (MG-49 Kms)	18131
52. Jhanjharpur-Laukaha Bazar (MG-43Kms)	29438
53. Mathura-Vrindaban (MG-13 Kms)	5196
54. Mandhana - Brahmavarta (MG-9 Kms)	2965
55. Kashipur-Ramnagar (BG-27 Kms)	23367
56. Rampur-New Haldwani (BG-89 Kms)	67596
<b>Total</b>	<b>282529</b>

**Northeast Frontier Railway**

57. New Jalpaiguri-Darjeeling (NG-88 Kms)	43107
58. Katihar-Maniharighat (MG-36 Kms.)	31599
59. Katihar-Jogbani (MG-108 Kms)	87253
60. Singabad-Old Malda (BG-24 Kms.)	21967
61. Barsoi-Radhikapur (MG-53 Kms)	987
62. Alipurduar-Bamanhat (MG-71 Kms)	45269
63. Tezpur-Rangapara North (MG-27 Kms)	28815
64. Fakiragram-Dhubri (MG-65 Kms)	28726
65. Karimganj-Mahisashan (MG-10 Kms)	8632
66. Baraigram-Dullavcherra (MG-28 Kms)	7528

67. Katakhal-Lalabazar (MG-36 Km.)	8622
68. Chaparmukh- Silghat (MG-81 Kms) & Champarmukh-Halbargan (BG-27 Kms)	9142
69. Simulguri-Naganimara (MG-14 Kms.)	739
70. Mariani-Jorhat Town (MG-17 Kms)	10363
71. Simulguri-Moranhat (MG-54 Kms.)	2047
72. Makum-Dangari (MG-30 Kms)	642
73. Dharmanagar-Pancharthal-Kumatghat (MG-41 Kms)	97892
74. Lalabazar-Jamira-Bhairabi (MG-45 Kms)	49181
75. Silchar-Jiribam (MG-49 Kms)	38932
76. Balipara-Gamai-Bhaalukpong (MG-35 Kms)	38375
<b>Total</b>	<b>559818</b>

**Southern Railway**

77. Shoranur-Nilambur (BG-66 Kms.)	4071
78. Villupuram-Pondicherry (MG-38 Kms)	12432
79. Thiruthurai-poondi-Kodikkarai (MG-46 Kms)	3151
80. Mettupalayam-Udhagamandalam (MG-46 Kms.)	28843
81. Madurai-Bodinayakanur (MG-90 Kms)	13909
82. Nanjangud-Chamraj Nagar (MG-35 Kms)	19409
83. Tirunelveli-Tiruchandur (MG-62 Kms)	17910
84. Sagarajambaguru-Talaguppa (MG-16 Kms)	8877
85. Trichur-Guruvayur (BG-24 Kms)	5857
86. Chitradurg-Rayadurg (BG-99 Kms)	19050
<b>Total</b>	<b>133309</b>

**South Central Railway**

87. Bhimavaram-Narasapur (BG-29 Kms)	8716
88. Gudivada-Machilipatnam (BG-40 Kms)	12238
89. Jankampet-Bodhan (MG-20 Kms)	2396

90. Mudkhed-Adilabad (MG-162 Kms.)	23412
91. Adilabad-Pimpalkutti (BG-20 Kms)	650
<b>Total</b>	<b>47412</b>

**South Eastern Railway**

92. Khurda Road-Puri (BG-43 Kms.)	52798
93. Nawpada-Gunupur (NG-90 Kms)	20356
94. Purulia-Kotshila & Ranchi-Lohardaga (NG-104 Kms.)	125334
95. Raipur-Dhamtari (NG-89 Kms)	65722
96. Satpura Railways (NG-1007 Kms)	759390
97. Rupsa-Talbandh (NG-89 Kms)	29106
98. Kanhan-Ramtek (BG-24 Kms.)	17455
99. Bondamunda-Nawgaon-Purnapani (BG-29 Kms)	252
100. Jakhapura-Daitari (BG-33 Kms)	53928
101. Hatia-Nawgaon (BG-18 Kms)	39209
102. Bobli-Salur (BG-18 Kms)	7379
103. Tumsar Road-Tirodi (BG-24 Kms)	20210
104. Tata-Badampahar (BG-99.05 Kms)	17946
105. Santragachi-Baragachia (BG-24 Kms.)	46473
106. Tupkadih-Talgaria (BG-35 Kms)	71647
<b>Total</b>	<b>1327203</b>

**Western Railway**

107. Billimora-Waghai (NG-63 Kms)	10092
108. Chhuchhapura-Tenkhal (NG-38 Kms)	821
109. Choranda-Motikoral (NG-19 Kms)	1792
110. Samni-Dahej (NG-39 Kms)	2115
111. Broach-Jambusar-Kavi (NG-76 Kms)	3562
112. Chota Udaipur-Jambusar (NG-150 Kms)	7666
113. Chanded-Malsar (NG-87 Kms)	7533
114. Nadiad-Kapadvanj (NG-45 Kms)	2971

115. Nadiad-Bhadran (NG-58 Kms)	1606
116. Gandhidham-New Kandla (MG-12 Kms)	19281
117. Mawli Jn.-Bari Sadri (MG-82 Kms)	63512
118. Pranchi Rd.-Kodinar (MG-26 Kms)	12206
119. Sihor-Palitana (MG-27 Kms)	7283
120. Rajula Jn.-Rajula City (MG-9 kms)	2155
121. Ranuj Netrana Rd.-Kakoi	5125
122. Mehsana - Tarang Hill (MG-56 Kms)	8422
123. Himmatnagar-Khedbrahma (MG-55 Kms)	8698
124. Anand Cambay (BG-51 Km)	13221
125. Boriavi-Vadtal-Swaminarayn (BG-6 Kms)	2563
<b>Total</b>	<b>180624</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3771774</b>

N.B. The figures in the brackets refer to the Gauge of track and the length of the section.

**Pak Naval Base in Arabian Sea**

1939. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that Pakistan is establishing a Naval base in the Arabian Sea;

(b) if so, whether the said Naval base has caused a threat to the major cities and industrial areas in Western India;

(c) if so, whether the Government are taking any concrete steps to put restraints on Pakistani activities in that area; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) The Navy has taken cognizance of the Naval bases being set up by Pakistan on its coast have factored them into its strategic and tactical plans.

[English]

**Closure/Sickness of Cooperative Spinning Mills**

1940. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the cooperative spinning mills closed/sick in the country, State-wise particularly in Orissa;

(b) the reasons for their closure/sickness;

(c) the number of workers affected due to this and steps taken for their rehabilitation; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to reopen the closed mills and to revive the sick mills and amount incurred thereon, mill-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (d) As on 31.5.2000; 48 cotton/man-made fibre co-operative spinning mills (Non-SSI) were closed in the country. Out of which, 3 co-operative spinning mills were closed in the State of Orissa. The number of such mills closed and workers affected, State-wise, are given below :-

State	Mills Closed	Workers Affected
Andhra Pradesh	9	5625
Assam	1	215
Bihar	2	363
Gujarat	4	4189
Karnataka	3	1269
Maharashtra	17	9192
Orissa	3	3619
Punjab	4	4468
Tamil Nadu	2	1208
Uttar Pradesh	1	1212

Closure of textile mills can be attributed to many factors including obsolete technology increase in cost of inputs, difficulties in getting timely and adequate credit, mismanagement, recessionary conditions etc. The names of the closed co-operative spinning mills (Non-SSI) in the State of Orissa are given below :

Name of the Mills	Reason of closure
The Orissa Weavers co-operative spinning mills	Financial difficulties
Utkal Weavers co-operative spinning mills	Financial difficulties
Shree Sarala Weavers co-operative Spinning mills	Super Cyclone

The co-operative spinning mills come within the purview of the State Governments, and therefore for revival of the sick/closed co-operative sector mills, appropriate

action should be taken by the State Government concerned. As in case of Orissa, the State Government in 1996 had recommended restructuring/privatisation of spinning mills operating under the Orissa Co-operative Spinning Federation. The SBI Caps was entrusted with the task of evaluation of asset and for preparation of Confidential Information Memorandum for Spinning Mills under Orissa Co-operative Spinning Mills Federaton. Expression of interests were received from several parties but no concrete bid offers were received. Therefore, the Mills to continue to be operated on conversion basis pending sale/privatisation.

#### Levy of Mela Surcharge

1941. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether special tax is levied by Railways during 'Shravani Mela' and Pitrapaksha Mela' in Devghar and Gaya in Bihar;

(b) If so, the income earned by the Railways thereby during the last three years; and

(c) the percentage of said tax spent for the development of Devghar and Gaya?

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

(b) Total earnings from Mela surcharge levied for Shravani and Pitrapaksha Melas during the last three years were Rs. 30.05 lakhs.

(c) During major Melas, railways have to provide a number of additional facilities like opening of additional booking counters, running of special trains, etc. The surcharge is intended to recover the expenditure incurred in providing additional facilities.

#### Renovation of Railway Bridges

1942. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have identified the Railway bridges in the Eastern, South Eastern and East Coast Railways which need renovation and replacement;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the estimated costs thereof; and

(c) the time by which these bridges are proposed to be replaced along with the funds earmarked therefor during 2000-01?

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

(b) Replacement/renovation of Bridges on East Coast Railway are controlled by South Eastern Railway.

The details for Eastern and South Eastern Railways are as under :-

Railway	No. of Bridges	Funds Required (In crores)
Eastern	343	350 (approximately)
South Eastern	110	75 (approximately)

(c) Approximately, 10 years depending upon the availability of funds. In the Budget for 2000-2001, Rs. 17.59 crores and Rs. 3.47 crores have been allotted to Eastern and South Eastern Railways respectively under the plan head 'Bridge Works'.

[Translation]

#### Hiring of Trucks by IOCL

1943. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) had pressed into service tankers for the drought affected areas of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the company had hired these tankers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the officers had hired these tankers on their own without inviting any tender for the purpose;

(f) if so, whether the Government propose to conduct an inquiry into the matter; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (g) Indian Oil Corporation Limited had provided 26 tankers for water supply in drought affected areas of Rajasthan. The oil company had hired these tankers from its existing POL transporters after obtaining the approval of the competent authority.

[English]

#### Retirement Age of Judicial Officer

1944. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN :

SHRI RASHID ALVI :

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

(a) whether the Supreme Court in a recent judgement has advised the Government to retain in service of only the useful judicial and other Government employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the present criteria for the increasing the superannuation age for Judicial officers proposed to be changed;

(d) if so, the details thereof;and

(e) the time by which the proposed changes are likely to be enforced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Supreme Court of India, vide its judgement of June 26, 2000. in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 376 of 2000 in Ramesh Chandra Acharya Vs. Registrar, High Court of Orissa, Cuttack & ANR, held that Constitution beyond 58 years is permissible only when the High Court makes a positive recommendation in favour of that officer for such continuation. Otherwise, the judicial officer has to retire at the age of 58 years. This can be departed from only when the State makes specific rule otherwise'. The Supreme Court directed that the High Court /Tribunals/ other Authorities may decide the cases by following the judgement and may also communicate the decision to the Subordinate Courts/other authorities and direct them to take action accordingly.

(c) to (e) No proposal to increase the superannuation age of judicial officers is under the consideration of the Union Government, at present. However, the criteria for increasing the superannuation age for judicial officers is fixed by the High Courts in consultation with the respective State Governments.

[Translation]

#### Hindi Advisory Committee

1945. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work of constitution or reconstitution of Hindi Advisory Committee in the Ministry and its attached departments has since been completed;

(b) if so, the composition thereof;

(c) the time by which the meeting of the committee is likely to be held and the details about the terms of reference of the Committee; and

(d) the arrangements made for convening regular sittings and conduct of business of the committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Hindi Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Power already exists and the re-constituted Committee is functioning since 21.12.1998. There is no provision to constitute or re-constitute separate Hindi Advisory Committee for attached offices and Public Sector Undertakings, as all the Heads of these organisations are represented on this Committee. In the composition of the committee, there are 34 members (19 Officials and 15 non-officials). Since its reconstitution, the first meeting of the Committee was held on 24.3.1999 and the second and third meetings were convened on 14.2.2000 and 24.6.2000 respectively. It has always been endeavour of the Ministry of Power to convene its meeting regularly and adequate arrangements exist to for conduct of business of the Committee.

The main function of the Committee is to advise the Ministry of Power and its attached and Subordinate Offices/ Public sector Undertakings/Corporations/Autonomous bodies/Institutions/Societies/Boards under the administrative control of the Ministry on the matters relating to progressive use of Hindi for official purposes and allied issues.

[English]

#### LPG Dealership in Tamil Nadu

1946. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have advertised once again for the allotment of LPG dealership and retail Petrol Pumps in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Oil Selection Board has been constituted for the Southern Regions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The Government have issued instructions to the oil companies to issue advertisements in respect of those retail outlet dealership/SKO-LDO dealerships/LPG distributorships which are pending for selection through interviews by Dealer Selection Boards (DSBs).

(c) and (d) The following 12 Dealers Selection Boards have been constituted for the States of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Union Territory of Lakshadweep :

- 1) Secunderabad
- 2) Hyderabad
- 3) Vijayawada
- 4) Vishakhapatnam
- 5) Bangalore
- 6) Belgaum
- 7) Thiruvananthapuram
- 8) Kochi
- 9) Chennai-I
- 10) Chennai-II
- 11) Coimbatore
- 12) Madurai

#### Return of Amount taken from Oil Pool Account

1947. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

SHRI R.S. PATIL :

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to News-Item captioned "Finance Ministry urged to return Rs. 4400 crore to national oil companies" as appeared in 'Hindustan Times' dated July 21, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereon;

(c) whether the arrears in the oil pool account have also been growing;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) From 1982-83 onwards when the oil pool account started generating surpluses, deposits were made into Public Account of India by OCC. The balance of such deposit as on 31.3.1999 was Rs. 4429 crores. The amount is still receivable and forms part of 'other liabilities' of Government of India. No final decision has been taken as yet.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The cumulative outstanding claims of the oil companies/Government of India at the period end are as under :-

Year	Rupees in Crores
As on 30/6/97	18,271
As on 30/6/98	14,156
As on 31/3/99	3,408
As on 31/3/00	6,000 (Provisional)
As on 31/7/00	7,500 (Estimated)

(e) With a view to contain the deficit in the oil pool account, the Government have taken a number of measures such as moving product prices towards import parity and gradual phasing out of subsidy on petroleum products.

#### Toy Train in Darjeeling

1948. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether UNESCO has taken a serious note of the crude changes made by the Railways in the Toy Train in Darjeeling, the Century old steam engines have been partially replaced with diesel locomotives; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Darjeeling - Himalayan Railways (DHR) has already been awarded a world heritage site by UNESCO. However, on the issue of introduction of two diesel locomotives for operation on the DHR, UNESCO has been informed that in order to supplement the existing fleet of steam

locomotives which are varying in age from 72 years to 111 years, a decision was taken on the basis of the recommendations of the Asian Institute of Transport Development, for partial dieselisation of long distance service on DHR between New Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling, restricting the steam services to shorter sections between Darjeeling and Kurseong. This was done to give relief to the old steam locomotives and to preserve them for posterity. The Government has further taken a decision to procure three modern state-of-the-art oil fired steam locomotives to supplement the existing fleet of locomotives on DHR.

#### Promotion of Textile Industry

1949. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Conference was organised by the Powerloom Development Export Promotion Council in order to promote Textile Industry; particularly fabric manufacturing and garment industry;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the latest technological development discussed in the Conference; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase the country's market share in International Textile Trade and convert India into a major exporting country of textiles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An all India textile Conference namely "Clothing the Globe" was held in Salem from June 24 to 25 June, 2000.

(c) Various technological development issues viz. techno economics of shuttleless looms; multi-phase weaving, Electronic controls in powerlooms; product diversification in textiles; right first time dyeing; design requirements of spinning machines to spin world class yarn; design and development of high production gin and lint cleaner; opportunities for Indian Garments; total quality management ; computer based training package for textile industry, product development & diversification in Garments; etc. were discussed.

(d) Government have taken several steps for increasing exports of textiles. Some of the important steps taken particularly, in respect of the textile sector are as under:

- 1) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme has been made operational with effect from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of this sector.

- 2) Technology Mission on Cotton has been launched to improve the quality & productivity of cotton ensuring good quality of cotton to the textiles industry.
- 3) The New Export Entitlement (Quota) Policy for the period 2000-2004 has been announced recently to provide stability and continuity and encourage competitiveness in textile exports.
- 4) Non-Quota Entitlement (NQE) System for encouraging non-quota exports to quota and non-quota countries has been retained to boost exports in apparel sector-value added segment of Indian textiles.
- 5) The facility to import capital goods under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme at 5% concessional rate of duty.
- 6) Exports of cotton yarn by Export Oriented Unit (EOU)/Export Promotion Zone (EPZ)/EPCG units has been liberalised.
- 7) Zero Duty import of certain categories of trimmings & embellishments has been allowed.

#### Construction of Sarpeswar Railway Station

1950. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any request from local public, Members of Parliament and other organisations to construct a new railway station namely "Sarpeswar Passenger Halt" in between Raj Athgarh and Barang in Cuttack District of Orissa;

(b) if so, whether the Government had conducted any survey to find out the feasibility of the said new station;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(e) whether money has been allotted from MPLAD Scheme for the construction of manned level-crossing near Sarpeswar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The proposal for opening of a half station at Sarpeswar, between Naraj Marthapore and Ghanthikal Nidhipur stations over Rajathgarh-Barang railway line is being examined.

(e) An assurance has been received from Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, MP for allocation of Rs. 8 lakhs from the MPLAD Fund for manning of unmanned level crossing near Sarpeswar.

#### LPG Distributorships in Uluberia Sub-division of West Bengal

1951. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received demands for opening of LPG distributorships in Uluberia Sub-Division of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) Requests are received from time to time for setting up LPG distributorships at various locations. The location Uluberia in West Bengal has already been included in the Marketing Plan.

The locations included in the Marketing Plans are advertised by the Oil Companies and the selection of distributors is made through interview by Dealer Selection Boards as per procedure. It generally takes about 6-12 months for commissioning of the distributorships from the date of interview.

[Translation]

#### Sales Tax on Chemical Fertilizers and Insecticides

1952. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any requests from the State Governments regarding withdrawal of sale tax on the chemical fertilizers and insecticides;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (c) Sales Tax is a State subject. The Union



Government need not be approached for withdrawal or levy of sale tax on chemical fertilizers and insecticides.

[English]

#### Installation of Surveillance Equipment

1953. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA :

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to install Early Warning system and set up an upgraded surveillance system along the Line of Control with Pakistan in order to stop and detect infiltration of militants into Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) whether the Government have conducted the trials of the said system;

(c) if so, the details of the trial report and the source of its acquisition;

(d) the time by which the work on installation of EWS devices is likely to be completed; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and other measures proposed to be adopted to beef up security at LoC?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Considering the prevailing security scenario in Jammu and Kashmir, state of the art early warning systems and upgraded surveillance system have been installed along the line of control with Pakistan in order to detect and stop infiltration of militants. These systems have been installed after successful evaluation by the Army. Further systems are in the process of acquisition and installation.

(c) and (d) It may be appreciated that divulging of details of equipment, of trials, sources and time frames by which these systems are planned to be installed may jeopardize national security.

(e) Does not arise.

#### Installed Capacity of Power In N.E. Region

1954. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the total installed capacity of power from all sources in each State of North Eastern region and Sikkim with breakup of sources like hydro, coal and gas operational projects;

(b) whether any project is privately owned or privatised; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The installed capacity of power in megawatts, as on 30.6.2000, in respect of N.E. Region including Sikkim was as follows :-

State	Hydro	Steam	Gas	Diesel	Nuclear	Total (in MW)
Assam	2.00	330.00	269	20.69	0.00	621.69
Manipur	2.60	0.00	0.00	9.41	0.00	12.01
Meghalaya	186.71	0.00	0.00	2.05	0.00	188.76
Nagaland	3.50	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	5.50
Tripura	16.01	0.00	64.50	4.85	0.00	85.36
Arunachal Pradesh	29.55	0.00	0.00	15.68	0.00	45.43
Mizoram	5.31	0.00	0.00	20.36	0.00	25.67
Sikkim	32.89	0.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	37.89
State Total	278.57	330.00	333.5	80.24	0.00	1022.31
Central Sector	430.01	00.00	375	0.00	0.00	805.01
Total	708.58	330.00	708.50	80.24	0.00	1827.32

(b) and (c) Only two projects in the private sector are commissioned in the North Eastern Region. They are, Adamtilla (3x3 MW) and Banaskandi (3x3.5+5) MW and both are located in Assam.

#### Espionage activities in Naval HQ

1955. SHRI M. CHINNASAMY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the sensitive materials relating to ordnance inventory of the Indian Army are reportedly routed to Pakistani intelligence agencies by the Naval Head Quarter Officers;

(b) if so, the time since when such espionage has been going on;

(c) whether any assessment has been made to find out the damages caused by the espionage;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the action taken against the officers found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (e) The Delhi Police had arrested a person found in possession of incriminating defence documents which were alleged to have been supplied to him by an ex petty officer of the Navy. The ex petty Officer confessed to the Police to have obtained some documents from a serving petty officer. Further investigations by the police revealed that the ex petty officer had attempted to cultivate another petty officer of the Navy also for getting defence related information. Both these serving officers were put in close custody by the Naval HQrs. Investigations into the matter by the Delhi Police and the Naval Hqrs. are continuing. Full ramification of the case will become known on completion of the on-going investigations.

[Translation]

#### Shortage of Power

1956. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY :

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :

SHRI MANSINH PATEL :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a acute shortage of power in various parts of the country at present;

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

(c) whether the Union Government propose to evolve strategy to meet power demand in the consultation with the State Governments;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to formulate any plan to increase the power production;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the amount likely to be spent for their purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) During the period April-June, 2000 the State-wise power supply position in the country is given in the enclosed statement. The total energy availability during this period have been 114674 MU compared to 108478 MU during the corresponding period of last year thus showing an increase of 4.7%.

(c) to (e) In order to improve availability of power and generation capacity and make optimal use of the available power resources in the country, the following measures have been taken :-

(i) Expeditious implementation of capacity addition programme. Various task forces have been set up in the Ministry to ensure timely implementation of new projects.

(ii) Promotion of measures for energy efficiency and demand side management.

(iii) Renovation and Modernisation (R & M) of old existing generating units.

(iv) Disbursement of loans by Power Finance Corporation for improving operation and maintenance of thermal power stations under accelerated generation programme.

(v) Promotion of inter-state and inter-regional power transfers.

(vi) Coordinated operation of hydro, thermal, nuclear and gas turbine power stations in the regional power system.

(vii) Augmentation of transmission, transformation capacity in the power system and installation of shunt capacitors to improve the voltage.

(viii) Reduction of transmission and distribution losses.

- (ix) Improving the viability of States Electricity Boards through power sector reforms.

Further, the Ministry has constituted two Committees headed by the Chairman, Central Electricity Authority each for Southern and Northern Regions comprising officers from State Electricity Boards/Utilities of the concerned regions to review power supply position in these regions and suggest measures for improving power availability in the regions. The committee for the Southern Region has already submitted its report.

(f) The approved outlay for the Ninth Plan is Rs. 124528.41 crore comprising of Rs. 53,299.41 crore for the central sector and Rs. 71,227.00 crore for the state sector. In addition, substantial private sector investment is expected to come in the power sector.

#### Statement

##### *Actual Power Supply Position*

(All figures in M.U.)

Region/State	April' 2000 to June 2000				
	Requirement	Availability	Shortage	%	
System	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Northern Region</b>					
Chandigarh	287	287	0	0.0	
Delhi	4965	4766	199	4.0	
Haryana	3970	3939	31	0.8	
Himachal Pradesh	752	752	0	0.0	
Jammu & Kashmir	1540	1317	223	14.5	
Punjab	7120	7100	20	0.3	
Rajasthan	6220	5926	294	4.7	
Uttar Pradesh	11140	9744	1396	12.5	
N.R.	35994	33831	2163	6.0	
<b>Western Region</b>					
Gujarat	13570	12307	1263	9.3	

	1	2	3	4	5
Madhya Pradesh	9136	8303	833	9.1	
Maharashtra	19542	17526	2016	10.3	
Goa	458	389	69	15.1	
W.R.	42706	38525	4181	9.8	

#### Southern Region

Andhra Pradesh	11095	10080	1015	9.1	
Karnataka	7470	6607	863	11.6	
Kerala	3351	3091	260	7.8	
Tamil Nadu	10614	9542	1072	10.1	
S.R.	32530	29320	3210	9.9	

#### Eastern Region

Bihar	2158	2041	117	5.4	
D.V.C.	2124	2163	-39	-1.8	
Orissa	2672	2830	-158	-5.9	
West Bengal	4663	4720	-57	-1.2	
E.R.	11617	11745	-137	-1.2	

#### N.E. Region

Ar. Pradesh	31.7	31.8	-0.1	-0.3	
Assam	698.6	703.5	-4.9	-0.7	
Manipur	114.2	112.2	2	1.8	
Mehgalaya	125.6	150.4	-24.8	-19.7	
Mizoram	55.1	56	-0.9	-1.6	
Nagaland	51.5	52.5	-1	-1.9	
Tripura	134.8	138	-3.2	-2.4	
N.E.R.	1211.5	1244.4	-32.9	-2.7	
All India	124059	114674	9385	7.6	

(-) indicating surplus

**Development of Mega Power Projects**

1957. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of the mega power projects enlisted by a technical group in 1998-99;
- (b) the present status of each of the projects;
- (c) the names of the projects being developed in the public sector and their present status; and

(d) the names of the gas-import-terminals proposed to be set up in the public sector as well as private sector with their present status, alongwith their location and their capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Details of the mega power projects as per the revised mega power policy of the Government of India of November, 1998, indicating their executing agency, installed capacity and the present status are given in Statement-I.

(d) Details of the initiatives for import of liquified natural gas in the country indicating their location and capacity are given in Statement-II.

**Statement**

S. No.	Name of the project/ State	Capacity (MW)	Present status
1	2	3	4
<b>Private Sector :</b>			
1.	Hirma Thermal Power Project, M/s. Southern Electric Asia Power Ltd. (SEAP), Orissa	3960	Petition regarding tariff is under consideration in Central Electricity Regulatory Commission
2.	Cuddalore Thermal Power Projets, Tamil Nadu	1000	The Request for Qualification (RFQ) bidders of the project was first issued in February 1999. However, due to problems in availability of land and readiness of Cuddalore Port, the bid opening date was extended indefinitely.
3.	Krishnapatnam Thermal Power Project Andhra Pradesh	1500	The implementation of the project has been held up because Coastal Regulation Zone clearance for the project has not been obtained. This is due to the stay granted by the Andhra Pradesh High Court on the Notification of Ministry of Environment & Forests on the petition of an NGO in the matter of two private power projects in the State of Andhra Pradesh to be executed in the area adjacent to the mega power project land.
4.	Pipavav Thermal Power Project, Gujarat	2000	The Request for Qualification stage for the selection of bidders has been completed. A petition was filed with Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) to ascertain its views on the applicability of Availability Based Tariff order of CERC to the project. In its order dated 9.3.2000, CERC has observed that Availability Based Tariff would be applicable to the project. It has further been observed that the Request for Proposal (RFP) document along with bid evaluation criterion should be got approved from CERC before issuing it to prospective bidders. Accordingly, petition of CERC for their approval of the methodology and procedure/ evaluation criteria for selection of bidders has been filed on 13.4.2000. Once CERC clears the proposal, the RFP documents will be issued to bidders.

1	2	3	4
5.	Narmada Thermal Power Project (LNG), Gujarat	1000	Work for implementation has not yet been initiated.
<b>Public Sector</b>			
1.	Kahalgau Thermal Power Project Stage-II, NTPC, Bihar	1500	The scheme, with a revised configuration of 2x660 MW, is under examination in CEA for techno-economic clearance.
2.	North Karanpura Thermal Power Project, NTPC, Bihar	2000	Feasibility studies being carried out by NTPC.
3.	Barh Thermal Power Project Stage-I, NTPC Bihar	2000	Detailed Project Report (DPR) with a revised configuration of 3x660 MW, is under examination in CEA for techno-economic clearance.
4.	Maithon Thermal Power Project Damodar Valley Corporation	1000	The project is to be set up by a joint venture of DVC and BSES. Revised DPR with all the inputs/clearances tied up is to be submitted by the joint venture company.
5.	Cheyur Thermal Power Project, Stage-I, NTPC, Tamil Nadu	1500	Clearance from the Coastal Regulation Zone and the Ministry of Environment & Forests is awaited.
6.	Anta CCPP Stage-II, NTPC, Rajasthan	1300	Capacity identified under mega power policy is 1300 MW. Being implemented in two stages of 650 MW each. Stage-II cleared by CEA on 21.5.1998 for 650 MW.
7.	Auraiya CCPP, NTPC, Uttar Pradesh	1300	Capacity identified under mega power policy is 1300 MW. Being implemented in two stages of 650 MW each. Stage-II cleared by CEA on 28.5.1998 for 650 MW.
8.	Kawas CCPP Stage-II, NTPC, Gujarat	1300	Capacity identified under mega power policy is 1300 MW. Being implemented in two stages of 650 MW each. Stage-II cleared by CEA on 1.5.1998 for 650 MW.
9.	Gandhar CCPP Stage-II, NTPC, Gujarat	1300	Capacity identified under mega power policy is 1300 MW. Being implemented in two stages of 650 MW each. Stage-II cleared by CEA on 16.10.1998 for 650 MW.
10.	Koel Karo HEP, NHPC, Bihar	710	Construction of Koel Karo HEP in Bihar has yet to start though it has been sanctioned by Government long time back. The project cost has undergone revision and PIB clearance for the revised cost has been issued on 16.3.999. CCEA clearance for the project is awaited.
11.	Chamera HEP Stage-II, NHPC, Himachal Pradesh	300	CCEA clearance for the project has been accorded on 18.5.1999 and the project is under execution by NHPC.
12.	Teesta HEP Stage-V, NHPC, Sikkim	510	CCEA clearance for the project has been accorded on 19.1.2000 and the project is under execution.
13.	Koldam HEP, NTPC, Himachal Pradesh	800	Project originally identified for implementation by NHPC as per mega power policy. Now being implemented by NTPC in accordance with Tripartite Agreement signed between NTPC, Government of Himachal Pradesh and HPSEB on 26.2.2000. CEA's clearance issued to HPSEB's transfer in NTPC's name on 16.5.2000. Detailed Project report under preparation.
14.	Parvati HEP Stage-II, NHPC, Himachal Pradesh	800	TEC transferred to NHPC on 12.10.1999.

Statement-II  
Liquefied National Gas Import Initiatives

S.No.	Name of Company	Name of Foreign Collaboration	Location of proposed terminal	Capacity of terminal (million tonnes per annum)	Gas supply to	Clearance		FDI
						FIPB	COFT	
1.	Enron International Inc.	Enron International Inc.	Dabhol (Maharashtra)	Initial 2.5 MMTPA expand to % & 10 MMTPA	Captive power plant and to others in Maharashtra and other States	Yes	Yes	US\$ 500 million
2.	(British Gas) BG Plc.	(British Gas, BG Plc.)	Pipavav (Gujarat)	Initial 2.5 MMTPA expand to 5 MMTPA	Gujarat	Yes	Yes	US\$ 140 million
3.	Isapt Group of Industries	Isapt Engery Ltd.	Kakinada (Andhra Pradesh)	Initial 2.5 MMTPA expansion Unspecified	Andhra Pradesh	Yes	Yes	US\$ 175 million
4.	Reliance Industries Ltd.	GDR/ADPR/Private Placement	Jamnagar and Hazira (Gujarat)	5 MMTPA at each terminal	Gujarat and other States	Yes	Yes	Rs. 1150 crores
5.	Royal Dutch Shell (with Gaz de France & Rasgas)	Royal Dutch Shell Group of Companies	Hazira (Gujarat)	2.7 MMTPA Initial Expansion specified	Essar Power Ltd. and Steel Ltd.	Yes	Yes	Rs. 583 crores
6.	Petronet LNG Ltd. (with Gaz de France & Rasgas)	GDF International	Dahaj (Gujarat)	5 MMTPA	Gujarat and other States	Yes	Yes	US\$ 55 million
7.	Petronet LNG Ltd.	-	Cochin (Kerala)	2.5 MMTPA	Kerala	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
8.	BHP Australia	BHP Australia	General Proposal	Not specified	Not specified	Yes	Yes	-
9.	Hardy Oil, UK and Nagarajuna Holdings	Hardy Oil and BHP	Kakinada (Andhra Pradesh)	1 MMTPA to expand up to 5 MMTPA	Andhra Pradesh	Yes	Yes	-
10.	Tractebel Belgium	Tractebel Belgium	General Proposal	Not specified	Not specified	Yes	Yes	-
11.	Dakshin Bharat Energy Consortium	UNOCAL WOODSIDE SIEMENS	Ennore (Tamil Nadu)	2.5 MMTPA	Captive power plant at Ennore and to others in Tamil Nadu	-	-	-
12.	GAIL-TATA-TOTAL	TOTAL FINA France	Trombay (Maharashtra)	Initial 3 MMTPA to go up to 6 MMTPA	Maharashtra and other States	Applied for	-	-
13.	Consortium of Fertiliser Companies	-	Kishorprasad (Orissa)	3 MMTP to go up to 6 MMTP	Orissa, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab	-	-	-
14.	Al-Manhal	Al-Manhal UAE	Gopalpur (Orissa)	3 MMTPA	Orissa and Andhra Pradesh	-	-	-

*[English]***Introduction of DMU Trains**

1958. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to run D.M.U. trains from Pudukkotta to Thanjavur and from Thanjavur to Manamadurai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Operational and resource constraints.

**Artefacts and Relics Taken Away from 'Darbar Sahib' in 1984**

1959. SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the artefacts, relics and other valuable texts which were taken away by the Indian Army officials during the attack on 'Darbar Sahib' in June 1984;

(b) the steps taken by the Defence forces to preserve these heritage articles; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against the erring officials who vandalised their Religious Reference Library?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) The Army had removed certain items from the premises of Golden Temple, Amritsar in 1984. These included passports, office files/documents, book/booklets, pass books, identity cards, cheque books, diaries, registers, shastras (traditional weapons), gold and golden ornaments, silver and silver ornaments, precious stones, semi-precious stones, pearls, currency notes, coins, FDRs and office stationeries besides certain items of non-historical value. Of these, the Army had handed over items like passports, office files/documents, books/booklets, pass books, identity cards, cheque books, diaries and registers to the Central Bureau of Investigation in July, 1984 itself. Some other items of historic value, mostly 'shastras' (traditional weapons) were handed over by Army to the Curator, Museums, Government of Punjab while the valu-

ables, such as, gold and golden ornaments, silver and silver ornaments, precious stones, semi-precious stones, pearls, government currency notes worth Rs. 30,93,926/- coins and FDRs were handed over to the Officiating Treasury Officers, Amritsar on 30th June, 1984 against proper receipt. The Army had also recovered certain items of non-historical value which were kept in the Golden Temple Complex itself and later disposed of on orders of the late Shri Bhan Singh, the then Secretary, SGPC. The Army is now not holding any books or documents. The Army HQrs. have reported that the army had not vandalised the Reference Library. Hence, no action was taken against any army official.

**Setting up of Centres of CIPET**

1960. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Central Institute of Plastic Engineering and Technology (CIPET) is about to set up its 12th Centre in Haldia, West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details of the Centres proposed to be set up by CIPET and the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon, Centre-wise; and

(c) the employees potential percentage to those students passings from the institute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. CIPET Extension Centres at Patna (Bihar), Haldia (West Bengal) and Guwahati (Assam) at an estimated cost of Rs. 9.20 crores Rs. 9.20 crores and Rs. 10.35 crores respectively, are being set up during the Ninth Plan period. CIPET proposes to introduce long term Courses in these three Centres with a minimum strength of 150 students each. The Courses offered by CIPET are oriented towards practical work and almost all students are expected to be absorbed by the industries on successful completion of the courses.

**New Policy for Renewable Energy**

1961. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

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

(a) whether the Government have formulated a new policy for renewable energy in order to boost the production of power to 10% from NCES in the country;

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

(c) whether under the new policy the Government are likely to make it mandatory for all power producers to generate at least 10 per cent power from renewable energy sources out of the total power generated by them; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard with other salient features of the new policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) to (d) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has prepared a draft Renewable Energy Policy Statement. The objective of the Policy Statement is to enhance the contribution of renewable, namely, solar, wind, biomass and small hydro for meeting minimum rural energy needs; providing decentralised/off grid supply for agriculture, industry, commercial and household sectors in rural and urban areas; and, grid quality power generation and supply. A target of 10,000 MW of renewable power generation is envisaged for the year 2012. States could consider prescribing for all power projects, including private sector projects, a minimum quantity of electricity to be generated from renewable energy sources.

The draft of the Policy Statement has been submitted by the Ministry for further approvals.

#### **Fertilizer Policy**

1962. SHRI R.L. BHATIA :

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are going to organise road shows across the country to discuss draft fertilizer policy;

(b) if so, whether its financial implications have been taken into Consideration;

(c) whether the draft policy would be put on the internet to seek views of the concerned people;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the features of the new fertilizers policy and

time by which the final decision regarding finalisation of the new fertilizer policy is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) :

(a) Government propose to obtain the views of all concerned on the draft outline of the long term fertilizer policy by holding discussions with the stakeholders which may include the State Governments, farmers, fertilizer industry and others.

(b) No separate expenditure head has been created for incurring the expenses towards holding meetings for discussing the long term fertilizer policy. The expenses will be met from the allocated funds under the head of office expenses.

(c) and (d) The Government propose to put the draft long term fertilizer policy on the web site of the Department of Fertilizers to seek views of the concerned people.

(e) Main features of the 'Long Term Policy' are removal of aberrations in the existing system, feedstock policy, policy on joint ventures, new pricing policy, policy for creation of new capacity, removal of distribution controls on urea, long term demand-supply estimates and WTO related matters.

New fertilizer policy, incorporating the views of stakeholders, will be announced after obtaining the approval of the competent authority.

12.01 hrs.

#### **PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Railway Information system, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Railway Information systems, 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 No. LT 2134/2000]



- (3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Irocon International Limited and the Ministry of Railways for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2135/2000]

- (4) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Rail India Technical and Economic Services Limited and the Ministry of Railways for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2136/2000]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS):  
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bengal Immunity Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Bengal Immunity Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2137/2000]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Smith Stanistreet Pharmaceuticals Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Smith Stanistreet Pharmaceuticals Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2138/2000]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Smith Stanistreet Pharmaceuticals Limited, Calcutta for the year 1998-99.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Smith Stanistreet Pharmaceuticals Limited, Calcutta for the year 1998-99, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2139/2000]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited, Gurgaon, for the year 1996-97.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited, Gurgaon, for the year 1996-97, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2140/2000]

- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Antibiotics Limited, Pune, for the year 1998-99.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Antibiotics Limited, Pune, for the year 1998-99, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2141/2000]

- (f) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited, Gurgaon for the year 1997-98;

- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited, Gurgaon, for the year 1997-98, along with Audited Account and Comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2142/2000]

- (g) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Seven Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2143/2000]

- (3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited and the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2144/2000]

- (4) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Hindustan Insecticides Limited and the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 2145/2000]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Misc. Provisions) (First Amendment Order, 1999 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 8/1 (I)/99-CERC in Gazette of India dated the 26th November, 1999 issued under Regulation 110 of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Conduct of Business) Regulations 1999.

[Placed in Library. See No. 2146/2000]

- (2) The Indian Electricity (Amendment-1) Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 112 in Gazette of India dated the 25th March, 2000 under subsection (3) of section 38 of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2147/2000]

- (3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Power Finance Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Power 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 2148/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) :

- (1) A copy of the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order 2000, (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 487 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th May, 2000 under subsection (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2149/2000]

- (2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Engineers India Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2150/2000]

12.02 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 2nd August, 2000 agreed without any amendment to the Iron and Steel Companies (Amalgamation and Takeover Laws) Repeal Bill, 2000 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 28th July, 2000.
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 2nd August, 2000 agreed without any amendment to the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2000 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 26th July, 2000."

12.02½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS  
FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Third Report

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN (BANDA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the Third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House.

12.03 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Reported Outbreak of Leptospirosis in  
Maharashtra and Gujarat

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : Sir, recently, Practitioners from North-West of Mumbai and adjacent area from Thane district (Malad-Virar) as well as from Central part of Thane district (Kalyan), reported increase in fever with a typical feature like bleeding and hepato-renal failure with involvement of lungs and high mortality. The practitioners from Mumbai suspected Leptospirosis. Immediately concerned officers from the State visited the places and carried out the basic investigation, including entomological studies and gave directions regarding control.

To meet the crisis a meeting of Officers from Health Services, Medical Education and Research and Municipal Corporations was convened in the Directorate of Health Services, Mumbai on 29th July, 2000. The possibilities considered for increased fever cases were Leptospirosis, Dengue Fever and *P. falciparum* (Malaria). Technical guidelines for laboratory investigations and treatment were given all over the State. Medical Teams were formed to assess the extent of the outbreak, which have been functioning in the field. The State level rapid response team along with team from National Institute of Virology, Pune has already carried out investigations. For confirmation of Leptospirosis and investigating the outbreak, a team from the Indian Council of Medical Research has also reached Mumbai.

Cases and Deaths from the Reported Leptospirosis from Maharashtra and Gujarat (As on 5 P.M., 2nd August, 2000) :

In Maharashtra the total reported cases are 250 and

the deaths are six and in Gujarat the total reported cases are 61 and deaths are eight.

Of the 250 cases in Maharashtra laboratory confirmation was available in 65 cases.

Leptospirosis is a zoonotic bacterial disease caused by leptospire of which there are many sero-groups and serovars. A number of leptospirosis outbreaks have been reported in India in the past namely, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. It causes a wide variety of clinical manifestations. Jaundice and haemorrhagic manifestations are present in typical cases. At times cases may be misdiagnosed as viral fever, dengue haemorrhagic fever, malaria etc.

Model of transmission :

Contact with skin (with cuts and bruises) and mucous membrane with water soil or vegetation contaminated with urine of infected animals like rats, pigs, cattle, dogs etc. leads to infection in man.

Treatment and Prevention

Specific treatment with anti-microbiols is effective if started early in the course of illness. Penicillin, cephalosporins, doxycycline, erythromycin are all effective. Preventive measures include elimination or minimization of human contact with contaminated water, soil or vegetation. Proper protective clothing such as boots and gloves are recommended in areas where risk is perceived to be high.

Diagnosis is based on serological tests and isolation of leptospirosis from the blood and urine. Facilities for serological disease are available with NICD, ICMR and several medical institutions including State Government Hospitals and medical colleges.

On the direction of the Director-General, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Director, Regional Medical Research Centre, Port Blair has reached Mumbai to help in carrying out investigations to confirm the diagnosis. A team from National Institute of Communicable Diseases has also been deputed to assist the State health authorities in containment and investigation.

The Central Government is seized to the matter and closely monitoring the situation.

All Central assistance required and considered necessary will be provided to the State Government.

12.08 hrs.

**MOTION RE : ELEVENTH REPORT OF  
BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND  
MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHR:  
PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, with your permission, I beg to  
move:

"That this House do agree with the Eleventh Report  
of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the  
House on the 2nd August, 2000."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Motion moved:

"That this House do agree with the Eleventh Report  
of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the  
House on the 2nd August, 2000."

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (MAYILADUTURAI) :  
Sir, yesterday in the House, the hon. Speaker himself gave  
us the assurance that the question of a discussion under  
Rule 184 on matters arising out of the resignation of the  
former Minister of Law and Justice would be taken up  
through the Business Advisory Committee. Now, the Report  
before us is that of the Business Advisory Committee and  
I would like to know from the Chair as to whether a  
discussion on this issue is being scheduled in the coming  
week because if not, then I would like to move that we  
pass this motion subject to the following amendment.

"Subject to the scheduling of a discussion under Rule  
184 on matters arising out of the circumstances  
attendant on Shri Ram Jethmalani's resignation from  
the Council of Ministers."

We do need to discuss this matter. There are consti-  
tutional issues involved. There are legal issues involved.  
There are criminal offences that have been alleged. We  
need to discuss these matters. Please let me know whether  
we are going to discuss it.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (TIRUNELVELI) : Sir, I have  
also given notice under Rule 184.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, I give you my ruling.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : Sir, I have  
also given notice.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (ULUBERIA) : Sir, I have  
also given notice.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : When the next week's  
programme is brought before the House, normally the rule  
is that if you want anything to be added in the next week's  
business, you have to give notice. Shri Aiyar, you have not  
given, according to my information, such notice.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : In this case, I am  
asking the Chair to fulfill the assurance that it gave us  
yesterday. Yesterday, the Chair informed us that this  
discussion would be scheduled through the Business  
Advisory Committee. At that stage, I asked for an urgent  
meeting of the Business Advisory Committee. He said that  
he had reserved his ruling on this.

Now, we have a Report of the Business Advisory  
Committee before us which we are asked to adopt. I am  
ready to adopt it but subject to a discussion, as demanded,  
under Rule 184 being scheduled, this being a matter of  
urgent public importance...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, this is a Report of  
the Business Advisory Committee which was held on 1st  
of August, which was circulated to the Members on 2nd  
of August. So, the Business Advisory Committee which  
met on 1st of August naturally did not discuss it. No other  
meeting of the Business Advisory Committee has taken  
place after that. So, this Report has nothing to do with this  
demand and it cannot be amended. Since this is a Report,  
it cannot be amended. How can you amend a Report? He  
can make a request. This is a separate thing.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : I am not concerned  
with when the Business Advisory Committee met. This  
motion gives the date and according to the motion, the  
date of the Report is 2nd of August.

This is the very date on which the Chair gave us this  
assurance. Therefore, I plead that instead of getting caught  
in technicalities, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should  
inform us as to when we are going to discuss this matter  
of urgent public importance.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let us leave aside the  
technicalities.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : It cannot be that  
issues relating to the Constitution, to the relationship  
between the judiciary and the executive, to criminal offences

which are being probed by the Council of Ministers of a former Member of the Council of Ministers, be brushed under the carpet. The allegations are extremely serious. They are fighting with each other. It involves several constitutional authorities. So, we must have a discussion on this. Since the Chair told us, I want to know...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Aiyar, what is this? I have already given the ruling that you have not given your notice and, therefore, this cannot be admitted.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, let us pass this Motion...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (SOUTH DELHI) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not want to go into the details of what happened in the Business Advisory Committee meeting. The leaders who are raising their voice here and want to put something before you belong to various political parties and are members of this Committee. But this is a wrong way. Hon'ble Speaker; yourself; leader and deputy leader of the Congress party and leaders of other parties were there in this meeting. It is not the convention of the House to discuss what happened in that meeting, but this kind of a thing is not proper here...(Interruptions) Let me speak or will you go on speaking and not allow any other Member to speak... (Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this report has yesterday's date and I want to know.....(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : This question should be raised in the Business Advisory Committee meeting only; it should not be discussed here...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Though the 'Zero Hour' has not started, you are virtually declaring the 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA) : Sir, the matter is very simple. We are not bringing the Business Advisory Committee into this. When this matter was raised yesterday, the Speaker said that he had received the notice and that he was applying his mind to it, and that he would then respond. All we simply want to know is, whether it is BAC or non BAC,....

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Shri Madhavrao Scindia, you were not here. He wants to amend the Business Advisory Committee's Report. You can raise the issue.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I am not raising that point. I am only saying that the Speaker had committed that he would respond to it. So, what is the response of the Chair on this?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I was also there in the House when the hon. Speaker said that he would look into it.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : We have waited the whole days, and 24 hours have passed. The Speaker must tell us as to how he is going to respond to this, whether he is going to allow it or not, or whether he is going to allow a discussion under any other relevant rule. The Chair must respond. This is all we want, and this issue regarding BAC report and all that is not relevant.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : You were not here. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar wants to amend the BAC's report ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will let you know after consulting the Speaker.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Your Member is moving an amendment to the report, and that is the problem..(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS (TRICHUR) : We want to know whether it is included or not. If it is not included, then it should be included.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : It is not a part of this report. This meeting has already taken place, even before you raised this issue.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, under rule 184 ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, we are again discussing about the same thing. Sir, what has happened to my Motion?....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, what is this? You are a senior Member. Hon. Speaker that it was going to come before the Business Advisory Committee, and that it would be discussed in some form.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : When, Sir?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will have a word with the hon. Speaker.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We have every right to know as to when it is going to come.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, all we request you is to communicate as to what is the Chair's response on this, whether you are allowing it under rule 184 and, if not, under what relevant rule you are allowing a discussion.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will convey it to the hon. Speaker, who is in his Chamber.

The question is :

"That this House do agree with the Eleventh Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 2nd August, 2000."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, let us take the next item, that is, introduction of a Bill.

SHRI A.C. JOS (TRICHUR) : Sir, that is legislative business, let us have 'Zero Hour' now. Sir, I have given notice for 'Zero Hour' ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All right. The 'Zero Hour' officially starts now!

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, according to the Report of the Eleventh Finance Commission, the State of Kerala is losing Rs. 2,516 crore. According to the Report of the Tenth Finance Commission, the State of Kerala was allotted a sum of Rs. 14,832 crore ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, Shri Uttam Rao Dhikale.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS : But in the Report of the Eleventh Finance Commission, Kerala has been allotted only Rs. 12,316 crore as a result of which the State is losing a sum of Rs. 2,516 crore ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Jos, I will give you a chance.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, I have given a notice for 'Zero Hour'

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You forcibly cannot take the floor. Your name is listed here. You will get your chance. Kindly resume your seat.

Shri Dhikale, Please be brief.

*[Translation]*

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE (NASIK) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I want to draw the attention of the Government to the issue of onions. This year the production of onions in the country has been around 55 lakh tonnes. It has been seen so far that the production of onions has never been more than 40 lac tonnes in our country. That is why this issue was raised the first session on 2nd December, 1999 and then in the second session on 5th May, 2000. We have a long pending demand that the ban imposed by Government on the export of onions be lifted immediately, but today the circumstances are such that the farmers are not getting proper price for onions. Onion is there at the houses of farmers, it is there in the 'bazar samitis', but there are no buyers, and because of this the farmers are not getting proper prices and therefore, they are very angry. Government of India should lift the ban on the export of onions, and the permission which has been granted, covers a limited area, so I demand that this ban be lifted completely.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shrimati Renu Kumari. You are only to associate with this matter.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (KHAGARIA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I want to draw the attention of Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture to the plight of potato and onion growers of Bihar. They are in a miserable condition there. They are crying for help. Their produce is not selling even at the cheapest rates. They are getting compelled to commit suicide. The reason for this is that the export of onions and potatoes has been banned, and whatever export of these is left, it is done through NAFED from where the farmers do not get proper support price. Therefore, through you I want to urge upon the Government that the ban on export be lifted and the trade through NAFED may also be ended, and the farmers may be allowed to export directly so that they get proper prices for their produce.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (DHANDHUKA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to make a request to the Minister of Communications that there has been a waiting list for four years to get telephone connections in Botad, Garhda, Umralla, Vallabhipur, Golka, Dhandhuka, Ranajpur, Barpala, Sanand, Bavala, Piramgaon, Bhadal, Kotosan, Degoj villages of Distt. Bhavnagar. They have not got telephone connections so far. There is only one reason for this that there is a shortage of underground cables required for the purpose. I request the Hon'ble Minister to increase the quota for underground cables provided for telephone connections to each and every village of Gujarat. Besides, adequate resources be provided at the the earliest to the new telephone exchanges that are opening so that the people in every village of Gujarat may avail the telephone facility. The areas that I have enumerated are moving ahead in the business and trade arena. Therefore, telephone facility be provided at the earliest in all areas viz Dholka, Dhandhuka, Bavala, Sanand, Botad, Vallabhipur etc.

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA (JUNAGARH) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in addition to this, I also want to say that Gujarat is not getting adequate supply of optical fibre cables. Hon'ble Minister is present here. While drawing his attention I want to say through you that optical fibre cables be provided at the earliest.

[English]

SHRI TARUN GOGOI (KALIABOR) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to the bomb blasts that have taken place in Assam recently which have created panic among the travelling public there. On the 31st of July, a train that was coming from Samastipur to Tezpur was blasted. As a result of this, a large number of people were killed. Another bomb blast took place a day before that at Kekuhati station that lies between Ghagrapara and Rangiyen sub-division. These areas are known to be infested by terrorists. Every year before the Independence Day such attempts are being made. There is no escort provided in the passenger trains. As a result of the failure of the Railway Department to provide adequate security these incidents are taking place. I, therefore, request the Railway Minister to make a statement on this and take effective measures in order to prevent recurrence of such incidents, and in order to provide safety to the travelling passengers.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am fortunate that I am raising this

matter when the hon. Minister of Petroleum is sitting here in the House.

About two decades back the Government of India granted lease to Oil India Corporation Limited (OICL) for exploration of oil in offshore and onshore of Mahanadi basin in Orissa. As per the Exploration Strategy 1985-2005 published by OICL, the total oil reserves available in Mahanadi offshore, Mahanadi onshore and NEC offshore come to about 1290 MMT. If the upgradation of prognosticated resources of Mahanadi offshore as per the assessment of the foreign consultant engaged by the OICL is taken into account, the total reserves come to about 1800 MMT. These do not include the huge resources available in the deep offshore basins. It is a matter of sorrow that OICL has hardly done anything during the last two decades. They are now going to close their office in Paradip. Within an area of 50,000 square Kilometres, they have only drilled 11 wells out of which five have been abandoned. I appeal to the hon. Minister of Petroleum that he should instruct the OICL not to close down their office at Paradip and to continue to try and explore oil in Orissa.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, the State of Kerala has been very badly moulded by the Eleventh Finance Commission. The Eleventh Finance Commission submitted its report on a different criterion than what the Tenth Finance Commission did in regard to Kerala. As per the Tenth Finance Commission, the State of Kerala got Rs. 14,832 crore. The population was taken as a criterion. But the Eleventh Finance Commission has adopted a different criterion by which we are getting only Rs. 12,316 crore. So, we are losing about Rs. 2,516 crore which comes to about 17 per cent less than what was given by the Tenth Finance Commission.

Sir, the State of Kerala is reputed for its cash crop. But the present cash crop situation of Kerala is terribly bad. There is an unprecedented crash of prices of cash crops. In coconut alone, there has been a loss of Rs. 750 crore. Due to the Eleventh Finance Commission Report, on an average, every Kerala citizen is losing about Rs. 500. The Eleventh Finance Commission has taken into consideration the developmental activities, brilliant performance in education, health and human resource development in Kerala as criterion. Because of these developments, the allocation of money to Kerala has been reduced. That money is going to other States. It is a very serious situation in Kerala. Actually, all the Southern States are facing difficulties.

Sir, in this regard, I request that the hon. Home

Minister or the hon. Prime Minister should call a meeting of all the Southern States and discuss this matter to ameliorate their difficulties and make good of the losses especially of the State of Kerala.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, Dr. Ram Chandra Dome.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA) : Sir, this is a very serious issue. I think, the hon. Speaker should allow a full-fledged discussion on the Eleventh Finance Commission Report. All the Southern States are affected very badly by this....*(Interruptions)* Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, your own State is also going to be affected very badly. So, there should be some kind of a discussion on this issue. The States which have performed well should not be punished like this....*(Interruptions)* Sir, I request the hon. Chair to allow a discussion on the Eleventh Finance Commission Report as soon as possible ...*(Interruptions)* Eleventh Finance Commission Report as soon as possible...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (BIRBHUM) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government to a matter of urgent public importance. Many of the eminent academicians, scientists and research scholars have protested against the decision taken by the Government of India recently on the use of experimental animals in bio-medical research.

Sir, on 6th April this year, the Government of India, in contravention of the earlier guiding principles, had taken a decision on the use of experimental animals. They have virtually imposed a ban on the use of animals for experimental purposes.

Sir, I am also against the arbitrary killings of animals. But in bio-medical research and pharmaceutical research, the experiment on animals is very much essential. It had been going on since time immemorial for the benefit of human kinds. But recently, in the name of protection of animal kinds, this sort of arbitrary decision has been taken by the Government of India, which is hampering the very purpose of research work in bio-medical area.

So, Sir, I urge upon the Government to review this sort of a decision so that our research work for human kind can go on smoothly and our academicians, scientists and scholars can avail this facility of experimenting on animals, which is for the noble cause and for the betterment of human kinds.

Once again, I urge upon the Government that they should come out clearly review the decision on this issue.

*[Translation]*

SHRI ANANT GUDHE (AMRAVATI) : Mr. Deputy

\*Not recorded.

Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a very important issue in the House. This is how large scale corruption is there in the Maharashtra Government. Central Government provides 3 kg. rice or some other foodgrain to every school-going child so as to ensure maximum presence of the children in schools. Central Government runs this scheme in the entire country through the State Governments.

This scheme is on in Maharashtra also but the tenders issued this year in Maharashtra involve a lot of bungling. All current newspapers have covered it. Under this scheme a lot of corruption is there in Maharashtra involving Rs. 30 to 40 crore.

I request the Government to enquire into it immediately, and unless and until the facts are disclosed, this scheme should be suspended in Maharashtra, as the children are not getting the foodgrains which are meant for them and which are being snatched away by others. The eligible ones have not got the tenders, and a lot of corruption is there in the implementation of this scheme.

*[English]*

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (BADAGARA) : Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

I would like to bring to the attention of this august House and also the Government, through you, a matter of great importance. Even after the lapse of ten years since the Gulf war in 1990-91, thousands of Indians, especially Keralites are yet to receive their compensation claims from the United Nations' Compensation Commission. The Commission has recognised some claims but there is an inordinate and unpardonable delay in releasing the claims. In certain other cases, it is more pathetic. The claims are not recognised by the Commission. The Government of India is adopting a very complacent attitude and giving a routine reply on technical grounds that these people who had come from Kuwait leaving everything and fleeing to save their lives had not registered their claims in the United Nations' Compensation Commission's form.

The Government of India has a responsibility towards these Indians who have served India through foreign exchange earnings. While they were working there, they were actually indirectly serving the cause of India also. So, this attitude of the Government has to be condemned. I appeal to the Government of India, especially the Ministry of External Affairs to take up the issue and re-examine the issue. They should reopen the issue with the United Nations' Compensation Commission and if necessary with the United Nations Organisation.

SHRI E. AHAMED (MANJERI) : Sir, I have to say something on this.



MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You are only to associate yourself.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED : The hon. lady Member has raised a very important point. I would just like to submit before this House that even though the United Nations has already granted the money which is now deposited in the bank, on very, very simple technical grounds, it has been denied to these people. The forms have not been given by the Ministry of External Affairs....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ahamed, please conclude.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ramesh Chennithala, Shri Abdullakutty, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan and other Kerala MPs are associating themselves on this issue.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED : This is a very important matter. Hundreds and hundreds of people are deprived of their claims...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (ADOOR) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to raise a matter of urgent public importance.

More than two lakh workers are engaged in the cashew industry in Kerala. A majority of them are women workers belonging to the economically lower strata of the Society. Cashew industry is merely a seasonal business offering only 100-200 days of work per annum. The cashew workers are thus toiling hard to earn their livelihood whereas the family pension offered to them is expected to be a great relief to them. Unfortunately, certain revised policies of the PF authorities in computing break in service, age, etc. have spoilt the whole system and most of the poor cashew workers are being excluded from the pensions scheme. I would like to bring such anomalies to your notice for serious consideration so that the revised policies are revoked.

In this connection, it may kindly be noted that the aggressive, smoky, carbonised life prevailing in the cashew industry makes all the workers asthmatic. The only hope that they are having at the eve of their life is the pension. Hence the pension scheme should be compassionately reviewed and it should be liberalised. The same problems are faced by the labourers working in the coir industry and in the plantation sector.

In Kerala, the entire cashew workers are starting an agitation protesting against this 'anti-workers' decision of the CPFC. Thousands of workers from different trade unions had staged a demonstration in front of the Kerala Raj Bhavan and the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner's Office demanding withdrawal of the decision. I hope that the Government of India will seriously consider this matter and withdraw the recent decision. Thank you.  
*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now Shri Abdullakutty. Hon. Members, half-an-hour more is left. All of you will be accommodated. Kindly cooperate with me. Everybody will get a chance.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If you interrupt, you will not get a chance.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY (CANNANORE) : Respected Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the recent judgement of the Kerala High Court banning smoking in public places and also prohibiting the use of match sticks for the purpose of lighting beedi has created a serious problem in the State. There is a widespread unemployment among the beedi workers in the North Malabar region of Kerala, especially in my constituency, Cannanore. Manufacturing of beedi is a cottage industry, giving employment to thousands of workers. The bunk vendors are also thrown out of employment by the prohibition of sale of matchbox and beedi.

Yesterday, hundreds of beedi workers have taken a *jatha* to courts, protesting against the decision of the court. I request the Central Government to intervene in the matter and do justice to the beedi workers. Thank you.

SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (SANGRUR) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I wish to bring to your kind notice and through you, to the notice of the Parliament, once important matter. There are thousands of Sikhs abroad who are not allowed to enter India, either by not giving them visa or deporting them to the country from where they have come, as soon as they land in India. I would request the Government that they should not be harassed; and the human rights and the rights to visit India should be respected.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia. How come you are on this side of the House? I thought you are not present in the House.

SHRI VAIKO (SIVAKASI) : Sir, he has joined the Treasury Benches.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : Sir, day before yesterday, the West Bengal Assembly has passed a unanimous Resolution for the recognition of the Santhali language and for the inclusion of that language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Come to the subject straightway. Do not give introduction, etc. Some more hon. Members are to be accommodated.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, Santhali language is one of the oldest languages.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Do not give the history of it. Your request is that the Government of India should recognise that language. Okay. Now, Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, let me speak. Out of the 120 languages, the position of the Santhali language is 13th. This language is spoken by more than three crores of people. Even the languages, which are spoken by less than the people who speak Santhali language have been recognised; but this language is not recognised. I demand that the Santhali language should be recognised and it should be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale says.

*(Interruptions)\**

*[Translation]*

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (MALEGAON): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, former Maharashtra government had signed an agreement with Enron Company regarding electricity. But that company has not supplied electricity and made it costlier. It has put a tremendous load on the consumers there. The present state government has sent a proposal to the Government of India to establish a project for supply of electricity in Parli-Vajinath, Bhusawal and Nasik. I appeal to the Government of India to approve it as early as possible.

*[English]*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): Sir, I have to bring to the attention of the House a very important matter concerning the workers who are employed in the Gulf countries. Now, this is the holiday season. The Air India and other Airlines have withdrawn the discount

\*Not recorded.

given on the airfare. So, naturally in the Gulf sector, there would be an increase of ten per cent in the airfare. This is very unjust and unreasonable step considering that it is the festival season.

I would request the Government of India to request the Air India to restore the discount that was given.  
*..(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER, This is a matter which concerns you and me.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I know, that is why I allowed you.

*[Translation]*

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the government through you, towards the damage caused by heavy rain later in Maharashtra. There has been tremendous damage particularly in Mumbai, Konkan Marathwada and Vidarbha due to rain. As many as twenty persons were died under the debris of house and fifty persons were injured. This incident occurred on 13th July, 2000. These deaths have caused on account of land sliding and rock sliding at Ghatkopar in North-Eastern Mumbai. This is all happening every year.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What do you want the Central Government to do?

*[Translation]*

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : The resources of State government are very limited compared to Central Government and it has become a regular feature in every year. I appeal to the government that attention should be paid to it and a proposal has been sent by Maharashtra Government to the Central Government.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (ARRAH) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a Government of India plant at Amjhor in the district of Rohtas which is known as B.P.C.L. Barai Phosphate Chemicals Ltd. and it was established in 1960. It was functioning well. Its management was good. The Government of India had established an acid factory also based on Barai Phosphate Chemicals Limited in 1927. It was also functioning well. Where the reserves of sulphuric acid are plentiful Son : Ganga Fertilizer was also produced from there, but its subsidy as discontinued in 1997. Thus the plant had closed down about a year ago from the time of subsidy was discontinued and there were approximately 2000 employees in that plant. They are facing starvation. As Haldia and other mines have been closed down for the last fifteen years and now a special package is being given to them whereas this being a lonely project of Government of India in the rest of Bihar, it is not being given a special

package. Therefore, I would request the Minister of fertilizer. Government of India to give a special package to it.

**SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI (AHMEDNAGAR)** : According to the privatisation policy adopted by the Central Government, permission for running a new private Sugar Mill at the distance of 15 kms from the old mill has as been given are the criteria prescribed by the government to open a new sugar mill. On the very ground of these criteria the chariman of old co-operative sugar mill and their associates have taken their licenses in 15 kms area of their old sugar mills. Therefore, licenses are not being issued to other persons. Those who have obtained licences are not interested in establishing new sugar mills. Keeping in view the interest of their co-operative sugar mills and under this practise it is not only possible for others to establish new sugar mills in that area but also it has become impossible.

Therefore, I request the government that the persons who have not started new sugar mills even after getting licenses there is need to fix time period for them. If new sugar mill is not set up in that stipulated time period, his license should be cancelled and it should be given to him who is interested to start new sugar mill. There is request for proper action keeping in view the universal interest of the people.

*[English]*

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER** : Shri Bandyopadhyay, so far as your notice on the death of 105 persons by the militants in Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, since the Prime Minister has gone there, I would request you to raise it after his arrival.

**SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (CALCUTTA NORTH WEST)** : Sir, I would like to say a particular thing on which I would like to draw the attention of the House.

Sir, on 31st July, under Rule 377, I had raised this type of an apprehension, which the *yatri*s had expressed to us, on the floor of the House...*(Interruptions)* It is very important, Sir. I had raised this issue so that the Government could see that no such untoward incident takes place. It was a long statement. There is no reason why, when the Members of Parliament as also the *yatri*s were alert that such untoward incident may take place, the Government had no information....*(Interruptions)*

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER** : Hon. Prime Minister has gone there and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has also said that after the Prime Minister's return there will be a statement.

...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY** : Sir, after his statement, we may not be allowed to say anything.

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER** : Day before yesterday also a specific relaxation was given in seeking clarifications after the statement?

**SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY** : Are we allowed to seek clarifications after the statement?

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER** : Of course, hon. Speaker will be there at that time.

*[Translation]*

Raghuvansh Prasad Ji, your subject is also related to Amarnath killing.

**DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI)** : Sir, more than 100 people have been killed. Bandyopadhyayji has also given information. The Government did not take it into accounts seriously. How many more persons need to be killed for the resignation of the Home Minister....*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER** : Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)\**

*[Translation]*

**SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (BILASPUR)** : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to make a request to the Central Government to accord the Ghasidas University, the status of Central University in the district Bilaspur of Madhya Pradesh. In the present situation, Chhatisgarh state has been formed after 11 seats of Lok Sabha and 90 seats of Legislative assembly after reorganisation of M.P. There is Railway Zonal headquarters, SECL headquarters, headquarters of Bilaspur division, sponge mill and Cement mill there. There is a computer education-training centre, B.Ed., Engineering and B.Ed., are also taught there. In these circumstances I demand that Government should give a status of Central University to the Guru Ghasidas University.

*[Translation]*

**\*\*SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU (JHARGRAM-ST)** : Hon'ble Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the demand raised by our Hon'ble Member Shri Basu Deb Acharia regarding the inclusion of Santhali language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

Sir, till now not a single language of any ST community has been included in the Eighth Schedule. It is my demand to the Central Government to have proper development of Santhali language, to provide appropriate honour and respect to this language so as to protect national integrity. Immediately a Language Bill must be introduced in Parliament and expedite this long-standing demand of Santhali people for recognition of their language.

**VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA (JAMMU)** : Sir, I demand that the Dogri language should be included in the Eighth schedule. This is a rich language. All types of literature like prose, poetry and novels are available in this language. Many litterateurs of this language have won President Award and Academy Award. Post graduate classes are held in this university.

\*Not recorded.

\*\* Translation of the speech Originally delivered in Bengali

This language has its own dictionary. The Government should recognise it by including Dogri language in the Eighth schedule.

*[English]*

DR. V. SAROJA (RASIPURAM) : Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my Party, AIADMK, my leader Dr. J. Jayalalitha and on my own behalf, I urge upon the Government to pass the Women Reservation Bill during this current Session of Parliament itself.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This Bill has already been introduced.

DR. V. SAROJA : Sir, I am requesting to pass it in this session itself.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE (JABALPUR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, many-many thanks for listening my request. I want to draw the attention of the Government towards airport at Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. The airport of Jabalpur has been expanded at the cost of crores of rupees but the whole capacity of air traffic is not being fully utilised in the absence of national air route and boeing air service.

The present air service which is available at Jabalpur is a thirteen seater Dornier Plane and this plane is lying out of order there now-a-days. The passengers have to wait usually for five days. The passengers are also available for big planes, therefore the boeing air service is much needed at Jabalpur.

If the air service is provided to Delhi Jabalpur, Raipur, Bhopal, Nagpur from there, the passengers may avail so many air services from Mumbai, Calcutta, Madras and Nagpur. There is world renowned tourist places in Jabalpur. These areas can also be developed.

*[English]*

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH (MACHILIPATNAM) : Sir, the matter which I want to raise in this House is regarding unsatisfactory state of affairs in ESI Hospital, Sanathnagar, Hyderabad. This hospital is the largest hospital in Hyderabad. It is a referral hospital. There are about 2-2 lakh insured industrial workers in Hyderabad. The total number of patients including the family members of the workers is about 8 lakh. It provides medical facilities to them. But it is surprised to note that small quantity and low quality of food is being supplied to the patients. Apart from that, adulterated milk and beds containing fungus are being supplied to them. The sanitary condition is very bad.

Very recently, the Labour Minister of Andhra Pradesh Government had visited the hospital. But majority of the workers have joined hands with the contractors and they are not turning for their duties regularly.

In this connection, I urge upon the Central Government to make an inquiry into this and do justice to the patients who are getting medical facilities through this hospital.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, powerloom sector is the largest cloth manufacturing sector contributing about 57 per cent of the total cloth produced in the country excluding, of course, production by non-SSI weaving units. It contributes very significantly to the foreign exchange earnings. Sir, it generated employment for 40 lakh persons in 1998-99.

Today, this important industry is facing severe crisis. A large number of powerlooms in Bhivandi, Malegaon, Burhanpur and at various centres have closed down. They are facing the struggle of life and death. There is a need for the Government to come forward with certain immediate measures as also the long terms measures including adequate provision of yarn at most reasonable prices.

The question of availability of yarn at reasonable price is a serious question. The Government also should persuade the State Governments to reduce electricity tariff on these power looms. They are suffering on various counts and immediate measures are necessary.

SHRI VAIKO : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I wish to bring to the notice of the Union Government a very serious matter. The Hindustan Photo Films Company Ltd., a public sector undertaking and a very unique project was inaugurated by the late lamented Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru at Ooty in Nilgiris District. Now the BIFR has issued a show-cause notice for winding up or closure of the Company. HPF is a central public sector undertaking incorporated during the 1960s. It is manufacturing all kinds of photo-synthesised products for education, health-care, defence, entertainment, mass-communication and amateur photography.

The asset base of the company was Rs. 589 crore as on 31st March, 2000. During 1991 the man-power of the Company was 4100. Now the man-power is 2600 only. It has become a sick unit mainly due to the liberalisation of the Indian economy and in no way the workers are responsible for the sickness of the Company. The turnover of the Company before liberalisation was about Rs. 240 crore and after liberalisation it has come down to Rs. 35 crore per annum approximately.

HPF is located in a district called Nilgiris which is industrially totally backward and consists of mostly people

belonging to the backward classes, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Now it has become a major crisis in the district. All hon. Members of Parliament, cutting across the party-line, made a representation to the Prime Minister and he gave us a sympathetic hearing. Then we met the Industry Minister. Shri Manohar Joshi had also visited the spot.

My request is that since already we have given a representation to the Government, the Government should not take steps to close down the industry.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please come to the operative part. What do you want from the Central Government?

SHRI VAIKO : In order to protect the industry there should be a revival plan, pending finalisation of restructuring by the Government. Therefore, HPF has to be provided with an immediate one-time financial support - that is our demand - of Rs. 145 crore as a payment. This is the first step to be taken. Along with providing this working capital of Rs. 145 crore, all other required steps have to be taken. Therefore, the industry should not be closed down. This is the major concern of the people all over Tamil Nadu and not just a problem agitating the minds of the labourers of the district. The Government of Tamil Nadu also is very much concerned. Therefore, the Central Government should take steps not to wind up the unit.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOGLY) : This is the result of your Government's liberalisation policy.

SHRI VAIKO : This is the policy started by the Congress Government. It is because of their liberalisation policy that this unit has become sick. I oppose this kind of liberalisation.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (CHHAPRA) : Always senior Members are behaving like junior Members.....  
(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : You have not supported us, but you are speaking only politics.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : This is the outcome of your Government's policy.

SHRI VAIKO : First of all you support this demand.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What is this? You have had your chance. There are other Members also waiting for their chance.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : This is why I say that I am the most disciplined Member of this House!

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK (PONDICHERRY) : We congratulate you on that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please do not touch that aspect. You can touch your subject.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we always discuss floods every year in this month of Sravana and we spend our important time on this discussion every year. I want to draw your attention towards those areas of Bihar, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh adjacent to Nepal.

13.00 hrs.

The rivers flowing from Nepal to Bihar and Uttar Pradesh got more water due to cutting down of trees particularly in the hilly areas. The rainy water from hill region enter with high current in Uttar Pradesh via Bihar carrying soil and sand. Due to this a big stretch of land is affeted. In order to control the havoc of floods a dialogue should be had with the Government of Nepal through Government of Uttar Pradesh and Government of Bihar and an action be initiated in order to tap the rivers flowing downwards.

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (HAMIRPUR, H.P.) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform you with great sorrow that there was a heavy damage of life and property due to cloud burst in the Kinnaur District of Himachal Pradesh in the night of 31st of July. Due to sudden cloud burst the water level of the river went upto 50 feet, thereby engulfing the life of people living on the banks of the river. As per information received, approximately 93 people have died and 50 are missing. Some more information is being collected gradually. Due to this incident two hundred and fifty houses have been collapsed and fourteen bridges which used to be means of transmigration were completely damaged. Telecommunication system has completely paralysed. National Highway number 22, which is very important in view of security and safety, has its 30 kilometer stretch entirely damaged. Today's present Scenario is this that essential commodities are being supplied through air, approximately a loss of one thousand crores of rupees has been suffered. I would request the Government of India that more and more money should be made available for relief works and the means of transmigration should be provided to the people by sending the army there and constructing the bridge.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a very important issue. Various organisations associated with Balmiki Community have demanded with the Government that the films "Joru ka Ghulam" should be banned because the hero of film has called Balmiki ji, the author or the Ramayana a dacoit. By saying

so, he has been insulted. I urge that the film should be banned. The word Dacoit should be expunged from the film if the film can not be banned. For your kind information, Ramayana was written by Balmikiji and with this very Ramayana they had organised Ram Rath Yatra.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Which is that film?

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : The name of that film is "Joru Ka Gulam".

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : When was that film released?

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : I urge that the film be banned and the word dacoit be expunged from the film.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Rupchand Pal, you are to speak on the killings in Jammu and Kashmir by militants. Now, there are two or three other Members who are also listed to speak on the same subject. I have not allowed them because hon. Prime Minister would be coming here in the afternoon. Shri Subodh Roy is also to speak on the same subject.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGLY) : All right, Sir. I may be permitted to speak after the Prime Minister's statement.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FEROZABAD) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before the question hour Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav had drawn the attention of the House to the issue that Shri Sakshiji Maharaj, M.P. Rajya Sabha is being harassed by the police unnecessarily. The woman who has got the case registered against him, is Durga Bharti who had been living with Shri Sakshi Maharaj for the last four years. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the case fabricated is very serious. It seems that ever since Sakshiji has disconnected his relations from B.J.P., the Local M.L.A. is creating problem for him with the help of the police. It is a very serious matter. Through you, I would like to urge the Central Government to direct the U.P. Government to stop unnecessary harassment being meted out to Sakshiji.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PARBHANI) : The time to make purchasing of cotton in Maharashtra was approached and the Govt. of Maharashtra has promised the farmers to pay Rs. 1500-1600 per quintal for the cotton. When Shivsena-B.J.P. Government was in power in Maharashtra, we had paid Rs. 2300 per quintal for cotton. Now the price of cotton should have been Rs. 2000-2500 per quintal but they are getting lesser price for it. I want to

bring it to the notice of the Government that the cost price for cotton is Rs. 2000/- per quintal which include fertilizers, seeds and insecticides. I therefore urge the Government through you that the Central Government should issue directions to the Government of Maharashtra to provide appropriate price to the cotton growers otherwise the situation will get worse. The cotton growers should get the price for cotton at the rate of Rs. 2500 per quintal.

SHRI NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA (CHANDRAPUR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Railways and the Minister of Civil Aviation. Yesterday one hundred pilgrims were killed during Amarnath Yatra, owing to which a number of pilgrims want to come back.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nobody has been allowed to raise these matters.

SHRI NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my matter is different. The pilgrims who want to come back are staying at Jammu Railway station. I urge that a special train from Jammu should be introduced and the Department of Civil Aviation should make arrangements for special flights so that the pilgrims may not face any difficulty, Shri Ram Naik Ji is sitting here.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I think the hon. Minister is taking note of it.

[Translation]

SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA (JHABUA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the House to an issue of public importance. Recently the Supreme Court has given this ruling that admission quota be filled up by admitting candidates belonging to the general category in case candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are not available for admission to medical degree colleges. By this ruling the fear came in the minds of the students belonging to the scheduled Tribes that they may not get an opportunity to get this education. This feeling is creating resentment in them. The Students belonging to the Scheduled Tribes will not be to enter this field if this decision continues. They will be deprived of getting these respectable posts in the society.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to bring it to your notice that this provision has been made in the Constitution of India that quota be fixed for the students belonging to the Scheduled Tribes in the field of medicine. The provision made in the Constitution and the provision made by the

Supreme Court creates confusion. It has affected them seriously. Through you, I, therefore, want to urge that the ruling given by the Supreme Court is against the interest of the tribals. The Government of India therefore should take necessary steps to maintain status-quo so that the tribal students may get opportunity to come forward in the field of medicine.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.10.

13.10 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till ten minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.15 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Fifteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

CABLE TELEVISION NETWORKS (REGULATION)  
AMENDMENT BILL\*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up item No. 11. Shri Arun Jaitley.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : Sir I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995".

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : I introduce the Bill.

14.16 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to ensure remunerative prices to garlic growers particularly in Jodhpur, Rajasthan**

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (JODHPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, garlic growing farmers are not getting remunerative prices as garlic is being imported in India. The farmers of Rajasthan, particularly, in Jodhpur District are on the verge of committing suicide. The garlic is costing Rs. 10 per kg to the grower and the price of imported garlic is 7-8 per kg which is less than the cost of its production.

Therefore, the Government is requested to arrange for providing remunerative prices to garlic growers.

- (ii) **Need for creation of a Himachal Regiment and also for setting of a cantonment at Una in Himachal Pradesh**

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (HAMIRPUR, H.P.) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to attract the attention of the Defence Minister, through you, towards Himachal Pradesh, a hilly and backward State. There are no major industries. Trading activities are also minimal being it a hill State. The people depend on fruit production and agriculture. Maximum number of youth from this State are recruited in the defence forces and are engaged in the protection of the Motherland. People of Himachal Pradesh have laid their lives in maximum number in each of the war. These warriors have displayed their gallantry and devotion by sacrificing their lives at the altar of the Motherland. There is need for creation of a "Himachal Regiment" in the defence forces of the country in order to keep and augment the enthusiasm of the Himachal people. This will not only further their interest in recruitment in the army but also good for the country.

The work relating to creation of cantonment in Una District as per proposal mooted could not be furthered owing to some unknown reasons which was started when Shri Dayal was a General in the army owing to gallantry of Himachali people. Four Paramvir Chakras were awarded for the last year's Kargil Conflict and I am proud to say that two were awarded to the heroes of Himachal Pradesh. This is quite a reflection of yearning for the protection of their Motherland. I request Hon. Defence Minister, through you, to create a Himachal Regiment and establishment an army cantonment there.

- (iii) **Need for completion of work at railway crossing at Loni-Vyanknath village on Road-Manmad section of Central Railway, Maharashtra**

SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI (AHMEDNAGAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir. Dond-Manmad railway

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Extraordinary, Part - II, Section - 2 dated 3.8.2000.

line of Central Railway passes through Loji-Vyanknath village. There is an irrigation canal crossing the railway line at 296.97 km. Some civil work is needed at this crossing. Krishna Khore Development Corporation, the working agency, paid Rs. 48.00 lakh on demand in 1995 but the civil work is yet to be started after five year. The crops are affected despite making prescribed payments to the Railway Department and availability of water due to lack of civil work. Local farmers are agitated.

Therefore, I request the Hon. Minister to look into the matter immediately and issue directives to get the civil work at the crossing done at the earliest so that the water available for irrigation can be utilised.

- (iv) **Need to provide financial assistance to Government of U.P. to improve the drainage system in Kanpur, U.P.**

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (KANPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, sewer and drainage system in Kanpur city is in very bad shape for past several years. Diseases like plague, cholera etc. spread due to water logging in Kanpur city last year. Several areas get submerged in the rainy season even with light shower. Earlier also, I had tried to attract the attention of the House. The fact of the matter in this concern is that the works of the Municipal Corporation and other related departments have been stalled due to lack of money.

I request for a special package from the Ministry of Urban Development for Kanpur city for improvement of sewer and drainage system and permanent solution of water-logging problem.

- (v) **Need to allow cultivation of coffee on forest land in Andhra Pradesh**

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (VISAKHAPATNAM) : Sir, as per the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the cultivation of coffee is defined as non-forestry activity and hence not permitted on forestland. Due to high summer temperature in Andhra Pradesh coffee plantation required heavy shade. The agency areas of Visakhapatnam and East Godavari districts have good coffee plantations over 4000 hectares of forest land.

I request the Government of India to give exemption under Forest Conservation Act to grow coffee in the State of Andhra Pradesh. This will help to prevent shifting cultivation in forest areas, growth of tree cover on degraded forest land and will provide gainful employment to the local population.

- (vi) **Need for construction of over-bridges at railway crossings at Asfabad, Shikohabad and Saiyan in U.P.**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Firozabad city (U.P.) is world famous for its glass industry. Asfabad railway crossing and Shikohabad railway crossing near it, fall under Allahabad Division of Northern Railway. Thousands of people commute daily from these places. Nearby is the famous pilgrimage centre of Bateshwar, which is visited by a large number of devotees. Most of the time the level crossing remains closed due to which people are put to great inconvenience and a lot of time is wasted and results in traffic jams.

Twenty kilometres from Agra is the Saiyan railway crossing which comes under the Jhansi division and is situated on the Mumbai National Highway.

The situation there is also very bad and people reach their destinations very late.

I, through you, urge the Railway Minister to order the construction of an overbridge at Asfabad, Shikohabad and Saiyan.

- (vii) **Need for early review of the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 1984**

[English]

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK (KOLHAPUR) : In 1984, the Government of India for the first time, enacted a comprehensive Legislation called Multi State Co-operative Societies Act, No. 51 of 1984, which came into force from 16th September, 1985. This Act replaced the then Unit Co-operative Societies Act, 1942. As per the provisions of the Act, all promotional, supervisory and regulatory functions are performed by the Central Registrar of Co-operative Societies. The Ministry of Agriculture has redrafted the necessary amendment in the Multi State Co-operative Societies Act. The draft law truly removes the defects and meets the norms of governance of a democratic autonomous enterprise in the country so deeply committed to democratic values. One of the special features of the amendment proposed Bill provide for simplification of procedure for registration of new co-operative societies.

It gives no power to the Registrar of Co-operative Societies or the Government in the matter of (i) supersession of the Board of Directors, (ii) compulsory amalgamation, (iii) compulsory amendment of byelaws, (iv) veto power and issue of directions. The proposed Bill was likely to be introduced in Parliament long back. The Prime Minister



too, has been promising on different occasions for the last two years to frame model co-operative law. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I demand from the Government that the proposed Bill to replace the Multi State Co-operative Societies Act, 1984, be introduced and passed in the current Session of the Parliament.

- (viii) **Need to ensure repayment of dues to Bihar Government incurred on Government Railway police.**

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH (BEGUSARAI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Railway Ministry Government of India owes Rs. 71,71,18,192 to the Bihar Government for its share of 50 per cent spent by them on expenditure incurred on GRP (Government Railway Police).

I request the Government to pay the above mentioned amount without delay to Bihar Government.

- (ix) **Need to clear the proposed Legislation of Maharashtra Government for preventing misuse of SC/ST certificates by non SC/ST candidates.**

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (MALEGAON): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my humble submission is that non SC/ST candidates are misusing SC/ST certificates for getting maximum benefit of reservation in education, other benefits and employment opportunities meant for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

To stop this, the Maharashtra Government has unanimously passed a legislation in the Legislative Assembly. This law would certainly protect the interest of the SC/ST people. This legislation has been sent by the State to the Central Government for their clearance.

It is my request to the Central Government especially the Home Minister that this legislation be sent at the earliest to the President for his assent.

- (x) **Need to declare Runnisaipur - Pupri - Sursand-Bela and certain other state Highway in Bihar as National Highways.**

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (SITAMARHI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a lot of transport problems in North Bihar, which is adjacent to Indo Nepal border. The roads in this area are inadequate and the existing roads are in very bad condition. The soil is fertile, water is abundant, people are hard working and capable of overcoming adversities, yet the area remains undeveloped. Runni Saidpur, Pupri, Sursand, Parihar and Bela Road goes to

Muzzaffarnagar, Darbhanga, Madhubani and Sitamarhi. Similarly another road, the Raj Janaki Road connects Ayodhya (Uttar Pradesh) and Janakpur (Nepal) via several big cities of the country. Similarly, the third road goes from Darbhanga to Sitamarhi and connects the National Highway No. 77 and National Highway No. 57 with each other. Actually these roads are in very bad condition. The Bihar Government has also requested that these roads be declared as National Highways.

I also request the Government to declare these roads as National Highways, to ensure their proper and complete maintenance, development and extension.

14.30 hrs.

BORDER SECURITY FORCE (AMENDMENT) BILL—Contd.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now let us take up Item No. 13, further consideration of Border Security Force (Amendment) Bill, Shri Samar Choudhury to continue.

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY (TRIPURA WEST) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, since the BSF was raised, the objectives were aimed at the organisational steps to guard the country's international border and matters connected therewith. The BSF was given the task to pursue this primary role, that is, the task of guarding the border during peacetime and also during wartime.

In 1988, the manpower in various CPOs was of about 1.36 lakhs. The Force was in need of additional manpower. In another 10 year period, the growth of manpower reached the figure of about 1.83 lakh in 1998. Though this growth was welcomed with satisfaction that the border security had been strengthened, but during this period, some simultaneous developments on the border like some untoward developments against the country and incidents of terrorist and militant attacks have awakened us. We had to face a proxy war at the Jammu and Kashmir sector. The information on the border security of North-Eastern region had gone consistently from bad to worse. In the North-East region of the country, there was no such proxy war like in Jammu and Kashmir sector. There, they have suffered. But the regional security, especially, to the States of Tripura, Manipur, Assam, etc., along with international border has been shakened by the conspiracy and attack of outlawed militant organisations in collaboration with the divisive forces and involvement of ISI and other foreign agencies.

[Shri Samar Choudhury]

The insurgency has taken its roots from the ethnic groups' dissatisfaction. Internal security questions sharply come of the fore, and the organisational role of the BSF has been diverted to its new task which mainly comprises internal security duties in a big way. The information from different sources tells us that nearly one-third of the BSF strength is now engaged in different States of the country for this new task. This aspect needs to be acknowledged by the Home Ministry and the Central Government.

This diversion has imposed a strain on the organisational structure of the Force and it needs to be rectified.

The optimum level of BSF manpower could not be made available to play its primary role due to substantial diversion of the troops for secondary tasks of internal security. The North-East border, specially, along with Tripura State suffers to its extreme.

Inadequate deployment of the BSF for its primary role not adequately on the border, helps trans-border terrorism and border crimes with encouragement to insurgency, which is helping the militants equipped with sophisticated arms and help from the ISI and other foreign agencies are increasing.

In the changed new situation the policy regarding optimum level of total manpower, utilisation of the personnel policy and promotion policy with the forces, and the training are to be examined for suitable adjustments to the new requirements.

On the overall situation which has been developed, the Central Government should look into and further examine the Act itself which is not helping so much the new situation. This new BSF Act has to be examined and the necessary modifications or amendments will have to be made.

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (GARHWAL) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Border Security Forces Amendment Bill, 2000. This amendment bill is a simple one in which provisions have been made to provide the same facility to the personnel of this Force at the time of their Court martial in the same manner as per the provisions of section 428 of the Criminal Procedure Code given to the common man and accepted by the army in 1992 too. The Supreme Court had, in 1996, directed to bring this amendment at the earliest for the personnel of B.S.F. who were denied this facility at the time of Court martial. Many Governments were formed after 1996 but they failed to bring it. I congratulate the present Government for introducing this bill.

Mainly, it has been provided in the Bill that whenever any personnel of the BSF faces Court martial, the period of his imprisonment during the Court martial should be deducted from the period of punishment awarded to him, because they are imprisoned during the Court martial. This sort of facility was not available in the BSF till now. The army had amended its act by substituting 169 (a) in 1992. For example, if someone has been punished for five years and he has already spent one year in jail then his punishment would be for four more years. One year period would be deducted from his punishment. It should have been done in the BSF too.

I request the hon. Minister to rectify such discrepancy if it is there in any other Para Military Force. We are acting as per the directives of the Supreme Court because there was a case before it. The provision of Section 428 of Cr. P.C. should be made available to such other Para-Military forces if it is not there.

The subject of time limit is another matter of concern and unfortunately it is also in the Forces and Para Military forces, that is why such provision is being made. It takes many years for a Civil case settle, but in the Para Military Forces a time limit should be fixed if possible, for cases registered under Cr. P.C. If someone is Court martialled and if it is lingered on for 3 to 4 years and finally no punishment is awarded it becomes extremely painful for the person concerned. I am making these suggestions on the basis of my experiences. At least there should be some time limit fixed for the Court martial proceedings in the Para Military Forces clearly indicating that the same would be concluded within that limit. Many sorts of problems come during the proceedings but our laws do not take care of them. This matter is not taken up with all seriousness. This system should be rectified by fixing a time limit. I request that the delay in this regard should be minimized and it should be applicable for the Para Military Forces too.

I have nothing much to say in this regard. I support the Bill. I would like to draw the attention towards the Border Security Forces though it is not related to the Bill. Officers belonging to the I.P.S. cadre are appointed in the Para Military Forces and the B.S.F. and officers of this cadre given timely promotions at different places. The Standing Committee on the Ministry of Home Affairs have put forward its views strongly before the Ministry mentioning that undue procedure has been made at I.G. and D.I.G. level. The posts of I.G.s are reserved for officers of the I.P.S. cadre in the B.S.F., C.R.P.F. and other para military forces, but the same have not been filled up for the last few years. These posts remain vacant. Personnel belonging to the lower cadre are not promoted. The Standing Committee on Home Affairs have made recommendations in this regard

thrice but the bureaucracy is dilly-dallying it, they are not implementing, it. What sort of decision is being taken by the Ministry of Home Affairs? Hon. Minister Sir, you may please apprise Shri Advani ji in this regard. Why these posts are kept vacant? Please curtail the quota reserved for I.P.S. cadre and give it to the cadre officers of the force. The same position exists in the case of D.I.G. level posts. Those who have put in 35 or 36 years of service are not promoted as I.G. and D.I.G. Persons belonging to the I.P.S. cadre get it after putting in mere eight to ten years of service. The officers of the these forces are living a tough life and put in their service at borders. I.P.S. officers do not have any compulsions to join these forces. They simply do not come. These posts remain vacant. It is a matter of concern. Even after retirement such posts remain vacant. Today discussion was going on with regard to the B.S.F. That is why I have expressed my views making use of the time. You may please look into it. With these words I once again support the Bill.

**SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA) :** Mr.

Speaker, Sir, I support and welcome that Bill heartily which has been brought for further amendment in the Border Security Force Bill, 1968. This amendment has been brought for limited purpose. Shri Khanduri talked rightly about everything. This is a humble amendment regarding the imprisonment of a person during the period of custody. It does not require elaborate discussion. Today, the country is worried about the Border Security Force. Whatever is provided to them by the Government is not adequate. This is not the time for discussing this matter in detail. I would certainly like to throw light on some points. The Border Security Force was set up in 1965 to ensure the security of the Indian borders.

This Bill was presented in 1968. When Shri Y. B. Chavan used to be a Home Minister. At that time the light was thrown on many points during the discussion. You know that a proxy war is going on at our borders in the today's circumstances and the House and the entire nation is serious about it. There is a need to make the Border Security Force much more powerful in such circumstances. We should make efforts to restore adequate confidence among the people living in the border areas. I want to welcome and appreciate the actions carried out by Border Security force for checking the smuggling and crimes at our borders.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, today in the morning, a motion having obituary reference about killing of 100 persons by the militants in Jammu and Kashmir was passed in the

House. The Border Security Force has been trying to put a check on the cross border terrorism for a long times. Hon'ble Prime Minister and the leaders of other parties have gone to Kashmir to conduct the survey of the situation prevailing over there today. We should think about the activities of the countries connected with the Jammu and Kashmir borders. There is a need to restructure our Border Security Force keeping in view all these situations. There is a need to impart them necessary training.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, our land border stretches are upto 5000 miles approximately. A little part of our borders touches also Nepal and Burma and we are having friendly terms with them. But a major part of our border is attached with Pakistan and China. Pakistan has been our inherent enemy. We have already fought a war with China. So, Pakistan always keeps on creating problems on our border. We have to face many problems due to this reason. Keeping in view all these circumstances, our Home Minister will have to think about reconstitution of B.S.F. and its more and more about deployment on borders.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, many people are employed in the Border Security Force from our State, Kerala. We keep on talking to them. The facilities which are provided to them are not adequate. If any attack is made by Pakistan with its rockets or sophisticated weapons, we cannot combat that because we are not equipped with the requisite arsenals. Our Border security Forces do not possess the sophisticated weapons. In order to impart them training one academy is there at Gwalior and 4-5 other academies are there in the other parts of the country. The training which is being imparted to the Border Security Force is old-fashioned. I request that this system of the training should be changed. Maximum number of the new candidates should be recruited and there should be a training of new technology. Now-a-days, very less recruitment is being made. Earlier, recruitment cells would open in other States and they would continue the recruitment. But maximum recruitment is required in the present circumstances.

In this connection, I would like to say one thing more that there is a lack of coordination between the local police and the Border Security Force. It is the need of hour that the soldiers of the Border Security Force and the local Police should work unitedly in the areas connected with Jammu and Kashmir Border. This should also be considered by the Government.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to take much time of the House, but want to say that keeping in view the difficult circumstances in which the Border Security Force has to

[Shri Ramesh Chennithala]

work, they should be given maximum facilities and maximum materials and goods and the Government should think about their salary and other things and should also provide them maximum help. I thank you.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the Bill. While supporting the Bill I have a few observations to make. The Bill has been brought because of certain observations made by the Supreme Court in *Union of India and others Vs Anand Singh Bisht : AIR 1997 SC 361*. The Supreme Court observed and directed that a provision must be incorporated in the Act or the Rules similar to Section 428 of the Criminal Procedure Code providing for set off of the period of detention undergone by an accused during investigation against the term of imprisonment that may be imposed. This is quite just and it is good that the Government came forward to fulfil this observation or the direction of the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court also made another direction about which we are told nothing. There was not only one direction but there were, I believe, two directions in this case.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Sir, may I suggest to hon. Member that the word may be 'advice by the Supreme Court, and not 'direction'. The cannot direct ....(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I know how to make my submission.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : I am only pointing out. The hon. Member may make his submission.. .(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : It is all right. You can speak whenever your time comes. I have my own way of putting things.

MR. SPEAKER : Gen. Khanduri, is it your direction to hon. Member Shri Banatwalla?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Sir, I was making a request. He has misunderstood me.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other point that was raised by the Supreme Court is with respect to the fact that an under-trial accused can be kept in detention exceeding three months. Now the Court wants the Government that some provision should be included in the Act or in the Rules so that the specific approval for

this detention exceeding three months is obtained from the Central Government or by any higher authorities.

So, if a personnel of the BSF is under detention for more than three months, then the Court found that there was no provision in the Act or Rules to get approval from the Central Government or by any higher authorities for such detention.

The Supreme Court has insisted that it is desirable to make such provision in the Act or the Rules. We do not know what happened to this particular thing. Have the Rules been amended? They may have been amended. This Table of our House is the dumping place for voluminous things and some rules which is prescribed may be there, which may not have caught our attention. But in any case, I hope the Government will give us a clarification on this particular thing.

It is desirable that just as one point is included in the present Bill, the other point, direction, observation or whatever you call it of the Supreme Court should have also been complied with in the same Bill.

Sir, it is not merely the question of setting off of the under-trial period of detention and the final punishment of imprisonment that is imposed, but we have also the question of long detention of the under-trials. Now, I make this observation as a general observation not restricted to the BSF, but this requires the attention of the Government.

Sir, we may draw the attention of the Government to article 142 (1) of the Constitution. We find that it lays down:

"The Supreme Court in the exercise of the jurisdiction may pass such decree or make such order as is necessary for doing complete justice in any case or matter pending before it,...."

So, far unduly long detention some compensation may come from the Supreme Court as a result of the operation of this article 142 (1), but then it is necessary that our laws themselves should come forward in the name of justice and equity and provide for compensation to the victims for unduly long periods of detention. A person may be in detention in a general case, say, for nearly eight or ten years and finally, the imprisonment may be imposed as punishment for five years. What about three or five years more that he has served under detention? Now, this is a question of due compensation. I believe, no amount of compensation can redress the injustice done, but at least, some provision ought to be there in the law for compensation because of this unduly long detention. We have certain questions that were answered here in this House

and in the other House in which we were told of the long periods of detentions. This is specifically true of those detained under TADA Act for a decade while the maximum punishment for certain offences may be only half the period which they may have served in detention.

Sir, I may refer to another judgement of the Supreme Court in which the Supreme Court has pointed out that after the accused person has suffered punishment which is half the maximum punishment period for the offence, any further deprivation of personal liberty would be violative of article 21.

Sir, these are the things that should receive the attention of the Government and proper provisions must be made not only in this Act but in our several other Acts with respect to any injustice that may be committed on this particular question. The National Human Rights Commission also in their Annual Report for the year 1993-94 have expressed concern over the "unconscionable delays in the disposal of cases". So, we do have this particular situation. Even the National Human Rights Commission have drawn attention to such situations. Therefore, while supporting this particular Bill, I must urge upon the Government to see that our laws, not only this particular Act but all other laws also, do have provisions that are just and fair, providing for compensation and for cases like the undue delay in detentions.

15.00 hrs.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (AKOLA):

Sir, I rise to support this Bill.

In the recent past, the total offences that have been registered against the BSF officials and the *sepoys* are as under :

- In 1994, the number was 5,873,
- In 1997, the number was 6,157, and
- In 1998, the number was 7,779.

As the years pass on, the total registered offences are also increasing. I am not going into the nature of the offences or as to why they are being lodged. In respect of some offences, there are different reasons also.

Through you, Sir, I would like to go into the other aspect of what the BSF and other paramilitary forces have been undergoing. In the year 1986, the BSF was expanded in a very *ad hoc* manner; the situation was grave no doubt, but due to this *ad hocism*, training and discipline have been affected. Today, if you look at this Force, which is in a 'half state of war' as we call it, they are on duty for nearly 15 to

18 hours a day. When a Force is on duty for 15 to 18 hours a day, it is natural that they might have committed some mistakes. They have to be amply protected.

The total strength of the BSF battalion is 157. Right from 1991, or you can say, precisely from 1995, all the battalions have been on duty at all times, that is, either on election duty or on anti-insurgency duty or on some other duties. If a Force, without giving any rest, is going to be deployed and employed in this manner, I think, mistakes are definitely going to be committed. We must have to look at it from a humanitarian angle. They have to face not only the insurgents, but even during lay off time, in the peace time, they have to look after the law and order situation in a State. The training given to this Force is totally different. They are trained from a totally different angle. If we are going to deploy them in this way, when they have not been trained for that, I think, mistakes are going to be committed.

15.04 hrs.

(Dr. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*)

As pointed out by the earlier speaker, when somebody is taken into detention, the period needs to be determined. Otherwise, most of the detainees might have undergone the punishment, before the period of punishment could be determined. I think, the Government will look into this aspect.

The last aspect to which I would like to draw your attention is regarding the recruitment into the paramilitary forces. There are many complaints which have now been coming up. I have already pointed out in one or two letters that I have written to the Home Ministry that the recruitment process started taking a regional colour. If it is going to be done on a regional basis, then it is going to affect the Force and the quality of the training.

I would also like to add that whenever the people from the Tribal and the Scheduled Caste communities appear for the examinations of the para-military forces, they are not considered. There are many deserving candidates from these communities as well.

Sir, I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister that he takes special care to see that the candidates from the tribal communities and from the Scheduled Caste communities is recruited not only at the *Sepoy* grade but also at the officers grade.

With these words, I support the Bill.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (SITAMARHI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to strongly support the Border Security Force (Amendment) Bill, 2000. This Bill has been brought as per the suggestions of Supreme Court. This case was brought before the Supreme Court in 1996. This is a very short amendment, but of great utility. I want to pay many thanks to the government for moving this important bill, matters least that it has been brought after a 4 years span. Unlike the Military Act in which gullties are kept in prison under Court Martial and hearing thereof. Similarly, there is a similar provision under Section 428 of IPC. A provision has been made therein to incorporate that period after punishment. This is a welcome amendment. But, the other hon'ble members have raised their objections. I would also like to know from the government, through you; that a Court martial is executed during the period of detention in the Jail and after that the jawans of para-military forces and BSF are declared exonerated. I want to know from the Minister of State for Home Affairs through you that if anybody is declared exonerated after undergoing the punishment in jails, in that regard as to what compensation is being awarded to him for this. Whether it be a storm, flood or election or it be military, the BSF people or other para-military Forces demonstrate their courage in order to combat all these things. For this, I like to thank them from myself and my party's side in this House. I would like to tell the Minister that some other honourable members have also discussed about the restructuring of the BSF, I also want to request you to make them strong through imparting better training.

We have expressed our grief in this house about the incidents of Kashmir. Shri Ramesh Chennithala, on this, said that the BSF needs to be further trained. I come from Bihar state. Our friendly - neighbouring country is Nepal and her borders are attached with Bihar, but her other borders are attached with China and Pakistan also.

You must be reading in the news papers every day and we have also discussed here that ISI is spreading its activities through Nepal. Since, we are neighbour of Nepal and the neighbours of Nepal are our enemies. Thus, these countries give rise to these activities. I come from northern area of Bihar and it has till now kept in the atmosphere of cool. Some days ago, 11 persons belonging to the ISI were arrested with fake currency notes amounting to Twenty eight lakhs in my Parliamentary constituency Sitamarhi, they confessed many facts, but whatever confessions were made-the local police tried to destroy them so that the case could not be testified. Not only that, the Superintendent of the Customs Department who comes under the Finance Minister was tackled by some political people before the hearing. Money was taken from him and that

also got its linkage with ISI-circulating fake currency notes amounting to Rs. 28 lakhs. But, the attempts were made to quash the case, but it did not come to an end. After that two extremists were arrested at Sursand, a place at Nepal-border. One was a Kashmiri local and the other was a Pakistan-trained militant. They have been sent to Kashmir and the inquiry is on.

Thus, it is required not only to strengthen the Border Security Force but also its furthermore deployment. There is a need to make more deployment therein. The people living at Nepal-border area are facing an ISI-sponsored danger today. The BSF should be deployed there from Raxaul to Sitamarhi, Katihar and Purnia all around. The Finance Minister is also sitting here, I also request him to get the matters investigated in Sitamarhi and other places mentioned by me, If the Home Ministry of Government of India would not take care of this area which has otherwise been cool and calm, will unfortunately succumb to entrapped to ISI's nefarious activities. It is, therefore, needed to take this matter seriously.

I am a resident of that area, the public representative from there. The hon. Chairman has also represented that area in the Legislative Assembly of that State; he has been a school teacher there, so he knows about the situation; the hon. Minister is certainly a well-informed authority as far as this matter is concerned. Therefore, I have supported this Bill and drawn the attention of the hon. Minister of State to the situation of this area, which is prone to disturbances caused by ISI, nefarious activities.

Once again, I support this Bill strongly.

[*English*]

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK (PONDICHERRY) : Sir, with your permission, I just would like to say a few words on this.

To pick up the thread from Shri Banatwalla, I fully agree with the view that those people who have been undertrials and those people who have been there in the prison without trial for some more time should be given compensation for the excessive period. I agree with that. Along with that, I would like to add that the Government should consider also that compensation alone is not going to help. There is going to be one more thing. Those people who are responsible for making them undertrials for such a long time should be held up for trial. How to fix the responsibility is for the Government to decide. Therefore, I would like to just add this point. That is what I would like to say on this.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : It is a point well taken, Sir.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (SILCHAR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Bill. At the same time, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister of State for Home Affairs who is also from a police background as far as I know....

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : I am from IAS background.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : All right. That is still better.

I come from an area which has its border with Bangladesh. About forty kilometres of my constituency is attached with Bangladesh.

My neighbouring District Karimganj has equally got rivers, land and hilly areas bordering Bangladesh. So, the Border Security Force plays a very important role to protect the border from aggression, to stop information, smuggling and various other things.

By and large, I have a lot of respect for the Border Security Force. In spite of various difficulties, they do a good job. But at the same time, with all respect to the Border Security Force as well as to the hon. Minister of Home Affairs, I would like to bring before this House some facts. I had brought it to the notice of the hon. Minister in the past also. But today, here, it is an opportunity for me to put it on record certain grievances against the Border Security Force.

Actually, it is not their fault. It is mainly, Mr. Minister, because of your bad policy decision taken in Delhi. Now, you are fencing the border areas. We all support it. It will be a permanent measure to stop infiltration from the other sides of the border. But while fencing, you are having a no man's land. Suppose, you are putting fencing here, that means, you are leaving about 500 to 1000 yards of Indian land outside the fencing. Your own border will be a no man's land.

There are people staying there. There are people who are cultivating their land. But you have made a system that people can go and work outside but they have to come back by sunset, by 6 o'clock. But those who are not cultivating land in that area, those who are daily labourers and are working outside by covering a distance of about 30 to 40 kilometres, are being subjected to harassment by the Border Security Force. They have to come by bus or truck. If they reach late, say by half-an-hour or an hour, they are not allowed to go. They are allowed to go only if they please your Border Security Force people. So this point has to be taken care of that if a permanent resident

who wants to come to his house beyond your border fencing he must be allowed to come. Who has given the authority to you to harass an Indian citizen? Like other citizens of the country, he is equally an Indian citizen. He is an Indian voter. But your system is making him to unnecessary harassment. He is an Indian citizen coming from India and going to India. Though your border fence is beyond that, he should not be made to suffer.

Suppose he goes to attend a marriage party of his relations, if he comes at about 12 o'clock in the night, he is kept in the camp by the BSF and asked to pay a premium if he wants to go to the other side of the fencing.

So, Mr. Minister, if you introduce Identity card system for those staying near the fencing, this problem can be solved. Then your BSF people will easily come to know that they are the genuine citizens. Then, they will not be harassed.

Sir, it is very difficult to meet their Area Commandant or other officers. If we go to the Home Minister, he will speak to us. But there when we MPs go there and ask for their Area Commandant or other officers to speak to us, they refuse to come. This is very unfortunate.

I raised this issue once during the Question Hour also. At that time, the hon. Foreign Minister told that 'we will see that it does not happen'. But, I am sorry to bring it to the notice of this august House that the same thing is still happening. So, the Government has to take action in this regard.

Similar is the position about the roads in the border areas. They are in a very bad condition. There is a project known as "Baleshwar Bridge Project" which was started 10 years back. It was a project of only Rs. 80 lakh. I had written to the Government of India as well as the Government of Assam about the completion of this project. But still it has not been completed.

Whenever the BSF people cross it during the rainy season, they have to use a boat. When Shri Pranab Mukherjee was the Deputy-Chairman of the Planning Commission, Rs. 2.59 crore was given to Assam Government. Till today for another border that road and the bridge have not been completed. Shri Chidambaram had written about it to the Assam Government. I have also written to the Government of Assam recently. Shri Arun Shourie also took it up. They have now given a promise that they will spend the money. The money given by the Government of India from the Ministry of Home Affairs is not spent by the Government of Assam. Every Muslim in the border area is not a foreigner; every Muslim in the border area is not a member of the ISI; every Muslim in

[Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev]

the border area is not a pro-Bangladeshi. This lesson must be learnt by the Border Security Force.

I would request the Cabinet Minister sitting here to spare a minute for me. The Governor of the State says that Assam is full of foreigners. He goes to Karimganj and my district and on seeing the Muslims on the streets, he says that they are all foreigners. It is very unfortunate that he is from your State. He is Lt. Gen. Sinha. He has submitted a Report to the President of India directly. He gave a Report saying that Assam has been taken over by the Bangladeshis. I do know that this has nothing to do with the BSF. But it is rarely that we get a chance to speak.

What is happening in Jammu and Kashmir today is happening because successive Governments, including Congress Governments, took some wrong steps whereby we were alienating them. The Government of India has now taken the right steps by initiating discussions. But we have also seen that some innocent pilgrims have been killed. About a hundred of them have been killed. Unfortunately, today's newspapers have carried an item which I, as a person coming from a border area, would like to protest against. Mr. William Jefferson Clinton has nothing to do with this incident. He has no right to give advice to us. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has got his own strength. The whole of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha are with him on this issue. We are with Shri Vajpayee and we do not want third party intervention in our internal affairs. That is not good for the cause of the country.

Some time ago, I was watching the television and it seems some more people have lost their lives. It is a design against us, not against Shri Vajpayee or the BJP or NDA Government. All of us are solidly behind the Government. For God's sake, the stature of India as a non-aligned country should be kept alive. I hope that the hon. Minister of State would take care of all the complaints that I have made. I have nothing against the BSF. I was myself a Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs. I know their difficulties. I know under what circumstances they work. But let them not utilise their position to harass the real Indian citizens.

This Bill has come up at the behest of the Supreme Court. Shri G.M. Banatwalla has raised certain pertinent questions. I fully support his views. I hope that the Government would take care of them.

[*Translation*]

VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA (JAMMU) : I support the Border Security Force Amendment Bill. As per the will of Human Rights Commission and Supreme Court's

direction, amendments were made in criminal Procedure Act. Amendments have been made in contact of other security forces but then some other security forces have not under gone any amendment. Army made amendment in the law as per that. According to them some more amendments are needed in BSF. It cannot be said, how long the case will lag on in the court. Thousands of cases are pending due to this reason. There are many more persons are perishing in jails than the number of those who are likely to be punished. It shall be justified in this scenario to reduce the period spent in jails from the total punishment period.

The work done by them for the last ten years in Jammu and Kashmir is commendable. BSF handed over the terrorists. Infiltrators and their materials to the police. It is very sad that not even a single culprit was punished by the police or the court. The right to investigate and punish the terrorists caught by the BSF should be with them, otherwise terrorism cannot be contained. Guerrilla warfare is being fought in Jammu-Kashmir today but regular forces are not trained in guerrilla warfare. Security forces must be trained in guerrilla warfare so that they may be in position to face the enemy.

15.26 hrs.

(SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN *in the Chair*)

Our entire region barring some parts is completely snow covered. A number of BSF out posts are always snow covered. The Security personnel are unable to get out for six to seven months altogether during inclement weather. The temperature over there is - 32 or - 46 degree. This makes them unhealthy. The very mind set of security personnel deployed at such places gets changed and their health goes down. That is why, their substitutes must be deployed very frequently. You arrange for housing for the families of other security forces; in the same way you must arrange for adequate housing for the families of these personnel so that men working on the borders may feel secure. With these words, I support the Bill and conclude.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir ordinary one paragraph bill has been introduced after the observation of the Supreme Court. As per the judgement of Supreme Court in 1972-73 the period served by the under trial detence in jail is deducted from the total punishment awarded to them. After that the law was incorporated in the army Act. After Supreme Court ruled that it should be implemented in BSF immediately, then this matter came in Government's attention and it was decided in 1996 after four years and the Government is introducing this kind of ordinary bill in 2000. This is a great negligence on the part of the Government.



Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Khanduri ji was complaining that the Supreme Court has given direction to Parliament. It is not so. The Supreme Court has directed the Government for it. This incompetent and inexperienced Government took so much time to implement a decision of Supreme Court delivered in 1972. The Government should not have shown such a major negligence. Border Security Forces are involved in highly risky operations. Wherever the need arises, they are deployed and they are killed there. Today Minister of Defence was saying that the responsibility to provide fresh facilities to the army lies with Home Ministry. BSF should also get some facility as directed by the Supreme Court. God knows when the Government shall rise to the occasion.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you know that BSF are needed at the border with Pakistan, China and Bangladesh and they are deployed on risky operations. They should be provided with all equipments so that they can fight terrorism. They should be provided frequent training. Their number should be raised. I want to put the Government on notice that they should not be kept in the neglected category. Border Security Forces should not be neglected they should get the same facility as the army; they should be provided with modern equipments so that they can face terrorists and secure the country.

*[English]*

SHRI M V.V.S. MURTHI (VISAKHAPATNAM) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I raise to support this Bill. This enactment envisages speedy trial of the undertrials. This is one of the requirements to safeguards the interest of the innocent people who have been caught and imprisoned.

This is a welcome step. The Border Security Force is not a very favoured force. They are not being treated at par with the other forces, like the Army. They should be treated at par with the Army. If our borders are secure, we can avoid many of these tensions like, smuggling, everyday clashes, intrusions, etc. As matter of fact, even this yesterday's incident in which about 100 and odd persons were killed, occurred because our borders are weak. All the unlawful elements are entering into our country. We require a powerful infrastructure to safeguard our borders. Not only the Borders Security Force should be treated at par with the other forces but also there should be more deployment of such a force. I do not wish to take much time of the House since the time is very limited. I would only say that our borders are very sensitive and they need constant vigil, more care and better infrastructure facilities are to be provided to BSF so that the Border Security Force could safeguard these borders from the infiltrators. With these words I conclude my speech.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : I rise to commend this Bill to the august House to pass it unanimously. I am happy to say that there was unanimity on this though innocuous but a beneficial Bill. It is true that it has been brought after a delay of about four years but the reasons are obvious. From 1996 up to 1999, the Central Government was unstable as there had been a number of changes in the Central Government. I would also like to point out that even the Supreme Court rose to make this observation and direction in reference to Shri Bisht's case which went to them in 1996.

There are a number of other paramilitary forces, like, ITDP, Assam Rifles, CRPF, NSG and I find in all these four forces such a provision does exist. So far as the Assam Rifles and CRPF are concerned, they are governed by the Central Services rule under which the same facility, that is available under the general law, available under 428 of CrPC, is available to them. So far the Assam Rifles is concerned, it is also being treated equivalent to the army and the same provisions apply to them also. So, it is not that the Government is not aware of these things. The lacunae that exist in the BSF Act are being made up today.

Sir, this will certainly help to safeguard the interests of the persons facing trials in the BSF. This provision would be in tune with the general law and hereafter this will be available to all the personnel of the BSF.

Some of the very senior and learned Members have pointed out certain issues which may not be relevant here. So far as this Bill is concerned, everybody is unanimous that it should be passed. This is a very good Bill as it will create an atmosphere among the BSF and bring them at par with the general as well as other paramilitary forces. So far as the question of personnel is concerned, I may only limit myself to say that a sub-Committee of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs is also looking into it.

The personnel policy on Para-military is one of their subjects. I hope they will make their learned and very wise recommendation which will be taken care of by the Government as and when they submit their report.

Hon. Member, Shri Banatwalla has pointed out another direction or observation of the Supreme Court. I may mention that this provision would take care of the delayed court martial trials. It would also see that there is no excessive harassment to those people who might have suffered three months or six months or one year imprisonment but have been undergoing court martial proceedings for more than one year. Whatever detention they have

[Shri I.D. Swami]

already undergone would be set off as soon as this provision gets the approval and becomes a part of the statute book.

Of course, it was mentioned that there should be some provision for compensation. The Supreme Court has also made an *orbiter dicta* sort of a thing, an observation in passing that there are no such provisions in this Act and we should think of that also. I may point out in this behalf that, of course, no compensation is provided. But there is a provision in the rules that whenever there is a delay of more than a particular period, it is mandatory that the delay report has to be made to the Director General of Police with a copy to the DIG, etc., so that those senior officers can immediately take action to ensure that no further delay takes place. This provision is there. But, of course, the provision of compensation is so far not there. We will certainly consider it.

Sir, one hon. Member made a mention about the quota of promotee officers and the directly recruited officers in the BSF. For his information and for the information of this august House, I may say that for IG-level promotion, quota, has already been increased from 50 per cent to 60 per cent. The impression which one of the hon. Members gave was that at IG-level posts where the people are brought on deputation from Army, IPS service, etc. remain vacant. That is not correct. There has never been such a situation where posts are lying vacant for want of deputationists. They are available. With a short experience which I have gained in this Ministry, I can say that there are people who want to come to the BSF, and CRPF on deputation from IPS in many States where perhaps they feel they are not comfortable. So, there is no difficulty in getting people on deputation.

Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev has pointed out certain grievances and complaints about the BSF personnel etc. I would very humbly submit to him that such complaints are always of general nature. I think we can only take note of them. We will also try to rectify and correct those mistakes or lapses or deficiencies. But wherever a specific complaint is made, I would like to assure the hon. Member that it would certainly be looked into as speedily as possible and suitable action would be taken.

As regards completion of projects and all other things, he has mentioned that he has already submitted it to the hon. Home Minister. Sir, we would certainly look into them when they would come to the Government.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I would not like to take much time of the House. I would only mention that I am very happy about the appreciation all over the country and in this august House also about the BSF and other para-military

forces that they are doing a yeoman job and a very good job. All of them feel that the nation is grateful to them for the work they are doing on the borders. When this laudable work is being appreciated by this august House, when the whole nation is conscious of their effort and their dedication and when the nation is with them, I am sure, they would be performing their duties much more brilliantly, much more bravely, much more dedicatedly and much more efficiently and that the nation would also progress well.

Of course, certain things have been pointed out that along the border the BSF people should also get the same facilities, the same financial and other perks which the Army Officers and personnel are getting. I am sure, BSF people are by and large very much satisfied with their perks and facilities available to them. In so far as the over-time etc., is concerned, there is no such things as they are overworked. Of course, their earned leave and casual leave are akin to what is given to the Army people. As far as their other facilities are concerned, the suggestions given by the hon. Members of this august House would be kept in view.

This is a continuous process done periodically. These policies are always under examination. They are always under active consideration of the Government, whichever be the Government. These very good, very useful and wise suggestions given by the hon. Members would be kept in view.

With these words, I would certainly not only thank all the hon. Members, but also request them that as they have unanimously praised the para-military forces and welcomed the provisions of this Bill, they may pass this Bill also unanimously.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put Amendment No. 1 to Motion for Consideration moved by Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan to the vote of the House.

*The amendment was put and negatived.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Border Security Force Act, 1968, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill. The question is :

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 2 was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 1, Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.*

SHRI I.D. SWAMI : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH (BEGUSARAI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, herein lies the importance of democracy that at a point of time they used to accuse and today we are passing this Bill.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : We are also a part of them.

15.49 hrs.

STATE FINANCIAL CORPORATIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the State Financial Corporations Act, 1951, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Chairman Sir, the existing State Financial Corporation Act was enacted almost five decades ago. At present 18 State Financial Corporations, SFCs, are functioning in various States. These SFCs have played an important role in the evolution and growth of the small and medium enterprise. However, with changing business environment they have started facing a number of problems relating to organisational structure, management, resource mobilisation, operational efficiency, overall financial health etc.

To enable SFCs to adapt themselves to the emerging environment and enhance their ability to respond to the needs of the changing financial system, it has become imperative to enlarge their shareholder base and provide them with greater functional autonomy and operational flexibility.

This has necessitated comprehensive amendments to the State Financial Corporation Act. The main features of the proposed amendments are :

1. Transfer of IDBI shareholding in SFCs in favour of SIDBI.
2. Enlarging the definition of "industrial concern" to enable SFCs to finance new emerging business activities.
3. Capital restructuring of the State Financial Corporations with a view to increase the authorised share capital, enlarge shareholders base, permit issue of share capital upto 49 per cent to the public and to allow the Financial Corporations to reduce or convert the existing share capital.
4. Providing full flexibility to SFCs with regard to borrowings, acceptance of deposits and investment of surplus funds.
5. Enhancing the limits of accommodation granted by SFCs.
6. Restructuring of the Board of Directors of SFCs and vesting greater powers in the General Body of Shareholders for appointment of Auditors, approval of rate of dividend and approval of annual accounts.

Sir, strengthening of the SFCs would go a long way in promotion and development of small and medium scale industry in the country. I submit that this Bill be taken up for consideration and passing.

I beg to move :

"That the Bill further to amend the State Financial Corporations Act, 1951, be taken into consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the State Financial Corporations Act, 1951, be taken into consideration."

The House shall now take up amendments. Shri A.C. Jose, are you moving your amendments?

SHRI A.C. JOS (TRICHUR) : Sir, I am in agreement with the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may say 'yes' or 'no' about moving your amendment

SHRI A.C. JOS : No amendment.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, are you moving your amendment?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : So, he is also not pressing. Hon. Member, Shri A.C. Jose.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : That stage has passed. Once passed is passed.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, that subject has been moved. No backward movement now.

SHRI A.C. JOS : I am in general agreement with the principle and clauses of this Bill. As the hon. Finance Minister stated just now, this has been much in demand for the past so many years. I agree that the State Financial Corporations have done a very good job in financing small and medium industries. They have financed in every State. They have financed small and medium industries throughout the country. There were a lot of misgivings but at the time of enunciating and starting of the State Financial Corporations, there was an apprehension as to how they would function and how far they will move and all that. But allaying all the misgivings, the Financial Corporations have come forward to help the small and medium industries. It is right that as time goes, as the financial and industrial scenario changes, the Financial Corporations also need many changes. There are a lot of impediments in the present Corporations which prevent them from financing in many circles. Those impediments were cleared by Section 2, by enlarging the definition of industrial concern. That is a very comprehensive definition which has been given by which Financial Corporations can enter into any kind of activities and render any kind of help to the industries.

I have no objection, The point is that the Industrial Development Bank of India has been replaced by the Small Industries Bank. I do not know why the Government has chosen to say like that. Instead of calling it SIDBI, the Government has just stated as Small Industries Bank alone everywhere. It is the SIDBI which is working well. Why should the definition be abridged to that of Small Industries Bank instead of small Industries Development Bank of India? Or, is there any intention for the Government to change it to that Small Industries Bank? Everywhere, the Government has used it as the Small Industries Bank. Of course, there is nothing wrong in it. The only thing I am saying is that the Small Industries Bank is the definition

which the Finance Minister intends to use instead of the Small Industries Development Bank of India. What is the reason for changing it ? SIDBI is the usual life title. But here it is said as Small Industries Bank. When you go through all the clauses of the Bill, you will find it. I do not want to go into all the clauses. But the point is that the element of State Government comes into almost every clause. Section 4 of the principal Act is being amended by sub-section 3 where it has been stated: "Subject to the approval of the State Government...So, everywhere it is the State Government that comes into the picture.

This Act enables the Financial Corporations to borrow money, to buy bonds or to buy the money from the LIC or from other Financial Institutions. Why should the State Government or the Government of India involve in it? If the State Government or for that matter any Government gets involved in the affairs of the Financial Corporations, it will try to interfere in the activities of the Corporation. I am not blaming the bureaucracy *in toto* but the bureaucracy in the Government will try to interfere in the activities of the Corporation. I can cite a number of examples. Even now, in the State Government Corporations, the Government interferes and distributes favours.

Now, I come to clause 10 of the Bill about Board of Directors. It goes along with my contention of interference of the State Government. Clause 10 of the Bill says:

"The Board of Directors shall consist of the following, namely:-

- a) a director to be nominated as chairman under sub-section (1) of the section 15;
- b) Two directors nominated by the State Government of whom one director shall be a person who has special knowledge of or experience in small scale industries.

It is a good clause. Till today, the Financial Corporations do not have a specific clause like this. But the mischief has been done in Clause 11(1), in page 9 wherein it has been stated.

"...A nominated director shall hold office during the pleasure of the authority nominating him."

It appears to me that the authority will be the State Government. By implication, this clause would mean the distribution of the political spoils or political patronage to somebody. If a Government comes, "A" will be nominated. If that Government goes, he will also be going. This is why, I am submitting to the hon. Finance Minister that this will be a playground for playing politics.

16.00 hrs.

Instead of that, an experienced small-scale industries man is nominated, he should serve the whole term. According to me, there are a number of small-scale industries associations functioning in this country, namely, World Assembly of Small Scale Industries. All India Small Scale Industries. Why do not we leave that nomination to these professional bodies or by some other method? Instead of that, you are now leaving it to the State Government and the authority. Coupled with that the fact is that the nominated directors will hold office during the pleasure of the authority nominating it. That will definitely become a political patronage instead of encouraging the small-scale industry. I am not going into all that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can continue next week.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : It may come up even tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, we can continue next time.

16.02 hrs.

#### DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

#### Resolution Passed by Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly for Autonomy - Contd.

*(English)*

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (MIDNAPORE) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, on this question of autonomy, whether it applies to Jammu and Kashmir or whether it is meant to apply to any other State to any other part of the country, first of all, we have to be clear—whether in making this proposal or raising this demand, they must explain what in their understanding is the definition of autonomy. What is the content of that autonomy?

16.03 hrs.

*(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH in the Chair)*

Until that is made clear, that particular demand or definition cannot merit either the support of the Opposition, or of the people. Does autonomy mean secession from India? That people are asking for autonomy because they want to get out of India. If that is so—it can be put like that—obviously it is not going to get any support, neither from this House nor from any of the major political parties nor in fact from the mover of this Resolution himself. Because I think already Mr. Farooq Abdullah, the Chief

Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, who has moved this Resolution in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, and got it passed, when he was asked later on: What is its relation to the question of secession? Does it amount to contemplating secession from India? Mr. Farooq Abdullah was very very critical and vehement in saying that there is no question of secession. We are part of India and we will remain part of India. That is what he said. That is on record and it has appeared in the Press.

So, Sir, I think this question of autonomy has to be demarcated, and not mixed up with question of devolution of powers, and devolution of financial resources to the States.

As you know very well, such a proposal had been recommended, on a priority basis, by the Sarkaria Commission. The devolution of powers and devolution of financial resources to the States should not be mixed up with the concept of autonomy. So, I think, what the Sarkaria Commission had recommended will be generally supported and should be generally supported by everybody. But can it mean that, in the concept of autonomy, the Centre will keep with it only four or five subjects, namely, defence, external affairs, communications, railways and so on and all the rest will become the responsibilities of the State? I think, in today's India, such a concept is not going to be acceptable.

Sir, I remember that two or three years ago, there was a big agitation going on in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in the Kashmir Valley on the slogan of 'azaadi'. If you had asked anybody in the Kashmir Valley at that time as to what they wanted, their reply was : "we want 'azaadi'. What is the meaning of 'azaadi'? We know that the translation of the word, 'azaadi' into English means independence', 'freedom' but, at that time, nobody bothered to explain what the people who were putting forward this slogan actually wanted to mean by it. In any case, if that 'azaadi' were to mean 'freedom' or 'independence' it would amount to secession. So, there is no question of supporting that slogan of 'azaadi' if it means that.

16.06 hrs.

*(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)*

Sir, India is our motherland. It is the land of many different cultures, many different languages, different levels of development and, I think, because the levels of development vary so much from each other and some regions and some States are lagging far behind developmentwise can be considered backward in the sense, particularly, of economic development or industrial development, there is a general clamour, for some time, in the country for autonomy. It may not be autonomy.

[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

I am sorry, normally, my voice is quite strong.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (SILCHAR) : All of us can hear you.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : But at the moment, due to some physical disability, you may have difficulty in hearing everything I say. I am sorry for that.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA) : Sir, the mikes do not pick up... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Are they not functioning?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : They are very weak. They are for the Secretariat to look into this problem.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, the voice of the Members is more than that of the mikes. That is why these are weak!

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : What I was saying is that because of the great discrepancies in development between different States and different regions – it is not surprising – there is a general clamour in the country. Somewhere the clamour is more strident. Somewhere it may be less strident. But generally, there is clamour in the country for autonomy. That autonomy does not mean secession. I think, that autonomy means levelling up the levels of development in the States which are lagging behind, which in the views of the people living there have been neglected or have not got their due share of development. That should be remedied.

We have also to remember that when we are dealing with this subject in the context of Jammu and Kashmir, we have to be clear who we are talking about. Jammu and Kashmir is not one State in that sense. There is a Valley which is predominantly Muslim. There is Jammu which is predominantly Hindu. There is Ladakh which is predominantly Buddhist. These three parts of Kashmir are there. We may try to make out some general solution which will satisfy the people of all these three regions. I think, it will be quite a difficult job. But we must remember that Kashmir has a history which is different from that of most other States. I am talking about the history or the whole story of accession to India. I do not want to go into that old story. Everybody knows about it very well. But that history of accession or no accession—howsoever the Maharaja, at that time, played with this idea—actually provides the essential background to the whole question of article 370. Article 370 has come into existence and become a part and parcel of the Constitution because of this highly complicated history or story which we passed through when the question of accession was being discussed in Kashmir. You know, there were forces in favour of accession. There were forces against accession. There

were forces which tried to impose their will by force of arms, by violence and the country had to pass through many types of situations before they were in a position. And I will remind you that it was not the Maharaja who was the ruler technically, legally, constitutionally and formally.

It was not him but it was the National Conference headed by Sheikh Abdullah, the father of the present Chief Minister. He was the undisputed leader of the National Conference because of the stand he took and because of his capability of rousing and mobilising the people there in favour of accession to India, and against the conspiracy which was being hatched, I should say, by the then Maharaja. I think, what I am saying is amusing Shri Jagmohan. Maybe he will clarify it. He may know much more than I do about Kashmir.

So, the background to article 370 must be remembered, why it is not common to all States. It was something peculiar to this particular State and it brought about article 370. What does it mean to the common man in Kashmir? When you talk to him about accession to India, no cessation from India, article 370, special rights, and so on, which have been bestowed upon that State and its people, what do you think that the common man in Kashmir think so? How do they interpret it? They are not very highly educated people. We all know about the level of education of the common people in Kashmir. It is pretty low. It is not their fault. That is the situation. I think, on both these issues, namely of development, economic development, development which will lead to some prosperity for the common man, which will provide jobs for the common people, which will do away with a lot of their suffering, which is due basically to poverty, and so on, he hopes that this demarcation of this article 370 will help him and help the people there to reap the fruits of the kind of development which he would like.

Have we been able to do that in all these years that have been passed? I am not going into all those chapters when the people of Kashmir physically resisted the Pakistani invaders who came from Pakistan and so on. We all know that story. It is a story which should not be forgotten ever but for them we would have lost Kashmir. But anyway, we have not been able to bring about the development of the type, I think, which the common man would appreciate and like, in all these years.

The second thing is that their hope is democracy—democratic governance, that is according to the wishes of the common people as expressed through the only method that we have – that is through the polls, through the elections, through the verdict of the people. The democratic governance should be in conformity with the views

expressed by the people through elections. Can we say that in Kashmir we have succeeded in this matter also? I do not think so. If we are frank enough, elections have been held repeatedly many times.

But I should say that it is regrettable that many times the verdict of these elections has been distorted. Some other state of affairs has been imposed on the people, which did not correspond to their free choice as expressed through the verdict of the polls. Shall we go into all that now? I think it is not necessary. What happened in repeated elections? People voted for some particular leader or they voted for a particular Party and later on, things were manoeuvred in such a way that some other force, some other person, some other leader was imposed on the people, not that for whom they have voted. This has happened repeatedly. That is something which I think has embittered the people of Kashmir very much. It has destroyed the credibility of elections and the electoral process. Free and fair elections are something which became practically unknown to Kashmir and the Kashmiri people and this is continued till recently.

So, another part of democratic governance is, of course, that people should be liberated as far as possible from corruption, corruption of the people who are ruling, who are in power, whether they be Ministers or whether they be bureaucrats or whether they be those officials who are in positions of power. Unless their control through corrupt means, their control over the affairs of the State is removed, how do we expect these poor people of Kashmir, who are so poor, uneducated generally, to feel that this new dispensation, Article 370, elections, freedom and all that has brought a new state of affairs for them? It cannot be done. So many of the ills from which we are suffering today in Kashmir, not all, but many of them or most of them I should say, are basically due to this historical origin of what happened from that time. We have failed to develop the State in a way which would bring, which would make some sense, make some feeling prosperity to the common people. We have failed also in giving a firm foundation to democratic system and for having failed on these counts, corruption has been rampant. It is no use hiding these things. Corruption has been rampant in Kashmir. Everybody knows about it.

Regarding diversion of Central funds, I do not know what is the total amount of Central funds which by now have been poured into Kashmir from the Centre in the hope that it would lead to development and so on. I do not know what part of those Central funds has been diverted and used for other purposes. But when you go there, you ask the common man in Kashmir. You must have been to that place several times. When you go there, see what he says, see what he feels about the people who are in power

and about the way they handle the money which is meant to be used for the uplift of those common people. But it is not used for them.

There was a mention made here of the latest Finance Commission's Report which we may be discussing soon in this House also and they have proposed, as you know, some new share of Central funds. For that part of funds of the Centre, which are shareable with the States or can be developed on the States, they have made a new formula, as you know. And what part of those funds will really be used for the purpose they are meant, we do not know, but I have my doubts. We are extremely sceptical in view of what has happened in the past.

So, I do not wish to take up more time. About autonomy, we are discussing a resolution which has been adopted by the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly at the instance of Dr. Farooq Abdullah and which was of course as I said earlier when he was asked to clarify when he met the Central leaders—the Cabinet—I am going by what he said in the Press when he was asked what he meant by it, he was very categorical to say that he did not mean secession. There was no question of getting out of India. I hope that that is really what he means and he sticks to it and I hope that the people of Kashmir also will stick to it. As far as we are concerned, in the House here we are certainly against any secession from India.

But the question is now that a formula has to be worked out. It can only be done by an agreement. A formula of what exactly should be the definition of the contents of autonomy. If you want to use the term 'autonomy', then it has to be defined. And, what powers will go where, what powers will be reserved by the Centre and what will be developed as far as the State is concerned, this cannot be a battle between two sides trying to impose something on the other. It will not work. It has to be the result of agreement or discussion of consultation a working out a formula as recommended also partly by Mr. Justice Sarkaria, but not adequately. It has to be worked out.

So, as far as the Valley is concerned, which is the centre of so much turmoil and disturbance, so many killings, so many people have lost their lives in the Valley and not only ordinary people, security forces also have lost heavily. But that thing is not over yet. And this cross-border terrorism and the attempt, which is going on by the neighbouring State and you have seen what has happened yesterday. It is with more anguish that one does talk about these things that here is something happening and after all these years, we, — a great country like India, are not in a position to frustrate the evil designs and check this kind of cross-border terrorism. It is unthinkable that so many of our citizens should be butchered like this in the space of a short time and we are proved to be powerless and not able to do anything about it.

[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

So now, once this question of autonomy has been put on the table, I do not think that it can be brushed aside. Of course, I know that not only the Central Government, the Central Cabinet rejected it, just rejected it, very good.

If rejecting it like that really amounts to a rejection in the minds of the people and rejection like that means a rejection in the minds of the ruling Party in Kashmir and its leaders, that is well and good. But will it be like that? It is an explosive concept. Once it has been put on the table, you may be able to get over it by prolonged and constant discussions, consultations and try to come to some agreement and so on. But, I am afraid, it is not something which can easily be dispensed with.

So, the position has become highly complicated now. I would like the Centre and the spokesman representing the Centre, to take this House more into confidence and tell us what exactly they felt when they discussed it at the Centre; what exactly they thought was the meaning of this demand for autonomy because after that they met Dr. Farooq Abdullah and talked to him. According to the Press, what Dr. Abdullah said has also made them feel very happy. So Shri, Advani, are they happy or unhappy? I do not know....(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (MAYILADUTURAI) : The hon. Minister of Home Affairs is being distracted at the crucial moment.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : I am sorry.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : The last thing which I was saying is that the summary rejection of this slogan of autonomy and demand for autonomy by the Central Cabinet and the Government obviously mean that, at that time, the Centre had its idea of autonomy, as meaning something thoroughly detrimental to the interests of this country. I presume, I do not know Shri Advani will clarify, that they would say that the way it was put forward, we took it to mean a demand for secession from India, and therefore, we summarily rejected it. But shortly after that Dr. Farooq Abdullah was called to Delhi or he came on his own, I do not know, and he had confabulations with the Central leaders including the hon. Prime Minister, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs. He is reported to have assured them that whatever it may mean, it may never mean a secession. He will always be a part of India and there is no question of leaving India. That was an assurance, which, perhaps, was accepted by the Centre, and they were happy. Previously they were unhappy. After this assurance, they are happy.

After that comes this incident at Pahalgam and this

butchering of our people. I do not know how many times this will be repeated. I am really afraid because we seem to be too powerless and too weak to defend our own people and our country. I do not think that we are powerless. I think, we have got the power, but somehow or other, we are unable to use it properly. So, I would like to hear from the Central Government how they have been looking at it, from the moment it has been raised and brought on the agenda, how they looked at it then, how they looked at it now and how they looked at it after yesterday's and today's events. It may be a part of it. You cannot brush that aside. I am really anguished. As an Indian, I feel bitter and I feel anguished.

We have to see the past history as far as the record of governance or misgovernance goes; the past history as far as corrupt practices go; the past history as far as the failure to develop the beautiful country in a direction which will really bring some succour to the poverty-stricken people of the country.

I am again not going into all that now. There is no point. Everything has drowned in the sound of gunfire. Just as we are beginning to congratulate ourselves and pat ourselves on the back, comes the sound of gunfire from the militants. And then we are left gasping for breath.

So, Sir, this is all I have to say. Obviously, we cannot support that Resolution on autonomy not at least unless and until we know from the authors of that Resolution what they mean by it or what do they want to do. We would also like to know as to what is the interpretation as far as our Government is concerned. I leave aside the question of secession and separation from India and all that is concerned. There is no question of anybody accepting anything like that.

Then what? What is the quantum; what is the definition? What is going to be the fate of Ladakh and Jammu? That is another big problem, big headache for us. I presume the Centre has discussed these things, at least in their own circles and they would be in a position to take this House into confidence and tell us something about it. As far as we are concerned, we cannot support those ideas of autonomy which seem to have been very much in fashion recently or which are the ideas in the heads of the people who are waiting to destroy the unity of this country.

Before we finally decide what stand we should take, we would like to hear from our Central Government and its rulers as to what exactly they are thinking and how they have seen this whole thing and what their concept to it is.

I hope, Sir, that you will permit not only all the Parties



to express their viewpoints which are here to be expressed—they, of course, will be expressed—but, above all else we must know what the Central Government is thinking on this issue.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE (JADAVPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to take part in today's discussion with a very heavy heart. I grieve for the innocent people who were killed in the last two days. My heart-felt condolences to the bereaved families.

We began this discussion on 26th of July and today is 3rd of August. So much has happened in the course of these few days that we are a bit bewildered. We have been overtaken by a rapid succession of events. So, when we discuss the autonomy question. We have to keep in mind what had happened in the last few days. Just when we thought that the situation in Kashmir was looking up a little and that there may be breakthrough—we are hoping for that—when the peace initiative was struck a great blow.

Now, on the question of autonomy of Kashmir, we know that our Cabinet has declined to accept the Resolution. But I must also say that they have not slammed the door shut. They have said that dialogues will continue. This is the correct position to take.

Our Home Minister has shown great statesmanship. He is ready to talk to the others as well – the *Hurriyat*, the *Hizbul Mujahideen*. So, he can certainly talk about the question of autonomy also. I remember that on a previous debate on Jammu and Kashmir in this House, I had asked the Home Minister whether he would be agreeable to free the *Hurriyat* leaders from Jodhpur Prison and bring them to the negotiating table. Well, he had shown the highest statesmanship by doing that. We think that it was paying dividend because after that, *Hizbul Mujahideen* had declared the cease-fire unilaterally for three months. No doubt, we have to seize that opportunity. We must remember that this *Hizbul Mujahideen* was the most ferocious militant group which had carried out insurgency throughout the nineties. But the question before us, when we discuss the autonomy today, is what kind of Indian Union we envisage in the 21st Century, what kind of Indian Union will prove lasting and will give us a strong Indian Union. I do not think that an over-centralised administration is an answer to that. My contention is that a free, flexible and federal Union will ensure that we have a lasting Union and a strong Union. We will not only think of future in the 21st Century; we will also think of what our great leaders who dreamt of a strong, united India thought about it.

Sir, think of the great *swadeshi* leader, Shri Aurobindo Ghose in his essay titled '*The Spirit and Form of Indian Polity*', he said:

"unification ...ought not to be secured at the expense of the free life of the regional peoples...."

He was very much against what he called 'a rigidly unitarian Imperial State'. He said that this was not the true indication of the political mind and genius of our people. Sir, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose also spoke about 'an independent, federal Republic'. But the most telling comment on this comes from Rabindranath Tagore. It so beautiful that I would like all my colleagues to listen to what he had to say. In his essay titled *Bharatvarsha*, he said:

"Where there is genuine difference, it is only by expressing and restraining that difference in its proper place that it is possible to fashion unity. Unity cannot be achieved by issuing legal flats that everybody is one."

While we are discussing the question of autonomy today, we remember that we had inherited this over-centralised administration from the British, but as you know, even Great Britain today is going the other way. They are thinking of giving autonomy to Wales and Scotland. So, they have also changed their mind. The point that I am trying to make here is that there is no inherent contradiction between the legitimate aspirations of the regional people and the strong federal Union.

The other day Shri Sangma made a point and used the phrase 'Cooperative Federalism'. He said that he took that phrase from the Sarkaria Commission Report. I think, that phrase is very good and apt. I do believe that this phrase was used by Shri Sangma from the Sarkaria Commission Report. I do believe that a Cooperative Federalism really can reconcile the needs and the demands of the Centre and the States. We must, therefore, discuss the autonomy question of Kashmir in this spirit. We may not like a particular autonomy resolution, but it does not mean that, in principle, the idea of autonomy is bad.

Now, the Cabinet, although they have declined to accept it, I am sure that they will continue with the dialogue and will certainly discuss how autonomy can be achieved.

Shri Indrajit Gupta spoke about secession. I do not think the question of secession arises here. What we want is that if you give all the regions a sense of belonging, if you can give them a voice in the decision-making, they will come forward and join us. It would be a much stronger Indian Union, if all the regions came of their own will and joined us. Then nobody would like to go away or to secede. The Indian Union of our dreams is that. This, as I said, was the dream of our leaders also.

[Shrimati Krishna Bose]

I remember, Bipin Chandra Pal saying that our country is called *'Bharatvarsha'* from the legendary King Bharat. He said, "Bharat was at the centre of a circle of Kings". We speak of *'Raja'*, *'Maharaja'* and *'Maharaja-dhiraja'*. What he meant was that India was always for a federal polity. Remembering what all our great men had said and keeping in mind what kind of a strong federal Union we envisage in the Twenty-first Century, I would like the Centre to go about discussing the autonomy issue with the Farooq Abdullah Government, as they are discussing things with the Hurriyat and also about to discuss with Hizbul Mujahideen. Now, we will forget the centralised administration which the British people taught us. We will think about a strong federal Union. It will be the reflection of the best of Indian federalism and Indian democracy.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (TENALI):

Sir, I rise to speak on behalf of my Party, the Telugu Desam. Our Party considers Jammu and Kashmir as an irrevocable, integral part of India. Hence the Telugu Desam Party does not endorse the recent Resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly passed on 27th June, 2000 demanding autonomy, and restoration of pre-1953 status for Jammu and Kashmir. The reason for our opposing this Resolution is because it negates the political process of integration of Jammu and Kashmir with the Indian Union. I take this opportunity to support the decision of the Union Cabinet which declined to accept the Resolution of Autonomy for Jammu and Kashmir. The demand for pre-1953 status of autonomy for Jammu and Kashmir Assembly would certainly have very serious political ramifications for the country, if it is really understood and the wave that it has spread across the length and breadth of the country, as it literally means 'absolute independence'. This is the meaning that has been conveyed. So, this is to be dispelled, and this autonomy move, if it is in that particular sense, has to be denounced by everybody.

Sir, so far as the question of restoration of the pre-1953 status is concerned, I, on behalf of my Party, join with all other senior leaders who have said that the clock cannot be put back to the pre-1953 status. Neither the State of Jammu & Kashmir nor the Indian Union would be comfortable, if this particular status of pre-1953 is even thought of. All these years, for all purposes, the State of Jammu and Kashmir has become an integral part of the democratic process in this country and any attempt to disturb this status would be detrimental for the future of this country.

Sir, however, this Resolution demanding autonomy opens up a scope for public debate and leads us to the larger issue of Centre-State relations, which our Party—the Telugu Desam Party—had been trying to focus attention on right from the very inception of our Party in 1982. Our

founder leader, the late N.T. Rama Rao had categorically denounced the way in which the political parties, all these years, particularly the Congress Party pursued policies that reduced different States to meagre dependent units. The States felt, they were left with an impression, that the States are nothing but units that would depend for ever on the Union Government.

The Telugu Desam Party, to bring about an awareness throughout the nation, for the first time, has organised 'Opposition Conclaves' in Vijaywada, Srinagar, Calcutta, Chennai and in other places against the way in which centralisation has been practised despite preaching decentralisation, by gradually transferring the vital State subjects to the Concurrent List from time to time. Our Party has said that there is need for evolving a strong Centre-State relationship.

Sir, our Party believes that first there should be a strong State and then a strong Centre. A strong Centre and weak States would be an incompatible situation. Hence, we have been, right from the beginning, pursuing a policy that stronger States would be the answer for all such moves.

Sir, it is not only the State of Jammu & Kashmir that has moved such Resolution. It could have been moved by some other States of the Union as well. If we go back to the year 1974, we have seen that even the State of Tamil Nadu asked for autonomy. After the Jammu & Kashmir Assembly passed the Resolution seeking autonomy, the State of Assam has said that they also want autonomy under article 371. So, what does it actually mean? Why are people clamouring for this? The major reason for this is that the States have not been comprehensively developed. People could not live in peace. There is militancy and insurgency. The States were always made to look towards the Centre for its due share of development.

Sir, it is at this particular juncture that centralisation of all powers has left a sense of insecurity among the States, a sense of alienation among the States. It is at this particular point, besides other States, the State of Jammu & Kashmir has come out with the Resolution for autonomy. This is probably the reason why different States have now come out with their demands.

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Sir, I am the only speaker from Telugu Desam Party. I need some time.

Since there has been no comprehensive development

in the States, the regional parties with regional aspirations have come up. The regional parties could instill a sense of confidence among people. Comprehensive development of the States with people's participation has been ensured by regional parties. The demand for devolution of more resources has been aired by several parties in the States. This is the crux of the problem.

Cooperative federalism is one of the principles advocated by the late N.T. Rama Rao right from the beginning of his political career. The Sarkaria Commission which was set up to examine the Centre-State relations also endorsed this view of cooperative federalism. The Commission also stated that more funds should be devolved to the States. The Tenth Finance Commission also accepted this view. So did the Eleventh Finance Commission. However, though we anticipated that there would be a much greater devolution of funds of the States, we are really disappointed that only 29.5 per cent of the Central funds are now recommended to be devolved by the Eleventh Finance Commission. It is not a question of 29.5 per cent, but it is a question of the basic structure of the Eleventh Finance Commission recommendations which are going to prove detrimental to the States that are taking new initiatives and taking measures for development. The recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission are not going to help fight poverty in the country. Instead they are going to prove to be an incentive for perpetuating poverty.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Venkateswarlu, there is going to be a discussion on Eleventh Finance Commission in the House.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : This is just a passing reference.

MR. SPEAKER : I have been listening to the speeches being made by Members. Many of them are deviating from the subject and repeating things.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Certain amount of repetition is bound to be there but the political parties have to express their views.

Sir, our Party has asked for 50 per cent of funds to be devolved to the States. We expected that at least 40 per cent of the resources would be devolved. The country has gone in for economic reforms in 1991. Following that, the second phase of reforms are now being taken up at the State level. States require to implement the reforms that were taken up at the Centre for which more funds are required. That is the reason why we have been asking for stronger States so that the Centre can become stronger. That is the reason why we are demanding that at least 50 per cent of the total Central funds should be devolved to the States.

Sir, the Instrument of Accession signed by Maharaja

Hari Singh on 27th October, 1947 made Jammu and Kashmir an integral part of the Indian Union.

17.00 hrs.

Sir, many Central Acts and Constitutional provisions were subsequently passed and implemented in Jammu and Kashmir with full concurrence of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly between 1947 and 1975. But the essence of the subsequent 1975 historical Agreement between Shri-mati Indira Gandhi and Sheikh Abdullah was to demand for devolution of more resources. The demand is for more development. The demand is for peace in the Valley. The demand is for erasing the sense of alienation in the minds of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the demand is for well-being of the people. In totality, all these insecure and unattended issues must have culminated in the demand for more autonomy now.

Sir, geo-politically, Kashmir has got different issues. Everybody is aware about its locational disadvantages, its geographical inconveniences, cross-border militancy, continuous defence operations, insurgency issues, ISI problems and what not. These are all the problems which have been disturbing the peaceful living of the people in Jammu and Kashmir. In view of all such problems and since Jammu and Kashmir is a shock absorbing zone, the development has naturally retarded in the State.

But what do we understand by the word 'autonomy' in the present context? As I have already mentioned, the 'autonomy' is not to drive at a point of total independence, and the autonomy should be only for providing freedom for the economic development and peaceful living of the people. In this particular connection, though certain parties have just denounced the actions and activities of Dr. Farooq Abdullah yet we all know the patriotic endorsement of Kashmiris all these years by passing through democratic process. They expressed that they are an integral part of Indian Union. Then what do they drive at in demanding for greater autonomy?

It could be an expression of resentment over the failure to translate into action the spirit of 1975 Accord and other special provisions for Jammu and Kashmir.

The 1975 Accord reaffirmed article 370 and vested residuary powers in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Any autonomy packages, to be consistent with the basic principles and spirit of the nation's obligation under the Instrument of Accession, has to recognise at the inviolability of article 370 which sets Jammu and Kashmir apart from the other States in certain respects and areas.

Clearly, a credible autonomy package that upholds

[Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu]

the spirit of a article 370 and the components which are evolved through a wide national debate is possible and, more importantly, involving Kashmiris of all the three regions is indeed the answer to the growing alienation of the people and the best insulation against the challenge of secessionist campaign.

Sir, unfortunately, certain political parties during their long monopolistic rule at the Centre and in the States played politics with Jammu and Kashmir. Now, there is no point in accusing either Dr. Farooq Abdullah or the Kashmiris who are making this demand. As I said, the demand is for devolution of more powers and developments. Their ill-considered political interventions in Jammu and Kashmir have reinforced the suspicions in the minds of the people of Jammu and Kashmir about the Central Government and their sincerity about unpholding the spirit of special provisions relating to Jammu and Kashmir as enunciated in article 370.

Accession of Jammu and Kashmir to India and the subsequent political accords and events have historical importance. It is an established fact that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India, which the present Autonomy Resolution also reaffirms. It is with this spirit and the sense of historical background that the grievances of the people of Jammu and Kashmir have to be addressed. It is not difficult to identify what needs to be done for the progress and development of Jammu and Kashmir. An appropriate and reasonable discussion, dialogue, deliberations and decisions across the table shall certainly help in finding an acceptable solution. Even Dr. Farooq Abdullah, the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir has quite appropriately expressed his readiness for dialogue. This reflects his sense of patriotism. This amply discloses his clear intentions for an intergrated India.

The Telugu Desam Party recognises the historical process with regard to Jammu and Kashmir and stands for special status for it and the continuation of article 370 of the Constitution and the obligations thereunder. There are no two opinions about it. As a matter of fact, a similar approach is to be adopted with regard to the North-Eastern States also under Article 371.

Our party would like to go on record that it is the patriotic vision of Sheikh Abdullah and Dr. Farooq Abdullah that have made and retained Jammu and Kashmir as an integral part of India. We have no doubt that it will continue to be an integral part for ever. No external forces can deter this fact and shatter the confidence of the people of the Indian Union. The recent Kargil war proved this beyond doubt. The entire nation stood as one by the Government in denouncing the Pakistani aggression and won the prestigious battle. Pakistan was thus isolated in

the comity of nations. I take this opportunity to salute on behalf of our party the brave *Jawans* who had laid down their lives for the sake of the country.

I feel that I should make a mention about the recent developments in the country on the Jammu and Kashmir militancy issue. On the one side we are happy at the cease fire call given by the Hizbul Mujahideen, a militant outfit. Talks have also been initiated between the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Hizbul Mujahideen representatives. They have named a three men committee on behalf of the Hizbul Mujahideen and talks are in progress. We must appreciate that Dr. Farooq, Abdullah has also endorsed the dialogue in the interest of the Valley of Kashmir.

The Vajpayee-Musharraf meeting on the cards in the month of September this year in the United States of America should clinch this issue to end the militancy era in the Kashmir valley and lead to better and cordial relations between India and Pakistan and other neighbouring countries.

Our party condemns the brutal killings of the Amarnath pilgrims on the 1st and 2nd of August. More than hundred people have been killed by the militant outfits. This is a manner of great concern to every citizen of the country. Our party condemns the heinous crime that has been committed and conveys our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

The States being the ultimate agencies with necessary mechanism for implementation of developmental programmes in crucial sectors like education, health and infrastructure development, they need to be given more and more resources. The recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission unfortunately fell much short of expectations. The Government has to now examine recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission in totality. More justice and encouragement should be given to the States that are taking good initiatives for development. The development of a State is nothing but the development of the country. To ensure such a development, we have to move forward in the direction of more and more devolution of powers. In our views, it is the decentralisation that will keep us together and not centralisation. I think, this is the message that flows out of the current public debate on Jammu and Kashmir.

Our party President, Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu, since becoming the Chief Minister is furthering the cause of federalism expounded by the late Dr. N.T. Rama Rao.

Dr. Farooq Abdullah held discussions with our Chief Minister on the autonomy issue. He had gone all the way to Hyderabad. He held discussions. After two deliberations

over the proposals contained in the Autonomy Committee Report, our Party has clearly opposed the said proposals. We have reaffirmed our commitment to the development of Jammu and Kashmir, with the spirit and under the mechanism contained in article 370 of the Constitution. This is the only way by which the interest of India and its constituents, *vis-a-vis* Jammu and Kashmir will be better served.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (TIRUNELVELI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of all India Anna DMK Party, I would say that we are not subscribing to the views expressed by the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, by passing a Resolution.

During 1998 elections, the BJP, in its election manifesto, has said that it is going to abrogate article 370 of the Constitution. Now, I want to know its stand and whether it is going to take any steps to abrogate article 370 of the Constitution.

When we, from the Committee on Home Affairs, visited Kashmir on the 6th, the 7th and the 8th, Dr. Farooq Abdullah met us and gave us the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir and the Reports of the State Autonomy Committee and the Special Status of Kashmir. They are historical documents, talking about history. Just like any other Princely State, the State of Jammu and Kashmir is one of the Princely States. It cannot and does not enjoy any special privilege by virtue of being under a Maharaja.

In 1956, the State of Jammu and Kashmir has promulgated a Constitution. In article 3 of that Constitution, it says that the State of Jammu and Kashmir is and shall be an integral part of India. When that is so, why should there be such a Resolution passed by the State legislature which is being debated here? When that Resolution is allowed to be debated here, I would say that all the States in the vast country of India would pass such Resolutions asking for separation or for getting more powers. To curb that, this Resolution should not have been tabled here, by the Government. When the Government has not cared to table very important Bills like the Women's Reservation Bill, why did it table this? It is all politics only. It is not going to serve the people of Jammu and Kashmir and it is not going to cater to the needs of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Our Constitution is also confusing, as far as the State of Jammu and Kashmir is concerned. The First Schedule of the Constitution lists 25 States of India and the 15th number was the State of Jammu and Kashmir. But in Chapter 6, in some other context, it does not include the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

For the last 52 years, the Kashmir issue is being

vacillated by different political parties. We do not know them because we do not belong to that generation.

I was going through the Autonomy Committee Report, though I rejected this Report in *toto*. At page 13 of this Report, they have inserted a passage from the *Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir - Its Development and Comments*. This book was written by Justice A.S. Anand, who is now the Chief Justice of India.

It is being quoted here. I would like to quote the following from page 99 of Justice Anand's book:

"The Government of Kashmir did not accept the Constitution of India as Constitution for the State. Despite accession, the State was seem to be governed by old Constitution Act 1939. This was because the Government of India has given an undertaking to the people of Kashmir that they could frame their own Constitution."

The first word is very alarming. The constitutional functionary and Head of the Judiciary has stated that Government of Kashmir did not accept the Constitution of India as Constitution of State. I was going through the other Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir. It is because the Chief Justice was originally appointed as judge of the High Court of Jammu. According to the Jammu and Kashmir Constitution, the judges should take separate oath or affirmation to be made judges of the High Court. Now, I would like to know whether he has taken oath under this Constitution or under the Constitution of India. He is now the Chief Justice of India. When this Constitution is being recognised by the Indian Constitution, they have come forward with a Resolution asking for, not secession, but more powers.

There shall be equality among the States. I stressed this point on three occasions. Why should there be a special treatment for Jammu and Kashmir State? They are also elected by the people. In fact, their democratic participation is only five per cent. With five per cent of votes, the Chief Minister is elected and they have the Council of Ministers. In my constituency, the percentage of invalid vote is five. They have passed a Resolution asking for autonomy. Ninety-five per cent of the people do not know the contents of this Resolution. They have not participated in the election. In the Parliamentary elections, twelve per cent participated. So, with five per cent they have passed a Resolution. I would say that this House should reject these autonomy proposals *in toto* at the threshold itself? The Home Minister has brought this Resolution for discussion. He should not have done it....(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : The Home Minister did not bring it. We demanded a discussion...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : It should not have been added to the agenda. The Home Minister is sitting here to reply. When the Minister is not recognising the Resolution, he should have walked out. Does the Minister come here whenever important matters are raised?

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pandiyan, you told me that you have to catch the Chennai flight. That is why I allowed you to speak.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : I stand corrected.

Our laws are not applicable to Jammu and Kashmir. Neither the Indian Penal Code nor the Criminal Procedure Code is applicable there. Nor the Indian Evidence Act is applicable there. It has been done wrongly. I would say that that State alone enjoyed the right to be wrong. They have been enjoying this right for the last fifty-two years. We are all citizens of India. There are no super citizens. There are many States in our country. Why should there be a super State? We are all equal. Amongst the citizens, there are no first-class and second-class citizens in India. But there shall be devolution of powers. Powers are concentrated at Centre.

You decentralise power because the Centre has no constituency of its own. You treat India as a total constituency and give more power to the States..... *(Interruptions)* No doubt, geographically Kashmir is a totally different State. It is placed at a totally disadvantageous position. Southern and Eastern parts are surrounded by sea and Kashmir is surrounded by roads. That is the only difference. So, this Resolution should be negatived. The Centre has categorised Jammu and Kashmir as a special State. It enjoys a special provision under articles 370 and 371. Similarly, for the States of Mizoram and Assam, there are Constitutional provisions. I think the existing provisions are sufficient.

Czechoslovakia is a Union of States but there is a provision that if it opts, it can segrtgate. It can secede but normally no States secedes. The States have got the power to separate. If they want, they can pull out of the Union. But, here, why should a State Government force the Central Government to come to the negotiating table to get divided? We already have 27 States. Why are we dividing and subdividing them further? In this way, this Resolution is totally unconstitutional. It amounts to passing a Resolution to divide. It amounts to secession.

We are recognising the High Courts and the Supreme

Court's Jurisdiction. The Parliament is supreme and it is legislating the laws. Even in their Constitution, Jammu and Kashmir have said that their laws are repugnant to the Central law. Just like other princely States, let Jammu and Kashmir have the same original status as that of the Northern States. Otherwise, Shri Scindia need not sit here. Why should he face the people and come here? If the Instrument of Accession of 1952 is to be followed, everybody will trace history at the time of merger. Do not talk of the old grand-father's time history. We are in a hi-tech age. So, do not talk about the great grand father time's history. If you are going to talk about that, you are not going to prosper. You should think about today... *(Interruptions)*

We belong to a Union. The AIADMK subscribe to...*(Interruptions)* Our founder member MGR said that we are neither independent nor dependent but we are inter-dependent ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HASSAN KHAN (LADAKH) : Justice Anand has referred it to that time of history ...*(Interruptions)* You may read out the detail. He said, 'I went to Kashmir... *(Interruptions)* Why did 95 per cent people not participate in election? Did you advice Dr. Farooq Abdullah to follow those people who did not go to vote?... *(Interruptions)* You are unfortunately misleading the House. It is absolutely unfortunate. You are saying whatever you like.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : As a responsible parliamentarian and as a responsible citizen, I am saying that India's integrity and sovereignty should be protected at any cost. Nobody should have an option to ask for division and nobody should have an option to ask for special status.... *(Interruptions)*. No State is above Constitution. The Constitution guarantees to all the people of India that all the States should be treated alike. No State should be given a special privilege...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pandiyan, you have referred a high dignitary of the country, viz., the Chief Justice of India. I think you have not read the entire paragraph. With the result, it is giving a wrong signal. You have to read the entire paragraph.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (TIRUNELVELI) : Sir, I will read that. It says:

"The Government of Kashmir did not accept the Constitution of India as a Constitution for the State.

Despite the accession, the State was still to be governed by the old Constitution Act, 1939. This was because the Government of India had given an undertaking that the people of Kashmir could frame their own Constitution. The Government of India could not force the State to accept the Constitution, for that would violate the agreed terms of the association of Kashmir with India. The State had voluntarily surrendered three matters only and the Government of India could not enlarge the sphere of its jurisdiction at its own discretion. So, whereas the Constitution of India laid down constitutional provisions, not only for the former provinces of British India but also for the other princely States as full-fledged constituent units of the Union, in the case of Kashmir, it had to make special provisions to cover that particular case. This was explained by Sri Gopala swami Ayyangar who moved the Bill for that purpose in the Indian Constituent Assembly. He said, at present the State is a Unit of a federal State namely the Dominion of India. This Dominion is getting transferred into a Republic, which will be inaugurated on the 26th January, 1950. The Jammu and Kashmir State, therefore, has to become a unit of the new Republic of India."

It is a new Republic of India. Sir, I am only on academic point. I have nothing against anybody...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HASSAN KHAN : You are misleading the House by saying that the Chief Minister took oath against the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir and not India? What do you mean by this? Who says that the people of Jammu and Kashmir does not accept Indian Constitution? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Sir, the law and order situation is worsening in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Militant activities and murders are taking place daily there. Sir, the Standing Committee on Home Affairs is considering a subject relating to this and it is going to submit its report to the House. I am a Member of that Committee and Shri Sahu is also a Member of that Committee. In a meeting with the Committee, the IG and Commissioner of Police of Jammu and Kashmir said that they are not able to tackle militancy, they are not able to nab the culprits, and that they are not able to maintain law and order.

SHRI HASSAN KHAN : What has it got to do with autonomy? So many people of our party have been killed by militants. NC has become the biggest target of the militants. Militancy has nothing to do with autonomy.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : A hard-core criminal by name Bitta Hare who has killed forty people is going to be freed. They only told us this fact. Would you like to know what I

told him? I told the IG in private—of course, Shri Anadi Sahu knows — that if the law does not give him power to tackle militancy, why does not he shoot that man. He asked, as a Police Officer how could he do it. I told him that I have pistol, let him take me there and I will kill that criminal. I said it for the sake of the country and not for anything else. I have nothing to do with Kashmir; I have not an inch of land there.

Kashmir is an integral part of India and Kashmir is a border State. We are interested in Kashmir because Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and every other State is protected by Kashmir. If Pakistan invades India through Kashmir, we are also the worst sufferers. Our future generation will not spare us if we make a mistake now. We have to demonstrate that today.

SHRI HASSAN KHAN : In the same way you shoot down Veerappan also, wherever he is.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : The whole report is going to be presented to the House in another fifteen days. The Home Minister may please see that report. We have examined all political parties about situation in Kashmir. BJP, Congress and other political parties came there, presented their memorandum, addressed the Committee and gave evidence. This is an important issue concerning the whole nation. It is not concerning Kashmir alone. Therefore, we are not subscribing to the demand for autonomy for that State. It can be like a Union Territory. My feeling is that there should be both the Governor and the Chief Minister from military. Otherwise the situation cannot be tackled.

The father of the House said that there is a little corruption. I do not know that. If that is the case, how can Kashmir be saved? There should be free and fair elections, free and fair administration and maintenance of law and order.

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK (ANANTNAG) : The Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Farooq Abdullah has publicly said that if there is any such allegation against him, let the Government of India appoint a Commission of Inquiry.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : The Chief Minister told us that the morale of the police has come down. There are four hundred cars parked in Jammu and Kashmir State taken from other States. The policemen have committed theft of cars, the Chief Minister confessed to us. He said, only now he has raised the status and the image of the police a little. The Chief Minister also told us that there are not enough infrastructure, there are no funds, the State is bankrupt, they are not able to pay salaries to their

[Shri P.H. Pandiyan]

employees. He also admitted that the employees are going to the Secretariat from Tandoori Hotel—one big hotel in Srinagar. The hotel has been closed so that the officers can stay there. They are taken under police *bandobast* to their offices and brought back. There is no solitary movement; people are not moving out.

That is why I appeal through you that taking into consideration the circumstances under which this Resolution has been passed by the Assembly, it may be negated.

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude. I have obliged you; but you are not obliging the Chair.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Thank you very much. Our view is that AIADMK is opposing this Resolution.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (KHAJURAHO) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Kashmir has been a matter of concern for our country for the last 50 years and today when as a member of this House I rise to express my views on the discussion, I realise that we are taking on a very sensitive matter.

On this account, whatever we speak here, we will have to express our views with great responsibility. Today when we are discussing it, we know that it is really a very critical period. According to my opinion if you talk in an irresponsible manner for ready political gains, you would not be serving the nation. Apart from this, it is also my belief and understanding and perhaps the House will also agree with me that if we keep on fighting with each other, we will not be able to make an objective assessment of the problem and we will also not be able to reach the root of the problem and we will not be able to get the desired results.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a discussion is going on here on autonomy proposal passed by Jammu-Kashmir Assembly. First of all I would like to know where from this autonomy proposal has come. As I went through the newspapers and the entire House knows that before the Prime Minister's foreign visit, an agreement was reached upon between the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister of Jammu-Kashmir that only discussion will take place in the Assembly on this issue and thereafter no motion will be passed in this regard. This was assured by the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir to the Prime Minister of this country. When a Chief Minister assures the Prime Minister then no doubts should be raised on credibility and integrity. But what happened? Beginning itself was wrong. The Prime Minister went on foreign trip and not only discussion

started but motion was also passed in that session. The understanding between the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister was shattered at the very beginning.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, some questions arise when we think on the whole matter. There are certain questions to which we have to find the answers. Unless we reach the roots of the problem we will not be able to resolve the matter. First question arises that whether autonomy proposal really represents the sentiments of the entire state. Because when we look at the structure of the State we find that, it is divided into three main parts based on geographical and cultural heritage. Laddakh is one of the regions which comprises of 69.60 per cent of the entire state. On the other hand there is Jammu, and area of this region is 18.92 per cent, and third important part in Kashmir which is also known as the Kashmir valley. This area comprises of 11.48 per cent of the total region. When this committee initiated discussion on this matter, questions were raised from different quarters as to whether the sentiments of the people of these three regions have been completely taken into account? Mr. Speaker, Sir, I through you, would like to request the House that I am not telling anything like hearsay. I travelled from Leh to Jammu from 12th to 26th June i.e. 14 days. During this period I met and talked to shopkeepers, taxi drivers or even teachers and students and I have found a big difference between what is said here and what actually exists there.

I would like to tell Honourable Minister of Home affairs in particular that there is a conspiracy in the Laddakh region of the Kashmir Valley. I do not want to use bitter words as I realise my responsibility but the manner in which Kashmiri Pandits were forced to migrate from Kashmir Valley; today in Laddakh region..(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK : They were taken out by the Government of India...(Interruptions) The Government of India took them outside Kashmir against our wishes. It is not that the Kashmiri Muslims did it. They are part of our flesh and blood and they will be back in Kashmir...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Infiltration is going on in the Laddakh region in a very systematic manner. Attempts are being made to change the cultural atmosphere of the Laddakh region. I do not want to put this blame on any single person but it is a fact and it is happening there. Whether it was Indo-China war or three times fought Indo-Pak war, the Buddhists, their wives and children of the Laddakh region have always remained honest, faithful and



loyal to India and had carried the meals for Indian soldiers and, today no one is there to listen to their voice. Today we, and you, the Government, the opposition and everybody sitting here are ready to listen to only their voices who are holding guns in their hands. Then what message are you giving to the entire nation? What will happen in case everybody holds guns in his hands, and if it happens, what will be the picture of the nation in future? We need to give a positive message to our countrymen. My submission to the Government is that we have to associate ourselves with the sentiments of the people of Laddakh. If it is not done then I would like to say with full responsibility and seriousness that there would be a grave danger to India's security in near future. Therefore, it is necessary that the feelings of the people of Laddakh are respected and incorporated. We should meet and talk to the people there. Recently a tragic incident took place in Janskar valley. On the 11th of July more than 150 persons came in a truck at Ramdum monastery, where Buddhist monks live and they forcibly took them out and shot them dead after forcing them to line-up. Why this was done? I have returned from there. There is only one road to reach that monastery and police and army pickets have been set up all along the 150 kilometre route. They returned via that road after the massacre. My question is as to what the Police and the army were doing there. Why they were not stopped? ...*(Interruptions)* Whether such a major incident could occur without proper planning or without the connivance of the local administration....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN (BARAMULLA) : Whatever happened there is regrettable and painful but I would like to say that this incident occurred after the militants arrived in a truck through that road which leads to the monastery. ...*(Interruptions)*. After stopping them, the Lamas tried to search them and they started firing in panic and killing them.

*(English)*

MR. SPEAKER : You are wasting the time of the House. Do not waste the time of the House.

*(Translation)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I had stayed for one night at Kargil, the Buddhist people had visited me there. One 'Gompa' was destroyed in Kargil town. These poor people have been trying for its renovation or reconstruction for years but it could not be possible. We will have to find answers to these questions ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : I would like to request that there must be some proof or facts regarding

matters raised in the House. We accept this and the people of Laddakh are our brothers but facts and reality should be placed on record...*(Interruptions)*

*(English)*

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record. Please take your seat. What is this? This is not a Question-Answer time.

*(Interruptions)\**

*(Translation)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Three mosques have been constructed during the last two years in Leh town. Churches and temples too have been constructed, we have no objection about it but what is the objection in repairing the 'Gompa' of Kargil.

We have to keep these things in our mind. You cannot ignore the people of Jammu. Neither Jammu nor Laddakh wants autonomy but the demand for autonomy is confined only to Kashmir Valley. The autonomy is associated only with the feelings of the people of Kashmir. We respect their feelings. We have no objection, they should put forward their views and problems and resolve them. The concept of autonomy that is being demanded today along with restoring the pre 1953 position means that we should convert Kashmir into Bhutan. We should give them a separate judiciary, separate Election Commission, separate constitution, separate structures, separate President, separate Prime Minister, we should give everything to them, separately, today the demand is for autonomy. It can be for independence in near future. Who is responsible for this situation and how would we control it if such a situation arises in future. When the Chief Minister of that State could back out from his promise then who would control the people of that state if they back out, who would control that situation...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, a comprehensive agreement was reached between Smt. Indira Gandhi and Sheikh Abdullah in 1975 regarding Kashmir. This agreement was reached after discussions with all concerned. Shri Vaiko had asked a question in this regard, he stated that people are agitated there due to taking away of their rights gradually, therefore the demand for autonomy is being made. I am going to put forward a fact which is part of history and no one, neither you nor I could change it. In 1975 after the agreement was arrived at between Smt. Indira Gandhi and Sheikh Abdullah. The general elections for the assembly were held in Kashmir after two years. In the general elections of 1977, the National Conference had mentioned in its manifesto at first place and asked about referendum. The

\*Not recorded.

[Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi]

National Conference won that election with thumping majority. It is in itself a proof of the fact that the people of Kashmir had approved every condition of the agreement reached between Indira Gandhi and Sheikh Abdullah. I would like to ask the rationale and causes behind making a change in it. Today the State has been given all rights as per Article 370. They have been given special status. It is true that some people have opposed it. Neither I nor my party is in agreement with this view point. We are making all efforts to retain the special status given to J & K. It should be retained. We can not deny this fact. We are committed to it and we do not want to withdraw from our commitment. I would like to ask whether the present position in J & K is due to wrong policies adopted by the Central Government alone. People say that there is mass resentment. Whether this is because of Delhi. I earnestly ask the Government in Delhi whether there is no contribution of the State Government in creating discontentment amongst the people of J & K.

Sir, I have met people of every class and creed there whether they are muslims or students or youths or the working class, whatever they have been they told me, if I repeat all those words the atmosphere here would be vitiated. Therefore, I do not think it fit to tell all those things. But the people there are in great anguish and resentment. We have to admit it. Why do you believe me. J & K is not far away anyone can go there and find out the truth.

Corruption is there in providing employment, jobs are provided to the favourite one. Due to this, there is a great discontentment amongst the youths and they are quite angry with the Government. The way irregularities have been committed in holding elections, it has created resentment among people...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record, except Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi's speech.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri All Mohd. Naik, please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I may be given some more time as a lot of time is lost due to interruptions. The main concern of the people living there is that the Central Government has provided a special package of billions of rupees to J & K. I would suggest

\*Not recorded.

that a Commission should be set up and it should be investigated that how much funds allocated so far have been spent in Kashmir Valley, Laddakh and Jammu. This should be evaluated in detail and placed here...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, the position is such that there is only one primary school at Leh for 25 villages. What would be the fate of education. The State Highway between Srinagar to Leh, has been constructed by the Central Government. In addition to this, there is only one road starting from Kargil valley to one part of Janskar and thereafter it is closed. For several years, the people living at Janskar valley are demanding a road but the Government is reluctant to pay any heed to their demand. If other roads are opened in Janskar valley, then the design of road which they have in their mind would not be fulfilled and it would pose a great danger. This is being done due to a well designed strategy. Similarly there are other areas which are lagging behind in the field of health, roads, education, electricity and water everywhere position is same...*(Interruptions)* I have already talked about unemployment. I do not want to take much of the time of House. I want to submit some data. A few days back the recruitment has taken place for Kashmir Administrative Services and Kashmir Police Services. Under the Jurisdiction of Leh. 23 Buddhist candidates appeared in the examination but only a single candidate was selected and the remaining 22 candidates were rejected. Three muslims appeared in the examination and all of them passed got employment. One Christian appeared in the examination and he got this job. This is the position in giving jobs...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (SANGRUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is talking about the composition of the Supreme Court? What about the composition of this House? What about the composition of the Election Commission?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Sir, this is a mockery played with the representative bodies...*(Interruptions)* In Jammu area the number of voters is 24 lakhs. 83 thousands and 37 M.L.As. are elected from there. In Kashmir valley, the number of voters is 24 lakhs ten thousands i.e. 73,000 less and from there 48 M.L.As are elected. This is happening *(Interruptions)*. Today we have to accept it that if we actually want to improve all these things, then we have to accept our mistake with open mind

and have to think a fresh and we shall be able to bring Kashmir under our control and win the confidence of the people. (*Interruptions*) If we blindly trust on one or two persons and left the Kashmir to their sweet will then the entire country has to face this consequences.

We should be prepared for it. Today our one mistake can prove disastrous and we should get alert in time. It is still not late and everything can be restored back. In this regard, we have to talk with the people living there. but not to so called leaders but we have to talk with grass root level people particularly, those who could not raise their heads and we have to talk to grass root level people. The other people have just exploited the locals.

Kashmir has always been a bone of contention and it is again in a delicate situation today. We all have seen the consequences of the talk that were started; during the last two days more than 100 people have been killed in eight incidents. What other examples can be there for this kind of a thing! I am happy that our Hon'ble Prime Minister and our leader went there to know about the sentiments of the people. But this alone will not suffice. When we are sitting in this House, we have to think about it afresh and make a practical strategy in this regard, and we have to take the people of that area in confidence. I agree with the Govt. that we should not look at the type of organisation we are talking to rather than we have to take the interest of the common man in consideration. We have to foil the design of those who do not want the peace talks to be successful. I think, perhaps the talks have already begun. We know that we can put various pointed questions in this regard but we are aware of the fact that we were also there in power sometime back, and we are very well aware of our responsibility. Who knows who would be there tomorrow! Knowing our responsibility we did not raise such issues that may disturb the talks or create any misunderstanding. But I am of the view that we and the country do not have to except much from these talks. However, we must keep this in mind that these talks are being viewed at the international level as well. At least this message should go to the country and the world that we have not neglected it on our part. This is very important. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to you for giving me time to speak.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (CHHAPRA) : Sir, Shri Madhavrao Scindia has initiated this debate on the issue of autonomy. Today the whole House is discussing it. I want to do some analysis of this word. The demand for autonomy is raised from all quarters in a democratic country. We want autonomy to be there in the Panchayats, boards, functioning of banks and in governance of the States. The process of autonomy is linked with democracy. But while analysing autonomy discussion should be there. Autonomy has been there in different states in various forms

during these 50 years.

Recently riots took place in Tonk, Rajasthan. The State Govt. asked for five companies the force. Sometime back when mass killings took place in Bihar, the State Govt. Demanded 25 companies of the Force. Autonomy is not related to responsibility, it is a requirement for which help is demanded from the centre. Superintendent of Police is also given autonomy to apply the code of IPC in the district concerned. How he displays that autonomy—he goes to the DIG, if his autonomy does not end there, he goes to the IG, if it does not end even there then he goes to the Home Secretary.

18.00 hrs.

District Magistrate is given autonomy to run the district administration, but he is not able to take a decision. With that autonomy he approaches the Commissioner. Commissioner goes to the Secretary and Secretary to the State Govt. Today the State Govt. has got autonomy to decide about everything but there is a lacuna somewhere. 40 years back when some State Govt. had to ask for police force from the Centre, it was considered a matter of shame for that State Govt. when a DG of any State demanded police force, he used to feel ashamed. Today the definition of autonomy means more & more dependency on Central Govt.

Some Members mentioned about disinvestment. When our Govt. talks of disinvestment a new definition of autonomy is talked about, every body gets up to criticise and oppose it. We are in favour of that autonomy which imparts the power to run the administration. During the last 50 years we could not provide the desired autonomy to the states. Autonomy does not mean more dependence on the Central Govt. Under the Constitution two main features of autonomy are there. First is that the State Govt. should maintain law and order in exercise of its autonomy.

[*Translation*]

The second point is called financial autonomy. The State Governments should take responsibility of their financial rights.

Vigorous discussion on this issue took place for two days in Jammu and Kashmir. Many such discussions which were necessary, were held but there were also many discussions which should not have taken place. Today we are discussing on those subjects. If the two days debate in Kashmir was about more powers, enactment of laws, taxation policy and revenue generation, the House would have no objection. The House wants to give its opinion on

[Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy]

these subjects, these states should be powered for more and more financial autonomy, but the question of additional power for taxation has gone beyond the definition of autonomy. Fingers were raised many times by the Central Government about Jammu & Kashmir. Autonomy report came from there. The planned Budget of Jammu and Kashmir is of Rs. 1700 crores and the amount of central assistance is of Rs. 2600 crores in a year. We accept this autonomy with open heart and we are also ready for giving assistance according to the need. Today the meaning of autonomy is only autonomy and not the responsibility.

[English]

There is no autonomy without responsibility. Today we want the respective State Government which shares the Centre's anxiety and also shares the responsibilities along with autonomy. There were a few basic questions.

[Translation]

Just now an hon. member has said whether this autonomy report is as per the wishes and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir? He spoke about the Laddakh region of Jammu and Kashmir. The autonomy report is centred around one region, this creates problem for the people. The House understands whether it fully respects the sentiment or not. The people who have moved the motion also feel about it. If you want that type of autonomy, then are you in a position to bring back the situation obtainable before 1953 when the people of all communities were living in the state 30-35 years back. If the Hindus, the Brahmins and the Muslims community are in a position to return to the state, there will be no opposition to the autonomy. But is possible in the present situation? Where are the days when films shooting were taking place there and Vaijayantimalal and Shammi Kapoor used to go there for shooting. Can any one imagine about that? No film shooting of films like 'Kashmir Ki Kali' takes place in the beautiful valley of Kashmir today. Now we have no partnership in that whether that is possible in future? We feel very bad about the way the situation is worsening.

One subject has come forward during the whole discussion whether the pre 1953 status should be restored or not. The entire House is sitting here and the leaders of all parties are sitting here. They have discussed various points. All have presented their facts. What is the meaning of pre-1953 status. Whether the House would like that the Indian Tricolour is not hoisted in Kashmir in the name of autonomy?

Whether the flag of India should not be there in the name of autonomy? Whether the section of the Constitution of India which confers the powers of imparting justice to

the Supreme Court should be eliminated in the name of autonomy? Whether the pre-1953 status would mean that the C.A.G. would have no powers to scrutinise the accounts of the money or resources being allocated to the State? One of my friend explained about the administrative system and the police force. You want that the officers of Central Services should not go there. Is it acceptable under any circumstances? All these subjects are to be considered, earlier during the debate the senior leader of Congress party Shri Scindia was also present here. The opposition has a crucial role in a democracy. Our Home Minister was in Israel and the Pirmie Minister was abroad at that time. The Legislative Assembly of Kashmir passed a resolution on this issue after consideration. Next day it appeared in the newspapers as to what the Central Government is doing in this regard and also various types of questions begun to arise. What a tragedy that when the Parliament is not in session, the Cabinet is all in all which takes decisions but still the people raise fingers as to why the issue was not brought before the House. When it is brought in the House then it is said that what was the need to bring it here which could have been decided in the Cabinet. If the role of opposition is like this, then definitely we have to think about it.

Mr. Speaker Sir, there are sanguine and experienced people in our government. The people in our government understand the sentiments of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. When the autonomy reports come, the government did not reject it. The Government said that it is not acceptable to us. Mr. Speaker Sir, we should understand this type of definition that there is some difference between the outright rejection and the acceptability. There may be many matters which are right but many matters may not be favourable to us. Therefore the government said that the proposal is not acceptable to us. It was never said that the autonomy report has been rejected. Therefore, this decision of the B.J.P. Government should not be entangled in any type of controversy.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, an agreement had been entered into between Nehruji and Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah in 1952 in which it was slated at some point that Pre-1953 status should be maintained. Thereafter an agreement was entered into between Smt. Indira Gandhi and Sheikh Sahib in 1975. In this agreement it was nowhere mentioned that there should be pre-1953 status. But in today's circumstances different views have been expressed. In that it has been said that the Governor should be addressed as Sadre-Riyasat.

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK (ANANTNAG) : It had been said in 1964.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is also said that our Chief Minister should be addressed as Vazir-e-Azam. We have no objection to it. Even today we people address the Governor as Lat Sahib and sometimes we address you too as Huzoor. Even in the messages of Mahamahim Rashtrapatiji or Rajyapal Mohoday. We do write Mahamahim Rashtrapatiji or Rajyapal Mohoday and for you we will write Manya Adhyakasha. There is no bar on using words if they sound better. Whether you may say Sader-e-Riyasat or Huzoor-e-Ala, there is no objection in it. But our Government abide by the constitutional provision cent percent.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, so many issues have been raised about Kashmir. Killings are continuing there. Even during the last 15 years twenty thousands innocent civilians have been killed. This State of affairs pains no but some where they show the weakness of the Government. In the year 1997 the number of tourists which had come down to only five thousand has gone up to 90 thousand in the year 1998-99 and it has further gone to 1,25,000 in the year 1999-2000.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people in the country who had hoped to go there but were scared to go during the last ten years have now started going there or the situation has improved in the valley. Today the situation is back to normal there Mr. Farooq is a partner in our party. I would like to let him know that as long as our Government survives, you may behaving some trouble when we held our talks with, Hizbul Mujahideen, but as long as the B.J.P. Government is at the centre and as long as we are with you. You need not worry at all about these trifle things. Our corporation is with you and we are ready to take along that state with us.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a very strange situation has emerged. I want to tell you one thing through it. It is not worth mentioning. Farooq Saheb went to another state and met somebody there. He took autonomy report along with him and sought his support. I want to tell you a story about that State. A delegation from Japan had come in that State. There they met the Chief Minister of that State and said, your State Bihar is a very beautiful State and if this is given to us for three months, we would convert it into another Japan. The delegation received the answer instantly. That we will convert Japan into Bihar if Japan is given to us for three days. Farooq Saheb is a nice and educated person. I fail to understand as to how he reached Patna by boarding the plane. How did he go to Bihar leaving rest of the country aside. I would like to request and tell his supporter that there is lot of difference between Kashmir and Bihar. It is surprising that you went to a State where difference between autonomy and power is not understood. Where the difference between autonomy and auto-rickshaw

is not understood. You made a request there. I could not understand it.. (*Interruptions*) I have said nothing. I have made an appeal. A Bit of Balance is a must. I am feeling uncomfortable on this score as my party does not want to talk much about 370 because we are all allies. You want the article 370 should remain. I am scared and at pain to speak. Article 370 is in force in Kashmir and over the last fifty years we should have tried to overcome this situation but the situation there is becoming from bad to worse. Now the same question is again being raised whether the situation in Kashmir today is the outcome of the article 370? Whole of the country is worried today over this issue. The country is faced with the problem of terrorism and when this debate was started, we commemorated the martyrs next day in the premises of the Lok Sabha who had sacrificed their lives while fighting for this country. The people from Kashmir are with us. They stood with us in various wars. The whole of Pakistan from all sides is in occupied Kashmir. How can we accept or understand it that article 370 is viable in Kashmir when Pakistan is in full preparation to infiltrate the terrorists and take possession of entire Kashmir. This issue in itself is a matter of discussion and a matter of thought. We are Waiting for such a time when we can freely enter the Kashmir valley and recollect our old memories again by being there we want to restore that atmosphere again which we today see only in portraits and films. With this appeal I would say that we need to make our critical evaluation and analysis. All of us alongwith the people, should take initiative in this regard. I urge upon the National Conference and our allies particularly that we should evolve unanimity on this issue so that we could provide a new direction to the next generation of the country. Thank you, Jai Hind.

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK (ANANTNAG) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the issue of autonomy is concerned, it has been basic issue of National Conference and it is not a new thing. Mr. Narsimharao during his prime ministership asked Dr. Farookh Abdullah, the president of National Conference to contest the Parliamentary election in 1996. But, Dr. Abdullah told him after discussion with party's working committee that he was ready to contest the election if he provided autonomy to Kashmir. However, Mr. Narsimharao Ji said at that time

[English]

Sky is the limit so far as the autonomy is concerned.

[Translation]

But, despite that Dr. Farookh Abdullah boycotted 1996 Parliamentary election. Thereafter, United Front Government came into power and he talked to Dr. Farookh Abdullah and said that the President Rule had been

[Shri Ali Mohd. Naik]

prevailing in Kashmir for a decade and therefore, elections should be held there. Dr. Farookh Abdullah said that he would contest the election only if autonomy was granted to the people of Kashmir and he further said that we were not asking for autonomy in aims, but we were demanding our rights which had been eroded over the years. United Front in its manifesto gave it a place.

[English]

More autonomy for Jammu and Kashmir and with this the National Conference took the decision to fight the election.

[Translation]

By that time no party including congress was ready to fight the election in Kashmir. It was the National Conference which fielded its candidates after a decade and fought the election. We made greater autonomy our election issue in our manifesto after fighting the election. We announced in Kashmir that it won't become Pakistan, it won't be independent, we are to remain with India whereas these people went on asking for Pakistan and independence. If people feel lack of autonomy it will be got fulfilled by the Government of India, but we are to be with India. Then, we fought the election. We secured two-thirds majority and obviously. We constituted a committee to give expression to our desires. That Autonomy Committee prepared a report after four years of efforts and submitted it to the Government of Jammu and Kashmir. In turn, Jammu and Kashmir Government forwarded it to the Government of India and then the Government of India asked the Jammu and Kashmir Government—

[English]

Whether the State Cabinet approves this autonomy Report or not, then the Cabinet of Jammu and Kashmir Government took a decision and wrote back to the Government of India that we approve, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir approves this autonomy report.

[Translation]

After that, another letter came from Delhi to Jammu and Kashmir Government advising constitution of a ministerial group to facilitate talks with Delhi. However, the Jammu and Kashmir Government also constituted a Ministerial Group to talk to Delhi and the names of its members were published in the newspapers and the Government Order.

After that, this report about Jammu and Kashmir was going on 8th of April, this report was laid in the assembly

[English]

for discussion in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly. It was the last day of the Assembly. The BJP, the Congress and even the National Conference made a hue and cry and said that that was the last day, we cannot discuss it. There should be some other date fixed for discussion. However, it was decided in the Assembly with the consent of all the parties that we would discuss it on 19 of June in Srinagar. The date was also announced by the Speaker. It was discussed on 19th of June in Srinagar and a decision was taken on 27th of June and the Report was passed.

[Translation]

When this report was passed, some sections of the newspapers and some political parties in the country spread rumours to the effect that Kashmir was going out, Kashmir had gone, Kashmir would no more be with India and the secession had been committed.

[English]

As the leader of the National Conference in the Parliament, I make it clear that we stand for India, we will remain in India and Kashmir is a part of India. That is our Constitution and that is the Constitution of India.

[Translation]

I would like to clear that it is not the question. Misconception that was created that we were going away, we were leaving the country; there was no such thing.

[English]

We are not for cessation. We are facing Pakistanis, we are facing terrorists, we are facing people who want independence at the cost of the death of our workers, our families.

[Translation]

Ministers of which political party, MLAs of which political party, Ex-MLAs of which political party were killed; and workers of which political party were burnt alive and killed on the roads?

[English]

It is the National Conference which is bearing the brunt of Pakistan. You know about it. If we are with Pakistan or with azadi, then why are we being killed; why AK-47 is being used against us?

[Translation]

Three things were said when the report came. First the report was laid and passed as Farookh Abdullah was against the wishes of Government of India in connection with talking to Hurriyat and militants. Secondly Farookh Abdullah Government used a trick to save its failures. And, thirdly, it was done so to sideline the Muslims and keep them alive. But, there was no such thing.

[English]

This resolution was passed by us.

[Translation]

Only twelve persons voted against it.

There is much talk of Ladakh and Jammu here.

[English]

What is the population of Ladakh? Ladakh consists of two districts, one is Kargil and the other is Leh. The population of both the districts is not more than 1,40,000. There are four Assembly seats in the region. We fought elections on the basis of autonomy. We won three seats. BJP won no seat and the Congress won one seat. We fought the parliamentary elections. We won the Ladakh seat. We fought in Jammu.

[Translation]

Now, the issue of Jammu is being discussed. There are six districts in Jammu—Doda, Udhampur, Jammu, Poonch, Rajouri and Kathua. We have won 17-18 seats in Jammu in the name of autonomy. Congress have 5 seats, BJP have 8 seats and when you call indifferent to the Hindus, have 18 seats. The number of Hindu MLA's from Jammu is in addition to this who support us on autonomy. Despite all that National Conference is ready to talk to the people of Ladakh and Jammu to remove their doubt, if any, and we are ready to attend to their doubts. If people fight among themselves.

[English]

Our organisation is in politics for the last 60-70 years. We are a nationalist force.

[Translation]

We are the people who came to power after them. People started going back to Srinagar. No Minister visited Srinagar at the time of the Governor rule, the rule of the President of India. I still remember, whenever a Home Minister visited Srinagar, he always declared it in the press.

[English]

Today, even an ordinary BJP worker can visit any village and can fly his flag. With out support, both the Communist Parties-CPI and CPI (M) - have won seats and we gave two seats to them. We wanted to get more support from the people and we bought them in.

[Translation]

So far as the question of our scaring away from the militants is concerned, I would like to tell you that there was no proposal to hold dialogue with militants during March, 1998 in Jammu session. Mr. Farookh Abdullah said in the Assembly that in case Government of India wishes to talk to the militants and Hurriyat and it reaches at some agreement; he said:

[English]

"I am ready to recommended the dissolution of the Assembly and pave way for a new election and if people vote them to power, they will come and take over from me."

[Translation]

It dates back 1998. I made a speech in the Assembly on 15th December. I said :

[English]

So far as the National Conference is concerned, we are not against talks with anybody with whom the Government of India wants to talk.

[Translation]

Because it is our view that whatever Government of India thinks fit in order to bring peace and normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir, we shall support that.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ali Mohd.Naik, please conclude.

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK : Sir, I am the receiving party. I am at receiving end. I should be given more time...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

So far as exodus of Kashmiri Pandits is concerned—

[English]

at that time there was no civil Government. It is my own opinion that maybe Pakistan wanted cleansing of

[Shri Ali Mohd. Naik]

Kashmir and the Government of India helped them. They took the Hindus outside Kashmir. Why? They should have arranged their stay in Kashmir. They should have provided protection to them in Kashmir. I myself have been the Minister of Rehabilitation in Jammu and Kashmir. I have sent a proposal to the Government of India as Minister, for their rehabilitation in Jammu and Kashmir State. It cannot be done without the active support and cooperation of the Government of India. As far as the Kashmiri Pundits are concerned, let me make it clear in this august House that Kashmiri Pundits are a part of our flesh and blood we are not complete without them and we want them back, whatever be the price. It is because we want to defeat the desire of Pakistan.

[Translation]

It is being said that if Kashmir is given autonomy, other states also would demand autonomy.

[English]

Kashmir is a separate case. I want that this should be made very clear to the hon. Members. Many of them know. They know the situation. The country was divided. It is a fact. It was divided on the basis of religion with Muslims on the one side and Hindus on the other side. Jammu and Kashmir is a Muslim-majority State. We took the decision that we will not go to Pakistan but we will remain in India. Since we were the Muslim-majority State, the then leaders of the Government of India respected our wish and they gave us the special status.

[Translation]

Therefore we got special status. Jammu Kashmir is not a part of any other State.

[English]

We have our own Constitution. We have our own flag. One-third of our State is under the occupation of Pakistan. Our Constitution and the Constitution of India say that the people in that one-third place are citizens of India. They are not treated as citizens of Pakistan. They are treated as citizens of Jammu and Kashmir. Twenty five seats have been kept vacant for them in our Assembly.

The United Nations observers are moving in Jammu and Kashmir. The problem of Kashmir is pending before the Security Council. The Government of India has made a commitment before the world organisation, the Security Council that when time comes we will have a referendum in Jammu and Kashmir...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : There is nothing like referendum any more.

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK : I am not in favour of a referendum.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : It is a mis-interpretation of the facts. The conditions of the referendum are being violated repeatedly by Pakistan. So, there is no question of referendum. If he talks in this manner, then obviously the people will suspect his intention.

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK : Not at all.

It was the then Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who made this commitment. It is because of this that we had three wars with Pakistan. It is because of this that we had cease-fire with Pakistan three times. It is because of this that they are ready to talk to Pakistan. It is because of this that they are ready to talk to *Hizbul Mujahideen*, but they are not talking to us who are the public representatives. We are not opposed to talks. But we have recommended certain important suggestions. Let the Government of India, which governs the biggest democracy in the world, talk to us. If there is anything against the Constitution of India, throw it in the sea. If there is anything against the interest of the country, throw it again in the sea. But if there is anything for good of the people, for good of India and for good of Jammu and Kashmir, why do they not hear us? India is the biggest democracy of the world, yet the Government is not ready to hear us. This is very strange.

Some people say why we talk of 1947, 1952 and 1953 because it is history now. It was in 1947 that the *Maharaja* of Jammu and Kashmir by submitting Instrument of Accession joined India on 26th October, 1947. The year 1950 is important because since the constitution of Jammu and Kashmir was not complete, the President of India, under some Order, applied certain sections of Indian Constitution to Jammu and Kashmir. The year 1953 is important for us because the then Congress Government at the Centre arrested the Leader who had brought Jammu and Kashmir to India. While enjoying the majority in Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, he was arrested and put in the jail for 22 years. After 22 years, when the Congress Chief Minister Mir Qasim told the then Prime Minister of India, Shrimati Indira Gandhi that he was not in a position to run the administration without the cooperation of Sheikh Saheb, talks were started between Sheikh Saheb and Indira Gandhi and an Accord was signed between them.

[Translation]

I want to know why did you not allow this award to operate even for six months?



[English]

Since Sheikh Saheb opposed the Emergency, they withdrew the support and threw him out of power. It was the then Governor who dissolved the Assembly and asked for a fresh election.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Why?

[English]

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK : Because he opposed the Emergency.

[Translation]

Shri Indrajit Gupta said that fair elections were never held in Kashmir. After the imprisonment of Sheikh Saheb in 1953 and till the election of Morarji Saheb, it was never fair, I am aware of this. You are endorsing the recommendations of that very Assembly for which they have such type of attitude. In 1977, the people reposed such a confidence in Sheikh Saheb that from that time onwards that the Congress has not even postal address in Kashmir.

[English]

They have no postal address, there now because they betrayed Sheikh Saheb.

[Translation]

You betrayed him. You signed on agreement although it was not acceptable to him. He even wrote a letter to the Prime Minister that he still maintains that attorney but it was not acceptable to him.

[English]

But I feel that under the circumstances prevailing at that time, it was a good agreement, but they did not allow it to function.

[Translation]

A colleague here, made a reference to the finance. So far as finance is concerned, I would like to say one thing.

It is said here that funds were given to Kashmir liberally. There are some special category States in India.

Jammu Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and the States of North East are among them. They get 90 per cent grants and ten per cent loans. Did you provide this facility to Jammu Kashmir till 1991? What justice did you do with the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

[English]

The United Front Government accepted this move and ordered.

[Translation]

Regarding funds, you compare Jammu and Kashmir with Bihar. Why do you compare it with Bihar? You should compare it with the nine special category states. Tell the nation how much funds were given to Himachal Pradesh and to Jammu Kashmir. I am mainly asking the Congress Party, as it ruled for 50 years.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE) : In the case of Himachal Pradesh, it was Rs. 839 crore and in the case of Jammu and Kashmir it was Rs. 2.765 crore. This is on record here.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Naik, please wind up.

[Translation]

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK : When Farooq Abdullah, left power in 1988-89, the State had an over draft of Rs. 57 crores. And in 1997-98, when he again came to power the Union Government of India left an over draft of Rs. 650 crores on the State, which we have to repay. When we left power in 1988-89, our non-plan Wage Bill, Salary Bill was Rs. 280 crores. And in 1997-98 when we took the reins you had increased it up to Rs. 1320 crores. From where do we finance our development plans? You increased the Wage Bill so much. There was no representative government there. A part from this, as per the agreement, Rs. 550 crores had to be paid to the Government employees under the Fifth Pay Commission. In this way our Wage Bill increased up to Rs. 2200 crores. This is more than our Income. The people are right when they say that we can not pay our employees. There is a ban on recruitment of Government employees in Kashmir.

[English]

The position is such that a class IV employees cannot be absorbed.

[Shri Ali Mohd. Naik]

[Translation]

The third point is that Madhavrao Scindia Ji said that Balraj Puri had presented a Report. No such report was presented. Riaz Punjabi, who is the Chairman of Expert Committee, did not present any Report. We asked him to look into it. He is doing so.

Lastly, I would like to say two-three things more.

[English]

As far as National Conference is concerned, we are not against the talks which the Government of India wants to have for bringing peace in Jammu and Kashmir State. They can have talks with anybody they like. But we are not in favour of division of Jammu and Kashmir. In Jammu and Kashmir, it is not a territorial problem; it is a political problem. If you divide Jammu and Kashmir, you will be supporting Pakistan. If you say that this 'Muslim Kashmir', this is 'Buddhist Ladakh' and this is 'Hindu Jammu', then what is your basis for having Jammu and Kashmir with you? So, we are not in favour of division of Jammu and Kashmir, we are for a united Jammu and Kashmir. As far as Kashmir is concerned, I will appeal to all political parties, even the Congress and those sitting on that side and this side, that this should be treated as a national issue.

[Translation]

My other question is that as far as the people of J & K are concerned, our grievance is that you gave us ration, money, everything but you did not do us justice. For the past fifty years we did not get justice from the Union Government. Due to this there was agitation in Kashmir. Today, the U.S.A. and Pakistan are blamed for everything. Why don't you see your own actions which has alienated these people and the National Conference found this solution...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Are you supporting it? No one should support it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK : But I want to express my own view. Let nobody support it. We want to keep the people of Jammu & Kashmir in India.

[English]

We are not for secession. We do not want to go out of India. We want to be in India, but with dignity. I would like to humbly request to you to give due consideration to our Resolution. We all are uncertain at present. We can amend ourselves. This can be solved through talks across the table.

[Translation]

If you do not listen to it today and do not hold negotiations and if you agree to hold talks after five years and agree to provide autonomy – but I am a humble man, I am not a big leader of Jammu and Kashmir – you will not find any takers for autonomy in Jammu and Kashmir. Therefore, you should fully avail the services of Farooq Abdullah.

SHRI RASHID ALVI (AMROHA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the only country in the world which has got maximum number of languages, cultures, different dresses and maximum number of followers of religions. In case the centre gets weak and the States become strong in this country, the outlook of the country will change.

It is the human nature that he desires more and more power. History bears the testimony that the world saw many dictators who had been elected through democratic system but once they had power they turned into dictators. As long as the Centre is weak in this country and the States are given more power, it will be difficult to keep the country intact. This Government is of 24 parties. I do not want to comment on stability or instability of the Government but if Shri Bal Thakarey gets angry in Mumbai the Government at Delhi becomes unstable. Today situation is such that the Chief Ministers are dictating. Till yesterday the Prime Minister used to dictate. I do not say that autonomy should not be advocated. It should be advocated but they should be given as much autonomy as is required by them. If the States are given more powers, the balance between the Centre and the States will get affected. I have gone through the Report of the Sarkaria Commission. Whatever we are talking about autonomy in the Kashmir is nowhere mentioned in the Sarkaria Commission. Besides, I would like to say that the circumstances are very different today. The Government which is talking about autonomy in Kashmir is also represented in Central Government. Who is the Law Minister and the Cabinet over there and who is the Law Minister here who has rejected this proposal? The Minister of the National Conference is also there. What kind of situation is this? What type of situation exist today? These are very strange situations and the Government at the Centre is not serious about solving these issues. I want to say it frankly and honestly and I do not want to play any politics. This committee submitted its Report in April, 1999. In April, 99 the States the Cabinet of Kashmir passed it and forwarded it to Union Home Minister in Delhi. Thereafter, what action Central Government took in this regard? Was it not the responsibility of the Central Government to talk to the people of Kashmir?

They should have talked with the Assembly and the Chief Minister of Kashmir as to what type of autonomy they are referring to. They only became cautious when the Assembly passed the resolution and sent it to Delhi. I want to say very respectfully that we will discuss the matter of the autonomy in the Parliament. But the common man could not understand it, They think that Kashmir wants to alienate from India.

[English]

Dr. Farooq Abdullah is on record in the Assembly saying he had initiated the autonomy debate with the backing of the Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

[Translation]

It was with consenses of Atal Bihari Vajpayee. This has been published in the Pioneer and I have not read its contradiction...*(Interruptions)* It should be contradicted...*(Interruptions)* Whatever I would say, I will quote it from the newspapers because the files are with the Government. We have the newspapers and I can only quote them. The Pioneer has reported that it was said inside the assembly. The Government should have contradicted this fact. But Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee did not say any such thing. The general perception among the people will be that it is match fixing. Both the sides have one mind-set...*(Interruptions)* Thereafter a statement of the Chief Minister was telecasted on the T.V. I have myself seen it. He applauded the Prime Minister and wished that May God give the Prime Minister a long life. We also wish him a long life. Farooq Abdullah also said this that the country has never seen such a good Prime Minister. He went back after conversing with Prime Minister. This created doubts. Mr. Farooq Abdullah said:-

[English]

"You should thank God almighty that I rescued Kashmir for the country at the time when it was about to sound a farewell note to India."

I very much object this statement.

[Translation]

This shows his intention clearly. He also made the statement—if I had gone to Pakistan. I would have become the Prime Minister of Pakistan. I ask, is it a favour if he is living in India? I want to say all this clearly, while the Members of the National Conference are present in the House...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN (BARAMULLA): He said that in a particular context. You have to understand it with reference to the context in which it was said.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI : I am also on the same point. I want to say that had he gone to Pakistan, he would not have even become the Chief Minister of that part of Kashmir which is under our occupation. He is in India, that's why he is the Chief Minister of Kashmir. There was no such possibility for him there...*(Interruptions)* I want to say the Union Government and the State Government both that this is a matter related to the unity and integrity of the entire nation. If this is put at stake consequences shall be dangerously fatal.

'Yahan jabr bhi dekha tareeqh ki aankhon ne, Lamhen ne Khata ki thi, Sadiyon ne Saza Payee.'

Even a simple mistake in the lives of communities and a country perishes both the entities. There should be no politics in it. This government should frankly come forward and declare that article 370 will remain there. I ask this government to take decisions by heart but not at heart. The problems related to Kashmir could not be solved even in a prolonged 45 years congress regime. Had the congress tried for the same, it wont have certainly been accused that it was appeasing the Muslims. Nobody can accuse you. Go ahead talk to all. Talk to Farooq Abdullah, Hurriyat and all others. This matter can be solved only through dialogue, not by any other means. If you remain adamant problem will not be solved...*(Interruptions)* The issue of autonomy is so dangerous that the congress party is protesting against it. But, the Chief Minister of Karnataka has said that the issue of autonomy should not be rejected outrightly, instead it should be discussed and debated. The Chief Minister of Punjab has also advocated for such discussion and has not expressed his agreement in any outright rejection of it. The Centre should pay heed to this. The Chief Minister of Assam, too, has stated repeatedly that the autonomy demanded by Kashmir government should not be outrightly rejected.

Sir, this issue is highly inflammable and if it once flares up, it will be very difficult to patchup the situation. In the North-East, tax is being collected at district level, the council at district level in collecting money. This is fearsome, which could affect the whole country some day. No one must be allowed to toy with fire.

Sir, a special assistance of Rs. 1540 crore and a normal assistance amount of Rs. 66 crore have been given

[Shri Rashid Alvi]

to Kashmir. And, when the leaders of the National Conference were asked that if they were provided autonomy, whenceforth the money would come thereupon their senior leader said; I want to quote that:

[English]

Sir, the national Conference legislator, Shri Shafi Bhat, to a reporters of outlook, has said and I quote.

"If the Indian Government thinks, it is giving us money in charity, at it leave us so that we can decide else where for financial requirements."

[Translation]

Sir, the statement is so dangerous that it can by no way be approved. If the autonomy is to be achieved by this way, this is now the right method to achieve it. This kind of autonomy is to be outrightly rejected. Simultaneously I would like to ask my National Conference friends as stated by our several friends that no permission of temple's construction is given there and we have to face the music for that thing in U.P. There is no such village, where there is no dispute over mosque...(Interruptions)

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (KHURJA) : Sir, this is a completely wrong statement...(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Come with me, I will show you there...(Interruptions)

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : There is nothing like that...(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI : There they have formed a legislation that no mosque can be built without permission, what you are talking about...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rashid Alvi please conclude. It is already 7 p.m.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Sir, I am concluding within 2-3 minutes...(Interruptions)

SHRI HASSAN KHAN (LADAKH) : Please do not refer to the statements which are baseless...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Sir, they are wrongly stating everything, they are defaming the government...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are disturbing the House so much.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Sir, lastly, I would like to say that the main issue is Kashmir are related to the unemployment and Poverty. The percentage of rural poverty was 25.7% in 1987, which increased upto 30% in 1995. These are the real problems and government should deal with them. Mr. D.P. Dhar had prayed for Kashmiris sake quoting Faiz Ahmed Faiz' poetic words I also repeat that prayer today and also ask all of you:

"Aaiye hath uthayen hum bhi, Jinhe koi but,  
koi khuda yad nahin,  
Aaiye arz guzarein nigare-hasti, zeha-imroz  
mein shreerini-e-farda Dwhar de  
Jinka din pairavee-e-kazbo-riya hai, unko -himmate-  
e-kufra whiley,  
Zurrat-e-tahkik miley, jinke sar muntazir -e- taigo-zafa  
hain,  
Unko dast -e-kafil ko jhatak dene ki toufiq Mili."

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL) : Sir, at first, I pay my homage to late Shyama Prasad Mukherjee and those numerous people, soldiers and children who laid their lives for the cause of Kashmir and also to those pilgrims to Amarnath RSS people of the opposition party who were killed.

Before I speak on the issue of autonomy, I want to apprise you of the views of Shiv Sena Chief hon. Bala Saheb Thackrey. He says that the states should be further empowered. Every now and then, we have to rush to the Central Government for our needs that slows down the process of development. The states should be given more and more powers to take easily decisions for the interests of the people, farmers and also for the betterment of industries. I want to say this thing here on his behalf. He has also stated that the Centre should decide over the CRZ. So the development is choaked there. The salt-land in Mumbai should also be decided and the states should be given adequate powers to be decide about anything of its own. Also Shri Bala Saheb Thakrey deems the motion passed by the J & K legislative Assembly as a tool of country's disintegration.

The actual land area of Kashmir was 2,22,220 sq. kms. But, in 1947, Pakistan attacked and deprived us of our approximately 88,000 sq. kms. land. Later, China invaded India in 1962, when the congress party was in power, and seized a 37,000 sq kms. of land...(Interruptions) Today, the residents of Laddakh possess a land area of approx. 45000 sq kms and they are against the thought of autonomy. Six out of the fourteen districts of Jammu have protested against it. The Buddhist Federation, Jammu Joint Student Federation, Punnun Kashmir, etc. have also registered their protest. Now, I ask who wants autonomy ? Only Mr. Farooq Abdullah wants this autonomy. There is a

35% population of Gurjar and Baqar Community people, they have also gone against this thought. The Shia Muslims have also protested against it. The people of Jammu and Kashmir and Laddakh do not crave for autonomy. They have got only an amount of Rs. 800 crores as revenue, whereas the Centre provides them with wholesome Rs. 2200 crores amount for their help. Till now, the Central Government have provided them with a grant-in-aid of Rs. 1,20,000 crores. But, what happened with all that moeny? First there ruled Shri Sheikh Abdullah; then the Congress Party and now, there is Shri Farooq Abdullah government. The Centre has provided them with lots of money but where has all that money gone. The people of that state were cherishing a hope that they would be helped with that money but where has it all gone? No inquiry has been made in this connection. The people of J & K and Laddakh want to ask this question. Where has that amount gone? Shri Ramdas Athawale, you repeatedly mention about Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar and we are proud of him...*(Interruptions)*

19.00 hrs.

Our leader Shri Bala Saheb Thakrey never used foul language about Baba Saheb Ambedkar. First, let yourself be informed about whom Baba Saheb Ambedkar defeated in the election. You are on his side. Baba Saheb Ambedkar advocated for giving the same rights to the people of Kashmir which the rest of the population of India enjoy. But, those Kashmir people demand a dischotomic empowerment of them. They claim of rights being the part of Indian population to and their separate special status in addition. He protested this tendency. He told the people that the Central Government had gone into an anti-national agreement and the day on which that agreement was signed, was a black day for India. I can illustrate many facts in this regard. Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel also was not in favour of imposing Article 370 there. ...*(Interruptions)* Shri Ayengar proposed this to him...*(Interruptions)* Now, Farooq Abdullah talks of the year 1953. Smt. Indra Gandhi and Sheikh Abdullah had signed an agreement in this regard. Sheikh Abdullah was arrested in 1953. He had been in prison for 20 years. Way is Farooq Abdullah raising this matter today? Sheikh Abdullah was the Chief Minister from 1975 to 1983. In between, matter was never raised. A public-movement was organised in 1953. The Praja - Parishad organised that movement. The people of Khamgaon, Jodiagaon tried to hoist the national flag there but they were shot dead. Thereafter, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee initiated his movement.

19.02 hrs.

*(Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair)*

Hon. Prime Minister is not here now...*(Interruptions)* Today, he has left for Kashmir, leaving us behind. Shri

Shyama Prasad Mukherjee went to Pathan Kot. In those days there was permit raj despite, he started his movement there. He was arrested there. After his arrest, he died. No probe has been made so far as to how he died. Sheikh Abdullah has also said that "...the people are also having this feeling in their heart.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : What are you talking about?

*[English]*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA) : Sir, what is he speaking? It should not go into the record.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Sheikh Abdullah wrote a book titled 'Ashia-e-Chinar' you read it. He wrote that book and this is his statement people doubt that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If you want to quote something it also requires authenticity otherwise such statements should not be quoted.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am authenticating it and can show you the book tomorrow. It is written in that. We do not want two different laws and too different flags. We donot support any double headship and this is the voice of India as a whole...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am here to regulate the House.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I authenticate what I am saying:

'Mang raha hai Hindustan, Hindustan mein ek Nishan,  
Ek Pradhan aur ek Vidhan, aur tab rahega Akhand Hindustan,  
Agar Rahega to Swabhiman Ka Hindustan, Na utha  
Payega sir Kabhi Pakistan,

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Rawale, its too much. Now, be seated please. Six or seven hon. Members are there to speak. Shri Mohan Rawale, you have already taken more than five minutes.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are 15 members of our party and you are allotting

*\*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.*

[Shri Mohan Rawale]

me only five minutes. I am the first member from my party side. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am going to state my point. Here, Congress, CPM and Indrajit have registered their strong protest against this, I welcome them. But, I want to tell you one more thing that same Shafi was asked about...*(Interruptions)* This is such a dangerous resolution:

[English]

It should not only be condemned. It should be thrown into dustbin.

[Translation]

Such a dangerous resolution has been brought before the people of India. I remember a lyric song:

"Chingari Koi Bhadek, to Sawan use bujhaye,  
Sawan Jo agan Lagaye, Use kaun bujhaye"

That is why I demand that Dr. Farooq Abdullah be arrested and his government be dismissed. This is the demand of our party, i.e. Shiv Sena and we also demand for the retrieval of 70,000 sq. kms. land of Pakistan occupied Kashmir...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, why we are not being allowed to speak. All other speakers have been given so much time and we are being allowed to speak for five to seven minutes. Our Pak-occupied area should be got liberated. I do not have the figures as to how many of our Jawans have been killed till date. Yesterday, the pilgrims and our Jawans have been killed. Then why this Article 370 should be retained. Many people had opposed it. Sardar Patel had opposed it but he was helpless...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Prakash Ambedkar, do not interrupt. We are running short of time.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, Sardar Patel had merged 500 princely states with India and the princely State of Hyderabad too was not spared. Today, we are remembering that Iron Man. We would like to ask Shri Advaniji, Shri Pandiyan Ji and Shri Mulayam Singh Ji had said that there should be spirit for it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Rawale Ji, you have already taken 15 minutes. You had started your speech at 18.55 and you should conclude now.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Sir, at the time when Pakistan occupied Kashmir was snatched away from us,

Shri Rafi Ahmed was in the Union Cabinet and he had ordered to send the army there and General Thimmaya had asked for the army, but the Central Government did not provide it. Then, Shri Rafi Ahmed was in the government and he had requested to send the army. Had the army been sent at that time, today's Pak occupied Kashmir would have been liberated. But unfortunately it did not happen. Today so many people are being killed due to Article 370, we are providing lakhs and crores of rupees there but no one can go and live there. No one can become the member of any cooperative society, no one can purchase land there. Therefore, it is our demand that Article 370 should be scrapped at the earliest. Sir, the motion that has been introduced here relates to the problems of Bangladeshis in the states of Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Assam, Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya etc. Shri Rawatji is not present right now, he had told about it in the House day before yesterday. He had stated that 250 legislative constituencies are affected by the Bangladeshis. Our Jawans sacrificed their lives in the 1971 war. The official figure about the Bangladeshis is about one crore but more than three crore Bangladeshis are here. Today, 25 Lok Sabha Constituencies are affected by the Bangladeshis. They too would demand a separate state for themselves. I would like to ask the government whether the government would discuss the matter of autonomy of all the states repeatedly if it is passed by all the states in the same way as we are discussing the proposal today.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I want to know as with whom the government is talking with those who those who have caused a lot of bloodshed, with those whose bullets are killing our jawans and children since the last 13 years, is the government talking to them? With how many people do you talk? Whether you would talk to the Jamat-e-Islami, or Lashkar-e-Toiba. Lashkar-e-Toiba has a direct link with a Major-General of Pakistan. It has been published in all news papers. Those persons who are killing innocent citizens on their return after taking their training in Pakistan are an organised lot. You declared ceasefire. I would request the government not to become helpless. They said that leave the constitution aside and there would be ceasefire within 2 hours. They said that leave the constitution aside today you may talk to the Mujahideens or Pakistan. I would like to ask a question from the Home Minister. Alvi ji has just said when Shri Chaturvedi was speaking, we felt as if he was speaking from our side. Today seven lakh Kashmiri Pandits have been driven out of their home. What is their condition today? Had Article 370 not been there they could have gone back to live. But unfortunately it did not happen.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, lastly I would like to inform you that one lakh 25 thousand pilgrims have gone there. I

would request Shri Advaniji to hand over the local administration to the army and impose President rule there. Today people are living there in fear. Their number may be more than one lakh and twenty five thousand. I was watching their interview, they were saying that they would continue their pilgrimage even if they have to lose their lives. I would therefore, request the government to hand over the local administration to the army otherwise no one knows as to how many Hindus would be killed there.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Rawale ji, please conclude now.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Many of our innocent persons were killed there yesterday also.

Such a serious tragedy has taken place and the entire House has in order to pass the motion...(Interruptions)

That is why I have opposed the autonomy proposal. I would like to tell that when the State education minister Shafi was asked whether he would resort to violence, he stated that if the government does not listen to our language, then we will take to the gun. He had spoken such a language. Therefore, I would like to tell the government in a poetic form that "Rains are there to put out the fire, but who is going to put out the fire caused by rain? With these words. I oppose this motion, related to Kashmir autonomy and I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a discussion is going here on autonomy proposal, passed by Jammu Kashmir Legislative Assembly but that proposal has already been rejected by the Cabinet and again we people are discussing proposal. We are not in the habit of collecting the press clippings, we read newspaper summarily for two to four minutes to be aware about the chain of events. In case we have to look at the history, we have to start from 1947. Many learned speakers have already spoken on that subject. More intelligent people from that side were speaking on article 370. Broadly speaking, the people think that the Prime Minister had a meeting with the Chief Minister of Jammu Kashmir. In the same manner all are allies of NDA; and the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister are associated with each other but both had meeting. Thereafter the Prime Minister went on foreign tour and the Chief Minister returned Kashmir. Then the Jammu Kashmir Assembly passed this resolution. Just now Alvi Sahab were quoting that they have passed the resolution with the consent of the Prime Minister. The Minister of Home Affairs has expressed two three different opinions in this regard. One statement says:-

[English]

We are not against autonomy.

[Translation]

I do not have press clippings. They can deny it but that was headline in the newspaper. Second Statement come that there will be a discussion on autonomy proposal in the Parliament. When the Prime Minister returned from foreign visit then the third statement came that the proposal of Jammu Kashmir autonomy is not against the spirit of constitution but it is in consonance with it. We are listening these statement. Notwithstanding this, we are getting this information that before passing this Resolution in Jammu Kashmir Assembly; it was sent the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Union Government. It was communicated that it has approval, it is not a paper, it is not a document. We do not know whether the decision was taken or not on this issue at that time. These people keeps on having discussion with each other several times and after rejection of the proposal the Chief Minister of Jammu Kashmir met the Prime Minister. Afterwards they were told to send the proposal in an amended form the refused to effect any change in the autonomy proposal. We got this information from news-paper. Now information is coming that there are so many crisis prevailing in the state of Jammu and Kashmir it is falling national crisis, foreign sponsored terrorism. Terrorism, messacres and killings and the government is unable to control it.

Yesterday Rawale Sahab was lamenting Prima facie we see gross failure of the Government. NDA people are sitting here and they will also accept that this is total failure on the part of the Govt. The lapses in security measures had never been so worse as witnessed today. Lapses can be tolerated. If any terrorist commits crime without any prior information then it is tolerable but when the terrorists proclaim repeatedly that they will create disturbance indulge in blood shed during Amarnath Yatra, then why they did not pay attention on that matter. Every year they say so, then how come they presumed that terrorist will not attack this time. Even after their declaration, people were killed in such a way as if there was no security there...(Interruptions) Intelligence has failed this time country in crisis and the Prime Minister has gone there. He will tell about the situation on his return from there. After watching all the incidents, it seems that the whole disturbance has been caused by the bad governance of the Government. These ~~problem~~ have already been complicated. In stead of solving the problems you change your statement daily. There should be a importance of government statement. It is not a street gossip that any one can say anything. They have signed that they will forget article 370 but in spite of that they dare to speak

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

in this House on article 370. We are listening and watching every thing by sitting here that what is the situation. There are different types of people among their allies. These include Farookh Abdullah and some secular people. Ramjivan Babu is one of them. We staged struggle for secularism whole life but now he has aligned with them. He has joined in NOA. I think when the Minister of Home Affairs interacted with the allied parties; he was of the view this resolution passed by the assembly should be treated restructuring of state that if the proposal is unanimous. Now Jammu and Kashmir Assembly has passed this Resolution then why this is not treated as unanimous decision. Now why he is rejecting it. I would like to say that if such type of double standard and statement by the Minister of Home Affairs will continue, then the problem of this country will be resolved or get further complicated? When he is with his allies then his principle is to forget the article 370 and other disturbance causing programmes. But when he sits among the fanatic people of his own party then he reminded to the article 370. How can we desert it?

I would like to tell you regarding an incident. There is a village in my area known as a Deshri and a Ramlila had been staged there. The Ramlila is very popular among the people. The people watch it. That day the person playing the role of Hanuman fell sick and did not turn up. When the organisers of Ramlila found that he had not turned up and who would play the role of Hanumana that day. They thought what should be done then. There was a confectioner (halwai) known as Nathushah who prepared pakori, jalebis, sweets etc. He was a man of towering personality and very strong physique as he would eat by preparing himself. The organisers of Ramlila went to him and told him that our artist who used to play the role of Hanumana had fallen ill and they further requested him to play the role of Hanumana that day. He told them that he could not play the role of Hanumana. The organisers of Ramlila told him that he was not required to speak. When Ravana will ask him who is he bound to say that he is Rama devout Hanumana. On hearing that he gave his consent to play the role of Hanumana. Nathushah was made to play the role of Hanumana by adorning him with Hanumana like mouth and tail when Ravana asked him who was he, as per given the promotions he began to speak that he was a Rama devout, Hanumana and then started posing himself like Hanumana. The people thought that they would enjoy a lot in Ram Lila that day. Thereafter, Ravana told him, alright if he was Rama devout, Hanumana, he would settle accounts with him with that sword that day. He thought least the beheaded. He began to grumble that he was Nathushah but not that Hanumana. Here, right from the beginning the Hon'ble Minister for Home Affairs went on advocating to abolish Article 370 and he had

forgotten about it after signing in N.D.A. When he finds himself surrounded by any staunch fundamentalist, he poses like Nathushah and says that he is Nathushah but not that Hanumana. When he joins hands N.D.A., he says that he is a secular and he forgets all about the demolition of mosque, article 370 and common civil code. He has been running towards both sides like Nathushah. Nobody can even think to abolish article 370. If any major, thing happens today, the government will scatter. Whether the DMK people will agree to abolish article 370 and whether Ram Jivan Babu will also accept it. Would you agree to abolish this article from the constitution...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : You are still in slumber even after such a massive hailing ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The situation in J & K is very grim and several states are raising the issue of autonomy and Chief Ministers of several states have favoured the autonomy. We were listening to the speech of the senior most member hon'ble Shri Indrajit Gupta...*(Interruptions)*. To the best of his experience and knowledge he has rightly said as to what should be the definition of autonomy. Whether there should be some such actions under which powers can be raised? The people belonging to the times of 1953 want so because such kind of mention there. The people belonging to the times of 1953 look to be very unnatural they do not seem to be practical and befilling. But the centre will have to come forward grid up its loins in order to combat the terrorism in J & K and solve the problems of starvation and unemployment of the people because Pakistani military and its propaganda affects the people living over there on Pak-border. So, we can not tolerate anything which endangers the secularism. There should not be a such kind of thing may had Pakistan to make successful in her terrorist activities. This is true that a black chapter has added to the history of India due to having this Government in power and heads of communal forces have raised high. Therefore, wherever minorities are attacked, it is said that the Hindu have been killed. Whether the Hindu of Bihar were killed only, whether the Muslims were not killed who had gone there to earn their livelihood. Whether a pilgrim is killed or a common man, he is first of all, a citizen of India and it does not matter whether he is Hindu or Muslim...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (RATNAGIRI) : Amarnath pilgrims were killed. Will you deny this fact...*(Interruptions)* Whether you want to kill more people?...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Who is responsible for this massive killing.



SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : You are responsible who are appearing in the name of secularism ...*(Interruptions)* what are you talking about..*(Interruptions)* Today, we are paying one homage to the departing souls of those pilgrims who were killed...*(Interruptions)*. They are the enemies of the Hindus. Whether there is an offence to favour the Hindus in this country....*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Anant Gangaram Geete, donot disturb now.

*[Translation]*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : This is the biggest failure of our Minister for Home Affairs. The Minister for Home Affairs should resign thereon.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Whether there is an offence to call oneself Hindu?..*(Interruptions)* What kind of talks are being made here ...*(Interruptions)* Their politics becomes successful in scolding the Hindus....*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The government is responsible for this act...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Whether their politics works when they abuse the government, this is their politics ..*(Interruptions)*. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, What is the fault of sixty crores of Hindus residing in this country and what wrong they have done...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What are you doing?

*[English]*

Shri Anant Gangaram Geete, please resume your seat.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh's speech.

*(Interruptions)\**

*[Translation]*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : This would not be tolerated in this country...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We are here to regulate the House. If there is any matter which is unparliamentary or any other kind of matter, we shall control it, you can not do like that. You are the leader of your party.

*(Interruptions)*

\*Not recorded.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am on my legs. Shri Ramdas Athawale, what is it that you are doing now?

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am on my legs now. Let us conduct the proceedings of the House in an orderly manner.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please wind up now.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir we have to strengthen the internal security of this country. Today, we are to combat the external forces. This government is incompetent to combat that problem of terrorism from the internal forces and it is the one which is increasing the problems instead of reducing them. I feel that today our country is passing through the stage of danger.

With these words, I wish that the black chapter of the Indian History ends and India becomes a secular and strong country.

"Chalo basain Naya Nagar, Jahan oonch neach Ka Bhed No hove,

Amir-Garib ki khai na hove, chalo basain naya nagar Jahan no ho chhot-barai"

I wish that kind of India. I wish that India get free from this Government and for the people as Dr. Lohia said that a jinda nation dividing Kaum can not wait for five years. In between the even time, this kind of communal government should be sacked by making agitation against it...*(Interruptions)*.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (THANJAVUR) : Sir, what about the DMK Party?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You will get your chance. Please take your seat now.

\*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJIHARPUR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today this august House is discussing a very serious issue. This issue is a sensitive and serious one but the way in which Sh. Raghuvansh Prasad wanted to discuss it makes me remember one thing.

Same to all, a mirror does not make any difference between the right and the wrong! Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this august House is discussing the proposal for autonomy of Kashmir. Many Hon'ble Members participated in the discussion. I listened to them attentively. I found that most of the Hon'ble Members expressed their views on the problems and the reasons; problems are rather being avoided by not suggesting the solutions. I am pointing it out because this august House is discussing the proposal of autonomy passed by Jammu & Kashmir Assembly. This discussion was initiated by Shri Madhavrao Scindia. I thank him for this. The entire country had expected this House to come to some conclusion of this discussion. This issue provides opportunity to people to express their viewpoints, various things are being said through the media as well. This kind of a message is not good for the country. Therefore, being the apex body, the House can consider it.

The other day, Shri Chandra Shekhar was speaking about autonomy. I was quite attentive that day towards the pain, the pangs and dejection expressed by him. Whatever he and the other Hon'ble Members had said made me hopeless. We had expected from the leader of the stature of Shri Chandra Shekhar that he would suggest some effective solution. But he also shed his responsibility by shifting it to Hon'ble Home Minister and Hon'ble Prime Minister to let it be solved or unsolved. Raghuvansh Babu also spoke about it just a while back. He holds most of the secular certificates so we had expected that he would tell us as to what should be done under the present circumstances. But he chanted the Hanuman Chaleesa and went away.

The issue of autonomy of Jammu & Kashmir is a very serious matter. Once this issue has come up, the Govt. and the House will have to arrive at its conclusion so that the people should have a positive message. Today we are here in this august House and if no signal or conclusion is given, the system of democracy will be left incomplete.

Today, the country is passing through a transitional phase. Even if we have to let the image of ourselves and our party get spoilt, we should not care because the image of the country is more important and we do not have to let it spoil at any rate. We will have to rise above the vote

politics for this purpose. We can discuss this issue a lot but only after rising above the vote based politics. I have witnessed that the level of discussion is going down day by day. I think we should not hesitate in accepting the fact that ours is the vote based politics. While speaking on this issue, I want to say on behalf of my party that we should do whatever is good for the country even at the cost of votes or our image. If some hard decisions are required to be taken, they must be taken in the interest of the country.

All this I submit through you, Sir. Mere sentiments do not run the country. Though we respect and welcome the sentiments, it is not needed to take decision on their basis. This is rather spoiling the situation than improving it. An Hon'ble Member of the National Conference referred to the incident which took place yesterday and he talked about the History for which I thank him, as the way in which he presented this issue before the House deserves appreciation. 37 per cent Kashmir area is in possession of Pakistan and six per cent is in the possession of China. It is a serious matter. The incident is of yesterday only, depicting the demoniacal play of terrorism. A motion has been passed here to condemn it. All Hon'ble Members expressed grief over it. I want to remind Deputy Speaker, Sir, that in 1993 I used to sit there on the other side when an all-party Parliamentary Committee under your Chairmanship had gone to visit Charare-Sharif. I remember that incident of Charare Sharif. That time some two-three Hon'ble Members had the opportunity to speak in the House on that incident of fire at Charare Sharif and some terrorist activities that were there. Indrajit Babu who is a senior-most leader of this House is present here. I want just to remind about 1993. In that regard I had said in the House that if I went on to narrate the incident of Charare-Sharif, even the most hard-hearted would start crying. The situation in Kashmir was worse at that time or rather same as we were discussing about Amarnath yesterday. Today our Rawale Saheb became sentimental and started saying something. The issues of article 370, temple-mosque, common civil code are out of the NDA agenda, and the Hon'ble Prime Minister has already made the declaration in these regards so it is not proper to touch this matter ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : But we will present our viewpoint!

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Mohan Rawale, please do not disturb him now. Please take your seat.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I do not want to say anything in this regard. The States, and Kashmir should get whatever is due in the form of rights or even autonomy as per the constitutional provisions. There is nothing wrong in the States asking for autonomy under the constitution. But the constitution must always be kept in views.

So far as the issue of restoration of pre-1953 situation is concerned, I want to tell the Hon'ble Home Minister who is present here, that you have not closed the doors for talks by rejecting the proposal of autonomy. Yours and the Cabinet proposal is there. You have kept the doors open for talks. This is definitely a very good job done. I appreciate it, but do have a solution for this. You are the Home Minister of India.

I'll speak one final sentence to conclude that today there is a sense of insecurity among the people of Jammu and Kashmir. To end it you must take a concrete decision so that the people of Jammu and Kashmir do not become insecure. Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of India and we are proud to feel, as was said by the Hon'ble Member of National Conference, that it would always remain so. So Hon'ble Home Minister should take decisions about it in a serious manner to reach right conclusions in the right direction.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, Shri S.S. Palanimanickam will speak.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH (BIKRAMGANJ) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to say one thing. Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav just said that....(*Interruptions*)

(*English*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There is no time.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (THANJAVUR) : Thank you for giving me an opportunity to take part in the Discussion on State Autonomy Resolution passed by Jammu & Kashmir Assembly.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Palanimanickam says.

(*Interruptions*)\*

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : Sir, with the permission of the Chair, on behalf of my Party, DMK, I want to thank my friends from the Congress Party who have initiated this discussion, the Party which had prevented this discussion 26 years back in the same House.

As far as DMK Party is concerned, we have passed a similar Resolution in 1947 in the Tamil Nadu Assembly. It was moved by the then and now Chief Minister, Dr. Kalaingar. It was quoted by my respected brother, Shri Vaiko. But accidentally, he forget to mention the name of the Chief Minister who had introduced the Resolution at that time. I would like to quote the speech made by Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi on 16th April, 1974, while moving the resolution on 'State Autonomy'

"The imprisoned nation has become free. The door has opened. With a smile, the prisoner comes out of the iron cage. The tender tottering child eagerly leaps towards its father to embrace him after the languish of long separation. The father with boundless joy stretches out his hands to lift and kiss his child. Alas! The hands do not function! Why is this so? He has been released from the prison. What is the further obstacle? What is it that prevents him? He looks around in surprise. He has come out of the prison and he is free. Then, who prevents him from embracing the Child. Nobody prevents from him. When he was in prison, his hands and legs were fastened with chains. In his joy of release, he came out of the prison without removing those chains. No doubt he is free, but the chains that bind his limbs had not been removed. Man has become free. Then why should his hands and legs be kept bound? India has become free. Then why should its limbs, namely, the States, be kept bound by the chains of concentration of power in the Centre."

Today, some chains have been removed but not totally. We get some powers from the Centre. We got Inter-State Council. But how did we get it? Was it without debate or without discussion or without demanding it? It was not so. In the same House, our parliamentary leader—now the Minister of Commerce, hon. Shri Murali Manan—in his speech on 3rd December, 1968 had said:

"This Government follows the letter of the Constitution like Shylock followed the letter of the bond. We are yet to know why the Inter-State Council, as provided by article 263 of the Constitution, has not been set up. I want to know the reasons for the same. There is another proverb in my language that the unseen legs of a snake are visible only to another snake. Like that, the mind of the Congress Minister is better known to another Congress Minister.

\*Not recorded.

[Shri S.S. Palanimanickam]

I want to quote the words of an ex-Minister explaining why such a Council has not been set up. I am quoting from the speech delivered at the Harold Laski Institute of Political Science in Ahmedabad on October 20, 1967:

'Probably this is because there is a fear that, in an inter-State Council, the Governments of the Union and the States will have equal status and there will be no scope for Central dominations.'

These are the words of our ex-Minister, Shri K. Santhanam. I want to know whether this is the reason for not setting up the Council. That is why we urge for the appointment of high-powered Commission to examine the constitution vis-a-vis the relationship between the Centre and the States and suggest reallocation of powers facing the realities."

It was on 3rd December, 1968. But the Inter-State Council was formed only after 22 years, that is, on 18th May, 1990. Inter-State Council was a Constitutional provision. But it was not allowed to form by the Congress Government for more than 40 years. It could be formed only after 40 years, after the hectic and concerted efforts made States like Tamil Nadu and political parties like us.

Sir, I do not know why some of us are fearing about the discussion on autonomy. In a federal State like India, discussions and debates only strengthen the democracy. There is one proverb in Tamil, which says:

*"Neruppu yendru sonnala, uthadu purnahividathu"*

It means, by simply saying fire, it is not going to burn your lips. In the same way, autonomy does not mean disintegration in our democratic country.

Those who are seeking more autonomy are no less patriotic than those who are preventing State autonomy because that would lead to strong State and strong Centre.

I want to quote from the NDA Agenda :

"We shall appoint a Commission to review the Constitution of India not only in the light of experiences and developments since 1996 but indeed, of the entire post-Independence period, and to make suitable recommendations."

Now, the Government has constituted a Constitutional Review Committee. For that I want to thank the hon. Prime Minister.

In our party's election manifesto, we have emphasised the language policy. It says:

"The DMK spear-headed the movement to protect our mother tongue Tamil and to oppose the imposition of Hindi. In this struggle, it has incurred innumerable losses. That even today the people of Tamil Nadu entrusted this responsibility to the DMK is in accordance with the historical tradition of the party.

In the context of the promise given by Pandit Nehru, namely "English shall continue as the official language of the Centre as long as the non-Hindi speaking people desire and Hindi shall not be imposed on them", being continuously violated, the DMK is of the view that the only solution for the language issue is to make all the official languages of the States as the official languages of the Centre..."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : I will conclude within the time limit. Sir, Hanuman *bhakt* has got 15 minutes. Why do you not allow Kalaingar *bhakt* to speak for some more time?

Sir, in regard to federalism, our party's election manifesto says:

"The DMK welcomes that the manifesto of the NDA promises federal harmony ensuring partnership of the Centre and the States in order to strengthen the ties between the Centre and the States. At the same time, the DMK will continuously struggle for a wholesome and genuine federalism with autonomy for the States and for amendment to the Constitution suitable for this purpose, in order to protect the deeply-laid integration and unity of India, which is geographically stretched like a sub-continent, consisting of varied races and variegated languages, art and culture."

Sir, on 21st July, just ten days back, our hon. Chief Minister, Dr. Kalaingar, after meeting the hon. Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, had said:

"State Autonomy Resolution adopted by the Tamil Nadu Assembly in 1974 was based on the philosophy of giving autonomy to the States 'without prejudice to India's territorial integrity and sovereignty', and ensuring a federal set-up at the Centre. It was applicable not only to Tamil Nadu but to all the States".

Further, he said :

"Kashmir, nonetheless, had some 'special features,' again only within framework of India's sovereignty.' Efforts should be made to discuss all these issues in depth, and I hope that the present Government

at the Centre would take appropriate steps in this regard."

Our leader expressed hope in the present Government, because we had lost faith in the previous Governments.

This is what our stand is even now. On the basis of our Leader's statement, now we have started a discussion which is a step in the right direction. I hope that this discussion will lead to a fruitful outcome.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, Shri Jag Mohan.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : After his intervention, you will get a chance.

SHRI E. AHAMED (MANJERI) : What about us?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You will get. It is an intervention.

SHRI E. AHAMED : The small Parties have to express their opinions. We have absolutely no objection. We are prepared to sit here because every political Party has a policy about Jammu and Kashmir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : After the intervention of the Minister, you will get a chance.

SHRI E. AHAMED : They may be allowed to express their views.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : After his intervention, then you will get a chance. What do you mean by all political Parties?

SHRI E. AHAMED : It is our Constitutional rights. We have political rights to express our views...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ahamed, I am telling you that after the intervention of the Minister, you will get a chance. There are only two or three names. Why are you then interrupting?

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please co-operate.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : It is a very serious matter and the whole country is anxious on which serious

discussion is going on. It shall hardly matter if we get late for about half an hour or an hour in discussion. This question is related to nation's future.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Prakash Yashwant Ambedkar, please sit down.

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, you should help the smaller parties, we should be helped by you but you are not giving us time to speak.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I always give you time.

*[English]*

SHRI E. AHAMED (MAJERI) : Shri Jag Mohan was the Governor there. It will be best for him to just listen to the views of all Members. Then, if there is anything to correct, it could be done.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ahamed, he is intervening. The hon. Home Minister is there to give reply.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : I will be very very brief. I can assure you that I will be very, very brief...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : We are very keen on listening to Shri Jag Mohan. We would like him to speak to us in detail. He is an expert on the subject. I do not think we should be looking at the clock. We should be looking at the destiny of the nation. That means that we have to sit here till midnight. If it needs we have to sit here till 6 o' clock in the morning, we on our side, are ready to do so. Please do not gullotine this discussion. Please do not castrate it. Please allow Shri Jag Mohan all the time that he requires.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, let us hear Shri Jag Mohan.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Do not interrupt now.

SHRI JAG MOHAN : I will very brief because I only want to concretise the issue and place before the House some concrete facts which I think should be brought before this House in the context to the discussion that we are having today.

[Shri Jag Mohan]

General points have been made. The basic issue is we have to consider how certain provisions of the Indian Constitution were extended to Jammu and Kashmir; why were they extended; what was the justification of those extensions; what was the origin of those extensions. In 1952, there was an agreement. It was not a written agreement. There was a declaration made by the then Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in this House that this is what we have arrived at that Jammu and Kashmir State has become an integral part of the Indian Union. But a working relationship between the State and the Union has to be established. Certain points have to be clarified. So, both the leaders met. They came to broad conclusion and on the basis of the conclusion, a statement was made in Parliament and some statement was made by Sheikh Abdullah in the Constituent Assembly there or the State Assembly there. The point was that hereditary rulership would be abolished, this thing would be done, and that thing would be done. Along with that, there was a provision that certain provisions of the Indian Constitution would be extended to the State of Jammu and Kashmir subject to certain restrictions. What were those restrictions? Those restrictions would be extended only with the concurrence of the State Government.

Now after the hereditary rulership was abolished, you know some sort of a procrastination took place. Panditji himself was on record saying this. I will just quote a line from his observation made at that time. This is what he said.

"To me, it has become a major surprise that settlement arrived at between us—this is what he is writing to Sheikh Abdullah Sahab—should be bypassed or repudiated. This strikes at the very root of all confidence. My honour is bound with my words."

That is how, subsequently, these extensions were carried out because they were in the interest of the working relationship as well as in the interest of the common Kashmiris.

20.00 hrs.

What are those extensions? I have enumerated them and appended them to my book which has got 13 major items. What are those items? I say, what are the criteria? The criteria are—let me take one example—the Election Commission's Jurisdiction has been extended to the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The question to be asked is will the State of Jammu and Kashmir get better elections or worse elections if there is no jurisdiction of the Election Commission which is a constitutional body under our Constitution? It has got all the independence.

When the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court was extended the question that we should ask is whether the

Kashmiris would get better justice or worse justice if there is not jurisdiction of Supreme Court.

Then we say that the Comptroller and Auditor General's jurisdiction should be extended to Jammu and Kashmir. We have to ask ourselves whether the State will get a better accounting and financial system if there is no jurisdiction of the C & AG or not.

So, all these questions we have to ask and then evaluate whether those extensions were justified or not. I place before the House whether this type of extensions are justified or not.

Then the question is a working relationship. Working relationship means, now, the previous provision was that there would be a *Sadar-e-Riyasat* who would be elected by Class I citizens of the State. It was thought that it was anachronistic. It would not work when you have become a part of the Indian Union. Then there are certain consequences that follow. It was the State Assembly, the State Cabinet, which amended the Jammu and Kashmir Constitution and re-worded the Prime Ministership into Chief Ministership and the *Sadar-e-Riyasat* into Governorship.

Now, if you bring back the previous position now as it existed at that time then, *Sadar-e-Riyasat* or the so-called Head of the State will be elected by the State Assembly from Class I citizens. It has only to be recognised by President of India and tomorrow if that *Sadar-e-Riyasat* to you with regard to Defence, or if you require land for the settlement of cantonments, then what will you do? If there is a breakdown of the Constitution what will you do? You cannot remove him as you have no article 356. You cannot declare that it is a breakdown of the constitutional machinery. What machinery will you have to deal with it?

So, when article 356 was extended, that was a practical necessity and if you take it away then you have to ask yourself what would be our action if there is a breakdown of the constitutional machinery. The fundamental point you have also to consider is all these extensions were carried out by the concurrence of the competent authority as was provided in the Agreement, by the consent of the State Government, by the consent of the State Assembly. So, you cannot say that you cannot extend them. They were justified as well as justifiable on practical considerations.

Then in 1975 when the Accord was there, it was clearly mentioned therein that all those extensions which had been carried out without any change were unalterable. Sheikh Abdullah Sahib was a party to that Declaration, to that Agreement. Only those things could be reviewed or reconsidered which have been extended with some amendments or some things and in this connection they were requested to indicate what were their views, what they wanted to change, because the Government of India was

very clear that there was nothing required to be changed. But if you have, "kindly let us know".

From 1975 to 1983 Sheikh Sahib was in power. He did not send a single proposal to the Central Government that this was what he wanted to be changed, or which was the extension that should be reversed.

So, I myself, when I became a Member, put a question there whether a reference was ever received. The answer was 'No'. So, it was clear since those extensions were on merit. They were justified. The State Government found no reason, could not find any ground to justify and ask their abrogation or reversal.

Dr. Farooq Abdullah himself was in power for long time after 1983. He also could have come according to the 1975 Agreement. There was nothing that he came back for. The question which we have to ask is this. What for do you want this type of autonomy? Why are you asking for the extension of these things? If there is no financial integration and if there no financial arrangement, the question that you ask is: what will your finances be? All the Plan money, hundred per cent Plan money goes from the Centre to the State of Jammu and Kashmir and a substantial part of non-Plan money also goes there.

If you see the Bulletin of the Reserve Bank of India, you can see the *per capita* assistance which has been given to them. This is the highest in Jammu and Kashmir. Some hon. Members have mentioned about it. I will give you a small figure. The *per capita* assistance in 1994 was Rs. 3,000 for Jammu and Kashmir, as against Rs. 190 for Bihar, Rs. 305 for Tamil Nadu, Rs. 385 for Rajasthan and Rs. 341 for Uttar Pradesh. Now, this is the *per capita* assistance that has been given. There is no indication in the Report that if there is no financial integration between the Union and the State, how will you run the State? It is absolutely no answer...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Can I ask a question for information because it was raised by Shri Naik? Is the formula on the basis of which the monies are given to Jammu and Kashmir comparable with the formula of Grant - in - loan given to Himachal Pradesh?

SHRI JAG MOHAN : Yes. The point is the formula fixed earlier by the Planning Commission was that inaccessible areas, hilly areas, remote areas and desert areas get a particular consideration. In Jammu and Kashmir, it was said that this is a normal State. The large areas are absolutely normal. So, they were not getting it. But somewhere or other in 1990, this was also changed. Ninety per cent is now being given for the last ten years as Grant and ten per cent only as a loan. This is the greatest benefit which has been given. Practically, all money has been given to them...*(Interruptions)*. Even earlier also, this was the

same formula with other States...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, the issue is that this is the formula which we are talking for the last ten years. The question is that you are now getting it at present.

The other point which I wish to point out is about the autonomy that is being talked out. Just see the vast area which the State Government has still got which other States have not got. What are those areas? It has a substantial portion of the Concurrent List with it. The citizens of India are not *ipso facto* citizens of Jammu and Kashmir. The right of settlement is not there. The residuary powers are with the State Government. All those powers are with them. As far as articles 360, 365 and 352 is concerned, they have to application or there is only limited application in those States. So, this State had already enjoyed a very large area of autonomy. You have to again ask in what way these provisions which we have extended have affected the spiritual landscape, the culture and the linguistic nature of the State. In what way it has affected the personality or identity of the State, as we say in Kashmiri the *infradiat* or the *shakshiat* of the State? It has affected in no way. My point is that all these extensions you have to see in concrete terms and in practical terms. You will find that they are wholly justified and their retention is in the interests of the State and in the interests of the Kashmiri and the common Indians.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri E. Ahamed, you have been given three minutes by the hon. Speaker.

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, while participating in the discussion, at the outset, I express my anguish and anger at the wanton and dastardly killing of the innocent people yesterday and other days.

This dastardly act of terrorism, this barbarism is nothing but a challenge that this country has to face and every right-thinking person in this country and in other countries too, must condemn these brutal killings of innocent people. If these people have been doing these wanton killings in the name of religion, I would like to say that this is against the tenets of Islam. They are denigrating the great religion of Islam. I unequivocally say that religion of Islam is a peaceful religion. The very word 'Islam' means 'peace'. Therefore not only India or some other Non-Aligned countries, but even the Islamic world, the Organisation of Islamic Countries should condemn these wanton killings of innocent people. Whoever is responsible for the deaths that took place yesterday, should also be brought before the International Criminal Court of Justice. I hope, the Government of India will take all steps in this direction.

Kashmir has been acceded to India, whether it is through the Instrument of Accession or through merger. It is an undisputed fact. Integration is an accomplished fact. Kashmir is an integral and inalienable part of this country which cannot be reversed by any power in this world. All

[Shri E. Ahamed]

Indians, whatever be the differences of opinion on political and social spectrum, should stand united to defend the legal, constitutional and moral rights of the people of Kashmir who want to be integral part of this country.

Regarding the Resolution passed by the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, I should say that it was quite unrealistic. I do not know why the Resolution has mentioned about the conditions prevailing before 1953. 'Autonomy' is a word which cannot be rejected or denied. It is a constitutional word. But the nature of autonomy changes from time to time. What the word 'autonomy' meant in 1953 is not what one can mean in the circumstances in 1975, it does not have the same meaning in 1990, and it cannot be interpreted in the present context also. Any State can ask for autonomy within the parameters of the Constitution but it shall never create confusion in the minds of the people of this country and also it will not go against the best interests of the people of Kashmir.

Autonomy is a thing which we can very well discuss. I really appreciate the stand taken by the hon. Prime Minister and his Government in continuing the negotiations on the matter of autonomy. When the question of autonomy came and also some of the outfits like *Hizbul Mujahideen* agreed to go ahead with the cease-fire, there are elements which would like to scuttle the peace process. Whatever has happened yesterday and day before yesterday was only a conscious decision of these outfits who want to scuttle the peace process. I really appreciate the bold stand taken by the hon. Prime Minister under this great provocation that India will continue with the process of negotiations and the peace process.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI E. AHAMED : Yes, I am concluding, Sir.

I would like to say only one thing. The word autonomy cannot be denied like that. Our very Constitution also is based in federalism.

The autonomy of the States is quite different. There is economic autonomy; there is the State's autonomy and there is also the regional autonomy and there is also the J & K autonomy. As rightly pointed out by the hon. Minister Shri Jag Mohan, the J & K autonomy is on the basis of Article 370. Article 370 cannot be abrogated. Article 370 is the declaration of the Indian Parliament of its secular point of view and giving the autonomy and privileges to the State of Jammu and Kashmir...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, they have given a special status. Therefore J & K will definitely remain a part of India.

There is another point. The people of Kashmir feel that they have been alienated. Who is responsible for that? I hold the Central and the State Governments responsible

for the current state of affairs. We must also have a responsibility to make the ordinary people of Jammu and Kashmir to feel that they are an integral part of India. Their hopes and aspirations should be fulfilled.

Sir, we have the soil of Kashmir. We, of course, have the soil of Kashmir which is constitutionally, legally, morally and politically belongs to the Union of India. But we have only the soil. We must also have the soul of Kashmir.

I would say that we must also give due consideration to their demand for autonomy within the parameters of Indian Constitution.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar to speak now.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (ULUBERIA) : Sir, the Members from the small parties are waiting since morning. Please allow them...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We have been accommodating.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : If you are not to allow them, you could have told them in the morning that you would not allow them...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Hannan Mollah, yesterday and day before that, for three days, I have accommodated single-Party Members in all the three important debates. Please understand.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (BASIRHAT) : Sir, the smaller parties are never allotted time. Everyday they have been waiting. Yesterday they waited till 11 p.m. ....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA (ALIPURDUARS) : Sir, I belong the RSP. We have three Members. Yesterday also I was not given time...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Sir, he was not given chance yesterday also...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please cooperate with the Chair.

*[Translation]*

Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale was given a chance the day before and yesterday, Shri Ramdas Athawale also got it and Shri Mann also had it.

*(Interruptions)*



[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The single-Member Parties cannot get chance in each debate. That is not possible. Please cooperate. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar to speak now.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am sorry. I cannot allow. If there is time, I would have accommodated.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, as a special case hon. Speaker has given you permission for three minutes.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (MAYILADUTURAI) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir,...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt him now. I appeal to you. We will have to conclude the debate.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to begin by pleading that these small parties be given an opportunity to speak because if they are not, we may get a situation like the one in J & K in the rest of the country as well. I am following your instruction in rising here. But my sympathies are with them...(Interruptions)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Sir, this is an important discussion.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No please.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, we have to approach this matter without a sense of partisanship and with a sense of nationalism. But I am sure the hon. Minister of Home Affairs would have noted that as between the atmosphere in which we discussed this matter on the 26th of July and today, there is a change of mood. What is the reason for this? On that day there was a sense of hope that the dialogue was opening up and that we were on the path of peace. Today our minds are overwhelmed by the fact that 100 innocent people have died because that dialogue has begun.

I would request the Government to persist with dialogue. We will never be able to reach a conclusion unless we persist, unless we are firm in our mind that we will continue on the path of dialogue until it arrives at a conclusion. But, at the same time, it is essential to recognise that the moment you start a dialogue with those who are willing to talk to you, those who are not willing to talk to you are going to hijack the situation by resorting to violence.

It is absolutely essential that the Government must be extremely alert to this. I do not see that sense of

alertness. I think it is extremely distressing that the Home Minister of India should come to this House 24 hours after 25 people have been gunned down on their way to Amarnath and tell us that he does not know whether the Army was or was not deployed at the place where the incident took place.

Sir, we have been through an attempted dialogue with Pakistan which was sabotaged for exactly the same reason that the Government was not alert to the possibility that those Pakistanis who did not agree with the Government of Pakistans would attempt to subvert the process. What worries me deeply is this lack of attention to the security dimension at a time when the major political initiative is being undertaken. It worries me because the Prime Minister of India, when he was the Foreign Minister of India in 1979, undertook a visit to China without checking on what would be China's intentions vis-a-vis Vietnam. The result was that we were deeply embarrassed that while the Foreign Minister of India was in China, China invaded Vietnam. The Foreign Minister had to abort his visit and he returned to India. Then, the same gentleman..

SHRI VAIKO (SIVAKASI) : It was the Congress Government, which made a debacle of China Policy.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : The next time we saw that the Prime Minister of India embarked on a very welcome initiative, getting into the bus to go to Lahore, creating a completely new atmosphere. But as we have seen from the Subramaniam Committee Report, the information that was available about how the process would be sabotaged was not adequately taken into account by the Government and it led to a complete abortion of that peace process. In a similar way, I fear that unless the Home Minister is totally vigilant on the security front, what we are attempting to achieve will not be achieved.

Sir, the dialogue that is to take place in Kashmir must be a broad-spectrum dialogue. Obviously, it must include their NDA partner, the National Conference. It must also extend to other elements of public opinion in Kashmir. I welcome the fact that they are ready to talk to the *Hurriyat*. I welcome the fact they are ready to talk to the *Hizbul Mujahideen*. I would also welcome it if the Government be sensitive to the regional aspirations of different regions as also political parties which may not today enjoy a majority in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly but who still represent a significant element of public opinion.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Thank You.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, do you want me to conclude?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The time allotted is over.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Mr. Deputy-Speaker

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

Sir, I plead with you that we are not talking about a routine matter. It is not possible for me to sit down now. If you wish me to do so, I will just say that I have not completed what I had to say and I do not think that the interests of the nation are served.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Aiyar, I have no objection, but the trouble is that we have already taken so much of time and with a special concession, Shri E. Ahamed and yourself were given permission by the hon. Speaker. I cannot discriminate between Shri Ahamed and Shri Aiyar.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Thank you, Sir.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA) : I think he should be given a few more minutes...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : He is making very useful observation...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Aiyar, have you abruptly ended?

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have dealt with Shri E. Ahamed also like this.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : That is why, I said that I was in favour of Shri Ahamed being given all the time he needed. I think, it is very important that we listen to Shri Simranjit Singh Mann also. Therefore, please allow me to finish what I have to say and, if the Home Minister kindly agrees to, what others have to say.

I was saying that this need for vigilance is absolutely essential. We cannot have diplomacy as poetry or statesmanship as theatre. If they are going to hold such extremely sensitive talks, it is wrong to put up the temperature, to build up the hyperbole and give a sense of false optimism. When we started this debate on 26th July, I listened with the utmost attention to Shri Prakash Mani Tripathi, who was the first speaker on behalf of the BJP.

While I agreed with everything that he had to say, I was concerned about the self-congratulatory tone as to how they have succeeded in doing everything and how they have forced these people to come to the negotiating table. If responsible Treasury Bench Members start saying that these people have been forced to come to the negotiating table, they will be left with no alternative but to retreat from that table. There has to be a very high sense of responsibility which means an absence of theatre, a careful preparation of the ground, a raising of the guard. Leave alone not lowering the guard, you have to raise the guard, you have

to know that at the time when the negotiations start, there are a lot of people on the other side who will feel betrayed by their own kind. I think the best example of this is the PLO. In its negotiations with Israel, they knew that the minute they started the negotiations with the Israelis, the Hamas people and the other extremists would be gunning for Mr. Yasser Arafat. On the other side, Mr. Yitzhek Rabin also knew this. Nevertheless, he was assassinated. So you have to recognise that if you start a major peace initiative, the first impact is going to be a rise in tension, and you must guard against it. In this regard, I am afraid the hon. Home Minister, whose intentions are honourable, failed to take the action that was required to ensure that the nefarious practices of those who are not part of the dialogue are arrested. I hope that we will now see, the future, a greater degree of discretion, a greater sense of responsibility, and a much higher level of security.

At the same time, Sir, having said this to the Government of India, I also want to point out that the Government of India today has been formed as a result of the National Democratic Alliance expanding its membership and inducting into the Government a representative of the National Conference. Now this happened in October 1999. But the State Autonomy Report had been presented in April 1999. And the leaders, the BJP and the other members of the NDA, knew that this State Autonomy Report had been presented. They also knew, as Shri Naik has well reminded us here, that the 1996 election was fought by the National Conference on the platform of autonomy. And, therefore, when it was known that this is the attitude of the new member of the Council of Ministers of the National Democratic Alliance, namely the National Conference, surely then, when the temperature was not high was the time to establish how they were going to deal with this State Autonomy Report. They did not do so. We are now told by the Ministers of the National Conference Government in Jammu and Kashmir, and I entirely believe them, that they were repeatedly in correspondence with the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Government of India. Why is it that the Home Ministry should have been taken by surprise that when the issue came before the J & K Assembly, it would be an issue on which the National Conference would assert its point of view, which happily is not the point of view of the Government of India and is happily not the point of view of most Indians? Since it is so important that this issue should have been resolved before the National Agenda for Governance was set up, I am afraid the Government of India has to carry the can for the manner in which this has threatened the unity of India.

At the same time, Sir, when they opened their negotiations with the Hizbul Mujahideen, at that time, I understand from public statements made by National Conference Ministers, including a National Conference Minister who was with me on a television programme, that the Government of Jammu and Kashmir was not aware of

this, although perhaps one or the other Minister of the Government of J & K may have known that this will happen. If on the 19th of June, a decision taken in April, that this issue would be discussed suddenly became a matter of deep concern nation-wide, it was because in between there was this decision to open the negotiations with the Hizbul Mujahideen and a possibility that there would be negotiation also with other terrorist elements. Surely, a responsible Home Minister should have fully taken into his confidence the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir and made him, in some critical sense, an essential part of the dialogue with the Hurriyat, with the Hizbul Mujahideen, and with whoever else has to be talked to. This was not done. I think, this was a grave mistake.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, when the conversation took place between the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir and the Prime Minister of India as to how they were going to proceed in the House it is possible, because both of them are honourable men, there was a decision internally that it would be discussed but not pushed to a vote. Yet, why did the Prime Minister's Office, just for the sake of collecting *Kudos* from the next day's editorials, went and announce that this decision has been arrived at? It should have been left to Dr. Farooq Abdullah to say on the floor of the Assembly in Sringar that they would continue the discussion but would not come to a conclusion. I think this is where the National Conference did not understand the Parliamentary procedure.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, I plead with you that this is a matter more important than our having dinner at 9 o'clock. Let us just have a few more minutes.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : The Home Minister would also reply to the debate today.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : I want to listen him at length. I want to listen to him. What is the problem in that? This is a matter of great national importance. If we can continue the Railway Budget discussion till 6 o'clock in the morning, then, surely with regard to the integrity of India we can continue the discussion till 9 o'clock. Please allow me to finish my submission.

Sir, when they were then faced with the question of rejecting the Resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, or not accepting it as our friend Shri Rudy pointed out, at that time they should have known—what we have just witnessed in this House—that this is going to happen, namely, that another constituent of the National

Democratic Alliance, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam would get up and revive its 1974 demand. That tragedy has just taken place on the floor of this House....(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, you should not mislead the House. The DMK is still committed to the 1974 Resolution. There is nothing wrong in it...(Interruptions). What is wrong in it?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, I am not concerned with the merits.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : Do not use the word 'tragedy'.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : It is my view.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : It is not good.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : I have said it is my view.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : This is why all these things are created.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : The National Democratic Alliance is led in the Home Ministry by the lead Party of that Alliance, the BJP. The BJP have taken a correct stand, in my view, in rejecting the autonomy Resolution of the Jammu & Kashmir Assembly. Now, this issue which had laid dormant for the last 26 years has suddenly been agitated again, not by an Opposition Party but by a constituent member of the National Democratic Alliance. I would request the hon. Home Minister to be consistent with his stand with regard to Jammu and Kashmir by saying that this is not a matter that is going to be discussed again. It is because if this continues what we fear that...(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : Shri Aiyar, would you yield for a minute?

The Congress Party did not even discuss the State autonomy Resolution of the DMK in the Parliament. You were not prepared for that even. That was the attitude taken by you...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, they are only interrupting. What can I do?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You should not yield. You are giving them chance.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, I do not accept their views and I would continue as you have asked me to continue.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have asked you to conclude now.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, no.

Shri Jag Mohan, the former Governor of Jammu and Kashmir has given us a synoptic history of some of the key events in the evolution of the Centre-State relations with regard to Jammu and Kashmir. I am glad to receive that lesson because he is an expert on subject. But I think, he has addressed it to the wrong Party on the wrong occasion. This should have been taught to the National Conference at the time of admission of the National Conference into the National Democratic Alliance, and at the time when a Minister of the National Conference was inducted into the same Council of Ministers as the one which Shri Jag Mohan distinguishes himself.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Aiyar, conclude now.

Shri E. Ahamed spoke for five minutes . I did allow you to speak though I could have said no. You should not take advantage of my leniency.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : This is my last paragraph.

The Congress holds that all Constitutional and legal issues that were settled by the 1975 accord cannot be reopened. What can be discussed is failures in the implementation of the accord, if these were established. What can be discussed is a larger measure of autonomy within the framework of that accord. There needs to be a very detailed discussion about why Jammu and Kashmir Government has not held *Panchayat* elections although *Panchayat* elections were a part of their platform in 1996 when they won the elections on both the *Panchayat* platform as well as the autonomy platform. I think we need to take this matter out of the area of disputation and into the area of cooperation. I plead with the Home Minister to inform the Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs that we need to complement the dialogue which we are embarking upon with the entire Political spectrum in the State of Jammu and Kashmir with the resumption of the dialogue with Pakistan. The situation can only be resolved through discussion. It cannot be resolved by undertaking initiatives at the behest of foreign powers. This has to be a sincere effort done with conviction and not under compulsion.

[Translation]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (KOKRAJHAR) : We should also be given time to speak. The Chief Minister of Assam is talking about autonomy; we have objection on this.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Bwiswmuthiary, please resume your seat. You have all been called to speak over the last three days continuously. There is a limit to everything.

It is not possible for every single Member to speak in every debate. The Minister will speak now.

20.38 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

[Translation]

THE HOME MINISTER (SHRI L.K.ADVANI) : Hon. Speaker Sir, today is the second day of the discussion. Perhaps Mani Shankarji has rightly said that the day on which the discussion was started mood of the House was different. The difference came between today and that day, therefore there is some change. The difference also came in the speech of Shri Manishankarji, because he has put focus on the precautions taken by the Government on the declaration of *Hijbul Mujabeddin*. Those precautions were not taken care of. In a way he has alleged the Government. As far as the question of autonomy is concerned, it is clear that the entire House remain United on the resolution passed by the Jammu & Kashmir Assembly which was naturally to be rejected by the Government of India, and that was proper and necessary also.

I want to draw the attention to the fact that the autonomy committee formed by the legislative assembly, was not told how much autonomy should be provided to the state to put the administration on wheels and to solve its problems.

This assignments had not been given to them.

[English]

It was not an open mandate given to that Committee to ascertain as to what is the quantum of autonomy necessary for Jammu & Kashmir to be govern properly and solve the problems of the State.

[Translation]

I have the report of autonomy committee. There are three terms of reference in it and here it is the first of them:

[English]

To examine and recommend measures for restoration of autonomy to the State of Jammu and Kashmir consistent with the Instrument of Accession, the Constitution Application Order, 1950 and the Delhi Agreement of 1952.

[Translation]

Or the first one is important and the other two are secondary. They have been told to recommend that Jammu-Kashmir should go in the Pre 1953 situation and for that some thing is necessary to be done.

[English]

So that this is not mandate.

[Translation]

How much autonomy is needed for governing of Jammu and Kashmir and solving the problems of the people. The matter will be clear only after understanding the solution. This is not like that as the impression was of Shri Madhavraoji. Matter has been explained this much overtly or covertly:

[English]

"There is nothing covert about it. The very formation of the committee is for the purpose of recommending a pre-1953 position. That is the purpose."

[Translation]

They have recommended I am not going into details. Sum and substance is this what ever the Government of India has done for the constitutional system of Jammu & Kashmir, all of them are constitutional. All these works have been done between 1953 to 1975. All those are wrong. In this period Pandit Nehruji was the Prime Minister, later on Smt. Indira Gandhi and Shastriji was also the Prime Minister. I became surprised after reading the report in which it has been written:

[English]

Article 370 has been abused by the Government of India all along.

[Translation]

The purpose of article 370 was to provide autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir, that has been used to abolish the autonomy. Just now I have appealed Mr. Jag Mohan that it would be better to take some matter into focus. Indeed the Government of India had taken some steps then whether it was to abolish the autonomy? No If the authority of Jammu & Kashmir has been increased then whether the autonomy abolished due to this and naturally when Manishankarji has asked that what and how the Government has done. I can only say that what ever the proposal has come it had been submitted to court of Secretaries. If I want to talk in details at any stage then details must be there. During the informal discussion it seems that the proposal must be passed. Assembly would accept but nothing will happens like that. When they will do so they have mentioned a little here. Therefore, I do not want to make it the subject of debate because the Cabinet has taken a decision without doing late. I felt that there may be damage due to delay. Even, I fell in wonder by hearing some statements in which it has been said that the proposal has been passed and there is

a nexus between Vajpayeeji, Advaniji and Jag Mohanji. They did it jointly. Being a Home Minister, if I can say, I was asked in the Press Conference, the very day on which the resolution was passed and I said that I will not make any comment because the resolution has been passed today in the Legislative Assembly and it will be correct that others make comment not a Minister but the whole Cabinet makes a comment. Therefore, I will not do so. I think that there will be a meeting of the Cabinet just after return of the Prime Minister and we will express our feeling there. I have there precautions expressing our feelings. As Shrimati Krishnaji has said:-

[English]

"Though they have not accepted the Resolution, they have not slammed the door on a dialogue on issues arising out of it."

[Translation]

We could not do anything else in this regard. If there will be about the autonomy that this much autonomy is must then certainly we had to have discussions and we might think that how it has to be done. They say that there should be the position of pre 1953, then not even a single member has commented positively on this demand. No member of National Conference is sitting here. I will request them to think as to why this situation arose. The people of the country generally are in favour of giving more autonomy and they all said that this is wrong, this should not be done. Even the people of South are of the similar views. Not only this, even in Jammu and Kashmir as Shri Satyavrataji said Jammu and Laddakh are not in favour of autonomy. Then why are we saying so. Except this, the matter which has been said later and I became happy by hearing this, but those who are puristic regarding words. They did not like it. Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir said publicly:

[English]

"I regard autonomy and devolution of powers as two sides of the same coin."

[Translation]

It is the same thing. Keeping this in view, the Government of India decided.

[English]

"The Cabinet finds the Resolution passed by the State Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir endorsing the Report of the State Autonomy Committee unacceptable."

[Translation]

After this is in his opening speech, Shri Madhavrao

[Shri L.K. Advani]

Scindia quoted Shrimati Gandhi using that word. Most of the speakers said—

[English]

The clock can not be put back.

[Translation]

The Government of India said—

[English]

"The Cabinet feels that the acceptance of this Resolution would set the clock back and would reverse the natural process of harmonising the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir with the integrity of the nation."

[Translation]

There are two objectives. Perhaps we have forgotten all those objectives now but when I joined politics in 1950-51, one thing was considered important during those days that India has got freedom and the unity of India remains forever and it should not be endangered. I understand that when India got freedom in 1947 it was divided into several provinces. More than five hundred provinces were sovereign and they all got sovereignty. They were free to work. They had an option to become the part and parcel of either Pakistan or India or to remain independent. It was not only partition of the country but in a way the seed of disintegration was sown by this act we were lucky that we got an able far sighted leadership which enabled settle the disputes of five hundred provinces and integrate them with our country.

I was just going through the book of V.P. Menon. In this book he has been written that once Pandit Nehru had himself said; that he was amazed how these provinces had become the part and parcel of India. Pandit Nehru made a speech in 1948...*(Interruptions)*. I am quoting the words of Pandit Nehru, Sardar Patel was directly responsible but the way the Government had settled the issue of integration, was marvellous. I would not go in detail since there is a lot of controversy regarding Article 370. Dr. Mukherjee was the first person not to oppose in at that time. Congress party opposed it first of all by saying that it wanted something else but then that demand was conceded to. There are certain things, which become true. Today we accept certain decisions that have been taken under Article 370, which need to be revoked. Due to all these circumstances, it has been mentioned in the report that Article 370 has been misused. After considering all these facts I would say—

[English]

Integration of the whole country into one unit is a very important factor.

[Translation]

On the other day Devenderjee mentioned the name of Chandershekharji I was listening to him at that time. He was speaking with a heavy anguish that the way people talk of federalism he wondered what should be the circumstances. There might have been some clear indication. I could not understand what he wanted to say but the way he was speaking, it came to any memory that a debates was held on this issue in the then constituent Assembly.

[English]

India is a Union of States. It was to be amended, as India is a Federation of States. A formal amendment was moved and that amendment was rejected. Why was it rejected? It is not because Dr. Ambedkar felt that India is not a Federation, that India is unitary State.

[Translation]

Dr. Ambedkar replied.

[English]

Though India was to be a federation, he did not say that it was not to be a federation.

"The federation was not the result of an agreement of the States to join in a federation and that the federation not being the result of an agreement, no State has the right to secede from it. Federation is a union because it is indestructible. Though the country and the people may be divided into different States for convenience of administration, the country is one integral whole. Its people are single people, living under a single *imperium*, derived from a single source."

These are Dr. Ambedkar words.

"The Americans had to wage a civil war to establish that the States have no right of secession and that their federation was indestructible. The Drafting Committee thought that it was better to make it clear at the outset rather than to leave it to speculation or to disputes."

[Translation]

The constitution makers had a very clear vision. They wanted that the federation might show that there were separate provinces, which joined the Federation Voluntarily leaving behind their sovereignty. This country was one and shall remain one, they stressed upon it. I am mentioning all these things because several decisions have been taken by the Government of India during the period from 1953-1975. At that time congress party was in power and their

leaders were Pandit Nehru and Smt. Indira Gandhi. I would like to remind Farookh Sahib that when this government gave its opinion, they clearly explained that this matter was raised by Sheikh Sahib in 1975. Sheikh Sahib was imprisoned after 1953. He had every right to say that whatever decision was taken it was done so in his absence and he was not aware of that. He said that those who wanted to settle this issue might come forward with in the previous form.

He discussed this issue in detail and finally an agreement was reached in 1975. The main stress was laid in that agreement that status quo of before 1953 should be brought about and all constitutional amendments should be reverted back. But after the discussion, it was agreed upon that all amendments made in the constitution whether they were passed by the Parliament or President

[English]

they will remain unalterable. This is the word that has been used.

[Translation]

They will remain unaltered. After that consent the Government of India have received several proposals to reinforce the status quo of 1953 and neither the Government of India nor this country will accept it at any cost that the status quo of 1953 should be reinforced. The entire country has made it clear that it will not accept it at any cost. But after disapproving his demand I would like to make it clear that NDA has mentioned in its election manifesto that the state has by large become centralised. I was going through the Sarkaria Commission's report. In that report many good points have been noted about the frame work of India, which has come into existence due to certain reasons because only one party remained in power after independence and many issues were settled at party level and the relations of centre and state were not of that shape that were expected.

[English]

"Since for reasons explained elsewhere in this Report, there is a general tendency towards greater centralisation of powers. There is special need in a country like India for a conscious and purposive effort to counter it all the time. There is considerable truth in saying that undue centralisation leads to blood pressure, at the same time anaemia at the periphery. The inevitable result is morbidity and inefficiency. Indeed centralisation does not solve but aggravates the problems of the people."

[Translation]

I fully agree to this and with consensus the NDA has mentioned in it election manifesto.

[English]

"there is a clear case for devolution of more financial and administrative powers and functions to the States. Therefore, suitable steps will be taken to ensure harmonious Centre-State relations in the light of the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission."

[Translation]

The Government took the responsibility to implement the report of Sarkaria Commission on its shoulders. Hence disapproving the proposal of the assembly we stress that though we do not approve the proposal of the assembly yet if we wish to give any suggestion to rearrange the centre and state relations, you are welcome you please tell us that what should be rights of the states considering the special rights of J & K since the constituent assembly have accepted the special rights for that state. I have asked you to tell us whether you have any hesitation to accept them when they listened to us they told us that they had not accepted it. It is alright, but it would be appreciated if this matter is discussed further. So far as the question of Autonomy is concerned, the way the Government of India has handed this situation, it reflects the wishes of the country inter-alia demotes the unity and necessity of the country. Its last sentence is.

[English]

the Cabinet, therefore, decides not to accept the Resolution passed by the J & K State Assembly on the Report of the State Autonomy Committee. The Government is of the firm conviction that national integration and devolution of power must go together.

21.00 hrs.

[Translation]

Both the works should be carried on simultaneously. On the one hand there is a question of national integrity and on the other hand the state governments should be given more administrative and financial rights. This should be done simultaneously. I am fully convinced that the people of J & K and the leaders who are the integral part of NDA will accept this fact. Several questions have been asked from me....(Interruptions). You have interrupted number of people. This is not good. They have interrupted not once but several times which is not good.

Shri Manishankar asked some questions regarding the demands of Hizbul Mujahiddin. The very day they raised their demands, it is believed that the Government of India has such information that something may happen and these are the probabilities. We were not sure that this would happen since we thought that the war was going on in J & K for more than ten years and we were combating the terrorism at gun point. About three-four months ago, I had requested the Government of India to formulate the policy

[Shri L.K. Advani]

and told them that we considered three things, which were necessitated to combat the terrorism. The first point is that those people who are indulged in violence, kill the innocent people, derailed the trains by bombs explosion, they should be handed rigidly but those who have opted the terrorism whatever the reason may be, efforts should be made to bring them back into the normal life. If they are prepared to come on negotiation table on these grounds, we are ready to listen to their grievances.

Thirdly all rest of the steps will be taken in the direction of removing all discrepancies. If there is no economic development of the people, no employment available for them and no provision of shelter and fooding for them, we will not be able to withhold them. The third formula should be of economic development. While giving an example I had said that talks were going on with extremists in Nagaland and they are also going in the area of Bodos. We talked to those who had adopted the path of militancy. You will say that there was no outcome of all those talks. I agree to it. We hope for its outcome. Today, Manishankarji gave a good piece of advice.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : Government of India has done a good job by holding talks with militants we have welcomed this move.

[English]

I also do congratulate the Government of India for it and welcome it very heartily. I would like to know what sort of discussions is going on between the militants and the Government of India. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : This is not the time for that.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : What Power and functions are being entrusted to the concerned go-between persons? This is a very serious matter. Until and unless the Government of India resolves certain... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : People were very uncertain. You say neither any result of this is expected from Assam, where the ULFA is not ready for such talks and nor from Jammu & Kashmir where any of the militants outfits is not ready for talks. The militancy in Jammu and Kashmir is motivated by Pakistan. You have to go ahead by accepting and keeping this fact in mind as to who will come forward for holding talks with you? And, therefore, when we got a little bit of information, there was a possibility that the people belonging to Hizbul-Mujahiddin would hold talks. The members of Hizbul-Mujahiddin should have knowledge that the rest of active militant outfits such as Lasker-E-Toyaba, Harkat-Ul-Ansar or any other such groups have their base in Pakistan. There is mostly foreigners in their Compositions. They comprise of people from Pakistan, Afghanistan

and some other countries but the composition of Hizbul-Mujahiddin comprises of mostly Kashmiries. So when all got information about this we felt that it could a way out though there was doubt.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to inform this House that Dr. Farooq Abdullah was invited and all the facts were shared with him with regard to the base of our talks. He was asked about his reaction in this regard. He said that it was a matter of great pleasure and it would be a great step. This is after this entire dispute on the autonomy issue.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : But did you do it when the Huriyat started the conversation?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : In the case of Huriyat, without his consent and approval, they could not have been released because it was the State Government, which had arrested them, and not the Government of India. Therefore, I am giving all these facts. I would say to the National Conference Members here that we are talking to the people who have really been attacking the country through proxy war for all these years. How can we disregard you who have been steadfastly with us and the country and for all these years?

[Translation]

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SAHEEN : I was not allowed to speak earlier but after hearing your speech we had to say that we had not agreed to the views expressed by hon'ble members in this House. But the matter of happiness is that all the parties have realized our woes. When you are saying I want to submit that that thing has dating back to 1947. That is why we did not talk 15th Tribal Raiders and they were thrown out. We and our National Conference Party have indicated a way out for the position and situation of the state, which it is having today. You should consider it sympathetically and see that you will have to feel the need of it in the time to come.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Aiyarji, this is the fact in respect of questions asked by you that important steps have been taken in each and every matter and that have been taken by taking the Government of Jammu and Kashmir and the Chief Minister there of into Confidence. I would like to inform that due to the coordination between the state and centre during the last two to two and a half year, all the results have been satisfactory. This has been very good and satisfactory. In the middle of it there was a problem due to autonomy. I hope we will be able to find out the solution of that phenomenon.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, today, there have been talks with the representations of Hizbul Mujahiddin in Kashmir. Our Home Secretary went there and preliminary discussion took place between them and the topic of discussion too was that in what manner the ceasefire can be invoked. I will be able to provide you full information of this case only after the returning of Home Secretary. Broadly speaking, journalists



and media persons were present there and something will be there in the tomorrow Newspapers. A statement has been issued on behalf of Home Secretary. Shri Aiyer it has been stated on behalf of Shri Aiyer that whenever this type of situation arises, caution is required. Saying that it happened become. Vigil was not maintained, especially saying in contents of Lahore visit, off course from language point of view, it is good and with the critics point of view it is very much effective and satirical but

*[English]*

Theatre cannot be substitute for diplomacy.

*[Translation]*

Its good but in my opinion, whatever steps Prime Minister has taken and if that steps had not been taken after that steps been taken, whatever happened such as Kargil was and with that Kargil episode, whatever support India gained, one major contributing factor was that India's credential were established.

Because they can never forget that it is widely publicized in the whole world that it may be true that he wants to extend friendly ties with Pakistan but the remaining parties of India having key places in the Central Government, never wants to have friendly ties with Pakistan. People making this type of allegation are in large number. In any opinion, due to his Lahore visit and Indian Govt's initiative, this type of credentials has been established that we want peace. After that, someone stabbed in the back and became of that to say that vigil was not maintained is like that as Pandit Nehru established friendship with Chao N Lye and by that he made big blunder and could not maintain vigil.

Everybody knows these all things has taken place and what happened to us, world knows it. But due to that only reason to say that whatever he has done, presenting Panchsheel doctrine, were useless. I don't want to say all those things emanating from it but basically try to understand that whenever any major venture or major step is taken their lies danger. Even today also their is a danger. As what we did yesterday resulted in massacre, this is the danger. After that to say that we lowered the guard, I don't accept that we lowered the guard there is no lowering of guard. However, whatever you said I take them positively as it is necessary to be very careful. You have been with External Affairs department and that is why you are an experienced diplomat. We are newcomers and we will learn something from you and there is no problem in it. But overall I express my thanks to all the members and especially to Mr. Madhavraoji, who set the tone and after that S/Shri Indrajit Gupta, Somnathji, Sangmaji, Mani Shankar Aiyar and all the people who were extended their co-operation in this work and I believe that we all jointly resolve the problem of Jammu & Kashmir and this problem will definitely be solved.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, the 4th August, 2000 at 11 a.m.

21.11 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, August 4, 2000/Sravana 13, 1922 (Saka)*

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