

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fifth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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CONTENTS

(Thirteenth Series, Vol. XII, Fifth Session 2000/1922 (Saka)
No. 11, Monday, December 4, 2000/Agrahayana 13, 1922 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
REFERENCE BY SPEAKER	1
Obituary reference to passengers who lost their lives in Howrah Mail accident at Sarai Banjara, Punjab	
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS :	
*Starred Questions Nos. 201 to 203	2-35
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS :	
Starred Questions Nos. 204 to 220	35-57
Unstarred Questions Nos.2226 to 2455	58-306
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	306-308
MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA	309
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE	309
Twelfth Report	
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS	309
Statement	
STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE	310
Eleventh Report	
STATEMENT BY MINISTER	
Side Collision of Howrah-Amritsar Mail with Derailed Wagons of Foodgrain Special at Sarai Banjara, Punjab	311-314
Kumari Mamata Banerjee	311-313
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	323-332
(i) Need to provide more railway facilities to the people of Madhya Pradesh	
Shri Prahlad Singh Patel	323-324
(ii) Need to provide more railway facilities at Ranchi in Jharkhand	
Shri Ram Tahal Chaudhary	324
(iii) Need to provide stoppage of trains at Mandawali railway halt and also construct halts at Nand Nagri and Dharpura Ajitnagar in Delhi	
Shri Lal Bihari Tiwari	325

*The sign + marked above the name of a Member indicates that the question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(iv) Need to ensure that farmers of Gujarat get amount due to them under Crop Insurance Scheme Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varma	326-327
(v) Need to provide financial assistance to State Government of Karnataka for providing relief to the people affected by floods Shri G. Putta Swamy Gowda	327
(vi) Need for maintenance of Rymbai-Batau-Huroi-Borsara-Jalapur road at Indo-Bangladesh border by Border Road Organisation Shri P.R. Kyndiah	327-328
(vii) Need to review the decision to suspend registration and release of plantation subsidy to tea growers of Arunachal Pradesh Shri Rajkumar Wangcha	328
(viii) Need for early construction of Sethu Samudram Project in Tamil Nadu Shri P. Mohan	328-329
(ix) Need to sanction special funds to tackle acute drinking water problem in the Peddapalli Parliamentary Constituency, Andhra Pradesh Dr. (Shrimati) C. Suguna Kumari	329
(x) Need to provide natural gas to Makhanpur Industrial Area in Ferozabad Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh Shri Ramji Lal Suman	329-330
(xi) Need to supply electricity to Maharashtra from National Grid to mitigate the hardships being faced by farmers of the State Shri Suresh Ramrao Jadhav	330
(xii) Need to initiate time bound programme for eradication of leprosy from Orissa Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab	330-331
(xiii) Need for early implementation of Integrated Hogenzkkal Drinking Water Scheme in Dharampuri district in Tamil Nadu Shri P.D. Elangovan	331-332
(xiv) Need to lay broad gauge railway line between Jhargram and Purulia in West Bengal Shri Bir Singh Mahato	332

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, December 4, 2000/Agrahayana 13, 1922 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal) : Sir, we want to know what transpired in the Navy House premises...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Speaker. Sir, what happened to the resignation tendered by Minister of Railways?

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Bihar...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats, there is an observation by the Chair.

REFERENCE BY SPEAKER

Obituary reference to passengers who lost their lives in Howrah Mail Accident at Sarai Banjara, Punjab

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that in a tragic train accident in Sarai Banjara in Fatehgarh Sahib District of Punjab, 43 passengers are reported to have lost their lives and more than 140 persons injured. The mishap occurred when the Amritsar bound Howrah Mail collided with derailed bogies of Assam bound goods train at 5-45 a.m. on Saturday, the 2nd December 2000.

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

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

1102 hours

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pappu Yadav, please take your seat. I am on my legs. Please understand.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given it in writing...

MR. SPEAKER : I will give you an opportunity during zero hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You may speak during Zero-hour and not during question-hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is this?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (Murshidabad) : Sir, the Government should come out with a statement on this rail accident...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

1103 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Construction of By-pass/Expressway around Capital

+

*201. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK .

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state .

(a) whether in order to decongest the city, the Government have decided to construct a by-pass or an expressway around the capital;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to extend any assistance to the National Capital of Delhi for the purpose;

* Not recorded.

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the other steps taken by the Government to expand National Highways network around the capital?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) No such decision has been taken.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) Six laning of some stretches of the National Highways in Delhi has been taken up.

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Government of Japan, on a request made by the Government of India got a report prepared by its agency called International Cooperation so as to reduce the mounting pressure of traffic in Delhi and submitted it to the Ministry of Urban Development which states that the existing road network in Delhi will not be able to bear the burden of increasing traffic after next five years. The report further states that the road network in towns adjoining Delhi and NCR will not be able to bear the burden of road traffic in coming five years. Population of NCR during 2011 and 2021 will be increased in the ratio of 1.43 and 4.71 respectively whereas the economic growth will be 1.87 and 2.579. The road traffic will increase in the same ratio. Therefore, the existing National Highways and State Highways will not be able to bear the burden of increasing traffic. The report further estimated the daily traffic between Delhi and Ghaziabad as 85 thousand vehicles and between Ghaziabad and Modinagar as 21 thousand vehicles. If accident takes place somewhere on the route, then the traffic gets jammed for hours. Therefore, the report has recommended construction of two express ways, one from Kundli to Ghaziabad and second from Ghaziabad to Meerut to decongest the increasing traffic load in Delhi. I would like to ask hon. Minister whether the Government have sanctioned the proposal regarding construction of two express ways as recommended in the report submitted by Japanese International Cooperation Agency to the Central Government. If so, how much amount is likely to be spent on this project and by when the work will be completed?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Six National Highways from different directions touch Delhi. NH-1 crosses Delhi from Northernly direction, then National Highway No. 58, 24, 2, 8, and 10 in all six, pass through Delhi. The issue relating to congestion of traffic in Delhi has been considered from time to time.

Several suggestions have been received in this regard. One out of the suggestions received was to construct a separate highway outside Delhi towards West and construct two small roads towards easternly direction. As far as the question of Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is concerned, JICA is a government agency of Japan. The Planning Board of NCR was contacted in this regard and briefed about the scope of work. They have prepared their project report in this regard which pertains to the stretch of 80 kms. The work on the Project Report commenced on 1 Dec., 1998 and it was submitted to NCR's Planning Board in March, 2000 which is still under their consideration.

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask hon. Minister whether the Government would declare Ghaziabad, Mohannagar-Delhi stretch of Delhi to Nitipass Marg, a National Highway which connects Delhi with the Capital of Utranchal, and is not a National Highway. I would also like to know whether the Government have made a provision in Budget for the year 2000-2001 to make Delhi-Nitipass Road and Delhi Lucknow Road four lane like Delhi-Agra, Delhi-Jaipur, Delhi-Chandigarh and Delhi-Ambala.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI : Hon'ble Member has raised several question at a time. His main question relates to NH-58 which starts from Ghaziabad and leads to Badrinath and Maana. A small stretch of this Highway has not been declared as National Highway. This stretch leads to Mohannagar from Ghaziabad and touches NH-24 at Mohannagar on Delhi Border. The matter relating to declaring this stretch as National Highway will be considered and appropriate decision will be taken in this regard.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask hon. Minister whether the declaration made by the Prime Minister relates to any new National Express Highway or to make the existing National Highways six lane. It will not be much beneficial since colonies have come up on either sides of these roads. The question is that the Government of Delhi is not putting any pressure for construction of Express Highway. All of us know how Delhi Government is functioning? Keeping in view the serious problem of traffic congestion of Delhi roads, will hon'ble Prime Minister take steps for construction of Express highways. He has stated that so far no such proposal is under consideration. But, today Delhi is becoming a centre of traffic and pollution. Therefore, hon. Minister should come forward with a proposal to construct an Express Highway. As far as I remember, once Shri Sahib Singh Verma, the then Chief Minister of Delhi, even inaugurated Express Highway. I would like to know what happened to that plan.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make it clear that I did not mention in my reply that this was not under consideration.

[English]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : The reply to part (a) of the question says : "No such decision has been taken."
... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : What casual reply you are giving.

[English]

The Question was, whether the Union Government propose to extend any assistance to the National Capital Territory Region of Delhi for the purpose.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let the Minister complete his reply.

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI : Probably he will get my point if Pawanji let me to do so.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You can elicit by way of supplementary please.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : I have not got a supplementary. I am concerned about the approach of the Government. I am concerned about the way the Government approaches this issue.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI : I do not agree with this contention at all the reply given is absolutely appropriate. If he permits me, I will explain it to him.

[Translation]

The Question is whether the government has decided to reduce the traffic.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : First you have to reply to the supplementary question put by Shri Vijay Goel .

... (Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : This is a technical approach to the matter.

[Translation]

Home Minister is evading his reply.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the way to elicit information during question Hour.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI : Goelji has said that... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think the Minister is giving reply for the first time.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Tell us about the announcement of the Prime Minister.... (Interruptions)

Ask him to clear his doubt during supplementary... (Interruptions)

[English]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI : I will explain to you if you permit me.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir I have the reply for the question asked to me. I know that it is the first question and I will get an opportunity to give clarification, regarding the questions asked from me. I will give you clarification.

MR. SPEAKER : Firstly, you should reply what Shri Vijay Goelji has asked.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI : Vijay Goelji has said two things, one of which is that during my reply I have said that none is under consideration. I would like to clarify that I have only said that no decision has been taken and not that it is not under consideration (Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : In the written reply it has been mentioned that

[English]

no such decision has been taken.

MR. SPEAKER : Let the Minister complete.

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI : Regarding the question in regard to the Express Highway, I would like to say that the Prime Minister has made announcement of the schemes. One is golden quadrangle

express highway project from Delhi Mumbai-Chennai to Calcutta. Under the scheme it is proposed to convert the two lane roads on this route into four lane roads apart from their maintenance. All national highways while passing through a city remain national highway when they have by pass there and the roads in the city come under the purview of state. The proposed quadrangle will pass through Delhi. There is a proposal for converting the roads from four lane to six lane roads wherever there is scope to do so and presently the six lanes roads are being constructed in Delhi. Presently, all the 6 National Highways are being widened to increase their traffic utility. The length of National Highways in Delhi is 75 Kms. out of which 26 Kms. portion is covered by six lane roads and the remaining 49 Kms. portion is four lane. We are converting the 21 Kms. stretch of 4 lane road into six lane road. With limited resources, the Ministry has been entrusted the task of converting the two lane roads into four lane roads and four lane roads into six lane roads.

The Express Highway project is being looked after by N.C.R. As I had replied earlier also that our Ministry will contribute to the maximum after holding deliberations with them but the basic work of NCR has been given the responsibility of decongesting Delhi and construction of Express Highways. It includes roads outside Delhi which are 198 Kms. long and now their length has been increased to 508 Kms. Three states Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi are jointly working under NCR.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Sir, Delhi is going to be the most congested city in India. Furthermore, it has become the most polluted city in the world also. May I know from the Minister how many vehicles ply every day in this Capital Territory Region?... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is too much.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Furthermore, I would like to know whether the extension of road is in commensurate with the growing number of vehicles. What is the role of increase of vehicles in the city?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI : Sir, as the hon. Member wants to know, I will give the figures of Passenger Car Units (PCUs) that pass through per day on these six national highways. The number of passenger car units that pass through per day on National Highway No. 1, is 43,734; on National Highway No.2 is 93,086; on National Highway No.8 is 96,078; on National Highway No. 10 is 46,687; on National Highway No. 24 is 47,000; and on National Highway No. 58 is 48,000. These figures, as per the statistics, are of June, 1998.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Are the expenses incurred commensurate with the growing number of vehicles and what is the rate of increase of the vehicles?

MR. SPEAKER : Shri K. Yerrannaidu.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Not only in the National Capital of Delhi, but three or four National Highways are passing through all the State Capital Cities also. That is why, I want to know if there is any comprehensive plan, because all the big carrier vehicles are stopping during the day time. That is why there is a big problem. So, I am asking through you, if the Government have any perspective plan under consideration for the construction of by-passes and expressways around all the cities, not only in Delhi but also all the State Capitals.

MR. SPEAKER : This is about by-passes and express highways around the National Capital.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : But all the State Capitals also have the same problem. That is why, I am asking this question. Is the Government of India thinking of any perspective plan to construct express highways for the State Capitals?

MR. SPEAKER : That is a different supplementary. No.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI : Even then, I can inform the House that wherever under this Golden Quadrangle, or North-South, East-West Highway which is a very big massive plan of 13,300 km., wherever we are going through congested towns, we are wanting to make by-passes and our aim is, as far as possible, to give this on B-O-T concept, that is, build, operate and transfer, so that the Government also does not have to put in too much of money. We are aware of this and we are trying, as far as possible, to go outside the towns, take the help of the States, acquire the land and make by-passes.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring it to the notice of hon. Minister that the construction of bypass is very necessary as the population of the city is increasing at such a fast pace that it is becoming increasingly difficult to pass through the city. Hon. Minister might be aware about the congestion problem as he often visits Dehradun. It is essential that the area in the vicinity of bypass should be either declared no construction zone or only limited construction activity should be allowed to be carried out there. If it does not happen then, within a span of 15-20 years, the increasing population would create the need for constructing another bypass. Hence I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the policy of the Government in this regard and what steps the Government are contemplating to take in this regard?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to the hon. Member who has expressed his concern in this regard and I assume that it is very reasonable also. The problem is causing a lot of losses and it is true that a situation is likely to arise when we will have to construct new bypasses to reach old bypasses. Even now the encroachments around the bypasses are increasing. Recently, I was going on inspection I noticed that illegal construction was going on within 75 feet alongside the road in Muzzaffarpur bypass in brazen disregard to the rule that no construction shall be allowed to take place upto 100 feet on either side of the road but still it was taking place there.

MR. SPEAKER : Tell us something about 'No Construction Zone'.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am telling about that. Though there are laws to prevent the illegal construction on either side of the roads but these are not enforced by the State Government which is responsible for doing so. I agree with the concern expressed by the hon. Member and I would like to say that if the House intends to frame some strict rules and regulations to check the encroachment then my Ministry is ready to initiate such move to see that encroachment is checked and State Governments should take this responsibility seriously.

Sir, I talked to an engineer regarding the encroachment in Muzzaffarnagar. He told me that Administration does not extend its cooperation to us and the local people resort to manhandling and attacks. Hence the encroachments are not being checked effectively. I would like to suggest that a new stringent law can be framed to check the encroachments after holding discussion in the House.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in part (a) of the question it has been asked as to whether the Government have decided to construct a bypass or an express highway to reduce traffic congestion in the city. In reply the hon. Minister has said that

[English]

"No such decision has been taken."

[Translation]

I would like to know from the hon. Minister that whether it is not a fact that a decision for constructing an express highway to reduce the traffic congestion in Delhi was taken three or four years ago and it was also decided to acquire land for this purpose. If it is true and if it is also a fact that

a bypass will also be constructed, as has been told by the hon. Minister, then whether it will not render the bypass isolated? So in order to overcome this problem whether it will not be proper to make the bypass project a complementary or supplementary project of the express highway project so that Delhi gets maximum benefit i.e. the increasing traffic is checked. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the Union Government will take any decision in this regard after discussing the matter with the Delhi Government as the decision for acquiring the land for the said express highway has already been taken and all the maps have been drawn in this regard. So whether the Government have any scheme to make the bypass project as a complementary/supplementary scheme of the Express Highway project?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI : I would like to clarify that as for the construction of express highway is concerned, Delhi Government has formulated a scheme known as Western Express Way to link highway no. 1, 10, 8 and 2. The length of this proposed highway is 93 Kms. and it is only pre-feasibility study.

[English]

It is a pre-feasibility study which was completed in 1998.

[Translation]

The estimated cost of the project is Rs. two thousand and five hundred crores. The land area with 93 Kms. length and 100 metres width will have to be acquired for the same all around Delhi. The areas of Haryana, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh are involved in it. As you have told that the outline of the schemes has already been prepared and now seven elements instead of three have become involved in the alone project. Western Highway has three elements. After Kundli there is Ghaziabad-Noida and Faridabad so these are the three elements covering a length of 198 Kms. According to the original estimates, the cost of the project is Rs. 3,940 crores and an area having length of 198 Kms. and 100 metres breadth will have to be acquired. How will it be possible given the present land situation in Delhi. The newly drafted proposal envisages the construction of six express highways covering 500 Kms. with an estimated cost of Rs. 8060 crores. I would like to inform the House that though the schemes are being formulated, the problem of acquiring land involving all the three states, making arrangement of funds worth Rs. 8060 crores is yet to be resorted and it is being considered.

Rural Electrification during Ninth Plan

+

*202. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :
SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated to each State for rural electrification during the Ninth Plan period;

(b) the details of the rural electrification programmes completed during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the target fixed and achieved under this programme for each State during the Eighth and Ninth Plan;

(d) whether rural electrification in the country is far less than the target fixed in this regard;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) the total grant provided and concessional loan given to each State for the rural electrification under the Minimum Need Programme during each of the last three years;

(g) whether the Government propose to privatise rural electrification system in the country;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to streamline the working of rural electrification to cover all the remaining villages during the Ninth Plan period?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) to (i) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The details of financial assistance provided by Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) to the State Electricity Boards (SEBs)/State Power Departments for Rural Electrification programme during the first three years of the Ninth Plan are given in the enclosed Annexure-I.

(b) The details of achievement of village electrification and pumpset energisation during the last three years are given in the enclosed Annexure-II.

(c) State-wise details of targets and achievements of rural electrification during the Eighth Five Year Plan (1981 census) are given in the enclosed Annexure-III. The achievement during the first three years of the Ninth Plan is indicated in the enclosed Annexure-IV.

(d) and (e) 5,07,216 villages have been reported to be electrified by the end of September, 2000 as against 5,87,258 inhabited villages in the country as per 1991 census. However, the pace of village electrification has been slowing down over the last few years mainly due to weak financial condition of SEBs. Many of the villages that remain to be electrified are in remote and inaccessible areas. State Electricity Boards find it uneconomical to electrify these villages. In addition, paucity of concessional resources has also affected the village electrification programme.

(f) The financial assistance for Rural Electrification to the States under the Minimum Needs Programme disbursed as loan during the last three years is given in the enclosed Annexure-V.

(g) and (h) There is no proposal under the consideration of the Government to privatise rural electrification system in the country.

(i) Rural Electrification is the responsibility of State Electricity Boards/State Governments which own and operate the distribution system in the States. REC is one of the funding agencies for rural electrification programmes. From the current financial year, the funds under Rural Electrification Programme (MNP) are being released directly to the States as part of Normal Central Assistance instead of the earlier practice of routing through the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC). The steps taken to improve the position of electrification in villages include funding of programmes of village electrification and pumpset energisation by REC with support from the Government of India. In addition, REC is financing investments in the areas of System Improvement and Small Generation. State Electricity Boards are being assisted by the REC to look at the entire rural distribution system in a designated geographical area in an integrated manner so as to identify the existing inadequacies and draw up a plan for their removal in a time bound manner by realigning and strengthening the LT distribution network and installation of energy meters, wherever required. The Government has set up a Group of Ministers to review all the existing schemes relating to electrification of tribal villages, dalit Bastis and benefiting other weaker sections and suggest modifications for accelerating the pace of electrification. Besides, the GOM would also review the future role and manner of operation of REC and its funding.

Annexure-I

Financial assistance provided by REC during last three years

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	State	1999-2000 Disbursement	1998-99 Disbursement	1997-98 Disbursement
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	29435	24866	6094
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1481	662	1174
3.	Assam	296	82	0
4.	Bihar	0	0	147
5.	Goa	243	361	386
6.	Gujarat	36160	31296	3931
7.	Haryana	3420	2357	836
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2734	3041	2060
9.	J & K	1568	3178	2187
10.	Karnataka	25949	29486	8655
11.	Kerala	24026	13703	5200
12.	Madhya Pradesh	8508	13461	6826
13.	Maharashtra	39842	23991	26976

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Manipur	1761	1326	1359
15.	Meghalaya	0	0	0
16.	Mizoram	509	444	256
17.	Nagaland	1143	333	173
18.	Orissa	8610	8841	3612
19.	Punjab	33183	3614	3314
20.	Rajasthan	34636	22872	12009
21.	Sikkim	0	0	0
22.	Tamil Nadu	20727	16433	11476
23.	Tripura	1005	753	323
24.	U.P.	15106	13719	9011
25.	West Bengal	54	29	322
26.	Delhi	0	0	0
27.	NEEPCO	10000	0	0
	Sub-Total	300396	214848	106327
	Others*	4709	5412	3054
	Total	305105	220260	109381

(*) Grant for KJP & ECP.

Anexure-II

State-wise villages electrified and pumpsets energised during each of the last three years

Sl. No.	State	Village electrification during			Pumpset energisation during		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	0	0	3398	59997	34026
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	100	—	24	0	0	0
3.	Assam	20	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	5	8	43	932	813	1539
5.	Goa	0	0	0	391	136	68
6.	Gujarat	9	4	0	25931	26262	26665
7.	Haryana	0	0	0	943	835	783
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0	184	25	318	294	370
9.	J & K	14	0	0	533	0	0
10.	Karnataka	217	13	15	32685	59674	40139
11.	Kerala	0	0	0	14723	24050	20457

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12.	Madhya Pradesh	463	300	87	52699	45857	23235
13.	Maharashtra	0	0	0	59473	58810	65530
14.	Manipur	52	50	11	0	0	0
15.	Meghalaya	27	16	0	0	0	0
16.	Mizoram	12	3	4	0	0	0
17.	Nagaland	—	10	33	0	0	0
18.	Orissa	800	817	748	1903	1312	1167
19.	Punjab	0	0	0	8941	9810	10169
20.	Rajasthan	698	685	509	25306	25051	22942
21.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0
22.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	41920	34673	35386
23.	Tripura	15	3	4	0	121	0
24.	U.P.	851	711	476	11645	16113	11403
25.	West Bengal	48	83	113	1610	2855	2053
	U.Ts.	0	0	0	713	581	442
	All India	3270	2873	2092	284064	367244	296374

Source : Based on CEA data.

Annexure-III

State-wise target and achievement of Village Electrification and pumpset energisation during Eighth Plan period (1992-93 to 1996-97)

Sl. No.	States	Village Electrification		Pumpset Energisation	
		Target	Achvt.	Targ.	Achvt.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	—	240500	547319
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	690	756	0	0
3.	Assam	1405	553	—	0
4.	Bihar	1540	592	8755	10837
5.	Goa	—	—	—	1746
6.	Gujarat	—	—	99950	105070
7.	Haryana	—	—	51500	26300
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	550	1130
9.	J & K	115	131	750	2424
10.	Karnataka	—	—	170000	232541
11.	Kerala	—	—	37300	71408

1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1970	3278	102300	222615
13.	Maharashtra	—	—	241500	388557
14.	Manipur	544	519	0	0
15.	Meghalaya	321	152	0	0
16.	Mizoram	210	219	0	0
17.	Nagaland	—	—	65	4
18.	Orissa	1785	2126	17800	11975
19.	Punjab	—	—	47000	104758
20.	Rajasthan	3090	3503	111450	124877
21.	Sikkim	—	—	0	0
22.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	167400	207574
23.	Tripura	660	672	360	256
24.	U.P.	3210	4752	82858	101485
25.	West Bengal	2132	1251	17290	10379
	Total (States)	17672	18504	1397328	2171255
	Union Territories	—	—	—	2979
	Total (All India)	17672	18504	1397328	2174234

Source : Based on CEA data.

Annexure-IV

Target and achievement of village electrification and pumpset energisation during the first three years of Ninth Plan (1997-98 to 1999-2000)

Sl. No.	States	Village Electrification		Pumpset Energisation	
		Target	Achvt.	Target	Achvt.
1.	Andhra Pradesh		0		97421
2.	Arunachal Pradesh		110		0
3.	Assam	Not	20	Not	0
4.	Bihar		56		3284
5.	Goa		0		595
6.	Gujarat		13		78858
7.	Haryana	Finalised	0	Finalised	2561
8.	Himachal Pradesh		209		982
9.	J & K		14		533
10.	Karnataka		245		132498
11.	Kerala	By	0	By	59230
12.	Madhya Pradesh		850		121791
13.	Maharashtra		0		183813
14.	Manipur		113		0
15.	Meghalaya	Planning	43	Planning	0
16.	Mizoram		19		0
17.	Nagaland		3		0
18.	Orissa		2365		4382
19.	Punjab	Commission	0	Commission	28920
20.	Rajasthan		1892		73299
21.	Sikkim		0		0
22.	Tamil Nadu		0		111979
23.	Tripura		22		121
24.	U.P.		2038		39161
25.	West Bengal		244		6518
	Union Territories		0		1736
	All India		8235		947682

Source : Based on CEA data.

Annexure-V

State-wise loans disbursed by REC under minimum needs programme for rural electrification during each of the last three years

Sl.No.	States	(Rs. in lakh)		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1.	Andhra Pradesh			
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	511	277	
3.	Assam		82	296
4.	Bihar	147		
5.	Goa			
6.	Gujarat			
7.	Haryana			
8.	Himachal Pradesh			
9.	J & K			
10.	Karnataka			
11.	Kerala			
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1422	2326	1226
13.	Maharashtra			
14.	Manipur	853	805	107
15.	Meghalaya			
16.	Mizoram	150	444	307
17.	Nagaland		164	678
18.	Orissa	854	2716	2065
19.	Punjab			
20.	Rajasthan	3500	6317	2413
21.	Sikkim			
22.	Tamil Nadu			
23.	Tripura	300	625	396
24.	U.P.	3068	8996	2831
25.	West Bengal			
	Total	10805	22752	10319

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have asked the question regarding the state and pace of rural electrification programme. But firstly, I would like to say that it has not been made clear whether the figures quoted in the reply are in lakhs or in thousands. This information is given the English version of the reply, but it is not mentioned in the Hindi version of reply. I insist that the figures must be made clear even in Hindi version. We all are aware how much electricity is essential for the development of the country. But electricity has not reached villages even after 52 years of independence. Agriculture, industry and the education depend on electricity. It is also the very basis of rural development. Despite it, the target fixed in regard to rural electrification has not been achieved so far. The reply is inadequate in this regard. Figures have been given in respect of every state but the target has not been shown. Reply given in respect of Bihar says that no funds were given to Bihar for the year 1998-99 and 1999-2000. I would like to know the reasons therefore? I would also like to know as to what action Government are contemplating to take against those officers who have failed to achieve their targets and what steps the Government propose to take to accelerate the pace of rural electrification?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Firstly, I would like to clarify the query of hon. Member as to whether the figures are in lakhs or in thousands. The whole information has been provided on this issue. The figures in Annexure-I are in lakhs.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : I wanted to say that these figures are given in English and not in Hindi.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : I am telling that I beg your pardon if the figures are not clear in Hindi. But I have the figures in absolute term indicating the number of villages electrified so far out of the targeted number. The figures indicate number of villages. It is a fact that we were fairly successful in achieving our target of rural electrification during the sixth and seventh Five Year Plans. During the Sixth Five Year Plan, the electrification of 24107 villages was done every year. The corresponding figure for the Seventh Five Year Plan was 20,101. However, during the Eighth Five Year Plan the figures reduced so dramatically that only 3700 villages could be covered under electrification project. Under the Ninth Five Year Plan, the figure has further reduced to 2740 villages. It is a cause of deep concern and I would like the Government to take concrete measures, to improve the falling performance in this sector. Though you have raised many questions but I am trying to reply only those questions which I have been able to comprehend. You have asked about the position of Bihar regarding rural electrification. I would like to tell

you that it will take more than 800 years to provide electricity to all the villages in Bihar if the present pace continues. It is a cause of concern for us, hence I would suggest that concrete steps should be taken to meet this challenge.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

..(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You sit down, please.

..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is not the 'Zero Hour' but 'Question Hour'. You sit down please.

..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : First you, sit down please. Do not speak.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : It is actual position and we will have to accept it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, please address the Chair, not the Member.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Hon. Member has asked as to what legal action Government propose to take against those who have not been able to achieve their targets. The primary responsibility for rural electrification rests with State Government which they are supposed to perform through their Electricity Boards. Hence any legal action against the erring electricity board is also the liability of the State Government. Central Government is not in a position to do anything in this regard.

The hon. Member has also asked in this supplementary as to what steps the Government propose to take to improve the situation regarding rural electrification....(Interruptions) Please listen. The Government are going to formulate a scheme seeking to fully electrify all the 80,042 villages which have not been electrified so far within a period of next seven years. I have given my orders for the same. As per this order the Government propose to electrify all the villages in each state during the next seven years....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to the census of 1991 a target was set to electrify 5,87,258 villages but according to the figures shown only 5,07,216 villages have been electrified so far. Hon. Members have complaints about the figures. As per my knowledge also the data provided particularly by the department of electricity is often wrong. I think that only 25 percent data is correct out of these and rest of them are mere paper work and I can say this with authority. In some villages only poles are installed without having any wiring network and it is said that such and such villages have been electrified and bills are sent to the people of those villages. We have struggled a lot against this. Let an enquiry be conducted through the public representatives or through some other agencies and action should be taken against the officers of the concerned state who are found guilty for giving wrong figures. You have told about the losses, it is of course correct that there would be some problem in further electrification due to lack of funds, at certain times there is paucity of funds.

MR. SPEAKER : What is your question?

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : That's what I am asking. As long as I will not tell the truth to the Hon. Minister how he will come to know about the real facts. If you don't have funds okay you charge money from the people who are provided electricity. Data provided by you is incorrect. Please get it enquired. Now, since the Jharkhand region has become a separate state a great injustice has been done to the state in the matter of electricity.

MR. SPEAKER : You please ask the question this is not the way.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Whether the hon. Minister will consider to offer any package to the Jharkhand state separately? By when those villages are likely to be electrified where only poles have been installed and whether you have any scheme to provide separate funds for electrification of the rural areas of this state?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, the hon. Member is also disputing with the figures given. Please keep this also in mind. He is disputing with whatever reply you have given.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : I am telling you according to the statement laid on the Table of the House by us that there are 67513 villages in Bihar. Out of these 47845 villages have been electrified as on 21.2.1999. ..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You please take your seat, this is not zero hour.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : I am telling you according to the data provided by the Government of Bihar. Remaining 19668 villages are yet to be electrified. ...(Interruptions) therefore the situation of Bihar is grave. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

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

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Hon. Member has asked whether any package is being provided for Jharkhand, in that regard I would like to say....

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister why are you replying so loudly, please speak a little mildly.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Even I am not feeling comfortable but the noise around is very loud. The Chief Minister of the State of Jharkhand had met me previously. He had requested to draft a special plan for Jharkhand for the near future. Jharkhand and Bihar have become two separate states, but the division of these two states is yet to come. At the time of bifurcation Jharkhand will be transferred limited assets and liabilities. The Union Government is committed to provide all the assistance needed by the state of Jharkhand at that time.

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has admitted in his reply that the pace of village electrification has been slowing down over the last few year, mainly due to weak financial condition. But, at the same time, he is also admitting that R.E.C. is one of the funding agencies for rural electrification. I am from a rural constituency of North Gujarat and am very much concerned about the rural electrification.

In the last paragraph of his reply the hon. Minister has referred to a Committee of Group of Ministers to review all the existing schemes relating to electrification of tribal villages, *dalit bastis* and other weaker sections of the society. Whenever an announcement is made by this Government, whether orally or in writing, they do refer to 'tribe' and 'dalit'. But my experience is that nothing is done as far as the tribals and dalits are concerned in this country.

* Not recorded.

I am from the State of Gujarat in which the population of Scheduled Tribes is 15 percent and that of Scheduled Castes is 8 per cent. I come from a village in my constituency in Gujarat where there is no electricity. I refer to Annexures III, IV and V of the written reply where the Minister has given no information as far as Gujarat is concerned.

I want to know from the Minister as to who are the members of this Group of Ministers; when will they complete their review; when would all the 18,000 villages in Gujarat—I come from Gujarat so I question for Gujarat—be electrified; and why information is not given in Annexures III, IV and V as far as Gujarat is concerned.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Sir, Gujarat is a 100 per cent electrified State. All the villages in Gujarat have been electrified.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Sir, I can give the names of villages in Gujarat which have not been electrified so far. I have given money from my MPLADS Fund for electrification of villages.

MR. SPEAKER : You asked a supplementary and you are not hearing the Minister. What is this?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Sir, let me explain. You do not want me to shout and they do not allow me to speak! What should I do, Sir?

It is true that as per 1991 census all villages in Gujarat are electrified. But let me tell you what the problem is. As per the definition of electrification prevalent five years ago, if any part of a revenue village had any existence of electricity, it was considered as fully electrified. It was a very misleading definition because it really meant that one transmission line passing through a village made it an electrified village. That is a ridiculous definition. Therefore, five years ago a new definition had been devised which says that if a village has to be considered as fully-electrified, there must be at least one connection in some inhabited parts of the village. This also does not mean, when we talk about a fully electrified village, that all households of the village are electrified. Let me give you another suggestion. Only 30 per cent of the households in rural areas are electrified and seventy per cent of the households are still not electrified. Therefore, this definition of electrification too means that there is only probably a small presence of some electricity in the village. It does not necessarily mean that all the households in the village are electrified. In fact, 70 per cent of the households are yet to be electrified in the rural areas.

My friend wanted to know as to how much amount has been disbursed to Gujarat. An amount of Rs. 703.87 crore has been disbursed to Gujarat last year for the purpose of rural electrification.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Sir, my main question remains unanswered. Who are the members of the Group of Ministers and when will their review be over?

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machhlisahar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to ask hon. Minister that some years back each Member of Parliament from Uttar Pradesh were used to be allotted 25 villages for electrification but now the present Government have stopped giving assistance to them. If the Government of India is providing assistance then whether the Members of Parliament would again be allotted 25 villages as earlier because electrification is a problem. I would like to ask the hon. Minister about the manner in which these MPs should get the electrification work done.

My second question is whether hon. Minister is considering to conduct an enquiry into the matter pertaining to those villages which are shown in the papers as electrified and people have applied for it and they are receiving bills also but no electrification has been done actually, and the time by which Member of Parliament will adopt villages for electrification? I would also like to know whether the Members are being provided funds area wise and the number of villages electrified in their constituencies till date along with the number of the villages which are yet to be electrified, whether we are going to get this information or not?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rs. 378.36 crore were provided to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for electrification last year. This does not mean, that the electrification work has been completed in all the villages in Uttar Pradesh. I wanted to tell this before that still there are 80042 villages and 4 lakh settlements which have not yet been electrified. Therefore, the orders have been issued to ascertain as to how many settlements statewide are there in the country which are yet to be electrified. This problem can not be resolved by token electrification. We must endeavour that maximum number of households should get electricity. The target which we had set for this is not sufficient... (Interruptions) I am not aware of any scheme of the U.P. Government as mentioned by the Hon. Member that 25 villages should be allotted to each Members of Parliament. If you will give any such suggestion then we will definitely ponder over it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Q. No. 203—Shri P.D. Elangovan.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand the time constraint also.

...(Interruptions)

1142 hrs.

At this stage, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale, you also go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please go to your seats. We have to take up other Questions also. I have already called for the next Question. Please go to your seats now.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : For Half an Hour discussion can be done on this question.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : If you want, you can ask for Half-an-Hour discussion on this Question. Now, please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have to keep in mind time constraint also. The 'Question Hour' is for one hour. We have to take up other Questions also. Please understand.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is this?.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : If you agree, then we can have Half-an-Hour discussion.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, do you agree to have Half-an-Hour discussion on it?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Sir, I would not mind even for One Hour discussion.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, he has agreed for Half-an-Hour discussion on this Question. Please go to your seats now.

...(Interruptions)

1144 hrs.

At this stage, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, I will take action against you. This is too much.

[Translation]

There is no such procedure, how many times you will say this. Everyday you disturb like this.

[English]

There are other Members also who want to ask Questions. You are not the only Member in the House to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand. He has agreed for a Half-an-Hour Discussion.

[Translation]

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I walk out of House in protest.

* Not recorded.

1145 hrs.

Statement

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale and some other hon. Members then left the House.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have already allowed a Half-an-Hour Discussion. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Sir, when will we have the Half-an-Hour Discussion on the issue of Bihar?

MR. SPEAKER : The discussion will take place.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Sir, when will you allow the time for this?...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Not they, I will allow the time. You please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are not aware of the procedure of the House. Please take your seat.

[English]

Agricultural Production

*203. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have given any specific attention to increase the agricultural production and also to restore, stabilize the cotton production and supply in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total agricultural production including cotton during each of the last three years, State-wise, and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the farming techniques and methods to augment agricultural production including cotton in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) and (b) The Government has given high priority to the development of agriculture as envisaged in the National Agriculture Policy. In order to provide specific attention, on-going 27 Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Agriculture Development have been formulated as one scheme under Macro-Management mode to give freedom and flexibility to State Governments to undertake program's as per their requirements.

For cotton development, a Technology Mission on Cotton has been launched from January, 2000 to integrate research, production, marketing and processing to benefit both farmers and textile industries. Similarly for increasing the production of oilseeds and pulses, a Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses is in operation. Under these schemes, financial assistance is provided for production and distribution of seeds, seeds minikits, distribution of Rhyzobium culture, improved farm implements and sprinkler sets etc. Besides these, front line & field demonstrations are also organised on farmers fields for transfer of improved production technologies.

(c) The production of major crops like foodgrains, Oilseeds, Cotton and Sugarcane during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 in important states is enclosed in Annexure-I, II, III and IV, respectively.

(d) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is doing research on various areas related to agriculture production including cotton in collaboration with State Agricultural Universities. Besides, research by institutes of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, the Council is also assisting research system through "All-India Crop Improvement Project" on various crops. Research is also being conducted for developing/improving farming techniques to augment production. These include development of varieties/hybrids with higher yields having resistance to disease, pests and moisture stress; resource management for cost effective production; integrated nutrient, pest and water management, technology evaluation and refinement, and by-product utilisation etc.

For dissemination of improved farming techniques, the National Extension System is assisting States under various programmes/schemes to impart training to field level agriculture functionaries and farmers. The improved production technologies are being demonstrated under demonstration programme including frontline demonstration through Indian Council of Agricultural Research under various Central/Centrally sponsored Schemes including for cotton.

Annexure-I**Production of Foodgrains during 1996-97 to 1998-99 in major States**

(Production in '000 tonnes)

State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Andhra Pradesh	13675.20	10822.30	14395.30
Assam	3532.10	3577.60	3434.00
Bihar	14417.60	14093.20	12908.80
Gujarat	5208.60	5709.70	5566.70
Haryana	11448.00	11347.70	12123.20
Karnataka	9212.80	8046.80	9976.60
Madhya Pradesh	19487.80	17361.90	19798.40
Maharashtra	14602.40	9664.00	12752.80
Orissa	4831.40	6637.80	5806.50
Punjab	21553.30	21143.20	22906.70
Rajasthan	12821.30	14048.90	12933.70
Tamil Nadu	6930.00	8103.80	10140.50
Uttar Pradesh	42385.10	41589.20	40145.40
West Bengal	13756.30	14353.20	14367.20
All India	199435.70	192258.70	203042.90

Annexure-II**Production of Oilseeds during 1996-97 to 1998-99 in major States**

(Production in '000 tonnes)

State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Andhra Pradesh	2396.20	1424.10	2264.50
Assam	159.80	173.90	154.80
Bihar	150.60	166.50	157.10
Gujarat	3809.00	3834.00	3883.20
Haryana	1004.80	423.20	714.30
Karnataka	1756.40	1198.60	1813.60
Madhya Pradesh	5093.90	5687.80	5615.20
Maharashtra	2395.90	1682.40	2650.50
Orissa	167.40	191.20	176.60
Punjab	284.00	218.60	210.50
Rajasthan	3529.50	3299.90	3813.40
Tamil Nadu	1514.50	1476.70	2081.70
Uttar Pradesh	1538.80	1006.40	1135.90
West Bengal	429.60	387.70	381.90
All India	24384.50	21324.70	25210.30

Annexure-III**Production of Cotton during 1996-97 to 1998-99 in major States**

(Production in '000 bales)

State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Andhra Pradesh	1878.40	1320.40	1486.60
Gujarat	2657.70	3180.00	3935.00
Haryana	1507.00	1129.00	873.00
Karnataka	932.00	721.00	855.00
Madhya Pradesh	424.20	508.90	426.30
Maharashtra	3143.30	1753.10	2618.90
Orissa	30.20	36.00	50.00
Punjab	1925.00	937.00	595.00
Rajasthan	1363.30	867.50	872.00
Tamil Nadu	329.90	358.00	429.50
Uttar Pradesh	7.30	8.30	5.80
All India	14231.30	10851.40	12177.50

Annexure-IV**Production of Sugar Cane during 1996-97 to 1998-99 in major States**

(Production in '000 tonnes)

State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Andhra Pradesh	15030.00	13955.00	16684.60
Assam	1490.30	1287.50	1223.60
Bihar	5842.50	4959.90	5218.80
Gujarat	11404.30	11836.20	13566.30
Haryana	9020.00	7550.00	6880.00
Karnataka	23374.40	28332.70	28454.00
Madhya Pradesh	1761.40	1631.70	1973.00
Maharashtra	41804.80	38174.30	47151.10
Orissa	1332.10	1144.00	1469.50
Punjab	11040.00	7150.00	6130.00
Rajasthan	1290.20	1158.70	1078.30
Tamil Nadu	25918.80	30183.60	46672.80
Uttar Pradesh	125348.40	129266.70	116302.80
West Bengal	1810.30	1825.70	2001.90
All India	277560.00	279541.40	295725.50

[English]

SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Hon. Speaker, Sir, farmers are the backbone of our country. Without their hard labour, we would be left with no food. However we develop ourselves in other fields, only farmers can provide us food. Computers cannot provide us food. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has taken any remedial measures to protect the interests of the poor farmers of the country from the clutches of the over-burden of cost incurred for agricultural production and also from crop destruction due to various factors.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, the Government is taking action on this... (Interruptions)

Sir I have said, 'Yes'.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER He has said, 'Yes'. What is your second Supplementary?

SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Sir, farmers across the length and breadth of India are in deep distress irrespective of the crops they cultivate. For example, in Tamil Nadu, groundnut and sugarcane farmers are suffering from over-burden of production cost and naturally end up in losses even after toiling for the entire year. This has resulted in the destruction of the entire farming community and our country's vast agricultural wealth. What are the steps taken by the Government to prevent such happenings? I would like to know whether the Crop Insurance Scheme has been mandatory or whether the Government has any Crisis Management Programme... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Elangovan, there is a separate Question on the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme. Please understand how to ask a Supplementary.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is your Supplementary?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : It is about groundnut and sugarcane farmers... (Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, I will answer the question.

[Translation]

Sir, the Government have different schemes for different blocks. As regards 27 centrally sponsored schemes the Government have formulated it as one

scheme to give freedom and flexibility to State Governments to undertake programmes as per their requirements. Secondly, now there is National Agriculture Insurance Scheme instead of Crop Insurance Scheme to recompensate the losses. It is compulsory for loanee farmers as earlier alongwith that it is available for nonloanee farmers also. Now alongwith natural disaster pest attack is also covered under it.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Mr. Speaker, Sir in Annexure III, mention has been made about cotton growers. It is a matter of concern for the country that on the one hand Government wants to provide facility to cotton growers and on the other hand handloom and powerloom are being closed due to non-availability of cotton in Maharashtra. The powerloom and handloom have closed down due to increase in the rate of cotton in Sholapur. You have said that a National policy has been formulated in 2000-2001 for its production. You have given the figures of cotton bales during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99. I would like to say something about Maharashtra During 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, 3143.30, 1753 and 2618 bales of cotton respectively was produced. Production of cotton declined continuously. In Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Punjab also the condition is same. However, production has increased in Gujarat. I would like to know whether the Government wants to acknowledge this aspect or not? I would like to know whether the Government would fix its target in cotton growing areas and make effort to provide facilities there or not?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : During Question Hour, you have to try to illicit information from the hon. Minister and you should not give information to him.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : It is all right. Sir He will have additional information.

[Translation]

In the entire country particularly in Vidharba region the cotton growers are committing suicide. In such a situation, the weavers of Sholapur will also have to commit suicide. I would request you to pay special attention towards this. What has the Government done in this regard?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are many kinds of problems in the field of cotton particularly in productivity. While considering all kinds of problems like marketing, processing, the Government has launched Technology Mission on cotton. It has four components— Research, Production, Marketing and Processing. It

includes four mini missions. Its purpose is to increase the productivity of cotton. The large part of cotton growing area is in Maharashtra, however its productivity is less. Roughly speaking, its reason is that it is totally a rain fed area. There is no irrigation facility. According to the figures which we possess, Maharashtra has less than 4% irrigated cotton growing area. All these problems are existing there. Cotton is frequently attacked by pests and other pathogens. While considering all these things a programme was launched under Mission Mode to improve the production of cotton. After its implementation, certainly there will be an improvement and our productivity will increase. When productivity increases, the farmers will naturally get its benefit.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Sir, Technology Missions are being implemented. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, which are the districts in the State of Orissa that are earmarked for the Technology Mission. There have also been instances previously where farmers, growing cotton, have committed suicide because of failure of crop, less marketability, bad season, etc. What are the steps that the Government is taking to give protective shield to the cotton growers in the country and especially to the cotton growers in the backward areas of Orisa like Kalahandi, Koraput, Bolangir, the KBK Districts and Phulbani?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will let the hon'ble Member know separately about the three districts mentioned by him where Technology Mission is not being implemented but I would like to tell that cotton growing areas are covered under it and it is for cotton only. I have mentioned only those basic problems which have been mentioned in the context of Maharashtra. It is a rain fed farming and here insects attack cotton. To motivate people to adopt good quality seeds, to prepare delentadet seeds, delenting of seeds are some of the components of this Technology Mission. The aim of entire technology mission is to make the people use better quality of seeds and adopt better Agriculture practices so that production could be increased. It has four minimum missions. The Research Agriculture and Co-operation, work in collaboration with State Governments, organize various demonstrations for improving production. The Ministry of Textile will work for improving its position of marketing. In this way through minimum mission not only production will increase but farmers would also get remunerative price, marketing position will improve only then the Government can fix minimum support price. The Cotton Corporation of India procures cotton from all states except Maharashtra because in Maharashtra the Government is running Monopolies Procurement Scheme.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government claims that it has launched Cotton Technology Mission and Technology Mission on oilseeds and pulses to give high priority to agriculture development. In this context, I would like to mention about Rajasthan which is facing famine for the last three years and some regions like Ganga Nagar, Alwar and Bharatpur districts are engaged in the production of oilseeds and cotton. 99% of our oil mills have closed due to Import Policy of Union Government under which Palmolein oil is being imported again and again. In principle cotton is procured but due to faulty Government policy it is not procured. Unless the Government fix any sale purchase policy till then such problems will remain there. I would like to ask one specific question from hon'ble Minister as to whether the Government propose to formulate any sale-purchase scheme for the entire country?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I had said Government has a scheme for procurement but if the hon'ble member wants to know about any particular state about which he has mentioned also, I assure that we will take up the matter with the State Government as to why procurement did not take place. I would like to tell the House that procurement of cotton is done by Cotton Corporation of India and it is the designated agency of Central Government. If the procurement has not taken place in the area mentioned by the hon'ble member then we will investigate the matter. We have set policy for procurement of cotton.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as regards what hon'ble member has said about Palmolein oil, I have already informed the House that import duty has been revised once again in the month of November and now the import duty on oil has increased.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister had given wrong reply and even today he is misguiding the House. At present there is no policy.

[English]

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Sir, after the Green Revolution in Nineteen sixties, there was a tremendous increase in the productivity of foodgrains in our country. But during the last two decades, in eighties and nineties, the productivity has come down. So, the decennial growth rate also has come down sizeably. The growth rate is around 1.5 per cent.

Now, in the National Agriculture Policy which has been tabled, the Minister has envisaged a growth rate of four per cent. I would like to know the specific measures that would be taken by the Government in this regard. Even after Technology Missions, there is no tremendous growth. There is reduction in the production of oilseeds, pulses and cotton for the last two or three years.

1200 hrs.

There are heavy fluctuations in the production. What are the specific steps that are going to be taken to achieve four per cent growth rate which is envisaged in the National Agriculture Policy?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the question of pulses, oilseeds and cotton is concerned, most of the regions except few depends on rain and the crop in these areas is more affected by the calamity changes. Therefore, the Government has accepted that during last few years production of these crops has declined. But to say that the Technology Mission on pulses and oilseeds, which has been launched, has no impact is not appropriate. Its impact has definitely been felt and it will surely bring fruits

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Increase in rates of I.S.P.

*204. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have increased the rates of International Speed Post (ISP) from November, 2000;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the criteria laid down for fixing EMS, parcel rates?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The Department of Posts has revised the postage rates on Expedited Mail Service (EMS) items, referred to as International Speed Post in the question, from 1st November, 2000.

(b) The reasons for the revision of International Speed Post rates are :

(i) The postage rates of International Speed Post (EMS) services have been revised after a gap of 6 years. These were last revised in 1994. Since then the domestic cost of operating the EMS service had increased considerably, necessitating a revision.

(ii) India pays to the other Postal Administrations, a charge for delivery of its EMS items in those countries. This charge is called the imbalance

charge and is payable in SDRs (Special Drawing Rights). At the time of the last revision, majority of the countries were charging 4.9 SDRs as the imbalance charge. Many countries have since revised their rate of imbalance charge, which in many cases is as high as 9 SDRs. As such there was a need for us to make a corresponding increase in our EMS rate structure.

(iii) The payments made by India to other Postal Administrations for the delivery imbalance charges of its Expedited Mail Service (EMS) mails is in SDRs (Special Drawing Rights). The value of SDR in terms of Rupee has changed substantially over the period. The Rupee to SDR parity was 1 SDR = Rs. 36.3616 at the time of the last revision and currently stands at 1 SDR = Rs. 58.7532. Hence, the change in the value of SDR vis-a-vis Rupee also necessitated the revision of postage rates of Expedited Mail Service (EMS).

(iv) There was a need for rationalization of the earlier rate structure. The earlier two-tier rate structure was based on distances from India, with one rate for countries within 5000 Kilometres and the other rate for countries located at a distance of 5000 kilometres or beyond. This rate structure, due to subsequent changes in the imbalance rates was no longer reflective of the actual cost of operations. The revised rate structure has corrected this anomaly and has now been worked out on actual cost basis.

(c) The criterion for fixing the Expedited Mail Service (EMS) and Parcel rates is the cost of operating these services. The cost components in fixing the EMS and Parcel rates are the domestic cost of handling the articles, conveyance costs and the charges payable for delivery in the country of destination. A change in any of these costs necessitates a revision of rates.

Development of Mangrove Forests during Ninth Plan

*205. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of States where mangrove forests are grown;

(b) whether the Government have made any assessment of destruction of mangrove forests during the last three years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken to develop the mangrove forests in States, especially in Orissa during the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Mangrove forests in India are grown in the States of West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Goa, Maharashtra and Gujarat and the Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Pondicherry.

(b) and (c) State of Forest Report (1999) has recorded an overall increase of 44 sq. km. in the mangrove forest cover in the country during 1997-1999. However, marginal decrease in the mangrove forest during this period has been reported in Maharashtra. In the Ninth Plan protection, conservation and regeneration of mangroves has been identified as a thrust area. So far 30 areas in the country have been identified for intensive conservation and management of mangroves. During the Ninth Plan Rs 747.65 lakhs have been released to the respective coastal States, including Orissa for implementation of Management Action Plans for conservation of mangroves. The Ministry constituted a Task Force in November, 1999 for assessment of damage caused in the coastal areas of Orissa due to super cyclonic storm of October, 1999. The Task Force observed that no significant damage was caused to mangrove vegetation by the cyclone. However, the Task Force identified an area of 3000 hectares having potential for mangrove afforestation in the State. An amount of Rs. 46.50 lakhs was released to the State for implementation of Management Action Plans on Bhitarkanika and Mahanadi Mangroves during 1999-2000. During the current financial year an amount of Rs. 55.75 lakhs has been released to the Government of Orissa for implementation of Management Action Plans on mangroves in Subernrekha, Dhamra and Devi estuaries of the State.

[Translation]

National Agricultural Insurance Scheme

*206. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have suffered losses in implementation of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to consider any other proposal in place of the NAIS in order to provide relief to the farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) National Agricultural Insurance Scheme till now, has been implemented in two crop seasons and results for the implementation of the scheme are available in respect of Rabi 1999-2000 season only. During Rabi 1999-2000 claims amounting to Rs. 333.81 lakh as against the premium income of Rs. 524.27 lakh have been reported by the Implementing Agency (IA). There is surplus income generated over the payable claims. However, this short period of implementation of NAIS is not enough to assess the financial viability of the scheme.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, improvements in the scheme could be made on the basis of experience gained of its implementation.

Average yield of wheat

*207. SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether per hectare yield of wheat in our country is 2.85 tonnes while it is 2.8 tonnes in the United States of America;

(b) if not, the estimate of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the yield per hectare in areas other than the major wheat producing areas in the country is also 2.7 tonnes;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) the estimated average yield of wheat in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) According to advance estimates for 1999-2000, the yield rate of wheat in India is likely to be 2.7 tonnes per hectare as against 2.9 tonnes per hectare in the United States of America as per FAO Year Book 1998 (Vol. 52).

(c) to (e) The State-wise yield rates of wheat as also at all-India level during last four years is given in the Statement enclosed. It may be seen that yield rates vary from State to State.

Statement

Yield rates of wheat in major wheat producing States during 1996-97 to 1999-2000

(Yield : Kg./Hectare)

State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000*
Assam	1332	1300	1010	1012
Bihar	2183	2337	1992	2061
Gujarat	2299	2373	2427	1923
Haryana	3880	3660	3916	4167
Himachal Pradesh	1487	1700	1700	1266
Jammu & Kashmir	1671	1620	1530	1515
Karnataka	<u>771</u>	<u>473</u>	<u>819</u>	<u>688</u>
Madhya Pradesh	1801	1573	1794	1823
Maharashtra	1460	898	1289	1227
Punjab	4234	3853	4332	4697
Rajasthan	2741	2501	2487	2540
Uttar Pradesh	2668	2495	2510	2660
West Bengal	2390	2206	2117	2187
All India	2679	2485	2583	2707

Note : Bold figures indicate maximum and underlined figures indicate minimum yield rates.

* Advance estimates as on 29.6.2000.

[English]

Restructuring of Wildlife Institute of India

*208. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to restructure the Wildlife Institute of India (WII);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make the Institute more result-oriented; and

(d) the steps taken by the Institute in listing and protecting the country's biological resources from international poaching?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) No proposal to restructure the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun is under consideration of the Government. However, the Ministry constituted a Committee to conduct a review of the working of Wildlife Institute of India and to suggest the strategies for enhancing the role of the Institute in the upgradation of wildlife management in the country, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Biplab Dasgupta, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha). The Committee submitted its report to the Ministry on 31-1-2000. The main recommendation of the committee is that the Institute should concentrate on developing excellence in the areas of its main mandate i.e. Research, Training and Education on wildlife related issues.

(c) The steps taken by the Ministry to make the Wildlife Institute of India more result oriented include strengthening of faculty, providing increased working space and upgradation of the technical skills of the faculty members through participation in training programmes and workshops.

(d) The listing of biological resources of the country is being done by Zoological Survey of India and Botanical Survey of India for Fauna and Flora respectively. The Wildlife Institute of India helps in protecting the country's biological resources from international poaching i.e. being smuggled out of the country, by way of sensitization of the officers of the Customs Department and various Paramilitary Forces through training workshops. They are also contributing to the said objective by upgrading the skills of field formations of the Forest Department in the Wildlife Forensic Science and International Conventions.

[Translation]

Construction of Cold Storages

*209. DR. M.P. JAISWAL :
SHRI MANSINH PATEL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cold storages set up in the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether the existing storage capacity of cold storages is inadequate;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to set up cold storages in each block of the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide subsidised soft loans and grants to construct new cold Storages?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) The total number of cold storages in the country as on 31.3.2000 are 3886. The State-wise details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) to (d) The High Level Expert Committee constituted by the Government of India for identifying the constraints and suggesting remedial measures have identified the creation/expansion of 12 lakh tonnes and rehabilitation/modernisation of 8 lakh tonnes of cold storage capacity and an addition of 4.5 lakh tonnes of onion storage capacity in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan. In the light of the recommendations of the Expert Committee and further deliberations in this regard, the Government has approved a scheme to provide capital investment subsidy for construction/expansion/modernisation of cold storages and storages for horticulture produce for implementation during the period 1999-2002 of the Ninth Five Year Plan with an outlay of Rs. 175.00 crores. The scheme envisages providing capital investment subsidy amounting to 25 per cent of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakh per project. In the case of North Eastern States, the provision of subsidy is at the rate of 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 60.00 lakh per project. The scheme is being implemented by the National Horticulture Board (NHB) an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Agriculture. The scheme does not envisage setting up of cold storages by the Government itself in any geographical location or administrative unit in the country.

Statement

State/Union Territory-wise break-up of cold storages in the country as on 31.3.2000

Name of State/Union Territories	No. of Cold Storages
1	2
Andaman & Nicobar Islands (UT)	02
Andhra Pradesh	168
Arunachal Pradesh	00
Assam	19
Bihar	195
Chandigarh (UT)	07
Delhi	95
Gujarat	252
Goa	23
Haryana	201
Himachal Pradesh	16
Jammu & Kashmir	16

1	2
Kerala	148
Karnataka	102
Lakshadweep (UT)	01
Maharashtra	341
Madhya Pradesh	174
Manipur	00
Meghalaya	00
Mizoram	00
Nagaland	01
Orissa	71
Pondicherry (UT)	05
Punjab	390
Rajasthan	74
Sikkim	00
Tamilnadu	93
Tripura	02
Uttar Pradesh	1129
West Bengal	360
Total	3886

[English]

Migration Package

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

(a) whether the Government had granted migration packages for development of cellular mobile services;

(b) if so, the result thereof; and

(c) the total loss suffered by the Government on this account?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) have informed that post-migration, the number of Cellular subscribers has increased from 12.03 lakhs approximately as on 31st July, 1999 to 27.89 lakhs approximately as on 31 October, 2000, thus registering a growth of about 131%.

(c) There has been no reduction as such in the amount of arrears of license fee in terms of the Migration Package offered to existing licensees for migration to New Telecom Policy-1999 (NTP-99) regime of revenue-sharing. The only relief provided is by way of across-the-board extension of effective date by six months (subject to the condition that any extension granted earlier was accounted for) in consideration of the delays in granting clearances etc., which led to a spate of litigation. The reduction of license fee on this account was estimated at approximately Rs. 1443.58 crores. This relief of extension of effective date was, however, not granted to Metro cellular operators because they were placed in a comparatively favourable position. It is anticipated that the resultant growth of the sector with this shift in the policy, will enhance revenue streams leading to a better realization of license fee under the revenue-sharing regime.

Development of Environment around Ganga and Yamuna rivers

*211. SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to improve the environment around Ganga and Yamuna rivers;

(b) if so, whether the Government and Semi-Government departments and Non-Governmental Organisations are involved in improving the environment in and around these rivers;

(c) if so, whether any study has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the present status of implementation and improvements of the environment around these rivers particularly around the National Capital Region?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. On the basis of surveys conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board, the rivers Ganga and Yamuna among other major rivers of the country have been found polluted. In order to address the problem of pollution of these rivers, a scheme of pollution abatement of Yamuna which is known as the Yamuna Action Plan was approved by the Government in April 1993. The present approved cost of the Action Plan is Rs. 509.54 crore. Under this Plan, works have been taken up in 21 towns out of which 8 towns are in Uttar Pradesh and 12 towns in Haryana besides Delhi. The Plan includes such works as interception & diversion of sewage, sewage treatment plants, low cost toilets, crematoria and river front development. So far, an

expenditure of Rs. 446.04 crore has been incurred on this Plan. The Delhi component of Yamuna Action Plan is small comprising 2 sewage treatment plants each of 10 million liters per day capacity and one electric crematorium. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi is implementing the major part of pollution abatement programme of Yamuna out of their own plan funds. Under this programme, 14 additional sewage treatment plants along with allied works are to be constructed. Out of these, 9 treatment plants have already been completed and another 5 will be completed by March 2003. In addition, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi is also to construct 15 common effluent treatment plants to treat industrial effluents from 21 industrial estates of Delhi. This Project is under implementation and will be completed by December, 2002. In addition, a scheme of pollution abatement of Ganga has been completed in 25 towns in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal at a cost of about Rs. 455 crore under the first phase of Ganga Action Plan. The second phase of Ganga Action Plan has also been taken up in these as well as additional towns along the river Ganga and its major tributaries. The estimated cost of these works is about Rs. 733 crore. The expenditure incurred till date is Rs. 41 crore. The second phase of the Ganga Action Plan is targeted for completion by 2005. Government, Semi-Government and Non-Government Organizations are involved in the implementation of the programme.

Wildlife Bill

*212. SHRI R.S. PATIL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to take steps including a comprehensive Wildlife Bill to protect the fast depleting population of wild animals; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) The existing provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 are quite comprehensive and effective in respect of management of National Parks and Sanctuaries, management of Zoos, control of hunting and illegal trade of Wildlife. However, a proposal to further strengthen the provisions of the Act has been drafted on the basis of recommendations of a committee appointed by the Ministry. Recommendations mainly relate to :

- (i) Involvement of local communities in management of wildlife protected areas and using the forest usufructs that are available in the process of management of the habitat of wild animals being available explicitly to the local communities.

- (ii) Effective enforcement of the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) and regulating possession and trade of such species covered by the convention.
- (iii) Making punitive sections of the Act more stringent and effective.
- (iv) Making Indian Board for Wild Life a statutory body.

Skinning of Tigress

*213. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Research project hampered by killing" appearing in the *Pioneer* dated October 18, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the recent incident of skinning a tigress in the Nehru Zoological Park has an adverse impact on the efforts of the Union Government for Cellular and Molecular Biology for the conservation of species;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to ensure that scientific tests are not hampered due to killing of species; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. Andhra Pradesh Forest Department is rendering full assistance to the Center for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad in their species conservation project.

Productivity of Dryland

*214. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have stressed the need to increase the productivity of dryland from the present level of 0.8 tonne per hectare to meet the challenges of food and fodder requirements;

(b) if so, whether the research strategies for rainfed areas need to be supported by appropriate Government policy initiatives with an institutional framework for effective involvement of Panchayat Raj institutions; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government of India attaches high priority to the improvement of productivity of dryland. A large number of Centrally Sponsored Scheme are being implemented by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation which have a thrust on increasing productivity of the dryland areas. The Centrally Sponsored Schemes are being implemented through State Governments. The State Governments in turn are implementing these schemes directly or through Panchayat Raj Institutions. The major Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented are as follows :

A. Watershed-based Schemes

1. National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPPA).
2. Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Projects (RVP) and Flood Prone Rivers (FPR).
3. Watershed Development in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA).

B. Cropping system-based Programmes

1. Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP).
2. National Pulses Development Project (NPDP).
3. Accelerated Maize Development Programme (AMDP).
4. Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Coarse Cereals (ICDP Coarse Cereals).
5. Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP).
6. Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice).
7. Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping systems Areas (ICDP-Wheat).

C. *Dryland Horticulture*

1. Integrated Development of Fruits.
2. Development of Horticulture through Plastic Culture Interventions.

Powers to AWB

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

(a) whether the cases of cruelty to animals are increasing in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Animal Welfare Board is powerless to check it;

(c) whether the Government propose to vest more powers in the Board; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) There is an increase in the reporting of instances of cruelty to animals in the country during recent years.

(b) According to the provisions of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, the powers to take any action against the persons guilty of any offence under the Act vest mainly in the police officials. Societies for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the persons authorised by the State Governments are empowered to take action against the persons violating the provisions of the Act.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government proposes to amend various provisions of the existing Act and make new provisions in the Act to empower the Board to take effective steps against the persons indulging in cruelties to animals.

Preparations for Olympics

*216. SHRI RASHID ALVI : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether considerable inputs had been provided to various sports for the Sydney Olympics;

(b) if so, the details of total expenditure made since the previous Olympics, game-wise;

(c) whether the Government are satisfied with the results achieved in each game and if so, the details of accomplishments of India in each of the games;

(d) whether the Government have launched any corrective action plan and initiated preparations for the next Olympics; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (KUMARI UMA BHARATI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of expenditure made on the disciplines in which India participated since last Olympics is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The performance of the Indian Contingent in the Sydney Olympic was unsatisfactory in terms of medals secured. However, relative to the earlier performance at the Atlanta Olympics, the performance of India in many disciplines as indicated hereunder has improved :

Weightlifting—Ms. K. Malleshwari won Bronze Medal and Ms. Sanamacha Chanu got joint 4th position with two other lifter though due to her body weight she was over all 6th.

Boxing—Sh. Gurcharan Singh got 5th position.

Judo—Ms. Brojeshwari Devi reached 9th position.

Hockey team secured 7th position.

Shooting—Ms. Anjali Ved Pathak and Sh. Abhinav Bindra secured 8th and 11th position respectively.

Athletics—Ms. K.M. Beenamol reached Semi final in 400 metres.

(d) and (e) Promotion and development of Sports is an ongoing process and Government of India in consultation with Sports Authority of India, IOA and National Sports Federations is taking the following corrective steps :

1. Broadening the base—Especially for competitive sports.
2. Improved infrastructure for the National Teams.
3. Improving the knowledge of our Coaching Community.
4. Improving the practical knowledge of our sports scientists to enable them to contribute along with the coaches to enhance performance of sports persons.

5. Improved functioning and professionalisation in management of Sports Federations.
6. Greater involvement of States in the development of Sports Infrastructure and improved training of sport persons.
7. Involving the private sector to adopt and sponsor individual/specific sports disciplines.
8. To create awareness in the general public for greater participation in sports activities.

Statement

Sl. No.	Discipline	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001 (as on 1.12.2000)
1.	Athletics	923005	2335164	2912864	5427204	2973615
2.	Badminton	520930	2525271	2680516	8306182	4287012
3.	Boxing	1198690	2433564	3853350	273043	5550338
4.	Equestrian	894390	135222	1490705	1018820	883772
5.	Hockey (Men)	2315087	6264181	2823668	11261379	5994946
6.	Judo	2628624	3867264	2274444	3401551	1098682
7.	Rowing	327540	0	1370247	299790	4414337
8.	Shooting	5592688	8052807	8451156	17304963	12586362
9.	Swimming	1694478	303144	826304	1852308	3026945
10.	Table Tennis	1279629	811559	2170056	3573030	4142482
11.	Tennis	0	396882	1115210	413126	523647
12.	Weightlifting	1169624	2933481	1095437	839637	2048833
13.	Wrestling	2589435	3393794	6264095	5580280	5746290
14.	Coaching Camps	2000000	3780000	17767700	23100000	27753000
15.	Foreign Coaches	8541214	7274000	10903313	5000000	10000000
16.	Equipment	18123000	28283369	7794018	20000000	00

Amendment to Coastal Regulation Zone

(c) the steps taken to clear the same?

*217. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal for amending the Notification dated February 19, 1991, regarding Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) including Fisheries has been under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time since when the proposal has been pending with the Government; and

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification dated 19th February 1991 issued under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act 1986, by the Ministry of Environment & Forests declares the coastal stretches of seas, estuaries, creeks, rivers and backwaters which are influenced by tidal actions upto 500 meters from High Tide Line (HTL) and the land between Low Tide Line (LTL) and HTL as the CRZ and imposes restrictions on setting up and expansion of industries, operations etc. The Aquaculture Authority Bill 2000 formulated in this regard

envisages to clarify that aquaculture is not a prohibited activity within the meaning of said notification. The Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 28th February 2000.

Decline in Revenue of VSNL

*218. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a decline in the revenue of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL);

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

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) The revenues of VSNL have progressively increased as is evident from the following figures :

Year	Revenue in Rs. (Million)
1997-98	64,361
1998-99	71,756
1999-2000	72,305

However, the increase of revenue is not in proportion to the growth in telephony traffic volume primarily due to substantial reduction in international call charges to be in line with the global trend in this regard. On account of this trend and also the anticipated introduction of competition in international voice traffic, VSNL is proposing to diversify in other areas of telecommunications and making efforts to increase the market share of internet subscribers to generate additional revenue.

[Translation]

Dairy Development Technology Mission

*219 SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the facilities provided to the farmers and dairy owners for dairy development and animal husbandry under Dairy Development Technology Mission;

(b) the number of new schemes and programmes initiated under the said mission during the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 (till date);

(c) the financial assistance being given to each State under these schemes during the last three years on October 31, 2000 alongwith the results thereof; and

(d) the amount proposed to be allocated to each State in the next two years under this mission?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) Under the Technology Mission on Dairy Development (TMDD), the following activities were taken up to provide facilities to the farmers and dairy owners

(i) *Operational Linkage Programme* : In order to provide cost effective animal husbandry services like health care, breeding services and animal husbandry extension etc. and to optimize the resources available, operational linkages between the Dairy Cooperative Societies (DCS) and infrastructure available with the State Governments and other agencies were brought about.

(ii) *Strengthening of Frozen Semen Stations* In order to increase the frozen semen production capacity to meet the future requirement of semen for artificial insemination programmes, selected Frozen Semen Stations in the Government sector and in the Non Government Organisation sector have been strengthened.

(iii) *Liquid Nitrogen Delivery System* : In order to make available liquid nitrogen for artificial insemination programme at cheaper rate, liquid nitrogen delivery system in Gujarat and Karnataka have been installed.

(iv) *Fodder Seed Production Programme* : The Mission helped in providing high quality fodder seeds at reasonable prices to dairy farmers

(b) The tenure of TMDD ended in March, 1999. However, National Dairy Development Board (NDDDB), which was the implementing agency for the Mission, was permitted to complete the ongoing and unfinished activities during the year 1999-2000. No new schemes and programmes were, therefore, initiated during the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001.

(c) State-wise Financial Assistance provided under TMDD Programme for the last three years is given in the Statement enclosed. Implementation of various programmes by the Mission has resulted in the following :

(i) Additional Coverage of 5374 dairy co-operative societies for providing animal health care, and 2079 dairy co-operative societies for artificial insemination, vaccination etc.

(ii) District Rural Development Agencies have started giving focused attention to dairy and animal husbandry development and providing

financial assistance for infrastructure creation and distribution of milch animals in the existing milk routes.

- (iii) Frozen Semen Production increased from 108 lakh doses to 241 lakh doses per annum.
- (iv) Establishment of a model system for bulk procurement, storage and delivery of liquid nitrogen for artificial insemination programme.
- (v) Orientation of additional 380 officers of State Animal Husbandry Departments and 29 District Magistrates/Collectors.
- (vi) Production of Additional 9538 Metric tonnes of high quality fodder seed.

(d) As the tenure of TMDD has already ended, no amount is proposed to be allocated to any of the States in the next two years.

Statement

State-wise financial assistance provided under TMDD programme for the last three years

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Year		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1.	Andhra Pradesh	55.01	31.78	27.29
2.	Bihar	36.89	149.21	5.56
3.	Goa	0.00	0.00	13.76
4.	Gujarat	78.10	119.01	72.48
5.	Haryana	2.05	0.41	0.00
6.	Himachal Pradesh	4.18	0.00	0.00
7.	Karnataka	138.41	22.11	38.68
8.	Kerala	0.02	1.72	2.71
9.	Madhya Pradesh	11.73	13.41	38.89
10.	Maharashtra	0.00	0.69	33.55
11.	Orissa	16.16	57.99	7.93
12.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00
13.	Punjab	0.00	30.76	11.13
14.	Rajasthan	0.09	9.04	10.14
15.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	2.50	0.01
16.	Uttar Pradesh	58.75	34.83	20.86
17.	West Bengal	0.00	4.33	5.96

Survey of Mineral Reserves

*220. SHRI NAGMANI : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any systematic and scientific survey on the mineral reserves particularly in Iron ore, Bauxite, Mica, Copper, Gold, Silver and other utility metals and minerals in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present mineral reserves particularly in Jharkhand alongwith their production, demand and supply, State-wise; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to enhance the production and conservation of minerals in India?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA) : (a) to (c) The survey of minerals is a continuous process. It comprises large scale and detailed geological mapping aided by interpretative analysis of aerogeophysical and remotely sensed data, ground geophysical surveys, geochemical prospecting and subsurface exploration through pitting, trenching and finally drilling. As a result of survey proved reserve of important mineral in respect of iron ore, bauxite ores of copper, gold and silver, besides coal in the mineral rich states is given in enclosed Statement-I. Status about mineral production for 1999-2000 for different minerals is given in enclosed Statement-II. The work for segregating data for production and proven reserves of minerals in the new states including Jharkhand is in hand.

The demand and supply projections of minerals are done as part of the Five Year Plan exercises. Such projections do not cover disaggregated information on requirements and availability of all individual minerals.

(d) The Government has taken long term measures for development of the mines and mineral sector. In 1993, the National Mineral Policy for the non fuel sector was framed. The Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 was revised in 1994 and recently in December, 1999 in order to make the mining sector more investor friendly and progressive. The Government has also formulated Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988 for giving a thrust to conservation of minerals. The recent amendments have introduced the stage of reconnaissance operations in line with the global practice, delegated more powers to the State Governments for grant, renewal and transfer of mining leases for cutting down procedural delay, empowered the States to prevent and take action against illegal mining etc.

Statement-I*Proved reserves of the important minerals in the various States*

State	Iron Ore Hematite Magnetite (M.M.T.)	Bauxite (‘000 tonnes)	Copper Ores (‘000 tonnes)	Gold Ores (tonnes)	Silver Ores (tonnes)	Coal (M.T.)
Andhra Pradesh		169848	338	438446	1161750	6624.83
Bihar*	18.25	15398	46584	7200		33532.00
Goa	404+64	33935				
Gujarat		43685	2225			
Karnataka	665+1427	1801	963	3270984	2283276	
Kerala				462280		
Madhya Pradesh*	771	52132	91498			10762.37
Maharashtra	88	622267				3633.30
Orissa	1349	380961			1274150	7097.88
Rajasthan			22275		74369900	
West Bengal						10127.19

* Undivided

The mining of the proved reserves is subject to the availability of land besides other factors like clearance from environmental angle and consideration if the area is lying within the forest region.

Statement-II*Mineral production 1999-2000 (By-States)*

Mineral/State	Unit	1999-2000 Quantity
1	2	3
<i>Copper Conc</i>		
Bihar*	tonne	12640
Madhya Pradesh*	tonne	74172
Rajasthan	tonne	77569
Sikkim	tonne	620
Sub Total :		165001
<i>Gold</i>		
Andhra Pradesh	kg.	177
Bihar	kg.	433
Karnataka	kg.	1832
Sub Total		2442

1	2	3
<i>Limestone</i>		
Andhra Pradesh	000t	23360
Assam	000t	402
Bihar*	000t	1140
Gujarat	000t	12870
Himachal Pradesh	000t	6227
Jammu & Kashmir	000t	66
Karnataka	000t	9823
Kerala	000t	447
Madhya Pradesh*	000t	34420
Maharashtra	000t	6569
Meghalaya	000t	279
Orissa	000t	1814
Rajasthan	000t	20280

1	2	3
Tamil Nadu	000t	10191
Sub Total		127891
<i>Manganese Ore</i>		
Andhra Pradesh	tonne	87646
Bihar*	tonne	6125
Goa	tonne	13623
Karnataka	tonne	278056
Madhya Pradesh*	tonne	325864
Maharashtra	tonne	353406
Orissa	tonne	500763
Sub Total		1565483
<i>Iron Ore</i>		
Andhra Pradesh	000t	340
Bihar*	000t	11913
Goa	000t	15002
Karnataka	000t	15681
Madhya Pradesh*	000t	18582
Maharashtra	000t	25
Orissa	000t	11921
Rajasthan	000t	10
Sub total		73475
<i>Bauxite</i>		
Bihar*	tonne	1227757
Goa	tonne	38645
Gujarat	tonne	952471
Karnataka	tonne	30177
Kerala	tonne	16320
Madhya Pradesh*	tonne	685867
Mharashtra	tonne	899444
Orissa	tonne	2866032
Tamil Nadu	tonne	137712
Sub Total		6854425
<i>Chromite</i>		
Karnataka	tonne	12918
Maharashtra	tonne	702
Orissa	tonne	1682420
Sub Total		1696040
<i>Mica (Crude)</i>		
Andhra Pradesh	tonne	902
Bihar*	tonne	320
Rajasthan	tonne	51
Sub Total		1273

Source : Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM)

*Undivided.

[Translation]

Tehri Dam Project

2226. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the views expressed in the report, "Soviet Assessment of the Tehri Dam Project" that a foundation width of 1500 metres will securely keep the dam on its feet and will not allow it to tumble down;

(b) if so, whether the Government have since widened the base width of the Tehri Dam;

(c) if so, the extent to which the cost of construction has increased by widening the base width from the present 1100 metres to 1500 metres; and

(d) if not, the reasons for leaving the dam exposed to seismicity due to which the dam may collapse any moment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) A Press Report that appeared in the Lucknow Edition of the "Times of India" dated 16.11.1998 stated that Soviet Seismologists had recommended a foundation breadth of 1500m. This Report was contradicted by the then USSR authorities that the opinion attributed to Soviet specialists did not conform to reality. It was also stated that Soviet experts had confirmed that structure of Tehri Dam was sound.

The Government had considered in depth the seismic safety aspect of the Tehri Dam before according approval to the implementation of Tehri Dam and HEP Stage-I (1000 MW) in March, 1994.

A Group of Experts was constituted in June, 1996 to further examine the issue of safety of Tehri Dam. This Group in its report concluded that the design of the dam was safe to withstand the Maximum Credible Earthquake.

Decrease in paddy farming in Chhattisgarh

2227. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total area of land where paddy is being cultivated in Chhattisgarh State;

(b) whether there has been drastic decrease in the area under paddy farming; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

[English]

Construction of Over-Bridges on NH

2228. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received proposal from the Government of Orissa for the construction of some over bridges on National Highway in Bhubaneswar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government towards the proposals of the Government of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Construction of three flyovers falling in the reach from Km 412.5 to Km 418.0 of NH-5.

(c) Proposal was not considered because work of four laning of this reach was already in progress and hence taking up construction of flyovers was not considered feasible at this stage.

[Translation]

Rural Telephone Exchanges

2229 SHRI JAI PRAKASH :
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether several rural telephone exchanges of Hardoi district of Uttar Pradesh are not working properly due to the outdated equipments being used in these exchanges,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to upgrade and modernise the said exchanges of the districts, and all the telephone exchanges in Rajasthan;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated for the purpose; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir. All the rural telephone exchanges of Hardoi district are digital electronic and are generally working satisfactory.

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

(c) and (d) All the rural telephone exchanges of Hardoi district are already electronic. Only three PRX analogue electronic exchanges at Alwar, Beawar and Pali are proposed to be upgraded into digital electronic exchanges by 2001-2002. Rs. 3.61 crores have been allocated for this purpose.

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

MSP of Agricultural Products

2230. SHRI A.K. MOORTHY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of the agricultural products like Sugarcane and Paddy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) A Statement showing Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of major agricultural commodities fixed for the 1999-2000 and 2000-01 crops is enclosed. It may be observed from the Statement that the MSPs of the major kharif crops of 2000-01, jute and copra have been increased over the last year. The MSPs of rabi crops and sugarcane for the 2000-01 crops are yet to be announced.

Statement

Minimum Support Prices

S.No.	Commodity	Variety	1999-2000	2000-01
1.	Paddy	Common Grade 'A'	490 520	510 540
2.	Coarse Cereals (Jowar, Bajra & Ragi)		415	445
3.	Maize		415	445
4.	Wheat		580	
5.	Barley		430	
6.	Gram		1015	
7.	Arhar		1105	1200
8.	Mong		1105	1200

S.No	Commodity	Variety	1999-2000	2000-01
9	Urad		1105	1200
10	Sugarcane@		56.10	
11	Cotton	F-414/H-777	1575++	1625++
		H-4	1775	1825
12	Groundnut-in-shell		1155	1220
13	Jute		750	785
14	Rapeseed/Mustard		1100	
15	Sunflower Seed		1155	1170
16	Soybean	Black	755	775
		Yellow	845	865
17	Safflower		1100	
18	Toria		1065	
19	Tobacco (VFC) (Rs. per kg.)	Black Soil (F2 Grade)	25.00	
		Light Soil (L2 Grade)	27.00	
20	Copra (Calendar Year)	Milling	3100	3250
		Ball	3325	3500
21	Sesamum		1205	1300
22	Nigerseed		915	1025

@ Statutory Minimum Price linked to a basic recovery of 8.5 per cent with proportionate premium for every 0.1 per cent increase in recovery above that level.

++ For J-34 variety also.

[Translation]

Supply of Electricity from Delhi to Rajasthan

2231. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Delhi has agreed to provide electricity to Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed between the two States in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the benefits likely to be accrued by both the States as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) During the winter months, Delhi is surplus in power during off-peak hours. Delhi has agreed to supply its entire share allocation of 20% w.e.f. 16.10.2000 and 11% w.e.f.

18.11.2000 from the unallocated quota of central sector power stations in the Northern Region during off-peak hours to Rajasthan. In addition to this, an MOU has been signed between DVB and PRVPL on 12.10.2000, wherein DVB's share in Dadri TPS generation ranging from 15% to 50% (depending upon the availability of BTPS units) has been diverted to Rajasthan during 23.00 hrs. to 06.00 hrs. of the next day. The agreement has come in force w.e.f. 23.00 hrs. of 16th October, 2000 and will be valid upto 15th March, 2001.

(e) Under these arrangements, while Rajasthan would be able to meet its increased Rabi irrigation requirements, Delhi would be able to reduce its payment liability to the central sector power stations. Besides, these arrangements would enable better utilisation of available power in the Northern Region to the mutual benefits of Delhi as well as Rajasthan.

Allocation of Electricity to Bihar from National Power Grid

2232. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantum of electricity allocated to Bihar from the National Power Grid;

(b) the total quantum of electricity consumed out of the allocated electricity;

(c) whether this allocation is adequate to meet the requirements;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to increase the allocation of electricity; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The quantum of power allocated to Bihar from various central generating stations in the Eastern Region and their entitlement vis-a-vis actual energy drawal during April-October, 2000 is as under :

Power Station	Share		Entitlement (MU)	Drawal (MU)
	%	MW		
Farakka STPS (1600 MW)	23.44%	375	939.6	1,034.6
Kahalgaoon STPS (840 MW)	33.93%	285	832.3	921.8
Talcher STPS (1000 MW)	23.9%	239	674.6	727.9
Chukha HEP (270 MW)	32.6%	88	409.5	415.1
Rangit HEP (60 MW)	21.67%	13	39.6	39.6
Total		1,000	2,895.6	3,139

(c) to (f) Bihar has been drawing more power than its entitlements from the central sector generating stations. The availability of energy in Bihar falls short of requirement which is attributable mainly to constraints in transmission and distribution system of the State and inability of BSEB to make payment for purchase of additional power from the Eastern Regional Grid which is surplus in power. At present, there is no proposal to increase the allocation to Bihar from Central Sector Stations.

[English]

Unsatisfactory Telephone Services

2233. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether telephone services in Kannur Secondary Switching (SSA) in Kerala have been found unsatisfactory;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Sir, the Telephone Services in Kannur Secondary Switching (SSA) in Kerala is generally satisfactory.

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

(c) Improvement of Telecom Services is continuous process. The following steps are being taken to further improve the telecom services in phased manner :

- (i) Rehabilitation of external plant.
- (ii) Computerization of FRS in mora and more exchanges.
- (iii) Provision of reliable transmission media to all the exchanges working on overhead line in a phased manner.
- (iv) Provision of standby power arrangement and maintenance free battery sets to coup up the long power break downs.

Gas based power project in A.P., Assam and other N.E. Region States

2234. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposals for setting up of gas-based power projects in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Assam and other North Eastern States:

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

(c) the estimated cost, production capacity and the location of each project;

(d) the stage at which these projects stand at present along with the reasons for delay;

(e) the estimated gas reserves available for these projects; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (f) A list of gas based power projects to be set up in the country is enclosed as Statement. These projects were cleared by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) to operate with Naphtha as initial fuel and with gas as ultimate fuel. However, escalation in the price of crude oil/Naphtha and gas has resulted in a number of these projects getting delayed and not taking off.

The total estimated natural gas reserves in the country as on 1st April, 2000 were 647 billion standard cubic meters (provisional) for utilisation of all sectors, including Power sector.

Statement

Details of CEA cleared thermal power projects with Naphtha as initial fuel

PRIVATE SECTOR

Sl.No.	Name of Project & Location	Capacity	Type of fuel	Estimated Completed Cost including IDC
1	2	3	4	5
NORTHERN REGION				
<i>Rajasthan</i>				
1.	Dholpur CCGT M/s RPG Dholpur Power Co. Ltd. District (Dholpur)	702.7	Naphtha	US\$ 364.29M + Rs.855.133 Cr. ER 1 US\$=Rs.39.50

1	2	3	4	5
WESTERN REGION				
<i>Madhya Pradesh</i>				
2.	Narsinghpur CCGP M/s GBL Power India Ltd. District (Narsinghpur)	166	Naphtha	US\$ 77.74M + Rs.253.697 Cr. ER 1 US\$=Rs.35.50
3.	Guna CCGT M/s STI Power Ltd., District (Guna)	330	Naphtha	US\$ 152.370 M +Rs.484.860 Cr. ER 1 US\$=Rs.35.50
4.	Bhander CCGT M/s Bhander Power Co. Ltd., District (Gwalior)	342	Naphtha	US\$ 197.622 M +Rs.346.514 Cr. ER 1 US\$=Rs.35.50
5.	Khandwa CCGT M/s Madhya Bharat Energy Coporation Ltd. District (East Nimar)	171.17	Naphtha	US\$ 76.0345 M + Rs.250.3315 Cr. ER 1 US\$=Rs.39.50
<i>Maharashtra</i>				
6.	Patalganga CCGP M/s Reliance Patalganga Pvt. Ltd. District (Raigad)	447	Naphtha	US\$ 319.02 M +Rs.246.66 Cr. ER Rs.35.50/US\$ for Foreign Comp. of US\$ 300.286M and Fixed Foreign Ex. Rate of Rs.31.50/US\$ For balance foreign component.
SOUTHERN REGION				
<i>Karnataka</i>				
7.	Kanniminke CCGP M/S Peenya Power Co., District (Bangalore)	107.6	Naphtha	US\$ 56.577 M +Rs.152.969 Crs. ER 1 US\$=Rs.42.00
<i>Kerala</i>				
8.	Kannur M/s Kannur Power Projects District (Kannur)	513	Naphtha switch over to LNG once it is made available	US\$ 210.010M + Rs. 587.91 crs ER 1 US\$=Rs. 42.00
9.	Vypeen CCGP M/s Siaseen Energy Pvt. Ltd. District (Emakulam)	679.2	LNG	US\$ 6.90 M +S.Fr.439.84 M +Rs.771.475 Cr. ER 1 US\$=Rs.39.50 1S.Fr.=Rs.26.50
<i>Andhra Pradesh</i>				
10*	Kondapalli CCGT M/s Kondapalli Power Corp., District (Krishna)	350	Naphtha	US 180.616M +Rs.385.254 Crs. ER 1 US\$=Rs.36.00
11.	Vemagiri CCGP In East Godavari M/s Ispat Industries Ltd. District (East Godavari)	492	Naphtha	US\$ 248.020 M +Rs.638.233 Crs. 1 US\$=Rs.42.00
<i>Tamil Nadu</i>				
12*.	Pillaiperumalnallur CCGT M/s PPN Power Gen.Co. District (Thanjavur)	330.5	Natural Gas Naphtha as supplementary or alternate fuel	US \$206.549 M +Rs.429.8 Crs. ER Rs. 33.50/US\$

*Under Construction.

CENTRAL SECTOR

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

NORTHERN REGION

Rajasthan

- | | | | | |
|----|---|-----|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Anta CCPP St.II
NTPC District (Kota) | 650 | Naphtha (till gas
is available) | US\$ 243.71 M +Rs.899.64 Crs.
ER Rs.39.50/US\$ |
|----|---|-----|------------------------------------|---|

Uttar Pradesh

- | | | | | |
|----|--|-----|------------------------------------|---|
| 2. | Auraiya CCPP St.II
NTPC, District (Auraiya) | 650 | Naphtha (till gas
is available) | US\$ 243.844 M +Rs.857.622 Crs.
ER Rs.39.50/US\$ |
|----|--|-----|------------------------------------|---|

WESTERN REGION

Gujarat

- | | | | | |
|----|---|-----|---------|--|
| 3. | Kawas CCGT St.II
M/s NTPC, District (Surat) | 650 | Naphtha | US\$ 243.69 M +Rs.831.57 Crs.
ER Rs.39.50/US\$ |
| 4. | Jhanor Gandhar CCGT St.II
NTPC, District (Bharuch) | 650 | Naphtha | US\$ 243.62 M +Rs.854.113 Crs.
ER Rs.42.50/US\$ |

STATE SECTOR

Rajasthan

- | | | | | |
|----|---|-----|--------------------|---|
| 1. | Mathania ISCC Power
Project
M/s RSCPL, District Jodhpur | 140 | Solar +
Naphtha | US\$ 50.6 M +Rs. 659.34 Crs.
ER1 US\$=Rs.42.00 |
|----|---|-----|--------------------|---|

Per-capita availability of Power in Assam and N.E. Region States

2235. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the per-capita availability of power in urban and rural areas in Assam and other North Eastern States in comparison to other States, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to bring it to all India level, indicating its cost and the span period involved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The per capita availability of power (irrespective of rural or urban locations) in various States of the country during 1999-2000 is enclosed as Statement.

(b) Special emphasis is being laid on power development in the North-Eastern Region. Generation capacity of 465 MW in the remaining period of IXth Plan and 1495 MW in the Xth Plan are likely to be added in the central sector in the North Eastern Region. Further,

projects totaling 22630 MW yielding benefit during XIth Plan period and beyond have also been identified for execution. In addition, a scheme for strengthening and improvement of sub-transmission and distribution system in the States of the North Eastern Region has also been formulated by the Central Electricity Authority in consultation with the constituent States. The scheme envisages completion of on-going sub-transmission and distribution projects for which Planning Commission has agreed to provide a sum of Rs. 52.00 crores from the "Non-lapsable Pool" during the current year.

Statement

Annual per capita availability of power during the Year 1999-2000 State-wise

Name of the State	Per Capita Availability (KWH)
1	2
<i>Northern Region</i>	
Chandigarh	1172.73
Delhi	1247.53
Haryana	789.96

1	2
Himachal Pradesh	469.13
Jammu & Kashmir	497.77
Punjab	1116.69
Rajasthan	451.83
Uttar Pradesh	230.14
<i>Western Region</i>	
Gujarat	979.86
Madhya Pradesh	436.31
Maharashtra	760.77
Goa	900.64
<i>Southern Region</i>	
Andhra Pradesh	570.26
Karnataka	498.86
Kerala	370.50
Tamil Nadu	581.50
<i>Eastern Region</i>	
Bihar	84.17
Orissa	311.95
West Bengal	232.89
<i>North-Eastern Region</i>	
Arunachal Pradesh	102.29
Assam	111.99
Manipur	181.20
Meghalaya	225.33
Mizoram	238.19
Nagaland	125.18
Tripura	158.20
All India	454.96

Telephone Exchanges

2236. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up telephone exchanges in Kaitara under P.S. Galsi and Pakhanna, Matashurid, Bairabpur, Mavagram under P.S. Barjora, in Bankura district of West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is planned to set up 256P CDOT exchanges during the current financial year by March, 2001 at Kaitara under P.S. Galsi in district Burdwan and at Pakhanna under P.S. Barjora in district Bankura. There is no registered demand at Matashurid, Basirabpur and Managram. So no exchange has been planned at these places during 2000-01. As soon as sufficient registered demand comes up, telephone exchanges will be planned at these places.

Financial and Administrative Irregularities in ICAR

2237. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Special Audit was conducted in regard to financial and administrative irregularities in ICAR;

(b) if so, whether the report in respect of the said Audit has been submitted;

(c) if so, the officers found guilty/responsible and the action taken against them; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The concerned Officers/Divisions have been requested to furnish all the details and documents. A few have furnished some comments. The cases will be examined on receipt of all the details and accordingly the action will be taken.

[Translation]

Speed Post Service

2238. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme to start speed post service from all the main cities of newly formed Chhattisgarh State; and

(b) if so, the time by which the same is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) In the newly formed State of Chhattisgarh, there is one National Speed Post Centre and 15 Centres on State Speed Post Network covering all the 16 district headquarters in the State.

National Telecommunication Consultative Committee

2239. SHRI PUSP JAIN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which the Joint Sitting of National Telecommunication Consultative Committee was held;

(b) the matter discussed therein;

(c) whether the Committee were not satisfied with the working of the Consumer Service Departments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to improve the working of these departments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Ministry of Communications has no Committee titled as "National Telecommunication Consultative Committee". However, a meeting of Consultative Committee of Parliament attached to the Ministry of Communications was held on 6.11.2000 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Communications.

(b) The subject matter discussed was "Public Grievances and Customer satisfaction in Telephone Services."

(c) and (d) The members of the Committee were generally satisfied with the Grievance Redressal System operative in the Department. But they offered many

valuable suggestions to improve customer services further. These have been taken on record for follow up. Suggestions related to larger customers' interests are detailed below :

- Each TDM/GM should make available the status report regarding the telephone booked, installed and pending in their jurisdiction to their respective MPs from time to time.
- Cooperative and Gramin Banks in the rural areas should be authorised to collect the telephone bills in addition to other scheduled banks.
- Telephone operators on 180/197 etc. positions should indicate their identity to the caller.
- Each SSA Head should maintain area-wise status report of out of turn priority cases recommended by Hon'ble MPs and indicate them the time limit by which telephone can be provided to the applicants.
- Telephone Adalats should be held regularly and MPs/MLAs of the Constituencies should be intimated about the schedules of the Adalats in advance.

[English]

Coconut Farmers of Srikakulam

2240. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry had sent a proposal of Rs. 6.15 crore as relief for the affected coconut farmers of Srikakulam District to the Planning Commission last year;

(b) if so, whether Planning Commission has communicated its concurrence to the said proposal;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have since released this amount to Andhra Pradesh;

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

(f) the time by which this amount is likely to be released to Andhra Pradesh?

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

(b) and (c) Planning Commission has concurred with the proposal to provide Rs. 6.15 crores as relief to coconut farmers affected by cyclone in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh.

(d) to (f) During the year 1999-2000, a sum of Rs. 1.00 crore was released by the Coconut Development Board to Government of Andhra Pradesh for this purpose. As regards the balance amount of Rs. 5.15 crores, the proposal is under the active consideration of Government of India.

Crop Oriented Schemes

2241. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to reorganize its crop oriented schemes to avoid overlapping in their contents and differing subsidy pattern;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Schemes to be implemented for diversification of agriculture for its all-round development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) It has been decided to switchover from the conventional Schematic approach to Macro Management mode for providing assistance to States for development of agriculture, with immediate effect. The Scheme envisages integration of 27 Schemes into one Scheme for Supplementation/Complementation of States' Efforts through Work Plans, which will give flexibility to States to address the specific problems faced by them, avoid overlapping in the contents of different schemes and aim for all-round development of agriculture. The details of 27 Centrally Sponsored Schemes, integrated into Macro Management Scheme, are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

List of Centrally Sponsored Schemes

1. Assistance to Coop. Weaker Section
2. Assistance to Women Cooperatives
3. Non-overdue Cover Scheme
4. Agri. Credit Stabilisation Fund
5. Special Scheme for SC/ST
6. Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Rice Based Cropping System Areas
7. Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Wheat Based Cropping System Areas
8. Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Coarse-Cereals Based Cropping System Areas
9. Special Jute Development Programme
10. Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System Areas
11. Balanced and Integrated use of Fertiliser
12. Promotion of Agricultural Mechanisation among small farmers
13. Integrated Development of Tropical, Arid Temperate Zone Fruits
14. Production and Supply of Vegetable Seeds
15. Development of Commercial Floriculture
16. Development of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants
17. Development of Roots & Tuber Crops
18. Development of Cocoa & Cashew
19. Integrated Programme for Development of Spices
20. Development of Mushroom
21. Use of Plastics in Agriculture
22. Bee-Keeping
23. National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas
24. Scheme for Foundation & Certified Seed Production of Vegetable Crops
25. Soil Conservation in Catchments of River Valley Projects & Flood Prone Rivers
26. Reclamation & Development of Alkali Soils
27. State Land Use Boards

Development of Teesta Hydro-electric Power Project

2242. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation has entered into a pact with the West Bengal State Electricity Board to develop Teesta Hydro-electric Power Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any plan to allow the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation to open more joint venture projects in West Bengal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The National hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) has entered into an agreement on 10.11.2000 with the West Bengal State Electricity Board (on behalf of the Government of West Bengal) to develop the Teesta Low Dam hydro-electric projects stage-III (100 MW) and IV (132 MW) on River Teesta in West Bengal.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal at present under consideration in the Government to initiate any Joint Venture projects in West Bengal.

Production of Moong

2243. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the per hectare production of Moong in India as compared to per hectare production in Australia;

(b) the reasons for less production of Moong per hectare in India; and

(c) the steps proposed to promote this healthy grain in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) The per hectare production of Moong in India is 384 kg. during 1998-99 as compared to per hectare production of 1000 kg. in Australia.

(b) Pulses including Moong are raised under rainfed conditions on marginal and sub-marginal lands which are poor in fertility and therefore, the productivity of Moong is less in our country.

(c) For increasing the production & productivity of pulses including moong, Government of India has brought pulses under the ambit of Technology Mission on Oilseeds in 1990. The production of pulses including moong is being encouraged under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) by way of use of improved varieties and adoption of improved production and protection technologies in the farmer's field to improve their productivity. Besides this, micro irrigation through sprinkler sets is also promoted under the scheme of NPDP for providing life saving irrigation to enhance the productivity of pulses including moong.

[Translation]

Production Targets of Foodgrains

2244. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have given any directions to the State Governments for achieving the production targets of foodgrains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The targets given by the Planning Commission at all India level for different crops are being informed to the State Governments through Agenda Notes and also discussions held in the National Conferences organised before Kharif and Rabi Seasons. Prior to these Conferences, Zonal meetings on Seed & Fertilizers are also organised with States for making necessary arrangements of inputs of production. In the above Conferences/Meetings the State Governments are advised to take necessary steps to achieve the production targets communicated to them by organizing production campaign at State level.

Encroachment in Sanjay Gandhi Rashtriya Udhyan

2245. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the encroachment in Sanjay Gandhi Rashtriya Udhyan, Mumbai have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether State Government has offered any alternative land for dereservation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Approximately 500 acres of land in Sanjay Gandhi Rashtriya Udhyan had been encroached for residential purpose.

(c) No. Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Hon'ble High Court has directed the State Government to relocate the persons concerned on an alternative site.

Problems of Tobacco Farmers

2246. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Council for Agriculture Research (I.C.A.R.) has asked Central Tobacco Research Institute (C.T.R.I.) to properly represent the problems affecting tobacco farmers in various Committees of different Ministries;

(b) if so, whether C.T.R.I. is not active and alert in such matter;

(c) whether I.C.A.R. propose to monitor such activities and decisions of C.T.R.I. to protect tobacco farmers; and

(d) if so, the details of steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) ICAR has asked CTRI to (i) attend the meetings of Tobacco Board under Ministry of Commerce to represent the problems affecting tobacco farmers, and (ii) arrive at proper solutions for the benefit of tobacco farming community in the country.

(b) No, Sir. CTRI is rather quite active and alert in such matters, and is working for the benefit of tobacco growers as per the mandate of the Institute.

(c) ICAR is already monitoring activities and decisions of CTRI.

(d) Like in all other Institutions under ICAR, Research Advisory Committee, Management Committee, Staff Research Council and Quinquennial Review Teams are consulted on a regular basis to monitor R & D activities and decisions of CTRI.

Construction of By-passes in Assam

2247. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Assam for construction of By-passes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Assam has demarcated the necessary land for the construction of By-pass at Nagaon;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any allocation of fund has been made for this project; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Proposals for construction of by-passes for Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Nagaon, Mangaldoi and North Lakhimpur towns have been received.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The land acquisition is in progress.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The land acquisition estimate for an amount of Rs. 72.93 lakh has been sanctioned.

Roads/Bridges projects of Punjab

2248. SHRI VINOD KHANNA : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are planning to sanction the important roads and bridges projects proposed by the Government of Punjab under E&I programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) All the proposals for improvement of roads/bridges under E&I programme of loan assistance were shelved as the Central Road Fund (CRF) was being revamped. Fresh proposals for consideration under the scheme of Economic and Inter-state importance under the revamped CRF which will now comprise of grants are awaited.

Licence Fee

2249 PROF UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether the licence fee for some cellular telephone companies has been deliberately kept low;

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

(c) whether Delhi Cellular Telephone companies are getting off with easy payments;

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure equity in such matter;

(e) whether the Government propose to review the existing agreement; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) (a) and (b) Licence Fees in respect of Cellular Circles had initially been fixed based on the bids given by the Companies. And in case of Metros, the licence fees for the first three years had been fixed by the Department, for each of the two companies licensed for each city, as under, after a consideration of the estimates of revenues likely to be generated by them :

(Rs. in crores)			
City	1st year	2nd year	3rd year
Mumbai	3	6	12
Delhi	2	4	8
Calcutta	1.5	3	6
Chennai	1	2	4

The Licence fees for the subsequent years were based on the number of subscribers, at the rate of

Rs. 6,02,300/- per 100 subscribers (or part thereof) subject to the minimum shown below :

Minimum Licence Fee for each Metro Cellular Operator

(Rupees in crores)

City	4th to 6th year (for each year)	7th year onwards (For each year)
Mumbai	18	24
Delhi	12	16
Calcutta	9	12
Chennai	6	8

Actually, all the metro operators paid the license fee for the 4th/5th year periods based on subscribers since that was higher than the above-mentioned minimum values. In the post-migration (to New Telecom Policy, 1999 regime) period, all Cellular licensees, both Circle and Metro, are required to pay License Fee as a share (which is presently fixed provisionally @ 15%) of their revenue. Based on the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and Government's final decision, final adjustment of provisional dues (post-migration) will be effected depending on percentage of revenue share as may be finally decided.

(c) No, Sir. The percentage of revenue to be paid by the cellular operators in Delhi as license fee is the same as that for the operators of other Metro cities.

(d) Does not arise in view of the above.

(e) and (f) The terms and conditions of existing cellular licences are to be modified in view of stipulations in Migration package for migration to the New Telecom Policy-1999 (NTP-99) regime of revenue sharing.

[Translation]

Telephone Exchange in Hilly areas

2250. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have fixed any target for setting up of telephone exchanges in hilly and inaccessible areas of the country during 2000-2001;

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

(c) the names of the places where telephone exchanges could not be set up due to non-reaching of MCPC and other equipments in time, State-wise; and

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

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

(b) Not applicable in view of (a).

(c) Details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) Procurement action has already been taken. Equipments are under field evaluation. After successful evaluation, these will be supplied by M/s PCL & ITI.

Statement

List of circles (places) where MCPC-VSATs are required to set up new exchanges

Sl.No.	H.P.	Bihar	Rajasthan	Maharashtra
1.	Thirot	Mahua Tand	Dangri	Sheloshi
2.	Khoksar	Garoo	Awai	Vishalgad
3.	Dhankar	Ramgarh	Randha	Anuskura
4.	Chitkul	Borio	Hiyzaler	Gajapur
5.	Gyabung	Karron	Kot	Barvidam
6.	Chiuni	Kundhit	Mandrayal	Hajimalangwadi
7.	Gada Gussain	Masalia		
8.	Sudhar	Kumarduggi		
9.	Goma	Adhaura		
10.	Sainj Khud			
11.	Pul Bahal			
12.	Manioti			
13.	Sarpara			
14.	Dhambari			

Sl.No.	U.P. (West)	M.P.	N.E.
1.	Degan Chola	Chhindi	Yachali (AP)
2.	Sheraghat	Satrenga	Niyapin (AP)
3.	Kanda	Longi	Tengkingaon (AP)
4.	Nagthat	Salhebera	Sugnu (MN)
5.	Lakhwar	Rengakherka	Kassemkhullen (MN)
6.	Lakhamandal	Srakheda	Saikul (MN)

Sl.No.	U.P. (West)	M.P.	N.E.
7.	Ghutta	Kikirmeta	Kakching Khunao (MN)
8.		Khoksapare	Kharkhuta (MG)
9.		Johrapadar	Lumshnong
10.		Urmal	Ranikor (MG)
11.		Sulesa	Dainadubi (MG)
12.		Kuma	Chockpot (MG)
13.		Kindha	Noklok (NG)
14.		Khamhar	Tobu (NG)
15.		Bhaturakachhar	Tenning (NG)
16.		Katekalyan	Chawmanu(TP)
17.		Girola	**
18.		Vishrampuri	
19.		Jaitpur	
20.		Salbardi	

** Note : 45 Nos. of MCPC-VSATs for NE Region are already ordered on Suppliers for which supplies are awaited. The additional requirement of 57 Nos. shall be covered in the new procurement.

[English]

Rural Electrification

2251. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment regarding use of electricity in rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details of rural areas electrified in States so far, States and Union Territory-wise; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to cover more rural areas of the country under rural electrification?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) 5,07,216 villages have been reported to be electrified by the end of September, 2000 as against 5,87,258 inhabited villages in the country as per 1991 census. The details of villages electrified and pumpsets energized in the country by the end of September, 2000 in various States and UTs are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Rural Electrification is the responsibility of the State Electricity Boards/State Governments which own and operate the distribution system in the States. From the current financial year, the funds under Rural Electrification Programme (MNP) are being released directly to the States as part Normal Central Assistance instead of the earlier practice of routing through the REC. The other steps taken to improve the position of electrification in villages include funding of programmes of village electrification and pumpset energisation for REC with support from the Government of India. In addition, REC is financing investments in the areas of System Improvement and Small Generation. State Electricity Boards are being assisted by the REC to look at the entire rural distribution system in a designated geographical area in an integrated manner so as to identify the existing inadequacies and draw up a plan by their removal in a time bound manner by realigning and strengthening the LT distribution network and installation of energy meters, wherever required. The Government provides 100% grant to the State Governments/State Electricity Boards through REC for extending single point connection to the households of rural families below the poverty line under Kutir Jyoti Scheme. An amount of Rs. 800/- for un-metered connections and Rs. 1000/- for metered connections is provided under the scheme to meet one time cost of internal wiring and service connection charges. The Government have approved a scheme for extending 7.5% interest subsidy for electrification of 415 tribal villages and 2440 dalit bastis during the current year. The Government has also taken up a special programme called Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP), which has a component for strengthening of distribution and sub-transmission system. An allocation of Rs. 1000 crore has made under the programme for the current year.

Statement

Status of Village Electrification in India as September, 2000

Sl. States No.	Total inhabited villages (1991 census)	Villages electrified to the end of September, 2000 (Provisional)	Remarks
1	2	3	4
1. Andhra Pradesh	26586	26565	(*)
2. Arunachal Pradesh	3649	2171	(e)
3. Assam	24685	19019	(b)
4. Bihar	67513	47890	(\$\$(d)

1	2	3	4	5
5. Goa		360	360	(@)
6. Gujarat		18028	17940	(*)
7. Haryana		6759	6759	
8. Himachal Pradesh		16997	16854	(+)
9. Jammu & Kashmir		6477	6315	(\$)(a)
10. Karnataka		27066	26694	(+)
11. Kerala		1384	1384	
12. Madhya Pradesh		71526	68346	
13. Maharashtra		40412	40412	(@)
14. Manipur		2182	2001	
15. Meghalaya		5484	2510	(c)
16. Mizoram		698	691	
17. Nagaland		1216	1196	(f)
18. Orissa		46989	35232	
19. Punjab		12428	12428	
20. Rajasthan		37889	35490	
21. Sikkim		447	405	(#)
22. Tamil Nadu		15822	15822	
23. Tripura		855	810	
24. Uttar Pradesh		112803	89273	
25. West Bengal		37910	29559	(f)
Sub-Total		586165	506126	
UTs		1093	1090	(*)
Grand Total		587258	507216	

(*) Fully electrified. Balance not feasible for electrification.

(#) Provisional, 42 Nos. forest villages not electrified.

(@) Provisional to be confirmed as per 1991 census.

(+) 100% electrified as per 1981 census.

(\$\$) Achievements as per 1981 census.

(\$\$) Achievements as per 1971 census. 1991 census not held

(a) As on 31.3.1998 (b) As on 30.11.1999 (c) As on 30.4.2000

(d) As on 31.05.2000 (e) As on 31.07.2000 (f) As on 31.8.2000.

Source : CEA's report on village electrification (9/2000)

Implementation of Major Projects by NHAI

2252. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India have reviewed implementation performance of major projects under implementation in various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof, projects-wise in terms of financial and physical targets set and achieved over the last three years. State-wise in general and Maharashtra State in particular;

(c) the details of private investment proposals approved-under implementation and proposals under consideration for projects in Maharashtra; and

(d) the details of Foreign aid/loan approved so far for ongoing road projects/and proposed road projects in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is enclosed.

(c) No private investment proposal in Maharashtra is under implementation. One project of Aकोia bypass is proposed.

(d) A length of 57.4 km on Surat-Manor section of National Highway-8 is being implemented under Asian Development Bank loan assistance of US\$180 million for a total length of 176 km in the States of Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Statement

	Number of Projects	Length (in Km.)	Cost (Rs. in Crores)	Target
Golden Quadrilateral	13	697	3010	December, 2003
North-South East-West	20	272	839	December, 2002
Others	8	216	989	December, 2003
Total	41	1185	4838	

Three projects viz. Pune bypass (National Highway-4), Kajali-Manor (57.4 km) and Nagpur-Adilabad (national Highway-7) in Maharashtra are under implementation having a total length of 116 km and cost Rs. 360 crores.

All the Projects are progressing as per schedule.

Loan to Farmers

2253. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to grant loans to farmers in view of huge stock of foodgrains lying unsold with them in some States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) As per the extant guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India, Banks have been permitted to sanction advances to farmers upto Rs. one lakh against the pledge/hypothecation of agricultural produce (including warehouse receipt) for a period not exceeding six months.

Fruit processing industry in N.E. States

2254. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any fruit processing industry has been set up in North-Eastern States including Sikkim during the last two years till date; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH) : (a) and (b) Department of Food Processing Industries does not set up any unit on its own. Under the Plan Schemes of the Department of Food Processing Industries financial assistance in the form of soft loan and grant-in-aid is provided to Private Sector Industries, Non-Governmental Organizations, Cooperatives, Public Sector Undertakings, Human Resources Development Institutions etc. for the development of processed food sector including Fruit & Vegetable Processing. During the period 1998-99 & 1999-2000, financial assistance of Rs. 5.98 Crores was provided to the Fruit & Vegetable Processing Projects in the North East & Sikkim.

Cellular Operators

2255. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the new-item captioned "Cellular Operators allowed to construct structures on roof tops" appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated October 12, 2000;

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

(c) whether his Ministry has permitted the Municipal Corporation of Delhi to give such permission;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the action taken against the operators?

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

(b) Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), considering the technological needs, have decided to allow the installation of temporary structures on roof tops for Cellular Mobile Phone Service, however, this being a commercial activity it may not be permitted in residential area.

(c) Neither any permission has been given nor is required to be given by Ministry of Communications in this regard.

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

World Bank Report on Agriculture Development

2256. SHRI ARUN KUMAR :
SHRI MANJAY LAL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the main features of World Bank's Report on Agriculture Development; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government on the suggestions made therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) Agriculture Ministry is not aware of any World Bank's "Report on Agriculture Development."

(b) The question does not arise.

[Translation]

Soil and Water Pollution by Alcohol Manufacturing Companies

2257. SHRI RAMSHAKAL :
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

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

(a) whether despite rulings of the Supreme Court certain alcohol manufacturing companies in Western Uttar Pradesh are dumping poisonous chemicals emanating from their factories underground and letting them flow in open, leading to soil and underground water pollution;

(b) if so, whether the Government have directed the State Government to find out such companies;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government have received any report from the Government of Uttar Pradesh in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

National Highway Protection Force

2258. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether criminal activities on National Highways are increasing day-by-day as reported in *Hindustan Times* dated October 10, 2000;

(b) if so, the number of incidents took place on the National Highways during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government propose to constitute National Highway Protection Force under the direct control of the Government of India to ensure safe journey;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of other facilities available to National Highway users in respect of their safety, medical lodging etc. and to further increase the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) Law and Order is a State subject and such incidents are not reported to this Ministry.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Under the National Highway Patrolling Scheme, financial assistance is provided by the Ministry for purchase of ambulances for providing immediate medical relief on the spot and for purchase of cranes for removal of vehicles involved in the accidents on National Highways. Presently there is no facility for medical lodging for exclusive benefit of National Highway users.

Leakage of CBI Report on match fixing

2259. SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the CBI report on cricket match fixing was leaked out in advance before presentation to the Government; and

(b) if so, the action the Government propose to take against the officers for such leakage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) As per information received from CBI, the report was not leaked out in advance before its presentation to the Government. Only after the Government had made the report public, it was put on the internet site of the CBI. CBI has also informed that the CBI enquiry into cricket match fixing and related malpractices was an open enquiry and its report was not a classified document.

(b) Does not arise.

Artificial Colour in Juices

2260. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether packed juices contain artificial colour in excess of the permissible limit;

(b) if so, the number of samples collected from the market during each of the last three years and the number of them found to show positive results; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against such manufacturers to have check on such production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Reassessment of Tehri Hydro-electric Project

2261. SHRI Y.V. RAO : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to conduct any scientific reassessment of Tehri Hydro Electric Project on river Ganga; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons of opposing for its construction by certain outfits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Science & Technology has been requested to undertake a study of the self purification quality of Ganga Jal and possible impact on this of the Tehri Dam and Hydro Electric Project.

[Translation]

Pollution due to Petro Vehicles

2262. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI :
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :
SHRI TARUN GOGOI :
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI

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

(a) whether world's environment/climate is being affected adversely due to plying of petrol vehicles in cities like Delhi etc. as reported in *Hindustan* (Hindi edition) dated October 17, 2000;

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

(c) the steps the Government propose to overcome the problem?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to control vehicular pollution in Delhi and other metropolitan cities include notification of stringent Mass Emission Standards known as India 2000 norms akin to Euro-I norms for motor vehicles manufactured from 1.4.2000 in the entire country

and more stringent Mass Emission Standards known as Bharat Stage-II akin to Euro-II norms for registration of four wheeled private (non-commercial) vehicles from 1.4.2000 in the National Capital Region, 1.1.2001 in Mumbai and from 1.7.2001 in Chennai and Calcutta, notification of specification of two-stroke engine oil effective from 1.4.1999 in the entire country, supply of improved quality fuel commensurate to upgradation of automobile technology, supply of unleaded petrol in the entire country and adoption of clean fuels.

Proposals to Planning Commission for KVKs

2263. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Council of Agricultural Research has sent fresh proposals to the Planning Commission for setting up Krishi Vigyan Kendras in various States in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has submitted a fresh proposal to the Planning Commission for established of 66 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK), the details of which are given in the Statement enclosed

(c) It will depend on the availability of additional resources.

Statement

*Number of KVKs proposed in various States/
Union Territories*

State/UT	Number of KVKs
Andhra Pradesh	1
Arunachal Pradesh	4
Assam	6
Bihar	6
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1
Haryana	7
Himachal Pradesh	1
Jammu & Kashmir	4
Madhya Pradesh	8

State/UT	Number of KVKs
Maharashtra	3
Manipur	2
Meghalaya	5
Mizoram	1
Nagaland	2
Orissa	3
Sikkim	3
Tamil Nadu	2
Tripura	2
Uttar Pradesh	5
Total	66

Effect of centrally sponsored projects on flood affected areas

2264. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is no positive effect on flood affected areas of various programmes for well planned development through Centrally sponsored projects;

(b) if so, the persons behind the organisers being not able to prepare any other appropriate scheme for the areas to check this national waste;

(c) whether the Government propose to start special programme in lieu of common planning procedures for those areas;

(d) if so, the methodology and action plan under consideration by the Government; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (e) Flood is a natural phenomenon and complete protection to all the flood affected areas against all magnitudes of flood is neither practically feasible nor economically viable. Reasonable protection against flood using combination of structural and non-structural measures is the strategy adopted for flood management.

Flood control/management is primarily the function of the State Government. Central Government make available funds for flood control schemes in Annual Plans to the State Governments through Planning Commission. In addition, the Central Government gives special

assistance to the border States and North Eastern States for taking up some special priority works. Central Government is also making available the flood forecasting services for major inter State rivers through 157 flood forecasting stations being maintained and operated by Central Water Commission.

[English]

Visit of King Commission on Match Fixing

2265. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a two-member team of the King Commission probing Match Fixing Scandal in South Africa has visited India recently; and

(b) if so, the details and the purpose thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The two member team of the King Commission of Inquiry of South Africa comprising of Ms. Shameela Batohi, Chief prosecutor and Capt. Geoff Edward attached to the Commission visited Delhi from September 17-22, 2000. During their stay, the team interacted with the officers of Delhi Police investigating the alleged match fixing case.

Floods in Arunachal Pradesh

2266. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether sudden floods in Arunachal Pradesh have claimed lives of many people;

(b) if so, whether the floods are probably due to some activity across the border;

(c) if so, whether the Government have taken up the matter with the Chinese Government to prevent such happenings in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) The State Government had reported that 26 people died due to the flash floods in June, 2000.

(b) to (d) The matter was taken up with the Chinese side, who conveyed that there was no dam on their side on the Yarlung Tsangpo (Brahmaputra) river and that the

occurrence on the Indian side could have been "only due to natural causes".

[Translation]

Construction of Tunnel in Rohtang Pass

2267. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made in regard to the construction of a tunnel in Rohtang Pass, Himachal Pradesh;

(b) the amount allocated for the construction of the tunnel during the current financial year;

(c) whether the construction work of the tunnel has commenced;

(d) if so, the progress made in this regard and the target fixed for its completion; and

(e) if not, the time by which construction work is likely to commence and the problems being faced in starting the construction work of the tunnel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) The Geological investigation for the proposed alignment of tunnel in Rohtang pass has just been completed.

(b) Nil.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) At this stage it is too early to indicate the time frame for the construction of the tunnel.

Production support price of wheat

2268. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of wheat produced in the country during 2000-2001, State-wise;

(b) the support price of wheat fixed by the Government during the said period;

(c) whether the farmers in various States had to sell their wheat even at price lower than the support price; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) A Statement showing state-wise advance estimates of wheat production during 1999-2000 is enclosed.

(b) The Minimum Support Price (MSP) of wheat fixed by the Government for the 1999-2000 crop to be marketed in 2000-01 season is Rs. 580 per quintal.

(c) and (d) The procurement operations in respect of wheat are carried out by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in association with the State Governments and its agencies under the price support scheme of the Government. For this purpose sufficient number of purchase centres are opened by FCI in consultation with State Governments, well in advance before the commencement of each marketing season. The FCI and State Government agencies procure all quantities of wheat offered for sale provided these conform to the uniform specifications. All complaints relating to distress sale are taken up immediately with the FCI and the State Governments. The wheat below Fair Average Quality (FAQ) norms is not purchased by the procurement agencies and the farmers sell it in the open market at ongoing market rates.

Statement

State-wise advance estimates of wheat production during 1999-2000

(in '000 tonnes)

States	Wheat
Andhra Pradesh	6
Assam	86
Bihar	4367
Gujarat	925
Haryana	9642
Himachal Pradesh	481
Jammu & Kashmir	365
Karnataka	176
Kerala	
Madhya Pradesh	8458
Maharashtra	1287
Orissa	8
Punjab	15852
Rajasthan	6732
Tamil Nadu	
Uttar Pradesh	25000
West Bengal	796
Others	65
All India	74246

Bold Underlined are final estimates. Bold are revised advanced.

[English]

Storage facilities for fruits and vegetables

2269. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the average total quantum of fruits and vegetables spoiled every year due to inadequate facilities of storage, transportation and marketing;

(b) the details of schemes chalked out by the Government to prevent spoiling of fruits and vegetables alongwith the targets fixed therefor during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to encourage fruits and vegetables processing industries so as to promote rural employment; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) As per the Report of the Sub-Working Group on Post Harvest Management, Marketing and Exports for the Ninth Plan, it is estimated that the losses vary between 8 to 37 per cent in various crops in different stages after harvest.

(b) to (d) The National Horticulture Board (NHB), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Agriculture, is implementing the following schemes for strengthening the post-harvest management infrastructure :

- (i) Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for Construction/Expansion/Modernization of Cold Storages/Storages for Horticulture produce; and
- (ii) Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production & Post Harvest Management of Horticultural Products.

The Department of Food Processing Industries (DFPI) also operates a number of Plan schemes for developing food processing industries including fruits & vegetables processing industries.

The schemes are demand based and no State-wise targets are fixed.

Uncultivable land in Daman and Diu

2270. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total area of uncultivable and undulating land brought under cultivation in Daman and Diu during the last three years; and

(b) the increase in foodgrains productions registered as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) As reported by the Administration of Daman & Diu, no area of uncultivable and undulating land has been brought under cultivation during the last three years.

(b) Does not arise.

Village Public Telephone Scheme in Gujarat

2271. SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received a large number of complaints regarding Village Public Telephone Scheme in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details of such complaints during the last one year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 1351 complaints have been received during the last one year for non-functioning of Village Public Telephones (VPT) in the State of Gujarat. These complaints have since been attended. 274 VPTs were reported faulty in the month of November, 2000.

(c) Maintenance teams have been formed in all Secondary Switching Areas (SSAs) in the state for attending VPT complaints on priority and monitoring their performance.

[*Translation*]

Post Offices/Sub Post Offices in Rajasthan

2272. SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices and sub-post offices opened in Rajasthan during the last three years;

(b) the locations where the post offices and sub-post offices are likely to be upgraded;

(c) the names of sub-post offices to be upgraded as post offices in Sawa and Bohera in Chittorgarh district in Rajasthan; and

(d) the number of post offices and sub-post offices proposed to be opened in Chittorgarh during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Total 87 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 3 Departmental Sub Post Offices have been opened in Rajasthan during the last three years.

(b) No Post Office is proposed to be upgraded.

(c) The upgradation of Sawa and Bohera Extra Departmental Sub-Post Offices has not been found justified on financial norms laid down by the department.

(d) There is proposal to open 2 new Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices in Chittorgarh district during the current financial year. Opening of new Post Offices is subject to the fulfilment of departmental norms and sanctioning of required posts by Ministry of Finance.

[*English*]

Optical Fibre Cables

2273. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of Optical Fibre Cables (OFC) required in West Bengal and the present supply thereof;

(b) whether there is a long gap between demand and supply of OFC in the State; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to augment the supply of cables at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The quantity of Optical Fibre Cable required during 2000-2001 in West Bengal is 2040 km and quantity received so far is 538 Km.

(b) There is delay in supply of balance quantity of Optical Fibre Cable due to non-acceptance of tendered prices by vendors against 12 Fibre and 24 Fibre cables.

(c) A short notice limited tender has again been called for procurement of balance quantities which will be finalized shortly.

[*Translation*]

Use of Foodgrains as Fodder

2274. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been an increase in the demand and production of milk, meat and eggs in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the foodgrains are being used as fodder for the animals as a result of that; and

(d) if so, the quantum of foodgrains used for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) The Demand for milk, meat and eggs in the country is increasing due to the increase in the population. The production of these items is increasing over years. The details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Production of Milk, Egg and Meat : 1980-81 to 1999-2000

Year	Milk (Million Tonnes)	Egg (Million Nos.)	Meat (000 tonnes)
1980-81	31.6	10060	798
1981-82	34.3	10876	849
1982-83	35.8	11454	866
1983-84	38.8	12792	1010
1984-85	41.5	14252	1007
1985-86	44.0	16128	1106
1986-87	46.1	17310	1261
1987-88	46.7	17795	1610
1988-89	48.4	18980	2974
1989-90	51.4	20204	3596
1990-91	53.9	21101	3710
1991-92	55.7	21983	3800
1992-93	58.0	22929	3950
1993-94	60.6	24167	4051
1994-95	63.8	25975	4259
1995-96	66.2	27198	4319
1996-97	69.1	27496	4421
1997-98 (Prov)	70.8	28567	4448
1998-99 (Prov)	74.7	30150	4464
1999-2000 (Anticipated)	78.1	31500	4475

[English]

Licence Fee for VSAT

2275. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether presently licence fee for Very Small Aperture Terminals in India is the highest in the world; and

(b) if so, the steps the Government envisage to reduce the licence fee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Government does not have information to indicate that the present licence fee for Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSAT) in India is highest in the world. However, Government had requested Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) for recommendations on licence fee for VSAT. TRAI has given their recommendations to Government on licence fee for VSAT which are as follows:

Licence fee per VSAT for basic Rate bearer service i.e. 64 kbps :

1 to 500 VSATs—Rs. 20,000 per VSAT per annum with a minimum amount of Rs. 30 lakhs per annum.##

501 to 1000 VSATs—Rs. 15,000 per VSAT per annum with a minimum amount of Rs. 100 lakhs per annum

Above 1000 VSATs—Rs. 10,000 per VSAT per annum with a minimum amount of Rs. 150 lakhs per annum.

the amount of Rs. 30 lakhs which is stipulated as the minimum licence fee also serves the purpose of an entry fee.

The above licence fee recommended by TRAI is much lower than the present licence fee of Rs. 50,000 per VSAT per annum. Government is yet to take a decision on the matter.

Vacancies in Postal Department

2276. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of vacancies lying vacant in the Department of Posts in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the time by which the said vacancies are likely to be filled up;

(c) the number of Post Offices functioning in the State at present;

(d) the per capita Post Offices in Andhra Pradesh in comparison to other Southern States;

(e) whether the Government propose to open new Post Offices in the State during 2000-2001;

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

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Posts lying vacant in the Department of Posts in Andhra Pradesh are as under :

Group-A	—	6
Group-C	—	843
Group-D	—	104

(b) Promotional posts in Group 'A' and Group 'C' will be filled through Departmental Promotion Committee and departmental examinations. However, direct recruitment vacancies in Group 'C' and 'D' cadres can be filled after lifting of the present ban on recruitment.

(c) The number of Post Offices functioning in Andhra Pradesh at present is 16,192.

(d) Average population served per Post Office in Andhra Pradesh is 4,097 and average population served per Post Office in Southern States is 5299.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) A target of opening 15 new Branch Post Offices and 2 new Sub-Post Offices has been fixed for Andhra Pradesh for the year 2000-2001. Opening of new Post Offices is subject to the fulfilment of departmental norms and sanctioning of required posts by Ministry of Finance.

(g) Does not arise in view of reply at (f) above.

[Translation]

Letter Boxes in Villages

2277. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to provide letter boxes on priority basis in all the villages in States having population of 300 or more; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Letter Boxes are installed in villages with a population of 300 and more.

(b) The details of villages with letter boxes is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

S.No.	Circles	No. of Villages with Letter Box
1.	Andhra	26944
2.	Assam	15681
3.	Bihar	31900
4.	Delhi	199
5.	Gujarat	17658
	D.N. Haveli	71
	D & Diu	25
6.	Haryana	6759
7.	Himachal	6222
8.	J & K	2995
9.	Karnataka	19161
10.	Kerala	1452
	Lakshadweep	10
	Mahe (Pondicherri)	1
11.	M. Pradesh	45307
12.	Maharashtra	29870
	Goa	360
13.	North East	
	Arunachal	601
	Manipur	1619
	Meghalaya	1531
	Mizoram	649
	Nagaland	687
	Tripura	2625
14.	Orissa	20952
15.	Punjab	10638
	Chandigarh	24
16.	Rajasthan	22768
17.	Tamil Nadu	15516
	Pondicherry	233
18.	U. Pradesh	89231
19.	West Bengal	33525
	A & N Island	190
	Sikkim	270
	Total	405754

*[English]***Telephone connections in Bangalore**

2278. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons waiting for telephone connections in Bangalore city at present;

(b) the number of new telephone connections provided in the city since January 2000 till date; and

(c) the time by which the waiting list is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The number of persons waiting for telephone connections in Bangalore city as on 21.11.2000 is 29,420.

(b) The number of new telephone connections provided in the city since January, 2000 till 21.11.2000 is 97,421.

(c) The waiting list is likely to be cleared by March 2001.

Integrated Forestry Development Project

2279. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a forestry project titled, 'Integrated Forestry Development Project', is under implementation in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the date of starting and time schedule for its completion;

(c) the details of foreign aid received for the project; and

(d) the area earmarked for the project?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project was started in March 1996 and is scheduled to end in March 2001.

(c) Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC) has agreed to provide loan of 15760 million yen for the project.

(d) Afforestation over 2.31 lakh ha. area is contemplated under the project.

Sterlite Industry Limited

2280. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY :
SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN :
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :
SHRI BHIM DAHAL :
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has sought the opinion of the Law and Justice Ministry to blacklist Sterlite Industries Ltd. from participating in future tenders of the Department as published in *Times of India* dated November 4, 2000;

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

(c) the details of the companies which have submitted their tender bids for the cables;

(d) whether the Government have taken any decision with regard to ward of contract; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

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

(c) The details of the companies which have submitted their tender bids for the cables are as per enclosed Statement-I.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The details are as per enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

Details of the vendors who participated in PIJF U/G cable tender for the year 2000-01

Sl. No.	Name of the Vendor
1.	M/s ARM Ltd., Hyderabad
2.	M/s Birla Ericsson Optical Ltd., Rewa
3.	M/s Bhagyanagar Metals Ltd., Hyderabad
4.	M/s CMI Ltd., Faridabad
5.	M/s Continental Telepower Industries Ltd., New Delhi

Sl. No.	Name of the Vendor
6.	M/s Concepta Cables Ltd., Raebareli
7.	M/s Delton Cables Ltd., New Delhi
8.	M/s Elkay Telelinks Ltd., Faridabad
9.	M/s Finolex Cables Ltd., Pune
10.	M/s Gujarat Telephone Cables Ltd., Ahmdabad
11.	M/s GTCL Mobile cum Technology Ltd., Ahmedabad
12.	M/s Gujarat Optical Cables Ltd., Ahmedabad
13.	M/s G.R. Cables Ltd., Hyderabad
14.	M/s Golkonda Engineering Enterprises Ltd., Hyderabad
15.	M/s Haryana Telecom Ltd., Rohtak
16.	M/s Hindustan Cables Ltd., Calcutta
17.	M/s M.P. Telelinks Ltd., Gwalior
18.	M/s Marine Cables & Wires Ltd., Ahmedabad
19.	M/s Nicco Corporation Ltd., Calcutta
20.	M/s Optel Telecommunications Ltd., Bhopal
21.	M/s Poycab Cables Ltd., Daman
22.	M/s Paramount Communications Ltd., New Delhi
23.	M/s Paramount Wires & Cables Ltd., Alwar
24.	M/s RPG Cables Ltd., Mysore
25.	M/s RHP Cables Ltd., Ahmedabad
26.	M/s Surana Telecom Ltd., Hyderabad
27.	M/s Sterlite Industries (I) Ltd., Mumbai
28.	M/s Sterlite Telelinks Ltd., D&NH.
29.	M/s Tamilnadu Telecommunications Ltd., Chennai
30.	M/s Telephone Cables Ltd., Chandigarh
31.	M/s Traco Cables Company Ltd., Kerala
32.	M/s Usha Beltron Ltd., Ranchi
33.	M/s U.M. Cables Ltd., Silwassa
34.	M/s Universal Cables Ltd., Satna
35.	M/s U.P. Telelinks Ltd., Ghaziabad
36.	M/s Uniflex Cables Ltd., Mumbai
37.	M/s Vindhya Telelinks Ltd., Rewa

Statement-II*Details of the Quantities of PIJF U/G Cables
(in LCKM) allocated to the Bidders*

Sl. No.	Name of the Vendor	Quantity allotted (in LCKM)
1.	M/s ARM Ltd., Hyderabad	16.439
2.	M/s Birla Ericsson Optical Ltd., Rewa	13.688
3.	M/s Bhagyanagar Metals Ltd., Hyderabad	13.307
4.	M/s CMI Ltd., Faridabad	5.919
5.	M/s Continental Telepower Industries Ltd., New Delhi	3.900
6.	M/s Concepta Cables Ltd., Raebareli	10.370
7.	M/s Delton Cables Ltd., New Delhi	8.660
8.	M/s Elkay Telelinks Ltd., Faridabad	2.035
9.	M/s Finolex Cables Ltd., Pune	36.709
10.	M/s Gujarat Telephone Cables Ltd., Ahmedabad	7.073
11.	M/s Gujarat Optical Cables Ltd., Ahmedabad	1.310
12.	M/s G.R. Cables Ltd., Hyderabad	7.011
13.	M/s M.P. Telelinks Ltd., Gwalior	12.260
14.	M/s Marine Cables & Wires Ltd., Ahmedabad	3.184
15.	M/s Nicco Corporation Ltd., Calcutta	16.449
16.	M/s Polycab Cables Ltd., Daman	3.228
17.	M/s Paramount Communications Ltd., New Delhi	13.229
18.	M/s Paramount Wires & Cables Ltd., Alwar	2.314
19.	M/s RPG Cables Ltd., Mysore	22.500
20.	M/s RHP Cables Ltd., Ahmedabad	16.551
21.	M/s Surana Telecom Ltd., Hyderabad	5.736
22.	M/s Sterlite Industries (I) Ltd., Mumbai	28.292
23.	M/s Sterlite Telelinks Ltd., D&NH.	9.198
24.	M/s Tamilnadu Telecommunications Ltd., Chennai	8.500
25.	M/s Telephone Cables Ltd., Chandigarh	9.540
26.	M/s Traco Cables Company Ltd., Kerala	8.750
27.	M/s Usha Beltron Ltd., Ranchi	13.636
28.	M/s U.M. Cables Ltd., Silwassa	7.155
29.	M/s Universal Cables Ltd., Satna	5.106
30.	M/s U.P. Telelinks Ltd., Ghaziabad	2.067
31.	M/s Uniflex Cables Ltd., Mumbai	13.348
32.	M/s Vindhya Telelinks Ltd., Rewa	27.646

[Translation]

Electronic Telephone Exchange

2281. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN :
SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA :
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN :
SHRI RAJO SINGH :
SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposals to convert old telephone exchanges into electronic telephone exchanges in rural and urban areas of the country are under consideration of the Government;

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

(c) the time by which these proposals are likely to be implemented;

(d) the number of electronic and non-electronic telephone exchanges working at present in each State;

(e) whether any target has been fixed by the Government to convert the old telephone exchanges into electronic exchanges for the year 2000-2001 and Ninth Five Year Plan;

(f) if so, the details thereof State-wise and Union Territory-wise especially of Bihar and in Marathwada region of Maharashtra; and

(g) the funds likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) At present all the telephone exchanges are electronic in the country.

(d) State-wise details of electronic telephone exchanges, as on 31.10.2000, are given in the Statement.

(e) to (g) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Statement

State-wise details of Electronic Telephone Exchanges as on 31.10.2000

Sl.No.	Name of State	Status
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2491
2.	Assam	437
3.	Bihar	1128

Sl.No.	Name of State	Status
4.	Gujarat	2337
5.	Haryana	882
6.	Himachal Pradesh	727
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	289
8.	Karnataka	2377
9.	Kerala	931
10.	Madhya Pradesh	2972
11.	Maharashtra	3898
12.	North East	339
13.	Orissa	887
14.	Punjab	1204
15.	Rajasthan	1982
16.	Tamil Nadu	1788
17.	Uttar Pradesh	2897
18.	West Bengal	1179
19.	Delhi	193
Total		28938

Note : Gujarat state includes Dadar Diu, Daman & Nagar Haveli (U.T.).

Kerala state includes Lakshadweep (U.T.)

Maharashtra state includes Goa and Mumbai.

North-East telecom circle includes Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura state.

Punjab state includes Chandigarh (U.T.)

Tamil Nadu state includes Chennai and Pondicherry (U.T.).

West Bengal state includes Calcutta, Sikkim & Andaman Nicobar U.T.).

Bihar state includes Jharkhand state.

Madhya Pradesh state includes Chattisgarh state.

Uttar Pradesh state includes Uttaranchal state.

Public Information Centres

2282. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to convert public call offices into public information centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which said centres are likely to be made available?

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

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

(b) NTP'99 envisages the conversion of PCOs, wherever justified, into Public Teleinfo Centre (PTICs) having multi-media capability like ISDN services, remote database access, Government & Community Information Systems, etc. The field units have been instructed to start upgradation of the existing Departmental PCOs/DTOs/CTOs & Telecom Centres at PTICs wherever feasible, and also to provide the required telecom resources on priority to the privately owned STD/ISD/PCOs for upgradation as PTICs.

(c) The conversion of PCOs into Public Tele-info centres is an ongoing process and is being encouraged by providing required Telecom resources on priority. However, Government have decided to encourage the setting up of Internet Dhabas in all Block HQs in the country by 31st March, 2001. For these Internet Dhabas, free internet access has been permitted in the Rural Block HQs whereas for the Urban Block HQs, free Internet access for 1500 hrs. per annum has been permitted.

Silver Foundries in Orissa

2283. SHRI ANADI SAHU : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large scale of silver foundries are operating in Cuttack city of Orissa;

(b) if so, whether such foundries and workshops cause hazard to the inhabitants; and

(c) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to modernise the refining process and prevent pollution?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Financial help to NHPC

2284. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ :
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Hydro-Electric Power Corporation (NHPC) has sought Rs. 45000 crores from the Government for adding generation capacity of 30,000 MW in the next 15 years;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) The Government of India had announced a Policy on Hydro Power Development in August, 1998 with a view to exploiting the hydro power potential at a faster pace. After the announcement of the policy, investment approval has been accorded in respect of 5 hydroelectric projects. These projects are Tuirial (60 MW) Mizoram; Chamera Stage-II (300 MW) HP; Teesta Stage V (510 MW) Sikkim; Loktak Downstream (90 MW) Manipur, and Koteshwar (400 MW) UP. In addition to the above, the Government has also approved the development of Parbati Basin (2051 MW) in HP. NTPC has also entered into an agreement with the Government of HP for execution of Kol Dam Project (800 MW).

With a view to completing a number of projects languishing for want of funds, Government of India has signed a MOU with Government of UP for completion through Joint Ventures of Maneri Bhali II (304 MW) by THDC and Lakhwar Vyasi (420 MW) by NHPC. MOU has also been signed with Government of MP to jointly execute Omkareshwar Project (520 MW) and Indirasagar Project (1000 MW) by NHPC.

Government has also drawn up an advance action plan to add more than 25,000 MW of hydel capacity during the time frame 2007-2012 and beyond, and has accordingly initiated steps 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.

The National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) set up in 1975, is the largest organization for hydro development in India. The NHPC has completed eight (8) hydro-electric projects to date with a total installed generating capacity of 2175 MW. They are presently constructing 6 hydro-electric projects with a capacity of 1570 MW.

NHPC is also carrying out survey & investigation in respect of projects in Parbati Basin (2051 MW) in Himachal Pradesh and Siang & Subansiri basins (20700 MW) in Arunachal Pradesh. They have also been handed over 7 new hydro-electric projects (2798 MW) in J&K and Teesta Low Dam Projects of West Bengal totalling 232 MW for execution. These projects will be taken up for execution in stages after the commercial viability has been established, all the requisite clearances have been obtained, necessary financing has been tied up and potential buyers of power have been identify and firmed up. Government of Karnataka and Government of Tamil Nadu have also agreed to allow NHPC to carry out survey & investigation of Cauvery Power Projects (1150 MW).

[English]

Regional Office at Chennai

2285. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a wild life regional office at Chennai; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Wildlife Regional Office at Chennai is already in existence. The office is headed by Regional Deputy Director who is supported by the Wildlife Inspectors.

MTNL Cellular Telephone Service

2286. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has decided to launch cellular telephone services in all States; and

(b) if so, the time by which MTNL is likely to provide cellular services in all the big cities of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir. MTNL has plans to launch Cellular telephone service based on GSM technology only in Delhi and Mumbai.

(b) Services are planned to be launched in Delhi and Mumbai before the end of this financial year.

SDCA Telephone Exchanges

2287. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB :
SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCA) telephone exchanges functioning at present in Orissa and Bihar, separately, district-wise;

(b) whether these exchanges are functioning properly in those States particularly in Cuttack district of Orissa and Gudda, Dumka, Deodhar districts of Bihar; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) At present 120 and 180 Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCA) telephone exchanges are functioning in Orissa and Bihar respectively. District wise details of the number of SDCA exchanges for Orissa and Bihar are enclosed as Statements I & II respectively.

(b) These exchanges are generally functioning satisfactorily in both the States particularly in Cuttack district of Orissa and Gudda, Dumka, Deodhar districts of Bihar.

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

Statement-I

Orissa Telecom Circle

Sl.No.	Name of Revenue District	No. of SDCA exchanges
1.	Cuttack	3
2.	Jagatsingpur	2
3.	Kendrapara	2
4.	Jaipur	3
5.	Belasore	3
6.	Bhadrak	2
7.	Puri	2
8.	Khurdha	3
9.	Nayagarh	2
10.	Mayurbhanj	7
11.	Phulbani	7
12.	Boudha	3
13.	Koraput	6
14.	Nawarangpur	4
15.	Malkangiri	4
16.	Rayagada	5
17.	Kalahandi	6
18.	Nuwapara	3
19.	Sundargarh	6
20.	Bolangir	4
21.	Sonepur	3
22.	Deogarh	2
23.	Sambalpur	6
24.	Jharsuguda	2
25.	Bargarh	5
26.	Dhenkanal	4
27.	Angul	5
28.	Keonjhar	5
29.	Ganjam	8
30.	Gajapati	3
	Total	120

Statement-II*Bihar Telecom Circle*

Sl. No.	Name of Revenue District	No. of SDCA exchanges
1.	Arrah	2
2.	Buxar	2
3.	Bhagalpur	3
4.	Banka	3
5.	Chapra	4
6.	Gopalganj	3
7.	Siwan	3
8.	Palamu	7
9.	Garhwa	4
10.	Daltonganj	2
11.	Darbhanga	3
12.	Madhubani	5
13.	Samastipur	3
14.	Dhanbad	2
15.	Bokaro	3
16.	Dumka	5
17.	Deoghar	2
18.	Pakur	2
19.	Godda	2
20.	Sahebganj	2
21.	Gaya	3
22.	Jehanabad	3
23.	Aurangabad	4
24.	Nawada	3
25.	Hazaribagh	8
26.	Giridih	5
27.	Chatra	2
28.	Koderma	2
29.	Hajipur	3
30.	Singhbhum (E)	3
31.	Singhbhum (W)	9
32.	Katihar	3
33.	Araria	3
34.	Kishanganj	2
35.	Purnia	3
36.	Khagaria	2

Sl. No.	Name of Revenue District	No. of SDCA exchanges
37.	Begusarai	2
38.	Munger	2
39.	Jamui	4
40.	Lakhisarai	1
41.	Shekhpura	1
42.	Motihari	6
43.	Bettiah	4
44.	Muzaffarpur	2
45.	Sitamarhi	2
46.	Sheohar	1
47.	Patna	4
48.	Nalanda	2
49.	Ranchi	4
50.	Khunti	7
51.	Lohardagga	3
52.	Gumla	2
53.	Saharsa	2
54.	Madhepura	2
55.	Supaul	3
56.	Sasaram	1
57.	Bhabhua	3
58.	Rohtas	2
Total		180

[Translation]

Supply of power to States by NTPC

2288. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the power in M.W. supplied to Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa and Rajasthan separately by NTPC during 1999-2000 and upto October 31, 2000;

(b) the power in MW generated each year by the above States by their own resources; and

(c) the action plan chalked out by the Union Government to improve the power generation in the above States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The quantum of power supplied by NTPC to Madhya Pradesh,

Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa and Rajasthan during 1999-2000 and upto October 2000 are given below :

State	*Power Supplied (in MUs) during		Firm allocation in NTPC stations in the region (MW)
	1999-2000	April to October 2000	
Madhya Pradesh	12453.00	6619.60	1618.2
Uttar Pradesh	15567.97	9047.68	2399.0
Bihar	4667.30	2672.50	899.0
Orissa	2864.20	2119.00	632.0
Rajasthan	8376.00	4227.80	811.0

*Source NTPC. MU-Million Units.

(b) The details of power generation from their own resources during the period are as under :

State	1999-2000		2000-01 (upto Oct. 2000)	
	MU	Available MW	MU	Available MW
Madhya Pradesh	22614	2582	12863	2504
Uttar Pradesh	24368	2782	15069	2934
Bihar	3622	413	2061	401
Orissa	4543	519	3021	588
Rajasthan	9179	1048	5237	1020

Source : Central Electricity Authority.

(c) The various steps taken for improvement of power generation in these States include :

- (i) Renovation and Modernization of old thermal stations.
- (ii) Early stabilization of newly commissioned units.
- (iii) Monitoring of operation and maintenance by CEA and ensuring improvement in O&M practices by formulation of overall training policies.
- (iv) Incentive scheme of Ministry of Power for productivity award to public sector thermal stations to motivate O&M personnels.
- (v) Scheme for energy audit on selected thermal power stations based on tests already conducted in other Thermal Power Stations with the help of experts and implementation of programme to improve the heat rate, reduce auxilliary power consumption and secondary fuel oil consumption, etc.

- (vi) Disbursal of loans by Power Finance Corporation for improving the O&M of power stations as identified by joint team of CEA/PFC.

[English]

Waiting list for Telephone connections

2289. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY :
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections of different categories in the country as on October 31, 2000 State-wise;

(b) whether any special efforts are being made to clear the backlog; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the telephone connections are proposed to be provided to all the wait listed persons in the country especially in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) As per enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) The Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) of Department of Telecommunication envisages to provide telephone connection to all the wait listed persons in the country including Kerala by 31.3.2002 with the participation of private sector complementing the efforts of the department.

Statement

State-wise details of category-wise waiting list as on 31.10.2000

Sl. No.	Name of State	OYT	N-OYT	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9	454722	454731
2.	Assam	0	27086	27086
3.	Bihar	8	141791	141799
4.	Gujarat	1	230471	230472
5.	Haryana	6	91933	91939
6.	Himachal Pradesh	4	42577	42581
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	75	30414	30489

Sl. No.	Name of State	OYT	N-OYT	Total
8	Karnataka	405	313589	313994
9	Kerala	6243	776932	783175
10	Madhya Pradesh	0	43035	43035
11	Maharashtra	68	440391	440459
12	North East	18	30158	30176
13	Orissa	1	41687	41688
14	Punjab	261	202603	202864
15	Rajasthan	38	124312	124350
16	Tamilnadu	43	560479	560522
17	Uttar Pradesh	11	266344	266355
18	West Bengal	42	199948	199990
19	Delhi	24	59944	59968
Total		7257	4078416	4085673

Note : Gujarat state includes Dadar Diu, Daman & Nagar Haveli (U.T.).

Kerala state includes Lakshadweep (U.T.)

Maharashtra state includes Goa and Mumbai.

North-East telecom circle includes Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura state.

Punjab state includes Chandigarh (U.T.).

Tamil Nadu state includes Chennai and Pondichery (U.T.).

West Bengal state includes Calcutta, Sikkim & Andaman Nicobar (U.T.).

Bihar state includes Jharkhand state.

Madhya Pradesh state includes Chattisgarh state.

Uttar Pradesh state includes Uttaranchal state.

Construction of Telephone Exchange Buildings

2290 CH. TEJVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone exchanges functioning in rented buildings at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to construct departmental buildings for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) (a) As detailed in enclosed Statement-I.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As detailed in enclosed Statement-II.

(d) The department has planned to acquire the land and to construct departmental building for telephone exchanges. However, the non-availability of suitable land and delay in its transfer to the department is one of the major constraints.

Statement-I

Telephone Exchanges functioning in rented building

S.No.	Name of States	Exchanges in rented buildings
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	24
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1899
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	62
4.	Assam	393
5.	Bihar	610
6.	Gujarat	1672
7.	Haryana	773
8.	Himachal Pradesh	668
9.	Jharkhand	238
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	216
11.	Karnataka	1947
12.	Kerala	583
13.	Madhya Pradesh	2834
14.	Maharashtra i/c Mumbai	3269
15.	Manipur	22
16.	Meghalaya	32
17.	Mizoram	30
18.	Nagaland	13
19.	NCT of Delhi	11
20.	Orissa	609
21.	Punjab	1002
22.	Rajasthan	1741
23.	Sikkim	32
24.	Tamil Nadu	1277
25.	Tripura	30
26.	UP (East)	1390
27.	UP (West)	863
28.	West Bengal i/c Calcutta	892
Total		23132

Statement-II*Departmental Exchange Buildings proposed to be constructed*

Sl. No.	Name of States	Name of departmental bldgs. in process or proposed to be constructed
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	4
2.	Andhra Pradesh	189
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	16
4.	Assam	50
5.	Bihar	31
6.	Gujarat	1990
7.	Haryana	49
8.	Himachal Pradesh	32
9.	Jharkhand	27
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	6
11.	Karnataka	409
12.	Kerala	73
13.	Madhya Pradesh	238
14.	Maharashtra i/c Mumbai	1160
15.	Manipur	4
16.	Methalaya	6
17.	Mizoram	9
18.	Nagaland	3
19.	NCT of Delhi	32
20.	Orissa	25
21.	Punjab	67
22.	Rajasthan	116
23.	Sikkim	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	82
25.	Tripura	9
26.	UP (East)	51
27.	UP (West)	25
28.	West Bengal i/c Calcutta	36
Total		4739

*[Translation]***Rural Telephone Exchange in Lohardagga**

2291. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of rural telephone exchanges functioning in Lohardagga region of Bihar at present;

(b) whether the number of rural telephone exchanges is less than the requirement in the region;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard and the time by which the waiting list is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) (a) At present, 16 rural telephone exchanges are functioning in Lohardagga region of Bihar.

(b) and (c) At present, there are adequate number of exchanges in Lohardagga region for the current demand. However, there is a plan for expansion of Lohardagga exchange and new exchanges for Rampur and Kairo during the year 2000-2001.

(d) At present, 69 persons are on the waiting list for telephone connections in the region.

(e) Developmental works are being undertaken and the waiting list is likely to be wiped out by January 2001.

Price based selling centres

2292. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether centrally supported price based selling centres have been opened in several districts of Bihar ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reason for not opening the said selling centres in Katehar despite it being the main foodgrain producing zone and headquarter of the sub-division?

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

(b) During the current Kharif season 2000-01, the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has opened 30 purchase

centres in various districts of Bihar, as against 12 centres opened during the last kharif marketing season 1999-2000, for procurement of paddy. Apart from FCI, the State Government has also been opening in the past, a number of purchase points which are operated by the Rural Agricultural Primary Societies for purchase of paddy.

(c) These purchase centres are opened by the FCI in consultation with the State Governments.

[English]

Allocation of liquified fuel for power for Maharashtra

2293. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have allocated only 950 MW capacity of liquid fuel for Maharashtra State which is much lower than the capacity allocated to other States;

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

(c) whether the Government have received any proposal from the State Government to increase the allocation capacity of liquid fuel upto 18103 MW; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The liquid fuel policy permitting the use of certain liquid fuels as primary fuels for generation of power was announced in November, 1995. This was done considering the inescapable need for creation of some liquid fuel based power generation capacity, which could be brought on stream quickly to meet the immediate power requirements, as compared to other thermal projects, etc. which have longer gestation periods. However, since the allocation of liquid fuel sought by the State Governments far exceeded the sustainable capacity to use these fuels for power generation, a decision was taken in December, 1996 to place a ceiling of 12,000 MW for the country which could be based on liquid fuels. This capacity was further distributed among the different States on the basis of the then existing and likely levels of shortages to be faced by the States by the end of the 9th Five Year Plan. The State of Maharashtra was given an allocation of 950 MW based on liquid fuels. This allocation is lower than that given to some of the other States while it is greater than the allocation given to some States like Haryana, Kerala, Punjab and Tamil Nadu.

(c) The Chief Minister of Maharashtra had written to the Prime Minister on 17.6.1997 requesting for allocation of liquid fuels to 7 medium sized power projects having a

total capacity of 1200 MW at locations in the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) area, over and above the allocation of 950 MW given to the State. In this letter, it was, inter-alia, mentioned that the expected installed capacity in the State of Maharashtra by the end of the 9th Five Year Plan would be around 18103 MW. Thus, there was no request by the Government of Maharashtra (GoM) to increase the allocation capacity of liquid fuel upto 18103 MW.

(d) The request of GoM for additional fuel linkage to the 7 projects mentioned above was considered where after the State Government was informed that it would not be possible to accommodate recommendations beyond the allocated capacity. Meanwhile, through some modifications in the liquid fuel policy announced in July, 1998, the ceiling of 12000 MW was retained only for naphtha. Further, in view of the sharp hike in the global prices of naphtha, it is no longer considered a viable and economical fuel for allocation to new power projects.

Sand Stone Mining in Madhya Pradesh

2294. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether large scale illegal sand stone mining is going on in forest areas of Shivpuri and other districts of Madhya Pradesh in violation of Supreme Court's judgement in this regard;

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

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to check this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL) : (a) and (b) Sandstone is a minor mineral defined under clause (e) of section 3 of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, (MMDR Act), 1957, and, under Section 15 of the MMDR, Act, the State Governments have full powers to make rules in respect of granting mineral concessions and regulating minor minerals. The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has informed that the State Government had issued instructions to all District Collectors and Divisional Forest Officers to conduct joint inspections of all mining areas in order to ensure that no illegal mining activity takes place in forest area. In terms of the certificate submitted jointly by the District Collectors and Divisional Forest Officers to the State Government, no illegal mining activities are going on in forest areas of Shivpuri and other districts of Madhya Pradesh.

(c) Controlling of illegal mining falls under the purview of the State Governments. In order to strengthen the State Governments in this regard, the Government of India

amended the MMDR Act, 1957 in December, 1999 and inserted Section 23(c) to the Act, delegating the power to make rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation, and storage of minerals to the State Governments.

Four Laning of NH-58

2295. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state .

(a) whether there is heavy traffic on National Highway No. 58 from Delhi to Hardwar/Dehradun;

(b) if so, whether the National Highway is only two lane road looming large accidents; and

(c) if so, the measures taken by the Government to make the four lanes with a wide divider thereat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) National Highway No. 58 is four lane wide from Ghaziabad (km. 17.65) to Meerut (km. 52.50). From Meerut (km. 52.50) to Rishikesh (km. 228.0) it is two lane wide and beyond Rishikesh up to Badrinath (km. 525) it is single lane road.

(c) Provision of Rs. 65.00 lakhs has been kept in the Annual Plan 2000-2001 of the Ministry for carrying out Feasibility Study/detailed engineering for four laning Meerut-Hardwar section of National Highway No. 58.

[Translation]

Technology Mission for Development of Animal Husbandry in Tribal Area

2296. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to introduce a technology mission for development of Animal Husbandry in the tribal areas;

(b) if so, the districts of Madhya Pradesh to be covered under this programme in view of the vast backward tribal areas and the Animal Population in the State; and

(c) the time by which the Union Government are likely to accord administrative approval to these programmes and allocate funds therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying implements a number of centrally sponsored schemes to complement the efforts of State Government towards development of animal husbandry sector. The State of Madhya Pradesh will be able to take advantage of such schemes by way of participating. Government has recently approved a National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding with an aim to reaching quality breeding inputs to the door step of the farmer in all States and Union Territories. The State of Madhya Pradesh will be able to participate in the programme which provides 100% grant in aid and bring about genetic upgradation of cattle and buffalo in the State for the benefit of the farmers. Administrative approval for the newly approved scheme has already been issued to the State Government.

[English]

Price rise of fruits and vegetables

2297. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rise in price of petroleum products have affected the price rise of fruit and vegetable items due to the rise in transportation charges,

(b) if so, the extent thereof; and

(c) the steps the Government have taken to check the recurrence of such price rise in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) There is no report of rise in prices of fruits and vegetables in the country. In general, prices have shown declining trend in recent months. Thus, impact of price rise in petroleum products is not evident on fruits and vegetables.

(c) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Telephone Exchanges

2298. SHRI BRIJ LAL KHABRI :

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA :

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone exchanges approved in the country particularly in Jalaun district of Uttar Pradesh, Sawai Madhopur and Karauli district of Rajasthan and Maharashtra during the last three years;

(b) the number of telephone exchanges out of them set up in the country particularly in the said districts and the State;

(c) the time by which the remaining telephone exchanges are likely to be set up; and

(d) the funds allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) 5045 numbers of Telephone Exchanges were planned in the country during the last three years (i.e. 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000), out of which 15 exchanges were planned in Jalaun district of Uttar Pradesh, 6 exchanges in Sawai Madhopur, 6 exchanges in Karauli district of Rajasthan and 720 exchanges in Maharashtra.

(b) 5522 telephone exchanges were set up in the country during the said period, out of which 15 were set up in Jalaun district of Uttar Pradesh, 6 each were set up in Sawai Madhopur and Karauli district of Rajasthan and 809 in Maharashtra respectively.

(c) The overall target for opening of exchanges has been achieved in the country except in MTNL Delhi where only 11 exchanges could not be commissioned and are likely to be commissioned during current financial year.

(d) The fund allocated for Telephone Exchanges for the country during the last three years was Rs. 27593.63 crores (BSNL-Rs. 24643.53 & MTNL-Rs. 2950.10) which also includes Rs. 2639.46 crores for Uttar Pradesh, Rs. 1142.36 crores for Rajasthan and Rs. 2511.18 crores for Maharashtra.

Economic package for Agriculture Programmes

2299. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any report regarding the economic package for the special agriculture programme from Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. This Department has not received any report regarding the economic package for special agriculture programme from Bihar.

(c) Does not arise.

Pollution in Damodar River

2300. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed pollution in rivers in the country particularly in Damodar river in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. River Damodar has been included in the National River Conservation Programme. Pollution abatement schemes in eight towns, namely, Bokaro-Kargali, Chirkunda, Dugdha, Jharia, Ramgarh, Sindri, Sudamdih and Telumochu have been approved for an amount of Rs. 10.22 crore.

(c) Three project proposals have been sanctioned so far for an amount of Rs. 19.97 lakhs and a Central grant of Rs. 13.31 lakhs has been released to the State Government.

Construction of Houses on Forest Land

2301. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to permit to construct houses on the forest land in the leftist terrorism (Naxalites) infested areas of Madhya Pradesh and other parts of Vananchal areas in the country for development and rehabilitation;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 was enacted by the Parliament with the object to provide for the conservation of forests and for matters connected therewith or ancillary or incidental thereto. As per the Act diversion of forest land for non-forestry purpose including construction of houses by any State Government or any other authority, is prohibited without the prior approval of the Central Government.

The Central Government as a matter of policy and as per the Para 4.5 of the Guidelines to the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 does not entertain any proposal for diversion of forest land for non site specific purposes

like construction of residential or dwelling houses. However, diversion of forest land may be allowed for construction of schools, hospitals/dispensaries, community halls, cooperatives, panchayats, tiny rural industrial sheds of the Government, etc. for the benefit of the people of that area and rehabilitation of families/persons who are relocated from forest areas, where non-forest land for such projects is not available.

[English]

Smuggling of Butterflies

2302. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry into the cases of smuggling of butterflies in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) The Wildlife protection staff in the country have made several seizures in connection with illegal trade of butterflies in the country. The details are given in enclosed Statement. Action against the offenders is taken as per the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972/Customs Act, 1962.

Statement

Details of important cases of seizures of butterflies

Sl. No.	Year	Item Seized	Place	Quantity	Cases referred to
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	1992	Butterflies	Calcutta	155 nos.	Customs for adjudication
2.	1994	Butterflies and moths	Delhi	14800 nos.	Case handed over to MEA
3.	1995	Butterflies	Calcutta	197 nos.	Customs for adjudication
4.	1995	Butterflies	Calcutta	70 nos.	Customs for adjudication
5.	1996	Butterflies	Calcutta	112 nos.	Customs for adjudication
6.	1996	Butterflies	Calcutta	57 nos.	Customs for adjudication

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	1996	Butterflies and beetles	Darjeeling	3100 nos.	Punished under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 with one month simple imprisonment and fine of Rs. 2000/-.
8.	1996	Butterflies	Calcutta	52 nos.	Customs for adjudication
9.	1996	Butterflies	Calcutta	128 nos.	Customs for adjudication
10.	1996	Butterflies Plaque	Guwahati/ Calcutta	42 nos.	Pending in Guwahati High Court (Shillong Bench).
11.	1996	Butterfly Ashtray	Calcutta	1 no.	-do-
12.	1996	Butterfly Mat	Calcutta	1 no.	-do-
13.	1998	Butterfly	Calcutta	7 no.	—
14.	1999	Butterfly	Calcutta	1.970Kg.	Customs for adjudication

Royalty on Minerals

2303. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA :
KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI :
SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether demands of the various States for revision of royalty rates on different minerals are increasing;

(b) if so, the details of the demands made in this regard by various States through different forums/representations;

(c) the action taken thereon; and

(d) the time by which new royalty rates on minerals are likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL) : (a) to (d) Under Section 9(3) of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR), the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, amend the Second Schedule to the Act so as to enhance or reduce the rate at which royalty shall be payable in respect of any mineral with effect from such date as may be specified in the notification, provided that the Central Government shall not enhance the rate of royalty in respect of any mineral more than once during any period of three years.

The Central Government had revised the royalty rates for major minerals (other than coal and lignite) on 11.4.97. Representations were received from various State Governments for enhancing the rates of royalty. The Central Government had constituted a Study Group on 5.10.98 under the Chairmanship of the then Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mines comprising Indian Bureau of Mines, select State Governments, Ministry of Steel and the Federation of Indian Mineral Industries (FIMI). The Study Group also elicited suggestions and recommendations of all the State Governments through a questionnaire. On the basis of recommendations of the Study Group royalty rates in respect of major minerals (other than coal, lignite and sand for stowing) have recently been revised and notified vide notification No. GSR 713(E) dated 12.9.2000.

Crop Insurance share to States

2304. SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have been paying its crop insurance share to States well in time;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of amount paid during the current year to each State, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) Under Crop Insurance, funds are not released to the States by the Government. The Central Government releases the funds to the Implementing Agency (IA) for meeting Government of India's share towards indemnity claims etc.

(c) State-wise amount of claims paid by the Implementing Agency during the year 2000-2001 is given in enclosed Statement.

		Statement		
		(Rs. in lakhs)		
S. No.	Season	State	Claims Paid	GOI Share
1.	Kharif 1996	Andhra Pradesh	17.82	11.88
2.	Kharif 1997	Andhra Pradesh	61.46	40.97
3.		Maharashtra	1315.87	877.25
4.	Rabi 1997-98	Bihar	2.12	1.41
5.		Karnataka	15.89	10.59
6.	Kharif 1998	A & N Island	0.91	0.61
7.		Bihar	236.17	157.45
8.		Gujarat	232.11	154.74
9.		Madhya Pradesh	2045.57	1363.71
10.		Maharashtra	0.12	0.08
11.	Rabi 1998-99	Andhra Pradesh	164.62	109.75
12.		Maharashtra	0.92	0.61
13.		Orissa	282.52	188.35
14.		West Bengal	89.41	59.61
15.	Kharif 1999	Andhra Pradesh	6173.32	4115.55
16.		A & N Island	0.29	0.20
17.		Assam	0.11	0.07
18.		Bihar	88.21	58.81
19.		Gujarat	27307.35	18204.90
20.		Karnataka	963.07	642.05
21.		Kerala	37.44	24.96
22.		Madhya Pradesh	426.25	284.16
23.		Maharashtra	587.35	391.57
24.		Orissa	6654.24	4436.16
25.		Pondicherry	0.41	0.27
26.		Tamilnadu	1.91	1.27
27.		West Bengal	249.22	166.15
28.	ECIS-Rabi 1997-98	Karnataka	799.82	639.85
		Total	47754.50	31942.98

[Translation]

Development of Telephone Services in UP

2305. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme for the development of telephone services/telephone exchanges in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received complaints regarding harassment of consumers while providing telephone connections in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and till date; and

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

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

(b) Details of development plan for telephone exchanges for 2000-2001 is as under :

(i) Exchange Capacity (No. of lines) - 495800

(ii) DELs (Direct Exchange Lines) - 456500

(c) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Irregularities in allotment of PCOs

2306. DR. RAM KRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding the irregularities and the corruptions prevalent in the allotment of PCOs in the rural areas of the country during 1999-2000 and till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

Wildlife Protection Force

2307. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any plan to raise wildlife protection force to protect endangered species like tiger in the sanctuaries and in Zoos;

(b) if so, the time by which such a force is going to be operative;

(c) whether the Government have any other alternative plan to protect such endangered species; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Under the Project Tiger Scheme 100% Central assistance is provided to State Governments for deployment of area specific strike force in Tiger Reserves affected by insurgency or extremism

An amount of Rs. 43.00 lakhs was released during the year 1999-2000 and an amount of Rs. 107.22 lakhs has been sanctioned during 2000-2001 for deployment of specialised force.

Protection of Wildlife Treasure

2308. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM :
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

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

(a) whether his Ministry has admitted its failure to protect the country's wildlife treasure;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have identified the persons involved for such failure; and

(d) if so, the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) (a) to (d) Certain bottlenecks in effective conservation of wildlife have been identified by the Ministry. Due to the lucrative prices offered for various wildlife products outside the country, there has been a spurt in the illegal trade and poaching of various species of wild animals. Several offenders have been apprehended for indulgence in wildlife crimes. Concrete

steps have also been taken to strengthen the enforcement mechanism. These steps include :

- 1 Rendering of financial, technical and scientific assistance to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz. Project Elephant, Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger Eco-Development Around Protected Areas to ensure long term survival of wildlife in their natural habitat.
2. Providing legal protection against hunting and commercial exploitation of wild animals under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
3. Setting up of Special Coordination and Enforcement Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Environment and Forests, Government of India, for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife. Similar Committees have been established and State level and District level in various States.
4. Authorising Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to apprehend offenders and launch prosecution in wildlife offences.
5. Providing assistance to State Government for strengthening the infrastructure through involvement of Armed Squads and Strike Forces drawn out of paramilitary forces and State Armed Constabulary.
6. Periodic meetings with State Government for effective monitoring of protection measures undertaken.
7. Regional and sub regional offices of Wildlife Preservation have been set up mostly at the main export center of the country to prevent smuggling of wildlife and its derivatives.

Setting up of Aluminium plants by private sector

2309. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the names of aluminium plants both under private and public sector in the country along with their range of production, State-wise;

(b) the total aluminium deposits in each State;

(c) whether any private company has offered to set up an aluminium plant in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL) : (a) The names of aluminium plants under private and public sector in the country (state wise) along with their range of product is as under :

Name of the Company	State	Range of product mix
<i>Public sector</i>		
NALCO	Orissa	Aluminium ingots, wire rods, billets, sows, strips
BALCO	Chattishgarh	Aluminium ingot, rolled products, properzi rod, extrusions, foils, cold rolled sheets.
<i>Private Sector</i>		
HINDALCO	U.P.	Aluminium, rolled products, wire rod, extrusions, foils.
INDAL	Orissa and Kerala	Ingot, properzi and conductor rod.
MALCO	Tamil Nadu	Aluminium.

(b) Aluminium is not found in the form of deposits. Bauxite is converted into alumina. Then aluminium is produced from alumina by electrolysis process.

(c) The aluminium industry has been exempted from the proviso of compulsory licensing. The Company/entrepreneur desirous of setting up of an aluminium plant any where in the country has to file an Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum (IEM) only. Government of India have not received any IEM for setting up an aluminium plant in Andhra Pradesh in the last five years.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Funds for National Highways

2310. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of States through which the National Highway passes and the length of the roads, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government provide funds for the repair and maintenance of National Highways;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to provide more funds to Rajasthan for the construction of new

National Highways and for repair and maintenance of the old ones; and

(b) Yes, Sir.

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

(c) A sum of Rs. 120.61 Crores for development and Rs. 43.07 Crores for maintenance of National Highways including new National Highways have been allocated for the State of Rajasthan during the year 2000-2001.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Details are in the Statement enclosed.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

List of National Highways in the Country

Sl. No.	Name of State	National Highway No.	Total Length (in Kms.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4, 5, 7, 9, 16, 18, 43, 63, 202, 205, 214 & 219	4038
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	52, 52A & 153	392
3.	Assam	31, 31B, 31C, 36, 37, 37A, 38, 39, 44, 51, 52, 52A, 52B, 53, 54, 61, 62, 151, 152, 153 & 154	2836
4.	Bihar & Jharkhand	2, 6, 19, 23, 28, 28A, 30, 30A, 31, 32, 33, 57, 77, 78, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107 & Extn.-75	4915
5.	Chandigarh	21	24
6.	Delhi	1, 2, 8, 10 & 24	72
7.	Goa	4A, 17, 17A & 17B	269
8.	Gujarat	NE-1, 6-Extn., 8, 8A, 8B, 8C, 8D, 8E, 14, 15 & 59	2461
9.	Haryana	1, 2, 8, 10, 21A, 22, 65, 71, 71A, 72 & 73	1361
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1A, 20, 21, 21A, 22, 70, 72 & 88	1188
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	1A, 1B, 1C & Extn.-13	823
12.	Karnataka	4, 4A, 7, 9, 13, 48, 63, 206, 207, 209, 212 & 218	3570
13.	Kerala	17, 47, 47A, 49, 208, 212, 213 & 220	1440
14.	Madhya Pradesh & Chattisgarh	3, 6, 7, 12, 16, 25, 26, 27, 43, 59, 69, 75, 76, 78, 79, 86, 200, 59A, Extn.-86, 216, 12A, 217, 92 & Extn.-75.	6417
15.	Maharashtra	3, 4, 4B, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 16, 17, 50, 59, 204 & 211	3626
16.	Manipur	39, 53 & 150	954
17.	Meghalaya	40, 44, 51 & 62	717
18.	Mizoram	44A, 54, 54A, 54B, 150 & 154	927
19.	Nagaland	36, 39, 61 & 150	369
20.	Orissa	5, 5A, 6, 23, 42, 43, 60, 200, 201, 203, 215 & 217	3301
21.	Pondicherry	45A & 66	53
22.	Punjab	1, 1A, 10, 15, 20, 21, 22, 64, 70, 71, & 95	1553
23.	Rajasthan	3, 8, 11, 11A, 12, 14, 15, 65, 76, 79, 89 & 90	4481
24.	Sikkim	31A	62
25.	Tamil Nadu	4, 5, 7, 7A, 45, 45A, 45B, 46, 47, 49, 66, 67, 68, 205, 207, 208, 209, 210, 219, 220	3758
26.	Tripura	44 & 44A	400
27.	Uttar Pradesh & Uttaranchal	2, 2A, 3, 7, 11, 19, 24, 24A, 25, 25A, 26, 27, 28, 29, 56, 56A, 56B, 58, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 86, 87, 91, 92, 93, 94, 96, 97, Extn.-75.	5779
28.	West Bengal	2, 6, 31, 31A, 31C, 32, 34, 35, 41, 55, 60, 80, 81	1951
Total			57,737

Forest Development Project in UP

2311. YOGI ADITYA NATH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Uttar Pradesh Government to set up forest development project in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) The State Government of Uttar Pradesh has submitted project proposals for strengthening of policy and Institutional Framework, Rationalising the Demand of Forest Produce in the State, Agro-forestry for Expansion of Forest/Tree Cover Outside Forest Areas in Plains of State of U.P., Protection of Existing Resources and a project for Improving Productivity of Natural Forests of U.P. to the Ministry of Environment and Forests on 28th August, 2000. The proposals were examined and returned to the State Government as the same were not formulated in the prescribed format with a request to formulate concept papers in the prescribed format.

[English]

Local Calls

2312. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the distance normally allowed for the telephone subscribers in rural areas for the purposes of local calls;

(b) whether norms for the telephone subscribers in urban areas differ from that of rural areas;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to remove the disparity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The information is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) No, Sir.

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

Statement

(a) Normally local calls (without STD code) is allowed :

(i) Within SDCA.

(ii) When two Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) are adjacent.

(iii) When the radial distance between the two Short Distance Charging Centres (SDCCs) of two SDCAs falling in the same or adjacent Long Distance Charging Areas (LDCAs) in upto 50 Kms.

(iv) When the radial distance between two Long Distance Charging Centres (LDCCs) of two non-adjacent LDCAs is up to 50 Kms.

Local calls under category (i) & (ii) above, are allowed, irrespective of the distances involved.

Strike by Postal Employees

2313. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is growing discontent among the postal workers with threats for agitation;

(b) if so, the details of their main demands;

(c) the reaction of the Government to these demands;

(d) whether there was any agreement with the postal employees after their last strike/agitation;

(e) if so, details of the agreement;

(f) the action taken with respect to the said agreement; and

(g) the steps being taken to solve the issue and avert agitation by postal employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir. However some Postal Unions have given notice of strike w.e.f. 5-12-2000.

(b) Demands of the Unions are :

(1) Implementation of the positive recommendations of Justice Charanjit Talwar Committee for the Extra Departmental Employees with particular reference to grant of Status and Pension.

(2) Implementation of agreed proposals signed on 18-12-1998 regarding :

- (i) Upgradation of pay scales of Gr. 'D' at Entry/ TBOP/BCR levels.
- (ii) Implementation of upgraded pay scales of Postmen/Mail Guards w.e.f. 1.1.1996 & upgraded pay scales at TBOP/BCR level.
- (iii) Upgradation of pay scales of Head Mail Peons.
- (iv) Upgraded pay scales to Postal Asstts/Serting Asstts at TBOP/BCR/HSG-I levels.
- (v) Upgraded pay scales to Postal Accounts Staff.
- (vi) Additional Increments to Drivers/Work Shop Staff/PO & RMS Accountants.
- (vii) Upgradation of scale of Stenographers.
- (viii) Issues of Casual Labourers.

(3) Upgradation of 10% of BCR posts to HSG-I in Clerical Cadre and provision of similar percentage of posts of HSG-I in all cadres viz. Postmen/Mail Guards, Group 'D' etc. in the Department of Posts.

(4) Filling up of all vacant posts in all cadres in the Department of Posts.

- (c) Government is in close liasion with the unions.
- (d) No, Sir.
- (e) Does not arise.
- (f) Does not arise.

(g) The Government is in close liasion with the Unions directly and through the Chief Labour Commissioner.

[Translation]

Sale of fruits and vegetables at dairies outlets

2314. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether inferior quality of vegetables and fruits are being provided to consumers at higher rates at Mother Dairy Fruit and Vegetable outlets in New Delhi area;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to make available cheap and good quality vegetables and fruits at these outlets.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Fruit & Vegetable (F & V) outlets procure fruits & Vegetables mainly from farmers organizations, for selling through F&V outlets. Quality specifications for fruit and vegetables have been laid down for the produce, and are sold at competitive prices, through Fruit & Vegetable outlets.

[English]

Losses in DVB

2315. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Delhi Vidyut Board has been incurring heavy losses unabated;

(b) if so, the losses incurred by the DVB during each of the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to contain such losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Delhi Vidyut Board (DVB), which is under the administrative and financial control of the Government of NCT of Delhi, has informed that the Board has been incurring losses during the previous years and the losses incurred by DVB during the last three years were Rs. 536.31 crores during 1997-98, Rs. 1038.95 crores (Provisional) during 1998-99 and Rs. 1103.40 crores (Provisional) during 1999-2000.

(c) Delhi Vidyut Board has informed that they have taken several steps to reduce its T&D losses, which inter-alia, include augmentation of T&D System; installation of shunt capacitors; replacement of defective meters. improvement in billing and collection procedure, liberalization of commercial policies; holding of camps in unauthorized colonies for sanction of "on the spot electric connections" to avoid theft of electricity and bring the electricity users in mainstream. Besides, the Enforcement/ Distribution Department of DVB conducts raids in theft prone areas to curb the menace of power theft.

Four laning of National Highway

2316. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY :
DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI :

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal for four laning of National Highways from Balasore to Jagatpur and Bhubaneswar to Berhampur has been finalized;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with estimated cost of the projects;

(c) the time by which the above projects are likely to be completed;

(d) whether the affected people on both sides of the National Highway at Khurda and Balugaon have been compensated;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Out of a total length of approximately 365 km, a length of 28 km between Bhubaneswar and Jagatpur is nearing completion and 33 km between Jagatpur and Chandikhol is in progress. The remaining reaches are at various stages of preparation and award of contracts. The projects which will cost approximately Rs. 1,650 crores are targetted for completion by December, 2003.

(d) to (f) Process of land acquisition is still not complete. Compensation will be paid after the process is over.

[Translation]

Funds for development of Telecommunication services in Maharashtra

2317. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL :
SHRI ANANT GUDHE :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated for the development of Telecommunication and Internet services in Maharashtra during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether the developmental works have been completed as per the target fixed by the Maharashtra Telecom Circle;

(c) if so, the amount spent for the purpose during the last three years and till date; and

(d) the number of new telephone connections released in the State particularly in each of the telephone exchange in Yavatmal and Amaravati districts during the last three years and till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The funds allocated for the development of Telecommunication and Internet services in Maharashtra during the last three years and the current year are as follows

Sl. No.	Year	Funds allocated (Amount in crores)
1.	1997-98	834.29
2.	1998-99	893.65
3.	1999-2000	236.92
4.	2000-2001	1570.83 (BE)

(b) Yes, the details of DELs target fixed and achieved are as under :

Sl.No.	Year	Target fixed	Target achieved
1.	1997-98	225000	287966
2.	1998-99	300000	343348
3.	1999-2000	395000	456890

(c) The amount spent for the development of Telecommunications and Internet Services in Maharashtra during the last three years and the current year are as follows :

Sl.No.	Year	Amounts spent (Rs. in crores)
1.	1997-98	846.63
2.	1998-99	865.52
3.	1999-2000	1236.75
4.	2000-2001	537.01 (upto Sept. 2000)

(d) The Telephone connection released in the last years in Maharashtra are given at (b) above. The exchange wise list of connections released in Yavatmal and Amravati districts in the last three years and to date are given the enclosed Statement I and II respectively.

Statement-I*Maharashtra Telecom Circle (Yeotmal)*

SDE Exch.	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01 (as on 31-10-2000)
DRS Digras	235	181	225	87
DRS Kalgaon	0	0	20	23
DRS Sakhara	19	14	38	5
DRS Vasanthnagar	5	6	3	2
DRS Total	259	201	266	113
DWA Bodegaon	7	2	2	3
DWA Borairab	24	60	20	16
DWA Darwaha	130	119	139	135
DWA Lohi	40	34	48	2
DWA Mangladevi	—	—	—	64
DWA Manikwada	—	77	71	-34
DWA Nerparsopah	92	126	43	138
DWA Uttarwadhoia	12	28	2	7
DWA Watfali	—	—	40	9
Total	305	446	325	276
PDH Ghatanji	55	23	149	162
PDH Karanji	18	10	4	—
PDH Khajri	2	9	26	10
PDH Mohada	16	2	34	11
PDH Pandarkawada	246	123	42	1
PDH Parwa	—	—	40	29
PHD Patanbor	64	10	31	23
PHD Runza	1	1	1	8
PHD Shirol	—	—	—	26
PHD Umari	—	55	42	11
PHD Total	402	233	329	255
WANI Bhalar	—	127	125	39
WANI Kayar	9	2	4	2

SDE	Exch. Name	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01 (as on 31-10-2000)
1	2	3	4	5	6
SDE-I	Lehra	40	63	19	57
SDE-I	Yavtmal	689	179	1959	704
Total		729	242	1978	761
SDE-II	Aolabazar	3	3	81	20
SDE-II	Ajankhed	7	2	3	1
SDE-II	Ani	129	207	179	57
SDE-II	Bhabulgaon	40	28	14	65
SDE-II	Oregoaon	0	0	0	32
SDE-II	Abha	2	59	21	2
SDE-II	Ongarkharda	0	0	68	12
SDE-II	Kharphaal	0	2	0	0
SDE-II	Kewari	0	0	33	22
SDE-II	Kawala	6	39	18	37
SDE-II	Badmoha	0	71	12	16
SDE-II	Kalamb	55	14	153	46
SDE-II	Lotha	1	9	25	8
SDE-II	Vasina	0	0	24	2
SDE-II	Mahagaonkasba	0	0	0	65
SDE-II	Ralegaon	1	178	80	51
SDE-II	Ramnagar	1	4	33	3
SDE-II	Rui	0	0	59	12
SDE-II	Sarul	0	0	0	17
SDE-II	Sawar	0	0	46	10
SDE-II	Sawargad	0	0	23	5
SDE-II	Sawergaon	0	0	50	18
SDE-II	Sawlisadoba	0	0	65	27
SDE-II	Tiwasa	2	0	0	0
SDE-II	Wadaonabazar	0	0	0	29
Total		247	616	987	557

1	2	3	4	5	6
WANI Maregaon		68	12	4	11
WANI Makutban		17	10	8	—
WANI Mungoli		—	—	—	85
WANI Nijai		68	38	33	5
WANI Rajur		25	6	38	16
WANI Sindola		0	80	3	0
WANI Wani		167	114	496	329
UKD Brahmangaon		20	19	5	-1
UKD Dhanki		43	90	49	10
UKD Fulsawangi		6	15	7	5
UKD Hwara		1	-3	—	3
UKD Mahagaon		34	26	19	2
UKD Mulawa		9	18	18	11
UKD Umarkhed		219	166	141	70
UKD Vidul		18	39	21	3
UKD Total		332	370	260	99
PSD Jambazar		31	20	25	5
PSD Kali		5	16	11	13
PSD Pedhi		—	—	9	3
PSD Pusad		186	813	470	350
PSD Shambal Pimpri		5	4	18	7
PSD Total		227	853	524	378
Grand Total		2855	3279	5028	2700

Statement-II*District Amravati*

S. No.	Exch. Name	Exchange No. of Telephone Connection Released in last 3 year 2000-01			
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	As on 31.10.2000
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Amravati RLU	1159	879	794	179
2.	Amravati E10B	1836	3003	2825	1162
3.	Amravati Max 1/OCB				
4.	Achetpur camp	-27	387	526	273
5.	Achalpur city	102	29	204	115
6.	Adgaon	0	1	33	0
7.	Ambada	6	11	4	5

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Anjangaon Bari	3	4	2	3
9.	Anjangaon Surji	73	143	176	58
10.	Anjan Singh	1	0	43	13
11.	Asadpur	15	2	76	2
12.	Asagaon (DMG)	0	25	28	2
13.	Asagaon Purne	0	-1	24	-9
14.	Asthi	8	7	52	9
15.	Asara	0	0	56	5
16.	Badnera	30	194	153	-25
17.	Bhatkuli	23	13	6	9
18.	Bodapur	0	0	105	15
19.	Benoda	4	3	59	14
20.	Belora (Air Port)	0	0	18	66
21.	Belore (CHB)	19	18	10	2
22.	Brahmanwada Thadi	35	21	32	-3
23.	Chandur Bazar	76	61	185	0
24.	Chikhaldara	34	49	55	10
25.	Chincholi Bk	18	22	49	1
26.	Chandur Rly.	1	54	64	165
27.	Daryapur	130	233	19	-11
28.	Dhaga	16	0	42	11
29.	Dhanora Gurav	64	8	40	17
30.	Dhanora Rajna	0	0	93	14
31.	Dhamangaon Rly.	6	11	93	26
32.	Dhamangaon Gadhi	0	29	70	-1
33.	Dharni	115	146	27	48
34.	Deogaon	1	2	1	0
35.	Dhulghat	4	24	2	0
36.	Gadegaon	43	3	2	0
37.	Ganoja Devi	12	9	15	0
38.	Ghodegaon Kavitha	18	-1	5	4
39.	Ghukhed	26	1	0	-1
		3851	5390	5988	2178

Maharashtra Telcom Circle

40.	Gurukunk Mozri	12	27	19	0
41.	Ghatiadki	7	9	5	(-8)
42.	Hiwarkhed	0	10	14	10
43.	Itki	31	8	48	(-12)
44.	Jalka Jagtap	24	5	3	1
45.	Jawala Shahpur	5	13	64	(-14)
46.	Kapustalin	7	15	5	(-12)

1	2	3	4	5	6
47. Kasbegavan		0	30	18	3
48. Kakde		13	5	37	(-3)
49. Karasgaon		11	(-4)	86	26
50. Kawli Wasad		11	9	3	1
51. Khartalegaon		1	5	47	(-1)
52. Khed		10	6	15	12
53. Kholapur		68	3	4	(-6)
54. Kokarda		41	31	3	20
55. Kurha		10	17	5	12
56. Khallar		0	0	65	1
57. Loni (Warud)		15	4	4	(-3)
58. Loni Takli		(-4)	5	92	(-2)
59. Malkapur		0	19	6	1
60. Mangrul Chawala		22	5	19	9
61. Mangrul Dastagir		49	6	1	0
62. Mangrul Peth		38	(-3)	(-1)	0
63. Mardi		31	2	5	1
64. Morshi		236	129	130	5
65. Malkhed		7	9	0	0
66. Nandgoan Peth		15	(-3)	37	3
67. Nandgoan Kh		0	79	74	34
68. Nandeda Bk		0	8	(-6)	1
69. Nardoda		0	34	45	18
70. Nerpingalai		36	11	23	15
71. Nimbhi		1	3	18	6
72. Nimbhora Bodakha		1	16	2	3
73. Papad Wadhone		42	3	37	10
74. Palaskhed		0	0	63	3
75. Parsapur		19	11	11	(-3)
76. Pathrot		30	16	18	16
77. Purna Nagar		0	0	74	53
78. Pusla		5	(-1)	65	2
79. Ponara		1	(-2)	7	0
80. Pimplod		0	0	58	1
81. Rajurwadi		4	5	6	0
82. Ramtirth		4	5	(-9)	(-2)
83. Ridhpur		0	10	5	1
84. Rasegoan		6	(-1)	59	2
85. Rajure		40	13	6	2
86. Sategoan		42	13	45	(-1)

1	2	3	4	5	6
87. Sahur		41	21	22	10
88. Shendurjanaghat		63	46	20	39
89. Shirala		11	(-4)	4	10
90. Shrasgoan		15	28	68	16
91. Sonori		24	38	9	14
92. Sindhi Bk		62	2	33	0
93. Supalwada		16	14	4	5
94. Thlori		0	0	58	2
95. Tiosa		70	30	57	33
96. Telegaon Dashasar		2	0	19	13
97. Talegaon Mohna		0	39	9	0
98. Virul Ronghe		0	0	42	15
99. Walgaon		20	1	34	16
100. Warkhed		0	0	32	8
101. Warud		9	235	289	21
102. Warna		0	0	18	22
103. Wadner Gangai		2	6	3	(-3)
104. Wadhona Ramnath		(-4)	0	6	7
105. Yawali Shahid		76	10	27	25
106. Yeoda		43	16	11	7
		5192	6455	8088	2673

[English]

BT Cotton Seeds

2318. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have given permission to conduct field trails of BT cotton seeds in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the total area in hectares where the field trial is likely to be conducted;

(c) the districts in Karnataka selected for the purpose;

(d) whether the above field trials would be for only one season; and

(e) if so, the advantages of conducting such field trials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee of Ministry of Environment & Forests had given permission for conduct of field trials on BT Cotton in an areas of 2.46 Hectares in the districts of Bellary, Davangare, Koppal, Dharwad and Raichur, in the State of Karnataka.

(d) and (e) The multi-centric field trials and replicated field trials are being conducted for one season to reassess the potential of BT trait in Indian cotton hybrids in controlling lepidopteran pests and agronomic advantages which were evident during small scale field trials conducted during 1998-99 and 1999-2000.

Cellular Telephone Service

2319. SHRI MANJAY LAL :
SHRI ARUN KUMAR :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to make available cellular telephone service in the naxalite affected district of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this facility is likely to be made available to the people in such districts of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) Sir, licences were given for operation of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service in Bihar Telecom Circle (which is contiguous with Bihar State including Jharkhand State) to two private operators namely M/s Koshika Telecom Ltd. (effective date 23.08.1996) and M/s. Reliance Telecom Ltd. (effective date 12.12.1995). The licence of M/s Koshika in Bihar Telecom Circle was subsequently terminated.

As per the License Agreement granted to the private cellular operators, atleast 10% of the District Headquarters will be covered in the first year and 50% of the District Headquarters will be covered within three years of effective date of License. The licensees have also been permitted to cover any other town in a District in lieu of the District Headquarters. The choice of District Headquarters/towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarters/towns lies with the Licensee companies depending on their business decision. There is no requirement of mandatory coverage of rural areas as per the licences granted. Nine cities have been covered by the existing private cellular operator in Bihar Telecom Circle as intimated by Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), namely : Patna, Ranchi, Dhanbad, Jamshedpur, Jharia, Hazipur, Danapur, Chas and Muzzaffarpur.

BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited) were also granted licence for operation of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service in Bihar Telecom Circle. BSNL have initially proposed to introduce Cellular Mobile Telephone Service in the form of a Pilot Project in eight cities, namely : Patna, Biharsharif, Hazipur, Badh, Arah, Rajgir, Sasaram and

Bhabua; the service by BSNL is likely to commence during the year 2001. The case for introduction of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service in other cities/towns of Bihar is also under process.

[Translation]

Execution of Navinagar Project in Bihar

2320. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Bihar to get the work of Navinagar Project done by N.T.P.C. on the line of Barh Project;

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

(c) the time by which this project is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Navinagar Thermal Power Project (2×500 MW) at Aurangabad in Bihar was originally conceived by the Bihar State Electricity Board for implementation with World Bank assistance. A Project Report was accordingly submitted to Central Electricity Authority in September 1988 for techno-economic clearance. However, due to paucity of funds with the State Government, implementation of the project could not be taken up.

In line with the 'Mega Power Project Policy' of Government of India Navinagar project at Aurangabad in Bihar was identified in February, 1996 as a Mega Power Project for implementation in the private sector, but the response from private sector against the Request for Qualification (RFQ) was not encouraging.

However, keeping in view the need to increase the capacity addition programme in the Central Sector during 10th and 11th Plan, this project has been viewed as one of the potential projects for development and accordingly. NTPC has been advised to initiate preliminary work on the project after assessing its feasibility and marketability of the power to be generated from the project.

NTPC requested all the beneficiaries in the Northern/Western regions to intimate their power requirement from this project. However, there has been no positive response from them. In view of this, it is not possible at this stage to indicate any time frame for implementation of this project.

*[English]***Paddy strains released by IARI**

2321. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of new paddy strains released by the IARI during the last two years;

(b) the details of varieties identified for various districts in Orissa State;

(c) whether such varieties of paddy strains have been released to the farmers of Orissa; and

(d) if so, the price at which these are to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) One rice variety namely PNR-519 developed by IARI has been released by the State Varietal Release Committee of West Bengal during last two years.

(b) and (c) The details of rice varieties released for general cultivation by the farmers in different agro-ecologies of Orissa during last two years are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) The prices of rice varieties are fixed by the Seed Corporation/agencies and vary from variety to variety.

Statement

Varieties released by Central agency and Orissa State Variety Release Committee in Orissa 1999-2000 for Orissa State

Name	Year of release	Recommended Eco-systems
1. CSR 13	1999	Saline-Alkaline
2. CSR 27	1999	Saline-Alkaline
3. Udayagiri	1999	Irrigated medium
4. Pooja	1999	Rainfed shallow Lowlands
5. Indravati	1999	Rainfed shallow Lowlands
6. Mahanadi	1999	Rainfed shallow Lowlands
7. Prachi	1999	Rainfed shallow Lowlands
8. PA 103 (6201)	2000	Irrigated, medium

Fitness of Indian Sportsmen for Sydney Olympics

2322. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :
SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN :

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

(a) whether the tennis team and some other sportsmen participated in the Sydney Olympics 2000 events were reported to be unfit for their respective games;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the circumstances under which their inclusion in the Indian contingent were considered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) to (c) One of the Athlete, i.e. Ms. Sunita Rani, who is one of the best middle distance runner of the country was unfortunately injured and on the recommendations of Doctors she was allowed to train a few days prior to the Olympics expecting that she may be fit prior to her race. As such she was included in the team for Olympics. She is the most talented and medal hope in the forthcoming Afro Asian Games, 2001, Asian Games, 2002 and Olympic Games 2004. She was sent to Sydney with a view that even if she may not be able to participate, she will have rich experience for future while observing the best athletes.

Deficit in Department of Posts

2323. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the deficit in Department of Posts is on the rise for the last few years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total loss the Department has suffered during the last three years; and

(d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to tone up the Department of Posts?

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

(b) The trend of increasing deficit is mainly attributable to the following :

(i) Eighty Nine percent of the expenditure is towards committed liabilities like—salary, pension etc;

- (ii) Revision of the Postal rates for various services has not kept pace with the steadily rising cost of operations;
- (iii) Implementation of revised scales of pay as recommended by Vth Pay Commission and Justice Talwar Committee for Extra Departmental Agents; and
- (iv) No, significant increase in postal traffic.

(c) The Department of Post has not been suffering losses but has been in deficit. The deficit of the Department of Posts for the last three years is as under :

1997-98 Rs. 993.43 Crore
 1998-99 Rs. 1590.97 Crore
 1999-00 Rs. 1995.82 Crore

(d) Concerted efforts are made to generate more revenue for the Department. Apart from the conventional services, a special wing namely, Business Development Directorate was set up to introduce/explore profit-based services/activities such as (i) Tariff revision in respect of certain services from time to time (ii) Expansion of Speed Post Network (iii) Greeting Post (iv) Data based Post (v) Media Post etc. by customizing Corporate Sectors etc.

Similarly, special emphasis is also laid on proper expenditure control to (i) enforce strict economy measures (ii) contain expenditure within the Budgetary ceilings approved by the Ministry of Finance (iii) ensure judicious utilisation of man-power for new services undertaken by the Department.

Agricultural land made Cultivable

2324. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a vast area of agricultural land is yet to be made cultivable in the country particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the financial assistance provided by the Union Government for the purpose during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) The net sown area in the country is 142.82 million ha. out of which 5.48 million ha. is in Tamil Nadu. The total fallow land is 23.22 million ha. in the country whereas it is 2.25 million ha. in Tamil Nadu. The development of degraded arable land is being undertaken under various programmes for making it cultivable.

(c) The Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely, National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas, Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers, Reclamation of Alkali Soils and Watershed Development Projects in Shifting Cultivation Areas are being implemented to increase the productivity of degraded lands for increasing agricultural and bio-mass production. State-wise financial assistance released during last three years is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

State-wise Central assistance released during Last three years

(Rs. in Crores)

S.No.	State	Central Assistance Released		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13.86	15.51	16.65
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.10	1.81	1.27
3.	Assam	1.45	1.70	1.20
4.	Bihar	0.98	1.25	
5.	Gujarat	9.66	24.33	24.80
6.	Haryana	1.80	4.65	2.45
7.	Himachal Pradesh	7.70	10.68	7.62
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	5.66	6.37	6.65
9.	Karnataka	30.50	31.15	38.65
10.	Kerala	5.00	15.02	3.90
11.	Madhya Pradesh	30.28	40.13	47.60
12.	Maharashtra	33.20	43.60	15.00
13.	Manipur	6.05	2.65	4.60
14.	Meghalaya	1.20	3.60	4.10
15.	Mizoram	5.25	11.40	8.66
16.	Nagaland	4.60	10.00	9.00
17.	Orissa	13.00	6.62	5.00
18.	Punjab	2.42	3.21	1.23
19.	Rajasthan	41.98	55.59	51.30
20.	Sikkim	0.90	1.50	2.00
21.	Tamil Nadu	15.00	22.30	20.75
22.	Tripura	2.61	4.80	5.51
23.	Uttar Pradesh	32.55	41.84	35.75
24.	West Bengal	1.10	6.20	7.50
25.	Goa		0.08	0.03
26.	A & N Island	0.25	0.65	0.34
27.	Chandigarh			
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.01	0.01	
		269.11	366.65	321.46

Awards to games winners

2325. MOHAMMAD ANWARUL HAQUE :
SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH :
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :

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

(a) whether cash or otherwise awards are given to National/International/Asian Games/Olympic Games winners on ad-hoc basis;

(b) if so, the criteria adopted or proposed to be adopted by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether any guidelines have been formulated by the Union Government for State Governments in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Special Awards are given to the winners of International sports events every year. This is a regular feature. The rates of awards are as under :

(Rupees in lakh)

Name of the Competition	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Olympics and Official World Championship	15	9	6
Asian Games and Commonwealth Games	5	3	2
Official Asian Championships and Official Commonwealth Championships	1.50	1	0.75

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Since 'sport' is a State subject, Government of India does not formulate any guidelines to be followed by the State Governments in this regard.

Employment to dependents deceased Postal employees

2326. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications received from the dependents of the deceased postal employees for employment in Karnataka; and

(b) the action taken to provide them employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) During the year 1999 and 2000, 147 applications were received from dependents of deceased postal employees for employment in Karnataka.

(b) During the period, so such applicants were approved for employment. The remaining applicants could not be offered appointment.

[Translation]

Hydro-electric Power Projects in Bihar and U.P.

2327. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV:
DR. BALIRAM :
MOHAMMAD ANWARUL HAQUE :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of small, medium and large reservoirs are available in the country particularly in Bihar and U.P.;

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

(c) whether power is being generated from all these reservoirs;

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

(e) whether the Government have received any proposal for setting up hydro-electric power plants at these reservoirs in each State;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the steps taken by the Government to set up mini, medium and large hydro-electric power plants at these reservoirs to meet the power shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (g) There are a large number of small, medium and large reservoirs in the country to meet requirements of drinking water, irrigation, industrial uses, flood control and navigation, etc. State-wise details of large dams constructed in the country as per National Register of large Dams published in December 1994 by the Central Water Commission are as the enclosed Statement-I. At present, there are 82 Nos. reservoirs in the country where power is being generated. The project-wise and State-wise details of these schemes are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Hydro-electric projects are site specific depending on topographical, hydrological and geological conditions and are planned at the planning stage of reservoir schemes considering their techno-economic viability.

In view of the fact that the potential from the reservoirs created can be tapped to generate hydro-electric power, steps are being taken to identify potential sites which are economically viable on the existing reservoirs and develop them

Statement-I

Large dams constructed in various States

Sl.No.	Name of State	No. of large dams
1.	Andhra Pradesh	158
2.	Assam	2
3.	Bihar	61
4.	Gujarat	466
5.	Goa	5
6.	Himachal Pradesh	4
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	7
8.	Karnataka	188
9.	Kerala	38
10.	Madhya Pradesh	946
11.	Maharashtra	1229
12.	Manipur	2
13.	Meghalaya	6
14.	Orissa	131
15.	Punjab	1
16.	Rajasthan	122
17.	Tamil Nadu	84
18.	Tripura	1
19.	Uttar Pradesh	123
20.	West Bengal	22
Total		3596

Statement-II

Storage type Hydro Schemes in operation (I.C. Above 3 MW)

(As on 01.11.2000)

Sl. No.	State/Generating Company	Hydro Scheme	No. of Units	Capacity × Capacity (MW)
B.B.M.B.				
1.	Punjab	Bhakra (L)	5×108	540
	Punjab	Bhakra (R)	5×132	660
2.	Punjab	Pong	6×60	360
N.H.P.C.				
3.	Himachal Pradesh	Chamera Stage-I	3×180	540
4.	J&K	Uri	4×120	480
5.	Manipur	Loktak	3×35	105
DVC				
6.	West Bengal	Mahton	3×20	60
7.	West Bengal	Tilayia	2×2	4
NEEPCO				
8.	Assam	Khandong	2×25	50
9.	Assam	Kopili	2×50	100
10.	Assam	Kopili Extension	2×50	100
11.	Nagaland	Doyang	3×25	75
PUNJAB				
12.		Ranjit Sagar	4×150	600
RAJASTHAN				
13.		R.P. Sagar	4×43	172
14.		J. Sagar	3×33	99
UTTAR PRADESH				
15.		Rihand	6×50	300
16.		Ramganga	3×66	198
GUJARAT				
17.		Ukai	4×75	300
MADHYA PRADESH				
18.		Gandhi Sagar	5×23	115
19.		Bargi	2×45	90
20.		Pench	2×80	160
21.		Bansagar Tons	3×105	315
22.		Birsinghpur		20
23.		Hasdeo Bango	3×40	120
24.		Rajghat	315	45
MAHARASHTRA				
25.		Koyna I & II	4×65+4×75	560
26.		Koyna III	4×80	320
27.		Tillari	1×60	60
28.		Dudhganga	2×12	24
29.		Koyna State-IV	4×250	1000
30.		Bhira	6×22	132
31.		Bhivpuri	6×12	72
32.		Khopoli	6×12	72
ANDHRA PRADESH				
33.		Machkund	3×17+ 3×21.25	114.75
34.		Upper Sileru I	2×60	120
35.		Lower Sileru	4×115	460
36.		T.B. Dam	4×9	36
37.		Hampi	4×9	36
38.		Srisaillam	7×110	770

Sl. No.	State/Generating Company	Hydro Scheme	No. of Units × Capacity	Capacity (MW)
KARNATAKA				
39.		Sharavathy	10×89.1	891
40.		Lingnamakki	2×27.5	55
41.		Kalinadi	6×135	810
42.		Supa DPH	2×50	100
43.		Varahi	2×115	230
44.		Kalinadi Stage II (Kadra)	3×50	150
45.		Kalinadi Stage II (Kodasali)	3×40	120
46.		Jog	4×12+4×18	120
KERALA				
47.		Idukki	6×130	780
48.		Sabaragiri	6×50	300
49.		Kuttiadi	3×25	75
50.		Sholayar	3×18	54
51.		Panniar	2×15	30
52.		Idamalayar	2×37.5	75
TAMIL NADU				
53.		Kundah I	3×20	60
54.		Kundah II	5×35	175
55.		Kundah III	3×60	180
56.		Kundah IV	2×50	100
57.		Kundah V	2×20	40
58.		Mettur Dam	4×10	40
59.		Mettur Tunnel	4×50	200
60.		Periyar	4×35	140
61.		Kodayar I	1×60	60
62.		Kodayar II	1×40	40
63.		Sholayar I	2×35	70
64.		Sholayar II	1×25	25
65.		Pykara	3×6.65+2×14+2×11	69.95
66.		Aliyar	1×60	60
67.		Suruliyar	1×35	35
68.		Servalar	1×20	20
69.		Vaigai Dam	2×3	6
70.		Sathanur Dam	1×7.5	7.5
71.		Parson's Valley	1×30	30
BIHAR				
72.		Subemrekha I	1×65	65
73.		Subemrekha II	1×65	65
ORISSA				
74.		Hirakud I	5×37.5+2×24	235.5
75.		Balimela	6×60	360
76.		Rengali	5×50	250
77.		Upper Kolab	4×80	320
78.		Upper Indravati	3×150	450
SIKKIM				
MEGHALAYA				
79.		Umiyam Stage I	2×9+2×9	36
80.		Umiyam Stage II	2×9	18
81.		Umiyam-Umtru Stage IV	2×30	60
TRIPURA				
82.		Gumti	3×5	15
Total All India				12715.95 MW

[English]

Internet facility in Kerala

2328. SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Internet Nodes have been commissioned in all the districts of Kerala;

(b) if so, whether due to non availability of required bandwidth, the customers are not able to use it easily; and

(c) if so, the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) (a) Yes, Sir. Internet nodes have been commissioned in all districts of Kerala.

(b) No, Sir. Sufficient bandwidth is available.

(c) Not applicable in view of above.

Renewal and improvement Riding Quality Programme in M.P.

2329. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for implementation of Renewal and Improvement Riding Quality Programme for National Highways in Madhya Pradesh during 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of Highways to be considered for this programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The number of projects and the Highways to be taken up would be decided after budgetary provision for 2001-2002 is made available.

Improvement in performance of Indian Sports

2330. SHRI J.S. BRAR : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether sports policy of the Government has failed miserably;

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

(c) the steps being taken to improve performance of Indian sports persons keeping in view the forthcoming Asian Games?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) and (b) The old policy has not failed. However, since it was formulated in 1984, there have been changes in the field of sports. Now needs have arisen which require suitable modifications in our earlier policy to make the new policy address the emerging requirements.

(c) Government has taken following steps to improve the performance of Indian sports persons :

- (i) Preparation of long term development plans for various Disciplines.
- (ii) Holding of regular Coaching Camps for national teams.
- (iii) Providing foreign coaches and supporting personnel wherever asked for by the National Sports Federation and recommended by Sports Authority of India.
- (iv) Providing foreign exposures to National teams in priority and general category/disciplines.

Agricultural Development in Kerala

2331. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the agricultural developments in Kerala have steadily declined over the years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Conservation of Tigers

2332. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the performance status of the Tiger Project during the recent past to assess the need for overhauling it in order to reformulate its planning, priority and strategy; and

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to consider publishing a White Paper on the present status of tiger conservation vis-a-vis tiger project?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) The performance of Project Tiger is evaluated by the Steering Committee of Project Tiger which is chaired by Minister of Environment and Forests. At the last meeting of the Steering Committee held on 8-5-2000, decision was taken to evaluate problematic Project Tiger areas by Steering Committee members.

(b) No, Sir.

[Translation]

Krishi Vigyan Kendras in Bihar

2333. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which the Krishi Vigyan Kendras sanctioned for Palamu district of Bihar are likely to be started;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to set up these Kendras in Gadava District of Bihar also; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) (a) Establishment of a Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) in Palamu district has not been sanctioned so far.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to set up a KVK in Gadava District of Bihar at present.

[English]

Generation Capacity of N.E.E.P.C.

2334. SHRI VAIKO : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the installed capacity of the North East Electric Power Corporation by March, 2001;

(b) the estimated power consumption and surplus power available with N.E.E.P.C.;

(c) the manner in which N.E.E.P.C. propose to sell this surplus power;

(d) whether the Government propose to link North-East Grid with Southern Grid either directly through Bengal Orissa Grid (Eastern Grid) or through any other grid;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether there is any proposal to link N.E.E.P.C. with Southern Grid through Bangladesh;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether any talks have taken place in this regard; and

(i) if so, the details thereof, including the cost of transmission thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The installed capacity of the power projects of the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) as on 31.2.2001 would be 700 MW comprising 375 MW thermal and 325 MW Hydel.

(b) NEEPCO has estimated the availability of power at 2906 million units against which the power consumption within North Eastern States is estimated at 2450 million units resulting in 456 million units of surplus of power which corresponds to about 50 MW during peak period and average 100 MW during off-peak period.

(c) NEEPCO has made arrangements for the sale of power (50 MW during peak period and 20 MW during off peak-period) to West Bengal State Electricity Board w.e.f. May, 2000.

(d) and (e) The North Eastern Region is inter-connected with Eastern Region grid through 400 KV lines and other AC links having a capacity of more than 1000 MW. The Eastern grid is further interconnected to Southern Region grid through a HVDC link having a capacity of 500 MW. Thus North Eastern Region is connected with Southern regional grid via Eastern regional grid. Additional inter-connections are also planned between Eastern

Region and Southern Region with a view to enhancing the capacity of inter-connection with North-Eastern Region and Southern Region.

(f) to (i) Preliminary discussions have been with the Government of Bangladesh on a proposal for providing inter-connections to Bangladesh with North Eastern Regional Grid on one side and the Eastern grid on the other so as to promote inter-country co-operation through exchange of energy between the two countries.

On-going Projects in NE Region

2335. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the on-going projects funded out of the Central Power Project Scheme in the North-Eastern Region particularly in Manipur State; and

(b) the details of estimated cost, amount sanctioned and released for these projects so far, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The details like estimated cost, amount sanctioned and released in respect of sanctioned and on-going Central Sector Power Projects in North Eastern Region are given in the enclosed Statement. In addition, an amount of Rs. 15 crores and Rs. 20 crores was released in 1999-2000 to North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) for carrying out infrastructure works in respect of new schemes, namely, Kameng (600 MW) in Arunachal Pradesh and Tuivai (210 MW) in Mizoram respectively. NEEPCO also proposes to execute Tipaimukh HEP (1500 MW) in Manipur subject to signing of agreement by the State Government of Manipur.

The Power Grid Corporation of India is also executing two schemes namely, (i) Agartala Transmission System and (ii) North Eastern Load Despatch and Communication scheme to improve the overall power situation in NE Region at an estimated cost of Rs. 22.17 crores and Rs. 167.93 crores respectively.

Assistance of Rs. 122.49 Crores and Rs. 5.00 crores out of Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources to State Sector Projects namely, Heavy Fuel Power Project (36 MW) in Manipur and Rokhia GT Extension Phase-II (21 MW) in Tripura respectively has also been extended

Statement*Details of the sanctioned and on-going Central Sector Power Projects in North Eastern Region*

(Rs. in Crores)

S No.	Name of the Project with Installed Capacity	State in Which located	Implementing Agency	Approved Cost	Latest Estimated Cost	Funds released as on 31.10.2000
1.	Ranganadi HEP ** (405 MW)	Arunachal Pradesh	NEEPCO	774.12	1446.09	1130.19
2.	Doyang HEP ** (75 MW) (Since Commissioned in July, 2000)	Nagaland	NEEPCO	384.75	758.70	717.85
3.	Kopili HEP Stage-II (25 MW)	Assam	NEEPCO	76.09	76.09	45.86
4.	Tuinal HEP (60 MW)	Mizoram	NEEPCO	368.72	448.19	99.03
5.	Loktak Downstream (90 MW)	Manipur	NHPC	578.62	578.62	20.62

** Funded by North Eastern Council, Ministry of Home Affairs.

Handing over of Hydro Power Projects to private companies

2336. SHRI JAI BHADRA SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to hand-over hydro electric power projects to private companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the target fixed for the production/generation of power by these companies, project-wise;

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be handed over; and

(e) the cost of these projects as well as per unit cost of power production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (e) The policy enunciated by the Government of India in 1991 allows both domestic and foreign private developers to participate in setting up of generating stations, both in the thermal and hydel sectors, with the approval of the concerned State Governments. Details of the schemes for setting up hydro electric power projects in the private sector in various States, which have been accorded techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority (CEA), are given below :

S.No.	Name of the project/Promoter/State	Cap. MW	Estimated completed cost	Estimated commissioning schedule
1.	Baspa Stage-II HEP, M/s. Jaiprakash Hydro Power Ltd., Himachal Pradesh	3×100	Rs. 949.23 Crs.	Unit-I : 2002 Balance in 10th Plan
2.	Malana HEP, M/s. Malana Power Company Ltd., Himachal Pradesh	2×43	Rs. 341.911 Crs.	March 2002 Benefits in 9th Plan
3.	Vishnuprayag HEP, M/s. Jaiprakash Power Venture Ltd., Uttar Pradesh	4×100	US\$ 107.35 Million+ Rs. 1233.57 Crs. (1 US\$ = Rs. 35.50)	Unit-I : 59 months from financial closure. Last Unit : 60 months from financial closure. Benefits in 10th Plan.
4.	Shrinagar HEP M/s. Duncans North Hydro Power Co. Ltd., Uttar Pradesh	4×82.5	US\$ 95.04 Million + Rs. 1299.89 Crs. (1US\$ = Rs. 42)	Unit-I : June 2005 Last Unit : September 2005 Benefits in 10th Plan
5.	Maheshwar HEP, M/s. Shree Maheshwar Hydrel Power Corp Ltd., Madhya Pradesh	10×40	US\$ 213.29 Million + Rs. 812.09 Crs. (1 US\$ = Rs. 35.50)	Unit-1 : 46 months from financial closure Unit-10 : 55 months from financial closure Benefits in 10th Plan

The actual sale rate of electricity from the above projects will depend on the completed cost (approved by CEA) and terms and conditions of the Power Purchase Agreement entered into between the promoter and the respective State Electricity Boards.

In addition to the above, the following schemes for setting up hydro electric power projects in the private sector have been accorded 'in-principle' clearance of CEA and the promoters of these projects are required to submit the complete Detailed Project Report to CEA for accord of techno-economic clearance.

S.No.	Name of the project/Promoter/State	Cap. (MW)
1.	Allain Duhangan HEP, M/s. Rajasthan Spinning & Weaving Mill, Himachal Pradesh	192
2.	Karcham Wangtoo HEP, M/s. Jai Prakash Industries Ltd., Himachal Pradesh	1000
3.	Dhamwari Sunda HEP, M/s. Dhamwari Power Co., Himachal Pradesh	70
4.	Upper Krishna HEP, M/s. Chamundi Power Corporation Ltd., Karnataka	1107

Oil Seed Cultivation

2337. DR. C. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total area presently under oilseeds cultivation, crop-wise;

(b) whether there is any decrease in the area under oilseed cultivation as compared to past figures;

(c) if so, the specific figures including the names of the each crop affected and names of the States where these crops are presently cultivated and the reasons therefor.

(d) the area presently under coconut cultivation in each State and whether there is a fall in coconut, copra and coconut price in the market and whether will it effect expansion of coconut cultivation in future;

(e) the area presently under oil-palm cultivation, State-wise area and production in the past;

(f) the present subsidy on oil fruit per tonne, present market price and the opinion of millers in this regard;

(g) whether India is presently the biggest importer of edible oil in the world; and

(h) if so, the extent to which it is likely to affect our agricultural economy and oilseed production including coconut?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) Crop-wise total area presently under oilseeds cultivation is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The highest ever record area with production of oilseeds was during the year 1998-99 and since then the area under oilseeds is fluctuating due to abnormal weather conditions and severe drought conditions in major oilseeds growing States like Gujarat, Rajasthan Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Haryana.

(c) Due to drought situation major affected crops during 1999-2000 were groundnut, rapeseed-mustard, sunflower and soyabean having a less area as compared to the area of 1998-99 i.e. groundnut about 6.19 lakh ha., rapeseed-mustard 4.91 lakh ha., sunflower 4.72 lakh ha. and soyabean 2.86 lakh ha. in major oilseeds growing States viz. Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Karnataka and Haryana.

(d) The present State-wise area under Coconut cultivation is given in the enclosed Statement-II. It has been reported that there is a distress sale of coconut and copra during 1998-99 and 1999-2000. Since the Government of India has increased the custom duty on the imported oil, the expansion of coconut cultivation will not be affected.

(e) State-wise area presently under Oil Palm Plantation as well as production of oil palm during the last 3 years is given in the enclosed Statement-III.

(f) The Oil Palm entrepreneurs are purchasing the Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFB) of Oil Palm at a price of Rs. 2300 per tonne which is the cost of production. Under the market intervention scheme, NAFED is purchasing the FFB of Oil Palm at a price of Rs. 2750 per tonne and the farmers are being paid this price in order to protect them and the price realised from oil palm processors is Rs. 2300 per tonne bearing a loss of Rs. 450 per tonne by the Center and the State on 50 : 50 share basis as a subsidy on FFBs of Oil Palm.

(g) and (h) There is a shortage of oilseeds production in the country to meet the domestic demand of edible oil thus necessitating the import of edible oil to meet the domestic demand. Due to liberalised policy for import of edible oil and keeping it under OGL there is a huge import of edible oil which is cheaper than the edible oil produced indigenously. The import of cheap edible oil is affecting the oilseed growers. In a bid to provide protection to the domestic industry and negate the impact of low international prices the Government has increased the import duties by 10-30% on all crude and refined edible

oils with effect from 21.11.2000. In order to protect the interest of the oilseed farmers NAFED being the Central nodal agency for the price support operation on MSP makes the procurement when the price of oilseeds falls below the Minimum Support Price.

Statement-I

Present crop-wise total area under oil seeds cultivation

(in '000 ha.)

S.No.	Crop	Area during 1999-2000
1.	Groundnut	6952.0
2.	Castor	795.0
3.	Niger Seed	512.0
4.	Sesamum	1612.0
5.	Rapeseed & Mustard	6106.0
6.	Linseed	781.0
7.	Sunflower	1532.0
8.	Safflower	507.0
9.	Soyabean	6023.0
Total Oilseeds		24820.0

Statement-II

Present state-wise area under coconut cultivation

S.No.	State/UT	Area ('000 ha.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	98.2
2.	Assam*	19.7
3.	Goa	24.9
4.	Karnataka	287.8
5.	Kerala	1078.2
6.	Maharashtra*	15.1
7.	Orissa	54.5
8.	Tamilnadu*	266.5
9.	Tripura	9.1
10.	West Bengal	24.6
11.	A & N Island	24.7
12.	Lakshadweep*	2.8
13.	Pondicherry	2.1
All India		1908.2

* Data relate to 1997-98.

Note : Coconut is not grown to any appreciable extent in other States/Union Territories not mentioned above.

Statement-III

Present area covered under oil palm (in ha.)

S.No.	Name of the State	Net area
1.	Andhra Pradesh	24,128
2.	Karnataka	5,339
3.	Tamilnadu	4,202
4.	Gujarat	233
5.	Orissa	1,484
6.	Goa	684
7.	Tripura	98
8.	Assam	10
9.	West Bengal	—
10.	Kerala	3,665
11.	Maharashtra	1,000
12.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	1,593
Total		42,436

Production of Crude Palm Oil

Large part of Oil Palm plantation is in gestation period.

Estimated production of Palm Oil during recent years is given below :

Year	Quantity Metric tonnes
1997-98	11,509
1998-99	27,830
1999-2000	27,600

Shortage of Employees

2338. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any shortage of Grade-II and Junior Grade employees in the Department of Telecommunications (DoT);

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

(c) whether telephone services are being affected badly as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/being taken to increase their strength and to provide better service to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) There are no employees classified as Grade-II and Junior Grade employees in the Department of Telecommunications.

(b) In view of the (a) above does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development

2339. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to improve the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development at Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allotted to this institute by the Government, and

(d) the steps taken for development of Youth Education and Employment Training in this institute by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) to (d) The Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development at Sriperumbudur is set up under the Societies Registration Act XXVII of 1975 Sl. No. 67 of 1993. It is in its initial stage and is an apex body for all youth related programmes and is responsible for training, documentation, research and evaluation of youth activities. The area to be covered by the institute is about 40 acres and the construction works are being completed gradually. The funds so far released to the institute is about Rs. 18 crore.

Package for paddy growers in Haryana

2340. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have released a package for paddy growers in Haryana;

(b) the extent of aid given for the purpose;

(c) the criterion fixed for rendering such help and for identifying the beneficiaries; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken to ensure that the assistance is not misused and reaches to the needy ones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. For increasing the production and productivity of cereal crops (Rice & Wheat), Integrated Cereals Development Programme has been implemented through which incentives were provided to the farmers. With view to provide more flexibility to State, Macro Management Mode of Agriculture has been introduced from October 2000. So far post-harvest concessions are concerned Ministry of Food has announced the following concessions for Paddy growers in Haryana :

(i) The specifications of paddy has been relaxed in respect of damaged, discoloured, sprouted and weevilled grains upto a maximum limit of 8% instead of 3% provided under the Uniform (FAQ) specifications.

(ii) Paddy conforming to the above specifications will be procured at MSP.

(iii) Out turn ratio for custom milling of such paddy will be 64% for raw and 65% for parboiled rice.

(iv) It will be the responsibility of the State Governments to get the paddy milled and deliver rice strictly conforming to the uniform specifications well within the current Kharif Marketing Season.

(c) The above concessions have been announced on the basis of the report of a Central Team which has visited the affected districts of Haryana, collected samples and got them analysed in the laboratory.

(d) State Government, on receipt of sanction of financial package from Ministry of Finance, Government of India will take suitable safeguard to ensure that the financial assistance reaches to farmers as per Scheme.

Departmental Telephone Booths

2341. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up departmental telephone booths in Delhi and Maharashtra providing local call, STD, ISD, Internet and FAX facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise alongwith their working hours and charges to be paid by subscribers for each facility;

(c) the criteria laid down for setting up of said booth;

(d) whether the Government propose to extend these facilities in more areas of these States during current and the next financial years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

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

Indo-US Collaboration on power

2342. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :
SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO :
SHRI DINSHA PATEL :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a US trade delegation has visited India during October, 2000 and evinced keen interest in collaboration on power projects in India;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been signed with USA for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the main power projects that are likely to be set up in India with the help of USA; and

(d) the States identified for the purpose and the total power likely to be generated under the said agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) No official trade delegation from USA has visited the Ministry of Power during October, 2000 for collaboration on power projects in India.

However, during the visit of the Prime Minister of India to USA in September 2000, the following Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)/Protocols of Intent were signed:

- I. MOU which envisages discussion on current and perspective energy development in both countries, facilitate exchange of information and assessment of energy demand and supply forecasts, exchange of views on energy and related environmental policies, review of exchange of information on energy technologies including renewable energy etc. The MOU also envisages setting up of a Sub-Ministerial Working Group on energy.
- II. Protocol of Intent for Clean Coal Technology.

III. Protocol of Intent for Capacity building in the Power Sector.

IV. Joint Development Agreements were also signed by the Power Trading Corporation with American companies for development of Hirma and Ennore power projects.

Audit Report of MTNL

2343. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the statutory auditor of MTNL has found several shortcomings during the audit of the company of the year 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/being taken by the management of MTNL against the responsible officials for the said shortcomings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Sir, like previous years certain observations were made by the statutory auditors during the finalisation of accounts for the year 1999-2000. In some cases, MTNL is following the method of accounting as followed by DOT which are not in accordance with the Companies Act, 1956, and as per the Accounting Standard issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. This variation is reported by the statutory auditors. In some other cases MTNL is following its own accounting policy approved by its Board of Directors which are varied from the provisions of Companies Act, 1956. These are also reported by the auditors. The action is being taken in respect of other observations of the Auditors.

(b) The details of qualifications given by the auditors for the year 1999-2000 are enclosed as Statement-I.

(c) The qualifications of the auditors have been placed before the Board of Directors and the action taken by the Board with regard to the qualification is indicated in the Addendum to the directors' Report which is enclosed in Statement-II. The company has an audit committee consisting of the three part-time directors of the Company and the audit committee is monitoring the action taken by the management for rectifying the audit qualifications. The accounts are being maintained as per decisions taken by the management in MTNL. No single official can be held responsible. However, corrections in the accounting procedures are being made and in future the accounting will be altered to suit the audit requirements.

Statement-I*Auditors' Report to the Members of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited*

We have audited the attached Balance Sheet of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited as at March 31, 2000 and the annexed Profit and Loss Account for the year ended on that date and report as follows :

1. The Accounts of the Mumbai and Delhi units of the Company have been audited by branch auditors appointed by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. The reports and further clarifications of the branch auditors have been forwarded to us and the same have been suitably dealt with in forming our opinion on the accounts.
2. We have obtained all the information and explanations as we considered necessary for the purpose of our audit.
3. Proper books of account have been kept by the Company, so far as appears from our examination of those books except that the following items referred to in Paragraph 1.1 of Significant Accounting Policies are consistently accounted on cash basis, instead of on accrual basis as required under Section 209 of the Companies Act, 1956 :
 - (a) Interest on loans and advances to employees and on security deposits with the government and local authorities. As per Government rules, interest on employee loans/advances is to be recovered after recovery of the principal.
 - (b) Income from Virtual Calling Cards (Pre paid cards)
 - (c) Interest income/liquidated damages when realisability is uncertain.
 - (d) Annual recurring charges of amount up to Rs. 0.10 million each for overlapping period.

The impact of non-accounting on accrual basis is not ascertainable.

4. The Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account dealt with by this report are in agreement with the books of account.
5. In our opinion, the Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Account dealt with by this report comply with the Accounting Standards referred to in sub-section 3C of Section 211 of the Companies Act, 1956 except that accounting practices and procedures

followed by the Company in respect of fixed assets, as stated in para 6(ii), is not in compliance with the Accounting Standard 10 on Fixed Assets. We are unable to quantify the impact of deviation in the absence of necessary data. As required by Section 211(3B) of the Companies Act, 1956, the Nigam has not quantified the impact on account of the deviation and has also not specified the reasons for the deviation.

6. (i) Based on the legal opinions received by the company, the management has decided to claim benefit under Section 80 IA of the Income Tax Act, 1961 on basic telecommunication services provided. The benefit is claimed on the total operational profit earned by the company. Accordingly, tax liability for the current year is provided after considering benefit under Section 80 IA resulting in tax provision on the basis of Minimum Alternate Tax (under Section 115 JA of the Income Tax Act, 1961) Further, the management has revised the Company's Income tax returns for the last two years i.e. for accounting year 1997-98 and 1998-99 and has reworked its Income Tax liability for those years. However, the company has not written back the excess provision for taxation made in the earlier two years aggregating to Rs. 7442.80 million.

In the event of the tax benefit claimed by the Company under Section 80 IA not being finally accepted by the Income Tax authorities, profit for the year and reserves as at 31st March, 2000 would be lower by Rs. 3339.04 million. In case the claim is accepted by the Income Tax authorities, profit for the year and reserves as at 31st March, 2000 would be higher by Rs. 7442.80 million.

(ii) Following mentioned practices and procedures followed by the Company in respect of Fixed Assets, in our opinion, are not in accordance with the Accounting Standard (AS) 10 on Fixed Assets issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India :

- (a) The cost of stores and materials issued is charged to the project or revenue job for which it is initially issued, without adjustment for subsequent transfer of stores and materials between different projects/purposes.
- (b) The overheads are allocated as a percentage of capital expenditure prescribed by DOT and not on the basis of directly allocable costs.
- (c) In many cases, replacement costs of existing fixed assets have been capitalised without any adjustment of the relevant cost and written down value of discarded assets from the fixed assets block.

The impact of such practices and procedures on the accounts cannot be ascertained, in the absence of relevant data. In the opinion of the management, such impact is not likely to be material.

(iii) (a) Amount recoverable on current account from DOT (Rs. 5862.64 million) and amount payable on current account to DOT (Rs. 4862.39 million) i.e. net recoverable Rs. 1000.25 million are subject to reconciliation and confirmation and consequent adjustments.

(b) Certain differences in an account of the Nigam with DOT for the period upto 31.3.1997 have been identified. Out of the differences identified, interest shown as receivable on account of repayment of sixth series bonds has been reversed and shown under prior period adjustment. However, effect of certain differences have not been given in the accounts pending further clarifications and final acceptance by both the parties. Further, the transactions between the Nigam and DOT for the period after 31.3.1997 are yet to be reconciled.

(c) As per the policy followed by the Company, provision for pension contribution to the staff on deputation from DOT is made on *ad hoc* basis at 14% of maximum of pay scale. This is subject to confirmation by DOT.

The final impact of the above on the accounts is not presently ascertainable.

(iv) Inventory as at 31st March, 2000 is without considering the value of materials issued to sub stores and remaining unutilized at the year end. The quantity and related value of unutilized stocks is not ascertainable.

(v) The balance in subscribers' deposit accounts Rs. 11232.61 million, interest accrued/due thereon Rs. 48.69 million and sundry debtors of Rs. 6997.66 million are subject to reconciliation with respective subsidiary records. Further, receipts from subscribers to the extent of Rs. 1010.98 million are pending allocation to the concerned debtors.

(vi) Provisions have not been made in respect of :

(a) Stamp duty payable on registration of the Land and building acquired by/vested in the company—Amount unascertainable. Pending completion of the registration/legal vesting of land (including leaseholds) and buildings (aggregate cost Rs. 5952.68

million) in the name of Company, title deeds therefore are not available.

(b) Lease rent payable in respect of certain leasehold properties where the enhancement is not yet finalized—Amount not ascertainable

(c) Rs. 4.34 million receivable from Electronics Corporation of India, including liquidated damages of Rs. 0.28 million, remaining unpaid for several years.

(d) Rs. 34.09 million receivable from ITI Limited on account of non receipt of material, modvat relief, materials returned etc. remaining unpaid for several years

(e) Capital advances aggregating Rs. 4.49 million towards acquisition of land and building at the Mumbai Unit.

(f) Liquidated damages aggregating Rs. 97.72 million refundable to ITI Limited, in terms of a directive from DOT, pending approval of the Board of Directors of the Nigam.

(g) Claims receivable from some units of DOT, aggregating Rs. 55.35 million against materials supplied in earlier years. The claims have not been acknowledged by these units and the certainty of realization cannot be assessed.

(h) Gratuity and Leave Salary for employees on deemed deputation from DOT.

(i) Claims in respect of pending disputes with publishers of telephone directories. (Refer Notes 7(i) and 7(ii) of the Notes to Accounts).

(j) Liability of interest, if any, payable in terms of the Interest of Delayed Payments to Small Scale and Ancillary Industrial Undertakings Act, 1993 is not presently determined by the Nigam.

In case provision is made in respect of the above items, other than para (a), (b), (h), (i) and (j) i.e. where impact cannot be ascertained, profit for the year and reserves would be lower by Rs. 195.99 million.

(vii) We are unable to express an opinion on the cancellation of the VI series bonds of Rs. 1699.47 million and non-provision of interest and other liabilities thereon, pending settlement of legal disputes. The impact of this on the accounts is not presently ascertainable.

(viii) The amount capitalized during the year as Fixed Assets in respect of Delhi Unit includes Rs. 2847 millions where the expenditure is pending internal sanctions.

The cumulative impact of the observations on the results for the year and on the reserves of the company, though not presently ascertainable, may possibly be material.

7. The Company has not made following disclosures required under Schedule VI to the Companies Act, 1956 as per references given after each item :
- Consumption of stores and spares [Para no. 3 (x)(a) of Part II]
 - Consumption of imported and indigenous stores and spares and percentage to the total consumption [Para no. 4 D (c) of Part II]
 - Outstanding dues to Small Scale Undertakings and details regarding the same [Part I].
8. In our opinion and according to the information and explanations given to us and based on such details as were made available to us, the said accounts read together with the notes thereon, subject to para 3 & 7 above, give the information required by Companies Act, 1956 in the manner so required and also give, subject to our observations in paragraphs 6(i) to 6(viii) foregoing, a true and fair view :
- in the case of Balance Sheet, of the State of Affairs of the Company as at 31st March, 2000; and
 - in the case of the Profit and Loss Account of the Profit for the year ended on that date.
9. As required by the Manufacturing and other Companies (Auditor's Report) Order, 1988 issued by the Central Government in terms of Section 227(4A) of the Companies Act, 1956 we enclose in the Annexure a statement on the matters specified in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the said order.

For N.M.Raiji & Co.
Chartered Accountants

Place : New Delhi
Dated :

(J.M. Gandhi)
Partner

Annexure to Auditor's Report
(Referred to in Paragraph 9 of our report of even date)

As per information and explanations given to us, the books and records examined by us in the normal course of audit, the reports received from the Branch Auditors and to the best of our knowledge and belief, we report that :

- The Fixed Assets records maintained by the Company do not give the prescribed particulars in respect of several assets. Further, records of Mumbai Unit require to be updated for several years. The fixed assets have not been physically verified by the management during the year. Hence, commenting on the discrepancies upon verification does not arise.
- None of the fixed assets have been revalued during the year.
- Physical verification of stores and spares have been carried out by the management at reasonable intervals during the year for the Mumbai Unit and at the year end for the Delhi Unit. In our opinion, the frequency of verification needs to be increased for the Delhi Unit.
- In our opinion, the procedures of physical verification of the stores followed by the Management are reasonable and adequate in relation to the size of the Company and the nature of its business.
- Discrepancies noticed between physical stocks and book records during the year were not material and have been properly dealt within the books of accounts.
- The valuation of closing stock is fair and proper in accordance with the normally accepted accounting principles and is on the same basis as in the preceding year except that materials lying at sub-stores are not being valued.
- The Company has neither taken nor granted any loans, secured or unsecured, from/to companies, firms, or other parties listed in the register maintained under Section 301 of the Companies Act, 1956 or from the companies under the same management as defined under Section 370 (1-B) of the Companies Act, 1956.
- The parties to whom loans or advances in the nature of loans have been given by the Company are generally repaying the principal amounts as stipulated and are also generally regular in

payment of applicable interest except in cases of loan given to departmental canteen and to one other party where principal amount and applicable interest is not recovered. The management has taken legal and other action, for recovery of such loans and interest where applicable. In respect of loans given to employees, interest recovery starts only after the recovery of the principal amount, as per terms of such loans. For the employees who were working on deputation from DOT at the time of taking loan and are no longer on deputation, interest on such loans is not recovered by the Nigam.

9. The internal control procedures for purchases of stores, materials, including components, plant and machinery, equipment and other assets and internal control on revenue billing and related reconciliation needs to be strengthened to make it commensurate with the size of the Company and nature of the business.
10. The Company has not made any purchases of materials from companies, firms or other parties listed in the register maintained under section 301 of the Companies Act, 1956, aggregating during the year to Rs. 50,000 or more in value in respect of each party. In respect of sale of services to companies, firms or other parties listed in the register maintained under Section 301 of the Companies Act, 1956 aggregating during the year to Rs. 50,000 or more in respect of each party, the transactions have been effected at the prevailing market rates for such services.
11. The Company has a system of determining unserviceable/damaged stores and spares. Provision of possible loss on disposal of unserviceable/damaged stores has been made in the accounts.
12. The Company has not accepted any deposits from the public during the year, within the meaning of the Section 58A of the Companies Act, 1956 and the Companies (Acceptance of Deposit) Rules, 1975.
13. The Company, being involved in service activities, does not generate any by-products or significant scrap. In our opinion, reasonable records have been maintained for sale and disposal of scrap.
14. The internal audit system of the Company, particularly in relation to the scope and coverage of operations, frequency of reports and follow up on internal audit observations needs to be considerably strengthened to make it commensurate with the size of the Company and the nature of its business.
15. As informed to us, the Central Government has not prescribed the maintenance of cost records by the Company under Section 209(1) (d) of the Companies Act, 1956.
16. The Company has been regular in depositing Provident Fund dues with the appropriate authorities except for employees who have been absorbed from DOT in the Nigam's services in which cases there were delays in depositing provident fund dues with the appropriate authorities. As at the Balance Sheet date, provident fund dues aggregating Rs. 214.23 millions were in arrears. These have been subsequently deposited with appropriate authorities. As informed to us, the provision of Employees State Insurance Act is not applicable to the Company.
17. According to information and explanations given to us, there were no amounts outstanding at the balance sheet date in respect of undisputed income tax, wealth tax, sales tax, customs duty and excise duty which were due for more than six months from the date they become payable.
18. Based on our examination of the books of account and the information and explanations given to us we have not come across any personal expenses which have been charged to profit and loss account, other than those payable under contractual obligations or as per regular business practice.
19. The Company is not a sick industrial company within the meaning of Clause (O) of sub section (i) of section 3 of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, 1985.
20. (a) The company has a reasonable system of recording receipts and issues of stores commensurate with its size and the nature of its business at the main stores. However, the system of recording receipts and issues needs to be introduced at the sub stores. System and documentation of inter project and inter purpose transfer of materials need to be strengthened. The reasons for variances between the sanctioned cost and actual expenditure on projects and other works of capital nature could not be properly ascertained.

- (b) Considering the nature of services rendered and the basis of billing, it is not considered necessary to have a system of allocation of man-hours utilized to the relative jobs.
- (c) System of authorization and control on the issue of stores needs to be strengthened to make it commensurate with the size and nature of the business of the Company. In

our opinion, proper system for allocation of stores and labour to the services needs to be introduced.

For N.M. Raiji and Co.
Chartered Accountants

Place : New Delhi
Dated : 17.7.2000

(J.M. Gandhi)
Partner

Statement-II

6(ii) Following mentioned practices and procedures followed by the Company in respect of fixed Assets, in our opinion, are not in accordance with the Accounting Standard (AS) 10 on Fixed Assets issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India :

MTNL has been following DoT/Government procedure in respect of accounting of fixed assets, which is in variance with the Accounting Standards prescribed by the Institute of Chartered Accountants. The matter is being reviewed by the Company. Necessary action will be taken on the basis of the review.

- (a) The cost of stores and materials issued is charged to the project or revenue job for which it is initially issued, without adjustment for subsequent transfer of stores and materials between different projects/purposes.
- (b) The overheads are allocated as a percentage of capital expenditure prescribed by DoT and not on the basis of directly allocable costs.
- (c) In many cases, replacement costs of existing fixed assets have been capitalized without any adjustment of the relevant cost and written down value of discarded assets from the fixed assets block.

6(iii)(a) Amount recoverable on current account from DoT (Rs. 5862.64 million) and amount payable on current account to DoT (Rs. 48362.39 million) i.e. net recoverable Rs. 1000.25 million are subject to reconciliation and confirmation and consequent adjustment.

The process of reconciliation of accounts between DoT for the year upto 31.3.2000 is currently in progress. Necessary entries, if any, arising out of this reconciliation would be passed after final confirmation.

- (d) Certain differences in an account of the Nigam with DoT for the period upto 31.3.97 have been identified. Out of the differences identified, interest shown as receivable on account of repayment of sixth series bonds has been reversed and shown under prior period adjustment. However, effect of certain differences have not been given in the accounts pending further clarifications and final acceptance by both the parties. Further, the transactions between the Nigam and DoT for the period after 31.3.97 are yet to be reconciled.

6(iv) Inventory as at 31st March 2000 is without considering the value of materials issued to sub stores and remaining unutilized stocks is not ascertainable.

This is being reviewed.

-
- 6(v) The balance is subscribers' deposit accounts Rs. 11232.61 million, interest accrued/due thereon Rs. 48.69 million and sundry debtors of Rs. 6997.66 million are subject to reconciliation with respective subsidiary records. Further, receipts from subscribers to the extent of Rs. 1010.98 million are pending allocation to the concerned debtors.
- Both the units have been asked to reconcile sundry debtors control account and the subsidiary records. This is an on going process.
- 6(vi) Provisions have not been made in respect of :
- (a) stamps duty payable on registration of the land and building acquired by/vested in the company amount unascertainable. Pending completion of the registration/legal vesting of land (including leaseholds) and buildings (aggregate cost Rs. 5952.68 million) in the name of company, title deeds therefore are not available.
- This is being pursued with DoT.
- (b) Lease rent payable in respect of certain leasehold properties where the enhancement is not yet finalised. Amount not ascertainable.
- The Management felt that no provision need be made against this case.
- (c) Rs. 4.34 million receivable from Electronics Corporation of India, including liquidated damages of Rs. 0.28 million, remaining unpaid for several years.
- No provision need to be made as the matter is under arbitration
- (d) Rs. 34.09 million receivable from ITI Ltd. on account of norm receipt of material, modvat relief, materials returned etc. remaining unpaid for several years.
- The matter is under review by the Management and will be settled in the year 2000-01.
- (e) Capital advances aggregating Rs. 4.49 million towards acquisition of land and building at the Mumbai unit.
- This is the advance paid towards acquisition of the land and the matter is being pursued
- (f) Liquidated damages aggregating Rs. 97.72 million refundable to ITI Limited, in terms of a directive from DoT, pending approval of the Board of Directors of the Nigam.
- The matter is being reviewed by the Management.
- (g) Claims receivable from some units of DoT, aggregating Rs. 55.35 million against materials supplied in earlier years. The claims have not been acknowledged by these unit and the certainty of realization cannot be accessed.
- The claims are being settled with DoT.
- 6(vii) The amount capitalized during the year as fixed assets in respect of Delhi Unit includes Rs. 2847 millions where the expenditure is pending internal sanctions.
- A task force is being set up to examine in detail all such unsanctioned projects for appropriate action. Steps are being taken to strengthen the procedures to see that no project is taken without proper sanction.
7. The company has not made following disclosures required under Schedule VI to the Companies Act, 1956 as per references given after each item :
- This is being reviewed to make the proper disclosures.
- a. Consumption of stores and spares (Para No. 3(x) (a) of Part II)
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- b. Consumption of important and indigenous stores and spares and percentage to the total consumption (Para No. 4 D (c) of Part II)
- c. Outstanding dues to small scale undertaking and details regarding the same (Part I).

Interim relief to Kerala for damage to crops

2344. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether proposals for interim relief have been received by the Union Government from State Governments to face the damage to agriculture farms due to natural calamities, especially from Kerala;

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

(c) whether the Union Government have deputed teams to assess the extent of damage caused due to flood in States; and

(d) the amount sanctioned for flood relief and drought prone areas programme during the Ninth Five Year Plan and the results achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) The Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and West Bengal had submitted Memoranda and sought Central assistance indicating loss/damage due to floods while the Governments of Madhya Pradesh/Chhattisgarh, Orissa and Rajasthan had submitted Memoranda and sought Central assistance indicating loss/damage due to drought, which, inter-alia, included damage to crops also.

(c) Central Teams were deputed to Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and West Bengal.

(d) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments concerned to undertake relief measures in the wake of natural calamities. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments. Distribution of relief and undertaking ground level relief measure are the responsibility of the State Governments. State-wise details of release of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) during 1995-2000 and 2000-01 for undertaking relief measures in the wake of natural calamities including floods and drought are enclosed as Statement. According to the Department of Land Resources, the Drought Prone Areas Programme is being implemented by them in 13 States under which funds amounting to Rs. 90.75 crore during 1997-98, Rs. 73.00 crore during 1998-99, Rs. 94.99 crore during 1999-2000

and Rs. 85.68 crore during 2000-2001 (upto 30.11.2000) were released. According to them, 8335 watershed projects have been sanctioned during 1995-2000 and estimated area under watershed development is 24.38 lakh ha. Kerala is not covered by the Drought Prone Areas Programme.

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Release of Central Share of CRF	
		1995-2000	2000-01
1.	Andhra Pradesh	49033	14854.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2779	439.82
3.	Assam	19746	1566.47
4.	Bihar	19388	
5.	Goa	423	46.50
6.	Gujarat	55117	13113.51
7.	Haryana	9893	1568.64
8.	Himachal Pradesh	10641	843.90
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	7780	1309.00
10.	Karnataka	16523	2796.50
11.	Kerala	21874	1734.39
12.	Madhya Pradesh	20167	3197.94
13.	Maharashtra	25450	
14.	Manipur	925	156.00
15.	Meghalaya	1101	175.50
16.	Mizoram	500	111.50
17.	Nagaland	671	53.08
18.	Orissa	19351	4105.00
19.	Punjab	21380	1695.39
20.	Rajasthan	70689	16818.45
21.	Sikkim	1859	294.66
22.	Tamil Nadu	23433	3849.00
23.	Tripura	1775	140.83
24.	Uttar Pradesh	49400	3918.35
25.	West Bengal	20263	7583.00
Total		470161	80371.43

Illegal cutting of tress in Delhi

2345. DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of cutting of trees illegally reported in Delhi during the last six months;

(b) the number of persons against whom cases have been registered;

(c) whether illegal occupants of land are clearing the ridge area of Delhi; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps, the Government propose to take to prevent the illegal cutting of trees?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) As intimated by Delhi Government, thirty six cases of cutting of trees illegally were reported in Delhi during 1st May, 2000 to 31st October, 2000. Cases against 58 persons were registered for cutting of the trees illegally, out of which 7 persons were booked for the reserved Green Belt Area and remaining 51 for other areas under the Delhi Tree Preservation Act 1994.

(c) and (d) As reported by Delhi Government, no such cases have been reported by any of the agency responsible for the management of Ridge Reserved Forest. All the agencies responsible for the management of the Ridge are vigilant enough to protect the Trees on the Ridge Reserved Forest Areas.

Mini Tractor Manufacturing Units

2346. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of mini tractor (with 10 Horsepower) manufacturing units in the country;

(b) whether the Government are aware that such tractors are very useful to farmers;

(c) if so, whether the Government have received any proposals from the Government of Gujarat for exemption of Proto-type Certificate in respect of mini tractor manufacturing units in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the proposal is under consideration of the Government;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, whether the Government propose to extend some other concessions to these units and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Mini tractors of 10 Horsepower are not being manufactured in the organised sector.

(b) Small tractors can be useful to the farmers if they have sufficient power to pull the needed implements and carry out farm operations effectively.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (g) The proposal is for grant of exemption from registration of agricultural mini tractors under provisions of Rule 126 of Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 to enable the manufacturers of mini tractors to obtain proto-type approval certificate. The comments/technical justification on this proposal were called for from the Authorised Testing Agencies in the country. The authorised testing agencies have indicated that any vehicle including mini tractors coming on road has to meet the minimum safety parameters as otherwise it may become a safety hazard to road users. In view of this, it would not be prudent to exclude any such category from the requirement of prototype certification under Rule 126 of Central Motor Vehicles Rules.

[Translation]

Youth Development Centres In Bihar

2347. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had launched a new scheme for setting up of a Youth Development Centre for each group of ten villages during the year 1994-95;

(b) if so, the number of Youth Development Centres set up so far in Bihar, particularly in Saharsa and Madhepura districts; and

(c) the expenditure incurred for the running and maintenance of these Centres during the last three years, centre-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. A scheme for setting up of Youth Development Centres was launched during the year 1994-95.

(b) 21 Youth Development Centres have been set up in Bihar. However, no Youth Development Centre has been set up in Saharsa and Madhepura Districts.

(c) Government of India sanctioned Rs. 30,000 as one time grant-in-aid for setting up of a Youth Development Centre. No maintenance grant is given to these centres.

[English]

National Agricultural Insurance Scheme

2348. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state .

(a) whether the Government propose to review the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme for implementing the New Agriculture Policy;

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

(c) whether the State Governments have sent some suggestions in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which these suggestions are likely to be considered by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the provisions of the scheme, National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS), is required to be reviewed after one year of its implementation. In this connection a Conference of State Ministers for Agriculture was convened at New Delhi on 14.9.2000 to discuss certain issues such as coverage of perennial crops, sharing of financial liabilities, Corpus Fund; unit area of insurance, sum insured and seasonality discipline etc.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Some States have made the following important suggestions for review :

- Sharing of risk between Government of India (GOI) and State Government should be in the ratio of 2:1.
- Coverage of perennial crops.
- Constitution of 'Corpus Fund' may be re-examined.
- Administrative expenditure and the bank charges should be borne by the GOI.

— Sunset arrangement of taking away the benefit of subsidized premium to small and marginal farmers needs reconsideration etc.

(e) The suggestions made by the States for modifications in the scheme have been discussed in the Conference held on 14.9.2000 and a proposal for review of the scheme is under examination.

Grants for setting up of Cold Storages

2349. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the present amount of grant for establishing cold storages:

(b) if so, whether the Government have been considering to simplify process of setting up of the cold storages; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Protection of Coconut farmers

2350. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN . Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have noticed the import of Palmolein has affected the price of Copra and Coconut and whether any steps taken to protect the coconut farmers of Kerala;

(b) the details of steps taken to raise procurement price of Copra; and

(c) the extent to which Copra has been procured by NAFED in this year from January to October, 2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) Prices of Copra/Coconut have been ruling lower this year compared to last year due to various reasons. Steps taken to protect the interest of growers, include market intervention by National Agricultural Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) and enhancement of import duties of certain edible oils.

(b) Minimum Support Price/Procurement Price is decided on the basis of recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices, views of the State

Governments and Central Ministries etc. Minimum Support Price/Procurement Price for Copra for the year 2000 was announced in April, 2000. Minimum Support Price/Procurement Price of Copra for the year 2001 will be announced shortly as Report from the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) has already been received and circulated to the State Governments etc. for their views.

(c) National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) has procured 1,29,336 Metric Tonnes of Copra under Price Support Scheme (PSS) in the following States/U.Ts. between January to October, 2000.

State/U.T.	Procurement (MTs)
Kerala	63,591
Tamil Nadu	53,600
Lakshadweep	2,004
Andhra Pradesh	8,567
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1,574
	1,29,336

National Reconstruction Corps Scheme

2351. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have launched the National Reconstruction Corps. (NRC) Scheme ;

(b) if so, the aims and objectives thereof;

(c) the constitution of the Steering Committee;

(d) whether rules for recruitment of volunteers and district project officers under NRC have been formed; and

(e) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The primary aims and objectives of National Reconstruction Corps are to provide an opportunity to youth to participate in the process of nation building. Working for and with the community, understanding the problems of real life and utilizing their skills and knowledge in solving these problems will be an enriching experience

for them which would prepare them for the challenges of later life. The proposed NRC Scheme would provide youth with avenues for creative and constructive work suited to their educational background, aptitude and interest. This Scheme is designed to achieve the twin objectives of man making and nation building.

(c) The constitution of the Steering Committee is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) Criteria for recruitment of volunteers & Project Officers has not yet been decided.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Constitution of the National Steering Committee for the Implementation of the Scheme of National Reconstruction Corps

1. Minister of State (Youth Affairs & Sports)—Chairperson
2. Eminent social worker—Vice Chairperson 1
3. Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt. of India 1
4. Minister of State, Govt. of India—Rural Development
Minister of State, Govt. of India—Urban Development
Minister of State, Govt. of India—Social Justice and Empowerment 3
5. Minister of State in charge of Youth Affairs in State Govts. (One from each region by rotation) 6
6. Secretary to the Government of India for the Department of Women & Child Development, Education, Non-Conventional Energy, Environment & Forests, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Agriculture & Cooperation, Water Resources, Health & Family Welfare, Science & Technology, Labour. 10
7. Vice Chairman
Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan 1
8. Director General—NYKS
Member Secretary 1
9. Member of Parliament
Lok Sabha 2
Rajya Sabha 1 3
10. Youth Representatives (One would be a Woman) 2
11. NGO Representatives (One would be a women) 2
12. Permanent invitee Honorary Adviser, NRC (Member of National Executive Committee) 1

Testing of Soil, Fertilizers and Seeds

2352. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to conduct soil testing and quality testing of fertilizers and seeds and also to check supply of spurious inputs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) Soil testing facility is being provided to farmers in the country through 514 soil testing laboratories functioning in different States/UTs. These laboratories have capacity to analyse 6.4 million soil samples per annum. In addition to this, strengthening of 273 existing soil testing labs and establishment of 16 more soil testing laboratories, which is in process will raise the total capacity to 8 million soil samples per annum.

In order to check the supply of spurious inputs, 66 fertilizer testing laboratories are functioning in various parts of the country with a capacity to analyse 1.2 lakhs fertilizer samples per annum and; 101 seed testing laboratories have been set up for certification and quality check of seeds. Similarly, 47 State pesticides laboratories with a capacity to analyse 55600 samples per annum help in checking the quality of insecticides/pesticides.

Protection of Bird Sanctuaries

2353. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of bird sanctuaries in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether any specific measures have been taken to preserve the bird sanctuaries from pollution and other hazards involving the State Governments;

(c) if so, whether the Government have received any representation from the public representatives of West Bengal pertaining to Raiganj (Kuliik) Bird Sanctuary of Uttar Dinajpur; and

(d) if so, the measures contemplated by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) The list of sanctuaries that are managed primarily for conservation of birds is enclosed as Statement.

(b) Financial assistance is provided by the central government for these sanctuaries to enable the State Governments to protect the birds and their habitat from various hazards.

(c) No specific representation has been received in this regard.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the State	No of Bird Sanctuaries
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
3.	Assam	—
4.	Bihar	4
5.	Chattisgarh	—
6.	Goa	1
7.	Gujarat	4
8.	Haryana	1
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	3
11.	Jharkhand	1
12.	Karnataka	6
13.	Kerala	—
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2
15.	Maharashtra	1
16.	Manipur	—
17.	Meghalaya	—
18.	Mizoram	—
19.	Nagaland	—
20.	Orissa	1
21.	Punjab	1
22.	Rajasthan	1
23.	Sikkim	—
24.	Tamil Nadu	5
25.	Tripura	—
26.	Uttaranchal	—
27.	Uttar Pradesh	10
28.	West Bengal	5
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—
30.	Chandigarh	—
31.	Daman & Diu	—
32.	Lakshadweep	—
33.	Pondicherry	—
34.	Delhi	—

[Translation]

Acute shortage of Power in Bihar

2354. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is likely to be an acute shortage of power in rest of Bihar due to the transfer of 63 percent of power capacity to Jharkhand area;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to resolve the power problems in rest of Bihar;

(c) whether the Government propose to upgrade and rehabilitate thermal power stations in Barauni and Muzaffarpur and set up power station in Navin Nagar and small hydro power projects in Bihar;

(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) and (b) At present, Bihar State Electricity Board continues to be the overall agency for supply of power in both Bihar and Jharkhand areas. Generally, Bihar meets its demand by drawing additional power from Eastern Grid. Although generating power stations in the State sector with installed capacity of about 70% of the total capacity of the combined Bihar State are located in Jharkhand State, the shortfall in rest of Bihar could be met by additional allocation/drawal from the central sector generating stations in the Eastern Region. Eastern Region as a whole of which Jharkhand and Bihar are constituent States has adequate power, is available for supply to the deficit States of the region including the State of Bihar. The power shortage in the State is attributable mainly to the inadequacies in the transmission and distribution system of the State and the State's inability to pay for additional power from central sector.

(c) to (e) The renovation and modernization programmes in respect of Barauni and Muzaffarpur Thermal Power Stations have already been undertaken and are under progress. Navi Nagar Thermal Power Project (2×500 MW) at Aurangabad, in Bihar was initially conceived by Bihar State Electricity Board. Subsequently, the project was identified under the Mega Power Project Policy. Since no private developer came for to develop this project, the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has been advised to consider the technical and commercial feasibility of this project.

Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (MNES) is supporting 5 small hydro projects in Bihar. In addition, MNES is also supporting detailed survey and investigation for 46 small power projects sites and preparation of DPR for ten projects.

[English]

Post Offices in metro cities

2355. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether post offices working in metropolitan cities are in bad shape;

(b) if so, the measures taken/proposed to be taken to improve their condition/outlook;

(c) whether national and international mailing business of Department of Posts is going down as compared to private operators; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Post office working in metropolitan cities are in good shape largely as a result of the effort made by the Department to modernise its services since the beginning of 8th Five Year Plan. The programme of action initiated in this regard has involved installation of computer based counter machines with a view to providing a speedy and error-free service at a single window in a clean and friendly work environment. Efforts have also been made to improve the ergonomics in the work-place. Nearly 1500 departmental post offices have been modernised most of which are located in metropolitan cities.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. National and International mailing business of the Department of Post is not going down as is evident from the date given below for the last three years:

1. Speed Post articles :

Year	Traffic in lakhs	Revenue in crores of Rs.
1997-98	141.4	77.95
1998-99	195.95	91.36
1999-2000	312.64	126.17

2. Total Mail handled :

Year	Total Mail handled (in crores)
1997-98	1574.93
1998-99	1576.64
1999-2000	1578.15

3. In so far as International Mail is concerned, couriers are mainly operating in the Express Mail segment. In this segment, Department is operating the Expedited Mail Service (EMS). During the period from 1996 to 1999, the outward EMS traffic has risen by 38%. In the case of foreign letter mails for the period from 1996 to 1998, the outward traffic has risen by 13%. In the case of foreign parcels, the outward traffic for the period from 1997-98 to 1999-2000 has marginally increased by 0.17%. The couriers are mainly operating in an unorganized marked and the comparative figures relating to the traffic of the various international services provided by the Department vis-a-vis those of the couriers are as such not available for the purpose of comparison.

[Translation]

Approval for National Highway-65

2356. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a National Highway number 65 in Jodhpur district of Rajasthan has been approved;
- (b) if so, the date on which it was approved;
- (c) whether this National Highway passes through the Jodhpur city;
- (d) whether the Government are aware that entry of heavy vehicles is prohibited in the area from Mandor to Jhalamand crossing by Jodhpur district administration from where this National Highway passes;
- (e) whether this National Highway is proposed to be diverted through by-pass;
- (f) if so, the time by which the said National Highway is likely to be completed; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Notification dated 6th January, 1999.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) On the directions of the Hon'ble Rajasthan High Court, entry of trucks in the city of Jodhpur has been prohibited from 7 AM to 10 PM with effect from 29.11.2000.

(e) It is proposed to undertake a feasibility study for improvement of National Highway-65 in which this aspect will be examined.

(f) It is too early to indicate the likely date of completion.

(g) Does not arise.

Killing of Owls

2357. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether rare species of owls are on the verge of extinction;
- (b) if so the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether a large number of owls have been killed by Tantriks during Dussehra and Deepawali period; and
- (d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for protecting the species of owls?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Surveys have revealed that the Forest Spotted Owlets (Blewitti owl) have become critically endangered. The reasons attributed to its decline are mainly fragmentation and destruction of its habitat.

(c) Isolated incidences of such nature cannot be ruled out.

(d) The steps taken by the Government for protection of this species include :

- (i) Forest Spotted Owllet has been included in the Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 thereby providing it the highest degree of protection. Hunting of this species has been prohibited.
- (ii) A network of 566 wildlife protected areas covering 4.6% of country's geographical area has been created for conservation of wild flora and fauna which has helped in protecting the habit of Owlets.
- (iii) Financial assistance is provided to the State Governments for development and management of the protected areas. Raids are carried out by wildlife authorities to curb poaching and illegal trade of wild animals.
- (iv) International trade in wildlife and its products has regulated under the provisions of CITES (Convention on International Trade in

Endangered Species). Export of all forms of wild animals including their parts and products is prohibited under the Exim policy.

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

[English]

Mission project for Horticulture in NER and Sikkim

2358. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any action Plan for sanctioning and implementation of the Mission Project for Horticulture in North-Eastern Region and Sikkim;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the expenditure incurred as on date, State-wise and scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) Government have formulated the 'Technology Mission for horticulture development in North-Eastern Region including Sikkim'. The project has not yet been approved. However, an allocation of Rs. 50 crores has been provided in current Annual Plan for the year 2000-2001.

No expenditure has been incurred till date

Procurement of Paddy and Maize from Farmers in A.P.

2359. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Union Government to extend central assistance under various Centrally sponsored agricultural schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Central assistance provided to the State during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the year 2000/2001 the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has proposed an amount of Rs. 50 crores under various Centrally Sponsored

Schemes to be included under the Macro Management Mode. In addition State Government has sought an additional central assistance of Rs. 511 crores under the Oilseeds Production Programme to face the crop losses arising from the drought of this year.

(c) The following amounts were released to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for development of agriculture during the last three years :

Year	Rs. lakh
1997/98	7725.48
1998/99	7540.81
1999/2000	8217.88

Food processing units in tribal areas of Orissa

2360. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the absence of Food Processing Units in the tribal areas of Orissa;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any proposal to set up Food Processing Units in the tribal areas in that State during Ninth Plan;

(c) if so, the proposal received from the State Government in that regards; and

(d) the action taken in that matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH) : (a) and (b) Setting up of food processing industries depends upon several factors such as availability of processable varieties of raw material, their productivity, demand for processed food, cost of production and price etc.

The Department of Food Processing Industries do not set up any units on their own. Under the Plan Schemes of the Department, financial assistance in the form of soft loan and grant is provided to private industries, public sector undertakings, Non-Governmental Organizations, and Research & Development Institutions etc. for the development of processed food sector. A higher quantum of assistance is provided for difficult areas which include Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) areas.

(c) No proposal has been received from the State Government in the above regard in the current year.

(d) Does not arise.

Amendment to develop Food Processing Industries

2361. SHRI R.S. PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the different Food Acts to develop the food processing industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the Acts which are likely to be repealed or merged into one consolidated Act;

(d) whether the Government also propose to protect the interest of the consumers; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH) : (a) to (e) Department of Food Processing Industries (DFPI) organized four regional Seminars at Calcutta, Mumbai, Bangalore and Lucknow to elicit regional inputs towards formulation of National Food Processing Policy. In these seminars, there was a general consensus that apart from formulation of national policy on food processing, an appropriate development oriented legislation to be conceived as present enactments are impeding the growth of the sector. Accordingly, an Approach Paper towards formulation of a Processed Food Development Act encompassing development requirements including food standards has been prepared and circulated to various Central Government Departments, State Governments, Industry Associations, Research & Development Organizations and Experts.

National Agricultural Insurance Scheme

2362. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to expand the coverage of the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme to bring non-loanee farmers under its umbrella as well;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) introduced by the Government from Rabi 1999-2000 season already covers all farmers (both loanee and non-loanee) irrespective of their size of holding.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Soyabean processing Industry

2363. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether soyabean processing industry is facing a recession due to decreasing price of soyabean cakes in international and domestic markets;

(b) if so, whether some processing plants have been closed down;

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

(d) the latest position of cases pertaining to soyabean processing plants referred to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR); and

(e) the action taken by the Board thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Expenditure on power generation

2364. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the per megawatt expenditure on establishment of generation, transmission and distribution system of power at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to minimize investment on per megawatt expenditure prevailing at present; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The per megawatt expenditure on establishment of generation,

transmission and distribution system of power at present is given below :

- (i) *Generation Projects* : Thermal Projects : The cost of setting up a thermal project would depend upon factors such as type of plant, type of fuel, unit size funding pattern and sources, equipment sourcing, scope of supply, infrastructure facilities and foreign exchange rate. The cost of thermal power plants accorded techno-economic clearance by Central Electricity Authority in the recent past varies from Rupees 4.05 crores per MW to Rs. 5.41 crores per MW in case of steam power plant. In case of combined cycle gas power plant, the cost varies from Rs. 2.7 crores to Rs. 3.63 crores per MW.

Hydro Projects : The cost of setting up hydro projects is type specific and varies with location and nature of development works involved. The cost of hydro stations varies from Rs. 4 crores per MW to Rs. 6.5 crores per MW of hydro plant for the recently cleared projects depending on region, location and type.

- (ii) *Transmission projects* : The per megawatt expenditure for establishing a transmission system also varies from project to project depending upon distance of the generating station from the load centres. The expenditure on transmission system for a generating station located relatively close to the load centres could vary from Rs. 30 lakhs per megawatt to Rs. 60 lakhs per megawatt depending upon terrain etc. The expenditure in case of generating stations located at a distance of about 800 Km from load centres could be in the range of Rs. 120 to 160 lakhs per megawatt. On average, the expenditure of an associated transmission system could be taken to be of the order of Rs. 80 lakhs per megawatt at current price level.
- (iii) *Distribution System* : Power distribution falls within the preview of State Power Utilities. According to the report of Rajyadhaksha Committee on Power (1980), constituted by Ministry of Power, a thumb rule for investment ratio of expenditure on generation, transmission, distribution and rural electrification should be 4:2:1:1.

(b) and (c) The steps taken by the Government to minimize investment on per MW expenditure are given below:

1. Least cost option studies are carried out to select the type of fuel or type of hydro plant which will

provide electricity at reasonable rates to the consumers.

2. In order to minimize requirement of investment in transmission system, the transmission network expansion planning is being done to evolve an optimal network both on a Regional as well as on an all India basis. This approach aims at maximizing the utilization of already existing network based on a long-term perspective plan.

Protection of Environment in Bihar

2365. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) the steps taken to save the environment during the last three years;

(b) the amount released under the Environment Protection Scheme so far, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up Pollution Control Board in Bihar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) The steps taken to protect the environment during the last 3 years include the following :

- Ambient air quality standards and emission standards for industrial units have been notified.
- Emissions from highly polluting industrial units and thermal power plants are regularly monitored and action is taken against the defaulting units.
- For control of pollution from automobiles, stricter emission standards, supply of unleaded petrol in major cities, installation of catalytic converters and introduction of low sulphur fuel.
- Preparation of zoning atlas for siting of industries based on environmental considerations in various districts of the country has been taken up.
- For reduction of vehicular pollution, emission standards and fuel quality standards have been notified. The manufacturers are now required to mention in their advertisements that their vehicles meet the prescribed emission norms as per the notification issued by MoEF.
- Power plants (coal based) located beyond 1000 kms. from the pit-head are required to use low ash content coal (not exceeding 34%) w.e.f.

1.6.2001. Power plants located in the sensitive areas are also required to use low ash coal irrespective of their distance from the pit-head.

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

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The State Government of Bihar has already set up Bihar State Pollution Control Board in accordance with the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

[English]

Expansion of MTNL Service

2366. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to cover other areas under the jurisdiction of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

Un-electrified villages in Assam

2367. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of unelectrified villages in Assam and other North-Eastern States indicating the population of these villages;

(b) the details of the plan formulated for electrification of these villages, indicating its cost, central assistance sanctioned and required fund for this purpose; and

(c) the percentage of unelectrified villages in Assam and other North-Eastern States in comparison to other States, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The details of electrified and un-electrified villages in North Eastern States including villages in Assam are given as under :

Sl. No.	States	Total inhabited villages (1991 census)	Villages electrified	Un-electrified villages	Remarks
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	3649	2171	1478	Progress upto July, 2000
2.	Assam	24685	19019	5666	Progress upto Nov., 2000
3.	Manipur	2182	2001	181	Progress upto Sept., 2000
4.	Meghalaya	5484	2510	2974	Progress upto April, 2000
5.	Mizoram	698	691	7	Progress up to Sept., 2000
6.	Nagaland	1216	1196	20	Progress upto Aug., 2000
7.	Tripura	855	810	45	Progress upto Sept., 2000

(b) The plans for rural electrification in the States are formulated and executed by the State Electricity Boards on the directions and policy of the respective State Government. However, in pursuance of the agenda for socio-economic development of the North-Eastern States and Sikkim announced by the Prime Minister, the Planning Commission have approved allocation of Rs. 25.05 crores for electrification of 159 tribal villages and Rs. 52 crores for ongoing projects relating to strengthening of sub-

transmission and distribution for North-Eastern States and Sikkim out of the Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources during 2000-01. This is in addition to the funds under Rural Electrification Programme (MNP) being released directly to the States as part of the Normal Central Assistance.

(c) The State-wise details of percentage of electrified/un-electrified villages in the country including Assam and North Eastern States are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement*Villages unelectrified and %age of unelectrified villages as on 30.9.2000*

Sl. No.	States	Total inhabited villages (1991 census)	Total achievement to the end of Sept. 2000	No. of un-electrified villages	% age of un-electrified villages	Ramarks
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26586	26565(*)	Nil	Nil	Progress upto Sept. 2000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3649	2171 (e)	1478	40.5	Progress upto July, 2000
3.	Assam	24685	19019 (b)	5666	23.0	Progress upto Nov. 2000
4.	Bihar	67513	47890 (\$\$) (d)	19623	29.1	Progress upto May, 2000
5.	Goa	360	360@	Nil	Nil	Progress upto Sept. 2000
6.	Gujarat	18028	17940(*)	Nil	Nil	Progress upto Sept. 2000
7.	Haryana	6759	6759	Nil	Nil	Progress upto Sept. 2000
8.	Himachal Pradesh	16997	16854 (+)	143	0.8	Progress upto Sept. 2000
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	6477	6315 (\$\$) (a)	162	2.5	Progress upto March, 1998
10.	Karnataka	27066	26694 (+)	85	0.3	Progress upto Sept. 2000
11.	Kerala	1384	1384	Nil	Nil	Progress upto Sept. 2000
12.	Madhya Pradesh	71526	68346	31880	4.4	Progress upto Sept. 2000
13.	Maharashtra	40412	40412 @	Nil	Nil	Progress upto Sept. 2000
14.	Manipur	2182	2001	181	8.3	Progress upto Sept. 2000
15.	Meghalaya	5484	2510 (c)	2974	54.2	Progress upto April, 2000
16.	Mizoram	698	691	7	1	Progress upto 30.9.2000
17.	Nagaland	1216	1196 (f)	20	1.6	Progress upto Aug. 2000
18.	Orissa	46989	35232	11757	25	Progress upto Sept. 2000
19.	Punjab	12428	12428	Nil	Nil	Progress upto Sept. 2000
20.	Rajasthan	37889	35490	2399	6.3	-do-
21.	Sikkim	447	405 (#)	Nil	Nil	-do-
22.	Tamil Nadu	15822	15822	Nil	Nil	-do-
23.	Tripura	855	810	45	5.3	-do-
24.	Uttar Pradesh	112803	89273	23530	20.9	-do-
25.	West Bengal	37910	29559 (f)	8351	22	Progress upto Aug. 2000
	Total (States)	586165	506126	79601	13.6	Balance villages declared non- feasible for electrification
	Total (UTs)	1093	1090 (*)	1090	Nil	Balance villages declared non- feasible for electrification
	Total (All India)	587258	507216	79601	13.6	-do-

(*) Fully electrified. Balance not feasible for electrification.

(#) Provisional. 42 Nos. forest villages not electrified.

@ Provisional to be confirmed as per 1991 census.

(+) 100% electrified as per 1981 census.

(\$\$) Achievement as per 1981 census.

(\$) Achievement as per 1971 census. 1991 census not held.

(a) as on 31.3.98.

(b) as on 30.11.99

(c) as on 30.4.2000

(d) as on 31.5.2000

(e) as on 31.7.2000

(f) as on 31.8.2000

Vehicular Pollution

2368. SHRI RASHID ALVI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Delhites, brace up for more smog" appearing in the *Times of India* dated November 11, 2000;

(b) if so, whether smog from vehicles despite false claims from CPCB and others continue to seriously affect health specially children and women;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to enforce WHO standards on air quality; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) The Government is aware of the news-item captioned "Delhites, brace up for more smog" appeared in the *Times of India* dated November 7, 2000.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Granaid Mines in West Bengal

2369. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been made for mining of Granaid in Bankura district of West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the quantum of deposits found there ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL) : (a) and (b) Granaid is neither a rock nor a mineral. Therefore, questions do not arise.

Import of Breeding Stock

2370. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh is the largest producer of eggs and broilers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have allowed the import of breeding stock;

(d) if so, reasons therefor;

(e) whether due to this import diseases like Avian Leukosis 'J' Virus has entered our country;

(f) if so, whether keeping in view the new diseases due to import of breed and interests of small scale farmers, the Government propose to ban import of parent level breeding stock in the poultry sector; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Anticipate egg production, in billions, of the top four leading States in 1999-2000 is as follows :

1.	Andhra Pradesh	5.92
2.	Tamil Nadu	3.47
3.	Punjab	3.14
4.	Maharashtra	3.05

Similarly, broiler production, in millions, of the top 4 leading States as per the Indian Poultry Industry Year Book in 1994 is as follows:

1.	Andhra Pradesh	49
2.	Maharashtra	47
3.	Punjab	24
4.	Tamil Nadu	21

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) To make available superior stocks of poultry of multiple choice to the farmers for maximizing economic return.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Storage of Agricultural products

2371. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Planning Commission contemplates free storage of agricultural products;

(b) if so, whether the matter is being considered by the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

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

(d) At present, large scale storage/warehousing facilities are provided by three agencies namely Food Corporation of India (FCI), Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and 16 States Warehousing Corporations (SWCs) in the Public Sector. While the capacity available with the FCI is used mainly for storage of foodgrains, storage capacity with the CWC and the SWCs is used for storage of agricultural produce, seeds, manures, fertilizers, agricultural implements etc. In addition to this, storage facilities are also made available by the Cooperative and Private Sectors.

[English]

Growth of Foodgrains

2372. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum growth of foodgrains in States and Union Territories during the last three years;

(b) the level of population growth during the last three years in comparison to foodgrains growth;

(c) whether there has been steep decline in growth of foodgrains despite good rainfall during the said period;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to take some measures to reverse the trend in future; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) A Statement showing the state-wise growth rates of foodgrains production is enclosed.

(b) to (d) According to Technical Group on Population Projection constituted by the Planning Commission the average annual growth rate of population during 1997 to

1999 is estimated at 1.65% per annum whereas average growth rate of foodgrains production during 1996-97 to 1998-99 is estimated at 4.17% per annum. There is generally a positive growth rate of foodgrains in the country, albeit with some fluctuations due to aberrant weather conditions.

(e) and (f) To increase the production and productivity of various crops and thus growth rate, various steps have been taken by the Government. These include, inter-alia, implementation of centrally sponsored Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Rice/Wheat/Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System area, National Pulses Development Project and Seed Minikit Scheme. Under these programmes/project, incentive are provided to farmers for use of high yielding varieties of seeds, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation and improved farm implements. In addition, field demonstration on farmers holding including training of farmers and farm labourers are organized for effective transfer of technology.

Statement

State-wise growth rates of foodgrain production

State	Growth rate (in per cent)		
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	17.2	-20.9	33.0
Arunachal Pradesh	1.1	1.9	-10.4
Assam	-0.8	1.3	-4.0
Bihar	11.3	-2.3	-8.4
Goa	17.1	-0.9	3.7
Gujarat	26.9	9.6	-2.5
Haryana	12.9	-0.9	6.8
Himachal Pradesh	-5.4	11.9	3.4
Jammu & Kashmir	-9.6	6.7	6.8
Karnataka	6.6	-12.7	24.0
Kerala	-12.5	-6.4	-13.3
Madhya Pradesh	7.8	-10.9	14.0
Maharashtra	25.8	-33.8	32.0
Manipur	15.3	-6.6	7.5
Meghalaya	24.8	4.7	6.2
Mizoram	8.2	-0.2	4.6
Nagaland	-11.1	11.6	18.6
Orissa	-29.0	37.4	-12.5

1	2	3	4
Punjab	8.8	-1.9	8.3
Rajasthan	34.0	9.6	-7.9
Sikkim	-0.3	-2.6	-12.0
Tamil Nadu	8.2	16.9	25.1
Tripura	16.6	-1.6	-8.0
Uttar Pradesh	10.5	-1.9	-3.5
West Bengal	6.8	4.3	0.1
Andaman Nic. Islands	0.6	-7.3	-15.8
D & N Haveli	-15.4	24.0	-28.1
Daman & Diu	0.0	0.0	0.0
Delhi	-75.0	23.2	8.1
Pondicherry	-5.6	-15.8	-10.7
All India	10.5	-3.6	5.6

Monitory System of NABARD and World Bank

2373. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the monitoring system of NABARD and World Bank loans given to the Government of Assam;

(b) whether the Union Government have received any complaints on the use of such loans;

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

(d) whether the Union Government have proposed any marketing set up to market the additional production of rice in Assam by using part of the loans as above; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

Fixation of Rice Specifications

2374. SHRI VINOD KHANNA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the scientific criteria laid down for fixation of rice specifications;

(b) the rationale behind changing the rice specifications every year; and

(c) the reasons for non-acceptance of the revision demanded by the Government of Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) The quality standard (uniform specification) for the procurement of foodgrains including rice are prescribed every year before the commencement of the marketing season for adoption uniformly by all the grain procuring agencies. The comments from all the State Governments/ Union Territories and the FCI are obtained in the matter and then keeping in view their comments, weather and crop condition, overall availability, supply and demand position, Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 (PFA) standards and quality of the previous crop, the specifications are formulated. The standards so formulated are passed on to the State Governments, Food Corporation of India (FCI) and other procuring agencies for adoption. The State Governments notify the standards for their levy order, price control order etc. as the case may be so as to give these standards a legal shape. The standards lay down the limit for various refractions such as foreign matter, brokens, damaged/slightly damaged, discolored, chally, red grains, dehusked grains, moisture content, etc. These standards are followed strictly by all the agencies making purchases for central pool at fixed minimum support price.

(c) The demands of the Government of Punjab with regard to specification of parboiled rice and moisture have been accepted by the Government. Demands with regard to other refractions such as damaged/slightly damaged grains discolored grains, small brokens etc. could not be accepted in the interest of the rice consumers since such refractions affect the cooking quality and merchantability of rice.

Oilseeds and Oil Development Fund

2375. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allocated any funds under the Oilseeds and Oil Development Fund;

(b) if so, whether there are proposals to use part of the import duties from imported oil to enhance productivity of oilseeds;

(c) if not, the manner in which the Government prepare to deal with the situation of domestic glut and vast quantities of cheap imports;

(d) whether any study have been done to find a solution to this problem; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) As such there is no separate oil seeds and Oil Development Fund. However, a Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is under implementation for the development of Oilseeds in the country. An amount of Rs. 585 crore has been allocated for the implementation of this scheme during the entire period of Ninth Five Year Plan.

(b) Presently there is no proposal to use part of the import duties on edible oils to enhance productivity of oilseeds in the country.

(c) There is a shortage of oilseeds production in the country to meet the domestic demand of edible oil thus, necessitating the import of edible oil to meet the domestic demand. Due to liberalised policy for import of edible oil and keeping it under OGL there is huge import of edible oil which is cheaper than the edible oil produced indigenously. The import of cheap edible oil is affecting the oilseed growers. In a bid to provide protection to farmers and negate the impact of low international prices the Government has increased the import duties by 10-30% on all crude and refined edible oils with effect from 21.11.2000.

(d) and (e) In view of reply given in part (c) above, the Question does not arise.

Increase in Level of Food Processing

2376. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to increase the level of food processing from the current 2 per cent to 10 per cent by the end of the decade;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent of investment needed for the purpose, and

(d) the extent to which job opportunities are likely to be created as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH) : (a) to (d) Department of Food Processing Industries has initiated action for formulating a National Food Processing Policy and for this purpose a draft Policy has been prepared. It is envisaged that for increasing food

processing from 2% to 10% an investment of Rs. 1,40,000 crores would be needed. It is estimated that investment of Rs. 1000 crores in food processing sector results in total employment generation to the tune of roughly 54000.

Opening of International Long Distance Telephone

2377. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to open International Long Distance Telephone;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in the matter?

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

(b) and (c) International Long Distance Telephony (ILD) will be opened to private sector with effect from 1.4.2002. Government has initiated action to finalise terms and conditions for opening up of ILD sector in consultation with TRAI.

Conference of World Energy Council

2378. SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any meeting of the World Energy Council's assembly was held in India recently;

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed and the decisions taken in that meeting; and

(c) the extent to which the meeting is likely to be helpful to India in Power sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Executive Assembly 2000, Meeting of the World Energy Council was held on 22nd and 23rd November 2000 at New Delhi.

(b) The Executive Assembly of the World Energy Council discussed the agenda which, *inter alia*, included the review of the work of their various executive committees and study committees, to develop business plans of the World Energy Council for the year 2001 and to elect office bearers for the executive council for the seats falling vacant. A symposium on "Pricing Energy in Developing Countries" was also held where the factors

influencing the pricing of energy in developing countries were deliberated upon. The Executive Assembly was preceded by a workshop on "Performance of Generating Plants" wherein experts across the world shared their experience on best practices with work managers of power stations in India.

(c) India Energy Day was also organized on 24th November, 2000 on the theme "Investment opportunities in the Indian Energy Sector" which was well attended by foreign delegates as well as prominent members of the World Energy Council from across the world along with eminent energy and financial experts. The delegates were informed of the current policies of the Government of India for encouraging foreign investment in the energy sector. It is expected that the deliberations would lead to greater interest in the Indian Energy Sector by foreign investors.

Untreated Sewage into Yamuna River

2379. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY :

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "139m litres of sewage is flushed into Yamuna daily" appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated September 18, 2000;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government propose to direct the Government of Delhi to check free flow of sewage into Yamuna;

(d) if so, whether his Ministry and UNDP have found Delhi and Kanpur as the most polluted cities in the country; and

(e) if so, the concrete steps taken by the Government to tackle the pollution problems in these cities?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Yes, Sir. According to a joint inspection report of the Central Pollution Control Board of the Ministry of Environment and Forests and Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organisation of the Ministry of Urban Development conducted in October, 2000, about 1300 million litres of untreated sewage is discharged in the river Yamuna everyday.

(b) and (c) A scheme of pollution abatement of Yamuna which is known as the Yamuna Action Plan was approved by the Government in April 1993. The present approved cost of the Action Plan is Rs. 509.54 crore. Under this Plan, works have been taken up in 21 towns out of which 8 towns are in Uttar Pradesh and 12 towns in Haryana besides Delhi. The Plan includes such works as interception & diversion of sewage, sewage treatment plants, low cost toilets, crematoria and river front development. So far, an expenditure of Rs. 446.04 crore has been incurred on this Plan. The Delhi component of Yamuna Action Plan is small comprising 2 sewage treatment plants each of 10 million litres per day capacity and one electric crematorium. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi is implementing the major part of pollution abatement programme of Yamuna out of their own plan funds. Under this programme, 14 additional sewage treatment plants along with allied works are to be constructed. Out of these, 9 treatment plants have already been completed and another 5 will be completed by March 2003. In addition, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi is also to construct 15 common effluent treatment plants to treat industrial effluents from 21 industrial estates of Delhi. This Project is under implementation and will be completed by December, 2002.

(d) and (e) Government of India has initiated an Urban Services Environment Rating System project with the assistance of United Nations Development Programme being executed by the Tata Energy Research Institute. The objective of the project is to develop and implement an assessment framework which would evaluate the performance of municipal bodies in Delhi and Kanpur on quality of service, sustainability and related criteria to foster transparency and accountability in their functioning. The programme will develop a comprehensive, transparent and participation rating methodology for evaluation of the waste management and water supply services. The Project was launched on 1.10.1999 and will be completed on 30.9.2001.

[Translation]

Fall in prices of Onion

2380. SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a steep decline in the prices of onion;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to provide assistance to onion growers in this hour of crisis; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) The prices of onion after remaining sluggish for several months in the past, registered an increase during October, 2000 and the same trend is continuing. The W.P.I. of Onion stood at 128.5 as on 11.11.2000 showing an increase of 20.9% over a week and 30.5% over the month.

(c) and (d) During the current financial year 2000-01 the Government of India since April, 2000 has released a quota of 2.5 lakh MTs for export of onion through NAFED and other State designated agencies till November, 2000. Out of this, a quantity of around 2.0 MTs has already been exported.

Delivery System in Rural Areas

2381. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the time when last review of the delivery system in the rural areas was made by the Government; and

(b) the action taken by the Government on the basis of the review made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The review of delivery of mail in rural areas is carried out every year. The last review was carried out in September, 2000.

(b) (i) Mail routes where delays are noticed are subjected to vigorous checks by posting of test letters and trial cards and corrective steps taken.

(ii) Mail routes are mechanised, wherever feasible, in rural areas.

(iii) Mail transmission is expedited by holding meeting with the carriers—Railways and Road transport authorities.

[English]

Cellular Mobile Telephone Service

2382. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN :
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the number of private cellular telephone companies providing cellular mobile telephone services in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The fourth operator for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service is proposed to be inducted in all the service areas in the country in terms of the New Telecom Policy - 1999 (NTF-99) and Migration Package offered to existing licensees. A recommendation of TRAI was sought in the matter. TRAI have supported the proposal of DOT for entry of fourth operator in 1800 MHz band.

Replacement of old and outdated Telephone Instruments

2383. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO :
SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for the replacement of old and outdated telephone instruments all over the country particularly in rural areas and cyclone affected areas of Orissa;

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

(c) whether the Government have fixed any target date in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the replacement in order to reduce the problem of the telephone subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (d) Sir, telephones are being replaced as and when required to ensure fault free service. The telephones in cyclone affected areas of Orissa have been replaced already on priority.

(e) Sir, the average life of the telephone instrument has been reduced from ten years to five years. This will enable the scrapping of old telephones after 5 years if they are not working satisfactorily.

[Translation]

Pollution free environment in Delhi

2384. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA :

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

(a) the financial assistance extended to Delhi Government to implement the programme aimed at promoting pollution free environment during each of the last three years;

(b) the actual expenditure incurred thereon during the above period;

(c) the amount lying unutilised alongwith the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of the works undertaken during the said period, year-wise;

(e) whether the Government have received complaints regarding irregularities/malpractices committed while making use of funds; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Income from Agricultural source

2385. SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the agriculture as source of income differs for Indian and American farmers;

(b) if so, whether the agriculture is a loss incurring profession for Indian farmers while for the American farmers it is a profitable profession;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the production rate of wheat in India as compared to that of America?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) The data on cost and returns collected under the Comprehensive Scheme for Studying the Cost of Cultivation of Principal Crops in India shows that Indian agriculture is largely a profit making profession. The comparative profitability data of American agriculture however, is not available.

(d) The estimates of cost of cultivation of wheat in major wheat growing States of India as also in America are given in the Table below :

Table

Statement showing the cost of cultivation of wheat in major wheat growing States of India and America

			(Unit : Rs./Hac.)
Country	State	Year	Cost of Cultivation (Cost C2)
India	Punjab	1997-98	17333.89
	Haryana	1997-98	17081.60
	M.P.	1997-98	9365.52
	U.P.	1997-98	13343.91
	Rajasthan	1997-98	14266.69
America	—	1998	17886.00*

* Economic Cost.

Sources : (i) DE&S and (ii) Doane's Agricultural Report. Vol. 62, NO. 41.5.

[English]

Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Daman and Diu

2386. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Krishi Vigyan Kendras in Daman and Diu (UT) to provide latest technology to farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds earmarked for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) There is no proposal to set up Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) in Daman and Diu (UT) at present.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Post Offices in U.P.

2387. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number and locations of post offices and telegraph offices opened in Uttar Pradesh particularly in Kheri Lakhimpur district during the last two years and till date, district-wise; and

(b) the number of new post offices and telegraph offices proposed to be opened in the State during the year 2000-2001, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The number and location of Post Offices opened in Uttar Pradesh during the last two years in each district is given in the enclosed Statement-I. One Departmental Sub-Post Office has been opened in U.P. Circle during the year 2000-2001 till date at Vasundhara Colony in district of Ghaziabad.

One Extra Departmental Branch Post Office (EDBO) was opened in the year 1998-99 in Kheri Lakhimpur district at Beltuwa. From the year 1999-2000 till date, no EDBO has been opened in Kheri Lakhimpur district.

The number and locations of telegraph offices opened in Uttar Pradesh during the last two years in each district is given in the enclosed Statement-II. No telegraph office has been opened in district Kheri Lakhimpur during the last two years.

(b) It is proposed to open 50 EDBOs and 3 Departmental Sub-Post Offices (DSOs) during the year 2000-2001 in Uttar Pradesh. Their locations are given in Statement-III. The opening of Post Offices is subject to fulfilment of prescribed norms and sanctioning of required number of posts by the Ministry of Finance.

With the expansion of telecom Network and introduction of STD and FAX facilities, the demand for telegraph is steadily reducing. Therefore, no specific targets have been fixed. Telegraph facility is provided as per demand and justification.

Statement-I

Number and locations of Post Offices opened during the year 1998-99 district-wise

S.No.	Name of the Post Offices	District
<i>Departmental Sub Offices</i>		
1.	Khandauli	Agra
2.	Bhagirathipuram	Tehri
3.	Kaushambi	Ghaziabad

S.No.	Name of the Post Offices	District
<i>Extra Departmental Branch Offices</i>		
1.	Bargadha Sohna	Balrampur
2.	Dhabolia	-do-
3.	Kataiyabhari	-do-
4.	Kundwa	-do-
5.	Manoharapur	-do-
6.	Manpur	-do-
7.	Majhgawan	-do-
8.	Parasrampur	-do-
9.	Parasrampur Rajehra	-do-
10.	Piparai Jamuni	-do-
11.	Sugganagar Dumri	-do-
12.	Trilokpur	-do-
13.	Hasanpur	Allahabad
14.	Premnagar Chauraha	-do-
15.	Babhanai Raipur	Chandauli
16.	Lalpur	Jaunpur
17.	Aami	Pratapgarh
18.	Ajhara	-do-
19.	Bachhuwa	-do-
20.	Kothiah	-do-
21.	Ram Nagare	-do-
22.	Narepar Sitamarhi	Sant Ravi Das Nagar
23.	Balta	Almora
24.	Chauvisali	-do-
25.	Naura	-do-
26.	Kotyanda	Bageshwar
27.	Paiga	Bareilly
28.	Fatehpur	Badaun
29.	Kandela	-do-
30.	Manikapur Kaur	-do-
31.	Palia Pukhla	-do-
32.	Bhitha Mahasingh	Hardoi
33.	Beltuwa	Kheri
34.	Lakharhat	Jyotiba Phule Nagar
35.	Supi	Nainital
36.	Ghatmapur	Pilibhit
37.	Guptari	Pithoragarh

S.No.	Name of the Post Offices	District
38.	Kotabari	Shahjahanpur
39.	Kursanda	-do-
40.	Alehdapur	Bijnor
41.	Munawarpur Said	-do-
42.	Jai Talla	Rudraprayag
43.	Khorigaon	G.B. Nagar
44.	Bhatgaon	Tehri
45.	Malyakot	-do-
46.	Musadhung	-do-
47.	Kotwalgaon	-do-
48.	Kandiyalgaon	-do-
49.	Uniyalgaon	-do-
50.	Mawai Kalan	Saharanpur
51.	Jathauli	Meerut
52.	Deorpatti	Azamgarh
53.	Senpur	-do-
54.	Ariyaso	Mau
55.	Khandwa Kunwar	Basti
56.	Atharaha	Kushinagar
57.	Phardaha	-do-
58.	Bansauli	Sidharthnagar
59.	Bhulaipur	Deoria
60.	Jungle Ayodhya Prasad	Gorakhpur
61.	Asalanpur	Kanpur (Muffassil)
62.	Rupnagar	-do-
63.	Hardauli	Kanpur (City)
64.	Bhandauli	Barabanki
65.	Daravpur	-do-
66.	Itaunja	-do-
67.	Jagatpur	-do-
68.	Mahmoodpur	-do-
69.	Neoli	-do-
70.	Manodharpur	-do-
71.	Pure Chandraman	-do-
72.	Semrain	-do-
73.	Bhawnathpur	Faizabad
74.	Churuwa	Raebareli
75.	Banjaria	Sitapur
76.	Bhadabhar	-do-
77.	Itauri	-do-
78.	Mohammadpur Kadim	-do-
79.	Gaderi	Sultanpur
80.	Magarsand Kalan	-do-
81.	Paharpur	-do-
82.	Satanpur	-do-

District-wise number of Post Offices opened during the year 1999-2000

S.No.	Name of the Post Offices	District
<i>Departmental Sub Offices</i>		
1.	25 Bn. PAC	Raebareli
2.	Pur	Balia

Extra Departmental Branch Offices

1.	Suttha	Raebareli
2.	Kyark Bahsudi	Chamoli
3.	Kandoli	Dehradun
4.	Bhikharpur	Sultanpur
5.	Merapur Garhia	Kannauj
6.	Shiree	Uttar Kashi
7.	Lonadda	Baghpat
8.	Dhanaura	Barabanki
9.	Itaura	Pratapgarh
10.	Kanda Kaoikhal	Pauri

Statement-II

District-wise number of Telegraph Offices opened during the last two years

S.No.	Name of the Telegraph Offices	District
1.	Mahoba	Mahoba
2.	Chandauli	Chandauli
3.	Auraiya	Auraiya
4.	Jyotibaphulenagar	Amroha
5.	Baghpat	Baghpat
6.	Rudraprayag	Rudraprayag
7.	Udhamsingh Nagar	Rudrapur
8.	Bageshwar	Bageshwar

Statement-III

Sl.No.	Name of the Region	Number of EDBOs
1.	Agra	2
2.	Allahabad	15
3.	Bareilly	7
4.	Dehradun	6
5.	Gorakhpur	13
6.	Kanpur	3
7.	Lucknow	4
Total		50
1.	Bishnupura-Chandauli	1 (DSO)

Forest Development Bank

2388. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to set up a Forest Development Bank;

(b) if so, the details alongwith objectives thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) The proposal to set up a Forest Development Bank was considered but has not been found feasible.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Improvement of Environment in NCR

2389. SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of land use in National Capital Region (NCR) as per approved documents;

(b) whether the Government have prepared any comprehensive plans about improvement of environment of NCR;

(c) if so, the salient features thereof;

(d) the total funds required for the development/ improvement of environment of NCR;

(e) the sources through which the funds are likely to be mobilised for this project;

(f) whether the Government propose to involve the private sectors and joint venture in the process of planning, development, construction, management and maintenance of environment of NCR; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Delhi State Electricity Reforms Bill

2390. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Power Bill awaiting Center's nod" appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated August 26, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the Government of NCT Delhi have submitted any proposal relating to Delhi State Electricity Reform Bill for approval;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the said proposal is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) The Delhi Electricity Reform Ordinance 2000 has been promulgated by Lieutenant Governor of Delhi on 28.2.2000 after obtaining instructions of the President of India. Subsequently, the Delhi Electricity Reform Bill, 2000 was introduced in the Delhi Legislative Assembly and has been passed on 23rd November, 2000.

Assistance for Karnataka Power Projects

2391. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Financial Institution propose to invest in Karnataka power project;

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

(c) whether an agreement in this regard has been signed between the Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation and Karnataka Power Corporation;

(d) if so, the details of the proposals and the extent to which these projects are likely to create additional power generation; and

(e) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

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

(b) The details are given below :

Infrastructure Development Finance Company	—	Rs. 100 crores
Andhra Bank	—	Rs. 100 crores
Canara Bank	—	Rs. 70 crores
Syndicate Bank	—	Rs. 50 crores
ICICI	—	Rs. 380 crores (expected)

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The financing is in respect of Unit No. 7 of Raichur Thermal Power Station with an installed capacity of 210 MW and Annual Energy Generation of 1300 MU.

(e) It is expected to be completed by February, 2003.

World Bank aided Power Projects

2392. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the President of World Bank has expressed dissatisfaction with the pace and quality of reforms in the power sector in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto in regard to seeking and continued dependence on World Bank loans for power projects in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) No such thing has been conveyed to the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Foreign Post Offices

2393. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the name of cities in the country where Foreign Post Offices are functioning at present;

(b) whether the foreign exchange earnings by a city is taken into consideration while opening a Foreign Post Office;

(c) if so, whether Moradabad, which earns foreign exchange of over 1500 crores annually is being considered for setting up of a foreign post office there;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) There are 4 Foreign Post Offices in the country functioning at Calcutta, Chennai, Mumbai and New Delhi.

(b) Foreign Post Office is primarily an Office of exchange which exchanges mails with offices in foreign countries and for booking of articles both domestic and foreign including parcels, normal post offices are available in all cities and towns. Moradabad has adequate number of Post Offices from where such articles can be booked. The basic consideration for opening of a Foreign Post Office is the presence of a major international airport/seaport from where large volume of mails is received/despached from/to foreign countries.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of reply to (b) above.

(e) Foreign Post Office is opened at a location which has a major seaport/international airport to facilitate the easy exchange of mails with foreign countries. Moradabad does not fulfil this criteria.

Unirrigated Agricultural Land

2394. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of agricultural land still lying unirrigated in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the percentage of irrigated agricultural land in several States is very low as compared to the national level;

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

(d) the extent to which the irrigation capacity is lying unutilised due to inland river water disputes; and

(e) the efforts being made by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) State-wise percentage of agricultural land lying unirrigated in the country is given in the enclosed Statement. States namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, West Bengal, Dadar & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu have percentage of irrigated agricultural land lower than the national average.

(d) As per assessment made by Central Water Commission, an irrigation potential of about 2609 thousand hectares remains locked up in the country due to inland river water dispute

(e) Keeping in view the need to cover additional areas under irrigation, the Government has taken/proposed to take various policy and programme initiatives. These include revision of National Water Policy (1987), Command Area Development Programme, preparation of National Perspectives for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit areas, water management practices, promoting efficient and economic use of water for various purposes, emphasis on water conservation through various methods including use of latest technologies and peoples' participation in management of water for diverse uses. Besides, the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) has one of the strategies of irrigation development to complete all on-going projects, particularly those which were started during pre-Fifth and Fifth Plan period as a time-bound programme to yield benefits from the investments already made. In keeping with the strategy, additional areas will be covered under irrigation facilities through expeditious completion of selected on-going major and medium irrigation and multipurpose projects for which Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) launched by Government of India in 1996-97 is being continued in the Ninth Plan. The revised funding pattern under AIBP with effect from the current financial year is in the form of Central Loan Assistance (CLA) on 2 : 1 (Centre-State) basis for general category States and in 3 : 1 ratio for special category States of North-Eastern Region, Hilly States of J&K, HP and Sikkim as well as for drought prone KBK districts of Orissa. Minor irrigation schemes (both new and ongoing) of special category States are also being given CLA on 3 : 1 (Centre-State) basis with effect from the current financial year.

Statement

State-wise percentage of unirrigated area

Sl.No.	State	% of Unirrigated Area
1.	Andhra Pradesh	59.44
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	80.54

Sl.No.	State	% of Unirrigated Area
3.	Assam	79.16
4.	Bihar	50.61
5.	Goa	83.45
6.	Gujarat	68.31
7.	Haryana	23.79
8.	Himachal Pradesh	81.18
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	57.30
10.	Karnataka	78.09
11.	Kerala	84.27
12.	Madhya Pradesh	67.67
13.	Maharashtra	85.64
14.	Manipur	53.57
15.	Meghalaya	79.17
16.	Mizoram	93.58
17.	Nagaland	72.45
18.	Orissa	64.98
19.	Punjab	7.06
20.	Rajasthan	66.72
21.	Sikkim	83.16
22.	Tamil Nadu	47.28
23.	Tripura	87.36
24.	Uttar Pradesh	31.34
25.	West Bengal	65.02
26.	Chandigarh	0.00
27.	D & N Haveli	82.61
28.	Daman & Diu	75.00
29.	Delhi	6.40
30.	Pondicherry	12.00
All India		61.39

[Translation]

Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission

2395. SHRI MANSINH PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the role played by the Agricultural Costs and Price Commission in determining the prices of foodgrains;

(b) whether this commission is working satisfactorily;

(c) if so, whether the Government have been ignoring the recommendations of the commission; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) The CACP provides advice on a continuing basis on Agricultural Price Policy and price structure in the context of the need to raise agricultural production and relief to the consumer.

(b) to (d) The recommendations of the CACP have been useful to the Government in formulating agricultural price policy. Usually the recommendations of the CACP are accepted by the Government for fixation of minimum support price (MSP) of major agricultural commodities. However, in special situations, the Government may amend the recommendations of the CACP for valid reasons.

[English]

Environment Management Plan

2396. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has submitted the detailed Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) and the Environment Management Plan (EMP) relating to the proposed International airport at Devanahalli near Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, in April, 1997 M/s Tata Industries Limited had submitted an application alongwith a Rapid Environment Impact Assessment Report seeking environmental clearance. The application was returned in May, 1997, informing them to submit the proposal as per procedure laid down in the Gazette Notification S.O. No. 318(E), dated 10th April, 1997.

Local Call Rates

2397. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to charge local rates for telephone calls within National Capital Region (NCR);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria fixed for charging local rates from telephone calls; and

(d) the names of the cities which are proposed to be covered under the NCR during 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir. The cities/towns within NCR which fulfill the criteria under the charging policy, only are being charged telephone calls at local rates.

(b) The details of the cities within NCR having direct dialing facility with Delhi is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) The information is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) Sir, the present policy which is enumerated in the enclosed Statement-II does not provide local call facilities to all towns in the NCR. However, BSNL, the service PSU of DOT has been advised to formulate a package by which non STD subscribers of NCR towns can also avail dialing into Delhi Network within NCR.

Statement-I

The names of cities/towns falling in National Capital Region (NCR) having direct dialing telephone facility with Delhi/New Delhi

	Name of City/Town	Code for accessing Delhi/New Delhi
1.	Faridabad	91
2.	Ballabgarh	91
3.	Bahadurgarh	91
4.	Gurgaon	91
5.	Kundli	91
6.	Ghaziabad	91
7.	Noida	91
8.	Loni	91
9.	Meerut	91

Statement-II

The present policy envisages local dialing facility (without STD Code) between :

- (i) Within SDCA.
- (ii) When the short distance charging areas (SDCA) which are adjacent.
- (iii) When the radial distance between two short distance charging centres (SDCC) of two SDCA's falling in the same of adjacent long distance charging areas (LDCAs) is upto 50 Kms.
- (iv) When the radial distance between two Long Distance Charging Centres (LDCCs) of two non-adjacent LDCAs is upto 50 Kms.

Local Calls under category (i) & (ii) above, are allowed irrespective of the distance involved.

[Translation]

Low Generation of power by Power Projects

2398. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether less quantum of power is generated in several power projects of the country in view of non-availability of transmission lines and consumers;

(b) if so, the details of those power projects wherein less power was generated for above mentioned reasons during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(c) the extent to which the power was generated, project-wise;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for transmission of power from these power projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (e) No loss of generation, specifically on account of non-availability of transmission lines or consumers, has been given by any power station. However, due to low system demand, the targets of generation for various power stations in the Eastern Region are generally kept low to avoid problems of system operation associated with high frequency.

[English]

Bifurcation of I.C.A.R.

2399. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to divide Indian Council of Agriculture Research into four separate organisations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the extent to which the research output has suffered due to centralised administration; and

(d) the steps proposed to establish regional I.C.A.R.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) There is no proposal to divide Indian Council of Agricultural Research into four separate organisations.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Death of Birds and Animals

2400. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a group of people for animals had conducted a survey and reported that the medical assistance to the animals is almost absent in Morena;

(b) if so, whether there has been large number of deaths of birds in the recent past; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect the precious animals?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) State Government of Madhya Pradesh has reported the deaths of 46 Pea fowls in Morena district after consuming insecticide treated bajra seeds sown in agriculture fields. Normally, the methodology for conservation of free populations in nature comprises of protection against poaching and safeguarding the habitats of such populations. Due to the unprecedented nature of deaths, the limitations of veterinarian to immediately attend the affected Pea fowls in the field cannot be denied.

(c) The State Government has taken following measures to prevent recurrence of such incidences :

(i) Assistance of Animal Husbandry Department is taken to conduct field surveys and to provide timely medical aid to the poisoned birds;

(ii) Farmers have been advised to cover the seeds with soil immediately after sowing;

- (iii) Farmers have been advised to spread untreated wheat grains so that the peafowls do not consume insecticide treated seeds;
- (iv) Availability of water has been ensured for peafowls in and around the fields;
- (v) Awareness has been generated to provide information about any such incidences.
- (vi) People have been posted at sensitive places to provide information regarding such incidences.

PCOs in Cuttack

2401. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of P.C.Os, functioning in Cuttack district of Orissa;

(b) the number of applications lying pending for the installation of P.C.Os. in the said region during the last three years and till date;

(c) the time by which all these applications are likely to be cleared;

(d) whether the PCOs operators are neither clearing their dues in time nor functioning properly; and

(e) if so, the steps taken for timely collection of dues and smooth functioning of PCOs in the said district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Sir, 1250 PCOs are functioning in Cuttack Telecom District in Orissa.

(b) At present, 128 applications are pending for installation in the said Telecom District. No application is pending for the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000.

(c) All the pending applications are to be cleared progressively by January 2001 subject to technical feasibility and the applicants fulfilling other conditions.

(d) The PCO operators are normally clearing their dues on time and are functioning properly.

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

Public Telephone Booths

2402. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH :
SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications lying pending for installation of public telephone booths in Madhya Pradesh till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the number of talukas and Tehsils where public telephone booths having STD facility at present in M.P. and Chhattisgarh States;

(e) the number of Talukas and Tehsils yet not having said facility in both the States; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Sir, 102 applications are pending for installation of public telephone booths in Madhya Pradesh Telecom Circle.

(b) The applications are mostly current. However, some of the applications are pending due to area being technically non-feasible.

(c) By March, 2001.

(d) 254 Tehsils of Madhya Pradesh and 93 Tehsils of Chattisgarh are having Public Telephones with STD facility.

(e) Only 2 Tehsils in Madhya Pradesh and 3 Tehsils in Chattisgarh State.

(f) In Chattisgarh, all the remaining three tehsils will be provided with STD Public Telephones by March, 2001. In Madhya Pradesh, one tehsil will be provided STD Public Telephones by March, 2001 and the second during the year 2001-2002.

[Translation]

Electricity to villages through NCES

2403. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to supply electricity to every village through the non-conventional energy sources by deeming each village a unit;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing schemes for generation and supply of electricity through solar, biomass and small hydro sources in decentralised as well as grid connected modes. These schemes also cover supply of electricity to the villages.

The schemes are implemented through state renewable energy agencies, state electricity boards, the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency and reputed non-governmental organisations.

Under these schemes the Government is providing central financial assistance to the implementing agencies as per details given in the Statement enclosed.

So far a total of 3,14,517 solar lanterns, 1,32,552 solar home lighting systems, 40,620 street lighting systems, 3,469 solar pumps and about 2 MW aggregate capacity of small photovoltaic power plants have been deployed in the country. A total of 1719 biomass gasifier systems aggregating to 35.5 MW capacity have been installed in the country for generation of electricity and other purposes. The Ministry has also supported installation of 40 portable micro-hydel sets of 5-15 KW capacity in the country. These sets are providing electricity to individual villages or cluster of villagers in a decentralised mode.

More than 1,000 villages and hamlets are receiving the benefits of initial electrification through such systems.

Statement

Details of central financial assistance provided under the programmes of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources

Sl.No.	System	Central Financial Assistance
1.	Solar Lantern	Rs 1500/- (fixed)
2.	Home Lighting System / Solar Home System	Rs. 6,000 or 50% of ex-works cost, whichever is less
3.	Street Lighting System	Rs. 12,000 or 50% of ex-works cost, whichever is less
4.	Power Plants & Other Systems	Rs. 2,00,000 / KWp of PV array Capacity or 50% of ex-works cost, whichever is less
5.	PV water pumping system	Rs. 125 per Wp of PV array used, subject to a maximum of Rs. 2,50,000.
6.	Biomass Gasifiers for electrification	30%-90% of the total project cost depending upon the location and capacity of the project
7.	Small Hydro Power projects (upto 1 MW)	Upto Rs. 30,000-60,000 per KW depending upon the location of the project.

Study on Integrated Rural Energy Programme

2404. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the main features of the Integrated Rural Energy Programme;

(b) the details of the implementation of this programme in Bihar;

(c) whether expected results are being achieved from this programme in the State;

(d) whether a study has been conducted by the Government regarding the progress of this programme in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) The main feature of the Centrally

Sponsored Scheme—Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP) is to provide optimum mix of energy sources for meeting energy needs for subsistence and productive purposes, through preparation and implementation of Block level integrated rural energy plans and projects. The programme has the Central Sector and the State Sector components. The Central Sector component includes support for developing capabilities in the States and Union Territories for preparing energy plans and projects. The State Sector component includes implementation of IREP plans and projects, including funding for demonstration projects, financial incentives for various energy devices, extension and other related activities. Funds and resources available under different on-going schemes for energy and rural development are also utilised in the IREP Blocks.

(b) The State Government, of Bihar is presently implementing IREP in 10 Blocks only.

(c) The programme has not made desirable impact in general in the State of Bihar due to limited financial provisions made under the State Plan Sector for implementation of IREP plans and projects. Since 1998-99, the Central financial assistance could not be sanctioned to the State nodal agency, namely Bihar Renewable Energy Development Agency (BREDA) for want of utilization certificates and audited statements of accounts for the amounts released to the State in previous years under IREP.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) A project entitled "Analysis of IREP and Development of Capacity Building Strategy," which was taken up with the support of United Nations Development Programme in twelve States, including Bihar, in the year 1999-2000 has made the following recommendations :

- (i) The IREP should be consolidated rather than expanded;
- (ii) The methodology for preparing Block-level energy plans should be improved and circulated to all States for adoption and compliance;
- (iii) State Governments should provide adequate budget support for promotion of energy systems and devices in IREP Blocks. The IREP projects could even be taken up in a compact area within the Block depending upon the resources available;
- (iv) The extension agencies should adopt a participatory approach for implementing IREP projects. Focus should be laid on training of women while implementing rural energy

programmes. As far as possible, the cash subsidy on improved chulhas and other renewable energy devices should be discontinued;

- (v) The Technical Back-up Units should be strengthened;
- (vi) Adequate funds should be sanctioned for State and Block level IREP Cells and the cost could be shared between the Centre and the State Governments in the ratio of 75:25;
- (vii) Coordination and mutual support were needed between the on-going programmes of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources and those of the Ministry of Rural Development in the IREP Blocks; and
- (viii) The monitoring of IREP should be strengthened.

Forest wealth in Bihar

2405. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the present position of forest wealth in Katihar and Jahanabad districts of Bihar; and

(b) the action plan formulated to check deforestation and increase afforestation in the State?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) As per State of Forest Report, 1999, forest cover in the district of Katihar and undivided Gaya (including Jehanabad) of Bihar is as under:

District	Forest cover (in sq.km)
1. Katihar	0
2. Gaya	628

(b) State Government has formulated a State Forestry Action Programme to check deforestation and increase afforestation in the State.

[English]

Funds for construction of new Highways

2406. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of funds made available to the National Highways Authority for construction of new highways and maintenance of existing highways during the last three years;

(b) the details of works carried out by the National Highways Authority during the above period particularly in Maharashtra;

(c) whether any Indian company has been awarded the construction work of super highway between North-South and East-West corridors under the National Highways Development programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) As in the Statement-I enclosed.

(b) National Highways Authority of India (NHA) has undertaken 42 projects, out of which one has been completed. Details of on-going projects are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) and (d) All 20 projects on North-South and East-West Corridors have been awarded to Indian companies.

Statement-I

Funds made available to National Highways Authority of India during the last 3 years

	(Rs. in crores)		
	Investment	External Aid	Maintenance
1997-1998	290.00	200.00	3.75
1998-1999	101.00	163.17	2.74
1999-2000	1192.00	491.60	40.00
Total	1583.00	854.77	46.49

Statement-II

	Number of Projects	Length (in Km.)	Cost (Rs. in crores)	Target
Golden Quadrilateral	13	697	3010	December, 2003
North-South East-West	20	272	839	December, 2002
Others	8	216	989	December, 2003
Total	41	1185	4838	

Three projects viz. Pune bypass (National Highway-4), Kajali-Manor (57.4 km) and Nagpur-Adilabad (National Highway-7) in Maharashtra are under implementation having a total length of 116 km and cost Rs. 360 crores

All the Projects are progressing as per schedule

B.B. Tandon Committee

2407. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to states :

(a) whether the Government are considering various fiscal measures in the mining sector and changes in mining laws for making the sector more attractive to private investment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the main recommendations made by B.B. Tandon Committee in this regard; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL) (a) to (d) The Ministry of Mines had set up a Multi Disciplinary Committee (MDC) under the Chairmanship of the Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mines in April, 1998 to examine the taxation regime for the mineral sector and to suggest appropriate tax structure conducive to rapid development of mineral and mineral based industries. The MDC has submitted its report to the Ministry of Mines in July, 2000 and the Ministry of Mines has accepted its recommendations. The recommendations have been sent to Ministry of Finance for appropriate action

A Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri B.B. Tandon, the then Secretary, Ministry of Mines was constituted in Feb., 1997 to *inter-alia*, make recommendations regarding delegation of powers to State Governments for grant/renewal of Prospecting Licences/ Mining Leases, review of the existing laws and procedures governing the regulation and development of minerals to make them more compatible with the present day scenario of economic liberalisation, expeditious grant/renewal of mining concessions by reviewing the procedures and measures for preventing illegal mining. The committee had made wide-ranging recommendations regarding delegation of powers to the State Governments, procedural simplification and measures for preventing illegal mining etc.

Based on the recommendations of the B.B. Tandon Committee, amendments were made in the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 in

December, 1999 and in the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 and Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988 in January, 2000.

[*Translation*]

Proposals for Animal Husbandry

2408. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of proposals from Department of Animal Husbandry of the Government of Madhya Pradesh pending clearance since 1995;

(b) if so, the reasons for their pendency; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) According to information available, no proposal from the Department of Animal Husbandry of the Government of Madhya Pradesh is pending with Government of India. However, the State Government of Madhya Pradesh has recently submitted a proposal for release of Rs. 29 lakhs under one of the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz., "Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases". Funds against this proposal will be released shortly.

Mumbai Telecom Network

2409. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Mumbai Telecom Network including telephones and cellular telephones went on the blink for two hour on July 25, 2000;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any inquiry has been ordered by the Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government against the persons found responsible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes Sir. Due to heavy traffic, certain exchanges of MTNL in Mumbai experienced intermittent dial tone and delayed dial tone for some period.

(b) On 25.7.2000, due to a local incident there was commotion in the city and since morning, the telephone traffic was increasing gradually. It was found that around 11 a.m. most of the exchanges in the Mumbai network experienced very heavy call attempts (4 to 5 times the normal value) by the subscribers and some of the exchanges in the network were on the point of collapse and could not carry traffic. Preventive action was taken to control the traffic wherever required, so that the exchanges do not collapse. As a result, the dial-tone was delayed to the subscribers in these exchanges. It was found that Sion, Shivaji Park and Worli exchanges, in which all the traffic from the cellular mobile operators are connected, were showing very heavy congestion resulting in call failure. Incoming facility was available through out for all subscribers. The traffic became normal by 3 p.m.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) A committee comprising of five senior level officers was constituted for conducting an enquiry to determine the causes of reported breakdown in the Telecom Network. The Committee submitted its report on 31.7.2000.

The findings of the Committee

There had been a sudden abnormal increase in call attempts from around 10.15 Hours till 13.30 Hrs. on that day. The effect of this abnormally high traffic and severe congestion in the local telephone exchanges, resulting in no dial tone or delayed dial tone to the telephone subscribers.

All other equipments such as power plant and batteries, junction network of MTNL, Trunk Automatic exchanges were functioning normal during this period.

There is no evidence of international jamming or sabotage of MTNL Mumbai Network on 25.7.2000.

(e) As per the findings of the Committee, detailed instructions to the field units were given for taking remedial action (copy enclosed as Statement).

Further, since the impact due to the abnormally high traffic as stated above was more pronounced in E10 B exchanges, compared to New technology switches, it has been decided to process for phasing out of E10 B Exchanges from Metro Cities where traffic is high.

No persons were found responsible for this incidence as explained above.

Statement

Copy of letter No. 19-467/99-PHM dated 26.9.2000

To

All CGMs Telecom/Telephones
CGM MTNL Mumbai/Delhi
CGM Mtce. Mumbai/Calcutta/Delhi/Chennai
CGM Projects Mumbai/Calcutta/Delhi/Chennai

Subject: Follow-up action report of committee to investigate the reported breakdown of telecom network at Mumbai on 25.7.2000

A committee was set up to enquire into the breakdown of telecom network at MTNL Mumbai on 25.7.2000. The committee has submitted its report along with various recommendations to avoid recurrence of such catastrophes in future. These have been enumerated as under :

(i) *Rated traffic Parameters*

Rated traffic parameters like BHCA, Erlang traffic for the entire exchange and individual racks should be predominantly displayed.

(ii) *Periodical workshops on crisis management*

Periodical, workshops on crisis management shall be organised at local level in the particular technology where the specific mtce. persons are posted and working.

(iii) *Media/press release during the breakdown of Telecom Services*

Action should be taken immediately to inform the public through broadcast media/press release.

(iv) *Even Distribution of traffic in racks*

Action shall be taken for uniform distribution of traffic/load in different racks.

(v) *PAX Network*

PAX network should be set up for the key personnel in operation if not already done.

(vi) *Even distribution of load of various units of exchanges*

Action may please be taken for even distribution of load of various units of exchanges.

(vii) *Planning of RSUs*

RSUs in the area should be planned from the exchanges of that area as far as possible and should not be from different area exchanges to avoid circulating traffic.

Immediate action may please be taken on the aforesaid recommendations and compliance sent for appraisal of Advisor (O)/Member(s). These recommendations may please be circulated to all officers engaged in operation and mtce. of electronic exchanges.

Receipt of this letter may please be acknowledged.

[Translation]

National Forestry Action Plan

2410. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Vaniki Karya Yojana surooati sall main he adhar main" appearing in the 'Dainik Jagran' dated August 13, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make the National Forestry Action Plan economically viable;

(d) the amount allocated to other States including Maharashtra under the National Forestry Action Plan during the last three years, year-wise; and

(e) the details of achievements made under the said plan, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) to (e) The Ministry has requested the Planning Commission and the State Governments to step up allocation to forestry sector in the country. In addition, the State Governments have also been asked to formulate concept papers to secure external assistance for implementation of National Forestry Action Programme.

The National Forestry Action programme is a comprehensive strategic plan for the next twenty years to increase forest cover in the country to the desired 33% as mandated in the National Forest Policy, 1988. The document was released in 1999 and entails investment estimates for the next twenty years amounting to Rs. 133903 crores for its implementation. The Ministry has decided to organise International Donors' Conference to secure external assistance for implementation of the Programme.

Disposal of Hospital Wastes

2411. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :

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

(a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board has issued directions to all medical establishments to install facilities for the eco-friendly disposal of the hospital wastes;

(b) if so, the mechanisms available with the CPCB to monitor the medical establishment to ensure strict compliance of the said directions;

(c) whether Central Pollution Control Board has sought the assistance of Non-Governmental Organizations in States to monitor and report non-compliance by the medical establishments;

(d) if so, the other steps taken by the CPCB to ensure cent per cent compliance on this issue;

(e) whether any cases of violation have been noticed by the CPCB during the last six months; and

(f) if so, the details and action taken against such hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) The Central Pollution Control Board has not issued any directions to medical establishments to install facilities for the disposal of hospital wastes. However, Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board has written to all the State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees who are the prescribed authorities for implementation of the Bio-medical Wastes (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998 and amendments made thereunder to initiate action against hospitals and nursing homes which are not complying with the Rules. As per Rule 10 of the Bio-medical Wastes (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998, the Board is required to prepare annual report on the implementation of the provisions of the Rules.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Central Pollution Control Board is regularly monitoring the progress and the Chairman of the Board has written to all the State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees to ensure compliance of the Bio-medical Wastes (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998 and the amendments made therein.

(e) and (f) The Central Pollution Control Board has identified the defaulting hospitals/nursing homes and have written to State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees to take necessary action against them.

Maintenance of National Park in Bihar

2412. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the condition of the Betla National Park in Palamau district of Bihar is deteriorating;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this Park which is rich in forestry, wildlife and full of flora and fauna is looking completely deserted;

(d) whether the Government have any scheme for the beautification of the park and its proper maintenance; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (e) The conditions prevailing in Palamau National Park are not congenial to conservation of wildlife. The Tiger Reserve is affected by extremist activities and the funds released by Government of India reach the field very late.

Government of India has been providing financial assistance to Project Tiger, Palamau for better management. Details of funds released during the last three years are as follows:

1997-98	Rs. 22.00 lakhs
1998-99	Rs. 68.28 lakhs
1999-2000	Rs. 78.91 lakhs

During 2000-2001, an amount of Rs. 93.63 lakhs has been sanctioned for Palamau Tiger Reserve.

[English]

Anti-Desertification Programme

2413. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :
SHRI PUSP JAIN :

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

(a) the measures taken by the Government so far to arrest desertification in the country;

(b) the details thereof alongwith financial outlay thereof;

(c) whether the areas for reclaiming of land degraded permanently by heavy sand deposits due to flood are likely to be included in the anti-desertification programme; and

(d) if so, the areas in the States likely to be included in the said programme?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Arresting and reversing land degradation, which is linked to combating desertification is part of various on-going schemes of the Government of India. The Ministry of Environment and Forests is currently engaged in preparation of a National Action Programme under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), which will specifically include projects to combat desertification in the country. The financial outlay of year 2000-2001 for the major programmes and schemes addressing land degradation of the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development is Rs. 900 crores, for the Ministry of Agriculture & Co-operation it is Rs. 138 crores and for the Ministry of Environment and Forests, the outlay is Rs. 150.50 crores.

(c) and (d) Only those areas of the country in the 'dryland' regions, as defined in the UNCCD for combating desertification, will be considered under the proposed National Action Programme.

Loan from Power Production Development Fund to Private Power Sector

2414. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether loans from Power Production Development Fund were provided to major industrial houses in Private Sector engaged in power production during the last few years; and

(b) if so, the details of the loans outstanding at the end of September, 2000 against these industrial houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) There is no fund under the administrative control of Ministry of power by the name Power Production Development Fund. In view of this, question of giving loans from the such funds does not arise.

Irregular Telephone services in Hyderabad

2415. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether telephone services are irregular in all the exchanges of Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Sir, the services provided are generally satisfactory in all the exchanges in Hyderabad Telecom District.

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

[Translation]

Cost of Generation and Supply of Power

2416. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the power generating States in the country along with its capacity thereof, State-wise.

(b) the details of those States from which power is being supplied to Rajasthan;

(c) whether there is any difference between the cost of generation and the rate at which the supply is made;

(d) the conditions on which power is being supplied to Rajasthan by other States and whether the supply of power is being made by other States as per the share of Rajasthan;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken in this regard?

(f) the rate at which power is being supplied by the State Governments to the consumers of agriculture, domestic and factory; and

(g) the steps taken to decrease the rate of power supply to consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The details of State-wise and category-wise installed generating capacity in the country are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) Rajasthan meets its requirement of power from (i) its own sources of generation, (ii) Share in central sector power stations and joint sector power projects namely BBMB & Chambal-Satpura Complex. In addition, power is being availed by the State Government from other constituents of the region from their surpluses under bilateral arrangement. At present, Delhi is surplus of power during off-peak hours and, therefore, its share of allocation of 11% from the unallocated quota of central sector stations in the Northern Region during off-peak hours from 12.00 Hrs. to 17.00 Hrs. and 22.00 to 05.00 Hrs. w.e.f. 18.11.2000 is being supplied to Rajasthan. MOU has been signed between DVB and RRVPNL on 12.10.2000 under which DVB's share in Dadri TPS generation ranging from 15% to 50% (depending upon the availability of BTPS units) is being diverted to Rajasthan during 23.00 hrs. to 06.00 hrs. of the next day. The agreement has come into force w.e.f. 23.00 hrs. of 16th October, 2000 and will be valid upto 15th March, 2001. Further, bilateral agreement between PSEB and RRVPNL has also been finalised for sale of power by PSEB to RRVPNL.

(c) the cost of power of Dadri NCTPS, being supplied to Rajasthan, out of Delhi's share, is 195 paise per unit (tentative) excluding transmission charges.

(d) and (e) The various terms and conditions for supply of power from DVB to Rajasthan include the following :

- (i) Supply to RRVPNL shall be on firm basis and shall be accounted on first charge basis from Dadri TPS.
- (ii) Even if DVB experiences shortage of power at any time during the above period of the supply to RRVPNL, DVB shall have no claim on its 15%/25%/50% share, as applicable, in Dadri TPS committed to RRVPNL.
- (iii) Above arrangement can be terminated by either party by giving one week's advance notice to the other party under intimation to NREB.
- (iv) Hourly drawal schedule of RRVPNL and DVB shall be prepared by NRLDC keeping in view the above arrangement.

- (v) All payments for supply as per above arrangement shall be made by DVB and RRVPNL to NTPC directly based on REAs issued by NREB.
- (vi) A copy of this MOU would be furnished to NRLDC for implementation.
- (vii) In case of any dispute, the decision of Member Secretary, NREB would be final and binding on both the parties.

The terms and conditions for supply of power from PSEB to Rajasthan are given below :

- (i) Approximately 30 LU per day with break of 4 peak hours as per PSEB loading conditions during the day would be supplied.
- (ii) The maximum power transfer at a time is not to exceed 250 MW.
- (iii) Exact quantum of power to be transferred hourly will be scheduled one day in advance
- (iv) Transfer of power can be restricted/curtailed/eliminated on two hours advance notice on the force majeure conditions of reduction in power generation from PSEB generating units.
- (v) The rate of power transfer will be 240 paise per unit.
- (vi) Current power transfer will be on weekly advance payment basis.

(f) Details of SEB/utility-wise estimated average rate for agriculture, domestic and industry are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(g) With the enactment of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission Act, 1998 and constitution of the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions in the States by the respective State Governments, the SERC are empowered to determine/regulate tariff for bulk/retail supply of power in the States.

Statement-I

Installed Generation Capacity (Utilities) as on 31.03.2000 (in MW)

State/UTs.	Hydro	Thermal				Nuclear	Wind	Total (MW)
		Steam	Gas	Diesel	Total			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Haryana	883.90	892.50	0.00	3.92	896.42	0.00	0.00	1780.32
Himachal Pradesh	299.37	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.13	0.00	0.00	299.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Jammu & Kashmir	225.19	0.00	175.00	8.94	183.94	0.00	0.00	409.13
Punjab	1798.94	2130.00	0.00	0.00	2130.00	0.00	0.00	3928.94
Rajasthan	971.08	1475.00	38.50	0.00	1513.50	0.00	2.00	2486.58
Uttar Pradesh	1510.75	4542.00	0.00	0.00	4542.00	0.00	0.00	6052.75
Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	2.00
Delhi	0.00	335.00	282.00	0.00	617.00	0.00	0.00	617.00
Central Sector	2010.00	5400.00	2168.00	0.00	7568.00	1130.00	0.00	10708.00
Total (N. Region)	7699.23	14774.50	2663.50	14.99	17452.99	1130.00	2.00	26284.22
Gujarat	547.00	4864.00	1635.00	17.48	6516.48	0.00	166.91	7230.39
Madhya Pradesh	892.91	3437.50	0.00	0.00	3437.50	0.00	22.59	4353.00
Maharashtra	2825.22	7655.00	1832.00	0.00	9487.00	0.00	79.28	12391.50
Goa	0.05	0.00	48.00	0.00	48.00	0.00	0.11	48.16
Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
D & N Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Central Sector	0.00	4360.00	1292.00	0.00	5652.00	860.00	0.00	6512.00
Total (W. Region)	4265.18	20316.50	4807.00	17.48	25140.98	860.00	268.89	30535.05
Andhra Pradesh	2671.94	2952.50	542.40	0.00	3494.90	0.00	88.04	6254.88
Karnataka	2685.55	1520.00	0.00	127.92	1647.92	0.00	34.22	4367.69
Kerala	1752.50	0.00	135.00	228.00	363.00	0.00	2.03	2117.53
Tamil Nadu	1993.20	297.00	130.00	200.00	3300.00	0.00	758.44	6051.64
Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	32.50	0.00	32.50	0.00	0.00	32.50
Central Sector	0.00	4170.00	350.00	0.00	4520.00	690.00	0.00	5210.00
Total (S. Region)	9103.19	11612.50	1189.90	555.92	13358.32	690.00	882.73	24034.24
Bihar	174.90	1813.50	0.00	0.00	1813.50	0.00	0.00	1988.40
Orissa	1571.92	420.00	0.00	0.00	420.00	0.00	1.10	1993.02
West Bengal	164.01	4086.38	100.00	22.50	4208.88	0.00	0.00	4372.89
Sikkim	32.89	0.00	0.00	5.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	37.89
Central Sector	204.00	6547.50	90.00	0.00	6637.50	0.00	0.00	6841.50
Total (E. Region)	2147.72	12867.38	190.00	27.50	13084.88	0.00	1.10	15233.70
Assam	2.00	330.00	269.00	20.69	619.69	0.00	0.00	621.69
Manipur	2.60	0.00	0.00	9.41	9.41	0.00	0.00	12.01
Meghalaya	186.71	0.00	0.00	2.05	2.05	0.00	0.00	188.76
Nagaland	3.50	0.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	5.50
Tripura	16.01	0.00	64.50	4.85	69.35	0.00	0.00	85.36
Arunachal Pradesh	29.55	0.00	0.00	15.88	15.88	0.00	0.00	45.43
Mizoram	5.31	0.00	0.00	20.36	20.36	0.00	0.00	25.67
Central Sector	355.01	0.00	375.00	0.00	375.00	0.00	0.00	730.01
Total (N.E. Region)	609.69	330.00	708.50	75.24	1113.74	0.00	0.00	1714.43
A & N Island	0.00	0.00	0.00	34.05	34.05	0.00	0.00	34.05
Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.97	9.97	0.00	0.00	9.97
Total (Islands)	0.00	0.00	0.00	44.02	44.02	0.00	0.00	44.02
Total (All India)	23816.01	59900.88	9558.90	735.15	70194.93	2680.00	1154.72	97845.66

Statement-II

Sl. No.	Name of Utility	Tariff Effective From	Domestic			Agriculture		Industry				
			2KW (100 kwh/month)	5KW (400 kwh/month)	10KW (200 kwh/month)	5HP, 15% LF (408 kwh/ Month)	10HP, 20% LF (1089 kwh/ Month)	Small (10HP, 25% LF (1361kwh/ Month)	Medium (50HP, 40% LF (14600kwh/ Month)	Large (1000HP, 65% LF (474500kwh/ kwh/Month)	Heavy (10000HP, 60%LF (4380000 kwh/Month)	Heavy (15000HP, 50%LF (5475000 kwh/Month)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	AP	4.6.2000	231	361	463	37.45	35.92	414.69	439.88	438.16	491.05	501.39
2.	Assam	1.9.1998	228.2	280.92	292.35	99.5	144.18	284.26U, 139.76R	381.6	353.19	365.71	373.72
3.	Bihar	1.7.1993	139.00-U, 46.00-R	150.75	161.1	40.15	31.09	157	140.54	211.99	214.58	212.07
4.	Gujarat	22.10.1996	290.25-U, 274.69-R	411.72U, 381.27R	444.53U, 409.91R	51.06	61.21	342.87	371.44	461.94	493.19	
5.	Haryana	15.6.1998	210	304.5	311.4	55.15	50	402	402	402	402	390.24
6.	HP	1.9.1998	69.75	93.81	113.6	65	65	172	232	252	252	248.55
7.	J&K	1.4.2000	36	366	366	61	61	240	244	240	244	
8.	Karnataka	1.11.1998	197.5	261.25	372	30.64	22.96	271.16	335.43	424.55	441.92	446.25
9.	Kerala	1.2.1998	110	286	236	66.43	64.94	171.67	171.6	182.97	186	
10.	MP	1.3.1999	92.2	194.73	229.78	73.53	55.1	227.6	396.2	434.59	437.71	427.33
11.	Maharashtra	1.5.2000	239.25	359.57	447.43	91.91	107.44	335.23	360.53	429.85	436.36	
12.	Meghalaya	1.9.1996	85	103.57	107.5	56	56	149.49	168.43	156.07	157.8	
13.	Orissa	1.12.1998	115	190	220	85	85	245	290	325.02	333.73	344.68
14.	Punjab	29.7.1998	172.8	214.95	251.58	0	0	240	258	290	290	391.75
15.	Rajasthan	1.11.1999	207.5	231.88	236.75	72	50.86	339	372	395	395	393.06
16.	TN (Chennai Metro Area) (Non Metro Area)	3.1.2000	117	216.25	269.7	25.53	19.13	234.53	416.42	406.53	420.30	418.27
17.	UP (Non-continuous Industries) Continuous Industries	25.1.1999	229.00-U, 60.00-R	214	241	52.7	38.11	379.57	407.36	409.99	417.58	398.7
18.	W. Bengal	26.1.1999	181.25U, 168.1R	339.44U, 319.33R	405.83U, 361.75R	54.66	123	336.56U, 13.57R	407.46	377.48	370.73	370.37
19.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.3.1993	95	135	135	-	-	185	195	250	250	
20.	Goa	1.3.1999	95	143.75	192.5	70	70	225	286.85	337.79	248.52	354.64
21.	Manipur	18.3.2000	152.2	204.7		152.2	152.2	162.2	223.2	213.18	213.36	215.43
22.	Mizoram	1.3.2000	115	200	227	55	55	242.65	200	200	200	200
23.	Nagaland	1.12.1995	200	275	275	150	150	250	275	275	275	
24.	Sikkim	1.5.1999	125U, 90R	177.5U, 131.25R	188U, 139.5R	195	197.04	201.63	135.12	149.44	151.21	
25.	Tripura	1.4.1999	269	192.5	170	120	120	140	190	-	-	0
26.	A&N Islands	1.4.1994	85	182.5	217	50	50	218.3	228.63	-	-	
27.	Chandigarh	10.11.1998	142.25	203.56	239.33	62.68	61.75	265	300	353	353	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
28.	Dadra & NH	1.2.1987	72.5	85.63	98.25	50	50	170.1	170.36	180.86	181.85	342.76
29	Daman & Diu	1.4.1998	122.5	153.13	191.25	56	55	210	224.18	234.30	236.06	
30.	Delhi	1.4.1997	105	203.44	220.38	52.5	62	362	352.08	401.93	408.18	-
	NDMC	1.4.1997	105	203.75	270.5	0	0	362.13	362.13	-	-	404.5
31	Lakshdweep	1.4.1997	150	200	200	0	0	160	100	-	-	-
32.	Pondicherry	1.4.1999	55	85	112	11.74	7.27	177.96	183.82	222.41	331.26	
33.	Ahmedabad Elec.	26.2.1998	292.6	264	400.76	292.31	281.78	348.23	339.47	398.94	402.27	
34.	Calcutta (CESC)	20.10.1998	205.43	365.98	436.25			377.01	425.5	424.12	427.14	
35	DVC (Bihar area)	1.9.2000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	296.72	304.63	422.8
	(W. Bengal area)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	312.68	321.19	311.19
36	Durgapur Project	1.2.1995	92.43	255.1	258.1	120	199	223.93	273.3	262.4	264.62	328.24
37	Mumbai (Best)	15.7.1997	82.5	270.77	366.74			602.74	654.3	364.48	368.08	
38	BSES	1.10.1998	151.8	443.05	475.3	50	50	578.41	540.23	394.52	395.51	-
39.	Tata's	1.12.1998	143	320.26	376.63			387.74	397.74	363.6	367.24	376.73

[English]

Condition of I.P. Thermal Power Station, Delhi

2417. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the new-item captioned "Does the IP power house have a future" appearing in the *Times of India* dated November 6, 2000;

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

(c) whether the said plant is a loss prone thermal plant;

(d) if so, whether the Pollution Control Board has asked the Government of NCT, Delhi to decommission the plant within six months of the commissioning of the Pragati Station; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

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

(b) IP Thermal Power Station of Delhi Vidyut Board (DVB) has served for more than 30 years and has already completed its useful economic life. The Station comprises 5 units, out of which one unit (No. 1) has since been retired with effect from 28.2.2000 due to uneconomic functioning. The total installed capacity of the remaining 4 units is 247.5 MW. In view of the ageing of the units, the performance has not been satisfactory and DVB has approved renovation & modernisation of the remaining four units. DVB has appointed consultants for carrying out Residual Life Assessment (RLA) studies of the units.

(c) According to DVB, the Plant is not a loss prone plant.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) In order to improve the performance of the Station by carrying out Renovation & Modernisation or phasing out of units by larger modern and environmental friendly plant, DVB has engaged NTPC as consultants for carrying out studies and to indicate short-term/long-term measures to improve the performance of the Station.

[Translation]

Electricity rates for consumers against cost of power generation

2418. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the consumers in the industrial as well as commercial sectors are charged more electricity rates as compared to the actual cost of generation in the country; and

(b) if so, the percentage of estimated excess rates being charged?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The average cost of supply and average tariff charged from industrial and commercial consumers for the year 1998-99 are given below :

Average Cost of Supply	Average Tariff Charged] (paise/Kwh)			
	Industrial	% Difference	Commercial	% Difference
246.53	342.38	+34.00	337.65	+36.96

*[English]***Cloud harvesting/artificial rains**

2419. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal to support 'Cloud Harvesting/Artificial Rains' activity has been undertaken by Non-Governmental Organizations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to sanction grants for Research activity in this field; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no proposal by the Government to support cloud harvesting/artificial rains activity taken up by NGOs. Many countries including India have carried out experiments in this area but these are only at the research stage.

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

Land holdings in Rural Areas

2420. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of farmers have declined in comparison to the number of land holdings in rural areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) As per Population Censuses of India 1971, 1981 and 1991 the number of cultivators in the country were 78.2 million, 92.5 million and 110.7 million respectively. The estimated number of operational holdings as per the Agricultural Censuses 1970-71, 1980-81 and 1990-91 were 71.0 million, 88.9 million and 106.6 million respectively. Thus, the number of cultivators has been higher than the number of operational holdings due to the presence of joint holdings.

Promotion of Brackishwater fisheries in Orissa

2421. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to promote brackishwater fisheries in Orissa particularly in the cyclone affected districts; and

(b) if so, the details of assistance extended to the fish farmers to promote brackishwater fisheries during 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme viz. Integrated Coastal Aquaculture which contains a package of technical, financial and extension support to shrimp growers is under implementation through Brackishwater Fish Farmers Development Agencies (BFDAs) in the country including Orissa.

(b) In Orissa seven BFDAs have been set up in the coastal districts of Kendrapada, Ganjam, Khurda, Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Blasore and Bhadrak. A sum of Rs. 48.75 lakhs has so far been released to the Government of Orissa during 2000-2001 under the above mentioned scheme. Besides, the following steps have been taken to promote brackishwater fisheries :

- (i) Human resource development by establishment of demonstration cum training centre to train shrimp farmers.
- (ii) Issue of guidelines outlining measures for development and management of sustainable brackishwater aquaculture practices.
- (iii) Regulation of shrimp farming activities in coastal areas in an eco-friendly manner by setting up aquaculture Authority under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act 1986; and
- (iv) Implementation of a World Bank Project on Shrimp & Fish Culture to develop an area of about 283 ha. for shrimp farming in the State of Orissa.

*[Translation]***Scheme for Rural Electrification**

2422. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government considers a village as an electrified village by providing one bulb connection or installing one electric pole there, whereas the entire village remains in darkness;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

[English]

(c) whether the Government propose to change the present definition of rural electrification;

Global Change

2423. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA .
SHRI R.S. PATIL :

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

(a) whether according to DAVID EASTERLING of National Climate Data Centre and GERACD MEEHL there is steep rise in the extreme weather;

(b) whether the earth's average temperature has risen about 0.6 degree celsius (1.1 degree farenheat) since the start of the 20th Century;

(c) if so, whether this is likely to lead to more rain, more heat and to increase the chances of drought; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government about this shocking global change?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The study projects increase in the extreme weather events.

(d) The existing legal and policy framework in the country, supported by several initiatives to protect and improve the environment, adequately addresses the concerns of global change.

[Translation]

Growth of Forests in Maharashtra

2424. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted or propose to conduct any survey on growth of forests in the country especially in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Maharashtra has submitted a proposal regarding growth of forest;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the said proposal is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Forest Survey of India has been assessing forest cover of the

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The Government have changed the definition of village electrification in October, 1997. The earlier definition of village electrification was that "a village should be classified as electrified if electricity is being used within its revenue area for any purpose whatsoever."

This definition was made at a time when the level of electrification in the country was very low and the aim was to extend the electricity infrastructure to the village level. The Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Power as well as the Committee on public Undertakings in their meetings held in 1995 felt that the earlier concept of village electrification was limiting and inadequate and considered it necessary to have a re-lock at the earlier definition so as to bring at least the inhabited areas of villages into its fold. The issue was examined in consultation with the Central Electricity Authority and the State Electricity Boards and it was decided that the definition may be changed as follows .

"A village will be deemed to be electrified if electricity is used in the inhabited locality, within the revenue boundary of the village, for any purpose whatsoever."

(c) and (d) There is no proposal under the consideration of Government to change the present definition of rural electrification.

(e) Priorities for carrying our rural electrification programme in the States are determined by the State Governments/State Electricity Boards/Power Utilities concerned. As against 5,87,258 inhabited villages in the country as per 1991 census, 5,07,216 villages have been reported to be electrified by the end of September 2000. The time frame for complete electrification of villages in the country would largely depend upon the availability of financial resources for creating/strengthening distribution systems. and availability of power in the State.

country biennially since 1987 using satellite data. As per the recently published State of Forest Report, 1999, forest cover in the country and Maharashtra has increased by 3896 sq.km and 529 sq.km respectively.

(c) to (e) Fourteen projects have been sanctioned within an outlay of Rs. 2223.27 lakhs for the State of Maharashtra during the 9th Five Year Plan for treating 25003 ha. In addition, eight projects have been received under Samanvit Gram Vanikaran Samridhi Yojana with the proposed outlay of Rs. 6892.39 lakhs in August, 2000. These proposals have not been prepared as per the guidelines and cost norms of the scheme. Their approval is subject to the proposals being revised appropriately by the State Government.

[English]

19th World Mines Meetings (Congress)

2425. SHRI MANJAY LAL : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether he alongwith the Minister of Coal has visited U.S. recently in connection with the 19th World Mines Meeting (Congress) to be held in India during 2003; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL) : (a) and (b) The then Minister of Youth Affairs, Sports and Mines visited Las Vegas, USA in October, 2000 to attend the 18th World Mining Congress. India was nominated and accepted to be the host for the next World Mining Congress. Accordingly he Chaired the meeting of the International Steering Committee for overseeing the organization of the 19th World Mining Congress to be held in India in November, 2003. The Minister of State for Coal also attended the 18th World Mining Congress.

[Translation]

Setting up of Kadwan Hydro Electric Power Project in Bihar

2426. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Bihar for setting up 450 Megawatt Kadwan Hydro-electric Power Project on Sone river;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) The Detailed Project Report [DPR] of Kadwan Hydro Electric Project [5×90 MW] estimated to cost Rs. 759.90 crores [January, 1994 Price Level] was received in Central Electricity Authority in February 1995 from the Bihar Hydro Electric Power Corporation [BHPC]. Kadwan is a multipurpose storage project on river Sone with irrigation, hydro power and flood control as the main objectives. The DPR was returned to BHPC in March 1995 with a request to submit a consolidated project report for a multi-purpose project in co-ordination with the Department of Water Resources, Government of Bihar.

[English]

Bio-diversity Project

2427. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have initiated a bio-diversity project to be funded by the U. Ns Global Environmental facility and launch the project with a cost of \$9,68,200 in the country;

(b) if so, whether this programme is likely to be launched taking into consideration the environmental aspects and ecological balance of the Eastern Ghats; and

(c) if so, the time by which this programme is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has initiated a National Bio-diversity strategy and Action Plan Project with the financial assistance from the Global Environment Facility.

(b) Eastern Ghats is one of the eco-regions identified for preparing the strategy and Action Plan in this project

(c) The project was officially launched on 11.4.2000. The project is for a duration of two years.

New draft policy for renewable sources of Energy

2428. MOHAMMAD ANWARUL HAQUE :
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

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

(a) whether a new draft policy for development of renewable sources of energy is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the Government have approved the said policy;

(d) if so, the time by which this policy is likely to be implemented; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has prepared a Draft Renewable Energy Policy Statement for development of renewable sources of energy in the country. The objective of the Policy Statement is to enhance the contribution of renewables. viz., 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.

(c) to (e) The draft of the Policy Statement has been submitted by the Ministry for further approval.

National Integrated Produce Market in Karnataka

2429. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sought financial assistance for establishing the National Integrated Produce Market in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the rate of interest proposed to be charged for the above assistance;

(d) whether the assistance sought has been sanctioned; and

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

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

(b) to (e) Question does not arise.

Encroachment of Forest Land

2430. SHRI GEORGE EDEN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether plantation companies have encroached upon the forest land in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Food Processing Industries

2431. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is necessary to explore the possibilities of setting up food processing industries on the basis of production and average yield in various regions of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to take fresh steps to promote Food Processing Industries in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH) : (a) to (e) Setting up of food processing industries would depend upon several factors such as availability of processable varieties of raw material, their productivity, demand for processed food, cost of production and price etc.

The Government have taken number of policy initiatives to promote the growth of processed food sector in the country. Some of these are as under :

- (i) Under the Plan Schemes of the department of Food Processing Industries, financial assistance in the form of soft loan and grant is provided to private industries, public sector undertakings, Non-governmental Organisations, Co-operatives, Human Resource Development Organisations and Research & Development Institutions etc. for the development of processed food sector.
- (ii) Food Processing Industries have been included in the list of priority sector for bank lending.
- (iii) Most of the processed food items have been exempted from the purview of licensing under Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951.

- (iv) Approval for foreign equity in automatic route is available for most of the processed food items except alcohol and beer and those reserved for small scale sector, subject to certain conditions.

[Translation]

All India Women Football Competition

2432. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether All India Women Football Competition has been organised in Korba district under newly created State of Chhattisgarh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount received for the said competition alongwith their sources.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) As per information received from All India Football Federation, it has not organised All India Women Football Competition in Korba District of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) Does not arise.

Opening of EDP Offices/Sub-Post Offices

2433. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to Unstarted Question No. 4393 dated April 24, 2000 and state :

(a) whether the approval of Finance Ministry has been received for opening of 500 extra departmental branch post offices and 50 departmental sub-post offices during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Not yet Sir.

(b) and (c) No reply called for in view of (a) above.

[English]

Quality of Road Network

2434. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that India has more than 3 million KM of roads network, making it one

of the largest in the world but the quality of the roads is inappropriate and cannot meet the needs of efficient and fast moving transportation; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to improve the quality of the roads in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Central Government is responsible only for development and maintenance of National Highways. Central Government has taken number of measures like taking up National Highway Development Project, Improvement of Riding Quality Programme, 4-laning of National Highways, strengthening of existing pavements etc. for improvement of National Highways. The Central Road Fund has also been revamped for creation of Dedicated Fund for development of rural roads, development and maintenance of National Highways, State roads and roads of Economic and Inter-state importance.

Forest cover in U.P.

2435. SHRI JAI BHADRA SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Forests grow on paper in Uttar Pradesh" appearing in the *Times of India*, dated July 10, 2000;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto:

(c) whether the dense forest cover of Uttar Pradesh is depleting;

(d) if so, whether any forest survey has been conducted recently;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of the survey;

(f) the amount spent in planting two billion sapplings over the years;

(g) whether felling of trees illegally in the Terai region including Gorakhpur, Gonda, Bahraich, Nainital, Almora and Dehradun has been a major source of concern over the years; and

(h) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make the State green?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) to (e) Forest Survey of India has been assessing forest cover of the country biennially since 1987 using satellite data. As per the State of Report, 1999, forest cover in Uttar Pradesh has increased by 22 sq.km and dense forest has decreased by 56 sq.km.

(f) to (h) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

National Highway Development Project

2436. SHRI VAIKO : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any review of the National Highway Development Programme has been made in a high level meeting held recently at New Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are 41 on-going projects being implemented by National Highways Authority of India of which 33 are on National Highway Development Project routes and 8 on other routes as per details below :

	Number of Projects	Length (in Km.)	Cost (Rs. in Crores)	Target
Golden Quadrilateral	13	697	3010	December, 2003
North-South East-West	20	272	839	December, 2002
Others	8	216	989	December, 2003
Total	41	1185	4838	

The projects are progressing as per schedule.

Postal Life Insurance

2437. SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for Postal Life Insurance during the last two years in Gujarat;

(b) whether the Government have failed to achieved the said target;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to implement Postal Life Insurance in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The target fixed and achievement (in Rupees Crore) is as under:

Year	Target	Achievement
1998-99	Rs. 132 Cr.	Rs. 142 Cr.
1999-2000	Rs. 150 Cr.	Rs. 213 Cr.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Postal Life Insurance is already implemented all over the country. It has 19 circle offices under the charge of the Chief Postmasters General and Insurance for defence personnel is under the charge of Additional Director General, Army Postal Services.

National long distance Telecom market

2438. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the circumstances and compulsion leading to the decision to deregulate the national long distance telecom market; and

(b) the details of the steps taken to ensure that the activities of different private and Government agencies operating in the field are harmonised to the best advantage and service of the nation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The Government had made a commitment in WTO to review the opening of the National Long Distance telecom sector in 1999. New Telecom Policy announced in 1999 envisaged opening up of the National Long Distance service to private sector participation to provide competition, choice to the subscribers and to promote setting up long distance bandwidth capacity in the country.

(b) The Government and private agencies shall provide service in accordance with the terms and condition of the licence agreement leading to healthy competition and better quality of service to the subscribers.

Conservation of tigers in Zoos and reserved forests

2439. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

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

(a) whether the Supreme Court has summoned the Central Zoo Authority Chief to explain personally the steps taken for conserving tiger population in Zoos and reserved forests in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the directions issued in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) Member Secretary, Central Zoo Authority on the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court, appeared before the Court on 20th November, 2000. After hearing the submission on behalf of the Central Zoo Authority, Hon'ble Court directed that, no State Government or Union Territory shall set up a new zoo without getting clearance from the Central Zoo Authority and orders of the Court, the security arrangements for the animals should be beefed up without any further delay and the States and Union Territories should respond to the suggestions made in the affidavit of the Member Secretary, Central Zoo Authority about the measures needed for the improvement in the management of zoos.

[Translation]

Damage caused to crops

2440. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that large scale damage is caused to property and crops due to floods in border districts of Uttar Pradesh by the rivers originating from Nepal;

(b) if so, the extent of damage caused to crops, property and livestock in these border districts during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to save these areas from the flood waters of the rivers originating from Nepal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) The details of damage caused to cropped area and houses and loss of livestock in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years, in the wake of floods, is indicated below:

Year	Cropped area Damaged (lakh ha.)	Houses damage (in lakhs)	Livestock lost (Nos.)
1997-98	1.55	0.05	114
1998-99	14.15	3.85	3399
1999-2000	0.33	0.01	9

District-wise details are not maintained.

(c) and (d) Floods, being a natural phenomenon, provision of absolute protection to all flood prone areas against all magnitudes of floods, of different probabilities of occurrence, is neither possible nor economically feasible. Flood management is the responsibility of the State Government concerned. However, the Central Government makes available funds for flood control schemes in the Annual Plans to the State Governments through the Planning Commission.

[English]

Nehru Yuva Kendras in Maharashtra

2441. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Nehru Yuva Kendras (NYKs) operating in Maharashtra in general and Vidarbha region in particular with locations and areas of operations;

(b) the details of task assigned to NYKs and funds allocated and utilised under the scheme in Maharashtra in general and Vidarbha region in particular during the Eighth Plan period and allocations made for the current year and Ninth Plan period;

(c) whether their performance has been evaluated and if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) whether the Government are considering to restructure the scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) A list of Nehru Yuva Kendras functioning in Maharashtra and particularly in Vidarbha region is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) the details are as given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) Proforma of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan was reviewed by Planning Commission in 1990-91 and had given suggestions for strengthening this organization.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement-I

List of NYKs functioning in Maharashtra and particularly in Vidarbha Region

S.No.	Zonal Office	Regional Office	Kendra Office
1.	Mumbai (Maharashtra)	1. Pune (Maharashtra)	1. Aurangabad 2. Alibagh 3. Buldana 4. Jalna 5. Thane 6. Kalyan (East) 7. Jalgaon 8. Ahmednagar 9. Nasik 10. Beed 11. Dhule 12. Pune
	(Vidarbha Region)	2. Nagpur (Maharashtra)	1. Bhandara 2. Yavatmal 3. Amravati 4. Gandcharoli 5. Nanded 6. Nagpur 7. Akola 8. Chandrapur 9. Wardha 10. Parabhani
		3. Panji (Goa)	1. Kohlapur 2. Sholapur

S.No.	Zonal Office	Regional Office	Kendra Office
			3. Sindhurg
			4. South Goa (Margoa)
			5. Sangli
			6. Panji
			7. Ratnagiri
			8. Latur
			9. Satara
			10. Osmanabad
			11. North Goa

Statement-II

The principal objective of the scheme is to enable the rural youth clubs to act as catalysts in the process of development in rural areas and in the popularization of nationally accepted values. In furtherance of these objectives, each Nehru Yuva Kendra organizes its regular programmes. Besides, NYKs also implement the schemes of the M/o YA & Sports. Regular programmes of NYKs and the schemes of the Ministry of YA & Sports being implemented by NYKs are as under :

Regular Programmes

- Youth Club Development Programme
- Awareness Generation Programme
- Vocational Training Programme
- Sports Promotion Programme
- Workshops & Seminars
- Cultural Programme
- Work Camps
- Adventure Promotion Programme
- Celebration of National & International Days/Weeks

Schemes of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports being implemented by NYKs :

- National Service Volunteers Scheme
- Youth Development Centres
- Awards to Outstanding Youth Clubs
- Financial Assistance to Youth Clubs
- Rural Sports Clubs Scheme

Details of funds Released and utilized during the Eighth Plan period (1992-93 to 1996-97)

Funds Released		Funds Utilized	
Maharashtra	Vidarbha Region	Maharashtra	Vidarbha Region
3,87,07,154.8	1,32,86,820.8	3,48,81,197.84	1,18,79,993.41

Funds released during 2000-2001 and 9th Plan period

(2000-2001)		(1997-98 to 2000-01) 9th Plan	
Maharashtra	Vidarbha Region	Maharashtra	Vidarbha Region
1,37,61,966.00	40,42,489.00	5,03,90,465.00	1,54,60,886.00

Movement of agro products

2442. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to allow free movement of agro products throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) Keeping in view the demand of farmers in the country and also to enable them to obtain the market prices of their produce anywhere in the country, in March, 1993, Central Government decided to remove all the inter-State and intra-State restrictions on movement of foodgrains and requested all the States/Union Territories to take action accordingly. All the States/Union Territories, except Jammu and Kashmir, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu have taken action to adhere to the policy of free movement of foodgrains. These three States want to keep the movement restrictions on paddy/rice on account of local conditions. Recently, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has requested all the States/Union Territories not to impose any type of restrictions, since it has been observed that some States/Union Territories informally impose movement restrictions on their own.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Internet Facility

2443. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL :
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRI RAJO SINGH :
SHRI BHAL CHANDRA YADAV :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any policy to provide Internet facility in all the districts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this facility is likely to be provided;

(c) the number of applications pending with the Government to provide Internet facilities in the country, State-wise;

(d) the action taken thereon;

(e) the names of the cities proposed to be connected with Internet during the year 2000-2001, State-wise;

(f) whether uninterrupted supply of power has been ensured to run Internet; and

(g) if not, the alternative arrangements thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) As per the Government Gazette Notification dated 25th July 98, Internet facility has been made available in all district headquarters of the country on local call basis from the nearest Internet Node.

(c) State-wise waiting list of Internet subscriber is as per Statement-I (As on 30.09.2000). This includes Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL)/Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL)/Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL).

(d) BSNL is in process of establishing a National Internet Backbone Phase I, this Backbone will cover 45 stations in the first phase for which equipment has been received and installed. The commissioning of these nodes is under progress and project is likely to be completed by December 2000 end.

(e) The list of cities proposed to have Internet Nodes during 2000-2001 is as per enclosed Statement-II.

(f) Yes, Sir, so far as the power supply requirements for running the Internet node equipment is concerned.

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

Statement-I

State-wise breakup of waiting list/applications pending with Government as on 30th September 2000 for internet

Sl. No.	Name of State	Waiting List
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	46
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0
4.	Assam	0
5.	Bihar	0
6.	Delhi	0
7.	Gujarat	9
8.	Haryana	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	19
11.	Karnataka	0
12.	Kerala	75
13.	Madhya Pradesh	0
14.	Maharashtra	0
15.	Manipur	0
16.	Meghalaya	0
17.	Mizoram	0
18.	Nagaland	0
19.	Orissa	33
20.	Punjab	0
21.	Rajasthan	0
22.	Tamil Nadu	411
23.	Tripura	50
24.	Uttar Pradesh	0
25.	West Bengal	363
Overall total		1006

Note The figure includes waiting list of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd., Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. and Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.

Statement-II

List of cities proposed to have Internet Nodes during 2000-2001

Sl. No.	Circle	List of Internet nodes Station
1	2	3
<i>I. Andaman & Nicobar</i>		
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	Port Blair
<i>II. Andhra Pradesh</i>		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad
2.		Vijayawada
3.		Vishakhapatnam
4.		Tirupati
5.		Rajamundari
6.		Guntur
7.		Eluru
8.		Warrangal
9.		Adilabad
10.		Anathapur
11.		Cuddapah
12.		Karimnagar
13.		Khammam
14.		Kurnool
15.		Sangareddy
16.		Nellore
17.		Srikakulam
18.		Mehboobnagar
19.		Nalgonda
20.		Ongole
21.		Vizianagaram
<i>III. Assam</i>		
1.	Assam	Guwahati
2.		Jorhat
3.		Silchar
4.		Bongaigaon
5.		Barpeta
6.		Dhubri
7.		Dibrugarh
8.		Golaghat

1	2	3
9.		Karimganj
10.		Nagaon
11.		North Lakhimpur
12.		Sibsagar
13.		Tezpur
14.		Tinsukia
		<i>IV. Bihar</i>
1.		Patna
2.	Bihar	Jamshedpur
3.		Ranchi
4.		Bhagalpur
5.		Bokaro
6.		Dhanbad
7.		Darbhanga
8.		Gaya
9.		Muzzaffarpur
10.		Arrah
11.		Chapra
12.		Daltonganj
13.		Dumka
14.		Hazaribagh
15.		Katihar
16.		Motihari
17.		Monger
18.		Sasaram
		<i>V. Gujarat</i>
1.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
2.		Surat
3.		Varodara
4.		Rajkot
5.		Bhavnagar
6.		Jamnagar
7.		Gandhinagar
8.		Bharauch
9.		Bhuj
10.		Junagarh
11.		Meshana
12.		Surendemagar

1	2	3
13.		Valsad
14.		Palampur
15.		Himmatnagar
16.		Godhara
17.		Daman
18.		Amreli
19.		Silvasa
20.		Diu
21.		Anand
22.		Navsari
		<i>VI. Himachal Pradesh</i>
1.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
2.		Solan
3.		Mandi
4.		Dharamshala
5.		Hamirpur
6.		Kullu
		<i>VII. Haryana</i>
1.	Haryana	Faridabad
2.		Gurgaon
3.		Ambala
4.		Panipat
5.		Hissar
6.		Rohtak
7.		Sonipat
8.		Y. Nagar
9.		Karnal
10.		K K R
11.		Sirsa
12.		Bhiwani
13.		Bahadurgarh
14.		Jind
15.		Rewari
16.		Kaithal
17.		Fatehbad
18.		Namaul
		<i>VIII. Jammu & Kashmir</i>
1.	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu

1	2	3
2.		Srinagar
3.		Rajouri
4.		Udhampur
5.		Leh
	<i>IX.</i>	<i>Karnataka</i>
1.	Karnataka	Bangalore
2.		Mysore
3.		Dharwar
4.		Belgaum
5.		Bellary
6.		Devangera
7.		Gulbarga
8.		Shimoga
9.		Tumkur
10.		Bagalkot
11.		Bidar
12.		Bijapur
13.		Chitradurga
14.		Gadag
15.		Havori
16.		Kolar
17.		Koppal
18.		Raichur
	<i>X.</i>	<i>Kerala</i>
1.	Kerala	Eranakulam
2.		Trivandrum
3.		Kannaur
4.		Kozhikode
5.		Trichur
6.		Kollam
7.		Kottayam
8.		Palghat
9.		Pathanamthaitta
10.		Alleppy
11.		Kassargod
12.		Malappuram
13.		Kalpetta
14.		Idukki
15.		Kavarathi

1	2	3
		<i>XI. Madhya Pradesh</i>
1.	Madhya Pradesh	Indore
2.		Bhopal
3.		Gwalior
4.		Jabalpur
5.		Raipur
6.		Durg
7.		Ujjain
8.		Bilaspur
9.		Ratlam
10.		Sagar
11.		Dewas
12.		Satna
13.		Rewa
14.		Khandwa
15.		Mandsaur
16.		Chhindwara
17.		Guna
18.		Katni
19.		Vidisha
20.		Dhar
21.		Chhatarpur
22.		Raigarh
23.		Khargaon
24.		Shivpuri
25.		Morena
26.		Bhind
27.		Betul
28.		Rajnandgaon
29.		Jagdalpur
30.		Seoni
31.		Korba
32.		Hoshangabad
33.		Balaghat
34.		Damoh
35.		Saguja (Aambikapur)
36.		Tikamgarh
37.		Sehore

1	2	3
38.		Shahdol
39.		Narsinghpur
40.		Shajapur
41.		Sheopurkalan
42.		Datia
43.		Mandla
44.		Jhabua
45.		Barwani
46.		Panna
47.		Sidhi
48.		Raisen
49.		Rajgarh
50.		Kanker
51.		Janjgir
52.		Jashpurnagar
53.		Dindori
54.		Dantewada
55.		Koria (Manendragarh)
	<i>XII.</i>	<i>Maharashtra</i>
1.	Maharashtra	Pune
2.		Nasik
3.		Nagpur
4.		Kalyan
5.		Ahmednagar
6.		Panjim
7.		Magaon (Goa)
8.		Akola
9.		Latur
10.		Chandrapur
11.		Amravati
12.		Dhule
13.		Satara
14.		Ratnagiri
15.		Jalna
16.		Wardha
17.		Parbani
18.		Yeotmal
19.		Pen

1	2	3
20.		Beed
21.		Bhandara
22.		Osmanabad
23.		Khamgaon (Buldhana)
24.		Gadchiroli
		<i>XIII. North East</i>
1.	North East	Shillong
2.		Agartala
3.		Aizwal
4.		Imphal
5.		Itanagar
6.		Kohima
		<i>XIV. Orissa</i>
1.	Orissa	Bhubaneshwar
2.		Cuttack
3.		Berhampur
4.		Rourkela
5.		Sambhapur
6.		Balasore
7.		Baripada
8.		Dhenkanal
9.		Keonjhar
10.		Koraput
11.		Phulbani
12.		Bolangir
13.		Bhawanipatna
		<i>XV. Punjab</i>
1.	Punjab	Ludhiana
2.		Chandigarh
3.		Jalandhar
4.		Amritsar
5.		Patiala
6.		Hoshiarpur
7.		Bhatinda
8.		Kapurthala
9.		Sangrur
10.		Ferozepur
11.		Faridkot

1	2	3
12.		Muktasar
13.		Mansa
14.		Gurdaspur
15.		Nwanshahar
16.		Ropar
17.		Moga
18.		Fatehgarh Sahib (may be installed at Mandigobindgarh)
	<i>XVI. Rajasthan</i>	
1.	Rajasthan	Jaipur
2.		Jodhpur
3.		Udhipur
4.		Kota
5.		Ajmer
6.		Bhilwara
7.		Bikaner
8.		Alwar
9.		Sriganganagar
10.		Sikar
11.		Pali
12.		Bharatpur
13.		Chittorgarh
14.		Banswara
15.		Hanumangarh
16.		Jhunjhunu
17.		Sawaimadhopur
18.		Bundi
19.		Nagpur
20.		Bamer
21.		Churu
22.		Dausa
23.		Tonk
24.		Rajsamand (Kankroli)
25.		Dungarpur
26.		Jaisalmer
27.		Dholpur
28.		Baran
29.		Jalawar

1	2	3
30.		Sirohi
31.		Jalore
32.		Karauli
		<i>XVII. Tamil Nadu</i>
1.	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore
2.		Madurai
3.		Cuddalore
4.		Dindigal
5.		Erode
6.		Hosur
7.		Kanchipuram
8.		Karur
9.		Karaikudi
10.		Nagacoil
11.		Namakkal
12.		Pondicherry
13.		Salem
14.		Tanjore
15.		Thirunavelaal
16.		Trichy
17.		Tuticorin
18.		Vellore
19.		Sivakasi
20.		Kumbakonam
21.		Nagapatnam
22.		Pudukkotai
23.		Ooty
24.		Thairuvarur
25.		Thiruvannamalai
26.		Tiruvellore
27.		Tirupur
28.		Vilupuram
29.		Ramanathpuram
		<i>XVIII. UP (E)</i>
1.	U.P. (E)	Lucknow
2.		Kanpur
3.		Varanasi
4.		Allahabad

1	2	3
5.		Gorakhpur
6.		Jhansi
7.		Farrukhabad
8.		Mau
9.		Shahjahanpur
10.		Faizabad
11.		Etawah
12.		Sitapur
13.		Unnao
14.		Raibareilly
15.		Mirzapur
16.		Sultanpur
17.		Azamgarh
18.		Jaunpur
19.		Lalitpur
20.		Pratapgarh
21.		Basti
22.		Barabanki
23.		Banda
24.		Deoria
25.		Ballia
26.		Gonda
27.		Lakhimpur
28.		Bhadohi
29.		Ghazipur
30.		Mainpuri
31.		Behraich
32.		Fatehpur
33.		Kannauj
34.		Auriiya
35.		Hardoi
36.		Padrauna
37.		Balrampur
38.		Ambedkar Nagar (Akbarpur)
39.		Hamirpur
40.		Sidharth Nagar
41.		Sonebhadra (Roberts Ganj)
42.		Sant Kabirdas (Khalilabad)

1	2	3
43.		Maharajganj
44.		Karwi
45.		Mahoba
46.		Jalaun
47.		Kapurthala
48.		Chandauli
49.		Manjhanpur (Kausambi)
50.		Bhinga (Shrawasti)
		XIX. UP (W)
1.	UP (W)	Ghaziabad
2.		Gautam Budh Nagar
3.		Agra
4.		Meerut
5.		Dehradun
6.		Saharanpur
7.		Aligarh
8.		Bareilly
9.		Moradabad
10.		Muzaffar Nagar
11.		Mathura
12.		Hardwar
13.		Ferozabad
14.		Bulandshahr
15.		Rampur
16.		Udham Singh Nagar (Rudrapur)
17.		Almora
18.		Mahamaya Nagar (Hathras)
19.		Joti Ba Phule Nagar (Amroha)
20.		Etah
21.		Nainital
22.		Bijnor
23.		Pilibhit
24.		Pithoragarh
25.		Budaun
26.		Pauri
27.		Chamoli (Gopeshwar)
28.		Bagpa
29.		Uttarkashi

1	2	3
	XX.	West Bengal
1.	West Bengal	Siliguri
2.		Durgapur
3.		Kharagpur
4.		Burdwan
5.		Bankura
6.		Berhampore
7.		Coochbehar
8.		Gangtok
9.		Jalpaiguri
10.		Krishnagar
11.		Malda
12.		Raiganj
13.		Suri

[English]

Widening of bridges on National Highway in M.P.

2444. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have cleared any proposal for widening, strengthening of bridges situated on National Highways in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount allotted for the purpose;

(d) the time by which the allotted fund is likely to be released; and

(e) the total number of bridges proposed to be constructed under this programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) No estimate has been cleared in 2000-2001.

(c) and (d) Does not arise

(e) 19 numbers of bridge projects are proposed for rehabilitation under the current Annual Plan.

Financial assistance for foodgrain production

2445. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the States which are deficient in foodgrain production;

(b) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from such States including Kerala Government for extending financial assistance to increase the production of foodgrains; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) Names of States deficient in foodgrain production (during the triennia ending 1998/99) and details of funds proposed to be provided to them under macro management mode for augmenting agricultural production during the year 2000/2001 against Work Plans prepared by the States, is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Details of states deficient in foodgrain production and funds allocated to them for augmenting agriculture production during 2000/2001

Sl. No.	Name of the States	Funds allocated (Rs. in Crores)
1.	Assam	11.60
2.	Bihar	15.00
3.	Goa	1.80
4.	Gujarat	30.00
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	15.00
6.	Kerala	40.00
7.	Maharashtra	100.00
8.	Manipur	10.00
9.	Meghalaya	9.50
10.	Mizoram	6.00
11.	Nagaland	12.00
12.	Orissa	35.00
13.	Tamil Nadu	50.00
14.	Tripura	8.00

[Translation]

IARI joint project with Israel

2446. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Agriculture Research Institute has started any joint project with Israel;

(b) the extent of success achieved therefrom;

(c) the time by which the farmers are likely to be benefited by this project; and

(d) the position of our country in the field of aquaculture alongwith the improvement made therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Required infrastructure such as drip-irrigation, green house, net house and low tunnel have been completed. Different vegetables, flowers and fruit crops have been planted under various environments as practised in Israel.

(c) The process of technology transfer to the farmers has already been started through demonstrations and hands-on training to the farmers.

(d) The estimated fish production from fresh water aquaculture sector is 2.03 million m.t. in India. This achievement has been made possible due to development of technologies for seed production and farming of carps, catfishes, freshwater prawn and shrimps. For the improvement of aquaculture sector various steps are being taken, like production of genetically improved rohu, cryo-preservation of fish milt and hatchery technologies for carp, prawn, shrimp, mahseer and seabass.

IDDP in Bihar

2447. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have started Indian Dairy Development Programme in Bihar during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

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

(c) the target fixed and achievements made thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) The Union Government had approved two projects under Integrated Dairy Development Programme (IDDP) in Bihar during 8th Plan period. The details are given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(c) End of Project Targets and achievements upto 31.03.2000 in respect of some key components are given in the Statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I

Integrated Dairy Development Projects (IDDP) approved in Bihar in 8th Plan

(Amount Rs. in Lakhs)

Project Districts covered	Date of approval	Approved outlay	Fund released upto 31.3.00	Funds Unspent utilised balance	
				upto 31.3.00	as on 1.4.00
I. West Champaran (Bettiah)	24.3.95	158.60	158.60	110.00	48.60
II. Purnia, Kathihar, Araria, Kishanganj, Dumka, Deoghar, Godda & Girdih	9.2.96	729.00	250.00	150.00	100.00

Statement-II

Physical Progress of Integrated Dairy Development Projects (IDDP) in Bihar

Project	DCS Organised		Farmer Member ('000)		Milk Procurement (TLPD)		Chilling Capacity (TLPD)	
	EOP Target ment Upto 31.3.2000	Achieve-Target ment Upto 31.3.2000	EOP Target ment Upto 31.3.2000	Achieve-Target ment Upto 31.3.2000	EOP Target ment Upto 31.3.2000	Achieve-Target ment Upto 31.3.2000	EOP Target ment Upto 31.3.2000	Achieve-Target ment Upto 31.3.2000
I.	100	115	3.48	3.49	5.38	0.60	2.00	4.00
II.	800	541	28.00	17.24	32.00	8.22	32.00	4.00

EOP : End of Project

TLPD : Thousand litres per day.

[English]

Integrated Forestry Development Projects

2448. SHRIMATI JAYABEN. B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Japan is providing grants/aid to India for various Integrated Forestry Development projects; and

(b) if so, the details of the various projects by Japanese Grants/Aid?

(b) Details of the forestry projects for which Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) has agreed to provide external assistance are as under :

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

S.No.	Name of the Project	Implementing Agency	Project Cost (Rs. in crores)	Physical Targets (in '000 ha.)	Foreign assistance in Million Yen
<i>State Sector</i>					
1.	Afforestation and Pasture Dev. Along Indira Gandhi Canal (ID -P-73) 1990-91 to 1999-01.	Rajasthan Government	107.50	61.5	7869
2.	Punjab Afforestation Project 1997-98 to 2004-05	Punjab Government	442.00	59	6193
3.	Integrated Gujarat Forestry Development Project (ID-P-112) 1995-96 to 2000-01	Gujarat Government	608.50	230	15760
4.	Rajasthan Forestry Project (ID-P-104) 1995-96 to 1999-00	Rajasthan Government	139.18	55	4219
5.	Tamil Nadu Afforestation Project 1996-97 to 2001-02	Tamil Nadu Government	499.20	405	13324
6.	Eastern Karnataka Afforestation Project 1996-97 to 2001-02	Karnataka Government	565.54	471	15968

[Translation]

Upgradation of Roads as National Highway

2449. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Bihar have recommended to upgrade the Hajipur-Vaishali-Paru-Sahebganj-Kesaria-Dumaria road in Bihar as a National Highway;

(b) if so, whether such recommendation was made by the State Government during the year 1995 also;

(c) whether the said road related to the name of Bhagwan Buddha and Bhagwan Mahavir is important from the tourism point of view; and

(d) if so, the time by when the Government propose to upgrade the said road as a National Highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) In May, 1997, while inviting proposals of new National Highways from all the State Government for consideration during the 9th Plan, the Central Government had made clear that the proposals to be forwarded by the State Governments would supercede all proposals/requests made by the State Governments during the 8th Five Year Plan. Thereafter no such proposals has been received by this Ministry.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Proposal for declaration of new National Highways are considered keeping in view the criteria laid down for inclusion as National Highway e.g. the traffic needs, *inter-se* priority with other proposals received for State Governments and the availability of funds and therefore no time limit can be given at this stage.

[English]

Direct Telephone Facility

2450. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any request to connect Mumbai with Palghar and Dahana places of Thane district through direct dialing telephone facility;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said facility is likely to be provided;

(c) whether the Government are committed to connect all places of a State with State Capital; and

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

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

(b) Direct dialing facility to Palghar & Dahanu from Mumbai cannot be extended as Palghar & Dahanu SDCA as are neither adjacent to Mumbai SDCA nor the radial distance between Palghar-Mumbai, Dahanu-Mumbai SDCCs is upto 50 Kms.

(c) The information is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) No applicable in view of (c) above.

Statement

As per policy local calls (without STD Code) is allowed:

- (i) Within SDCA
- (ii) When two Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) are adjacent.
- (iii) When the radial distance between the two Short Distance Charging Centres (SDCCs) of two SDCAs falling in the same or adjacent Long Distance Charging areas (LDCAs) is upto 50 Kms.
- (iv) When the radial distance between two Long Distance Charging Centres (LDCCs) of two non-adjacent LDCAs is upto 50 Kms.

Local calls under category (i) & (ii) above, are allowed, irrespective of the distances involved.

The places of the State & State Capital which are covered under above policy are allowed for direct dialing telephone facility (without STD Code). The places of the State & State Capital which are not covered under above policy can, however, normally have access through STD Code.

Schemes for small and marginal farmers

2451. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of various schemes under operation for small and marginal farmers in different States of the country; and

(b) the extent to which the farmers have been benefited by these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation do not make any distinction in the availability of benefits to various categories of farmers including small and marginal farmers in States. However some of the schemes/components where under benefits flow to small and marginal farmers include the following :

- (1) Subsidy @ 90 per cent of the cost, subject of a ceiling of Rs. 25000 per hectare for installation of sprinkler irrigation systems and drip irrigation systems under various crop oriented production programmes.
- (2) Assistance to the extent of 50 per cent of the cost of improved farm implements, or Rs. 1500 per equipment whichever is less, under the Oilseeds Production Programme.
- (3) Subsidy of 50 per cent on premium under the Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana.

Since, the benefits under the schemes flow to the farmers both in a direct and indirect manner, it is not possible to quantify them separately.

Production of Coconut

2452. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any steps have been taken to avert mite disease which affected to production of coconut in the Southern parts of the country especially in Kerala; and

(b) the amount allocated to each State to eradicate mite disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) The Government have taken following steps to avert mite disease which affected the production of coconut in the southern parts of the country especially in Kerala :

- (i) The Coconut Development Board has brought out booklets/brochures on mite and are extending assistance for training programme. The awareness creation campaigns are continuing where the pest incidence is reported to be very high.
- (ii) Project Directorate of Biological Control (ICAR) is continuing field and laboratory trials to develop effective biocontrol measures with natural enemies which offer an effective, cheap, eco-friendly and long-lasting solution to the problem. A Steering Committee under the chairmanship of Horticulture Commissioner with the representatives of States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka as well as from the three Agricultural Universities, Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), Kasargod, Project Directorate of Biological Control and All India Coordinated Project on "Mite" (ICAR) has been formed to review and coordinate the efforts in developing suitable control measures and management of the problem. Besides, the CPCRI and Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) are also engaged in research for devising control measures for this pest.
- (iii) Biopesticide namely 'Soinneem' has been registered by the Registration Committee for the control of coconut mite.

(b) The Government of India has released a sum of Rs. 584.00 lakh to Government of Kerala, Rs. 104.42 lakh to Government of Tamil Nadu and Rs. 150.40 lakh to Government of Karnataka during the year 1998-99 and 1999-2000 under the scheme "Integrated Development of Coconut Industry in India" exclusively for taking up control measures against mite in coconut.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), under the National Agriculture Technology Project (NATP), has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 141.95 lakh for the Research Centres in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka for a Research Scheme "Development of an Integrated Pest Management package for the eriophyid mite of coconut in the Southern States."

Land reserved for Post Offices in Delhi

2453. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the lands reserved for the site of the post offices in various parts of Delhi and New Delhi, location-wise/year-wise;

(b) whether the Government have taken any initiatives for the construction of post offices on the sites;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to avoid the misuse of the lands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The details of the plots reserved/purchased for the site of the POs in various parts of Delhi/New Delhi, location-wise/year-wise is enclosed in the Statement.

(b) Yes, Sir. Out of the 46 sites, detailed in the Annexure 6 have PO buildings; 1 more building is nearing completion and 7 more buildings are planned for construction. For the remaining sites PO buildings will be planned for construction according to priority and resource availability.

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

(d) Most of the sites have boundary walls and constant monitoring is being done to prevent misuse of land.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Locality	Measurement of plot in SQM	Year of Purchase
1.	R.K. Puram, Sector III	1706	1983
2.	R.K. Puram Sector VII	2035	1968
3.	R.K. Puram, Sector VIII	1494	1967
4.	R.K. Puram, Sector IX	1543	1968
5.	Vasant Kunj Sector 'B'	135	1992
6.	Kalkaji (Alaknanda)	135	1981
7.	Nehru Place	660	1983
8.	New Friends Colony I	371.6	1983
9.	New Friends Colony II	135	1983

Sl. No.	Name of Locality	Measurement of plot in SQM	Year of Purchase
10.	Masjid Moth G.K. Part II	200	1992
11.	Sarita Vihar	146.25	1992
12.	Badar Pur	500	1992
13.	Janakpuri 'B' Block	390.30	1977
14.	Janakpuri 'C' Block	126.52	1977
15.	IGI Airport, New Delhi	138.55	1984
16.	Vikaspuri	126.75	1984
17.	Pankha Road Instl. Area	2006	1988
18.	Tagore Garden	120.40	1992
19.	Rohini Sector III	1000	1986
20.	Rohini Sector V	6000	1986
21.	Rohini Sector IX	1000	1986
22.	Rohini Sector XI	1000	1987
23.	Rohini Sector XV	1000	1986
24.	Rohini Sector V	1000	1987
25.	Rohini Sector XI	32376	1992
26.	Rohini Sector XVIII	1000	1987
27.	Mandawali Fazalpur	167.3	1981
28.	Yamuna Vihar 'C' Block	137.5	1981
29.	Dilshad Garden	126	1987
30.	Khureji Khas	1100	1985
31.	Naraina Community Centre	120	1992/1998
32.	Kirby Place	200	1997
33.	Rajouri Garden Dist. Centre	0.79 Acres	1977
34.	Rana Pratap Bagh	3609.5	1977
35.	East of Kailash	818	1977
36.	Mangol Puri	2265.6	1985
37.	Nangal Raya	150	1991
38.	Regar Pura (K. Bagh)	150	1988
39.	Minto Road	117	1985
40.	Pragati Vihar (Instl. Area)	162	1985
41.	Saraswati Vihar	386.76	1997
42.	I.P. Extn.	02 Hect.	1998
43.	Sector VI Dwarka (P. Kalan)	300	1998
44.	Jamia Nagar	200	1984
45.	Geeta Colony	675.25	1986
46.	Prasad Nagar (K. Bagh)	600	1987

Construction of speed breakers on National Highways

2454. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, no speed breaker can be constructed on the National Highways;

(b) whether the Government are aware that many of the villagers have constructed the speed breakers on the National Highways thereby giving room for accidents;

(c) if so, the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the fatal accidents are taking place on National Highways because of non-existence of dividers on them, and

(e) if so, the funds sanctioned and spent for providing dividers during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) As per the policy of this Ministry no speed breakers are allowed on National Highways.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Whenever such a case comes to the notice of this Ministry respective State PWDs/NHAI/BRO who look after the National Highways on behalf of the Central Government, on agency basis, are requested to remove the speed breaker.

(d) No such case has been reported to the Ministry.

(e) No separate sanctions are issued for exclusive construction of dividers on National Highways. Normally dividers are provided in case of four laning of National Highways where cost of dividers are included in project cost.

[Translation]

Exploitation of Medicinal Plants in Uttaranchal

2455. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :
SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI :

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

(a) whether many life saving herbal medicinal forests plants useful in Ayurvedic and Unani system of medicine

available in Uttaranchal region are being exploited in such a way that many of these varieties of plants are on the verge of extinction; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure that these plants are exploited in such a way that the plants do not become extinct and their production is increased?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) A number of medicinal plants have been known to be found in the Himalayan Region. However, there is no comprehensive inventory of such plants. The Government have taken steps to protect and preserve these rare medicinal plants under the following programmes :

- (i) The Botanical Survey of India (BSI) has prepared a Red Data Book listing the threatened and endangered species of plants including medicinal plants.
- (ii) A list of 29 medicinal plants that are threatened or endangered have been included in the negative list for exports. The plants, plant portions, derivatives and extracts prepared out of these plants obtained from the wild are not allowed to be exported. In order to protect the endangered medicinal plant species from extinction, such species are not allowed to be drawn from the wild.
- (iii) The Report of the Task Force constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. D.N. Tewari, Member, Planning Commission has suggested a Strategy and Action Programme which *inter-alia* includes conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants. The Action Programme provides for specific activities such as conservation, cultivation, documentation, inventorisation and sustainable use of medicinal plants, involving a number of Ministries and Departments in Government of India.
- (iv) A 100% centrally sponsored scheme for the conservation and development of Non Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) including medicinal plants is implemented by the National Afforestation and Eco-development Board (NAEB). Proposals were invited from various States and financial assistance is provided. Regeneration of medicinal plants is carried out in degraded forest areas under the Joint Forest Management (JFM) scheme of Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(v) Central Scheme for development and cultivation of medicinal plants wherein financial assistance is provided by the Department of Indian System of Medicine & Homoeopathy (ISM & H) for setting up of medicinal plants gardens. Prioritisation on the list of medicinal plants is based on the use of medicinal plants in the Indian System of Medicine and those that are endangered and threatened.

(vi) Department of ISM&H also have a Central Scheme for development of agro techniques of medicinal plants to support projects given to Universities and research institutes for development of agro techniques of selected medicinal plants. These are then applied on experimental cultivation plots.

1201 hrs.

[English]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute, Bangalore, for the year 1997-98, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute, Bangalore, for the year 1997-98.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2685/2000]
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute, Bangalore, for the year 1998-99, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute, Bangalore, for the year 1998-99.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2686/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 801 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th September, 1999 seeking to amend the Second Schedule to the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 1984 so as to designate the TRIFED as a National Co-operative Society, issued under sub-section (1) of section 104 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2687/2000]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of Co-operative Sugar Factories Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Federation of Co-operative Sugar Factories Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2688/2000]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of Labour Cooperatives Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Federation of Labour Cooperatives Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2689/2000]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of Urban Co-operative Banks and Credit Societies Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation

of Urban Co-operative Banks and Credit Societies Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Federation of Urban Co-operative Banks and Credit Societies Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2690/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) Sir, on behalf of Dr. Debendra Pradhan, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the National Dairy Development Board (Enforcement of Claims) Regulations, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. NDDB/LEGAL/4401 in Gazette of India dated the 12th July, 2000, under section 50 of the National Dairy Development Board Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2691/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the North-Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited, Guwahati, for the year 1999-2000.
- (ii) Annual Report of the North-Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited, Guwahati, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2692/2000]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Paddy Processing Research Centre, Thanjavur, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Paddy Processing Research Centre, Thanjavur, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2693/2000]

1203 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha :

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 30th November, 2000 agreed without any amendment to the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2000 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 27th November, 2000."

123½ hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
Twelfth Report*[Translation]*

DR. M.P. JAISWAL (Bettiah) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to Move the 12th report (Hindi and English Versions) of Public Accounts Committee (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) about action taken on the Sixteenth report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) relating to delay in construction and pre-mature purchase of equipments.

1204 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS
Statement*[English]*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I and final replies in respect of recommendations contained in Chapter V of Eighth Report of Committee on Public Undertakings (Eleventh Lik Sabha) on Bharat Coking Coal Limited.

124½ hrs.

*[English]*STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Eleventh Report

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur) : Sir, I beg to present the Eleventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture on "Aquaculture Authority Bill, 2000"

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the Minister of Railways will make a statement.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister is going to make a statement.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What is this? You are not allowing the Minister to make a statement. She is going to make a statement.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You can seek the clarification after the statement but not now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, I have disallowed your notice for Adjournment Motion.

Now, the Minister is going to make a statement on the railway accident and if you have any clarifications, you can ask them after the statement.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : What is this ? When the Minister is going to make a statement, you are not allowing her.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you are creating one more accident like situation in the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I allowed her to make the statement. Please take your seats. If you have any doubts, please ask her later. Now the Minister, please.

...(Interruptions)

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

1205 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Side collision of Howrah-Amritsar Mail with derailed wagons of foodgrain special at Sarai Banjara, Punjab

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : It is with a feeling of utter sorrow and a sense of deepest anguish that I stand today to apprise the House regarding details of an unfortunate side collision of 3005 UP Howrah-Amritsar Mail with derailed wagons of Down Foodgrain special infringing the up line in Ambala-Ludhiana section of Northern Railway's Ambala Division. The collision occurred at about 0537 hours on 2nd December, 2000.

In this accident, as per the latest reports, 43 passengers have lost their lives...(Interruptions) Whatever I am saying is the fact known till now...(Interruptions).

Out of 145 passengers who sustained either grievous or simple injuries and were admitted to hospitals, condition of all is improving, except one who is critical. In addition, 44 passengers were discharged after rendering first aid. The injured have been admitted to various hospitals in Fatehgarh Sahib, Rajpura, Chandigarh and Patiala and utmost care is being taken to render the best possible medical treatment. So far, 20 dead bodies have been identified. The list of those and of injured passengers have been displayed at enquiry booths set up at different locations.

In the early hours of 2nd December 2000, Down Foodgrain special passed Sadhoogarh station running through, on the Down line at 0525 hours. At 0535 hours, 3005 Up Howrah-Amritsar Mail passed Sarai Banjara station running through, on the Up line. This train was running about 10 minutes behind schedule. The block

section between Sadhoogarh and Sarai Banjara is 8 kms. long and normally it takes goods and passenger trains around 10 and 6 minutes respectively to cover the stretch

At around 0535 hours, 10 minutes after passing Sadhoogarh, 15 wagons of Down Foodgrain special positioned after the 3rd wagon from train engine derailed. Of these 15 derailed wagons, 2 wagons infringed the Up line.

Immediately thereafter, 3005 Up Howrah-Amritsar Mail moving on the Up line collided with the derailed wagons. The collision resulted in derailment of the train engine and first 7 coaches of 3005 Up, some of which were totally mangled.

As soon as information about this accident was received, Medical Relief Vans and Accident Relief Trains from both Ambala and Ludhiana were immediately rushed to the accident site. The Divisional Officers concerned of Ambala, along with doctors immediately proceeded to the site of accident. Senior Railway Officers from the Board also left for the accident site to supervise rescue and relief operations.

On hearing of this unfortunate accident, I along with my colleague, Shri Digvijay Singh, Minister of State for Railways proceeded to the site of accident immediately for making an on the spot assessment of the situation. I would like to place on record the outstanding contribution of the State Government of Punjab, Non-Government Organisations and the local villagers, who rendered yeomen's service in selflessly assisting the Railways in this hour of crisis.

While money cannot compensate the next of kin for the irreparable loss suffered by the death of their near and dear ones, I have announced an ex-gratia payment of Rs. 2 lakheach to the families of those who have been killed in this accident and Rs. 1 lakh each to those who are admitted in the hospitals. In addition, in order to provide a sustainable economic security, I have decided to offer one job in Railways to a family member of those who lost their lives in this accident. Besides, compensation as admissible will be paid to them by Railway Claims Tribunal. This amount varies from Rs. 32,000 to Rs. 4 lakh based on extent of incapacitation due to injuries and Rs. 4 lakh in case of death.

As a token of Railways' gratitude to the noble, selfless services rendered by the nearby villagers, I would like to announce that Indian Railways will place a sum of Rs. 20 lakhs at the disposal of the State Government specifically for promoting developmental works in the concerned villages.

Statutory Inquiry into this accident has already been started by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, Northern Circle. Further, considering the gravity of the accident, I propose to hold a judicial inquiry by a sitting Judge of the Honourable Supreme Court.

Accidents of this nature always shake the confidence of the common people on railway system. I have a firm belief that accidents are normally due to some failures. Therefore, I would like to assure the House that based on the findings of the inquiry, exemplary action will be taken against those found responsible for this accident, howsoever highly placed they may be. However, even before the inquiry is completed and guilty are brought to book, I have decided that in order to facilitate an impartial and unbiased inquiry, seven senior officers, namely, Chief Engineer and Chief Tract Engineer of Northern Railway, Chief Motive Power Engineer (Running), Northern Railway, Divisional Railway Manager, Ambala, Senior Divisional Safety Officer, Ambala and concerned Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer and Senior Divisional Engineer are being asked to proceed on leave forthwith.

This unfortunate accident has also served to highlight the glaring weaknesses that the system has developed over time due to successive decline in investment and long delay in bringing about the much needed reforms at the structural level. I am thankful to the hon. Prime Minister who has, in his condolence message yesterday, assured that the Government will deal with this issue with utmost seriousness and without any further delay.

On behalf of the Railways and myself, I convey deep condolences to the bereaved families and also express sincere sympathies to those injured. I trust the House will also join me in extending the same...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I would like to seek a clarification...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : A judicial inquiry has already been ordered. In that case, how can you ask for clarifications? This is not proper.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : A Supreme Court Judge has been asked to inquire into the matter. Please understand that an inquiry would be held now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I have given notice to raise this matter...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, please understand that already a judicial inquiry has been ordered in the matter. This is not the proper time to discuss all these things.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, some serious accidents had taken place in a span of last two years. Similar type of accidents had taken place earlier also. What are the steps taken by the Government to prevent such accidents?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : That is why, an inquiry has been ordered to inquire into the matter. Please understand that a Supreme Court Judge is going to conduct the inquiry. Government has taken all steps in this regard. Please understand this.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : What is the new thing about the statement? The Minister should take over the responsibility and should resign....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev may speak now.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) Mr. Speaker, Sir, this does not pertain to Bengal alone. It concerns the whole country. The Hon. Minister has given a *Suo Moto* statement about the accident in the House. The Hon. Minister has already announced compensation to the injured and also for the deceased. Then why fuss is being made?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna) : Sir, on Friday, Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev had drawn the attention of the House to the situation prevailing in the North-East and the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs had then assured the House that the Home Minister would be making a statement on Monday about the situation in the North-East...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, during question hour you had said that I would be allowed to speak during zero Hour. But now I am not being allowed to speak....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I have given notice to raise this matter. There are a number of questions in this connection. A statement has been made by the Minister....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia ji what has happened to you. Why are you speaking so much. Please sit down.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : For every accident, an inquiry is ordered. What is new in it?...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, regarding the North-East situation, I would like to state that as promised, the hon. Home Minister will make a statement after lunch...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Suresh Ramrao Jadhav to speak now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the condition of rural roads in Maharashtra is bad...(Interruptions) In Maharashtra alone, about three hundred pregnant women die because they fail to reach health centres in time due to bad roads....(Interruptions) In rural areas lakhs of children are unable to reach their schools because there are no roads. The problem compounds during the rainy season....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jaipal Reddy, after he completes it, I will call you. I have already called his name.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you are a senior Member. I am appealing to you to cooperate with the Chair. There are other hon. Members also who want to raise important matters. Today, there are 25 hon. Members who have given notices to raise important and urgent matters.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I have many questions to put...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : For connecting all the villages of Maharashtra 12.60 lakh kilometres of roads need to be constructed....(Interruptions) Due to nonframing of guidelines, Maharashtra has been discriminated against and has been given only 80 crore rupees from Rural Road Fund....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jaipal Reddy, I will call you after he completes it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Therefore, I request the Government, through the House, to intervene in the matter and ensure more funds for the construction of rural roads in Maharashtra so that all the rural areas get connected with the metalled roads. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am on my legs. Please take your seat.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Why are you not allowing us to speak?

MR. SPEAKER : You are not allowing me also to speak. What is this? You are a senior Member. Please take your seat first.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am on my legs. Please take your seat. The hon. Railway Minister has made a *suo motu* statement stating all these things, and also appointed a Supreme Court Judge to go into the matter.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : An inquiry has been ordered. What is new in it?...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : They are having so many reports. What about the other inquiry reports?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Within two years, three accidents had taken place at the same place. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Now I call Shri Jaipal Reddy to speak..

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : I called Shri Jaipal Reddy to speak. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except Shri Jaipal Reddy's version.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : There are other Members also who want to raise various important matters. Please allow the Chair to call them.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister has already ordered a judicial inquiry.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please, you sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, I have called Shri Jaipal Reddy now. I will call you after Shri Jaipal Reddy completes his submission. Please take your seat now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have given notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will call you after Shri Jaipal Reddy completes his submission. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you had promised to allow me to speak after Jaipal Reddy Ji, and now you are saying he will be allowed to speak first...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Prakash Paranjpe, you should not talk like this. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, I will call you after Shri Jaipal Reddy completes his submission. Please take your seat now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is with sorrow, not at all with anger, that I would like to draw the attention of the House, through you, to the notice I gave under Rule 184.

I would like to plead that senior Ministers, like Shri L.K. Advani, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi and Kumari Uma Bharti, should follow the example of their junior colleague, Shri Harin Pathak.

The whole House is aware that the CBI, after detailed investigations, filed a chargesheet naming the three Ministers I have referred to in the case relating to demolition of Babri Masjid on 6th December, 1992.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this matter has been raised here a number of times...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, he has not given a notice for 'Zero Hour'

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Shri Pramod Mahajan, I am explaining about the notice.

MR. SPEAKER : He has given a notice under Rule 184.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, the Sessions Court of Lucknow found a *prima facie* case. ...(Interruptions) The Ministers are still continuing. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, no. Shri Jaipal Reddy, you have given a notice. It is under my consideration.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : No, Sir. This is an important matter not to be ignored or delayed. ...(Interruptions) It is grossly atrocious, obnoxious and improper for these Ministers to continue in the Council of Ministers.

MR. SPEAKER : You have given a notice. How can you discuss it elaborately in this House? Your notice is under my consideration.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : The matter needs to be taken up immediately....(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : When you call a Member, how can a Minister interrupt him?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : How can a Minister—all, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs—interrupt? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : There is a *Prima facie* case.

MR. SPEAKER : Your notice is under my consideration. Please understand it.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Shri Harin Pathak was asked to resign following the chargesheet. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, this should not go on record.

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Nothing is more important than this matter.

MR. SPEAKER : You please understand that your matter is under my consideration. How can you raise this matter in the House at this stage?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Will you please hear me out completely. ...(Interruptions) You have not heard me.

MR. SPEAKER : You have given a notice.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : You were good enough to give me an opportunity.

MR. SPEAKER : You also very well know the procedure in the House.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : This is a matter of utmost importance. ...(Interruptions) This is a matter of supreme importance. No other matter is more urgent than this...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna) : What is the fate of his notice?

MR. SPEAKER : He has given a notice. It is under my consideration. How can he raise the matter at this stage?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Why not, Sir? ...(Interruptions) This is a matter which does not brook any delay at all.

MR. SPEAKER : Once the matter is under consideration of the Chair, how can you raise it?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, I am of the view that the House must take up the issue here and now. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are a good parliamentarian. You also know the procedure very well. Once the matter is under consideration of the Chair, how can you raise it at this stage? Please understand it. Now, Shri Adhir Chowdhary.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : The House is interested in taking up the case here and now. ...(Interruptions) No other matter is more important. ...(Interruptions) No other matter is more urgent....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : It is a matter of grave impropriety.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Adhir Chowdhary, are you going to raise the matter during 'Zero Hour'?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : How can he be interrupted by the Minister?

MR. SPEAKER : He can mention about the notice given by him. The Chair has already given his observation.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, I have explained the case in my notice. You were good enough to give me an opportunity. Kindly allow me to speak...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, he has not given a notice for this matter to be raised in 'Zero Hour'. On the pretext of mentioning his case in the 'Zero Hour' he is submitting the whole case...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Reddy, I have permitted you to mention the case in your notice. It is under my consideration. How can you raise it at this stage?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was the first to give the notice.

1231 hrs.

At this stage Dr. Girija Vyas and some other hon. Members came and stood near the Table.

1231¼ hrs.

[English]

At this state Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav came and stood near the Table.

MR. SPEAKER : Please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Reddy, please understand that your notice is under my consideration. I have permitted you to mention your case.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : First, you please sit down. I will call you later.

...(Interruptions)

1232 hrs.

At this stage Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav went back to his seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

1233 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock

1401 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at one minute past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, we shall take up Matters under Rule 377. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, a serious railway accident has taken place. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you after raising Matters under Rule 377.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Matters under Rule 377 can be laid on the Table of the House.... (Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please permit me to say something. This is a very urgent issue. It involves grave impropriety... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Everyday you are doing the same thing and the Members are also not happy about it. I will allow after raising Matters under Rule 377.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai) : Sir, we are demanding the resignation of the Minister of Home Affairs... (Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Matters under Rule 377 can be laid on the Table of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk) : Have you converted this House into a battleground of politics? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vijay Goel, please sit down. Nothing should go on record except what Shri Prahlad Singh says.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jaipal Reddy, please sit down. I have already called Shri Prahlad Singh Patel. I will allow you after raising Matters under Rules 377.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Sir, they rise whenever they feel like it.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vijay Goel, please take your seat. What is this?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except Matters under Rule 377.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Everyday you are doing the same thing. The Members have given their notices under Rule 377. You are not allowing them to raise the matters.

...*(Interruptions)*

1403 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) **Need to provide more railway facilities to the people of Madhya Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat) : Sir, even today there is a need to lay railway track from Madhya

Pradesh, the heart as well as Centre point of the country.

1. There is a need to electrify the railway track from Itarsi Junction from Jabalpur to Katni Junction on Mumbai-Calcutta main line in Central Railway.
2. Two important bridges on this main line providing freight and travelling facilities have become hundred years old. The first bridge is constructed on river Tawan and the other is constructed on river Sher in Narsinghpur. Both of these bridges are overaged and have single line track. If unfortunately these bridges get damaged, then it would cause a great loss of life and property and the rail traffic would remain obstructed till further construction of the bridge.
3. Survey work of railway track from Gotegaon (Shridham) to Ramtek has been completed. It may kindly be extended upto Sagar so that the distance from North to South could be reduced atleast by 200 k.ms.

I urge upon the Union Government to complete the aforesaid works immediately.

(ii) **Need to provide more railway facilities at Ranchi in Jharkhand**

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi) Sir, many years ago, an announcement was made to open a D.R.M. Office in Ranchi, which is now the capital of Jharkhand. Foundation stone of the building was also laid by the Minister of Railway, but the work of construction of the building is still incomplete. I urge that this construction work may be expedited and the aforesaid office may be completely transferred from Aadra to Ranchi. There is a long pending demand, the capital of Ranchi may be connected to all important cities, many. I want to draw the attention of Ministry of Railways as well as the Union Government towards providing a Rajdhani Express train from Ranchi to Delhi, a Shatabdi Express train from Ranchi to Calcutta via Jamshedpur, a superfast train from Bokaro to Mumbai via Ranchi, and to convert the metre gauge line from Ranchi to Tori via Lohardaga as also to connect railway line from Lohardaga to Tori in the public interest. Jharkhand State can develop swiftly when these facilities are provided....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, in the morning I have allowed Shri Jaipal Reddy to raise the matter. Please understand. You are not allowing the other Members to take part in the proceedings of the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is after raising matters under Rule 377.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except Matters under Rule 377.

...(Interruptions)*

(iii) Need to provide stoppage of trains at Mandawali Railway Halt and also construct Halts at Nand Nagri and Dharmapura Ajitnagar in Delhi

[Translation]

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the recent past, I had demanded for construction of three new halts at Mandawali, Nand Nagri and Dharmapura in Ajit Nagar, out of which the construction work of Mandawali railway halt has started, but has not been completed as yet. I request that this work may be completed soon and arrangements may be made for providing a halt to the trains at these places...(Interruptions) No action has been taken till date for construction of the aforesaid two railway halts. Keeping in view the increasing population of Delhi, if these railway halts all constructed immediately the people shall not have to face large crowds and the commuters going to New Delhi from Old Delhi, shall be facilitated at these halts...(Interruptions)

So, through you, I demand that immediate arrangements may be made to provide a stoppage of the trains at Mandawali Railway Halt and the construction work of other two railways halts may be started after proper approval....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except Matters under rule 377.

...(Interruptions)*

1407 hrs.

At this stage, Dr. Girija Vyas some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except Matters under Rule 377.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : If you want to say anything, you can say after Matters under Rule 377. Please go to your seats

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seats. You have to allow them also. Many Members have given notices under Rule 377.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the proper way.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record please.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record, except Matters under Rule 377.

...(Interruptions)*

(iv) Need to ensure that farmers of Gujarat get amount due to them under Crop Insurance Scheme

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka) The Government have done commendable job by implementing the Crops Insurance Scheme in the entire country and covering maximum number of items in it, due to which the farmers have heaved a sigh of relief from the loss occurred to them due to the natural calamities.(Interruptions) Many farmers are getting benefitted by this scheme, but the farmers of Gujarat, who had participated in this scheme, have not been paid the Crop Insurance amount for the last five years...(Interruptions) Amongst them, the number of farmer are more in Ahmedabad and Bhavnagar districts of my constituency. Alongwith this, there is a long list of farmers of entire Saurashtra and Northern Gujarat waiting for payment of Insurance amount...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please raise this matter after items under Rule 377 are finished.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : The arrear of the Crop Insurance Scheme should be given to the Government of Gujarat by the Union Government so that

the State Government may pay back to farmers by adding its share in the arrear. This will further strengthen farmers confidence in the Crops Insurance Scheme. I hope that the Union Government would satisfy the farmers by taking immediate steps in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The rest of the Matters under rule 377 may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

(v) Need to provide financial assistance to State Government of Karnataka for providing relief to the people affected by Floods*

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA (Hassan) : Sir, continuous heavy rains have caused severe damages in many districts of Karnataka including Gulbarga, Bidar, Chitradurga, Dauana Gere, Dharwar, Haveri, Uttarakanna Da, Dakshina Kannada. Apart from loss of human and cattle life and property, there are many instances of land inundation and severe sea erosion. Many irrigation tanks were breached and extensive damages reported. Land slides are reported from ghats sections and roads are badly damaged. Health and sanitary conditions are badly affected causing untold misery. The loss of public property is as follows :

- (1) Roads—Rs. 298.15 crore
- (2) Bridges—Rs. 49.78 crore
- (3) Public Buildings—Rs. 8.79 crore
- (4) Irrigation Tanks—Rs. 32.98 crore
- (5) Private Houses—Rs. 16.38

The estimated total loss is Rs. 406.08 crore.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to send a special study team to survey the affected areas of Karnataka and release at least Rs. 350 crore to Karnataka immediately for flood relief works in the State.

(vi) Need for maintenance of Rymbai-Batau-Huroi-Borsara-Jalapur road at Indo-Bangladesh border by Border Road Organisation*

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH (Shillong) : Sir, a strategic border road at the Indo-Bangladesh border under the scheme "Construction and Improvement of Rymbai-Batau-Huroi-Borsara-Jalapur" which also includes Sonapur-Hurai-Hangria-Borghat Road, in Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya was initially taken up by BRTF. Substantial work was done for some reasons, the road was taken over by the State PWD

and consequently, due to financial constraints, maintenance of the road has been extremely poor. The present condition of the road is very bad and road formation was eroded in many places making the road unfit for plying of vehicles. The people are facing extreme hardships in terms of lack of communication which is adversely affecting social services, trade and economic activities. I request the Government to direct the Border Roads Organisation to take up the work without loss of time.

(vii) Need to review the decision to suspend registration and release of plantation subsidy to tea growers of Arunachal Pradesh*

SHRI RAJKUMAR WANGCHA (Arunachal East) : Sir, the Tea Board has suspended registration, release of plantation subsidy etc. to the tea growers in Arunachal Pradesh on specific directives from the Ministry of Environment and Forests. This action, without consulting the State Government, is derogatory to the interests of Arunachal Pradesh whose forest cover is around 75 per cent of the total geographical area, besides the Protected Area Network (PAN) and Biosphere Reserve percentage being much above the national and international average. Moreover, the cultivation of tea was taken up initially in 1976 by the State Forest Department itself. The present cultivation is executed mostly in contiguous non-forest areas including private/community land. Cultivation of tea for all practical purposes is a forestry operation considering the green cover, soil conservation, tree planting besides its medicinal value.

Therefore, there is urgent need for the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests to immediately rescind the order in the interests of farmers of this under-developed State.

(viii) Need for early construction of Sethu Samudram Project in Tamil Nadu*

SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai) : The completion of Sethu Samudram Project in Tamil Nadu has been pending for the past 140 years even after 12 of the 13 Committees to study the feasibility have okayed it pointing out that it is essential.

Presently, even Inland Shipping Carriers from the Western Coast to Eastern Coast have to go round Sri Lanka. The distance between Tuticorin and Chennai is 404 kms. but this circuitous route in the absence of Sethu Samudram Project entails an additional surface distance of 803 kms. consuming more time, energy and cost involved in paying at Colombo Harbour. But we could earn foreign exchange through arrival of more foreign ships by completing the Sethu Samudram Project. Experts have

* Treated as laid on the Table of the House.

* Treated as laid on the Table of the House.

also pointed out that this would help developing about 15 harbours in West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu in the Eastern Coast. Our fishermen have to go to *Katcha Tivu* to get quality fishes and they are also shot at by Sri Lankan Navy every now and then. But the Sethu Samudram Project would help our fishermen to get quality fishes in our own waters.

I urge upon the Union Government to set apart the entire sum that would cost the Sethu Samudram Project and to include it in the ensuing Budget for the year 2001-2002 so that both Tamil Nadu and our great Nation India are greatly benefited.

(ix) Need to sanction special funds to tackle acute drinking water problem in the Peddapalli Parliamentary Constituency, Andhra Pradesh*

DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI (Peddapalli): Peddapalli Parliamentary Constituency is spread over 7 Assembly segments in two districts namely Karimnagar and Adilabad. Five Assembly segments of Karimnagar district have 23 Mandals and two Assembly segments of Adilabad district have 11 Mandals. All these segments are under severe drought and people are having enormous drinking water problem. Cattle are dying and the people are in the clutches of death. This has been going on since ages.

I request the hon. Minister for Rural Development to sanction special and extra funds to the 7 Assembly segments namely Manthani, Peddapalli, Myadaram, Huzurabad and Indurthy of Karimnagar district, and Chinnur and Luksettipet Assembly segments of Adilabad district so that the thirst deaths can be prevented immediately and the long-term drinking water strategy can be worked out.

I request, through you, Sir, to treat it urgent and accord sanction and release funds as soon as possible.

(x) Need to provide Natural Gas to Makhanpur Industrial area in Ferozabad Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Ferozabad) : There is one Makhanur Industrial Area in my constituency Ferozabad (U.P.), where dozens of glass units are established. Glass industry of Ferozabad is famous in the entire world. Thousands of items of glass, apart from bangles, are manufactured here. Makhanpur was once under district Mainpuri, people had very enthusiastically established glass units here after the Government declared this area as a backward area. After Ferozabad was

declared a district all these industrial units of Makhanpur were included into it which were earlier in district Mainpuri. In order to protect Taj from pollution. The Taj trapezium area was earmarked by the order of Supreme Court and supply of Gas was ensured to the Industrial units run by coal in that area. The industrial units based on coal and oil in Makhanpur cannot compete with the units based on Gas in Ferozabad, and as a result the Glass Units of Makhanpur are now closed for the last 3 years. Thousands of laborers living in villages adjacent to Makhanpur have been rendered jobless due to closure of glass units of Makhanpur.

I demand from the Government to issue orders for supply of Gas to Makhanpur area without delay in order to protect the jobs of thousands of labourers and to remove the severe financial crisis faced by industrial units.

(xi) Need to supply electricity to Maharashtra from National Grid to mitigate the hardships being faced by farmers of the State*

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani) Condition of the farmers in Maharashtra, is miserable due to shortage of electricity. Farmers are unable to irrigate their fields due to heavy load shedding. The current period is the reason for cultivation of Rabi crops, but the farmers are facing a lot of difficulties due to irregular supply of electricity. The State Government, on the other hand, is asking them to pay the electricity bills immediately and the power of the farmers is being cut, who are unable to pay the bills immediately. The farmers had launched a 'Chakka Jam Movement' on 6th November on this issue and they have infact become very violent and angry.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government through this House to intervene in this matter immediately and alongwith ensuring sufficient supply of electricity from the National Grid defer the payment of electricity bills of the farmers for some time.

(xii) Need to initiate time bound programme for eradication of Leprosy from Orissa*

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (Cuttack) I draw the attention of the Government towards the increase in leprosy cases in Orissa. Despite a concerted against leprosy launched in Orissa way back in 1980s, as many as 10,000 new cases of the disease are reported every year in the State. The prevalence rate of the disease in Western Orissa is very high compared to the national average.

* Treated as laid on the Table of the House.

* Treated as laid on the Table of the House.

Orissa now comes next to Bihar in the incidence of leprosy cases, where on an average, ten out of every 10,000 have the disease. The districts bordering Madhya Pradesh register a higher incidence of leprosy. Bargarh district in Western Orissa has highest rate of 38 per 10,000 followed by Jharsuguda (26.5), Sambalpur (19) Boudh (18) Sonepur and Sundargarh (15) each. The national average of leprosy cases is one per 10,000. Bihar alone accounts for 60 per cent of the total leprosy cases in the country and 40 per cent of the total leprosy cases in the country and 40 per cent of the whole world.

I request the Government to initiate a time bound programme to eliminate this deadly disease from Orissa.

(xiii) Need for early implementation of Integrated Hogenzkkal drinking water scheme in Dharmapuri district in Tamil Nadu*

SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN (Dharmapuri) : There is need to implement the Integrated Hogenzkkal Drinking Water Scheme in Dharmapuri District of Tamil Nadu to save the 25 lakh people from the clutches of fluoride contaminated ground water and fluorosis which results in bone, dental, heart and other anatomical disorders, reduces the overall life potential of the people of this District. Hence I urge upon the Government to implement

the Hogenakkal Drinking Water scheme to save millions of life in Dharmapuri District.

(xiv) Need to lay broad guage railway line between Jhargram and Purulia in West Bengal*

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia) : Sir, a large part of Purulia district in West Bengal has not been included in the railway map of India. It is a long standing demand of Purulia to construct a new railway line from Jhargram to Purulia in South Eastern Railway. It will shorten the distance between Orissa and New Delhi. It will also benefit Haldia Chemical and Purulia Pump Storage Hydro Electric Project.

I urge upon the Government to construct a new broad guage railway line from Jhargram to Purulia. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

1409 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, December 5, 2000/Agrahayana 14, 1922 (Saka).

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