

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**

**Ninth Session**  
**(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)**



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# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

Thursday, May 16, 2002/Vaisakha 26, 1924 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record. Whatever the hon. Member said will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*\*

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: This is a newspaper report. It has been published in Gujarat. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have removed it from the record.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): When rocket launcher was found in Gujarat, who supplied that ...*(Interruptions)* What was going on there at that time. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Yesterday only it was decided that the hon. Members would not disturb the Question Hour. After the Question Hour, during Zero Hour, you can raise this matter, if you want to.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Ramdasji, please take your seat. It is not proper. Please let the Member ask the question, who has raised it.

...*(Interruptions)*

11.01 hrs.

## ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTIONS

[English]

### DD/AIR Transmission Facilities in the Country

\*721. SHRI C.N. SINGH:  
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the cities and towns in various States where Doordarshan/AIR transmission facilities have not been provided till 2001;

(b) whether the Government propose to establish transmission facilities in these places during the current year;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the target set during the Ninth Plan to provide Doordarshan/AIR transmission facilities in cities and towns of the country was achieved;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the amount allocated to provide such facilities during the last three years and the amount actually spent?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (g) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### Statement

(a) to (c) Doordarshan/AIR signals are at present being transmitted in Terrestrial and/or Satellite modes. For satellite transmission. It is not necessary to install transmitter in various cities and towns. Signals can be received by using appropriate antennae and receiver sets. In terrestrial mode. DD's present coverage is 90 per cent by population and 77.5 per cent by area, whereas AIR coverage is 99 per cent by population and 90 per cent by area. It is the endeavour of DD/AIR to gradually cover the remaining area/population. The Transmitter projects to be established during the current year are given in the Annexure enclosed.

(d) and (e) Details of the projects targeted and completed during the 9th Five Year Plan are given below:

	Targeted	Completed
Doordarshan	603	509
All India Radio	92	88

(f) Delay in completion of the remaining projects was due to (i) non-availability of sites (ii) delay in construction of buildings and towers (iii) delay in supply of equipment (iv) law and order problems (v) closure of roads due to inclement weather conditions in hilly and remote regions.

(g) The amount allocated and spent during the last three years on these projects are:

Rupees in crores (approx.)		
	Allocated	Spent
All India Radio	452.93	375.00
Doordarshan	754.55	645.71

**Annexure**

**A—ALL INDIA RADIO**

State	Place
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	1. Machrela
Chhattisgarh	2. Saraipalli
Gujarat	3. Himmatnagar

**B—DOORDARSHAN**

*Transmitter projects Targeted to be completed during 2002-03*

State/UT	New Transmitters		Upgradation of interim HPTs to pmt. Setups	
1	2		3	
Andhra Pradesh	LPT	Miryalguda Kakinada (DDII) Nellore (DD II) Kolhapur Talakondapally	HPT	Vishakhapatnam-(DD-II)
	VLPT	Madipadu		
Assam	LPT	Satarsal		
Bihar	LPT	Gaya (DD II)		

1	2
Jammu & Kashmir	4. Bhadarwah
	5. Naushera
	6. Kupwara
	7. Rajouri
	8. Khalsi
	9. Diskit
	10. Nyomarap
	11. Drass
	12. Tiesuru
	13. Padum
Kerala	14. Manjeri
Madhya Pradesh	15. Mandla
	16. Rajgarh
Manipur	17. Churachandpur
Orissa	18. Soro
Tamil Nadu	19. Dharmapuri
West Bengal	20. Shantiniketan



1		2		3
Chhattisgarh	LPT	Pandaria	HPT	Ambikapur
Gujarat	HPT	Rajkot (DD II)	HPT	Surat
				Surat (DD II)
	LPT	Vadodara (DD II)		
		Bhavnagar (DD II)		
		Jamnagar (DD II)		
Haryana	LPT	Hodal		
		Hissar (DD II)		
Himachal Pradesh	VLPT	Jhatingri		
		Kaja		
		Chirgaon		
Jammu & Kashmir	HPT	Naushera	HPT	Kupwara
		Tithwal		Gurez
		Samba		Poonch (DD II)
		Naushera (DD II)		Kupwara (DD II)
		Samba (DD II)		Gurez (DD II)
		Tithwal (DD II)		
	LPT	Pattan (mobile)		
		Patnitop (mobile)		
		Dharamsala (mobile)		
	VLPT	Boniyar		
		Gandoh		
		Gool		
		Gulabgarh		
		Gulmarg		
		Kapan		
		Amas		
		Chanani		
		Loran		
		Nagrota		
		Pulwama		
		Sudh-Mahadev		

1	2	3
	Tatapani	
	Thathri	
	Tiloi	
Jharkhand	LPT Bokaro (DD II)	
	VLPT Ramgarh Hill	
Karnataka	HPT Mysore	
	Dharwad (DD II)	
	Mysore (DD II)	
	LPT Davangere (DD II)	
	Bellary (DD II)	
	VLPT Huvini Hippargi	
	Kudligi	
Kerala	LPT Thrissur (DD II)	HPT Cannanore
	VLPT Erattupetta	
	Mundakayam	
Madhya Pradesh		HPT Gwalior (DD II)
Maharashtra	HPT Jalgaon	HPT Pune (DD II)
		Aurangabad (DD II)
	LPT Nashik (DD II)	
	Amravati (DD II)	
	Kolhapur (DD II)	
	Sangli (DD II)	
	Malegaon (DD II)	
	Akola (DD II)	
	Nanded (DD II)	
	Dhule (DD II)	
	Badlapur	
Meghalaya	LPT Cherapunji	
Orissa	LPT Bahalda	
Punjab		HPT Fazilka
		Jalandhar (DD II)

1		2		3
Rajasthan			HPT	Ajmer
Sikkim	VLPT	Zorethang		
Tamilnadu	HPT	Kodaikanal (DD II)	HPT	Kumbakonam
	LPT	Madurai (DD II)		
		Erode (DD II)		
		Tirunelveli (DD II)		
		Tirupattur (DD II)		
Tripura	LPT	Ambassa		
Uttar Pradesh	HPT	Faizabad	HPT	Lakhimpur
		Kanpur (DD II)		
Uttaranchal	LPT	Gopeshwar (Dewal)		
	VLPT	Bachher		
		Manila		
		Phata		
		Dugadda		
West Bengal	HPT	Kharagpur	HPT	Balurghat
				Krishnagar
A&N Islands	VLPT	Kalighat		
		Swaraj Gram		
Pondicherry			HPT	Pondicherry

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have asked as to which are the cities and towns in various states where Doordarshan/AIR transmission facilities have not been provided till 2001. In the reply given by hon'ble Minister it has been stated that setting up of transmitters in various cities and towns is not necessary for transmission through satellite. I would like to say that Patti is an area in Pratapgarh which does not receive the Programmes of Doordarshan and Akashvani properly. Patti is just in between Lucknow and Banaras. In the written reply given by the hon'ble Minister it has been stated that Doordarshan coverage is 90% and areawise 75.5 per cent whereas Akashvani coverage is 99 percent and areawise 90 percent. In that area neither TV set receives any channel of Doordarshan nor all the channels of Akashvani are received properly. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the issue of setting up

Doordarshan and Akashvani centres in Patti will be considered by her again or not. The world of radio and television has developed to a great extent but that area has been deprived of this facility. Is the hon'ble Minister aware of the fact that this will benefit 5-6 more districts nearby and all the channels of Akashvani and Doordarshan transmitted by Lucknow and Banaras Centres shall be received which will be highly beneficial. In the reply given for second part hon'ble Minister has stated. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask that in supplementary.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: This question has nine parts. It is a lengthy and important question.

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your second question.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Uttar Pradesh consists of the Parliamentary constituency of hon'ble Prime Minister, the leader of opposition, Sonia Gandhiji, Santosh Gangwarji and Joshiji but not a single Akashvani or Doordarshan centre has been set up there during last three years. In other parts of the country these centres have been set up. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to why Uttar Pradesh has been neglected?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member of Parliament has raised several supplementaries and I will reply to them one by one. First of all he has referred to the written reply given by me wherein it has been stated that it is not necessary to provide citywise transmission facilities. It is correct also. It is not necessary to provide citywise transmission facilities because LPT or HPT installed at a place has its specific range. Supposedly a 10 kilowatt HPT installed at one place covers the range of 70 kilometers then it is not necessary to provide additional transmission facility within radius of that 70 kilometer. Similarly LPT has a range of 20-25 kilometers and there is no need to install transmitter in cities and towns located in radius of 20-25 kilometers. In context of the reference made to my written reply I would like to say that it is not necessary to provide transmitters citywise.

You have made a mention of Patti tehsil of your constituency. Parliamentary constituency of Shri Singh is Machhlishahar which covers Jaunpur and Pratapgarh districts. The whole district of Jaunpur is covered by HPT, installed at Varanasi and Lucknow. Pratapgarh district is covered by transmitter installed at Allahabad and there is no place in this radius which is not covered by them. You have made a mention of Patti and a survey is already being conducted about Raniganj tehsil. If this survey reveals necessity for installation of LPT there, it will cover Patti. As I have already told that installation of transmitter at Patti project is not necessary to cover the area. Your whole constituency is being covered by LPT and HPT installed at Allahabad and Varanasi.

You have made a mention that hon'ble Prime Minister, Soniaji and Santoshji have been elected from Uttar Pradesh but you have forgotten that I have also been elected to Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh itself and there is no point to neglect Uttar Pradesh. You have stated that not a single transmitter has been installed during last three years, it is not factual. I would like to inform that DD-II has been set up at Shahjahanpur and Sultanpur after I took charge of this Ministry. These were approved during my ministership and now these are going to be made functional. My predecessor is sitting behind me and he had stated that transmitter of Lucknow was

installed during his tenure, thus it is not factual to say that no transmitter has been installed during last three years. If LPT is installed at Raniganj Tehsil on recommendations of this survey, then 'Patti' will be covered. However, entire Parliamentary constituency, Machhlishahar is being covered by HPT and LPT installed at Allahabad and Varanasi.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have stated that Patti and Raniganj was one tehsil earlier and now this has been divided. It will be better if a centre is set up at Raniganj. The hon'ble Minister has stated that these have been provided at Shahjahanpur and Sultanpur and no mention was made regarding this in the reply. I have read the complete reply, there is a mention of Lakhimpur Kheri and not about sultanpur.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: It is not there because these were not installed during that period for which figures were demanded by you in the question. These were set up during 2001-2002. In the reply of a question the figures are given only for that year for which are asked.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Secondly, in the budget Rs. 452.93 crore were allocated for Akashvani out of which only Rs. 375 crore have been spent, Rs. 754.55 crore were allocated for Doordarshan out of which only Rs. 645.71 crore have been spent. Alongwith this I would like to draw your attention towards the corruption prevailing in Doordarshan and Akashvani. CBI has arrested several officers and an amount upto Rs. 2 crores have been recovered from some officers which were spread on their beds. There are rumours about Mandi House that corrupt practices are being adopted for passage of Doordarshan programmes. Irregularities are being committed by officers in purchase of instruments and thus instruments are not working properly, good ones are being stolen and bribe is taken for passing the programme. What efforts have been made to stop that. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to how many officers have been found guilty, how many officers have been punished and inquiry against how many officers is going on. Besides an announcement should be made regarding setting up a centre at 'Patti'. 'Patti' and 'Raniganj' is same.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I have already stated that survey of Raniganj is going on. It seems that LPT will be installed there but it is essential to examine that. You have stated that more funds were allocated to Akashvani and Doordarshan but less amount has been spent by them. My written reply explains that the target could not be achieved. The funds for Akashvani and Doordarshan are allocated as per the target fixed for

them and funds are to be surrendered if target could not be achieved. Less funds were spent because target could not be achieved. These figures are directly linked with each other. The second question has been asked about the officials and I would like to say that it is not a related question. If you want information regarding action taken against the guilty officials, I will send information about this separately.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister holds an important department thanks to Doordarshan and All India Radio Prasar Bharati.

The figures given by him show that the target has not been achieved during the last three years and the funds are still lying unutilized. 75-85% target has been achieved but not 100%. Why the revenue return from Doordarshan and All India Radio is decreasing? It was Rs. 711 crore in 2001 but this year it has decreased to Rs. 4.84 crores. Besides, the quality of programmes shown on doordarshan is also declining. What are the reasons behind it? Prasar Bharati is an autonomous body of Central Government for Doordarshan and Akashvani. It looks after the functioning of both doordarshan and Akashvani. The poor people can only afford to watch doordarshan channel as private channels are paid channels. Therefore, they only watch doordarshan. However, the quality and level of programmes shown on Doordarshan is declining and, it is not able to compete with the private channels like Star T.V., Zee T.V. or Aajtak. The reason is that the reporters and cameraman of Doordarshan are not getting adequate facilities. The Parliament news is telecast in the national bulletin on Doordarshan all over the country. But in Tamil Nadu, especially in Chennai, its telecast is stalled. The other programmes telecast in Hindi are also not shown. Prasar Bharati is an autonomous body. Why and on whose instructions is the telecast of Hindi programmes stalled in Tamilnadu especially in Chennai? Lakhs of people from North India are also living there. They want to see Hindi programmes and news on Doordarshan. Therefore, what action is proposed to be taken by the government to restart these programmes on Doordarshan in Tamil Nadu? I would also like to submit that the figures given by the hon'ble Minister regarding HPT are very low. In my area, Chandrapur, LPT is being upgraded and converted into HPT. This work is likely to be completed by the end of this month. Whether the conversion of LPT into HPT there will facilitate the telecast of metro channel also?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I would like to answer first the Part B of the question raised by the hon'ble Member as this question is related to his Parliamentary constituency. One may raise several other questions but

one is always eager to get the reply to a question concerning his own interest. Therefore, I will first give a reply in this regard.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: You may reply part B later on. First I would like to get a reply to part A as it is more important and is related to the country's official language which is being treated with contempt in Chennai. People of Chennai want to see Hindi programmes also. Even the telecast of 'Aaj Tak' has been stalled completely.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: All right, I will reply in the same order in which he has posed the questions. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: I had expressed the same concern yesterday, today he is mentioning it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: May I give a reply to your question also without having the supplementary asked by you.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: I will not ask a supplementary. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Shri Puglia has first of all stated that the target has not been achieved. Only 80% target has been achieved and not 100%. It is true. Figures have been given in writing but there are certain reasons due to which the target could not be achieved. I am myself pained by not achieving the target and there should not be any rationale behind it. However, sometimes things go out of our hands and such a rationale prevails. Approx. 94 projects of Doordarshan are still incomplete. The reason is that the company to which the work regarding installation of towers for HPTs was assigned, failed to complete the job. Similarly, some of our plans were not approved on time due to which the target remained incomplete. However, through you, I would like to assure the hon'ble Members that we are making arrangements to ensure that such a situation does not arise in future so that nobody could steal an opportunity to complain about non completion of targets. So far as the quality of the programmes shown on doordarshan and the allegation that doordarshan is unable to compete with Aajtak, Star TV etc. is concerned, I must say that it is factually incorrect. We living in Delhi have an access to all the channels, so there is a general feeling that Doordarshan has failed to compete with private channels. However, if a survey is conducted all over the country, we will find that TRP of Doordarshan is more than the PTRP of all the satellite channels if combined together. Therefore, it is inappropriate to say that the quality of

Doordarshan programmes is declining or Doordarshan is unable to compete. If it is true that transmission of Parliamentary news is stalled in Chennai and Tamilnadu, we will definitely resolve the matter. However, it would be inappropriate to say that Hindi Programmes are not shown on DD-I. We have given a full fledged window for regional satellite service and DD-I is telecast all over the country. All regional programmes on DD-I are shown in the same regional language. Therefore, it is inappropriate to say that DD-I programmes are not shown there. You yourself belong to Mumbai and you must have noticed that Marathi programmes are shown only on regional service there. Rest of the D.D. National programmes are shown in the same language all over the country in which they are telecast. Doordarshan's regional service, DD-I and Metro channel—all three are being transmitted all over the country.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Madam, please update your information. No Hindi programmes are shown there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. Please do not disturb.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if I do not get the correct information, then it is my right to intervene. Please protect me. If the hon'ble Minister is not giving the right information to the House. ...*(Interruptions)* We made a written complaint to madam on 6th March. I have received several letters from Chennai and Tamilnadu and we have made complaints in writing. Therefore, she may please get the matter investigated. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, even before this issue was raised by the hon'ble Member, I stated that I have received this information today only and I will definitely make investigation in this regard and resolve the matter. Now, I will give reply to part B of the question. In part 'B' he has mentioned that HPT is being installed in Chandrapur and is likely to be completed after this month. I may tell him that the installation of HPT has been completed and there is no delay of a month. I would like to ask the hon'ble Member of Parliament to fix a date as per his convenience because he has to inaugurate that HPT. We have decided not to delay its commissioning and to inaugurate it by the local member as per his convenience. 40 such inaugurations have been made till date. He may give a convenient date even today. The inauguration of the HPT can take place within one week after session comes to an end

because the existing MPT is being removed from there and is being converted for Transmission of DD-II.

Firstly, I would like to submit that MPT is fifteen years old and it's life span is approximately of 15 years only. So, its life is almost over and it is of no use.

Therefore, it will not be possible to convert that LPT into DD-II, because it's life is almost over and for there HPT is ready.

Besides, this hon'ble Member from Chhattarpur was saying that he will not rise, but his demand is long standing that LPT of Chhattarpur should be upgraded to HPT and also it should be installed in Laundi. Sir, with your permission, I would like to inform the hon. Member that examination is going on to upgrade LPT of Chhattarpur into HPT. The condition of that LPT is also same and it is 15 years old. Therefore, it cannot be installed in Laundi, but examination in regard to HPT is going on.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Sir, the reply to my last question has not been given.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Your question is not related to this. If you ask it separately, I will reply.

*[English]*

SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask whether the hon. Minister is aware that TV transmission especially in the hilly areas and western *ghats* of Maharashtra, in Konkan, Jawali, Patan and Shirala *Tehsils* of my Constituency is not up to the mark.

So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any scheme or planning to improve the transmission in western *ghats* by erecting a special tower of LPT or HPT especially in Vasantgarh in Karad *Tehsil*, District Satara. This project had already been sanctioned but due to some political pressure it had gone from that area to somewhere else. Now, it is a long-pending demand of having a transmission tower in Vasantgarh in Karad *Tehsil*, District Satara.

So, I would like to know whether this will be taken in hand and completed in the near future.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga): Sir, same is the case in my Constituency in Karnataka. It is not upto the mark.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is one question asked by the hon'ble Member, but I have to give reply of two questions. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, it is true that transmission in hilly areas is different. Many times it so happens that we install transmitter, but the shadow of the Mountain comes in between due to which transmission is not clear. You would have observed that, when we give figures of population, then we give figures of area coverage also, and so is the difference. Today, in the figures provided by me, more population is covered, while area coverage is less. He raised the issue of Vasantgarh area. Karad and Satara Tahsil are specific areas. Therefore information has to be collected whether there is a scheme about Vasantgarh or not. If there would be any scheme, I will give you information. However, if there is no scheme, then examination would be got done as to whether to include it in Tenth Five Year Plan or not.

As far as the question of hon'ble Member from Karnataka, Shri S. Bangarappa is concerned, this thing is valid in the case also, which is true in case of the hon'ble Member.

[English]

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I appreciate that she is taking very keen interest as far as Jammu and Kashmir is concerned.

[Translation]

The border areas of Jammu & Kashmir state do not receive signals of Doordarshan and you have promised to set up radio stations in prominent places of border areas, the names of these places are with the hon'ble Minister. Through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister about the progress made in this regard.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am happy to announce in the House that we had formulated a special package of Rs. 430 crore for Jammu and Kashmir which included AIR, DD and other software. This package is approximately ready. In its 19 projects are remaining. Out of which six projects are of HPT and two LPTs each are to be installed in Naushera, Samba and Kishtwar. In Kishtwar the work in regard to DD-I and DD-II will get completed in July, and in Naushera and Samba, it will get completed in August. I have already told that the project is of Rs. 430 crores. We have planned that no area should be left out, and particularly border areas should be completely covered. The radio

station about which you are talking is Bhadarvah about which some problems are being faced. The site selected by us was under the occupation of security forces. Now, it has been got vacated and work regarding Bhadarvah radio station would be completed. I would like to assure the House that this year we will complete the package related with Kashmir.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has said that Doordarshan has covered 75 percent of area. I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Ministers towards Reeva district of Madhya Pradesh. You had visited that areas during election campaign and had promised that if Bhartiya Janata Party wins, you will completely transform the Reeva district. I would like to inform the hon'ble Minister that at present the situation is that Reeva district is deprived of DD-I and DD-II, because receiver, antenna or transmitter or other technical equipments install over there covers very less area. 75 percent people are deprived of national telecast. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister by when LPT would be upgraded into HPT so that entire area could be covered, and the area covered by the Doordarshan right now in the entire country is 75 percent. So, by when it would be made 100 percent?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Sir, the hon'ble Member reminded me that I had visited Reeva during election campaign and gave speech over there. It is obvious that during elections I would give only speech. There is nothing new about it. But the hon'ble Member was elected three years ago, and till now he has never said anything in this regard that 75 percent area of Reeva is not receiving national telecast. I am surprised to know that, because Reeva is not a hilly area.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Sir, I had written two letters in this regard. I will show you the copy of those letters. You are wrong in saying that I have not written any letter to you. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not interrupt in between. Let the hon'ble Minister reply.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: The hon'ble Minister said. I had never written any letter.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I said, I am surprised to know that 75 percent of Reeva is not covered, because Reeva is not a hilly area. If the Members of hilly area or remote area say that this is the situation in his area, then it has got some meaning. I am surprised to learn that 75 percent of Reeva is not covered. I would try to cover it.

As far as you said that by when the telecast would be available in the entire country, I would like to inform that it depends on the availability of resources. We have kept this target in tenth five year plan. Till now 90 percent population is the target and as we get more and more resources, we will make it 100 percent.

SHRI SOHAN POTAI: Sir, the hon'ble Minister said efforts are being made to make available Doordarshan and Akashvani broadcast facility in every nook and corner of the country. The Adivasi people live in the Bastar district of Chhattisgarh state, and the telecast/broadcast of all channels of Akashvani and Doordarshan is not clear in this remote area. The Pakhanjur area of my parliamentary constituency is such an area where the broadcast of not a single channel is not clear whereas the hon'ble Minister has said that effort is being made to telecast programme in every language in every concerned area. Through you I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether there is a scheme to set up transmitter or antenna in the Kanker, Bastar, and Dantewara district, after carrying out survey of these districts, as Akashvani and Doordarshan channels are not being properly received over here. If there is any scheme, whether the hon'ble Minister will get it completed this year?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a coincidence, that my junior colleague Minister of State is from Chhattisgarh state only and Chhattisgarh is one of the newly constituted three states, which had been constituted after the coming of this Government into power. We are trying to arrange special package for the area but I would like that my colleague Minister of State should take personal interest in redressing questions of the hon'ble Members.

[English]

SHRI VAIKO: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Minister for telling that the private channels cannot compete with Doordarshan. People all over the country view only Doordarshan because they cannot get the benefit of the private channels. Now, a great sports event is fast approaching us. This may not be related directly to the main question, since the Minister has said that Doordarshan can compete with the private channels, I would like to say that during the last World Cup Football, only doordarshan provided the spectacle to all the viewers throughout the country. This is the biggest sports event of the world. The World Cup Football attracts the largest viewers throughout the world. I would, therefore, like to request the hon. Minister to kindly give the same facility, as was given last time, so that the people throughout the country are able to see the World Cup Football. Would you do that?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let the hon. Minister reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Yesterday, I had asked the same question and the Minister had replied it also. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I thought of helping the Minister ...*(Interruptions)* The Minister in return will give us this facility. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, though the supplementary is not concerned with this question however keeping in view the mood of the House as yesterday too many of the hon'ble Members had raised the matter that was also related to the Bill, I would like to inform the House that presently the negotiation is going on. There are so many difficulties in it as the world rights are sold somewhere else and others purchase the world rights. Recently, we came to know that the ten sports has purchased the world rights and also territorial rights of it. You people think and the countrymen also want to enjoy world cup football through Doordarshan so I have talked to the officials of Prasar Bharati. Presently the negotiation is going on and keeping in view the sentiment of the country, efforts are being made by us to air the match through DO. After the negotiation I will inform the House as to what is the outcome.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to submit that whatever is done by the government is done in the public interest. Earlier, I had written a letter to the Minister but the reply to that letter was negative. In that letter I mentioned about the need to set up doordarshan Kendra and Akashvani Kendra at Masrakh which is an important commercial centre and a main town to Chhapra district. A survey was also conducted by the hon'ble Minister in which it was said that that area is covered by other centres. However, I would like to submit that Masrakh is located between Patna and Siwan which is adjacent to the border of Uttar Pradesh. You cover the distance through air but the quality of reception of doordarshan is not good and the reception is hazy there. I would like to request you that you please treat it as special case and using your power, set up doordarshan and Akashvani Kendra in Masrakh. Bihar is a Bhojpuri region and 60 percent people are Bhojpuri speaking. Earlier *chaupal* programme was being telecast by Patna-Doordarshan which was



discontinued but when I had written a letter to you in this regard the programme has probably been restarted. I want that 10 minutes Bhojpuri news bulletin should be repayed from Doordarshan so that 60 percent Bhojpuri speaking people should feel pride in it.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Hon'ble Member has submitted that I gave him negative reply about Mashraikh. In fact when I received his letter the Ninth Five Year Plan was at the verge of its closure and the financial resource was not available with us so our reply was negative. Now when you are asking this question the Tenth Five Year Plan has been launched. So we will again conduct survey in the changed circumstances and efforts will be made this time to send a positive reply. As far the question of Bhojpuri is concerned you yourself has confessed that *Choupal* Programme has restarted. As far the matter concerning the news is concerned we will look into the matter and will furnish reply in this regard.

[English]

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask one or two questions to the Minister. We have heard from the Minister that there have been packages for Jammu and Kashmir and the North-East. But we are not interested in packages. We want Doordarshan and Akashwani to cover the North-East area properly. Today, the situation is that the neighbouring countries, namely, China, Myanmar, and Thailand are blaring into the border areas through TV and Radio. Doordarshan and Akashwani are not able to cover these Indian border areas. Therefore, instead of talking about packages and special programmes, we should now concentrate and open up more stations in different dialects. For instance in Nagaland we have got 17 dialects. Most of the people do not understand Hindi and the rural people cannot understand English. So, more stations should come up with FM channels of one kilowatt. You should try to put them in all the District Headquarters to reach out in the remote areas.

Sir, we have one Doordarshan station in Kohima where staff is very few. Even the *chowkidars* and peons are used for making Doordarshan programmes for want of manpower. So, I would like to request the Minister to put more staff there so that they could give proper programmes in those remote places, not only in Nagaland but also in the entire North-East region.

With this, I would like to request the Minister to give a proper answer.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will give only proper answer in this regard. Through you I would like to submit to the hon'ble member that if special package is given by the Government for any specific region the general impression is that the Government is paying special attention to that region. To say that do not talk about special package. I would like to submit that in Border areas. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: The package are given by Doordarshan Akashwani are not functioning properly in the region.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: That is why I was telling that if Doordarshan would have full coverage and it would have been functioning well why we would have introduced special package. We have selected Jammu and Kashmir and North East for special package. Three new states were chosen for special package simply because we have special concern for them. In border areas Doordarshan reception is not good so we have prepared special package for North East in which provision has been made to those entire areas. As far your submission that several dialects are spoken there and Hindi and English are not understood, I would like to inform you in this regard that AIR news are telecast in all dialects. AIR news bulletins are telecast in more than 100 languages. Dialect changes at every 20 km. of distance and AIR telecasts news in that dialect. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when I was in UP Assembly never have I found that less than 14 questions were taken up in the Assembly. There upto 26 questions have been taken up but here if one question is asked it is asked in the form of a speech and the answer is also given in a speech form and we also resort to giving speech.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker Sir, if eight supplementary questions are asked instead of one then we will have to reply all the eight supplements. If I do not reply one question, the Members rise and tell that so and so was not replied. So hon'ble Mulayam Singh Ji I am not giving any speech. If one supplementary question is asked the reply will be given of one question only however if eight supplementary will be asked in one supplementary then the all eight questions will be replied otherwise the minister concerned will be declared inefficient.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I am also telling about myself but you are unnecessarily getting angry.

[English]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Sir, there is a major mistake in the written answer. One of the districts of Maharashtra has been shown as a district in Andhra Pradesh. This will have to be corrected. Otherwise it will go down wrongly.

MR. SPEAKER: It will be corrected.

[Translation]

The district will remain where it is. You please do not worry for this.

### Generation of Solar Energy

\*722. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of solar power generation potentiality in the country; and

(b) the quantum of solar energy generated during the last three years and till date?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the house.

### Statement

(a) The solar radiation energy falling over India is about 5,000 trillion kWh/year. The average radiation incident over a square meter of horizontal surface is about 5.5 kWh per day. There are about 250-300 clear sunny days in a year in most parts of the country. Solar Energy can be harnessed through two different routes: the solar photo voltaic (SPV) route for generation of electricity directly from sunlight and the solar thermal (ST) route for various heating applications and power generation. It is technically feasible to generate 20-35 MW of power from solar energy in India from 1 sq. km. of land area. If 1% of the land area of the country is utilized for generation of power from solar energy with an overall efficiency of 2%, over 600,000 MW of power can be generated.

This is, however, only the technical potential for power generation from solar energy. The cost of generation of power from solar energy is still high compared to conventional alternatives. Further, huge initial investments are required to set up large size solar power plants, even through their running costs may be significantly less compared to conventional power plants. Solar technologies for large scale power generation from centralized power plants have still not become economically viable anywhere in the world. However, decentralized generation and use of electricity from solar energy for small power applications through the SPV route has become very attractive in many situations. In addition, the use of solar energy for heating applications such as water heating and cooking through the thermal route is economically viable.

To exploit the solar energy potential optimally and in an economic manner, the Government is implementing country-wide programmes for the installation of solar energy systems for applications such as lighting, water pumping, electrification of remote villages and hamlets, water heating and cooking. Under the Ministry's programme, a large number of solar energy systems like solar lanterns, solar home systems, street lighting systems, solar water pumping systems, stand alone and grid connected SPV power plants, solar water heaters for domestic and industrial applications and solar cookers have been installed. During the past decade, many other organizations have also started using SPV systems for a variety of applications on a commercial basis, as they are found to be economically viable in comparison to other alternatives. These systems are being used to provide power for rural telephones, battery charging, water supply, railway signalling, low power transmitters, cathodic protection, etc.

(b) The aggregate capacity of SPV systems and power plants installed in the country for various applications till 31st March 2002 is about 55 MW (provisional). During the last three years such systems are estimated to have generated about 193 million units of electricity.

[Translation]

SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether any solar energy generation projects are under construction in the country especially in Maharashtra? If so what are their names and what is the installed capacity of the projects? How much amount has been spent on these projects till March 2002? How much amount is further required to complete the projects and by what time the construction works of each of the electricity projects are likely to be completed?

*[English]*

SHRI M. KANNAPPAN: The hon. Member has asked particularly about Maharashtra. I have no details of a particular State. He may put a separate question so that I can give the answer.

*[Translation]*

SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker Sir, whether flat panel are working in the country for the generation of electricity from solar energy? If so what is the location-wise details thereof? How much electricity has been generated during each of the last three years and State-wise details thereof and what steps are being taken by the Government to promote the power generation of solar energy?

*[English]*

SHRI M. KANNAPPAN: State-wise particulars are not available with me. He may put a separate question.

MR. SPEAKER: You may get the information and send it to him.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question has come out of the reply of hon'ble Minister. We are very fortunate that we are born in India. I am saying so because nature has bestowed us with many gifts. Hon'ble Minister has also said in his reply that nature has generously bestowed with many gifts to India.

*[English]*

There are 250 to 300 clear sunny days and as compared to some European countries, this is a gift of god to this nation.

*[Translation]*

If sun has risen today it will certainly rise tomorrow, will rise even after a year, or rise after 10 years and will continue to rise like this after three hundred and three thousand years, however there is no guarantee whether in European countries it will rise for 6 months or 10 years. That is why I am telling that we are fortunate.

*[English]*

It was formed as a separate Ministry in the year 1991.

*[Translation]*

It had special objectives however I feel that from 1999 to 2000 not any remarkable progress were made in this direction. The projects that have been launched.

*[English]*

They have also failed.

*[Translation]*

The hon'ble Minister has also stated the reasons in his reply. I would not like to go in detail about his however two technical reasons have been told to me.

*[English]*

There are two major reasons; one is the design problem and the other is the operational problem which are mentioned in the answer of the hon. Minister.

There are a lot of scope for R&D in this field. The first part of my question is whether the hon. Minister would enlighten me about the steps being taken by his Ministry for improving the cost benefit of solar photo voltaic route by tackling the operational and maintenance problems after the installation of the cell. Secondly, how much money has gone into R&D, production, subsidies and post-installation maintenance of photo voltaic cells since 1991?

SHRI M. KANNAPPAN: Research and Development projects are supported by the Government which are undertaken at any research organisation belonging to the Central Government, State Governments, autonomous societies, universities, recognized colleges, IITs, etc. Research and Development projects are scrutinised by the Committee of experts and forwarded for approval by the Government. World over, research and development efforts are progressing to reduce the cost of solar cells. In India also work has been done in the field of amorphous silicon solar cells at the Indian Association for cultivation of Sciences, Kolkata and the National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi and they have developed the amorphous silicon solar cells.

Now, the BHEL has set up a pilot plant with full funding from the Ministry. The present emphasis of research and development programme is to support improvements in silicon solar cells module technology, development of thin film solar technology to reduce the cost of solar cells and modules. There are the activities which they are doing under research and development.  
...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Sir, he has not answered my question.

MR. SPEAKER: He has replied to your question.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: No, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Speaker will decide it and not Shri Jadhav.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Power is necessary for development, and fossil fuel which is available to us is limited. So, it is necessary for us to use the perpetual sources of energy, and solar energy is something which can really help us. We have the information given to us by the Government that if we use one per cent of the land at 2 per cent efficiency, then 600,000 MW of electricity per year can be generated by us. The only hurdle in this is the improvement of the technology that is available to us. We have to have better quality of material for this purpose, a different kind of system and different kinds of equipment.

I would like to know from the Government as to what is it that the Government is doing to improve upon the material which is used for this purpose for developing a new system and equipment, whether they have a perspective plan or not, and what is the amount they are using for this purpose.

SHRI M. KANNAPPAN: Sir, to encourage large scale application of photovoltaic system in our country, we have given many incentives like import duty concessions on photovoltaic items. The duties have been progressively reduced over the years. At present, a customs duty of 0.5 per cent is applicable on various raw materials and consumables required for the manufacture of silicon wafers, solar cells and photovoltaic modules and 15 per cent duty is levied on solar cells and photovoltaic modules. However, for the World Bank-supported projects, there is no import duty on items. There is no excise duty levied on locally manufactured items like silicon wafers, solar cell modules and various photovoltaic cells. These concessions are already given by the Government for the solar energy units.

SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY: Is the Government aware that Kerala State is facing acute shortage of power? As a State having vast potential of non-conventional energy, how far are the various sources of such energy have been tapped so far? Is there any proposal in this regard from the Government of Kerala pending with the Union Government?

SHRI M. KANNAPPAN: There is no proposal of the Government of Kerala pending with the Central Government.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, at one point of time, solar energy was given subsidy both by the Centre and the States which made it attractive at least for the consumer to use it, despite poor quality and high maintenance that was required after that.

I want to ask, through you, the hon. Minister as to how much of influence the Centre can exert over the State Government to continue with the subsidy on solar energy. My second question is this, why is it that the Government does not have one component of solar energy in every Government installation that has been built across the country? It is because you could save on power generation cost and it will set an example for other areas. Can the Government consider special package for remote and tribal areas such as Khammam district where we have a lot of extremist activity? It would be useful if we could use solar power energy to light up those areas so that it could serve another purpose of containing the extremist violence in those areas.

SHRI M. KANNAPPAN: Sir, the MNES has been given the task of electrifying 18,000 villages in remote and difficult areas which cannot be served by the conventional grid. The MNES proposed to electrify these villages through decentralised generation using solar energy, small hydro-power and bio-mass depending on the size of village and the resources available. Electrification will be done either through installation of individual home system or through installation of a power plant in the village.

*[Translation]*

#### Hydel Power Projects

\*723. <sup>+</sup> DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether hydel power projects are under construction in the country;

(b) if so, the names thereof and the installed capacity of each;

(c) the total amount spent on the construction of these projects by March 2002;

(d) the amount still required to complete the construction of these projects; and

(e) the time by which the construction work of each power project is targeted to be completed?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (e) At present, 48 hydro electric projects with an installed capacity of 13,387 MW are under construction in the country. Details in respect of these projects are given in the Statement laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

*Ongoing Hydel Projects in the Country*

**Central Sector**

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	State	Installed Capacity		Latest Cost (Rs. Lakhs)	Exp. upto 03/2001 (Rs. Lakhs)	Balance to be spent (Rs. Lakhs)	Commng. Schedule	Remarks
			No.xMW	MW					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Nathpa Jhakri (NJPC)	H.P.	6x250	1500	766631	537090	229541	2003-04	
2.	Dulhasti (NHPC)	J&K	3x130	390	355977	287849	68128	2003-04	
3.	Chamera St. II (NHPC)	H.P.	3x100	300	168402	61634	106768	2004-05	
4.	Loktak D/S (NHPC)	Manipur	3x30	90	57862	1393	56469	2008-09	
5.	Teesta St. V (NHPC)	Sikkim	3x170	510	219804	16263	203541	2006-07	
6.	Dhaulti-ganga [NHPC]	Uttaranchal	4x70	280	157831	42714	115117	2004-05	
7.	Tehri St. I [THDC]	Uttaranchal	4x250	1000	569064	320746	248318	2002-04	
8.	Koteshwar [THDC]	Uttaranchal	4x100	400	130156	5826	124330	2005-06	
9.	Tuinal [NEEPCO]	Mizoram	2x30	60	44819	3759	41060	2006-07	
10.	Kopili St. II [NEEPCO]	Assam	1x25	25	9935	3945	5990	2003-04	
11.	Indira Sagar [NHDC]	M.P.	8x125	1000	338132	122655	215477	2005-06	
TOTAL: CENTRAL SECTOR				5555	2818613	1403874	1414739		

**State Sector**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>NORTHERN REGION</b>									
12.	Baglihar	J&K	3x150	450.00	381000	N.A.	N.A.	2006-07	
13.	Sawalkot	J&K	3x200	600.00	758600	N.A.	N.A.	2009-10	
14.	WYC-II	Haryana	2x7.2	14.40	9400	1540	7860	2003-04	
15.	Larji	H.P.	3x42	126.00	79698	28068	51630	2004-05	
16.	Shahpur-Kandi#	Punjab	2x40+ 2x40+ 1x8	168.00	166700	8280	158420	2006-07	
17.	Mukerian	Punjab	2x8.25	16.50	16000	54	15946	2006-07	
18.	Lakhwar Vyasi\$	Uttaranchal	3x100+ 2x60	420.00	144600	24351	—	11th Plan	
19.	Maneri Bhali-II@	Uttaranchal	4x76	304.00	124918	16290	108628	2006-07	
20.	Jakham	Rajasthan	2x2.5	5.00	2494	62	2432	2005-06	
<b>Total: Northern Region</b>				2103	1683410	78645	344916		
<b>WESTERN REGION</b>									
21.	Sardar Sarovar	Guj./ M.P./ Mah.	6x200 +5x50	1450.00	326725	219029	107696	2003-06	
22.	Bansagar Tons PH-II& PH-III	M.P.	2x15 +3x20	90.00	97081	82909	14172	2000-03	U-1 of PH-II Rolled U-1&2 of PH-III Commnd.
23.	Bansagar Tons PH-IV	M.P.	2x10	20.00	8497	536	7961	2005-6	
24.	Marikheda	M.P.	2x20	40.00	17738	N.A.	N.A.	2004-05	
25.	Ghatghar PSS	Mah.	2x125	250.00	120000	28626	91374	2004-05	
<b>Total: Western Region</b>				1850.00	570041	331100	221203		
<b>SOUTHERN REGION</b>									
26.	Srisaillam LBPH	A.P.	6x150	900.00	248200	226967	21233	2000-04	U-1&2 Commnd. U-3 Rolled
27.	Brindavan#	Ktk.	2x6	12.00	5124	830	4294	2004-05	
28.	Malankara	Kerala	3x3.5	10.50	4157	625	3532	2002-03	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
29.	Kuttiyadi Tail Race	Ker.	3x1.25	3.75	1338	790	548	2004-05	
30.	Pykara Ultimate	T.N.	3x50	150.00	37306	19137	18169	2002-04	
Total: Southern Region				1076.25	296125	248349	47776		
<b>EASTERN REGION</b>									
31.	Chandil	Jharkhand	2x4	8.00	3249	3067	182	2002-03	
32.	North Koel\$	Jharkhand	2x12	24.00	4734	3600	1134	10th Plan	
33.	Potteru	Orissa	1x3+1x3	6.00	1883	2041	N.A.	2002-03	Cost under revision
34.	Balimela Dam Toe PH\$	Orissa	2x30	60.00	6930	2000	4930	11th Plan	
35.	Rammam St.l#	W.B.	3x12	36.00	17659	18	17641	11th Plan	
36.	Purulia PSS	W.B.	4x225	900.00	318890	13391	305499	2006-07	
37.	Rolep-l#	Sikkim	2x4.5	9.00	4500	126	4374	2003-04	
Total: Eastern Region				1043.00	357845	24243	333760		
<b>NORTH-EASTERN REGION</b>									
38.	Karbi Langpi\$ [Lower-Borpani]	Assam	2x50	100.00	26727	14739	11988	2003-04	
39.	Dhansiri\$	Assam	5x3x1.33	20.00	7000	3997	3003	2004-05	
40.	Likim-Ro	Nagaland	3x8	24.00	21588	19116	2472	2001-03	U-1&2 Commd.
41.	Myntdu	Meghalaya	2x42	84	363	130	233	2006-07	
Total: North-Eastern Region				228.00	55678	37982	17696		
<b>TOTAL: STATE SECTOR</b>				<b>6301.15</b>	<b>2963099</b>	<b>720319</b>	<b>965351</b>		
<b>Private Sector</b>									
42.	Baspa ST-II	H.P.	3x100	300.00	94923	100179	N.A.	2003-04	Cost under revision
43.	Dhamwari Sunda	H.P.	2x35	70.00	43995	167	43828	2005-06	
44.	Neogal	H.P.	2x7.5	15.00	9125	300	8825	10th Plan	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
45.	Vishnu Prayag	U.P.	4x100	400.00	161466	25800	135666	10th Plan	
46.	Srinagar#	U.P.	4x82.5	330.00	169912	3480	166432	2005-06	
47.	Maheshwar	M.P.	10x40	400.00	167300	58892	108408	2005-07	
48.	Bootha-nthankettus\$	Ker.	16.00	16.00	4726	N.A.	N.A.	10th Plan	
TOTAL: PRIVATE SECTOR				1531.00	651447	188818	463159		
TOTAL: ALL INDIA				13387.15	6433159	2313011	2843249		
Hydro Capacity already spun/ Commissioned out of the above.				—	521.00				
Net Hydro Capacity under Execution				—	12866.15				
#Works of the project are yet to be taken up.									
\$Works of the project are held up.									

## [Translation]

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is about electricity and it is a very important question. Today, electricity is not a luxury, it has become a necessity. Electricity has become an integral part for the development of country and an individual. It is the responsibility of the Government to ensure that electricity is easily made available to the people of country in sufficient quantity and at reasonable rates and to discharge this responsibility, the Hydel projects of Government of India have their own significance in this regard. Through Hydel projects, electricity can be generated at lower cost, that is why these projects have their own significance. Through you, I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister whether the Government have made any review of the reasons leading to delay in the implementation of these projects. If so, when and how many times the Government have considered the reasons for delay in regard to each project, the reasons for the delay and the measures taken to deal with those factors and whether the said reasons have occurred time and again in various projects. If so, the reasons therefor?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hydel-electric generation capacity of our country is more than 1,50,000 MW. But unfortunately, we have been able to exploit only 17% of this potential. Even today, 83% potential remains unexploited. As you have said correctly that if we generate hydel power, then we will be able to

address the concerns of country's fuel security and energy security for long term. Therefore, it is very essential that in future we should exploit more and more hydro-potential. It is seen that at the time of completion of project, its original cost exceeds enormously because of time overrun. It has been observed that whenever any project is undertaken, there is always a delay of 15 to 20 years and the original cost of some projects increased by more than 700 to 800%. There is a need to know the reasons for this and think as to what steps should be taken in this regard. There is a Standing Committee for this which go into all these things. But I hold that it is essential that we should take preventive steps at the time when the projects are undertaken to ensure that its cost should not increase and the projects are completed in time. That is why, for the first time in the history of India, we have got the preliminary survey and investigation for 1,50,000 MW potential done through GIS and GPS. I hold that this is a fundamental work which we have undertaken in our country and we have 400 projects having a potential to generate more than 1 lakh, 60 thousand MW electricity. We have undertaken a complete ranking study of all such projects. We have conducted basin-wise survey of our six river flowing systems. After conducting this survey, we have discussed this with all states which are having hydro-potential and alongwith this we have also held a discussion with all nations of the world, like Canada, America, Norway and Sweden etc. which are ready to give their co-operation in the development of hydro-electric potential. With the help of such countries, we will conduct



a survey in the month of June or July for exploitation of this potential and I believe that after that in future we will be able to exploit full potential. Alongwith this, it is also essential, as hon'ble member has said that the cost of projects should not increase and for this a committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of our Solicitor General, Shri Harish Salve to look into it and to ensure that our system remain simple and transparent. There should not be any misgiving among people and there should not be any scope of any misuse and abuse of that system. That report will be submitted within three months. I will lay that report before the House so that there is a lesser possibility of cost overrun and time overrun in all future projects.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: In the reply, it has not been stated in detail as to when it was considered. Whether the hon'ble Minister would be pleased to send a reply in detail.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: I thought that you might have read the reply, that is why I have not sent detailed reply.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: Sir, if we have a glance at today's situation, we will find that neither domestic consumer nor farmer is in position to pay electricity bills. The reason is that the cost of electricity is very high due to which the amount of bill to be paid is also very high. They are not getting electricity at the cost which is affordable. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether any assessment has been made by the Government in regard to the cost of electricity generation through these on-going hydro electric projects? If so, what is the electricity generation cost of each ongoing project and cost of installation of each 1000 MW Power generation project and the details thereof?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: The cost of each of the projects is different because cost is fixed after taking into consideration the geographical conditions, security cost etc. However, if you want to know about any particular project, then information will be furnished to you. The statement which I have circulated, relates to all ongoing projects.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: I mean to say that electricity should be made available at cheaper rates.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: The Government are concerned about that. We have taken different steps so that the cost of generation and cost of delivered power remain less and I hope that through these steps, the cost of future projects would not be that much high as it used to be earlier in respect of previous projects.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to the reply given by the hon'ble Minister some of the Hydro-electric projects are scheduled to be completed during 10th Five Year Plan and some are in 11th Five Year Plan. Through you, I would like to submit that our past experiences are not good. I am not talking about Hydro-electric projects, but all the hydro projects which were launched in 1st Five Year Plan during Jawaharlalji's period, all those projects are yet to be implemented. The most important question is that if we formulate schemes and do not fix targets, then firstly the cost of production will increase and secondly the classes which are likely to accrue its benefit, even they remain deprived of that benefit. Through you, my humble request to hon'ble Minister is that there should be a time bound programme for completing projects which have been launched, otherwise the cost of production will increase and the classes which are meant to be benefited from those projects, they also remain deprived of that benefit.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know about the untapped power potential of the country after exhausting the power generation capacity of under construction Hydro-electric projects and those projects which are under consideration?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have said the total hydro-electric capacity of our country is estimated to be 1.50 lakh MW. Out of that, so far, we have been able to tap only 17% of this potential. Rest of the potential is yet to be tapped. The preliminary details of 399 schemes having a capacity 1,06,000 MW generation are ready and steps are being taken to implement them.

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## WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS

*[Translation]*

### Refund to Consumers

\*724. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases in which the Consumer Courts have directed the Railways to refund customers' money, State-wise;

(b) the expenditure incurred by the Railways on the payment of compensation;

(c) whether the Railways are taking any concrete steps to reduce the loss incurred on this account; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) The State-wise number of cases in which the consumer courts have directed the Railways to refund the money to the customers during the periods from 1.1.2000 to 31.12.2001 is as under:

S.No.	Name of States/ Union Territory	Number of Cases
1.	Assam	3
2.	Bihar	31
3.	West Bengal	7
4.	Madhya Pradesh	52
5.	Maharashtra	51
6.	Uttar Pradesh	122
7.	Gujarat	8
8.	Tamil Nadu	14
9.	Andhra Pradesh	32
10.	Karnataka	4
11.	Delhi	21
12.	Kerala	38
13.	Rajasthan	65
14.	Haryana	7
15.	Himachal Pradesh	13
16.	Chandigarh	20
17.	Punjab	34
18.	Jharkhand	5
19.	Orissa	4
20.	Chhattisgarh	3
21.	Other States	Nil
<b>Total</b>		<b>534</b>

(b) During the period from 1.1.2000 to 31.12.2001, an amount of Rs. 13,30,864 was paid in various cases as per the directions of Consumer Courts.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The reasons leading to these cases are analysed by the Railways from time to time and remedial steps are taken which include counselling

and training of staff to bring about attitudinal changes, monitoring of on-board services, simplification of rules and procedures etc. Action is also taken against staff for their negligence in performance of their duties.

[English]

#### **New Oil Refineries**

\*725. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:  
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:

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

(a) the details of oil refineries set up by the Government so far;

(b) the performance of each oil refinery during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have a proposal to set up new oil refineries during the Tenth Plan; and

(d) if so, the places identified for the establishment of these new oil refineries?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) So far, 16 oil refineries have been set up by the public sector oil companies. Their names, crude oil processing capacity and performance are given in enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Oil refining industry was de-licensed in June 1998. After delicensing, oil refineries can be set up by companies as per their requirement. The following new oil refinery projects are under implementation by the public sector oil companies during the X Plan:

- (i) 6 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) capacity refinery at Bina in Madhya Pradesh of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited at an estimated cost of Rs. 6,354 crore.
- (ii) 9 MMTPA capacity refinery at Paradeep in Orissa of Indian Oil Corporation Limited at an estimated cost of Rs. 9,982 crore.
- (iii) 9 MMTPA capacity refinery at Bhatinda in Punjab of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited at an estimated cost of Rs. 9,806 crore.

**Statement****Refineries Capacity Utilisation**

No.	Refineries	1999-2000			2000-2001			2001-02		
		Capacity MMTPA	Actual MMT	% Utilisation	Capacity MMTPA	Actual MMT	% Utilisation	Capacity MMTPA	Actual MMT	% Utilisation
<b>IOCL Refineries</b>										
1.	IOCL-Mathura	7.50	8.13	108	7.88	7.13	91	8.00	8.03	100
2.	IOCL-Koyali	11.25	11.11	99	12.50	12.00	96	13.10	11.70	89
3.	IOCL-Haldia	3.75	4.11	109	3.75	3.87	103	4.18	4.02	96
4.	IOCL-Barauni	3.30	3.41	103	4.20	3.12	74	4.20	2.88	68
5.	IOCL-Gauhati	1.00	0.91	91	1.00	0.71	71	1.00	0.66	66
6.	IOCL-Digboi	0.65	0.60	93	0.65	0.68	105	0.65	0.65	100
7.	IOCL-Panipat	6.00	4.15	69	6.00	5.71	95	6.00	5.82	97
	<b>Total</b>	<b>33.45</b>	<b>32.42</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>35.98</b>	<b>33.22</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>37.13</b>	<b>33.76</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>HPCL Refineries</b>										
8.	HPCL—Mumbai	5.50	6.00	109	5.50	5.58	101	5.50	5.63	102
9.	HPCL-Visakh	4.75	4.55	96	7.50	6.41	85	7.50	6.71	89
	<b>Total</b>	<b>10.25</b>	<b>10.56</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>13.00</b>	<b>11.99</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>13.00</b>	<b>12.34</b>	<b>95</b>
10.	BPCL-Mumbai	6.90	8.90	129	6.90	8.66	126	6.90	8.74	127
<b>CPCL Refineries</b>										
11.	CPCL-Chennai	6.50	6.38	98	6.50	6.05	93	6.50	6.12	94
12.	CPCL-Narimanam	0.50	0.64	127	0.50	0.58	116	0.50	0.57	113
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7.00</b>	<b>7.01</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>7.00</b>	<b>6.63</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>7.00</b>	<b>6.69</b>	<b>96</b>
13.	KRL-Kochi	7.50	7.83	104	7.50	7.52	100	7.50	6.80	91
14.	BRPL-Bongaigaon	2.35	1.91	81	2.35	1.49	63	2.35	1.48	63
15.	NRL-Numaligarh	2.90	0.21	7	3.00	1.45	48	3.00	2.31	77
16.	ONGC-Tatipaka	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.40	0.01	33
<b>Total PSU Refineries</b>		<b>70.35</b>	<b>68.83</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>75.73</b>	<b>70.96</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>76.91</b>	<b>72.11</b>	<b>94</b>

MMT-Million Metric Tones; MMTPA-Million Metric Tones per Annum.  
ONGC Mini Refinery at Tatipaka Commissioned on 3.9.2001.

### **Captive Power Policy**

\*726. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:  
SHRI Y.V. RAO:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are giving a major thrust to the captive power policy;

(b) if so, the details of the areas identified and the assistance to be given by the Union Government for setting up captive power plants;

(c) whether some States have conveyed to the Union Government about their decision to liberalise the captive power policies;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether many States have discouraged the captive projects as the State Electricity Boards stand to lose out on their cash cows the industrial sector; and

(f) if so, the details regarding the suggestions placed by the Government along with the guidelines issued in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (f) Under Section 44 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) are competent to give consent to setting up of captive power plants by various industries. Consultation with Central Electricity Authority (CEA) is necessary only in cases where the capacity of the captive power plant exceeds 25 MW.

The Government does not provide assistance for setting up captive power plants. Captive power plants are generally set up by an industry or a group of industries and the power generated is primarily intended for self consumption of the industry. The Government of India, through a circular letter dated October 9, 1995 has advised the State Governments/State Electricity Boards to encourage setting up of captive generation plants and to create an institutional mechanism which may allow captive power units an easy entry into the power sector by quickly clearing captive power applications, giving the developers a rational tariff for purchase of surplus power by the grid and third party access for direct sale of power to other industrial units.

On July 11, 2001 the Ministry of Power circulated a Captive Power Policy prepared by the Ministry of Power

in consultation with the CEA to all the State Governments and Union Territories. In this policy, the following has been included:

- \* If captive plant is of Hydro or cogeneration, such plant, irrespective of its size, may be permitted liberally.
- \* If captive power plant is based on coal or liquid fuel or gas such plant may be allowed and capacity of the plant permitted up to 200% of the requirement of industry (If the State is deficit in power).
- \* Captive power plant may be allowed if State/SEB or successor entity are unable to supply the required power supply. Such a captive power plant can be considered for the uninterrupted power supply to the industry even if the State is surplus in power.
- \* If the industry requires quality power supply which is not available, the proposal for installation of the captive power plant can be considered.
- \* If the cost of generation from captive power plant is found to be lower, the proposal may be considered after examining the cost and tariff.
- \* Units in Special Economic Zone (SEZs) and industrial estates may be allowed to set up captive power plants liberally.
- \* Banking facilities are proposed to be provided to Captive Power Plants (CPPs). The rates for banking may be determined on mutually agreed terms.
- \* Prior approval of SEB has to be obtained for wheeling of power. Wheeling may be done to any service (HT or LT). Wheeling charges may be worked out based on pooled rates worked out by Central/State Transmission Utility of that region.
- \* The tariff for sale of power from thermal and hydro CPPs, may be fixed after mutual discussion and could be based on pooled variable charge of thermal power stations operating under the SEB plus some percentage of the pooled variable charges as incentive. Tariff could also be based on the highest variable cost in the system or actual variable cost of CPP, whichever is lower and some percentage of the variable cost as an incentive.

- \* Third party sale is also permissible with the approval of SEB.

Most of the States/Union Territories have assured that the guidelines would be given due consideration. Several states such as Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Haryana, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand have forwarded copies of their own captive power policies. In these policies, through third party sales have not been permitted by the State Governments/State Electricity Boards, provisions have been made for evacuation of surplus power to the State grid from the captive power plants, depending upon the system requirements, on mutually agreed terms subject to the approval of the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions, wherever established. While some States have liberalized the procedure for giving permission for establishment of captive power plants, fixation of tariff and wheeling etc., others continue to have restrictive policies.

[*Translation*]

#### **Selection of Regional Programmes**

\*727. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down for the selection of regional programmes to be telecast through the Doordarshan Kendras;

(b) the number of proposals received from various States in this regard during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the number of such proposals as selected; and

(d) the action contemplated by the Government on such proposals?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Prasar Bharati has intimated that selection of regional programmes to be telecast through the Doordarshan Kendras is done by the Kendras as per the laid down guidelines of sponsored/commissioned programmes. The broad criteria for selection of serials under sponsored and commissioned category are as under:

- (i) Programme requirements of Doordarshan;
- (ii) Relevance of the story, theme, or subject to the needs of Doordarshan;
- (iii) Content/production value/quality of the programme;
- (iv) Revenue earning potential; and
- (v) Track record of the Director, Executive Producer, writer, crew etc.

All Kendras have full powers on programming pertaining to their regions within the overall policy of Doordarshan.

(b) to (d) Prasar Bharati has informed that the proposals are not received centrally, and that the Regional Kendras receive and select proposals at their own level.

[*English*]

#### **Low Turn-out in the Elections**

\*728. SHRI M. CHINNASAMY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have ascertained the causes of low voter turn-out in the elections in the recent years;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken or proposed to take any steps to increase the voter turn-out in the elections by bringing changes in the electoral reforms;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) According to the figures furnished by the Election Commission of India with regard to the general elections to the Lok Sabha held since 1952 onwards so far, it is not true to say that the percentage of voters' turn-out in the elections has been declining.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### **Exploration of Crude Oil by ONGC/OIL**

\*729. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of performance of ONGC and Oil India Ltd., during the last three years in so far as the exploration of crude oil and natural gas are concerned; and

(b) the details of the potential crude oil well and natural gas in the country including their economic feasibility, production and production cost incurred thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Details of performance of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) for exploration of crude oil and natural gas during the last three years, i.e. from 1999-2000 to 2001-02, are as under:

	ONGC	OIL
Seismic survey		
2 Dimensional (GLK/LK)	54,128	1,710
3 Dimensional (GLK/LK) (Sq. Km.)	474,678	—
Exploratory wells (no.)	439	32
Hydrocarbon finds (no.)	26	10
Ultimate recoverable reserves of oil plus oil equivalent of gas (MMT)*	167.61	24.50

\*Provisional

Note: GLK = Ground Line Kilometer; LK = Line Kilometer;  
Sq. Km. = Square Kilometer, MMT = Million Metric Tonne

(b) During the last three years, a total of 45 hydrocarbon finds have been made, 26 by ONGC, 10 by OIL and 9 by private/joint venture companies. The new discoveries are assessed by additional surveys, Geological and Geo-physical (G&G) studies and appraisal drilling to establish limits of the pool and its potential. Subsequent to the assessment, the fields are considered for development for which simulation runs are made on computer to establish the production potential, input requirements, investment profile and economic viability. Only those fields which are techno-economically viable are developed and put on production. However, in case of few discoveries in the existing producing basins, fields are at times put onto production utilising existing production installation or through installation of Early Production System (EPS)/Quick Production System (QPS). Only after a field is put onto commercial production on

completion of the assessment and development, quantum of oil production, cost etc. can be worked out.

[Translation]

### Recruitment in Army

\*730. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether physically fit and bright young boys and girls prefer pursuing career in other fields than joining defence services (Army, Navy and Air Force) In officers rank and as a result of which post of officers in all the three wings of the armed forces remain vacant;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has conducted any review/study to ascertain the reasons for this declining interest among the youths;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) whether his Ministry has launched any new scheme and programmes to attract the youths to choose their career as an officer in the three wings of the armed forces; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) Although with the opening up of the Economy the choice and job opportunities for the youth has increased, Armed Forces continue to remain an important option for physically fit bright young boys and girls. As a result of introduction of certain new Officer Entry Schemes and a continued media campaign targeting talented eligible youth, the response from the youth to join the armed forces has increased.

While no separate study in the matter has been undertaken, the trends are being constantly analyzed and monitored. Several steps have been initiated by the Government to improve the intake of officers in the armed forces. An Image Projection Campaign of the Army was launched in 1997-98 which made a positive impact on the availability and selection of candidates. Steps have been taken to continue the campaign and the IIIrd Phase of the campaign has been launched recently.

Indian Air Force has intensified publicity campaign to attract meritorious youth towards a career in the Air Force. Sustained publicity efforts are being undertaken by the IAF to attract talented youth into the officers cadre. Almost 3000 Schools and Colleges are on the mailing list for

the publicity material in this regard. Campus interviews are undertaken by qualified assessors from Selection Boards so as to interact directly with potential candidates and answer their queries about the service. Schools and colleges are visited regularly for motivational talks.

Extensive publicity and recruitment drives have been carried out by the Navy. Teams of Naval Officers visit reputed colleges and institutions to motivate the youth to join the Indian Navy. Focussed publicity drives are also being carried out through recruitment advertisements in various newspapers, TV channels and hoardings to attract more candidates.

#### **Funds Mobilised by IRFC**

\*731. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds mobilized by Indian Railways Finance Corporation (IRFC) during the last three years till date;

(b) the interest being paid by the IRFC thereon;

(c) whether the Railways have taken any steps to mobilize funds at lower rate of interest; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) The Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited (IRFC) has mobilized funds to the tune of Rs. 2996 crore, Rs. 2950 crore and Rs. 2185 crore during the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-02 respectively.

(b) Interest is being paid by IRFC at the average rate of about 11.7% per annum on the funds raised during 1999-2000, 11% per annum on the funds raised in 2000-2001 and 9.8% per annum on the funds raised in 2001-02. The amount of interest paid will vary from year to year based on the outstanding principal amount of the borrowings.

(c) and (d) Taking advantage of the fall in interest rates and the favourable liquidity conditions in the capital market, the Indian Railway Finance Corporation has in recent years raised borrowings at very competitive rates. The average cost of borrowing in respect of funds raised by the Corporation during the year 2001-02 has been less than 10% per annum. The benefits of lower cost of borrowing has been passed on to the Railways in the form of lower rates of lease charges for rolling stock financed out of market borrowings.

[English]

#### **Legislation for Recovery of Debts**

\*732. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:  
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a new legislation that would enable the financial institutions to recover debts from defaulters;

(b) if so, whether the debt recovery tribunals have failed to recover the debts in a time bound period;

(c) if so, the time by which a bill in this regard is likely to be introduced; and

(d) the other steps, the Government, propose to take to recover debts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Based on the recommendations of the Narasimham Committee I and II and Andhyarujina Committee, proposal for enacting a new law for regulation of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets, Enforcement of Security Interests and Formation of Asset Reconstruction Companies to enable the banks and financial institutions to recover their debts expeditiously from the defaulters is under consideration of the Government.

(b) The Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRT) are functioning effectively and efficiently. DRTs, over the period, registered a substantial improvement in the recovery of debts due to banks and financial institutions. The amount recovered through DRTs has increased from Rs. 752 crores in 1999-2000 to Rs. 1185 crores in 2000-2001 and to Rs. 2153 crores during 2001-2002.

(c) The Bill, namely, The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Bill, 2002 is likely to be introduced in the next Session of Parliament.

(d) The proposed law deals with three distinct action in respect of financial assets held by banks and financial institutions viz. Securitisation of Financial Assets setting up of Asset Reconstruction Companies and Enforcement of Security Interests. Government of India and Reserve Bank of India have advised banks and financial institutions to take several steps for recovery of dues such as

evolving and implementation of recovery policy, compromise settlements through Settlement Advisory Committees and monitoring and follow up of NPAs at various levels in the bank. The banks have also been advised to use the forum of Lok Adalats for compromise settlement of their NPAs and guidelines have been issued by RBI in May 2001 for making increased use of this forum to settle disputes involving outstanding balance in NPA accounts up to Rs. 5 lakhs. Credit Information Bureau is also being set up to disseminate information on borrowers to the banks.

#### **Corruption in DRDO**

\*733. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item regarding corruption in Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) appearing in the "Rashtriya Sahara" dated April 16, 2002;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to conduct an indepth inquiry into the matter;

(d) if so, the time by which a decision is likely to be taken; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) There is no truth in the news report of 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated 16th April, 2002 under the title 'Neither help to Army, nor beneficial to nation, corruption in Defence Research and Development Organisation'.

(c) Points raised in the news item have been enquired into by Hqrs. Fact Finding Committee. Nothing adverse has been noticed by the committee. However, the matter is also being investigated further by CBI, Dehradun branch.

(d) and (e) It is not in public interest to speak on this subject when CBI is in the process of conducting inquiry.

#### **Augmentation of Territorial Army**

\*734. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to increase the strength of Territorial Army to 1 lakh by 2007 as compared to the present authorised strength of 40,085;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any recommendation in this regard;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in pursuance thereof;

(d) whether the Government are also considering making Territorial Army a visible platform for citizens to support the regular Army; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) The Territorial Army Review Committee headed by Shri K.P. Singh Deo, in its report have recommended, *inter-alia*, the increase of the Territorial Army components in the current manpower ceiling of about 80,000 to 1,00,000 by the year 2007. In the context of the prevailing security scenario in the country, the Government have accepted 'in principle', the need for expansion of Territorial Army from its present strength of 32,800 in a phased manner and to make a vibrant force of disciplined and trained citizens from all walks of life available to support the regular Army.

#### **Steep Drop in the Earnings of Doordarshan**

\*735. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the annual earning of the Doordarshan have dropped by several crores during the last year as reported under the caption "DD earnings drop by Rs. 15 crore" appearing in "The Statesman" dated April 22, 2002;

(b) if so, the details of factors responsible for such a steep drop in its earnings;

(c) whether the Government have assessed the factors responsible due to which the earnings of the Doordarshan dropped; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to improve its earnings during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Prasar Bharati have intimated that the gross commercial



revenue earned by Doordarshan during the last two years is as under:

2000-2001	—	Rs. 637.51 crores
2001-2002	—	Rs. 615.21 crores

(b) and (c) The drop is largely due to lower revenue realisation from the marketing of BCCI cricket matches in India during 2001-2002.

(d) Prasar Bharati has intimated that within the constraints of a Public Service Broadcaster, the Corporation endeavours to maximise its revenue generation. Measures taken by Doordarshan to enhance its revenue include improvement in the transmission quality and reception of Channels through digitalisation, exploiting the commercial potential of various Regional Kendras, rationalisation of Rate Card to make it more attractive for advertisers/marketing agencies, improving the quality of content and presentation of channels, eliciting commercial income from Government Departments for telecast of their programmes on DD Channels. Prasar Bharati has also intimated that it has started its own marketing set up to boost its commercial earnings.

#### **Training Facilities**

\*736. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to augment the existing training facilities in the air defence;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard;

(c) whether some new institutes are proposed to be set up for such training; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Augmentation/upgradation of training facilities is an on-going process necessitated also by changes in weapon profiles and technology. No new institutions are proposed to be set up.

[*Translation*]

#### **Power Distribution Reforms**

\*737. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have since received the report of the committee suggesting measures for implementation of distribution reforms in power sector;

(b) if so, the recommendations thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Distribution Policy Committee Report has been received and is under consideration of Ministry of Power. The important recommendations of the Committee are given in statement enclosed.

#### **Statement**

##### *Important Recommendations of Distribution Policy Committee*

- \* A viable strategy for achieving commercial viability would need to encompass improvements in efficiency through various measures including better management, suitable investments etc. An important segment of the strategy for improvement of the distribution sector is rural supply.
- \* Alternative models like co-operatisation, corporatisation etc. can be attempted, the bottom line being that the sector must achieve commercial viability in 2-3 years.
- \* Wherever improvements in efficiency of operations are difficult within the current ownership framework, private sector participation in distribution should be an objective for State Governments to pursue seriously.
- \* Privatisation of distribution needs the adoption of an appropriate model and a suitable independent regulatory system. Like in Orissa the entire distribution area can be privatized at one instance. Privatisation can also be attempted alternatively by privatizing the high load urban areas first and privatisation of rural areas at a later date. Micro privatisation of rural areas may also be attempted. However, the process of distribution privatisation would necessarily have to focus on resolving the transition issues relating to distribution operations such as past losses, receivables, subsidy etc.
- \* It would be important to develop timeframe for the various actions in terms of what can be achieved within six months (short terms), over a

period of twelve months (medium term) and over a period of eighteen months (long term).

- \* Various actions pertaining to the above strategy are as follows:
  - For improvement in efficiency of operations, short term strategy should include formulation of a metering plan to complete metering at all levels, creation of responsibility/profit centers, effective energy audit with the use of information technology (IT) for effective action against theft and avoidable technical losses, promulgation of an ordinance bringing suitable amendments to the provisions regarding theft of electricity in the existing Act if the enactment of the Electricity Bill which has been introduced in the Parliament, is delayed. As medium term strategy, sensitization seminars should be organized to enhance professional expertise and leadership needed by the electricity industry.
  - For Rural Electrification as part of short term strategy, there is a need to implement a customized approach. This would require separation of the main stream operations from the rural operations and adopting specific policies and plans for rural operations.
  - Strategy for privatization of distribution business can have several dimensions. As short term strategy, the Central Government should come out with a Tariff Policy which would act as a guideline for the regulatory commission for the tariff determining process. Other short measures should include identifying agencies for determining baseline data, determining incentives for loss reduction etc. Medium term strategy should include marketing of privatization benefits to the consumers, institutional strengthening of CERC/SERCs by attracting people of high caliber and appropriate experience, adoption of a pragmatic approach to valuation of distribution business, establishment of a power Sector Reform Fund (PSRF) where the State Governments should credit privatization proceeds for the sole purpose of restructuring the power sector. The long term strategy for privatisation would include selection of privatisation model for the state. The transition path set for the private investor would need to consider the cost related issues as also the issues relating to revenue gap and arrangements for financing the same.

- Incentives from Center to States: Reforms in distributions sector, primarily being the prerogative of the states, there is need for the center to incentivise the states. This could be achieved by linking progress in reforms on the basis of the above action plan to benefits from the activities of CPSUs like NTPC, NPC, NLC, PFC, REC and PGCIL activities as well as funds from programmes like APDRP, AGSP and AREP.

[English]

### Export of Rail Engines

\*738. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:  
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have developed a 4000-hp engine built in India under license from M/s. General Motors;
- (b) if so, the main features thereof;
- (c) the cost of the present engine that has been developed in India;
- (d) whether the Government propose to export powerful rail engines manufactured with G.M. technology;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the foreign exchequer likely to be earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Railways have manufactured 4000 hp diesel locomotives under transfer of technology from M/s General Motors, (GM) USA.

(b) Main features of the new technology locomotives are:

- \* 3 phase, alternate Current (AC) traction.
- \* Pulling ability (tractive effort) of freight locomotives at 53 tonnes is 73.7% higher than conventional locomotives.
- \* Passenger locomotives have a speed potential of 160 kmph against 120 kmph or conventional locomotives.

- \* Microprocessor control with self-diagnostic feature.  
Computer controlled brakes.
- \* Radar based super series wheel creep control system to eliminate wheel slips and damage to rail track.
- \* Extended dynamic brake with self-load testing features.
- \* Reduced exhaust emissions below international norms.
- \* Locomotives can work continuously for 92 days without any maintenance as against 7-10 days for conventional locomotives, thus
- \* Reduced rate of consumption of fuel and lubricating oil.
- \* Reduced maintenance costs.

(c) As per the Budget Estimate 2002-03, the estimated cost is Rs. 12.75 crores per locomotive.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Order for export of locomotives in the international market is processed through competitive bidding by M/s IRCON International Ltd., (IRCON)/M/s. Rail India Technical & Economic Services (RITES) and is an ongoing process. Export of locomotives built to GM technology is being explored.

(f) This will depend on the quantum of exports that railways are able to secure, hence it is not possible to give an estimate, at present.

#### **Rail Projects from Special Safety Fund**

\*739. SHRI B.V.N. REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects to be undertaken by the Railways from the Special Railway Safety Fund during the current year, project-wise;

(b) the expenditure likely to be incurred on each of the said project; and

(c) the target date fixed for their completion, project wise?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The planhead-wise allocation for the projects to be undertaken by the Railways from Special Railway Safety Fund during 2002-2003 is as under:

S.No.	Planhead	Budget allocation during 2002-2003 (Rupees in crores)
1.	Rolling Stock	280.00
2.	Track Renewals	1661.00
3.	Bridge Works	143.30
4.	Signal and Telecommunication	505.00
5.	Machinery & Plant	9.00
6.	Other Electrical Works	0.50
7.	Other Specified Works	0.50
8.	Less Credits	389.30
<b>Total</b>		<b>2210.00</b>

(The details of each project are available in the Green Book entitled "Works, Machinery and Rolling Stock Programme of Railways for 2002-2003—Part III" which was presented to the Parliament along with the Railway Budget Documents.)

(c) All the renewal and other identified works to be undertaken out of SRSF are planned to be completed by 2006-07 subject to availability of required funds and resources.

#### **Military Industrial Complex between India and Russia**

\*740. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russia has proposed to India convergence of the Military Industrial Complex of the two countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Russia has suggested that Irkut Corporation should become a shareholders in HAL and as a reciprocal measure Indian companies be made partners of Irkut;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Russia in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details of proposal and a final decision taken or being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (f) The Military and Technical Cooperation between India and Russia is of long standing and encompasses acquisition of weapons & weapon systems, licence production of weapons with transfer of technology and setting up of facilities for repair, maintenance & overhaul. This cooperation has since graduated to include cooperation in the sphere of Research & Development in high technology, co-design and development & production of major platforms and weapons systems. Various proposals emanating from both sides are discussed at meetings of the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission on Military-Technical Cooperation.

There is no proposal from Irkutsk Aviation Production Organisation (IAPO) becoming a shareholder in HAL although there was a proposal that HAL participate in the shareholding of IAPO. This proposal is not under consideration at present.

*[Translation]*

#### **Fire in Paschim Express**

7482. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a bogie of the Paschim Express bound for Amritsar from Mumbai caught fire in February, 2002;

(b) if so, the number of casualties took place in the incident;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted into the incident; and

(d) if so, the findings of the inquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. On 5.2.2002 at about 12.10 hrs. 2925 Dn Bandra Terminus-Amritsar Paschim Express while on run between Goregaon and Malad stations on Churchgate-Virar suburban section of Mumbai Division, luggage portion of middle Second Class Luggage and

Guard Brake Van (SLR) caught fire. The train was stopped at Malad station and fire was extinguished with the help of fire brigade.

(b) There was no casualty or injuries in this incident.

(c) and (d) As per findings of the report, this incident occurred due to accidental ignition in the rear luggage compartment due to inadvertent throwing of a match stick/cigarette/bidi but by some unknown person.

*[English]*

#### **Inspection Charges by LPG Agencies**

7483. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the LPG agencies in Delhi are charging Rs. 25 as inspection charges and forcing the customers to change the parts like pin, tubes etc. at high prices;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the government are also aware that all such charges are being made under the pretext of direction from IOCL and without any authentic cash receipt from the authorised LPG dealers, the charges are made in the name of fictitious companies to avoid raids and detection in case of defaults;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) the penal measures likely to be taken against such defaulting agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (e) LPG distributors are under instructions from the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to do mandatory inspection of LPG equipments at the customer's premises once in two years for purpose of safety. For this purpose, they are authorised to collect Rs. 25 as inspection charges. Further, consumers are free to purchase the ISI mark hot plate and other spare parts from any source as per their choice. The complaints received from consumers regarding forced sale of hot plates and other spare parts etc. are investigated by OMCs and on the establishment of a complaint, action against the erring LPG distributor is taken in terms of Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG), 2001.

**Supply of CNG to Industries**

7484. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:  
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

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

(a) the price at which the CNG is supplied to industries and commercial vehicle owner in Delhi;

(b) the reasons for differences in prices;

(c) whether CNG earmarked for power and transport sector in Delhi was diverted to the industries adjoining Delhi;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether benefits have been given to other big business houses of the recent cut in supply of CNG to Maruti Udyog Ltd; and

(f) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) CNG is not supplied to Industries. It is supplied to vehicles only. The price of CNG in Delhi is Rs. 16.83 per kg.

(b) to (f) In view of (a) above answers to these parts may be treated as nil.

**Jobs on Compassionate Ground**

7485. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the names and designations of officials of his Ministry/Departments under his Ministry expired while in service during 1999, 2001 and 2002 year-wise & office-wise;

(b) the names of those whose eligible dependents have been provided with the suitable jobs on compassionate grounds;

(c) the names of those whose eligible dependents have not yet been provided with the jobs on compassionate grounds; and

(d) the time by which the jobs on compassionate grounds are likely to be provided to such eligible dependents of deceased officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) A list of names and designation of these officials is enclosed as statement.

(b) to (d) Smt. Shanti Nautiyal, wife of late Shri V.P. Nautiyal has been provided with a job on compassionate grounds. Others could not be appointed for want of vacancies in the prescribed quota. As on date on more vacancies in the compassionate appointment quota are available.

**Statement**

S.No.	Name (S/Shri)	Office Where Worked	Designation
1	2	3	4

**For the Year 1999**

1.	Dhani Ram	CEA	D/Man Gr. I
2.	Y.K. Girsra	CEA	U.D.C.
3.	A.K. Roy	CEA	E.A.D.
4.	Pyare Lal	CEA	D/Man Gr. I
5.	V.P. Nautiyal	CEA	D/man Gr. I

**For the year 2001**

6.	Kamal Kishore	CEA	D/Man Gr. II
7.	S.L. Sharma	CEA	A.D. Gr. I
8.	K.L. Sharma	CEA	U.D.C.
9.	D.S. Bhatnagar	CEA	Assistant
10.	Jagdish Chand	CEA	U.D.C.
11.	R.C. Kajla	CEA	A.D. Gr. I
12.	S. Virender	CEA	L.D.C.
13.	Suresh Kumar	CEA	Farash
14.	Vijendra	CEA	Safaiwala
15.	Ram Lal	CEA	Farash
16.	Hari Chand	CEA	Tea Maker
17.	Jamini Ranjan Paul	CEA	Peon

1	2	3	4
18.	A.K. Roy	CEA	Peon
19.	J.S. Ahluwalia	MOP	Assistant

For the year 2002 — -Nil-

CEA: Central Electricity Authority

MOP: Ministry of Power

UDC: Upper Division Clerk.

LDC: Lower Division Clerk.

D/Man: Draftsman

AD: Assistant Director

EAD: Extra Assistant Director.

#### Testing of Saras Aircraft

7486. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which multi-role Saras aircraft is likely to put on test flown;

(b) the time by which the work on this project was started and the target date for taking it to skies; and

(c) the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The first test flight of multirole light transport aircraft 'Saras' is scheduled for December 2002.

(b) The project of 'Saras' was sanctioned on 24th September, 1999 with initial schedule of its maiden flight by March 2001.

(c) The delay is attributed to technology embargoes and technological complexities.

[Translation]

#### Review of Cases against Directors of Reliance Group

7487. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:  
SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:

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

(a) the total number of the cases reviewed from various Ministries/Departments to seek legal opinion on the various cases against the Directors/Executive Officers of the Reliance Group of Industries;

(b) whether a number of cases are lying pending with the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs for a number of years despite several reminders sent by some important Ministries requesting for early disposal of these cases;

(c) if so, the time by which the Government are likely to give their legal opinion in respect of the Reliance Industries Group in the matter; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

#### LPG Agencies in Gujarat

7488. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:  
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

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

(a) the number of applications pending for LPG agencies in Gujarat;

(b) the number of LPG agencies allotted till date and the number of those still to be allotted;

(c) whether there is an acute shortage in the supply of LPG cylinders in the State; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) As on 1.4.2002, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) were operating 473 LPG distributorships in the State of Gujarat. At present, 84 locations are still pending for allotment in the State of Gujarat.

(c) and (d) There is no shortage in the supply of LPG cylinders in the State of Gujarat by OMCs. However, imposition of frequent curfew in major cities have led to disruption in the normal supplies.

[*Translation*]

**News Bulletin in Regional Language**

7489. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:  
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to telecast news bulletin in local tribal dialect on Doordarshan, Ranchi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Decisions on programme matters are within the purview of Prasar Bharati. Government does not interfere in such matters. Prasar Bharati has informed that it is not contemplating to telecast news bulletin in local tribal dialect on Doordarshan, Ranchi.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[*English*]

**Rail Line between Moinaguri to Jogighopa**

7490. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether on May 21, 2000 a stone was laid at Moinaguri for the Railway line from Moinaguri of New Jalpaiguri to Jogighopa;

(b) whether the projected expansion was determined at Rs. 733 crore;

(c) whether only Rs. 24 crore was sanctioned in the last three budgets; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to enhance the budgetary allocation and early completion of the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Rs. 34 crore (including Rs. 10 crore under BOLT during 2001-2002) have been provided for the work in the budget during last two years and the current year.

(d) Funds are provided as per requirement and progress of work on the project. Final Location Survey for the project is in progress and is likely to be completed by December 2002. Work will be taken up after completion of the Final Location survey and land acquisition. No target date for the completion of the project has yet been fixed.

**Facilities to Commuters**

7491. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Konkan Railway Corporation has entered into an agreement with ICICI Bank regarding reservation through computer;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is going to facilitate the common commuters;

(d) whether Railway has entered into an understanding with travelling agents also, to use computerized ticket booking;

(e) if so, whether this facility is going to be started in Mumbai;

(f) whether three times stay has been given to this system;

(g) if so, whether this will facilitate the commuters;

(h) if so, the reason for withdrawal of decision by the railway;

(i) whether the decision with ICICI has been withdrawn; and

(j) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) to (h) In order to facilitate rail reservation to commuters, a scheme has been conceptualized to provide

Passenger Reservation System (PRS) terminals on experimental basis to a few travel agents authorized under the Rail Tourist Agents Scheme and Rail Travellers Service Agents Scheme in Mumbai. The pilot project is yet to be implemented.

- (i) Does not arise.
- (j) Does not arise.

#### **Closure of Petrol/Diesel Pumps**

7492. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of petrol/diesel pumps lying closed in different parts of the country;
- (b) the specific reasons for their closure; and
- (c) the necessary steps being taken by the Government to restart them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) As on 31.3.2002, 187 retail outlet dealerships (petrol/diesel pumps) were lying closed in different parts of the country. These dealerships were lying closed on account of various reasons, such as, pending court cases, action initiated/contemplated by the respective oil companies in cases of irregularities committed by the dealers in operation of the outlets, partnership dispute, non-uptifting of product by the dealer, suspension of licence by the District Authorities, death of dealer, land dispute, benami operation, financial problems, resignation by dealer, low potential, disturbance by extremists, etc. Action for resumption of operation of each of these dealerships is taken by the respective oil companies depending on the merits of each case.

#### **Joint Ventures in Entertainment Sector**

7493. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have refused the proposal of Film Finance Inc. to start films financing in joint venture in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to reduce the minimum capital requirement norms for joint ventures in entertainment sector; and

- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) Government have in March, 2002 allowed 100% Foreign Direct Investment in films under the automatic route and without any conditions. Pursuant to this the proposal of M/s. Film Finances Inc. USA has been approved in April, 2002.

#### **Seismic Survey at Exploration Sites**

7494. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the area/blocks where seismic survey has shown positive results for exploitation of crude oil and natural gas and where drilling for exploration is going on or yet to take place;
- (b) whether the work relating to drilling has been entrusted to foreign firms besides ONGC and OIL;
- (c) if so, the terms and conditions on which exploration of hydrocarbons has been entrusted to foreign firm; and
- (d) the estimated availability of hydrocarbons in areas/blocks entrusted to ONGC, OIL and foreign firms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) In the recent past, exploration work has been undertaken in various areas in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and West Bengal as also in East & West offshore. During the X Plan period it is proposed that around 871 exploratory wells would be drilled in the country.

- (b) and (c) In order to attract investment and technology, Government since 1991 had offered exploration blocks under six pre-New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) rounds and two NELP rounds inviting companies and consortia, both Indian and foreign. A total of 27 pre-NELP Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) and 47 NELP PSCs have so far been signed. Broadly, the PSCs envisage the availability of fiscal incentives,



such as customs duty exemption and tax holiday; the general applicability of Indian laws and the sharing of production, in a pre-determined bidded tranches.

(d) The balance recoverable reserves of hydrocarbons (O+OEG) in the country as on 1.4.2001 is about 1449 Million Metric Tonne.

#### Defaulting SEB Owing Funds to REC

7495. SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of defaulting State Electricity Boards owing over Rs. 3500 crores to Rural Electrification Corporation; and

(b) the action taken to realize the dues to save REC from financial crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The details of defaulting State Electricity Boards with overdues as on 31.3.2002 is given in statement enclosed.

(b) Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has filed cases with Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT) for recovery of outstanding dues from State Electricity Boards.

#### Statement

##### *Outstanding Dues Report as on 31.3.2002*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name	Overdue interest	Overdue Principal	Total overdue (3+4)
1	2	3	4	5
Defaulting States/SEBs:				
1.	Assam	15830	6647	22477
2.	Bihar/Jharkhand	32252	15167	47419
3.	Madhya Pradesh	72697	78136	150833
4.	Mizoram	257	607	864
5.	West Bengal	39532	18887	58419
6.	Uttar Pradesh	50001	39182	89183
Total		210569	158626	369195

1	2	3	4	5
Newly Created States:				
1.	Chhattisgarh	13547	17082	30629
2.	Uttaranchal	8408	6442	14850
Total		21955	23524	45479
G. Total		232524	182150	414674

#### Requirement of CNG

7496. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:  
SHRI SAIDUZZAMA:

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

(a) the quantum of monthly requirement of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for commercial vehicles in the National Capital Territory of Delhi;

(b) the quantum of present allocation of CNG to Delhi; and

(c) the reasons of supplying less CNG than demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) At present, the total demand of CNG is approx. 135 lakh kg/month (0.56 MMSCMD).

(b) 0.98 MMSCMD of natural gas has been allocated to Delhi out of which 0.88 MMSCMD of natural gas is for the purpose of CNG for vehicles.

(c) Supply of CNG presently is adequate in relation to demand.

#### Japanese Assistance for Rural Electrification in West Bengal

7497. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japanese assistance has been provided in terms of loan for rural electrification in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) now Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), Japan sanctioned credit to Government of India for implementation of "Power System Improvement and Small Hydro Electric project to be routed through Rural Electrification Corporation (REC). Under the credit, amongst other two System Improvement Sub-projects involving an outlay of Rs. 11.47 crores envisaging creation of one 132 KV sub-station and associated line in Bolepur area in Birbhum district of West Bengal have been implemented by the West Bengal State Electricity Board (WBSEB).

### Collegium System

7498. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present collegium system lets as many judges sit on the Chief Justice of India's Chair as possible because of protocol facilities extended to retired CJs;

(b) whether we have had 30 CJs (four in 2002 alone) in 52 years as compared to 16 Chief Justices in 214 years in the US;

(c) whether the Constitution Review Commission has recommended that the present collegium system be replaced by a National Judicial Commission; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Appointment of the Chief Justice of India is made under article 124 (2) of the Constitution of India.

(c) and (d) The National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution has recommended the establishment of a National Judicial Commission. The Government has been committed to the setting up of a National Judicial Commission which would make recommendation for appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts as also draw up a Code of Ethics. The setting up of the National Judicial Commission would require an amendment to the Constitution of India. The Government has sought the opinion of all political parties on this subject.

### Project of PGCIL by Larsen and Tubro Ltd.

7499. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the contract awarded by Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) regarding laying of transmission lines between Neyveli and Trichy by Larsen and Tubro Ltd. (L&T) have been completed;

(b) if so, the full details thereof;

(c) whether PGCIL have been awarded similar projects in Southern India to M/s. L&T Ltd. during the last three years;

(d) if so, the complete details thereof with cost etc.; and

(e) the time by when these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) A contract for construction of Loop-in-Loop-out (LILLO) of 400 KV D/c Neyveli-Trichy line, on turnkey basis, was awarded by Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) to M/s L&T Ltd., Chennai in December, 2000 through the process of Open Competitive Bidding. The scope of the contract included supply of towers, conductor, earth-wire, insulators, hardware fittings & accessories and erection, testing and commissioning of the line. The length of the LILLO link was 14.6 kms. D/c. The project involved erection of 37 transmission towers. The value of the contract was Rs. 12.313 crores which included Rs. 8.396 crores for supply of goods and Rs. 3.917 crores for all construction activities. Actual executed cost is approximately Rs. 8 crores. Payments amounting to Rs. 7.33 crores have been released. The final payment of Rs. 0.63 crore could not be released so far as reconciliation of all the works are yet to be completed by the bidders.

The above line has been completed in December, 2001.

(c) to (e) In addition to the above, the following contracts have been awarded by PGCIL to M/s. L&T Ltd., for its transmission projects in Southern India during the last 3 years:

(i) The contract for supply and erection of tower package for 189 kms. 400 KV D/c Nellore-Sriperumbudur transmission line was awarded to M/s L&T on 6.2.2001 at a total contract value of Rs. 36.47 crores. The work of this line is expected to be completed by October, 2002.

- (ii) The contract for supply and erection of tower package for 170 Kms. 400 KV D/c Vijayawada-Uppalpadu transmission line was awarded to M/s. L&T on 6.2.2001 at a total contract value of Rs. 45.68 crores. The scope of the work includes the construction of special foundation i.e. pile foundations required for river crossing tower covered under this project. The work of this line is expected to be completed by December, 2002.

#### **Staff Employed by Indian Institute of Petroleum**

7500. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Institute of Petroleum employed staff through contractors for work of regular nature as pointed out by the CAG in its Report 5 of 1998 in paragraph 2.1.8 on page 19;

(b) if so, the details of the staff so employed and the names of the recommending person;

(c) the source from which the salaries of these employees disbursed;

(d) whether the Government have taken any action in the matter; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

#### **Registration of Company with RDSO**

7501. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms prescribed for registration of a company with R.D.S.O. alongwith the reasons therefor;

(b) the requirements to be fulfilled for getting registration of the carriage wagon items at RDSO and the need for doing so under the liberalisation policy;

(c) whether there is any requirement for registration of certain similar parts like side frame key, Bolesone liner, spring plank, brake beam where as their analogous parts like sackal stone, pull-rod, coach brake-beam, M.G. spring plank etc. do not require registration; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) A firm is registered as an approved supplier with RDSO after satisfactory compliance of the following:

— Technical evaluation of the firm's productions, scrutiny of its technical capabilities, capacities and its quality assurance programme.

— Inspection of the products being manufactured by the firm, their conformance to specifications and successful field trials.

Only a small fraction of Carriage & Wagon items require registration with RDSO. These items have a critical bearing on safety & reliability of train service and therefore RDSO has to necessarily oversee the consistency in quality of these items.

(c) and (d) the coaching stock for Indian Railways is manufactured in the production units under the Ministry of Railways. These units have in-house quality control and design organisations which approve the qualified vendors for coach items. In case of wagons stock manufactured in public sector and private sector units, RDSO exercises this control.

[*English*]

#### **Holding of Stocks In Ordnance Factories**

7502. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any policy to hold stocks of different types of stores at ordnance factories;

(b) if so, the details of the type-wise stores and the period for which the stocks can be retained in stores;

(c) whether the CAG in its report 7 of 2002 has found the stock holding much in excess;

(d) if so, the details of the stock holding that were in excess of the provisions during the last three years; ordnance factory-wise and year-wise; and

(e) the action taken by the Government on the violation of the provisions in the policy?

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

(b) As per the existing provisioning procedure, the Ordnance Factories are authorized to hold stock of different types of stores as under:

Types of stores	Monthly requirement authorized to be held in stock	
Imported items	—	12 months
Difficult indigenous items	—	9 months
Other indigenous items	—	6 months

(c) to (e) The average stock holding of the Ordnance Factories organisation as a whole during 2000-2001 as reported by C&AG in its report No. 7 of 2002 was equivalent to 162 days requirement and as such was within authorized limit of six months. However, the stock holding during 2000-2001 in five Ordnance Factories was more than authorized limit. The stock holding with respect to these five factories for last three years is given below:

(Rs. in Crores)

Name of the Factory	Closing balance of stock as on		
	31.3.2000	31.3.2001	*31.3.2002
1	2	3	4
Heavy Vehicle Factory, Avadi (HVF)	496.18	571.63	459.22

1	2	3	4
Machine Tool Prototype Factory, Ambemath (MTPF)	8.38	9.92	8.77
Opto Electronics Factory, Dehra Dun (OLF)	19.61	16.16	13.43
Engine Factory, Avadi (EFA)	38.87	40.54	32.66
Ordnance Factory, Ambemath (OFA)	58.85	71.24	47.00

\*Estimated

The higher inventory holding at HVF is mainly due to non issue of tanks and repair work on tanks because of vigorous test and trials by the indenter. Similarly the valuable items of inventory holding at EFA and OLF are of imported origin and are difficult to procure needing long lead time. The volume of requirement of these items being small, it is not feasible to buy these items with staggered delivery. This has resulted in increase in inventory level.

Ordnance Factory Board have taken various remedial measures including staggering of delivery schedules of the inputs to reduce the inventory level in respect of above five factories. As a result the level of inventory has come down as on 31.3.2002.

#### Fictitious Booking

7503. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CAG in Report No. 7 of 2001 (Defence Services) in paragraph 46.5.3 on pages 85-86 have brought out fictitious booking of expenditure in the Ordnance Factory; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government on the CAG report and against the persons responsible for fictitious booking of expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) CAG observed that the Ordnance

Factory, Dehu Road booked an expenditure of Rs. 1.38 crore in advance to account for issuance of some stores in the financial year 1998-99 although the physical transaction took place in the year following. The expenditure so booked is included in the cost of production of Rs. 5441.11 crore for the year 1998-99.

(b) Ordnance Factory Board have taken suitable administrative action and accordingly advised all the ordnance factories not to violate the accounting procedures.

#### **Power Projects as National Projects**

7504. SHRI AMBAREESHA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to declare more power projects as National projects;

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

(c) the details of power projects of Karnataka which have been declared as National projects; and

(d) the present status of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) There is no proposal to declare the power project of any State as National Project.

#### **Writs Pending in Delhi High Court Relating to Service Matter**

7505. SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Writs relating to service matters that are pending in the Delhi High Court, New Delhi for more than 10 years from the date of their admission, year-wise;

(b) whether a special bench and constitutional bench are likely to be constituted for the disposal of all these pending cases;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether all these cases are scheduled to be decided during the calendar year; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[Translation]*

#### **Curbing of Criminalisation of Politics**

7506. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has given a ruling and issued guidelines on May 2, 2002 aimed at curbing criminalisation of politics;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Union Government, State Governments, Election Commission, political parties, social organisations, public and the press thereon; and

(d) the time by which and the way in which the Government propose to implement the said ruling of the Supreme Court?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) The Supreme Court in its judgement dated 2.5.2002 in CA No. 7178 of 2001—Union of India vs Association of Democratic Reforms and another and W.P. No. 294 of 2001—Peoples' Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) and another vs Union of India and another, has directed the Election Commission of India to call for information on affidavit by using necessary orders in exercise of its powers under article 324 of the Constitution requiring each candidate seeking election to Parliament or a State legislature to furnish in his nomination paper, information on following aspects in relation to his/her candidature:

(i) whether the candidate is convicted/acquitted/discharged of any criminal offence in the past—if any; whether he has been punished with imprisonment or fine;

(ii) prior to six months of filing of his/her nomination, to indicate whether the candidate is accused in any pending case, of any offence punishable with imprisonment for two years or more, and

whether any charge is framed or cognizance is taken by the Court of law; if so, the details thereof;

- (iii) the assets (immovable, movable, bank balances, etc.) of a candidate and of his/her spouse and that of his/her dependents;
- (iv) liabilities, if any, particularly whether there are any dues which he/she owes particularly to any financial institution or Government; and
- (v) the educational qualifications of the candidate.

The Election Commission has been directed to draw up the norms and modalities to carry out and give effect to the aforesaid directions as early as possible and in any case within a period of two months.

[English]

**Mandatory Disclosure of Records  
and Assets by Candidates**

7507. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:  
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:  
SHRI AMBAREESHA:  
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

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

(a) whether the Supreme Court has directed for mandatory disclosure of records and assets by Candidates contesting Parliamentary or Assembly elections including furnishing of their criminal antecedents as reported in the 'Statesman' of May 3, 2002;

(b) if so, the details of direction given by the Supreme Court;

(c) whether similar amendments had been proposed by the Election Commission in the Representation of the People Act;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any data has been prepared by the Central Government regarding criminal antecedents of candidates who have been elected to 13<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha or the recently held Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Punjab; and

(f) if so, the action, the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The Supreme Court in its judgement dated 2.5.2002 in CA No. 7178 of 2001—Union of India vs Association of Democratic Reforms and another and W.P. No. 294 of 2001—Peoples' Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) and another vs Union of India and another, has directed the Election Commission of India to call for information on affidavit by issuing necessary orders in exercise of its powers under article 324 of the Constitution requiring each candidate seeking election to Parliament or a State legislature to furnish in his nomination paper, information on following aspects in relation to his/her candidature;

- (i) whether the candidate is convicted/acquitted/discharged of any criminal offence in the past— if any; whether he/she has been punished with imprisonment or fine;
- (ii) prior to six months of filing of his/her nomination, to indicate whether the candidate is accused in any pending case, of any offence punishable with imprisonment for two years or more, and whether any charge is framed or cognizance is taken by the Court of law; if so, the details thereof;
- (iii) the assets (immovable, movable, bank balances, etc.) of a candidate and of his/her spouse and that of his/her dependents;
- (iv) liabilities, if any, particularly whether there are any dues which he/she owes particularly to any financial institution or Government; and
- (v) the educational qualifications of the candidate.

The Election Commission has been directed to draw up the norms and modalities to carry out and give effect to the aforesaid directions as early as possible and in any case within a period of two months.

(c) to (f) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Manganese Adulteration Scam  
at Bhilai Steel Plant**

7508. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scam on large scale has been unearthed in Bhilai Steel Plant relating to Manganese Adulteration involving senior BSP officials;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether an inquiry has been constituted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the exported steel was rejected due to adulteration and railway accidents were taken place due to defective adulterated steel in manufacturing the tracks supplied by the BSP; and

(f) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) to (d) A surprise inspection of the material transported by two trucks from Maharashtra Electrosmeit Limited (MEL) was conducted, based on information received. On analysis of samples drawn from these trucks it was found that the material did not conform to the specification of silico manganese. After preliminary investigation, an FIR has been lodged with local police. BSP management has also reported the matter to CBI/Jabalpur for investigation. The outcome of investigation by the agencies is awaited.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

#### **Bookstalls at Stations**

7509. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Zonal Railways including South Eastern Railway *vide* their letter No. PR/GL/181 PT-IV dated April 23, 1969 had suggested that the book stalls at the stations be awarded through tender system for better competition and more and more earnings; and

(b) if so, the detailed reasons for not accepting the said suggestions by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) South Eastern Railway has advised that records are not available containing such proposal. No other Zonal Railway has also sent proposal for awarding bookstall contracts through tender system.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Agreement for Procurement of Sukhoi-30 Aircraft**

7510. SHRI R.S. PATIL:  
SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement was signed with Russia for the procurement of Sukhoi-30 aircrafts;

(b) if so, the number of aircrafts received so far and the time by which the remaining aircrafts would be received;

(c) the total amount paid to Russia in advance for purchase of these aircrafts;

(d) whether Russia is using Sukhoi-30 aircrafts in their country, and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the efforts made by the Government to get back the advance money already paid to Russia?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) SU-30 K/Su-30 MKI aircraft are being procured from Russia. These are being delivered in batches. The first batch has already been received. As per available information, Russia is not operating SU-30 K aircraft. Since the aircraft are being delivered in batches, there is no proposal to get back the advance paid to Russia. The advance paid was 142.268 million U.S. dollars in October 1996.

#### **Withdrawal of Selling Rights of A.H. Wheeler & Co.**

7511. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the detailed reasons for withdrawing the sole selling rights of A.H. Wheeler & Co. for conducting business on those passenger platforms which were constructed/added on or after January 1, 1976;

(b) whether any contract of bookstall was allotted to A.H. Wheeler and Co. during 1976 to December 2001 on new passenger platforms which were constructed after January 1, 1976 at stations on Indian Railways; and

(c) if so, the details of stations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O.

RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) As per existing policy bookstalls at passenger platforms constructed on or after 1.1.1976 are to be allotted to unemployed graduates and other eligible categories.

However, after 1.1.1976 the number of bookstalls in favour of M/s A.H. Wheeler & Company are frozen and changes within this limit is allowed provided they make a matching surrender of an existing stall at other station as per extant policy and railways operational needs.

[Translation]

#### **Agreement in Entertainment Sector**

7512. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY:  
DR. ASHOK PATEL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to have agreements with such countries which are financially and technically sound to start joint production in the field of entertainment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement has been made with some countries in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) To encourage foreign investment including co-productions in films and audio-visual content, Government has already allowed 100% foreign direct investment without conditions on the automatic route. With a view to facilitate co-productions, a proposal to enter into an audio-visual co-production agreement with the Government of Canada has been received in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

[English]

#### **Technical Education System in Regional Engineering Colleges**

7513. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to strengthen the technical education system in Regional Engineering Colleges (RECs), the Government of India and the Government of

UK signed an agreement in January, 1994, for developing multi disciplinary topics across several areas of development;

(b) if so, whether the grants provided for the same during 1994-95 to 1998-99 remained unutilized.

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken against the irregularities made in the purchase of stores by the concerned Colleges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The following information has been received from the Ministry of Human Resource Development:

An amount of Rs. 300.00 lakhs each to Maulana Azad College of Technology (MACT), Bhopal and Regional Engineering College, Tiruchirapalli during the years from 1994-1995 to 1998-99 under Indo-Pak agreement on strengthening of Technical Education in RECs relating to Project for Energy Theme was given by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, out of which, MACT, Bhopal and REC, Trichy have already utilized Rs. 198.93 lakhs and Rs. 268.20 lakhs respectively for this Project. In addition to this, MACT, Bhopal and REC, Trichy have kept an amount of Rs. 50.00 lakhs and Rs. 31.80 lakhs respectively as a Seed money for activating, maintenance and up keeping of equipment for Theme Centre. Remaining Rs. 51.07 lakhs is being utilized in the current financial year by the MACT, Bhopal for the above purpose. No irregularities in purchase of stores have been reported. The purchases were made as per guidelines of the College.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Implementation of Mandal Commission in Appointment of Judges**

7514. DR. M.P. JAISWAL:  
SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO:

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

(a) whether recommendations of the Mandal Commission have not been implemented in the process of appointing Judges in the Supreme Court and various High Courts;



(b) if so, the details thereof;

[*English*]

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

#### Transportation of Salt

(d) whether the Government are contemplating to implement the recommendations of the Mandal Commission in making appointments of Judges in the High Courts?

7516. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARJUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts is made under articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution of India, respectively, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. The Government have, however, addressed letters to the Chief Ministers of the State and the Chief Justices of the High Courts, from time to time, requesting them to locate persons from the Bar belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women who are suitable for appointment as High Court Judges.

(a) whether Gujarat Inland Salt Manufacturers Association had sent a representation to him on March 4, 2002 regarding extra ordinary hike of 135% in freight on transportation of salt;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Railway Ministry on the representation so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Gujarat Inland Salt Manufacturers Association has written regarding the hike in freight charges for salt and suggested charging of equal freight for different destinations in Eastern, North Eastern and Central India from all salt supplying centres.

#### Manufacturing of Guns

7515. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(c) As announced in the Railway Budget 2002-03, Edible Salt has been kept in the lowest Class-90 in the rationalised freight structure.

(a) whether the Gun Carriage Factory, Jabalpur has manufactured 155 MM Gun indigenously;

Since, freight is based on actual distance of transportation, it is not possible to agree to the suggestion of charging equal freight for different distances.

(b) if so, whether the Jabalpur and Kanpur Ordnance factories have also manufactured the said guns using indigenous technology;

[*Translation*]

#### Experts Opinion on Imported Items

(c) whether the gun is able to meet the existing requirement of the Army;

7517. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:  
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:  
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:  
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

(d) if so, the details thereof;

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(e) whether the said gun is likely to be sold in the world market; and

(a) whether experts could not opine properly in regard to import of railway coaches, transformers, railway engines and cranes;

(f) if so, the details thereof?

(b) if so, whether this has caused a huge loss to the Railways;

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(c) if so, whether the Government have ascertained the reasons for the failure of these imported equipments; and

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir. All cases of import of equipment and rolling stock are carefully scrutinized at different stages and the decision to import any item is taken after ascertaining economic and technical viability.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Whenever any newly imported equipment and rolling stock is inducted to work under Indian conditions, sometimes teething troubles do occur during the initial period of induction. These problems are, however, solved with the active cooperation of the vendors usually under warranty obligations and by organizing extensive training of personnel dealing with such equipment or rolling stock.

[English]

#### **Ferro Alloys Transportation Scam**

7518. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether spurious Ferro Alloys is being transported into Bhilai Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any investigations has been carried on the veracity of the irregularities;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether action has been initiated against the culprits;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) to (d) Based on information received, a surprise inspection of the material transported by two trucks from Maharashtra Electrosmeelt Limited (MEL) was conducted. On analysis of samples drawn from these trucks, it was found that the material did not conform to the specification of silico manganese. After preliminary investigation, an FIR has been lodged with the local police. BSP management has

also reported the matter to CBI/Jabalpur for investigation. The outcome of investigation by the agencies is awaited.

(e) to (g) Involvement of Bhilai Steel Plant employees in the matter is under investigation. As a preventive measure, five officials of Bhilai Steel Plant have been placed under suspension and six officials transferred to other departments.

[Translation]

#### **Trial Court**

7519. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the recent judgement given by the Supreme Court that a case should not be filed in a trial court just for the compliance of procedure to decide and announce further date of litigation as it wastes the important time of trial courts;

(b) whether the Government propose to direct the State Governments to advise their respective views to implement this judgement with immediate effect to reduce the number of cases lying pending with them and to find out all such cases which can be brought under the ambit of this judgement and not to accept such cases in future; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

#### **Setting up of Family Courts**

7520. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to give financial assistance to States and Union Territories for setting up family courts and their better functioning;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to amend the Family Courts Act, 1984 with a view to widening selection of judges to include administrators, social workers and sensitise judiciary on women's problems; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir. In order to encourage and assist the States and Union Territories in setting up more Family Courts, fifty per cent Central grant is being extended to them for the establishment and running of new Family Courts which are being set up during the year 2002-2003.

(b) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Sky Bus Project in Mumbai**

7521. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a plan for a Sky Bus Project in Mumbai in collaboration with Konkan Railway Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of Maharashtra has appointed Mumbai Metropolitan Regional Development Authority (MMRDA) as a nodal agency to implement Sky Bus Metro in Mumbai. Based on the proposals submitted by Konkan Railway to MMRDA, they are planning to implement Sky Bus Metro from Andheri to Ghatkopar in collaboration with Konkan Railway. The details of methodology of implementation are being worked out.

(c) The financial & implementation schedule is yet to be worked out.

#### **Photo I-Cards**

7522. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY:  
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK:  
SHRI C.N. SINGH:  
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:

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

(a) whether the Photo Identity Card introduced by the Election Commission has achieved the target;

(b) if so, the percentage of citizens in the country have been provided Photo Identity Cards so far; and

(c) the action taken to provide Photo Identity Card to the remaining citizens, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. According to the Election Commission of India, the electors' photo identity cards (EPICs) programme introduced by it has achieved substantial progress. Some States have achieved the minimum target of 85% specified by the Commission, some are very close to achieving the target and are likely to reach the target in near future. A statement showing the progress of issuance of EPICs as on 30.4.2002 is enclosed. As regards the issue of these cards to the remaining electors, the Commission has informed that it has comprehensively reviewed the programme and launched its second phase in the year 2000, during which the residual electors who were not covered in the first phase of the programme are also covered alongwith the new electors whose names get enrolled in the electoral rolls after revision of electoral rolls every year. The electors who are not covered in the current programme will always constitute a residual part of the programme. The Commission's continuous effort is to provide the EPICs to the electors who are left out in the previous campaigns as well as the new electors.

#### **Statement**

##### *Election Commission of India*

##### *Status Report on Progress of Electors Photo Identity Cards*

Sl.No.	State/UTs	Total Electors	Electors issued with Defect-free identity cards	Percent (figures in 5 as % of 4
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	50,898,945	32,568,406	63.99
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	638,718	373,452	58.47

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Assam	14,426,221	67,479	0.47
4.	Bihar	58,438,217	21,681,836	37.10
5.	Goa	934,890	518,103	55.41
6.	Gujarat	30,437,773	23,177,051	76.15
7.	Haryana	12,275,952	9,182,618	74.80
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3,978,795	2,659,253	66.84
9.	J&K**	5,022,782	0	0.00
10.	Karnataka	35,123,307	24,612,144	70.07
11.	Kerala	22,835,568	18,344,689	80.33
12.	Madhya Pradesh	35,244,850	21,855,970	62.01
13.	Maharashtra	58,285,729	44,455,999	76.27
14.	Manipur	1,441,936	1,033,733	71.69
15.	Meghalaya	1,206,720	713,632	59.14
16.	Mizoram	457,434	0	0.00
17.	Nagaland	966,275	625,996	64.78
18.	Orissa	25,049,023	18,232,312	72.29
19.	Punjab	15,606,639	11,785,471	75.52
20.	Rajasthan	31,538,025	23,776,086	75.83
21.	Sikkim	257,062	200,077	77.39
22.	Tamil Nadu	47,365,189	31,662,414	66.85
23.	Tripura	1,880,746	1,226,795	67.36
24.	Uttar Pradesh	98,863,132	56,419,336	57.07
25.	West Bengal	48,672,291	42,193,813	86.69
26.	A&N Islands	285,296	195,072	75.52
27.	Chandigarh	538,607	381,048	70.75
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	118,397	87,150	73.61

1	2	3	4	5
29.	Daman & Diu	71,931	45,645	63.46
30.	NCT of Delhi	8,186,002	4,368,226	53.36
31.	Lakshadweep	36,738	31,813	86.59
32.	Pondicherry	658,927	555,875	84.33
33.	Chhattisgarh	12,737,705	5,398,879	42.39
34.	Jharkhand*	-	-	-
35.	Uttaranchal	5,167,525	2,726,709	52.77
All India Total		929,620,537	401,196,882	63.72

\*Included in Bihar, Separate figures for the State are not available.

\*\*the scheme has not been extended to J&K.

#### Enron

7523. SHRI MANJAY LAL:  
SHRI ARUN KUMAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have noted about federal regulators order for nationwide investigation into wholesale power and natural gas markets focusing on manipulation by Enron or other energy traders caused soaring price a year ago; and

(b) if so, the matters raised with the US Government about the high priced power contracts with Enron?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No such order has been received by the Government of India. However, it has been reported in the media that investigations have been initiated into the factors and agencies involved in the rise in electricity prices in USA.

(b) The Government of India has neither raised the matter regarding the Dabhol with the US Government nor proposes to do so.

[Translation]

#### Setting up of Bio Gas Plants

7524. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gujarat is leading in bio gas use;

(b) if so, the number of bio gas plants set up in the country State-wise;

(c) the essential installed and actual capacity of these plants;

(d) whether the Government have conducted any analysis of the cost profit ratio; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Gujarat is one of the few States leading in the installation of Family type biogas plants under the Central Sector Scheme—National Project on biogas Development (NPBD). So far about 33.5 lakh family type plants have been set up in the country. State-wise details of number of family type plants set up are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) The installed capacity of family type plants varies from one to six cubic metres gas production per day. A study entitled "Socio-economic cost-benefit analysis survey of the National Programme on Biogas Development", which was conducted by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi in the year 1998, reported that on an all-India average basis the capacity utilization varied from 100 per cent in case of one cubic metre plant to 44 per cent in case of 6 cubic metres plant.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The government sponsored study on 'Socio-economic cost-benefit analysis survey of the National Programme on Biogas Development' also reported that the most popular fixed dome Deenbandhu Model was economically viable as entire installation cost was recovered in 7 years, when the capital cost was lowered by 10 per cent by way of subsidy.

**Statement**

*State-wise total number of family type biogas plants set up during the period 1981-82 to 2001-02 under the National Project on Biogas Development (NPBD)*

(Number of plants)	
State/Union Territory (UT)	NPBD
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	332429
Aruanchal Pradesh	1172
Assam	49829
Bihar	120490
Chattisgarh	3000
Goa	3355
Gujarat	351605
Haryana	44149
Himachal Pradesh	43933
Jammu & Kashmir	1957
Karnataka	337248
Kerala	79608
Madhya Pradesh	200461
Maharashtra	671135
Manipur	1956
Meghalaya	2009
Mizoram	2818
Nagaland	1657

1	2
Orissa	185690
Punjab	68626
Rajasthan	66547
Sikkim	3465
Tamilnadu	201053
Tripura	1703
Uttar Pradesh	367986
West Bengal	203727
Other States and UTs	2117
<b>Total</b>	<b>3349725</b>

**Consultative Committees**

7525. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway user Consultative Committees/ Station Consultative Committee have been set up at all the railway stations of the country;

(b) if so, details of each Committee;

(c) the prescribed criteria for nomination of members to the said committees;

(d) the maximum number of Members nominated in a committee; and

(e) the role of the said Committees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committee at all the fifty nine Divisions, Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee at Nine Zonal Railways and National Railway Users' Consultative Councils have been reconstituted for a two years period with effect from 1.1.2002 to 31.12.2003.

Station Consultative Committees are set up at every Zonal and Divisional Headquarters and also at selected stations serving important industrial and commercial

centers. These Committees have been reconstituted at various stations on the Zonal Railways. In addition Suburban Railway Users' Consultative Committees have been reconstituted on Central, Eastern, Southern, South Eastern and Western Railways.

(c) and (d) Various interests, which are given representation on these Committees, have already been prescribed in the constitution of these Committees and members are nominated accordingly. The number of members nominated on these Committees vary from Division to Division and Railway to Railway.

(e) Railway Users' Consultative Committees at Divisional, Zonal and National levels are established to secure better representation of railway users and affording more frequent opportunities for consultation between Railway Administrations and users on matters relating to the service provided by railways and means of improving the efficiency of such service.

[English]

#### **Compensation for Land Acquired by NTPC**

7526. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:  
SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:  
SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of persons whose land has been acquired by NTPC in village, Bagjori, Farakka, West Bengal;

(b) whether at the time of land acquisition, an assurance was given to the person, whose land was so acquired, that at least one of the persons will be given appointment in the NTPC;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the number of persons still to be given appointment; and

(d) the reasons for delay in giving appointment to the remaining persons and the time required for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The names of persons whose land has been acquired by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) in village Bagjori, Farakka, West Bengal are as follows:

1. Md. Habibullah Mian
2. Shri Chudu Hansda

3. Shri Narayana Pandit
4. Shri Manik Pandit
5. Shri Harchand Pandit
6. Shri Pradhan Hansda
7. Shri Jagannath Bhagat
8. Shri Bishwanath Bhagat

(b) No, Sir. No such assurance was given by NTPC to the land oustees.

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

#### **Setting up TV Transmitter at Basirhat in West Bengal**

7527. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under the consideration of the Government to set up a new TV transmitter at Basirhat in West Bengal to telecast the programmes of Kolkata Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it will be installed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Basirhat lies in the coverage zone of the HPTs (DDI&DDII) at Kolkata.

[Translation]

#### **Retrenchment of Employees**

7528. SHRI BABUBHAI K. KATARA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether seniority/juniority aspect is being considered in the retrenchment of employees working on contract basis;

(b) whether the Ministry has issued any directive to the concerned ministry/department to ensure compliance of seniority/juniority aspect; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) Seniority is relevant only within a cadre which is a group of staff constituted as a separate unit. Therefore, seniority is not relevant in cases of employees appointed on contract basis. The period of appointment on contract basis is mutually decided by the person and the Ministry/Department concerned. Discontinuance of contract can be effected with the consent of both the parties.

*[English]*

#### **Shortfall In the Profit of NTPC**

7529. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the profit of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) during the year 2001-2002 has been reduced considerably as against the projected net profit for the year at Rs. 3900 crores;

(b) if so, the actual profit made and the reasons for shortfall; and

(c) the steps have been taken to improve the financial position of NTPC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The Net Profit after Tax for the year 2000-2001 as per audited accounts was Rs. 3733.80 crores. Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) has come up with Tariff norms applicable for power generated by NTPC w.e.f. 1.4.2001. As per these norms, the revenue of NTPC during 2001-02 is expected to be lower than what it was earlier. Pending determination of tariff by CERC for the Stations of NTPC w.e.f. 1.4.2001, the billing is being done by NTPC on provisional basis as per pre-existing tariff notification as permitted by CERC subject to retrospective adjustment. As per these tariff notifications the net profit is provisionally estimated to be Rs. 3916.77 crores for the year 2001-02. The net profit as per CERC norms is estimated to be of the order of Rs. 3579.65 crores for the year 2001-02.

#### **Intervention of Judiciary in the Routine Governance of the Country**

7530. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware about the frequent intervention of the judiciary in the routine and normal governance of the country; and

(b) if so, whether in view of the delicate balance in the two top most wings of the Government, the Government propose to bring any guidelines to avoid such intervention by the judiciary from further weakening of our structure and balance?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Judiciary functions within the framework of the Constitution which provides for separation of Judiciary from Executive. A system of checks and balances has been provided in the Constitution.

Judicial intervention is subject to the limitations provided for in the Constitution. The Supreme Court of India has also laid down guidelines regarding Public Interest litigation supplemented by practice directions issued by the Apex Court from time to time.

Government do not contemplate any guidelines or legislation in this regard.

#### **Random Screening of Accounts Filed by Corporates**

7531. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have proposed a random screening of accounts filed by corporates with the Registrar of companies;

(b) if so, whether the existing system of checking accounts of a company are ineffective; and

(c) if so, the extent to which the random screening of accounts are going to check the various manipulation by Auditors?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) A proposal is being considered that in the case of companies where there is a qualification in Auditor's Report on the accounts, random scrutiny of Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account should be undertaken by Expert Group. This will send the right kind of message to the corporate sector.



**Solar Photo-Voltaic Wind Hybrid Power  
Plant in Karnataka**

7532. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has sanctioned Solar Photo Voltaic Wind Hybrid Power Plant in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned for the said project so far;

(c) the site where the said project has been set up; and

(d) the details of benefits likely to be obtained from the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources sanctioned a project for installation of a solar photovoltaic-wind hybrid system of 7.75 kW aggregate capacity to Karnataka State Council for Science & Technology (KSCST) in November, 1997. The Ministry sanctioned an amount of Rs. 10,30,000 towards its share for the hybrid system, out of the total project cost of Rs. 23,30,000. The project has been set up at the Government Guest House, Kemmannagundi, Chikkamagalur district. The hybrid system was commissioned in March, 2000. The system consists of a solar photovoltaic array of 5.25 kW capacity and a 2.5 kW wind electric generator.

There was no conventional electric supply in the Guest House. The electricity generated from the hybrid system is used for providing power for both indoor and outdoor lighting in the Guest House Complex. The experience from this project has been helpful in planning of projects in other areas also.

**Landmine Casualty**

7533. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Landmine casualty rate spark concern" appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated March 8, 2002;

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

(c) the number of defence personnel and civilian killed on account of landmine blasts on border during the last two years, month-wise;

(d) the compensation paid to the next kith and kin of the defence as well as civilian deceased in that blasts; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to minimise the defence as well as civilian casualties?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) Government is aware of the news-item captioned "Landmine casualty rate spark concern" appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated March 8, 2002.

Mine laying is always a hazardous task and casualties are acceptable even in training. The details of Army personnel killed on account of accidental landmine blasts and Improvised Explosives Device (IRD) blasts during the last two years from 1st January 2000 to 30th April, 2002 month-wise are as under:

Month	2000	2001	2002
January	—	4	17
February	3	2	3
March	5	5	2
April	2	1	6
May	—	5	—
June	1	1	—
July	—	5	—
August	1	6	—
September	2	13	—
October	1	6	—
November	7	3	—
December	2	35	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>28</b>

In spite of all precautionary measures taken by the Army, civilian casualties occur when the civilians enter the fenced mine fields to tend to their crops or in pursuit of livestock. The details of all civilians killed in landmine blasts are not separately maintained.

As far as the Army personnel are concerned, a comprehensive compensation welfare package has been approved as under:

- (i) Ex-gratia to all casualties @Rs. 7.5 lakhs plus liberalised family pension, Insurance and other benefit, if casualty occurs during 'OP PARAKARAM' or in any other battle.
- (ii) If casualty occurs during testing of mine, an ex-gratia of Rs. 5 lakhs plus special family pension, Insurance and other benefits are given.

The Civilian victims of militancy including casualty on account of mine blast are provided ex-gratia relief by the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir for death, injury etc. caused in a terrorist incident as under:

Rs. 1 lakh is paid to the next-of-kin in case of death, Rs. 75,000, Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 1,000 for permanent disability, grievous injury and minor injury respectively.

To minimise the Defence as well as civilian casualties on account of the landmine blasts, the Army observe the following drill:

- (i) Mine laying is done by personnel who are specially trained for the purpose.
- (ii) New mines & fuzes are being procured to replace the old inventories.
- (iii) Whenever there is any casualty, a high level inquiry is ordered to ascertain the causes and take remedial measures, if required.
- (iv) Danger sign boards in vernacular are placed along the perimeter of marked minefields.
- (v) Army personnel regularly patrol the minefield perimeter.
- (vi) Army personnel interact with the villagers and educate them on the dangers of minefields.
- (vii) Instructions have also been conveyed to civil administration including village Sarpanch and Nambardar etc. about the danger of entering minefields.

*[Translation]*

#### **Programmes on Indian Languages by Foreign Companies**

7534. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the languages in which private and the foreign channels are telecasting their programmes, channel-wise;

(b) the duration of daily telecasting in hours separately, channel-wise;

(c) whether any amount or royalty is to be paid to the Government by these channels; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The Government does not maintain such information.

*[English]*

#### **Implementation of Rail Projects**

7535. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Finance Ministry and Planning Commission have asked the Railways to review its priority on implementation of its ongoing projects;

(b) if so, whether the railways have prioritise the projects to be implemented in the light of the suggestions made by the Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission;

(c) if so, the details of such projects, and the time by when the action on the implementation of these projects was initiated alongwith the original estimated cost and the schedule for their completion;

(d) the present cost of these projects and whether these projects have been cleared by the Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Planning Commission in their Integrated Transport Policy document of October, 2001 have recommended that in view of the large shelf of Railway projects, there is a need to prioritise these projects.

(b) Projects under New Lines and Gauge Conversion plan-heads were prioritised by the Railways with the approval of the Government in November, 1998.

(c) Plan-headwise details of these projects including their original cost are given below:

Plan-Head	No. of Projects	Approximate Original Cost (Rs. in Crores)
New Lines	83	19,000
Gauge Conversion	70	12,000

Action on implementation of the individual projects has been initiated after obtaining necessary approvals and sanction for each project. The target date of completion of these projects will depend on the availability of resources from year to year.

(d) and (e) The approximate latest anticipated cost of all ongoing New Lines projects is Rs. 25,000 Crores and of Gauge Conversion projects is Rs. 17,000 Crores. Some of these projects are yet to receive necessary approvals.

#### **Duty Free Import of Defective Steel**

7536. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the second/defective steel is permitted for duty free import under the Advance licence scheme;

(b) whether in some cases, the wastage norms permitted are as high as 75-80%;

(c) if so, whether domestic steel producers have made a representation against import of second/defective steel under the Advance licence scheme;

(d) whether the use of such seconds/defective steel affect the quality of the finished product;

(e) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto;

(f) whether the Ministry of Steel has proposed any measure to the Ministry of Commerce to control the import of second/defective steel under the advance licence scheme; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Ministry of Commerce thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. In a select number of cases, such as manufacture of cycle chains and auto parts for export, the permitted wastage norms are as high as 75%–80%.

(c) Yes, Sir. A number of representation have been received from the domestic steel industry against the increasing volume of imports of seconds and defectives through the Advance License Route on the grounds that some of these imports find their way into the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) in a clandestine manner.

(d) and (e) Duty free import of seconds and defectives under the Advance License and Wastage Norms are permitted as per the recommendations of the technical authorities. There may be large variations in the quality of seconds and defectives steel items imported into the country. The quality of the finished products depends upon the quality of the imported seconds/defectives steel used.

(f) and (g) Ministry of Steel has been instrumental in getting a system of checks and balances put in place to curb the import of seconds and defectives in general e.g. duty on such items upto the bound rate of 40%, floor prices, requirement of adherence to BIS norms of quality and restriction of such imports to specific ports for seconds/defectives of certain items. The issue of restricting import of seconds/defectives under Advance Licence Scheme is being examined jointly with the Ministry of Commerce.

#### **Gap between Demand and Supply**

7537. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects in Tamil Nadu being contemplated, completed and pending completion by both the Government and the private sector;

(b) whether the Government are going to guide the State Government to cooperate for more production and supply;

(c) if so, whether the gas-oriented power plants in Tamil Nadu are commissioned and completed in time; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The details of the power projects already completed as on 31.3.2002 and under examination in Central Electricity

Authority (CEA) in respect of Tamil Nadu are given in Statement enclosed.

Following power projects in Private Sector have been cleared by CEA but construction is yet to start.

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Capacity	Reasons
1.	Tuticorin TPS St. IV	525 MW	Litigation
2.	North Madras TPP St. II	2x525	-do-
3.	North Madras St. III	525 MW	Termination of PPA
4.	Cuddalore TPS	2x660 MW	Non absorption of power by the State
5.	Vembar CCGP	1873 MW	-do-

The following power projects are under construction and planned to be commissioned in Tamil Nadu during the 10th Plan.

1.	Pykara Ultimate	150 MW
2.	Perungulam (Valathur)	95 MW
3.	Bhawani Kathalai I, II & III	90 MW
4.	Kutralam Gas	100 MW
5.	Neyveli Zero	250 MW
6.	Neyveli Extn.	210 MW
7.	Neyveli II Exp.	500 MW

(c) and (d) At present there is only one CEA cleared gas based power project namely, Vembar CCGT of 1873 MW capacity which was to be commissioned within 50 months from the date of Financial Closure (FC). The Techno-economic Clearance (TEC) for the project was given in September, 1999, FC, however, could not be achieved due to inability of TNEB to absorb the entire power hence this issue has been referred to Power Trading Corporation for promoting this project as a Central Project.

#### Statement

##### *Details of power projects commissioned and under examination in CEA*

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)
1	2	3
<i>Power Projects Completed as on 31.3.2002</i>		
<b>Thermal</b>		
STATE SECTOR		
1.	Ennore	450
2.	Tuticorin	1050

1	2	3
3.	Mettur	840
4.	North Madras	630
5.	Basin Bridge (Gas)	120
6.	Narimanam	10
7.	Kovilkappal	107
PRIVATE SECTOR		
8.	Pillaiperumalnallur	330.50
9.	Basin Bridge (Diesel)	200
10.	Samalpatti	106.66
11.	Samayanallur	106
CENTRAL SECTOR		
12.	Neyveli	1770
<b>Hydro</b>		
STATE SECTOR		
13.	Pyakara	71.95
14.	Moyar	36
15.	Kundah	555
16.	Mettur Dam	40
17.	Mettur Tunnel	200
18.	Periyar	140
19.	Kodayar	100
20.	Sholayar	95

1	2	3
21.	Aliyar	60
22.	Sarkarpathy	30
23.	Papanasam	28
24.	Suruliyar	35
25.	Servalar	20
26.	Lower Mettur	120
27.	Kadamparaj	400
28.	Vaigaj	6
29.	Lower Bhavani	16
30.	Sathnur Dam	7.5
31.	Parsen valley	30
32.	Poonachi	2
33.	Thirumurthy	1.95
34.	Marbakandi	0.75
<b>Nuclear</b>		
CENTRAL SECTOR		
35.	MAPS	340
<b>Wind</b>		
STATE SECTOR		
36.	Wind Farms	19.40
PRIVATE SECTOR		
37.	Wind Farms	812.90
<i>Power Projects under examination in CEA</i>		
<b>Thermal</b>		
CENTRAL SECTOR		
1.	Neyveli TPS II	2x250

**Digital Technology for Better Transmission**

7538. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the transmission of various Doordarshan channels is very poor, particularly in Border area in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have a proposal to convert the various DD channels into digital technology for better transmission; and

(d) if so, the details of the proposal and the time by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No Sir. Transmission of various Doordarshan channels, including in the border areas of Gujarat, is satisfactory.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Five DD channels are at present being transmitted in digital mode. The remaining Doordarshan channels are envisaged to be digitized during 10th Plan, subject to availability of resources.

**Allotment of Petrol Pumps to Kargil War Widows**

7539. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have worked out a 10 year programme to release petrol pumps to the war widows of Kargil and the ITBP and BSF widows killed in Kashmir;

(b) if so, the ratio in which petrol pumps would be released over the 10 years period;

(c) the reasons for evolving a 10 years plan to help such widows;

(d) whether the 10 year plan could be made into a shorter span;

(e) if so, the extent to which the delay is hurting the image of the Government; and

(f) the steps proposed to work out a different time schedule to implement the Government assurances?

**Hydro**

At present no project report of any hydro scheme of Tamil Nadu is under examination in CEA both in Government and Private Sector.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (f) The Government have not worked out any 10-year programme to release retail outlet dealerships (petrol pumps) to the war widows of Kargil and the widows of the ITBP and the BSF personnel killed in Kashmir.

However, in addition to the other channels available in the existing guidelines, enabling the widows of the Defence/Paramilitary personnel apply for retail outlets (petrol pumps), the Government have formulated a Special Scheme for allotment of retail outlet dealerships/LPG distributorships to widows/next of kin of Defence personnel killed in action in 'OP Vijay' (Kargil). Allotment of dealerships/distributorships under the Special Scheme is made on the recommendations of the Ministry of Defence.

The Government have also earmarked a discretionary quota of retail outlet dealerships/LPG distributorships/SKO-LDO dealerships for allotment on genuine compassionate grounds to deserving persons in the following two categories:

- (i) Dependents of Defence/Paramilitary/Police personnel, who are killed in action or persons permanently disabled while performing their duties and have not been suitably rehabilitated.
- (ii) Dependents of Central/State Government employees, who are killed or permanently disabled performing their duties and have not been suitably rehabilitated.

According to the guidelines, the number of discretionary allotments in a year shall not exceed 10% of the average Annual Marketing Plan or 75, whichever is less, of which allotments of retail outlets for petroleum products will not ordinarily exceed 5% of the average Annual Marketing Plan.

#### **Petroleum Refining and Marketing Regulation Board**

7540. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:  
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:  
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have cleared a Bill to set up a Petroleum Refining and Marketing Regulation Board in the wake of de-regulation of the petroleum sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the objectives and the function of the Petroleum Refining and Marketing Regulatory Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Government have introduced Petroleum Regulatory Board Bill, 2002 in Lok Sabha on May 6, 2002. The main functions of the proposed Board are to protect the interests of consumers and entities engaged in specified activities relating to petroleum and petroleum products, ensure uninterrupted and adequate supply of petroleum and petroleum products in all parts of the country, promote competitive markets etc.

#### **New Advertisement Policy**

7541. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:  
SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a "New Advertisement Policy";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of newspapers which criticised the Government's policies and have been removed from the panel of Directorate of Advertising and Visual publicity (DAVP)?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The new Advertisement Policy of the Government of India and Guidelines for Empanelment of Newspapers with Directorate of Advertising & Visual Publicity (DAVP) came into force with effect from 1st May, 2002. Its salient features are given in the Statement enclosed. No newspaper has been removed from the panel of DAVP on account of its criticism of Government's policies.

### **Statement**

#### *Salient Features of the Advertisement Policy of the Government of India and Guidelines for Empanelment of Newspapers with Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP)*

The primary objective of the Government in advertising is to secure the widest possible coverage of the intended content or message through various newspapers and journals of current affairs which are published daily, weekly, fortnightly or monthly. In releasing advertisements to newspapers/journals DAVP does not take into account the political affiliation or editorial policies of newspapers/journals.

Government advertisements are not intended to be financial assistance to newspapers/journals. DAVP will empanel only such newspapers/journals as are required for issuing advertisements of the Government of India. Care is taken to empanel newspapers/journals having readership from different sections of the society in different parts of the country.

#### **Panel Advisory Committee**

There is a Panel Advisory Committee (PAC) for considering applications of newspapers/journals for being empanelled for receiving Government advertisements. This Committee is headed by Director General, DAVP/Director, DAVP and it includes Adl. Principal Information Officer in the Press Information Bureau (PIB), Press Registrar, RNI and Deputy Secretary/Under Secretary in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting dealing with Print Media. The Committee will also have one representative each from the Association of big, medium and small newspapers.

#### **Criteria for Empanelment**

All newspapers/journals seeking empanelment for the first time should have been uninterruptedly and regularly under publication for a period of not less than 12 months and should comply with the provisions of the Press & Registration of Books Act, 1867. Fresh application for empanelment may be made any time during the year. However, each case will be considered once in a year only.

For renewal of rate contract, the newspapers are to submit applications in prescribed format by 31st May of the year to DAVP.

The details of the paper like size, language, periodicity, print area and details of printing press etc. as asked for in empanelment form may be given. Further it

must be substantiated that the paper is being published at a reasonable standard. Reasonable standard, *inter alia*, means that:

- (a) The print matter and photographs should be legible, neat, clear and without smudges, overwriting and tampering.
- (b) There should be no repetition of news items or articles from other issues.
- (c) There should be no reproduction of news items or articles from other newspaper/journals without credit line.
- (d) Masthead on its front page should carry the title of the newspaper, place, date and day of publication; it should also carry Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) Registration Number, volume & issue number and price of newspaper/journal;
- (e) The newspaper should carry imprint line as required under PRB Act, and
- (f) Inner pages must carry page number, title of the paper and date of publication.

A daily newspaper should furnish issues for preceding four months and weeklies and fortnightlies must furnish issues of preceding six months and monthlies should furnish latest 12 months issues.

#### **Regularity:**

The applicant should have published the newspaper on at least 25 days in each month during preceding 12 months. Weeklies should have published 46 issues during the preceding year, fortnightlies 24 issues and monthlies 10 issues during the preceding year to be considered being brought out regularly.

The applicant should also furnish a copy of the Certificate of Registration issued by the RNI in the name of the publisher.

Newspapers/journals having established circulation of more than 75,000 copies per publishing day, as certified by Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC) can seek empanelment of their fresh edition from a new place without having any regular publication for preceding 12 months, but in such cases empanelment of fresh edition will be only in the lowest slab of circulation. New Editions of small and medium newspapers will also be empanelled similarly.

A newspaper/journal should have a minimum paid circulation of not less than 2000 copies for being considered eligible or empanelment. However, newspapers/journals in Shankrit, newspapers/journals published in backward, border or remote areas or in tribal languages or those published in J&K need to have substantiated minimum paid circulation of only 500 copies per publishing day.

A newspaper/journal should have the following minimum print area:

Periodicity	Print area not less than
Dailies	1520 Std. Col. Cms.
Weeklies, Fornightlies	700 Std. Col. Cms.
Monthlies	960 Std. Col. Cms.

Exceptions may, however, be made by PAC in the case of newspapers/journals belonging to the above mentioned category in Sanskrit etc.

The applicant newspaper/journal should furnish authenticated figures of circulation of ABC, RNI or Chartered Accountant. However, Chartered Accountant Certificate will be accepted only up to 25,000 copies per publishing day for up to one year only. DAVP will take average circulation for the preceding one year as certified by ABC, RNI failing which CA (whichever is less).

RNI circulation check will be valid for three years unless paper is suspended or declared unestablished by RNI. During this period paper seeking renewal of empanelment in the same slab need not furnish any fresh authentication of circulation. Rate renewal cases showing increase in circulation warranting higher slab of rate will need to furnish ABC/RNI circulation check certification. DG/Director, DAVP reserves the right to have figures of circulation checked through its representatives or through RNI where he/she may so decide.

In rate renewal/Empanelment cases, where a three year contract is offered, publishers should submit to DAVP on or before 31st May each year an Affidavit to the effect that they have submitted Annual Return to RNI. In the affidavit the latest figures as certified by ABC/RNI/CA will also be indicated.

A newspaper if declared unestablished by RNI will be suspended from DAVP empanelment and recovery will be effected. Resumption will be considered only on receipt of the RNI certifying circulation.

A newspaper/journal once declared unestablished by RNI will be considered established only from the year RNI declares it established. The circulation certified by RNI/ABC if found lower than the claimed circulation will be taken into consideration for recovery.

#### **Advertising Rate:**

The rate structure for payment against advertisements released by DAVP will be worked out on the basis of laid down principles. DAVP will work out advertisement rates as per the Government of India rate structure formula devised by the Rate Structure Committee. The rates will be related to circulation of a newspaper and will apply uniformly to all newspapers. The newspaper will enter into rate contract with DAVP accepting the DAVP rates and other terms and conditions as laid down from time to time to ensure publication of DAVP advertisements as and when issued to a newspaper.

#### **Renewal of Rate Contract:**

Application for renewal must be submitted to DAVP, complete in all respects, by the due date, which would be the last day of May of the calendar year in which the empanelment expires failing which DAVP may not consider the newspaper for renewal of rate or the concerned year. DAVP will convey its decision on renewal by 30th September of the relevant year. DAVP will place the rate renewal application proforma on its Website <http://www.nic.in/davp> and newspapers may download the proforma from internet to apply for renewal of rate contract of their newspaper. Alternately, newspapers may collect the application proforma from DAVP headquarters or from PIB offices in the country on their own, well in time. DAVP will make available the application proforma for rate renewal/fresh applications to associations of big, medium and small newspapers as recognised by the Press Council of India. Rate renewal contract will be awarded to newspapers for three years if circulation for previous year is supported by RNI or ABC. However, if any newspaper claims increase in circulation with latest RNI or ABC certificate, upward revision may be considered. The revision of rate (upward/downward) will be considered yearly.

#### **Protection of Interest of Shareholders**

7542. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:  
SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

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



(a) the action generally taken against the companies in regard to protection of interest of the shareholders;

(b) whether any case still pending to dispose the case under provision of interest of shareholders till December 31, 1999 out of registered cases of 1997-98 and 1998-99; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The protection of interests of the shareholders is ensured by:

- (i) Redressal of investor grievances by a fully computerised investor complaint redressal mechanism.
- (ii) Launching prosecution against companies wherever statutorily feasible to ensure early redressal of grievances and also to act as a deterrent for erring companies.
- (iii) Amending Companies Act to define "Small Investors" and to provide for representation to small investor in the Boards of Companies.
- (iv) Setting up an Investor Education and Protection Fund to enable investor education and creation of awareness among investors.

(b) and (c) During the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (up to 31/12/1999) 29,824 complaints were received out of which 14,198 complaints were disposed of.

*[Translation]*

#### **Procurement of Masks**

7543. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to purchase three lakh thirty four thousand gas masks and their spare-parts at the cost amounting to Rs. 127 crore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said items are being indigenously produced or would be imported;

(d) whether the supply order has been placed before the DRDO for purchasing the said items;

(e) if so, the date by when the DRDO has started to discharge the duty of purchasing items instead of conducting research; and

(f) the need of setting up a Procurement Board if the DRDO has to discharge the duty of purchasing items?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (f) An order for Nuclear Biological and Chemical (NBC) defence equipment comprising of various items to provide protection to troops against non-persistent chemical agents has been placed on DRDO.

These items are being manufactured indigenously as the technological know-how for the NBC items developed by the DRDO has been transferred by it to its industry partners. DRDO has been entrusted with this order so that quality assurance and testing of the equipment is ensured.

*[English]*

#### **Recovery of Outstanding Dues from SEBs**

7544. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rural Electrification Corporation has initiated legal action for recovery of outstanding dues from State Electricity Boards;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken to assist in realizing the over dues from SEBs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has filed cases with Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT), Delhi against the defaulting State Electricity Boards namely, ASEB (Assam), BSEB (Bihar), WBSEB (West Bengal), MPEB (Madhya Pradesh) and UPPCL (Uttar Pradesh) for recovery of outstanding dues from State Electricity Boards. The status report on the DRT cases is given in statement enclosed.

**Statement****Status as on 7.5.2002 of SEB cases with Advocate M/s KDB & Associates****Finance/Recovery**

Sl. No.	Name of the SEB/State/ O.A.No.	Overdues OA has been filed (Rs. in Crores)	Date of Filing in DRT	Dates of Hearing	Latest Status of the Case/Next date of Hearing
1.	U.P.P.C.L. (UP) (OA No. 69/2001)	787.25	13.2.01	16.2.01, 27.4.01, 5.7.01, 1.8.01, 19.9.01, 12.10.01, 26.12.01, 4.3.02, 31.5.02	A proxy counsel appeared on 4.3.02 and requested for a short adjournment. The P.O. was please to adjourn the matter on 31.5.02 for argument on the application filed by the Defendants.
2.	B.S.E.B. (Bihar) (OA No. 70/2001)	425.2	13.2.01	16.2.01, 27.4.01, 5.7.01, 1.8.01, 17.9.01, 3.10.01, 17.10.01, 26.12.01, 8.3.02, 12.04.02, 24.05.02	Non appeared on 8.3.02 on behalf of Defendant No. 2. After hearing, the Registrar was pleased to grant us two weeks time to file our Replication and the evidence with original documents which is already with Advocates, Next date fixed is 24.5.02.
3.	W.B.S.E.B. (VW.B.) (OA No. 68/2001)	486.63	13.2.01	16.2.01, 27.4.01, 5.7.01, 1.8.01, 17.9.01, 3.10.01, 26.12.01, 4.3.02, 31.05.02.	A Proxy Counsel Appeared on 4.3.02 and Requested for a Short Adjournment. The P.O. was pleased to adjourn the matter to 31.05.02 for arguments on the application filed by the Defendants.
4.	A.S.E.B. (Assam) (OA No. 67/2002)	160.87	13.2.01	16.2.01, 27.4.01, 5.7.01, 1.8.01, 17.9.01, 31.10.01, 4.12.01, 18.1.02, 27.3.02, 16.05.02	The SEB has filed their W.S. and our reply forwarded to Advocate. The next date is 16.05.02 for filing the evidence.
5.	M.P.E.B. (M.P.) (OA No. 92/2001)	1238.93	9.3.01	12.7.20001, 29.8.01, 29.10.01, 28.11.01, 5.02.02, 27.02.02, 5.5.02, 11.7.02	Our Solicitors appeared before DRT and filed reply to the interim Application filed by the Defendants for referring the matter to arbitration. As regards their application for dismissal of original O.A. for non-joinder of Chhattisgarh SEB, our solicitor submitted that the same is a matter of record and sought liberty to move an application for implement pursuant to carving out the Chhattisgarh. The next date of arguments fixed for 11.7.02.
<b>Total</b>		<b>3098.88</b>			

**Setting up of AIR/DD Centres in Gujarat**

7545. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposal pending at present for setting up of Radio Stations and Doordarshan Centres in Gujarat district-wise; and

(b) the steps taken to expedite the implementation of such projects?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) No proposal is pending for setting up of Radio Stations in Gujarat at present. However, 5 TV transmitter projects are presently under implementation. Their District-wise locations are as under:

District	Projects
Vadodara	HPT, Vadodara HPT, Vadodara (DD2)
Rajkot	HPT, Rajkot (DD2)
Bhavnagar	LPT, Bhavnagar (DD2)
Jamnagar	LPT, Jamnagar (DD2)

The above-mentioned projects are at different stages of implementation and are expected to be completed in phases by 2003.

[*Translation*]

**Setting up of Trade Desk in Foreign Countries by IOCL**

7546. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation Limited has decided to set up a trade desk in the foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Oil Corporation Limited has refused to set up a joint venture with British Petroleum Company for import of crude oil;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Corporation has decided to make changes in the existing mechanism for import of crude oil; and

(f) if so, the outlines of the draft proposal for making these changes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) There is no proposal of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., (IOC) to set up an oil trading and risk management desk abroad.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) IOC had entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with British Petroleum (BP) for a strategic alliance for cooperation in the area of oil trading and risk management of oil prices. It did not contain any reference to setting up a joint venture between IOC & BP for import of crude oil.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

**Replacement of Sleepers on Surat-Bhusawal Rail Line**

7547. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of changing the old sleepers on Surat-Bhusawal line is in progress;

(b) if so, the extent to which the work of changing the old sleepers has been completed/remains to be completed;

(c) whether the Government propose to replace rail lines and sleepers along all the stations falling on the aforesaid rail line; and

(d) if so, the time by which this work is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Out of a total 311.78 Kms. of sleepers considered needing renewal, 311 Kms. have already been renewed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

*[English]***Integrated Energy Policy**

7548. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Integrated Energy Policy for India has been submitted to the Prime Minister;

(b) if so, the details of its main objectives; and

(c) the outcome of the recently held "Delhi Sustainable Development Summit, 2002" organized by Tata Energy Research Institute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI) has presented a document titled "Defining an Integrated Energy Strategy for India—A Document for Discussion, Debate and Action" on February 8, 2002 during the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit. The document highlights the urgent need for adopting an integrated approach to energy policy and the reforms process. The document brings out the economic advantages of doing so and also points towards certain institutional changes that would have to be put in place to facilitate such an integrated approach to energy policy.

An Energy Policy Committee has been set up in the Planning Commission to recommend an outline of the Energy Policy for the next 15-20 years. The Tata Energy Research Institute is represented in this Committee.

**Construction of Road**

7549. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken up the construction work of Border Road alongwith Indo-Pak Border in Kutch;

(b) if so, the total Kilometer of road has been completed so far;

(c) the time by which the remaining portion would be completed; and

(d) the funds sanctioned for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

**Commissioned Programmes on Doordarshan**

7550. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have stopped all commissioned programme in its Doordarshan Channel;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether underdeveloped areas such as North-east, Orissa, Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh are demanding to allow commissioned programmes in Doordarshan channel; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As per the present guidelines of Prasar Bharati, unsolicited proposals are not considered. But proposals received with reference to advertisements of specific requirements announced by Doordarshan Kendras, from time to time, are considered/processed.

**New Power Generation Projects**

7551. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the power generation capacity of each State as on date;

(b) whether Rajasthan, UP and Bihar are lagging far behind in comparison with other States in terms of power generation;

(c) if so, whether any proposals has been received by the Union Government from these States for setting up new power projects in their States;

(d) if so, the number of such proposals cleared during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise and the proposals awaiting Government's clearance;

(e) whether the Union Government have formulated some schemes to bring these States at par with other States; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) State-wise generating capacity is given in Statement-I. Details of State-wise hydro and thermal generation as on 31.3.2002 is given in statement-II.

(c) and (d) The list of proposal received by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) from Rajasthan, U.P. and Bihar for new projects in respect of thermal and hydro projects are as under:

*I. New Schemes (CEA cleared)*

State	No. of thermal schemes (MW)			No. of hydro schemes (MW)		
	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
<b>Rajasthan</b>						
State Sector	2(640)	1(75.325)	1(250)	—	—	—
<b>U.P.</b>						
State Sector	—	—	—	1(4x76)	—	—
Central Sector	1(1000)	—	—	—	—	—
Private Sector	—	—	—	—	1(4x82.5)	—
<b>Bihar</b>						
State Sector	—	—	—	—	—	—
Central Sector	—	—	2(3300)	—	—	—
Private Sector	—	—	—	—	—	—

*II. Schemes under examination/returned*

As on date, none of the proposal received from State of Rajasthan, U.P. and Bihar is under examination in

CEA. However due to non tie up of essential inputs/clearances, following schemes have been returned to project authorities.

Name of the Scheme	Capacity (MW)	Date of return	Type of scheme
1	2	3	4
<b>Rajasthan</b>			
Kota TPS St. IV	195	24.4.2002	Thermal
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>			
Lakhwar Vyasi MPP	420	8.10.1999	Hydro
Tiuni Plasus HEP	42	24.8.2000	Hydro
Parichha TPS Extn. St. I	420	6.8.2001	Thermal

1	2	3	4
Feroz Gandhi Unchahar TPP St. III, NTPC	210	5.2.2002	Thermal
National Capital TPP St. II, NTPC	490	5.2.2002	Thermal
<b>Bihar</b>			
Kanhar Pumped Storage Scheme	300	21.7.1999	Hydro
Sankh St. II	186	13.1.2000	Hydro

(e) and (f) A capacity of 41097 MW is planned for addition during 10th Plan of which the States of Rajasthan, U.P. and Bihar account for 1581 MW, 1277 MW and 135 MW respectively. Besides this generating capacity is planned to be added through R&M and life extension of old and inefficient generating units. Special funds under APDP for undertaking R&M schemes are being provided to States. Focus is also on reduction T&D losses, promoting energy efficiency and conservation measures, maximization of interstate and inter-regional power transfer by construction of transmission links and system improvements and finally leading to formation of the National Grid.

**Statement I**

*State-wise generating capacity as on 31.3.2002*

Name of the State/UTs	Generating Capacity (MW)
1	2
Haryana	1990.32
Himachal Pradesh	409.8
Jammu & Kashmir	495.63
Punjab	4528.94
Rajasthan	2999.12
Uttar Pradesh	5612.75
Chandigarh	2.00
Delhi	602.00
Gujarat	7352.48
Madhya Pradesh	4408.01

1	2
Maharashtra	13074.37
Goa	48.16
Daman & Diu	0.00
D&N Haveli	0.00
Andhra Pradesh	7237.54
Karnataka	4967.97
Kerala	2239.44
Tamil Nadu	6776.61
Pondicherry	32.50
Lakshadweep	9.97
Bihar	2228.40
Orissa	2298.49
West Bengal	4784.29
DVC	2871.50
A&N Islands	39.30
Sikkim	37.90
Assam	621.69
Manipur	30.61
Meghalaya	188.76

1	2
Nagaland	22.36
Tripura	85.36
Arunachal Pradesh	45.43
Mizoram	37.20
<b>Total All India</b>	<b>104917.50</b>

**Statement II**

*State-wise Power Generation (Thermal and hydro)  
for the year 2001-02*

SEBs/PSUs/State	Generation (MU)
1	2
<b>Generation (Thermal)</b>	
DVB (Delhi)	2680
J&K	0
HPGC (Haryana)	5076
HPSEB (H.P.)	0
RRVUNL (Rajasthan)	10668
PSEB (Punjab)	14715
UPRVUNL+UPHP (U.P.)	20505
GEB+GSECL (Gujarat)	25944
MSEB (Maharashtra)	45326
MPEB (M.P.)	20292
APGENCO+APGPCL (A.P.)	24201
TNEB (T.N.)	21183
Pondicherry	250
KPCL+KEB (Karnataka)	9721
KSEB (Kerala)	424

1	2
BSEB (Bihar)	2089
Tenughat V	1160
OPGC (Orissa)	2601
WBSEB+WBPDCCL+DPL (W.B.)	13634
ASEB (Assam)	846
Tripura	226
Sikkim	0
Meghalaya	0
Arunachal Pradesh	0
<b>Generation (Hydro)</b>	
J&K SPDC	558
HPSEB	1144
HPGC	232
RRVUNL	540
PSEB	3710
UPJVNL	2036
Uttaranchal	2911
GEB	284
MSEB	3578
MPEB	2212
CSEB	395
APGENCO	6156
KPCL	6249
VVNL	234
KSEB	6735
TNEB	4364
BSES	61
Jharkhand	101

1	2
OSEB	6459
WBSEB	548
Sikkim	35
Meghalaya	614
Tripura	68
Arunachal Pradesh	12
Nagaland	2

#### Occupancy of Trains

7552. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a steep fall in the occupancy of the Rajdhani and Shatabdis during 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Chennai-Bangalore Mysore Shatabdis alone earned profit during that period; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to attract more passengers for this train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) As compared to the previous year, while Rajdhani trains have shown increase in the number of passengers, the Shatabdi express Trains have shown slight decline in the number of passengers booked.

(c) The profitability of individual trains are not maintained. The earnings of Train No. 2008 Mysore-Chennai Shatabdi Express has increased during the year 2001-02 in comparison to the previous year. In addition, ten other Shatabdi Express trains have also indicated increase in earnings as compared to previous year.

(d) Wide publicity through News papers advising the general public about the availability of accommodation in 2007/2008 Chennai-Mysore Shatabdi Express trains is given. Further, a special counter is available at the platform of departure of these trains at Chennai and Bangalore for the convenience of last minute passengers.

from where tickets are issued subject to availability of accommodation.

[Translation]

#### Non-Completion of Indira Sagar Power Project

7553. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work on Indira Sagar Power Project over Narmada river has been accelerated owing to delay in its completion within the scheduled time;

(b) if so, the number of cities and towns likely to get power supply from this scheme in Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) the amount spent on this project by the Union and State Governments separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The Indira Sagar Project was being constructed as a State Sector Project by the Government of Madhya Pradesh. However, due to the paucity of funds, the Government of Madhya Pradesh requested the Ministry of Power in April, 2000 to have the Project implemented as a joint venture of the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation and the Government of Madhya Pradesh. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between NHPC and the Government of Madhya Pradesh on 16.5.2000 for execution of the Project. The Government of India in March, 2002, has approved the formation of the Joint Venture Company Narmada Hydro Development Corporation (NHDC) and the cost estimate of Indira Sagar Project to be executed by the Joint Venture Company with a completion schedule of May, 2005.

(b) The entire power from the Project will be allocated to Madhya Pradesh at the tariff to be determined by Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC). A Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) has been signed between NHDC and the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

(c) The amount spent on Unit-I & Unit-III of the Indira Sagar Project to date by the Government of Madhya Pradesh is Rs. 1157.23 crore. The Government of India has released a sum of Rs. 460.00 crores to NHPC for this project in the financial year 2001-2002.



*[English]***Ila Conference in New Delhi**

7554. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Law Association (ILA) Conference was lately held in New Delhi to consider ways and measures to prevent abuse of financial systems by terrorists to finance their activities in the light of UN Convention for suppression of Financing of Terrorism (1999) and the British Terrorism Act, 2000;

(b) if so, the observations and recommendations or suggestions made therein; and

(c) the response and reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) In the 70th Biennial Conference of the International Law Association held in New Delhi from 2nd April to 7th April, 2002, a Plenary Session was also held on legal issues of international terrorism on 4th April, 2002 from 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

(b) and (c) The headquarters of International Law Association at London are still in the process of preparing their recommendations and suggestions.

**Power Cuts**

7555. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether power cuts in the largest single cause of data loss accounting for some 43% of all problems on the computer use;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any time bound plans to improve and rectify this highly wasteful state of affairs adding to loss of time and effort and other monetary costs;

(c) if so, whether the Government are aware that the MNCs and other have to install other expensive electricity sources giving a poor image to the Management of Power Sector in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) According to Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, Department of Information Technology, to overcome the problem of data loss due to power failure, National Informatics Center, has been providing UPS (Uninterrupted Power Supply) at its computer sites with suitable battery back-up.

The Government has planned to make the country self-sufficient in power by the year 2012. The following steps are being taken to achieve this target as well as to mitigate the shortage of power in the country and improve its reliability and quality:

- (i) Renovation and Modernization (R&M) and life extension of existing old and inefficient generating units. Special funds under Accelerated Power Development Programme for undertaking R&R schemes are being provided to States.
- (ii) Speedy implementation of Reforms & Restructuring in the Power Sector.
- (iii) Early stabilization of newly commissioned generating units.
- (iv) Reduction in transmission and Distribution losses.
- (v) Promoting energy efficiency and conservation measures.
- (vi) Demand side management.
- (vii) Augmentation/Strengthening/upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution network. (Special funds under the Accelerated Power Development Programme are being provided to States).
- (viii) Maximization of inter-state and inter-regional power transfer by construction of transmission links and system improvement and finally leading to formation of the National Grid.
- (ix) Captive Power—The Government of India, had advised the State Governments/State Electricity Boards to encourage setting up captive generation plants and to create an institutional mechanism which may allow captive power units an easy entry into the power sector by quickly clearing captive power applications, giving the developers a rational tariff for purchase of surplus power by the grid and third party access for direct sale of power to other industrial units. Ministry of Power has circulated a captive power policy in July, 2001 to all the States and Union Territories.

- (x) Many states have set up Electricity Regulatory Commissions to rationalize tariffs and improving the performance of utilities. These Commissions are also mandated to protect the interests of the consumers.

#### **Poor Quality of Programmes from Jordan Air**

7556. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the poor quality of programmes broadcast from Joranda AIR Station, Dhenkanal in Orissa;

(b) whether the relay centre/AIR Station is not able to project the local culture for which it was set up;

(c) whether the AIR station has not been upgraded since it was set up in 1995;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to improve the performance, quality of programmes, and to give priority to broadcasting local culture in that AIR Station?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (e) A Local Radio Station with 1 KW Medium Wave Transmitter has been installed at Joranda to cater to the local population. Adjoining areas in land around Joranda District are covered by the existing Transmitter.

Prasar Bharati has informed that the Joranda AIR Station broadcasts programmes of good quality. The programmes adequately project the local culture and in order to bring out the local flavour the station engages local talent to run various programme activities. All important functions and happenings in the area are covered to fulfil the aspirations of the local people.

#### **Accident Relief Coaches**

7557. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accident relief coaches are there in the south Central Railways;

(b) whether there is a proposal to increase the number of such accident relief coaches in the accident prone South Central Railways;

(c) if so, the number of additional Accident Relief Trains and coaches which will be pressed into service during 2002-2003 in south Central Railways;

(d) whether the Railways have put all the station masters in this zone on full alert to report bad track immediately; and

(e) if so, the details of training given to railway staff to react much faster to news of accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) 19 Accident Relief Trains (ARTs) have been provided at different locations on the South Central Railway. There are 81 coaches deployed on these ARTs. Further there are 17 Accident Relief Medical Vans (ARMVs) containing 34 coaches.

(b) and (c) ARTs and ARMVs are provided taking into account the traffic density and other relevant features. At present there is no proposal to increase the number of Accident Relief Trains (or coaches) on South Central Railway.

(d) Standing instructions exist for concerned field staff including all station masters/assistant station masters to be alert and report any abnormality affecting train operation.

(e) Railway personnel are imparted training in various Training Institutes on Zonal Railways and it includes training in rescue and relief operations. Training imparted under Induction, Promotional, Refresher and special courses is part of such training. Besides, mock drills are also conducted from time to time to check alertness of staff in responding to emergencies especially railway accidents.

#### **Non-Implementation of Projects**

7558. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have not implemented many of the projects for which allocations had been made;

(b) if so, the details of such non-implemented projects; and

(c) the reasons for non-implementation of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) It is the constant endeavour of the Government to take up implementation of the projects for which allocations are made, subject to availability of funds and priority of projects.

[*Translation*]

#### Allocation for Defence

7559. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to prepare a separate five year plan with a view to augmenting the capability of defence forces in place of annual allocation of budget for defence;

(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 DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to prepare a separate five year plan in place of annual allocation of Budget for Defence. Five year plans are prepared for planning in the medium term for the Defence Services but the actual allocation of funds is made in the Annual Budget.

[*English*]

#### Expansion of Transmitter Projects

7560. SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of transmitter projects in Doordarshan network included under expansion scheme during the current year, State-wise, location wise;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the transmitters installed in most of the remote and isolated hilly areas are very low powered transmitter;

(c) if so, the detailed steps taken/proposed to be taken to install the correct transmitter; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) State-wise locations of transmitter projects targeted to be completed during 2002-03 are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) to (d) Very low power transmitters are considered appropriate for providing coverage to pocket of small population clusters and in remote & hilly areas.

#### Statement

##### *Transmitter Projects Targeted to be completed during 2002-03*

State/UT	New Transmitters		Upgradation of interim HPTs to pmt. Setups	
1	2		3	
Andhra Pradesh	LPT	Miryalguda Kakinada (DD II) Nellore (DD II) Kolhapur Talakondapally	HPT	Vishakhapatnam (DD II)
	VLPT	Madipadu		
Assam	LPT	Satarsal		
Bihar	LPT	Gaya (DD II) Bhabhua		

1		2		3
Chattisgarh	LPT	Pandaria	HPT	Ambikapur (pmt.)
Gujarat	HPT	Rajkot (DD II)	HPT	Surat
				Surat (DD II)
	LPT	Vadodara (DD II)		
		Bhavnagar (DD II)		
		Jamnagar (DD II)		
Haryana	LPT	Hodal		
		Hissar (DD II)		
Himachal Pradesh	VLPT	Jhatingri		
		Kaja		
		Chirgaon		
Jammu & Kashmir	HPT	Naushera	Kupwara	
		Tithwal	Gurez	
		Samba	Poonch (DD II)	
		Naushera (DD II)	Kupwara (DD II)	
		Samba (DD II)	Gurez (DD II)	
		Tithwal (DD II)		
	LPT	Pattan (mobile)		
		Patnitop (mobile)		
		Dharmasal (mobile)		
	VLPT	Boniyar		
		Gandoh		
		Gool		
		Gulabgarh		
		Gulmarg		
		Keran		
		Arnas		
		Chanani		
		Loran		
		Nagrota		
		Puhwama		
		Sudh-Mahadev		

1		2		3
		Tatapani		
		Thathri		
		Tilel		
Jharkhand	LPT	Bokaro (DD II)		
	VLPT	Ramgarh Hill		
Karnataka	HPT	Mysore		
		Dharwad (DD II)		
		Mysore (DD II)		
	LPT	Davangere (DD II)		
		Bellary (DD II)		
	VLPT	Huvin Hippargi		
		Kudligi		
Kerala	LPT	Thrissur (DD II)	HPT	Cannanore
	VLPT	Erattupetta		
		Mundakayam		
Madhya Pradesh			HPT	Gwalior (DD II)
Maharashtra	HPT	Jalgaon	HPT	Pune (DD II)
				Aurangabad (DD II)
	LPT	Nashik (DD II)		
		Amravati (DD II)		
		Kolhapur (DD II)		
		Sangli (DD II)		
		Malegaon (DD II)		
		Akola (DD II)		
		Nanded (DD II)		
		Dhule (DD II)		
		Badlapur		
Meghalaya	LPT	Cherapunji		
Orissa	LPT	Bahalda		
Punjab			HPT	Fazilka
				Jalandhar (DD II)
Rajasthan			HPT	Ajmer

1	2	3
Sikkim	VLPT	Zorethang
Tamilnadu	HPT	Kodaikanal (DD II)
	LPT	Madura (DD II)
		Erode (DD II)
		Tirunelveli (DD II)
		Tirupattur (DD II)
Tripura	LPT	Ambassa
Uttar Pradesh	HPT	Faizabad
		Kanpur (DD II)
Uttaranchal	LPT	Gopeshwar (Dewal)
	VLPT	Bachher
		Manila
		Phata
		Dugadda
West Bengal	HPT	Kharagpur
		Balurghat (pmt.)
		Krishnagar (pmt.)
A&N Islands	VLPT	Kalighat
		Swaraj Gram
Pondicherry		HPT Pondicherry

#### Shakuntala Narrow Gauge Project

7561. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the future of Shakuntala the only narrow gauge British vintage trains running between Yavatmal and Murtayapur in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the details of measures taken up in the 150h year of Indian Railways to preserve such vintage trains in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) The narrow gauge section between Yavatmal and Murtayapur in Maharashtra, is a private railway line owned by the Central Provinces

Railways Company Limited. This line is worked by the Indian Railways in terms of an agreement entered into with the owing company which provides an option to the Central Government at an interval of every ten years, when a financial review is undertaken, to purchase the line. The next option falls due in the year 2006 when the matter will be examined afresh.

#### Telecasting of Metro Programmes from Bhatinda

7562. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration to begin telecasting of DD-2 programmes from Bhatinda station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Expansion of Doordarshan services is a continuous activity and it depends on the availability of resources and *inter-se* priorities.

[*Translation*]

**Funds for Development of Power Sector during Ninth Plan**

7563. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the funds spent for the development of Power sector during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the funds proposed to be allocated for the development of power sector during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(c) whether the funds allocated for the Tenth Five Year Plan are not sufficient for the plan period; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The total expenditure by the Central Sector CPSUs and on Schemes administered by the Ministry of Power, during the 9th Plan Period was Rs. 39,736.51 crore (Figures for 2001-02 are provisional). This consists of Internal & Extra Budgetary Resources of PSUs amounting to Rs. 24513.71 crore and Gross Budgetary Support amounting to Rs. 15222.8 crore.

(b) to (d) An allocation of Rs. 1,43,399 crore has been approved by the Planning Commission for the power sector in the 10th Plan. Additional requirement of funds, if any, would be taken up at the appropriate stage.

**Division of Premises of Punjab and Haryana High Court**

7564. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Haryana State Legislative Assembly regarding division of the present premises of the Punjab and Haryana High Court at Chandigarh in the ratio of 60 : 40 for setting up a separate High Court for Haryana;

(b) if so, the details of the said proposal; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The Government of Haryana has forwarded a copy of the resolution of the Haryana Vidhan Sabha for creation of a separate High Court for Haryana in the existing premises at Chandigarh by allocating 40% building, ministerial staff and administrative functionaries alongwith the judges appointed from the Haryana quota.

(c) Establishment of a separate High Court for Haryana would depend upon on the shifting of its Capital from Chandigarh as also developing infrastructure for a new High Court within the State of Haryana.

**Jobs Provided under Thermal Power Stations**

7565. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of dependents who were provided employment in Chandrapura Thermal Power Station, Bokaro Thermal Power Station and in other power plants under Damodar Valley Corporation on compassionate grounds during each of the last three years;

(b) if so, the number of employees died while in service in such power stations and other departments during the last three years and the current year; and

(c) the effective steps taken by the Management to provide employment to the dependents of deceased employees and the number of such cases pending with the management and the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) During the period 1999-2001, the details of Station-wise offers of appointment issued on compassionate grounds were as follows:

Year	Chandrapura TPS	Bokaro TPS	Other Projects
1999	—	—	—
2000	—	18	11
2001	—	20	06
Total	—	38	17

During the same period the number of employees who died at BTPS and CTPS was 18 and 17 respectively. The total number of employees died during the same period in other projects was 106.

(c) As per existing policy of the Corporation, 25% of regular vacancies in Group 'D' posts caused due to retirement/death/promotion have been reserved for appointment on compassionate grounds. In addition to the above, appointment in Group 'C' post is also considered for the widow/ward of deceased employees, if they fulfill the requisite qualification/experience for the post, subject to their successful completion of tests/interviews. There are 648 persons in panel including the cases of CTPS and BPTS for compassionate appointment in Group 'C' and 'D' categories.

#### Yoga Training to Railway Staff

7566. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:  
SHRI C.N. SINGH:  
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is contemplating to provide training of yoga to its operational staff;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith objective behind it; and

(c) the time by which the said yoga training is likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Recommendation No. 5.7 of the Railway Safety Review Committee-98 (Part-I) wherein they have recommended that yoga and meditation lessons be imparted to trainees in Railway Training Centres has been accepted. As the job performed by the railwaymen is very strenuous, yoga and meditation is being introduced

with an objective to help the railwaymen in coping with the stress and strain involved with the job. In this context a pilot project yoga training was imparted in 3 locations, namely Indian Railways Institute of Mechanical & Electrical Engineering, Jamalpur, Zonal Training Centre, Chandausi and Drivers' training Centre, Tughlakabad for six months.

Keeping in view the feed back received from the pilot project, it was decided that yoga and meditation lessons be imparted to trainees in Railway Training Centres on an experimental basis for one year. Instructions for the same have been issued to all the Railways in November 2001.

[English]

#### Corruption Cases against Engineers

7567. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY:  
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:  
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 5285 dated December 22, 2000 regarding corruption cases against Engineers and to state:

(a) whether the officials against whom charge sheets were issued, have been allowed to remain in their posts violating the norms;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reasons for not transferring the guilty officials out of Delhi;

(d) whether it reflects and nexus between the corrupt officers of CCW, AIR and field formation; and

(e) if so, the stringent action taken against the corrupt officials?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Encroachment of Land

7568. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that some land of the Secunderabad cantonment is subject to encroachment;



(b) if so, the action taken to reclaim the land; and

(c) the special measures being taken to ensure security of the Defence Zone in view of the growing residential colonies in its surroundings?

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

(b) Action has been initiated under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupation) (PPE) Act, 1971 for vacation of encroached land. The courts have granted stay of eviction proceedings in some cases.

(c) Keeping in view the growing residential colonies, appropriate security measures have been taken to ensure the security of defence establishments.

#### **Tipaimukh Dam Project**

7569. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Tipaimukh Dam Project;

(b) whether the MoU has been signed with the concerned States of Manipur, Assam and Mizoram;

(c) if so, the present stumbling blocks on the project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The Tipaimukh Hydro Electric (Multi Purpose) Project, located in Manipur, was taken over by the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd. (NEEPCO) from the Brahmaputra Board in July, 1999. NEEPCO prepared a Detailed Project Report on the Project and submitted the same to Government of Manipur in December, 2000 along with a draft Memorandum of understanding (MOU) to be signed between the Government of Manipur and NEEPCO. The Government of Manipur had examined the draft MOU and while according its approval in December, 2001, suggested some changes in the draft. MOUs with the States of Manipur, Mizoram and Assam are yet to be signed. A number of representations have been received from local groups in Manipur against the execution of the project. NEEPCO, with the help of the Government of Manipur, is making efforts to generate public opinion in favour of the project. The matter for site clearance is presently under consideration with the Ministry of Environment and Forests to enable NEEPCO to start pre-

construction activities. The estimated cost of providing security during pre-construction and construction stages of the project and the cost of diversion of National Highway are very high and the matter is being examined for not loading these costs on the project. The project will require about 12 years to implement from the date of investment clearance.

#### **Comprehensive Print Media Policy**

7570. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to take a fresh look at the Cabinet Resolution of 1955;

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

(c) whether the Government had also decided to frame a comprehensive print media policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The Standing Committee on Information Technology has given its report on the subject of entry of Foreign Print Media and Foreign Direct Investment in Print Media. The Report which has a number of dissenting notes, is being examined by the Government.

#### **Orders of Cylinders to Manufacturers**

7571. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer given to the Unstarred Question No. 1874 dated Mach 14, 2002 and state:

(a) whether the Oil Marketing Companies have placed the orders to the manufacturers whose representations were 'in principle' accepted;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in placing the order to them on the part of OMCs;

(d) whether all the OMC's have followed the same criteria in accepting the cylinders for such manufacturers; and

(e) if not, the reasons for different treatment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have accepted the request of 11 cylinder manufacturers for upliftment of old design cylinders after recovering appropriate differential amount in cost. The orders to such manufacturers are under placement.

(d) and (e) All the OMCs have followed same criteria while accepting the request from concerned manufacturers.

#### **Hike in Fares**

7572. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government contemplate to give advertisement of chart showing the increased fare for all classes for all trains in all the leading national dailies across the country to enable the railway passengers to know about the precise increase in fares;

(b) if not, whether the Government contemplate to sell the said chart at nominal prices on the pattern of Railway Time Tables and the time by when the revised printed Railway Time Tables are likely to be ready;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the Government propose to curb the practice of charging more fare than the actual for unreserved tickets at railway stations by booking staff in the absence of such chart from passengers who are in a hurry to catch the train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Each time the fares are revised, publicity is given through newspapers. Besides, the kilometer-wise fares are printed in Passenger Fare Table and Railway Time Tables. Passenger Fare Tables, which is priced at Rs. 10, can be purchased from Indian Railway Conference Association, Chelmsford Road, New Delhi. The revised Railway time Table will be ready in July, 2002.

(d) Revised fares for different destinations are displayed on the notice-boards at booking offices, stamped on old stock of tickets and printed on tickets issued through Self Printing Ticketing Machines. Regular checks are also conducted to ensure correct changing. These measures minimise the chances of excess charging.

#### **Small Investors**

7573. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to appoint small Investors' representatives on the Board of Directors of various Stock Exchanges;

(b) whether Members of Parliament & Investors' Association have made representation in this regard;

(c) whether the Government will give importance to small investors;

(d) whether workers, employees, speakers are also given representation on the Board of Directors of their companies;

(e) if so, whether amendments in the companies act have also made provision of small shareholders represent on Board of Directors;

(f) if so, whether it will give memorandum to small investors;

(g) whether Investors' Association may be allowed to represent on Board of Directors; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (h) the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **710 MW Koel Karo Hydro Project**

7574. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 710 MW Koel Karo Hydro Power Project in Bihar was originally conceived for benefit of Bihar and was handed over to NHPC in 1981;

(b) whether the project has not been completed even now;

(c) if so, the reasons for almost nil progress;

(d) whether it is proposed to shelve this project; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the total amount spent by NHPC on this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) The Koel Karo Hydro-electric Project (710 MW) in Bihar (now in Jharkhand) was originally approved in June 1981 at an estimated cost of Rs. 444.67 crores at March 1980 price level to be executed by National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC). The project, however, could not take off on account of resistance from the local people to the acquisition of land, financial constraints and Rehabilitation & Resettlement (R&R) issues. In August 1984 a writ petition was filed demanding *inter-alia* a scheme for rehabilitation of the displaced persons resulting in a stay imposed by the Supreme Court. On submission of the R&R package, the stay was vacated on 6.2.1989.

2. In a meeting of the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) constituted by the Government for reviewing Central Sector projects making slow progress, held on 26.2.1997, it was decided that no further expenditure be incurred on the project without the approval of CCEA.

3. Based on the request of the Hon'ble Members of Parliament from Bihar, Ministry of Power took steps to revive the project. The Government of Bihar was requested to conduct survey of Project Affected Persons (PAPs) in order to enable NHPC in formulating the Environment Management Plan (EMP) in accordance with the guidelines of the Supreme Court. The Project now falls in the State of Jharkhand and the Government of Jharkhand has written to Ministry of Environment & Forests (MOEF) in June 2001, stressing that it would be essential to conduct fresh survey of PAPs to identify the actual beneficiaries for implementing the R&R plan.

4. The anticipated completion cost of the project is Rs. 3223.68 crores. The tentative tariff at the completion cost would be around Rs. 7.99 per unit. The cost of the project can only be firmed up after the actual beneficiaries have been identified and R&R plan approved based on the fresh survey. Orissa, West Bengal and Sikkim have declined to purchase power from the Koel Karo H.E. Project. The Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) earlier executed with Bihar will need modification, as the project is located in Jharkhand which is yet to sign PPA for the purchase of power.

5. The Government of Jharkhand had filed an affidavit in response to a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) (W.P. PIL No. 3316 of 2001) filed by Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Smriti Kendra wherein the State Government had informed the

High Court of Jharkhand that various issues and questions of far reaching importance and magnitude have to be taken into consideration and decided by the Government of Jharkhand before the State Government can take a definite stand on whether to construct the project or not. The issue *inter alia* relate to the acquisition of over 16,000 hectares private land as also taking possession of a large area of forest land. This would involve dislocation of a large number of families. The other major issues relates to the comparatively high tariff of power from the project and the project cost. The State Government also said that they would not be able to commit at this stage any time frame within which a decision could be taken in respect of taking up the implementation of the project. Keeping in view the difficulties expressed by the State Government in their affidavit, the Court dismissed the PIL on 22nd February, 2002. The expenditure incurred on the project till March, 2002 is Rs. 51.07 crores.

#### **Proposal to Disqualify Persons having more than two Children**

7575. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to disqualify those persons who have more than two children from contesting election to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies;

(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 LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) A Bill, namely, The Constitution (Seventy-ninth Amendment) Bill, 1992 seeking to disqualifying a person for being chosen as, and for being, a Member of a House of Parliament or Legislature of a State who has more than two children, so as to promote population control and small family norm, was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 22.12.1992 by the then Government. The Bill is pending for consideration and passing in that House.

#### **Legislation on 'Buy Indian Act'**

7576. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to enact legislation "Buy Indian Act" in which provides for preferential purchase of steel from Indian manufacturers only, for all the Government funded projects with in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such acts are enacted in other countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps mooted to overcome the recession in Steel Industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Ministry of Steel had proposed enactment of a legislation—"Buy India Act" with the objective to encourage growth and development of indigenous industry by giving preference to indigenous steel producers in Government procurement. The Act would apply to all projects, industrial or business enterprises set up or to be setup with the grant and aid of public money. Ministries of Commerce & Industry, Finance and DGFT are being consulted on the draft legislation.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. United States of America has such a legislation known as the Buy American Act. The Buy American Act applied only to government procurement and contains two major actions, one of which governs contracts for supplies and the other which governs construction contracts. The first section requires federal agencies to buy only domestic "articles, materials, and supplies" when they are acquired for public use unless the cost is unreasonable or the purchase is "inconsistent with the public interest." The second section requires that all government contracts for "construction, alteration, or repair of any public building or public work in the United States" contain a provision mandating the use of domestic products by the contractor, subcontractor, material man, or supplier, unless the head of the agency determines an exception is necessary.

(e) Steps taken by Government to raise consumption level of steel in the country, include (i) constitution of a National Campaign Committee to promote steel consumption through development of markets especially in the rural areas, (ii) encouraging usage of steel in new application areas such as grain storage systems, crash barriers in highways and expressways, (iii) providing

financial support to R&D ventures in iron and steel sector to reduce production cost; and, (iv) organizing seminars for dissemination of knowledge on the use of steel.

#### **Expansion of Doordarshan in Madhya Pradesh**

7577. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme for DD expansion programme in Madhya Pradesh especially in Tribal and Rural areas of Madhya Pradesh during 2002-03;

(b) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has also approached the Union Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the tribal districts/rural areas are to be covered?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Three transmitter projects viz. HPT, Guna, HPT, Gwalior (DD2) and LPT, Sindhwa (Tribal Distt. Khargaon) are expected to be commissioned in Madhya Pradesh during 2002-03.

(b) and (c) No such proposal has been received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh in the recent past.

#### **Vacant Post**

7578. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of posts lying vacant in his Ministry/ Departments and subordinate offices as on March 31, 2002 along with the date since when these are lying vacant, category-wise;

(b) the reasons for keeping these posts vacant; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The details regarding the posts lying vacant, reasons and time likely to be taken to fill up these posts in the Ministry of Power and its subordinate offices as on 31.3.2002 is given in the Statement enclosed.

**Statement****(a) Posts Vacant as on 31.3.2002****Ministry of Power**

Sl. No.	Post	Group	No. of vacancies	Date since vacant
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Research Officer	A	03	One each occurred in Oct., 1997, Aug., 1998 and Sept., 1999
2.	Asstt. Library & Information Officer	B	01	13.11.2001
3.	Senior Hindi Translator	C	01	21.09.2001
4.	Junior Hindi Translator	C	01	19.02.2002
5.	Stenographer Gr. D	C	03	One each with effect from 14.10.99, 25.01.01 and 6.8.01
6.	Peon	D	01	20.6.2000

**Central Electricity Authority**

1.	Chief Engineer (Promotion quota)	A	04	one each w.e.f. 25.7.2001, 26.09.2001, 17.10.2001 and 22.11.2001
2.	Chief Engineer (Deputation quota)	A	03	Since 1996-97
3.	Director/SE (Promotion quota)	A	05	One each w.e.f. 10.10.2001, 17.10.2001 and 3 from 26.3.2002
4.	Director/SE (Deputation Quota)	A	15	Since 1990-91
6.	DD/EE (DR quota)	A	21	Since 1990-91
7.	AD-I (Promotion quota)	A	17	During 2001
8.	AD-I (DR quota)	A	52	Since 2000
9.	AD-II	B	07	One each w.e.f. 14.10.98, 30.11.98, 3.12.98, 13.7.99, 18.1.01, 27.07.01 & 08.01.2002
10.	Technical Officer	B	20	Since 28.2.2001
11.	Junior Engineers	B	14	10 w.e.f. 28.2.01 and 4 w.e.f. 22.10.01
12.	Electricians	C	2	One each w.e.f. 30.7.01 and 30.11.01
13.	Drafts Man Gr. I	C	5	One each w.e.f. 20.5.99, 14.7.99, 24.10.99, 1.8.01 and 31.12.01
14.	Drafts Man Gr. II	C	17	One each w.e.f. 6.8.98, 31.8.98, 21.12.99. One ST vacancy since 96-97 and rest during 2001
15.	Drafts Man Gr. III	C	9	5 since 26.4.01 and one each from 27.4.01, 30.4.01, 6.7.01 and 11.9.01
16.	I/C Ferro Printer	C	1	6.7.01

1	2	3	4	5
17.	Blue Printer/Ferro Printer	C	2	One each from 4.7.01 and 10.7.01
18.	Peon	D	16	One each from 31.7.95, 1.3.98, 1.6.98, 17.8.98, 1.2.99, 31.7.99, 1.2.02, 1.3.02, 4 posts from 20.7.00, 2 posts 25.8.00 and 2 posts from 8.3.00.
19.	Chowkidar	D	1	1.2.99
20.	Farash	D	5	one each from 22.11.98, 13.11.98, 21.6.00, 2.2.01, 10.5.01
21.	Safaiwala	D	3	one each from 3.6.98, 30.5.01 and Feb. 00
22.	Jr. Hindi Translator	C	1	Feb. 96

**Subordinate Offices of Central Electricity Authority**

Hindi Officer	B	1	—
Sr. PA	B	2	3/02
Steno Gr. I	B	1	2/02
Steno Gr. II	B	10	10.2001
Storekeeper	C	1	6.2001
UDC	C	1	5/99
LDC	C	6	one each from 97, 1/99, 10/98, 8/01, 10/01, 7/01
Chowkidar	C	3	10/95, 9/98, 1/01
Peon/Farash/Messenger/ Attendant/Safaiwala	D	5	6/99, 5/00, 10/00, 11/01, 11/01

**(b) Reasons for keeping the posts vacant**

**Ministry of Power**

S.No.	Post	Reason for keeping vacant
1	2	3
1.	Research Officer	Kept in abeyance in exchange for continuance of the Energy Management Centre. Deemed abolished since they are vacant for more than a year.
2.	Asstt. Library & Information Officer	Ex cadre post. Filled in consultation with the UPSC. Proposal is under submission to the Commission for finalising selection.

1	2	3
3.	Senior Hindi Translator	Nomination awaited from the Deptt. of Official Language, the Cadre Controlling Authority of the post.
4.	Junior Hindi Translator	Nomination awaited from the Deptt. of Official Language, the Cadre Controlling Authority of the post.
5.	Stenographer Gr. D	Nominations were awaited from the Staff Selection Commission. Vacancies have since been filled on the basis of the nominations received from SSC.
6.	Peon	Lying unfilled due to non-availability of eligible and willing officials in the feeder grade. Necessary action is being taken to assess the suitability of a willing Farash who has since become available.
<b>Central Electricity Authority</b>		
1.	Chief Engineer (Promotion quota)	DPC proposals pending in UPSC.
2.	Chief Engineer (Deputation quota)	Sufficient response is not being received despite the best efforts by MoP.
3.	Director/SE (Promotion quota)	DPC proposals under process.
4.	Director/SE (Deputation Quota)	Sufficient response is not being received despite the best efforts by MoP.
6.	DD/EE (DR quota)	Nominations for ESE-2000, 2001 & 2002 are to be received from UPSC.
7.	AD-I (Promotion quota)	DPC proposals under process.
8.	AD-I (DR quota)	Sufficient response is not being received despite the best efforts by MoP.
9.	AD-II	Due to ban vide MoF OM dated 5.8.99 & now being more than one year old. One post of ST candidate could not be filled due to non-availability of ST candidate.
10.	Technical Officer	Ban on direct recruitment.
11.	Junior Engineers	Ban on direct recruitment.
12.	Electricians	Ban on direct recruitment.
13.	Drafts Man Gr. I	Ban on direct recruitment.
14.	Drafts Man Gr. II	13 posts to be abolished under cadre review. Ban on direct recruitment.
15.	Drafts Man Gr. III	One official left in feeder grade. To be abolished under cadre review.
16.	I/C Ferro Printer	To be abolished under cadre review.
17.	Blue Printer/Ferro Printer	To be abolished under cadre review.
18.	Peon	Due to court case regarding daily wages versus Union of India. Due to ban on direct recruitment and review of the posts.

1	2	3
19.	Chowkidar	Due to ban on direct recruitment and review of the posts.
20.	Farash	Due to ban on direct recruitment and review of the posts.
21.	Safaiwala	Due to ban on direct recruitment and review of the posts.
22.	Jr. Hindi Translator	Due to ban to fill up the post.

**Subordinate Offices of Central Electricity Authority**

Hindi Officer	Post under review.
Sr. PA	Action is being taken to fill up the post.
Steno Gr. I	Action is being taken to fill up the post.
Steno Gr. II	Action is being taken to fill up the post.
Storekeeper	Candidate in feeder grade not available.
UDC	Action is being taken to fill up the post.
LDC	Ban on direct recruitment.
Chowkidar	Ban on direct recruitment.
Peon/Farash/Messenger/ Attendant/Safaiwala	Ban on direct recruitment.

**(c) The time by which the vacancies are likely to be filled up**

**Ministry of Power**

Sl.No.	Post	Time likely to be taken to be filled up
1	2	3
1.	Research Officer	These posts will not be filled up as per the assurance given to the Ministry of Finance.
2.	Asstt. Library & Information Officer.	UPSC is in the process of finalising selection to fill up the vacancy.
3.	Senior Hindi Translator	As and when nomination is received from Deptt. of Official Language.
4.	Junior Hindi Translator	As and when nomination is received from Deptt. of Official Language.
5.	Stenographer Gr. D	Since filled up
6.	Peon	As and when the eligible and willing Farash is found suitable for appointment as Peon.

**Central Electricity Authority**

1.	Chief Engineer (Promotion quota)	As and when recommendations of DPC are received.
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1	2	3
2.	Chief Engineer (Deputation quota)	As and when willing and eligible candidates become available.
3.	Director/SE (Promotion quota)	As and when recommendations of DPC are received.
4.	Director/SE (Deputation Quota)	As and when willing and eligible candidates become available.
6.	DD/EE (DR quota)	As and when nominations are received from UPSC.
7.	AD-I (Promotion quota)	As and when recommendations of DPC are received.
8.	AD-I (DR quota)	As and when nominations are received from UPSC.
9.	AD-II	Due to ban vide MoF OM dated 5.8.99 & now being more than one year old. One post of ST candidate could be filled due to non-availability of ST candidate.
10.	Technical Officer	Ban on direct recruitment.
11.	Junior Engineers	Ban on direct recruitment.
12.	Electricians	Ban on direct recruitment.
13.	Drafts Man Gr. I	Ban on direct recruitment.
14.	Drafts Man Gr. II	13 posts to be abolished under cadre review. Ban on direct recruitment.
15.	Drafts Man Gr. III	One official left in feeder grade. To be abolished under cadre review.
16.	I/C Ferro Printer	To be abolished under cadre review.
17.	Blue Printer/Ferro Printer	To be abolished under cadre review.
18.	Peon	Due to court case regarding daily wagers versus Union of India. Due to ban on direct recruitment and review of the posts.
19.	Chowkidar	Due to ban on direct recruitment and review of the posts.
20.	Farash	Due to ban on direct recruitment and review of the posts.
21.	Safaiwala	Due to ban on direct recruitment and review of the posts.
22.	Jr. Hindi Translator	Due to ban.

**Subordinate Offices of the Central Electricity Authority**

Hindi Officer	Post Under Review
1	2
Sr. PA	As and when recommendations of DPC are received.
Steno Gr. I	As and when recommendations of DPC are received.
Steno Gr. II	As and when recommendations of DPC are received.

1	2
Storekeeper	Candidate in Feeder grade not available.
UDC	As and when recommendations of DPC are received.
LDC	Ban on direct recruitment.
Chowkidar	Ban on direct recruitment.
Peon/Farash/Messenger/ Attendant/Safaiwala	Ban on direct recruitment

[Translation]

**Laying of Rail Line between Sanganer and Bundi**

7579. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had conducted survey to lay a railway line from Sanganer to Bundi via Todarai Singh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether a railway line was there from Sanganer to Todarai Singh earlier; and

(d) if so, the reasons for dismantling the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) This line was dismantled because it was an uneconomic line.

[English]

**Production of Films on Children**

7580. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to promote Films on children in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of films produced/to be produced in the country during each of the last three years and the current year;

(d) the plan outlay sanctioned to CFSI during the said period; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to encourage children to see CFSI's films?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) With a view to providing healthy entertainment to children and young people, the Government through Children Film Society of India produce and exhibits children's films through theatres, TV channels, school shows, film festival in different States and sale of video cassettes.

(c) The names of the films produced during the last three years and to be produced during the current year are given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) The details of Plan outlay sanctioned during the last three years and the current year are as under:

Year	Sanctioned Plan outlay (Rupees in lakhs)
1999-2000	650.00
2000-2001	650.00
2001-2002	455.00
2002-2003	600.00

(e) CFSI undertakes exhibition of its films through a network of programmes, prominent among them being:

- Holding week long film festivals with the active collaboration of District Administration in various States and Union Territories.
- Telecast of CFSI films through Doordarshan's National Network and prominent satellite channels.
- Distribution of a package of children films in video format called "Video Treasure Chest" in schools and other educational institutions all over the country.
- Organizing Children Film Bonanza and workshops in order to create awareness, thereby encouraging and spreading Children's Film Movement.
- Organizing International Children Film Festivals once in every two years.
- Distribution of Children Films through distributors/agencies for holding commercial and non-commercial shows.
- In the 10th Five Year Plan, a new scheme of Exhibition of Children's films in Municipal schools is being introduced to show CFSI films in schools in various parts of the country.
- Another scheme for Digitalization/Web casting of CFSI films has been introduced to make available detailed information regarding CFSI films on Internet.

#### **Statement**

##### *List of Films completed during 1999-2000*

1. Radio Comes to Rampur (Hindi Short)
2. Pehale Aap (Hindi feature)
3. The Goal (Hindi feature)
4. Dubashi (Tamil feature)
5. Ek Ajooba (Hindi feature)

#### **2000-2001**

1. Pakda Gaya (Hindi short)
2. Water (Video film)
3. Katt Katt Kadkadoo (Hindi feature)
4. Ajeeb Ghar (Hindi Short Animation)

5. Dinuche Bill (Marathi short)
6. Bhago Bhoot (Hindi feature)
7. Paari (Manipuri feature)
8. Ranu (Bengali feature)

#### **2001-2002**

1. City Pollution (Video Film)
2. Pink Camel (Hindi Short Animation)
3. Ladli (Hindi feature)
4. Neel Parbat ke Paar (Hindi feature)
5. Choolenge Aakash (Hindi feature)
6. Ek Tukro Chand (Bengali feature)
7. Lagi Shart (Hindi feature)
8. Chirayu (Hindi feature)
9. The Forest (Video film)
10. Sixer (Hindi feature)
11. Baaja (Hindi feature)

#### **2002-2003**

##### **Under Production**

1. Hathi Ka Anda (Hindi feature)
2. Gili Gili Gul (Hindi feature)
3. Little Varju (H.S. Animation)

Following two subjects have also been finalized for production during 2002-03:

1. Tora's Love (Assamese feature)
2. Himmat (Dogri feature)

#### **Demands of FAIPT**

7581. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assured to consider the demands of FAIPT into call off strike on 19.8.2001 by petrol dealers;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that the officers of Oil PSUs are still not following the mutually agreed points recorded in shape of note/agreement between FAIPT and Four Directors Marketing of PSUs on 17.8.2001;

(c) whether these officers have made this agreement illegally without the consent/approval of the Government; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken against the involved officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Petrol Dealers had threatened to go on agitation of 'No Purchase/No sale' from 20.8.2001. Directors (Marketing) of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) & Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Director (Petroleum) of IBP Company Limited had a meeting with the representatives of FAIPT on 17.8.2001. Important issue that was raised by the dealers during the various deliberations was the enhancement of commission for sale of MS, HSD & SKO. This demand was suitably addressed and a substantial increase in commission was introduced with effect from November, 2001. Besides decisions on several other demands raised by the FAIPT were also taken.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

### COCO and Jubilee Outlets in Punjab

7582. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of individuals/companies running COCO and Jubilee outlets in Punjab;

(b) the validity period of all such Coco and Jubilee outlets in Punjab;

(c) the details of Coco and Jubilee outlets where construction is underway or yet to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Company Owned Company Operated (COCO) retail outlet and Jubilee Retail Outlet (JRO) are operated under the overall supervision of the company officer with the assistance of labour contractor, who provides manpower for running the outlet. The names of oil marketing companies and the labour contractors, operating the COCO retail outlets and JROs in the State of Punjab, as on 31.3.2002, alongwith the validity period of labour contract for each such outlet, are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) In respect of 'A' site retail outlets, where land is not to be arranged/provided by the dealer, the oil marketing companies procure land and develop the retail outlet so as to keep it in ready condition to minimize the time gap between selection of a dealer and commissioning of the outlet. After development of the outlet and pending selection of a regular dealer, the outlet is operated as COCO. No sooner a regular dealer is selected, the outlet is handed over to the dealer. As such, no COCO outlet can be said to be under construction. As on 31.3.2002, the oil marketing companies had no JRO under construction in the State of Punjab.

### Statement

*Position as on 31.3.2002*

Sl.No.	Name of Oil Company	Location/ District	Name of the Labour Contractor	Date of expiry of the contract
1	2	3	4	5
<b>B. Jubilee Retail Outlets</b>				
1.	Indian Oil Corpn. Ltd.	Alluna, Distt. Patiala.	Shri Bhupinder Pal Singh	24.7.2002
2.	Bharat Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.	Sadiq, District Farodkot.	Shri Sandip Kumar	22.02.2002*

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Bharat Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.	Salbatpura, District Bhatinda.	Mrs. Kanu Jasuja	23.6.2002
4.	-Do-	Banwala, District Ferozepur	Shri Ravsav Dhuria	21.3.2002*
5.	-Do-	Dirba, District Sangrur	Capt. B.S. Kailey	31.12.2002
6.	-Do-	Gurdaspur, District Gurdaspur.	Shri Amit Mahajan	23.6.2002
7.	Hindustan Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.	Bhawanigarh, District Sangrur	Shri Harinder Goyal	14.02.2003
8.	-Do-	Gumjal, District Bhatinda	Shri Ramandeep Singh	13.02.2003
9.	-Do-	Doomwali, District Bhatinda	Shri Sanjeev Bansal	31.3.2003
10.	-Do-	Madhopur, District Gurdaspur	Shri Abul Rashid Mir	28.2.2003
11.	IBP Co. Ltd.	Gumjal-II, District Ferozepur	Shri Pradeep Singh	25.5.2002
12.	-Do-	Rorake Kalan, District Sangrur	Shri Lachman Das	30.7.2002
13.	-Do-	Retgarh, District Patiala	Shri Ravinder Singla	30.7.2002
14.	-Do-	Gumjal-I, District Ferozepur	Shri Vipin Kumar	6.8.2002
15.	-Do-	Guniana, District Bhatinda	Shri Sanjay Kumar	13.08.2002
16.	-Do-	Doomwali, District Bhatinda	Shri Harjinder Singh	27.8.2002
17.	-Do-	Badru Khan, District Sangrur	Shri Sunil Mittal	27.08.2002
18.	-Do-	Kotshamir, District Bhatinda	Shri Bhupinder Singh	11.09.2002

1	2	3	4	5
19.	IBP Co. Ltd.	Jathuke, District Bhatinda	S/Shri Ranbir Kr. Bansal and Hem Raj Bansal	16.10.2002
20.	-Do-	Dhanaula, District Sangrur	S/Shri Dewan Chand and Raman Kr.	17.10.2002
21.	-Do-	Chamaru, District Patiala	Shri Saurav Kumar	31.3.2003
<b>B. COCO Retail Outlets</b>				
1.	Indian Oil Corpn. Ltd.	Gajewas, District Patiala	Shri Deepak Singh	26.07.2002
2.	-Do-	Gumjal, District Ferozepur	Shri Divesh Gagneja	31.01.2003
3.	-Do-	Kharey, District Fatehgarh Sahib	Shri Gurpreet Singh	5.07.2002
4.	-Do-	Paheri, District Fatehgarh Sahib	Shri Kailash Nath	5.07.2002
5.	-Do-	Shambu, District Patiala	Shri Ramesh Kumar	20.08.2002
6.	-Do-	Sangrur, District Sangrur	M/s Sidhu Enterprises	30.07.2002
7.	-Do-	Kahma, District Nawanshahr	Shri Yogesh Kaushal	24.02.2003
8.	Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd.	Dandari Kalan, District Ludhiana	Shri Kamal Sharma	4.6.2002
9.	Hindustan Petroleum Corp. Ltd.	Raman Mandi, District Bathinda	Shri Hitesh Garg	16.02.2003
10.	-Do-	Malkana, District Patiala	Shri Sunil Garg	28.02.2003
11.	-Do-	Saitwala/Patran, District Patiala	Shri Harpal Singh	8.6.2002
12.	-Do-	Behman Diwana, District Bathinda	Shri Neeraj Chawla	16.7.2002
13.	-Do-	Kulgari, District Ferozepur	Shri Chander Mohan	21.02.2003
14.	-Do-	Pathraia, District Bathinda	Shri Vikram Gupta	24.10.2002

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Hindustan Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.	Bhagwanpura, District Muktsar	Shri Ravinder K Garg	13.11.2002
16.	-Do-	Chuwarianwal, district Ferozepur	Shri Kapil Singla	14.02.2003
17.	-Do-	Muktsar, District Muktsar	Shri Balwinder Singh	30.03.2003
18.	-Do-	Kalyanpur, District Ropar	Shri Baljinder Singh	20.02.2003
19.	-Do-	Sangrur, District Sangrur	Shri Avtar Singh	24.03.2003
20.	-Do-	Behak Gujran, District Ferozepur	Shri Raj Kumar Singla	30.03.2003

\*Agreements are being renewed.

[*Translation*]

**Partnership Cases of Petrol and Diesel Pumps Settled by IBP**

7583. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of partnership cases relating to petrol and diesel pumps settled by the IBP company in Delhi;

(b) the details of cases in regard to which company has received applications to dissolve the partnership; and

(c) the details of action taken by I.B.P. company in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) IBP has approved two proposals relating to re-constitution of Retail Outlets in Delhi during the period 1.4.2002 to 30.4.2002.

(b) and (c) IBP has not received any proposal for dissolution of partnership during the aforementioned period.

[*English*]

**Parcel Office of Railway**

7584. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Rly station's parcel office is pasted with corruption" appearing in the *Express Newslines* dated May 2, 2002;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action taken to get rid of corruption and undesirable activities at the counter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Some complaints of similar nature in connection with some irregularities in Parcel Office at New Delhi Railway station were received in the Past. Suitable action against the staff found responsible was taken. Besides, preventive checks are also regularly carried out to prevent any malpractices and staff found responsible are suitably taken up under Disciplinary Rules including transfer to Staff.

**CBI Raids on ONGC Officials**

7585. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:  
SHRI G. GANGA REDDY:  
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "CBI unearths ONGC scam worth Rs. 5 crore" as reported in the *Asian Age* dated December, 12, 2001; and

(b) if so, the details of officials of ONGC involved and the action contemplated by the Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The subject news item appeared in the '*Asian Age*' on 20th December, 2001.

(b) A case has been registered by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on 24.8.2001 against senior officers of ONGC and a company M/s. Jay Bee Energy Services, Guwahati on allegations of abuse of official position and criminal conspiracy in award of a contract. Investigation by the CBI has not been concluded as yet.

**Bookstalls**

7586. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Railway stations where no bookstall is available;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any scheme after January 1, 1976 to award bookstall only to unemployed graduates; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of such stalls awarded since then?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) There are about 6,615 stations over Indian Railways where no bookstall is available.

(c) and (d) As per policy, allotment of a bookstall at new platforms constructed on or after 1.1.1976 is made to the Unemployed Graduates and their Co-operatives alongwith other eligible categories as per extant policy. At present 523 bookstalls are being managed by the Unemployed Graduates.

**Power Failure In Northern Grid**

7587. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major power failure was averted in the Northern grid on March 19, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that such power failures are not repeated frequently;

(d) whether it is also true that many changes are required in the system of power transmission; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) No accident which could lead to major power failure occurred in the Northern Grid on March 19, 2002.

(d) and (e) No changes in the power transmission of Northern Grid are required. However, the following steps are being taken for augmentation/strengthening of transmission system of Northern Grid:

(i) Commission of HVDC back to back module at Sasaram by October, 2002 to enhance transfer of power from 300 MW to 500 MW from Eastern Region.

(ii) During 10th Plan the following transmission schemes have been programmed for commissioning for export of surplus power of Eastern Region to Northern Region as well as the surplus Tala power in Eastern Region:

(a) Gorakhpur-Lucknow (New) 400 kV Double Circuit (D/C) line

(b) Gorakhpur (Power Grid)—Gorakhpur (UPPCL)

(c) Lucknow (New)—Unnao 400 KV D/C line.

(d) Bareilly-Mandaula 400 kV D/C line.



- (e) Loop in Loop out of Dadri—Ballabgarh 400 kV D/C line at new substation in Delhi.
- (iii) The following transmission systems associated with Rihand II STPS have been proposed for strengthening the portion between Allahabad and Delhi.
  - (a) Allahabad—Mainpur—Ballabgarh 400 kV D/C line.
  - (b) Agra (Power Grid)—Agra (UPPCL) 400 kV D/C line.
- (iv) Strengthening of 400 KV ring around Delhi by completing 400 kV Bamnoli—Ballabgarh line to facilitate dispersal of more power from the grid of Delhi.

#### **Railway Users Consultative Committees**

7588. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the fact of not holding the meetings of the railway users consultative committee regularly;
- (b) if so, the reasons for not holding the meeting regularly and the steps taken to comply with the laid down requirements;
- (c) the facilities provided to the members of the users consultative committee both for Zonal Railway and Divisional Railway;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to enhance the facilities; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) As per constitution of Railway Users' Consultative Committees, Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committee (DRUCC) is required to ordinarily meet once a quarter but not less than three times a year, the Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee (ZRUCC) three times in a year. A review of the number of meetings of DRUCCs/ZRUCCs, whose term ended on 31.12.2001 has revealed that a total of 22 meetings of ZRUCCs and 210 meetings of DRUCCs were held. These Committees have since been reconstituted with effect from 1.1.2002 to 31.12.2003. Instructions have been reiterated

to all Zonal Railways to hold the meetings of these Committees and ensure that the meetings are held as per the provisions laid down in the constitution of the Committees.

(c) The various facilities enjoyed by the members of ZRUCCs & DRUCCs are broadly as under:

#### **Facilities common to both ZRUCC and DRUCC members**

- (i) Non-official Members of ZRUCCs & DRUCCs are given free first class pass from the railway station nearest to the place of residence of the members of the place of meeting and a similar concession for the return journey along with one attendant in Second class. They are also paid Travelling Allowance/Daily Allowance for the days spent in the journey and in attending the meeting.
- (ii) The Travelling Allowance of official Members is regulated under their own rules and borne by their respective departments.
- (iii) The members can call upon a Station Master at any station or a Ticket Collector or Travelling Ticket Examiner who is readily available to arrange a check in his/her presence of a compartment or carriage where it is suspected that persons without valid tickets or passes are travelling.
- (iv) They can enter the platform without purchasing a platform ticket on the authority of identity card issued to them. However, they cannot travel free in train on the authority of this identity card.

#### **Facilities available only to ZRUCC members**

- (v) There is a provision in the constitution to arrange Conducted tours for the non-official members of ZRUCC twice a year to places of importance from the railway point of view in different parts of their railway. However, if sufficient number of members are not forthcoming for a conducted tour, non-official members of ZRUCC are given facilities for travel by issue of passes individually as per an itinerary of their own choice on the basis of one round trip for conducted tour not arranged or participated in.
- (vi) They are further authorised to inspect Book Stalls and Book Trolleys on the stations and also the Catering and Vending Establishments

at stations and Restaurant/Dining/Buffer, Cars on trains, whether run by contractors or departmentally.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Selection Grade to Group-B Assistant Officers**

7589 SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways (Railway Board) adopted a Resolution to provide a Selection Grade to Group 'B' Asstt. Officers equivalent to Group 'A' Asstt. Officers in October, 1992:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for delay in providing selection grade to Group 'B' officers; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to expedite and resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d) The Board, in its meeting on 22nd October, 1992 decided to process a proposal for consideration of the Government for applying such a grade to a portion of Group 'B' officers. Railway's proposal could not find favour with Department of Personnel & Training (DOP&T)/Ministry of Finance on the ground that this would, inter-alia, have repercussions on Group 'B' officers in other Ministries. Moreover, Fifth Central Pay Commission has not recommended the proposal on the basis that pay scale of Group 'B' officers on Railways has been considerably improved upon. The matter, however, now stands referred to Group of Ministers.

*[Translation]*

#### **Assistance for Power Sector Reforms**

7590. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Canada has offered to provide assistance to accelerate the pace of power sector reforms in the country;

(b) if so, whether any agreements has been signed by both the countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the names of the States in the country wherein the aforesaid amount is being utilized for power sector reforms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) As per the agreement signed on 14.3.2002, Canadian International Development Agency has agreed to provide Canadian \$13.9 million over a period of 3.5 years to support Power Sector reforms in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

*[English]*

#### **Increase in Wheeling Charges**

7591. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that wheeling charges of power in Andhra Pradesh have been increased by APTRANSCO and subsequently Ferro Alloys Companies have closed their factories in protest against this increase;

(b) if so, whether uniform wheeling charges are being levied in the States;

(c) if not, whether the Union Government have received any requests for reduction in the wheeling charges;

(d) if so, whether any guidelines have been issued by the Union Government to protect the Ferro Alloys Units in Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) In accordance with the orders of the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (APEREC), the wheeling charges for power have been increased by APTRANSCO. Charges for intra-state wheeling vary from State to State. M/s. V.B.C. Ferro Alloys has represented that due to steep increase in wheeling charges many Ferro alloy units have closed their operation in Andhra Pradesh.

The charges for inter-State wheeling are decided by the State Electricity Regulatory Commission (wherever constituted)/State Government.

**Hydrates from Indian Ocean**

7592. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated potential of gas hydrates available in the Indian Ocean which can be extracted at present;

(b) the time by which it is expected to tap the potential of gas hydrates;

(c) whether the Government propose to take up a new project of exploration and Technology Development for extraction of Gas Hydrates from Indian Ocean; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The exploration of gas hydrates in India is in the preliminary Research and Development (R&D) stage and hence it is too early to assess the potential of gas hydrates. Also no time limit can be prescribed in such matters.

(c) and (d) The National Gas Hydrates Programme (NGHP) has been formulated in order to keep abreast with the technological developments with the ultimate objective to harness Gas Hydrates.

**Production of Brahmos Missile**

7593. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Brahmos missile is likely to go into production during 2003;

(b) if so, whether Brahmos anti-ship cruise missile is developed by India and Russia jointly;

(c) whether the Brahmos is capable of destroying highly protected aircraft carriers and other heavily armed enemy ships;

(d) if so, the total number of missiles to be produced during 2003;

(e) whether any test of Brahmos missile has been conducted; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Brahmos missile is likely to go into production by end of 2003.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The number of missiles to be produced will depend on the requirement of our armed forces and export orders.

(e) and (f) Brahmos missiles have been flight tested successfully on 12th June 2001 and 28th April 2002 respectively.

**Strike in NTPC**

7594. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the workers of the NTPC were on strike from April 16, 2001;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether they have submitted any charter of demands to NTPC;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any efforts are being made to consider any of their demands; and

(f) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) No charter of demands has been received by NTPC in this connection. However, Central Leaders of AITUC, BMS & CITU had given a notice, dated 2.4.2002, informing of their intent to go on strike at all NTPC Power Stations on 16.4.2002 for reasons like outright sale and disinvestments of shares of PSUs, downsizing/retrenchment and uncalled for closure of sick PSUs, etc. Subsequently, strike notices were received from 15 unions at various units of NTPC. Discussions were held with Central leaders at the apex level, local level as well as at tripartite level wherein they were urged to exempt NTPC from the purview of the strike. Following the consistent persuasions at apex, local and tripartite levels, the strike notices from all the 15 unions were withdrawn by late evening on 15.4.2002.

Reports received from all projects on 16.4.2002 indicated that there was no strike in NTPC. Attendance was normal and there was no stoppage of work. Plant activities were normal and there was no loss in generation due to the strike call.

(d) to (f) Not applicable in view of (c) above.

[Translation]

### Large Scale Reforms in Power Sector

7595. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:  
SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment of large scale reforms in the power sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the financial assistance provided to Rajasthan/Maharashtra by the Union Government for implementing reforms in the power sector during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Power Sector reform is an ongoing process. Several States (viz. Orissa, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi) have initiated reforms by enacting their own State Electricity Reform laws which provide, *inter alia*, for unbundling/corporatisation of SEBs, setting up of SERCs etc. The SEBs of Orissa, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan have been unbundled/corporatised. Twenty one States viz., Orissa, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Delhi, Gujarat, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Kerala and Uttaranchal have either constituted or notified the constitution of State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC). Twelve SERCs (Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and West Bengal) have issued tariff orders.

The Government of India has signed Memorandum of understanding (MOU) with twenty-one States. The MOUs are a joint commitment of the Centre and the States to undertake reforms in a time bound manner. The State Governments' commitment in these MoUs include constitution/operationalisation of SERCs, 100%

metering of 11 KV feeders and all consumers, energy audit, reduction of technical and commercial losses, achievement of commercial viability in distribution etc. Government of India has committed its support through additional allocation of power from Central Generating Stations and financial assistance through Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme (APDRP) for strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution as well as for renovation and modernization of thermal and hydel power plants.

(c) The Government of India under its Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme (APDRP) is providing financial assistance to the State Electricity Boards for improvement of sub-transmission and distribution systems in the country including the State of Maharashtra and Rajasthan. The financial assistance sanctioned to the State of Maharashtra & Rajasthan under this programme during the financial year 2000-2001 and 2002-2003 are as under:

Sl.No.	Year	State	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1.	2000-01	Maharashtra	90.21 crores each as grant & loan
2.	2002-03		45 crores
3.	2000-01	Rajasthan	22.50 crores each as grant & loan
4.	2002-03		28.40 crores.

In addition to this Rajasthan is also getting financial assistance through World Bank for reform. PFC is also supplementing the efforts of the States including Maharashtra and Rajasthan by providing financial assistance for reforms.

[English]

### Setting up of NCES Projects In Tamil Nadu

7596. SHRI M. CHINNASAMY: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals submitted by Tamil Nadu since January, 2001 for setting up of projects connected with non-conventional energy sources;

(b) the salient features of such projects; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is expected to be taken on such projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M.

KANNAPPAN): (a) to (c) The details of proposals received in this Ministry from the State of Tamil Nadu since January, 2001 for setting up of various non-conventional energy projects indicating their salient features and decisions taken by the Ministry thereon, are given in the Statement enclosed.

**Statement**

*Details of proposals received from the State of Tamil Nadu since January, 2001 for setting up of non-conventional energy projects*

Sl. No.	Project Proposals and Salient Features	Decision/Present Status
1	2	3
<b>I. Biomass Gasifier</b>		
1.	1x120 kW captive power project at Hosur	Sanctioned on 9.1.2002
2.	2x100 kW captive power project in Madurai district	Sanctioned on 22.01.2002
3.	2x500 kW captive plant for thermal applications in tyre unit at Vellaripatti	Sanctioned on 23.3.2002
4.	2x500 kW captive plant for thermal applications in tube unit at Vellaripatti	Not approved.
5.	1x100 kW captive plant for electric applications in Thanjavur	Under examination
<b>II. Biomass Co-generation Power</b>		
6.	4.5 MW Project by M/s. Shri Renuga Textiles Ltd., Theni District for captive use	Not approved
<b>III. Solar Photovoltaic</b>		
7.	Implementation of SPV programme during 2001-02 in Tamil Nadu with a target of 4500 solar lanterns, 400 solar home lighting systems and 150 street lighting systems.	Sanctioned
8.	Additional targets of solar photovoltaic systems under SPV Programme for 2001-02 in Tamil Nadu	Not sanctioned
9.	52 kW (SPV capacity-85 kWp) Power Plant proposed for emergency supply in the SISI Office Building in Chennai.	Under examination.
10.	1 kW (SPV capacity-2.5 kWp) Power Plant proposed for lighting & fans of guest house of CECRI, Karaikudi.	Under examination
11.	1 kWp SPV Power Plant for water pumping at Guest House CECRI, Karaikudi	Under examination.
12.	30 kWp SPV Power plant for stand by power supply to CECRI Nagar Guest House & Security Lighting at Karaikudi	Under examination.

1	2	3
13.	Setting up of SPV Test Centre proposed for testing of solar cells solar panels, solar lanterns, solar lighting with battery chargers at CECRI Karaikudi.	Under examination.
14.	SPV Electrification of 122 remote hamlets in 11 Districts in Tamil Nadu	Proposal as not approved as it was not fulfilling the terms of the scheme during 2001-02. Same has been against proposed for 2002-03 which is under examination.
15.	Installation of 150 solar lanterns, 50 street lights and 1 SPV Pump at district Dindigul	Not sanctioned as there is no provision for 100% funding by the Ministry.
<b>IV. Water Pumping Windmills</b>		
16.	A proposal for installation of four AV-55 Auroville type water pumping windmills for two individual users and two engineering colleges.	Sanctioned on 23rd January, 2002.
<b>V. Energy Parks</b>		
17.	Setting up of an Energy Park at Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar, Distt. Chidambaram.	Sanctioned on 17.7.2001.
18.	Setting up of a Energy Park at RMK Engg. College, RSM Nagar, Kavaraipettai, Distt. Thiruvallur.	Sanctioned on 17.7.2001.
19.	Setting up of a Energy Park at Periyar Maniammai College of Technology for Women, Distt. Thanjavur.	Sanctioned on 27.9.2001.
20.	Setting up of a Energy park at Kongu Polytechnic, Perudurai, Erode Distt.	Sanctioned on 30.3.2002.
21.	Setting up of a Energy Park at Karpagam Polytechnic Distt. Coimbatore	Not approved.
<b>VI. Waste to Energy</b>		
22.	0.75 MW capacity power generation project based on sago industry waste water by M/s K.S. Bio Power Pvt. Ltd., Salem using biethanation technology.	Under examination.
23.	2.5 MW power generation project from poultry droppings by M/s Subhashri Bio Energies Pvt. Ltd., Namakkal using biomethanation technology.	Under examination.
24.	25 MW power project based on Tapioca Tuber at Salem by M/s. ARG and Company Bio Energy Pvt. Ltd., Salem using biomethanation technology.	Not approved.
25.	225kW power project from Sago industry waste water by M/s. Varalakhshmi Company, Mallur, Namakkal using biomethanation technology.	Sanctioned on 15.3.2002

1	2	3
26.	Project from energy recovery from baggasse wash effluent at Newsprints and Papers Ltd., Karur using biomethanation technology.	Sanctioned on 26.4.2002
27.	0.75 MW power and 6,25,000 kcal/hr. thermal energy project from solid and liquid wastes of Sago factory by M/s. Vasanthi Bio Energy System (P) Ltd., Namakkal using biomethanation technology.	Under examination.
28.	0.75 MW power and 6,25,000 kcal/hr. thermal energy project from solid and liquid wastes of Sago factory by M/s. ARG & Company Bio Energy System (P) Ltd., Salem using biomethanation technology.	Under examination
29.	0.75 MW power and 6,25,000 kcal/hr. thermal energy project from solid and liquid wastes of Sago factory by M/s. Verti Bio Energy (P) Ltd., Namakkal using biomethanation technology.	Under examination.
30.	0.75 MW power and 6,25,000 kcal/hr. thermal energy project from solid and liquid wastes of Sago factory by M/s. Salem Paper Boards Pvt. Ltd., Salem using biomethanation technology.	Under examination.
<b>VII. Solar Thermal</b>		
31.	Proposal for one day workshop on solar passive architecture received from Science City, Dept. of Technical Education, Chennai	Sanctioned

[*Translation*]

#### **Engagement of Private Companies in Computerised Reservation**

7597. SHRI BABUBHAI K. KATARA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to engage private companies or individuals for opening computerised reservation centres in the country;

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

(c) whether any private company/individual has asked to open the computerised reservation centres can be permitted same; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O.

RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d) In order to facilitate rail reservation, a scheme was planned to provide Passenger Reservation System (PRS) terminals on experimental basis to a few travel agents authorised under the Rail Tourist Agents Scheme and Rail Travellers Service Agents Scheme. The pilot project is yet to be implemented. Based on the outcome of this experiment, as and when implemented, further course of action in this regard will be decided.

In addition, to proliferate retail railway ticketing and for improvement in customer service, it is also proposed to issue reserved tickets on Internet. At present Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Railways has been assigned a pilot project to facilitate railway ticketing in Delhi area.

#### **Funds for Meters**

7598. SHRI RAJO SINGH:  
SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rural Electrification Corporation has released funds to some States and Union Territories for purchase of meters under the special loan programme during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(c) whether the funds are being monitored by the Union Government; and

(d) if so, the outcome till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has released funds

to State Electricity Boards/State Power Departments for procurement and installation of energy meters of various types. The State-wise details of disbursement of loan under SI meters category during the last three years is given in Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) provides loans to the State Governments for procurement of meters according to its guidelines. These guidelines concern quality specifications, performance guarantees, testing and inspection procedures etc. as per standards, norms, and procedures specified by the Bureau of Indian Standards. However, the procurement decisions, quality approvals and the payments to the suppliers against material received are done by the State Government concerned.

### Statement

#### Disbursement of Loan under REC SI Meters Schemes

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of States	During the year			Total (3 to 5)
		1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	14408	13041	27449
2.	Gujarat	0	0	3705	3705
3.	Haryana	13	1244	3010	4267
4.	Karnataka	4280	0	0	4280
5.	Kerala	702	1528	2191	4421
6.	Maharashtra	0	1490	13465	14955
7.	Manipur	340	101	0	441
8.	Punjab	0	1179	916	2095
9.	Rajasthan	0	2527	3512	6039
Total		5335	22477	39840	67652

[English]

#### Dues against BTPC

7599. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total freight dues outstanding against Badarpur Thermal Power Corporation as on date;

(b) the reasons for not clearing the outstanding freight dues; and

(c) the action proposed by the Government for the recovery of the outstanding freight dues from BTPC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The total freight dues outstanding



against Badarpur Thermal Power Corporation (BTPC) as on 31.3.2002 are Rs. 957.61 crore (provisional).

(b) In the official level meetings between Railways and Badarpur Thermal Power Corporation, BTPC had repeatedly been stressing about their inability to realise their dues from Delhi Vidyut Board (DVB) for power supplied to DVB. Consequently BTPC has been unable to make full freight payments to Railways. This is the main reason for accumulation of freight dues from BTPC.

(c) This Ministry is now planning to take up the matter with Ministry of Finance for enhancing the cut from Central Plan Assistance for adjustment of outstanding dues against BTPC.

[*Translation*]

#### **Survey of Patratu Chandil Rail Link**

7600. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work relating to survey for doubling of railway line between Patratu and Chandil via Barkana has since been completed;

(b) if so, the outcome of the surveys; and

(c) the further action taken by the Government on the basis of the survey report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[*English*]

#### **Private participation in Pipeline Project**

7601. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:  
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to have private participation for the Pipeline Project traversing from Jamnagar to Ratlam via Rajkot and Koyali;

(b) if so, whether private parties have been selected for the purpose;

(c) if so the terms and conditions for the allotment of work to the selected parties; and

(d) the time by which this project is likely to be ready?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The pipeline project traversing from Vadinar to Ratlam via Rajkot and Koyali is being implemented through Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) process by Petronet Central India Limited which is a subsidiary joint venture company of Petronet India Limited. Private parties have option of participation in the BOOT tender.

(b) Against global invitation of "Expression of Interest" thirteen parties submitted expression of interest out of which three private parties had finally submitted application for pre-qualification. The following three private parties have been pre-qualified for participation in the BOOT bidding process:

(i) M/s. Reliance Petroleum Limited, Mumbai.

(ii) M/s. Larsen & Tubro Ltd., Chennai.

(iii) Consortium of M/s. OAO Stroytransgaz, Moscow, Russia, M/s. OAO Transneft, Moscow, Russia and M/s. SUN Securities Ltd., Jersey, Channel Islands.

(c) The project will be implemented through the BOOT process. The BOOT concessionaire will finance, build and operate the pipeline for a specified period under a Concession Agreement with Petronet Central India Limited (PCIL). At the end of the concession period, pipeline will be transferred back to PCIL.

(d) The approved project completion schedule in December, 2003.

*[Translation]***Fake Residential Certificate Racket**

7602. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:  
 SHRI RAJAJIAH MALYALA:  
 SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU:  
 DR. ASHOK PATEL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any report has been received by the Government regarding recruitment of soldiers in the army on the basis of fake residential certificates, particularly in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to probe the matter and ensure that anti-national elements may not infiltrate into the armed forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) In the Branch Recruiting Office, Siliguri, while carrying out a verification of documents, in the recent past it was found that approximately 25 candidates had submitted fake residential certificates and transfer certificates for recruitment in the Army. The matter was immediately reported along with all relevant documents to the civil authorities for necessary action against the culprits.

To ensure that anti-national elements do not infiltrate/ enter into the Armed Forces all relevant documents including Ration Cards, Voter Identity Cards, Educational documents and Character Certificates etc. are thoroughly verified in consultation with the civil/concerned authorities. Such verification is conducted both at pre and post enrolment stages.

*[English]***Contracts awarded to EIL by ONGC**

7603. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ONGC has awarded the Engineers India Limited (EIL) its MNW platform construction contract on lumpsum turnkey basis;

(b) if so, the details of the project with the cost thereof;

(c) the details of other projects bagged by EIL during the last two years with the estimated cost of each project;

(d) whether the EIL has terminated the services of several contract engineers during the last two years whereas the company continued to get business worth several crores; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and whether the terminated employees will be reinstated and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has awarded MNW platform contract to Engineers India Limited (EIL) on Lump Sum Turn Key (LSTK) basis at a price of Rs. 821.18 crore. The contract envisages surveys, design engineering, procurement, fabrication, transportation, supply, installation, hook-up, testing, pre-commissioning, start-up and commission of Mumbai High North Water Injection Platform, 'MNW', as also modification works at the existing Bombay High North Platform, 'BHN', and the Bombay High North Oil Producing Platform, 'NQO', both in Mumbai High Field.

(c) The information for the years 2000-01 and 2001-02 is given in enclosed Statements I & II respectively.

(d) and (e) The contract engineers were recruited for specified period to meet the short term requirement. The contract engineers have been released on completion of contract period/extended period or foreclosure of contract as per terms and conditions of their appointment.

The quantum of business of the company is not fixed and is dependent upon award of contracts to the company in global competition with other consultants. EIL does not have sufficient work-load to faithfully utilise its existing regular manpower. As such, it will not be possible for the company to re-instate the contract engineers without having commensurate work-load to be assigned to them. However, as and when regular vacancies of Management Trainees arise, fifty percent of the vacancies will be filled up from amongst the contract engineers subject to their suitability.

**Statement I**

*Total Business secured by EIL during Financial Year 2000-2001 = Rs. 646.41 crore*

*Jobs (With Value More than Rs. 5 crore) = Rs. 564.28 Crore*

Sl.No.	Project	Client	Value of EIL's Services/LSTK Contract (Rs. Crore)
1.	38 KM Cross Country 12" Pipeline from NTPC Jhannore to GPC Gandhar with Terminals Facilities and Hook-up with Existing Facilities	GAIL	5.40
2.	3.0 MMTPA Refinery Expansion Project and EPCM Services for OHCU/MOROX Unit	CPCL	50.00
3.	Water Injection Pipelines Replacement Project (WIPRP)-PH-I (LSTK)	ONGC	138.87
4.	PH-I Facilities of Punjab Refinery Project	HPCL	16.50
5.	CDU/VDU and Offsites and Utilities for Expansion of Refinery by 3 MMTPA	CPCL	58.00
6.	Modifications Hook-up for Mumbai High Field Pipelines Replacement Project (LSTK)	ONGC	119.32
7.	Panipat Refinery Expansion Project	IOCL	94.40
8.	Mumbai Refinery Modernisation Project	BPCL	69.98
9.	Offsites & Utilities Project in Bandar Imam, Iran	FAJR Petro-Chemical Co., Iran	11.81
<b>Total</b>			<b>564.28</b>

**Statement II**

*Total Business secured by EIL during Financial Year 2001-02 = Rs. 1331.53 crore*

*Jobs (With Value More than Rs. 5 crore) = Rs. 1233.93 Crore*

S.No.	Project	Client	Value of EIL's Services/LSTK Contract (Rs. Crore)
1	2	3	4
1.	Hydrocracker Unit Associated Facilities for Refinery Modernisation at Mumbai	BPCL	42.00
2.	HBJ Upgradation Project (Phase I)	GAIL	57.53
3.	Kalol-Ramol Pipeline Project	GAIL	5.00

1	2	3	4
4.	MNW Project (LSTK)	ONGC	821.18
5.	PMC Services for Integrated Para-Xylene/PTA Project at Panipat	IOCL	100.61
6.	Development of Engineering capabilities	SONATRACH Algeria	38.25
7.	Technical Assistance (Extension of Contract)	NPCC, ABU Dhabi	15.39
8.	Jamnagar-Loni Pipeline (PH-II) Project	GAIL	12.00
9.	Dabhol-Hazira Uran Pipeline (Detailed Feasibility Report & Pre-Project Activities)	GAIL	8.17
10.	Mumbai-Manmad Pipeline Extension Project (Mumbai-Manmad-Manglya)	BPCL	13.10
11.	Krishna-Godavari (KG) Basin (PH-III) Pipeline Project	GAIL	18.00
12.	Mundra-Bathinda Crude Oil Pipeline	HPCL	41.70
13.	Installation of Clamp-on Structures in Mumbai High North Field Project (LSTK)	ONGC	61.00
Total			1233.93

#### Corrupt Officials in Prasar Bharati

7604. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prasar Bharati Corporation has registered a criminal case against its official for cheating the corporation and causing a loss of Rs. 13.79 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether CBI has also investigated and detected a similar fraud of Rs. 40 crores against Calcutta based official in Prasar Bharati Corporation; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government so far in these cases?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

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

#### NTPC's Steps to Increase its Sales Turnover

7605. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has taken steps to increase its sales turnover;

(b) if so, the achievement made in this regard by NTPC during each of the last three years; and

(c) the projection sales turnover for 2002-03?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Thermal Power Corporation's (NTPC) Sales Revenue comprise mainly income from generation of power. The generation of power by NTPC has been on the increase. The generation of power during the last three years is as under:

Year	General in MUs
1999-2000	118677
2000-2001	130154
2001-2002	133190

The Sales Turnover in financial terms, will depend upon the quantity of power supply and also the tariff. The sales turnover of NTPC for the last three years is as under:

Year	Rs. in Crore
1999-2000	16101.75
2000-2001	19045.14
2001-2002	19786.42*

\*Provisional (Unaudited)

(c) Projections of sales turnover for the year 2002-03 is estimated to be Rs. 20344.59 Crores.

#### PSU Oil Refinerles

7606. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether various PSU oil refineries continue to use Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) as an additive to petrol;

(b) if so, whether in other countries like USA, refineries are dis-continuing the use of MTBE as additive;

(c) if so, whether the Government have any phased plan to replace MTBE with other ecologically sound additives;

(d) if so, the alternatives being considered by the refineries as additives; and

(e) the details of plans to use eco-friendly additives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The following public sector undertaking oil refineries are producing and using Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) as an additive to petrol;

(i) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited

(ii) Koyali refinery of IOCL

(b) The discontinuation of use of MTBE in petrol in certain areas in USA is being reviewed.

(c) to (e) Government have plans to introduce 5% Ethanol petrol in entire country in two phases. In the first phase, the 5% ethanol blended petrol will be introduced in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamilnadu and Uttar Pradesh. Rest of the States/Union Territories will be taken up in the second phase of the programme.

#### CNG to Industries by GAIL

7607. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:  
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

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

(a) whether Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) provides CNG to industries;

(b) if so, the names of industries in Delhi and areas covered under National Capital Region to which CNG is being supplied by GAIL;

(c) the quantity of CNG is being supplied to each industry and rate at which CNG is being supplied to them;

(d) whether GAIL is contemplating to stop supplies of CNG to these industries with a view to make CNG available for public transport in Delhi;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether it is proposed to increase the price of CNG in Delhi for public transport; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) is supplying natural Gas through pipeline at a uniform basis price of Rs. 2850 per thousand standard cubic meter (SCM) at 10,000 kilo/calorie (K.Cal.) excluding royalty, taxes and transportation charges against the allocations to various industries in and around Delhi. The details of industries are given in Statement enclosed.

(d) and (e) To meet the current compressed natural gas (CNG) requirement of public transport in Delhi, 50% of the supply to M/s. Maruti Udyog Limited (MUL), which was meant for captive power generation, was reduced. To meet further requirement of CNG, supply to other industries may also be curtailed in due course.

(f) and (g) The retail price of CNG for public transport in Delhi has recently been increased to Rs. 16.83 per Kg. effective from 27/28th April, 2002.

**Statement**

(In million standard cubic metres per day MMSCMD)

S.No.	Name of Industry	Allocation of Natural Gas
1	2	3
<b>Fallback</b>		
1.	Haryana Sheet Glass, Sonapat	0.160
2.	Hindustan Sanitaryware Industries, Bahadurgarh	0.030
3.	Hindustan National Glass, Bahadurgarh	0.120
4.	K.L. Rathi Steels, Ghaziabad	0.017
5.	Kajaria Caramics, Sikandrabad	0.048
6.	Mohan Meakins, Sahibabad	0.022
7.	Orient Cermaics, Sikandrabad	0.050
8.	Parle Biscuits, Bahadurgarh	0.016
9.	Premier Vinyl, Sikandrabad	0.005
10.	Rathi Super Steel, Ghaziabad	0.028
11.	Rathi Udyog, Ghaziabad	0.020
12.	Samtel Colour, Ghaziabad	0.090
13.	Shree Krishna Paper Mills, Bahadurgarh	0.010
14.	SPL Limited, Bahadurgarh	0.055
15.	Surya Processor, Ghaziabad	0.011
16.	Surya Roshni, Bahadurgarh	0.014
17.	Swadeshi Polytex, Ghaziabad	0.008
18.	U.P. Ceramics, Ghaziabad	0.009
19.	U.P. Twiga, Sikandrabad	0.017
20.	Universal Glass, Sahibabad	0.050

1	2	3
21.	BPL, Sahibabad	0.008
22.	Samcor Glass	0.034
Total fallback allocation		0.822
Average supplies (01.04.01-28.02.02)		0.660
<b>Firm</b>		
23.	Indraprastha Gas Limited	0.980
24.	Delhi Vidyut Board	0.840
25.	Pragati Power Project	1.750
Total firm allocation		3.570
Average supplies (01.04.01-28.02.02)		1.55*

\*Retail average supplies to IGL and Delhi Vidyut Board as Pragati Power Project is in the process of stabilization.

[Translation]

**Power Generation by Thermal Power**

7608. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the generation cost of thermal power in the country can be reduced with the use of quality coal;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether with the use of imported coal in place of coal supplied by the coal India Limited, the power can be generated at low cost; and

(d) if so, the profit likely to be accrued per unit of power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir. The use of quality coal can reduce the generation cost of thermal power dues to less Operation & Maintenance and Specific Secondary Fuel Oil costs.

(b) Coal supplied to utility thermal power stations generally have an ash content varying between 30%-45% or higher except for a few power stations where coal is supplied with ash content below 30%. Ministry of Environment and Forest's Notifications have stipulated that power stations situated in Critical Polluted Areas, Sensitive

Areas, Urban Areas and 1000 KM away from coal sources, have to use Raw Blended/Beneficated coal having ash content not exceeding 34% on annualized basis with effect from 1st June, 2002. Due to limited coal washeries capacity at present, blending of inferior quality coal with better grade of coal is essential. Availability of better quality coal being limited, some import of coal is necessary for blending purposes in the coastal power stations.

(c) Imported coal generally ash content between 10%-15% with a higher Gross Calorific Value (GCV). Boilers of Indian power utilities are mainly designed for use of lower grade coal and as such cannot exclusively burn imported coal with high GCV. Imported coal is mainly used for blending purposes to 20%-30% of indigenous coal. Such blended coal has improved the performance of thermal power stations and lowered the cost of power generation.

(d) Blending of imported with indigenous coal, has cost benefits including less pollution and less ash disposal. However, it is very difficult to quantify the actual cost benefit, in general, as the situation depends on the location of power station (distance from indigenous coal source, mode of transportation, importing port etc.) and landed cost of imported coal compared to the landed cost of indigenous coal, normally supplied to the particular power station.

[English]

#### **Doubling of Surat-Jalgaon Rail Line**

7609. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds were sanctioned several times for doubling the Surat-Jalgaon rail line during the past several years;

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

(c) whether the work for doubling the said rail line has not commenced so far despite the sanctioning of funds;

(d) if so, the details of the funds utilised for other purposes; and

(e) the time by which the work is likely to be commenced for doubling the said rail line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (e) No, Sir. However, work of Patch doubling between Amalner-Takarkheda and Takarkheda-Dharangaon was taken up in 1989-90. Earth work and bridges completed between Amalner-Dharangaon. Work was subsequently abandoned as was not required from traffic considerations.

A survey for doubling of Surat (Udhna)-Jalgaon section is also in progress. Further consideration of the proposal would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

[Translation]

#### **Repayment of Loans to PFC by SEBs**

7610. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details in regard to repayment of loan to the Power Finance Corporation by each State Electricity Board as on date; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government for recovery of the outstanding loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The statement indicating the state-wise details of repayment of rupee term loan by State Electricity Boards/State Sector Borrower to Power Finance Corporation (PFC) as on 31.3.2002 is enclosed.

(b) PFC disburses the loan after the loan documents entailing the terms & conditions are finalized and executed between the borrower and PFC. The terms & conditions of the loan includes *inter alia* the rate of interest, period of loan, due dates for payment of interest and Principal etc.

The loans advanced by PFC is guaranteed fully, unconditionally and irrevocably either by the State Government or by any of the nationalized banks in respect of the dues payable to PFC by the borrowers by creating a charge on the assets/escrow account/letter of credit. In the case of State Power Utilities, PFC obtains from State Governments an undertaking that PFC will have priority claim on the State Utilities surplus revenue over the obligations in respect of the loans guaranteed by the State Governments to the State Utilities.

The PFC intimates the borrowers about 10 days in advance of the due date the amount payable by them on the respective due date by way of a demand notice.

If the borrower does not make the payment of installment/interest and other charges on any due date, the same are being shown as outstanding dues payable by the borrower.

PFC is regularly pursuing the borrowers for recovery of outstanding dues through letters, discussions and personal visits.

As per the prevailing PFC's policy as on date, when the loan is 60 days overdue, a formal notice is sent to the borrowers that disbursements will be suspended on all loans and Escrow Account will be invoked unless all outstanding payments are made within 30 days from the date of notice. If payment is not received within that period, disbursement in all loans and new sanctions to the borrowers are suspended, which prompts the borrowers to clear the dues at the earliest so that their project implementations do not suffer.

### **Statement**

#### *State-wise Repayments Status as on 31.3.2002*

(Rs. in lacs)

Sl.No.	Borrower	Repayment
1	2	3
1.	Govt. of Haryana	2546.87
2.	Haryana State Electricity Board (HSEB)	7940.25
3.	Haryana Power Generating Corporation Ltd. (HPGCL)	5710.66
4.	Haryana Vidyut Parsaran Nigam Ltd. (HVPNL)	1636.68
5.	Govt. of Himachal Pradesh	154.78
6.	Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board (HPSEB)	4729.51
7.	Jammu & Kashmir State Electricity Board (JKSEB)	2327.35
8.	Jammu & Kashmir Power Development Corporation Ltd.	14.14
9.	Punjab State Electricity Board (PSEB)	35922.58
10.	Govt. of Rajasthan	944.00
11.	Rajasthan State Electricity Board (RSEB)	12055.71
12.	Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Parsaran Nigam Ltd. (RRVPNL)	4855.38
13.	Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. (RRVUNL)	11900.00
14.	Jaipur Vidyut Vikas Nigam Ltd. (Jaipur VVNL)	967.92
15.	Jodhpur Vidyut Vikas Nigam Ltd. (Jodhpur VVNL)	597.34
16.	Ajmer Vidyut Vikas Nigam Ltd. (Ajmer VVNL)	669.65
17.	Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. (UPRVUNL)	16721.78
18.	Uttar Pradesh Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (UPJVNL)	62.63
19.	Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd. (UPPCL)	27486.83
20.	Govt. of Goa	275.56



1	2	3
21.	Gujarat Electricity Board (GEB)	29224.73
22.	Gujarat Power Corporation Ltd. (GPCL)	261.87
23.	Gujarat State Electricity Corporation Ltd. (GSECL)	7550.00
24.	Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board (MPEB)	56168.58
25.	Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB)	62668.71
26.	Chattisgarh State Electricity Board (CSEB)	2810.16
27.	Andhra Pradesh Generating Company (APGENCO)	55747.56
28.	Andhra Pradesh Transmission Company (APTRANSCO)	20795.09
29.	Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd. (KPCL)	18464.70
30.	Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd. (KPTCL)	39043.82
31.	Vishveswaryya Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (VVNL)	652.58
32.	Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB)	4185.42
33.	Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB)	56359.96
34.	Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB)	1531.76
35.	Bihar State Hydro Power Corporation Ltd. (BSHPCL)	282.98
36.	Tenughat Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (TNVL)	12684.17
37.	Orissa State Electricity Board (OSEB)	35.92
38.	Orissa Power Generating Corporation Ltd. (OPGCL)	8951.95
39.	Orissa Hydro Power Corporation Ltd. (OHPCL)	12407.49
40.	Grid Corporation of Orissa (GRIDCO)	5306.28
41.	Sikkim PDD	1250.00
42.	West Bengal State Electricity Board (WBSEB)	8801.04
43.	West Bengal Power Development Corporation Ltd. (WBPDCCL)	19803.36
44.	Durgapur Projects Ltd. (DPL)	1089.44
45.	Arunachal Pradesh	148.62
46.	Assam State Electricity Board (ASEB)	340.39
47.	Manipur PDD	405.00
48.	Meghalaya SEB	2.50
49.	Mizoram PDD	2855.25
50.	Nagaland PDD	1965.33
<b>Total</b>		<b>572933.28</b>

*[English]*

**Dumping of Naphtha at Kandla and  
Mundra Ports, Gujarat**

7611. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether C.B.I. has been entrusted the work of investigation about the dumping of Naphtha stock at the ports of Kandla and Mundra of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details of, countries supplied Naphtha and the parties to whom it was supplied; and

(c) the time by which C.B.I. is supposed to finish/complete the investigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Natural Gas in Mahanadi Basin**

7612. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated quantity of Natural Gas in the Mahanadi Basin and other places in Orissa;

(b) whether there is any proposal to tap the gas for commercial use in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) No Reserves of crude oil or natural gas have so far been established in the Mahanadi basin in the State of Orissa, and it is premature to consider any commercial utilisation thereof.

**Attack on Journalists in Gujarat**

7613. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently journalists were attacked in Gujarat and were injured in Police Lathi charge;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of journalists injured in the lathi charge;

(c) the main reasons for attack on the journalists;

(d) whether Press Council of India has asked for any report on this incident from the State Governments;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to safeguard the journalists?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (f) The Government of Gujarat has informed that police had to resort to the use of force on April 7, 2002 to disperse a mob of about 200 persons at Gandhi Ashram, Sabarmati, Ahmedabad. The State Government has ordered an Inquiry into the incident to be conducted by a retired High Court Judge of Gujarat. The Press Council has informed that after the April 7, 2002 incident, three senior members of the Press Council, all residents of the State of Gujarat, were requested to submit their respective reports. In view of the Enquiry since ordered by the Government, the Council has not commented any further on the issue.

**Power Requirement**

7614. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the percentage of energy requirement during the Ninth Plan was relatively less as compared to the Seventh and Eighth Plan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the estimated growth of energy demand during the tenth Plan; and

(d) the steps taken to meet the future requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The energy requirement in the country at the end of 7th, 8th and 9th Plans is given below:

	7th Plan	8th Plan	9th Plan
Energy Requirement In Millions Units	247762	413490	522537

Energy requirement at the end of 9th Plan increased by 24.6% over 8th Plan and the energy requirement at the end of the 8th Plan increased by 66.8% over 7th Plan.

(b) Main reason for less percentage increase in energy requirement during 9th Plan as compared to 8th Plan was the general recession in the economy, particularly in industrial sector.

(c) As per 16th Electric Power Survey Report, the estimated energy requirement at the end of 10th Plan would be 718817 MU which represents a growth of 37.5% over 9th Plan.

(d) The Working Group on Power for 10th Plan set up by the Planning Commission has identified a feasible capacity addition of 46,939 MW during the 10th Plan. In addition to this capacity addition programme, the following steps are being taken to mitigate the shortage of power:

- (i) Renovation and Modernization (R&M) and life extension of existing old and inefficient generating units. Special funds under Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme for undertaking R&M schemes is being provided to States.
- (ii) Speedy implementation of Reforms & Restructuring in the Power Sector.
- (iii) Early stabilization of newly commissioned generating units.
- (iv) Reduction in transmission and Distribution losses.
- (v) Promoting energy efficiency and conservation measures.
- (vi) Disbursement of loans by the Power Finance Corporation for improving operating and maintenance of thermal power stations under the Accelerated Generation Programme.
- (vii) Maximization of inter-state and inter-regional power transfer by construction of transmission links and system improvement finally leading to formation of the National Grid.
- (viii) Formulation of hydel policy for exploitation of hydro potential at a faster pace.

#### **Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri**

7615. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have finalised the Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri and gave necessary clearance;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the infrastructure for setting up of High Court Circuit Bench is ready;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in setting the Bench; and

(d) the time by which the Bench is likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) The Government of West Bengal and the Calcutta High Court have recommended for establishing a Bench of the Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri. Before considering the proposal further, the State Government was requested in August 2001 to indicate the time-frame within which infrastructural facilities required for establishment of the High Court Bench at Jalpaiguri would be completed to the satisfaction of the Calcutta High Court. They were also requested to convey their agreement to bearing the entire expenditure on the proposed Bench.

The Government of West Bengal have, in response, requested the Government of India for funds to meet the cost of Court building, residential accommodation of Judicial Officers/Judges covering High Court and Subordinate Courts. According to the present practice, construction of a new Building for Bench of a High Court is not covered under the existing Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

As the proposal involves Parliamentary legislation, it is not possible to give a time frame by which a final decision can be taken.

#### **Compensation by Railways**

7616. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether crores of rupees are being given as compensation by the Railways on account of loss of packages/theft, pilferages and damage;

(b) if so, the amount of money paid on the said causes during each of the last three years, Railway-wise, Zone-wise; and

(c) the action taken against the authorities for not keeping the wagons leak proof and the person responsible to check pilferages and thefts?

(b) A statement is enclosed.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(c) Strict disciplinary action is taken against the staff who are negligent in preventing theft and pilferage. Suitable action is taken to identify and overcome the weakness in the system to avoid such cases in future.

**Statement**

*The claim compensation paid by Indian Railways for non-delivery of consignments on account of loss and theft, pilferage and damage by wet for the last three years*

(Amount in lakhs)

Railway	Year	Loss/Theft		Pilferage		Damage by wet	
		No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
CR	1998-1999	3838	210.22	3054	51.13	1965	69.15
	1999-2000	3340	219.14	2083	82.39	2884	44.25
	2000-2001	2215	58.23	1532	28.45	1659	28.09
ER	1998-1999	1995	181.81	12157	131.61	165	58.47
	1999-2000	1924	247.16	10446	150.52	97	24.10
	2000-2001	1032	87.99	10397	118.12	10	3.68
NR	1998-1999	3489	244.74	2982	179.95	65	49.93
	1999-2000	3165	199.24	2536	324.48	94	63.42
	2000-2001	3174	146.52	2591	195.23	91	25.42
NER	1998-1999	2549	51.89	311	9.73	28	3.86
	1999-2000	2340	41.66	430	5.35	16	2.39
	2000-2001	2256	21.92	523	6.56	7	0.33
NFR	1998-1999	632	18.72	4016	236.42	1026	119.30
	1999-2000	704	40.22	4644	288.24	959	140.98
	2000-2001	721	56.00	5294	274.92	968	221.96
SR	1998-1999	1184	109.39	134	5.95	499	41.64
	1999-2000	1010	124.68	89	3.26	311	40.28
	2000-2001	782	62.53	22	0.73	286	16.45
SCR	1998-1999	609	55.59	199	7.58	—	—
	1999-2000	727	92.89	254	14.90	20	2.17
	2000-2001	688	80.41	120	4.16	2	0.72

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
SER	1998-1999	4072	101.43	2655	97.41	397	23.77
	1999-2000	4186	105.57	2889	153.44	250	30.71
	2000-2001	3862	103.03	3258	63.65	239	16.09
WR	1998-1999	2416	118.19	467	14.62	483	44.24
	1999-2000	2246	93.87	584	23.01	464	99.34
	2000-2001	1817	65.23	368	32.66	491	28.18
Total	1998-1999	20784	1091.98	25975	634.40	4628	410.36
	1999-2000	19642	1164.43	23955	1045.59	5095	447.64
	2000-2001	16547	681.86	24105	824.48	3753	340.92

#### Float of Equity Fund by PFC

7617. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Finance Corporation (PFC) is planning to float its equity fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the extent to which it is likely to help the Corporation to serve more?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) In view of above do not arise.

#### Capacity of IGL

7618. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present capacity of Indraprastha Gas Limited;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to increase the CNG capacity of Indraprastha Gas Limited; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to enhance the CNG capacity of IGL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The present capacity of IGL is approximately 6.39 lakhs kg per day.

(b) and (c) IGL plans to achieve the total CNG compression capacity of 16.11 lakh kg per day by June 2003 by opening more CNG stations and acquiring compressors of higher capacity. To facilitate this a 12 inch steel pipeline is being laid between Dhaula Kuan and G.T. Kamal Road.

#### ONGC Videsh to acquire Oilfields in Sudan

7619. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC Videsh has entered into business to acquire rights to oilfields in Sudan;

(b) if so, the details of the transaction;

(c) the capital laid down by ONGC Videsh;

(d) the expected returns during the six years; and

(e) the advantages of this investment by ONGC Videsh to the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (e) ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL), a 100% subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) set up mainly to acquire exploration blocks and discovered fields abroad

is actively pursuing investment opportunities in various countries, including Sudan.

[Translation]

#### Clearance of Power Projects

7620. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a demand has constantly been made for setting up an independent constitutional authority for instant evaluation of power projects and giving them clearance from the environmental point of view; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) There is no proposal for setting up of an independent constitutional authority for evaluating power projects and giving them environmental clearance. However, appraisal procedures have been streamlined and revised questionnaire has been published for facilitating expeditious decision on giving clearance to projects as required under Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986.

[English]

#### Income Tax Appellate Tribunal

7621. SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be please to state:

(a) whether the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal is presently functioning in Chennai, Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the number of cases already settled by these Tribunals, Bench-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay is taking concrete steps in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the pending cases would be finalized without penalizing the applicants heavily?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) From 1.4.2001 to 31.3.2002 the following number of cases are settled Bench-wise:

A-Bench	—	842
B-Bench	—	839
C-Bench	—	933
D-Bench	—	443

The total number of cases pending with the Chennai Benches of the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal is 19034. The total number of Benches sanctioned at Chennai is 4 with 4 Accountant Members and 4 Judicial Members. Two Accountant Members and three Judicial Members are already posted at the Chennai Benches and action is already being taken to fill-up the two vacant posts of Accountant Members and one vacant post of Judicial Member at Chennai.

(d) Appeals filed upto 1995 are likely to be disposed of by the end of December, 2002.

#### Projects in Chhattisgarh

7622. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new/on-going/pending rail projects and surveys in Chhattisgarh along with the progress made thereof, project-wise;

(b) the amount allocated to each of the project and the expenditure incurred so far thereon;

(c) the target date fixed for completion of all the surveys/projects; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for timely completion of those projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Details of ongoing and new Railway projects in Chhattisgarh, including Budget Outlay for 2002-03, expected expenditure likely to be incurred till March, 2002 and present status of each project are given is enclosed Statement-I.

The details of ongoing surveys in Chhattisgarh are given in enclosed Statement-II.

(c) and (d) Target Date of Completion of projects/surveys, wherever fixed, is given in Statement-I and II respectively. Projects are being progressed as per availability of resources.

**Statement I***On-going Railway Projects in Chhattisgarh*

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Rly.	Latest Anticipated Cost (Amount in Crores of Rupees)	Outlay expected to end of 2001-02	Budget Outlay for 2002-03	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Doubling</b>						
1.	Akaltara-Champa	SER	62.31	57.28	1.00	Akaltara-Naila-Hasdeo (23 km) has been completed, except the Hasdeo bridge. On Hasdeo Bridge, work is in progress and likely to be completed during 2002-03.
2.	Bilaspur-Urkura	SER	227.36	54.22	29.00	Work of earthwork, minor bridges and ballast are in progress. Bilaspur-Dagori (23 km) and Nipania-Bhatapara (15 km) are targeted to be completed during 2002-03.
3.	Champa-Saragbundia	SER	56.57	51.43	0.70	Saragbundia-Kathari road-Balpur have been completed. Balpur to Champa (9.7 Km) is targeted for completion during 2002-03.
4.	Korba-Gerva Road	SER	46.80	17.70	10.00	Work of bridges and formation are in progress. Work from Gevra to Kusumunda (3 km) is targeted for completion during 2002-03.
5.	Korba-Saragbundia	SER	37.64	36.55	0.10	Completed and commissioned.
6.	Sarona-Bhillai 3rd line	SER	42.02	40.50	1.52	The work has been completed. Non-interlocked working is being planned to be taken up after which line will be commissioned.
7.	Urkura-Raipur-Sarona	SER	35.55	31.29	0.10	Completed and commissioned.
<b>Gauge Conversion</b>						
8.	Jabalpur-Gondia including Balaghat-Katangi	SER	510.43	26.290	44.00	Final location survey has been completed. In Ph I, work has been taken up on Gondia-Balarghar (42 km.) section. Earthwork on available stretches upto formation level and bridges has been completed. Bridge on Bagh river (7x60') is in progress. On Ph II between Jabalpur-Balaghat section, land acquisition in 12 Km stretch for detoured alignment near Jabalpur have been processed.
<b>New Lines</b>						
9.	Bishrampur-Ambikapur	SER	47.49	7.12	10.00	The final location survey has been completed. Private land acquired. For forest land matter

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
						is under correspondence with the State Government for reviewing the cost of land. Earthwork and bridge works are in progress.
10.	Dallirajahara-Jagdapur	SER	128.00	0.45	0.01	This line is to be constructed on cost sharing basis among Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Steel, Chhattisgarh Govt. and National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC). The cost of the first phase work from Dallirajahara to Rowghat (95 km) is to be borne entirely by Ministry of Steel. Steel Authority of India Ltd. has been requested to deposit Rs. 50 crore with Railways for taking the work on Dallirajahara-Rowghat section. However, they have not responded so far. SAIL is yet to get clearance for mining in Rowghat area from Ministry of Environment & Forests.

**Statement II***On-going surveys in Chhattisgarh*

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Railway	Status
<b>New Lines</b>			
1.	Barwadih to Chirmiri Restoration of railway line	South Eastern	In progress. Likely date of completion is 30.06.2002.
2.	Raipur-Jarsaguda via Khartapalan, Baloda Bazar, Batgaon and Sarangarh	South Eastern	In progress. Likely date of completion is 31.12.2002.
3.	Bisrampur to Jabalpur	South Eastern	In progress. Likely date of completion is 31.3.2003
4.	Rajnandgaon-Jabalpur	South Eastern	In progress. Likely date of completion is 31.12.2002.
5.	Bilaspur to Jabalpur.	South Eastern	In progress. Likely date of completion is 31.12.2002.
6.	Lohardaga to Korba	South Eastern	In progress. Likely date of completion is 30.09.2002.
7.	Pendra Rd-Korbal/Gerva Rd	South Eastern	Completed, Report under finalisation. Likely date of completion is 30.6.2002.
<b>Doubling</b>			
8.	Bilaspur-Anuppur	South Eastern	In progress. Likely date of completion is 30.9.2002.
9.	Titlagarh-Raipur section on RV line	South Eastern	In progress. Likely date of completion is 30.6.2002.
10.	Titlagarh-Jharsuguda	South Eastern	In progress likely date of completion is 31.8.2002.



**New Power Generation Units in Punjab**

7623. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of programme to set up new power generation units in Punjab;

(b) the details of programme to increase the power generation capacity of already installed projects;

(c) the details of fund earmarked for this programme; and

(d) the funds already released by the Union Government therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The details of the programme to set up new thermal/hydel power generation units in the State of Punjab for benefits in 10th Plan are as under:

**A. Thermal***i. State Sector*

Guru Hargobind TPP St-II-2x250 MW (CEA cleared)

*ii. Private Sector*

Goindwal Sahib TPP-2x250 MW (State cleared tariff based project)

**B. Hydel***i. State Sector*

Shahpurkandi HEP 168 MW (CEA cleared)

Syl Canal-2x18+2x7 50 MW (CEA cleared)

Mukerian (MPH) St. II 16 MW (DPR awaited)

(b) To improve the power generation capacity of the already installed projects, refurbishment works during 10th Plan under R&M schemes have been identified as per details given below:

**A. Thermal**

Guru Gobind Singh TPS at Bhatinda 4x110 MW

(Unit (i) & (ii) LOA has been placed. For Unit (iii) & (iv) DPR to be prepared).

**B. Hydel**

1. Shanar HE Project (ongoing scheme)

2. Anandpur Sahib

3. Mukerian St-1

4. Shanar HE Project

} DPR to be prepared by project authorities

(c) and (d) For implementation of Guru Hargobind TPP St-II (2x250 MW), Planning Commission has approved the project cost of Rs. 1,78,967 lakhs. As regards Shahurkandi HEP-168 MW, the project was approved by Planning Commission for cost of Rs. 1667 crores.

For R&M of Guru Govind TPS at Bhatinda, the requirement of fund is estimated as Rs. 400 crores.

The Annual Plan for 2002-03 for the Punjab State in respect of power sector has not been finalised by the Planning Commission.

**Konkan Railway Corporation**

7624. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has asked the Konkan Railway Corporation to pay up the land levy on land under its track and use;

(b) whether the KRC has been served notices by two district collectorates in the State to pay up land levy charges for land used for non-agricultural purposes;

(c) whether the KRC has obtained tax relief from the Government of Karnataka since 1992; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereon along with the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) Ministry of Railways has taken up this issue with Govt. of Maharashtra to review its decision and exempt KRC from these charges.

**Kuria Thane Six Line Project**

7625. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the budgetary provisions for Kurla-Thane six line project for 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 have remained unutilized;

(b) if so, the reason therefor and the provision made during the said period;

(c) whether due to lack of coordination between various departments of Railways, the project is being delayed;

(d) the time by which the said project is likely to be completed; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to complete the project timely?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) No Sir. Budgetary provisions for the projects are initially provided in the Pink Book based on expected expenditure during the year. Budgetary provision of individual projects are revised in various budgetary reviews carried out during the year, taking into account the actual availability of the resources, progress of the project, availability of land etc. Final Budgetary Allocation made for Kurla-Thane Project, during the years 1999-2000, 2000-01 & 2001-02 after reviews have been fully utilised. The actual expenditure during the years 1999-2000, 2000-01 & 2001-02 has been as follows:

1999-2000	Rs. 27.90 crores
2000-2001	Rs. 14.67 crores
2001-02	Rs. 13.75 crores (approx.)

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The main problem constraining the progress of Kurla-Thane 5th & 6th line project is non-availability of working area due to non-removal of hutment and acquisition of land by State Government. Railways have been pursuing the matter with State Government vigorously for early removal of the hutment and to hand over the land under acquisition without any encumbrances at the earliest possible. The project will be completed within one year after removal of encroachments and handing over land by State Government.

[Translation]

#### **Modernisation of Bokaro Steel Plant**

7626. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited had generated 50 percent of the total expenditure from its internal resources that is likely to be incurred on the first phase of the modernisation of Bokaro Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

#### **Action against Defaulting Companies**

7627. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CAG in its Report 9 of 1998 in paragraph 4.3.1 on page 147-150 brought to the notice of the Railway Board in September, 1997 instead of taking legal action against the defaulting firms from whom cost of C.I. Scrap (Grade I) worth Rs. 2.56 cr. remained to be recovered were placed further order for the supply of 1556 tonnes of sleeper plates;

(b) if so, whether the legal action has been taken against the defaulting firm and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reasons for placing further order on the defaulting firms;

(d) the action taken against the delinquent officials;

(e) whether the handling of stores in Eastern Railway for the last three-four years has been questionable and a number of irregularities have taken place;

(f) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted; and

(g) if so the outcome thereof and the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d) CAG report pointed out excess supply of C.I. scrap to some firms. The supply orders on firms are with a delivery period which gets extended on request of firms if there are acceptable reasons. During delivery period it was not considered prudent to debar the firms from supply orders. Therefore, further orders were placed. Instructions for initiation of legal action were issued. Present position of the action and results thereof are being collected and would be apprised later.

(e) to (g) No Sir. However, regular checks are conducted from time to time and suitable action where necessary is taken against officials/staff responsible for irregularities/lapses.

#### ONGC Reserve

7628. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approached ONGC to work out 10 thousand crore from its reserves as dividend payment for the equity held by the Government in ONGC; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

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

#### Expansion of Kurla Terminus

7629. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway has announced expansion of temporary structure of Kurla Terminus in Mumbai;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that commuters are facing hardship due to the said work;

(c) if so, whether the Government have also received various representation in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

#### Halting of Train at Narayana

7630. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a long standing demand from the religious people and people's representatives to provide stoppage to the 9105 and 9106 Delhi-Ahmedabad Mail broad gauge train at Narayana of Rajasthan being a famous religious place;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which relief would be provided by acceding to this long standing demand of the religious people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some representations including from peoples representatives have been received to provide the stoppage of 9105/9106 Ahmedabad-Delhi Mail at Naraina station.

(c) The proposal has been examined but not found feasible.

[*English*]

#### Utilisation of Surplus Accommodation

7631. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sum of Rs. 4.80 crore was incurred on land and construction of a building to house 38 Border Road Task Force at Chandigarh between August 1990 and April 1995 but the unit moved to Manali in June 1996 and another expenditure of Rs. 1.12 crore was incurred on watch and ward of surplus accommodation as has been brought out in the CAG report 7 of 2001 in para 44 on page 69;

(b) if so, whether the matter has been enquired into as to why proper application of mind was not applied before taking a decision involving crores of rupees;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the action taken for the utilisation of this surplus accommodation by Army of other users to check recurring expenditure on watch and ward and deterioration in the building?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) The building for 38 Border Roads Task Force was constructed at Chandigarh in 1994-95 at a cost of Rs. 4.80 crores. The decision to construct the building was taken after due consideration of all the factors. However, due to strategic reasons, this Task Force had moved temporarily to Manali to oversee the work on Manali-Leh road. The building is occupied by the affiliated units of the Task Force, which continue to remain at Chandigarh to provide logistic support to Task Force, as well as, to Chief Engineer Project Deepak with its Head Quarters at Shimla. An amount of Rs. 19.56 lakhs has been spent from June 1996 till February 2002 on security and upkeep of these buildings.

#### **Procurement of Corporate Jet Liners**

7632. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:  
SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL:  
SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Air Force is planning to procure private corporate jets for ferrying its VIP passengers;

(b) if so, whether negotiations with some countries are going on in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the cost thereof;

(d) whether the Indian Airforce has shown interest in buying three corporate jetliners to replace its 20 year old Boeing 737; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The Air Force is planning to procure six Executive Jets for carriage of V.I.P.

(b) Negotiations will commence when the lowest evaluated offer is determined.

(c) Not applicable.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Technical evaluation has been completed. Commercial offers of the shortlisted vendors have not yet been opened.

[Translation]

#### **Refrigerated Parcel Vans**

7633. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to manufacture and introduce refrigerated parcel vans for transportation of perishable goods;

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

(c) the time by which these vans are likely to be manufactured/introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A refrigerated van for transport of perishable goods is under development. Depending on the successful evolution of the design and customer response, further manufacture of these vans will be taken up in a phased manner.

[English]

#### **Proposal to Add AC 3 AC 2 Tier Coaches in Long Distance Trains**

7634. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:  
SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to add additional number of AC 3 tier coaches and AC 2 tier coaches in some long distance trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of south bound trains like Ratnachel Express in which 2 tier AC/3 tier AC coaches are to be added;

(d) the steps taken in this regard;

(e) whether there is any proposal to replace 2 tier AC coaches with that of 3 tier AC coaches;

(f) if so, whether there is any proposal to manufacture more 3 tier AC coaches; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (e) Provision of AC-2 tier/AC-3 tier coaches is long distance overnight Mail/Express trains is an ongoing process depending upon traffic pattern, operational feasibility and availability of resources.

(f) and (g) Manufacturing of coaches depends on requirement and availability of resources etc. However, it has been planned to manufacture 198 AC-3 tier coaches in 2002-2003.

#### Agreement with CMIE

7635. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre for Monitoring the Indian Economy (CMIE) had entered into an agreement with the Department of Company Affairs to source the financial of companies that file their financial results with the Registrar of Companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of unlisted companies and their source of finances; and

(d) the details of companies which are delisted by involving the Securities and Exchange Board of India's regulation?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Department of Company Affairs (DCA) entered into an agreement with the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy Pvt. Ltd. (CMIE) on 15.12.1999, whereby the DCA granted to the CMIE permission for collating details and information on the entities from documents filed with the Registrars of Companies.

(c) Such information is not maintained.

(d) Number of companies delisted during the years 1997-98 to 2001-02 by involving the Securities and Exchange Board of India's regulations are as under:

Financial Year	No. of Companies delisted
1997-98	4
1998-99	7
1999-2000	7
2000-2001	6
2001-2002	20

#### Security System of Railway Stations

7636. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the security system of Railway Stations in the country is in chaos due to lack of coordination among the various Government security agencies;

(b) if so, whether due to inadequate security system at these railway stations, the smuggling activities and fake currency business are on the increase;

(c) if so, whether due to inadequate security system at these railway stations, the smuggling activities and fake currency business during the last three months;

(d) whether the Government are taking any remedial steps to improve the security system at the various railway stations keeping in mind the increasing terrorist and smuggling activities in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) 'Policing' being a State Subject, it is the responsibility of the State Governments and other specific agencies like Customs Department to deal with smuggling activities and fake currency business. Hence, no further comments are offered.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Following steps have been taken to improve the security system at Railway Stations in view of terrorists and smuggling activities:

1. All important trains are escorted by GRP armed guards.
2. High profile presence of Police and Security Forces are maintained.
3. Adequate training to security personnel is ensured and they are instructed to remain alert.
4. Regular announcement through Public Address System is made to educate the public about security threats.
5. Surprise check by superior Officers are conducted to ensure alertness of staff deployed.
6. Monitoring of anti social elements through CCTV system have been introduced at important stations.
7. Plain clothes staff are deployed to keep watch on anti social elements.

#### **Payment of Dividend**

7637. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have not even been in a position to pay dividend in full to the general exchequer for the last two years and its payment of nearly Rs. 2500 crores has been deferred;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Railways have been taking up new projects without completing the earlier ones; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The Railways have had to defer part payment of dividend to the General Exchequer to the extent of Rs. 1823 cr. and Rs. 1000 cr. respectively, during 2000-01 and 2001-02 (RE).

(b) In recent years Railways' expenditure has increased steeply after implementation of the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission, while the growth in earnings has not kept pace. As a result the internal generation of resources reduced drastically. Railways, therefore, had to seek partial deferment of dividend for two years to enable minimal plan outlays.

(c) and (d) While the Railways are aiming to complete the on going works on priority, new projects are also being taken up on urgent operational, safety and developmental considerations.

#### **Double Entry Accounting System in Prasar Bharati**

7638. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:  
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to a report captioned "Prasar Bharati to streamline operations" appearing in the 'Hindu' dated April 19, 2002;

(b) if so, whether Prasar Bharati have now decided to adopt double entry accounting system to streamline its operations;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Prasar Bharati could not maintain transparency in financial matters in the past;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the extent to which the adoption of double entry accounting system is going to maintain transparency in its accounts?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) When All India Radio and Doordarshan were Central Government Departments, they followed the Government accounting system based on single-entry system. After establishment of Prasar Bharati as a statutory Corporation, it has been decided, with the approval of Comptroller and Auditor General of India, that Prasar Bharati would adopt the Uniform Format of Accounts for Central Autonomous Bodies, with suitable modifications as may be necessitated by the special features appropriate to Prasar Bharati. Adoption of the Uniform Format of Accounts, which is based on the double-entry system of accounts, will enable Prasar Bharati to maintain clarity in its accounts to the extent necessary for an autonomous organization in discharging its functions of a public broadcaster which is also engaged in commercial activities.

[*Translation*]

### Setting up of Supreme Court Bench in States

7639. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received request from various States to set up benches of Supreme Court in various parts of the country including Chennai so as to facilitate the common man in getting speedy and affordable justice;

(b) if so, the States from which the Government have received such requests;

(c) the names of the places for which the request to set up various benches of Supreme Court has been made; and

(d) the decision taken by the Government on these request, so far?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) While the Governments of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Tripura and Karnataka have requested for setting up of a Bench of the Supreme Court at Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Bangalore, the West Bengal Government has requested for opening of a filing Section of the Supreme Court of India at Kolkata.

(d) The proposal for setting up of Benches of the Supreme Court outside Delhi has been referred to the Chief Justice of India several times for consideration. The Government has been informed that the Full Court at a meeting of the Hon'ble Judges of Supreme Court on 30th April, 2001 have unanimously opposed the setting up of the Benches of the Supreme Court outside Delhi. In view of the categorical opinion by the Full Court of the Supreme Court against setting up a Bench outside Delhi as also the provision in article 130 of the Constitution of India, the Government is not in a position to take any action in this regard.

[*English*]

### Job Criteria to Relatives of Promoters

7640. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced a new policy whereby relatives of promoters have to apply for jobs on the basis of advertisements;

(b) if so, the details of these guidelines;

(c) whether a huge salaries to un-qualified persons are being paid by some companies;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to set a Code of Conduct for companies to follow in this matter; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Department of Company Affairs does not maintain such information.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

### Coal Bed Methane

7641. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had a proposal for exploration and exploitation of coal bed methane gas from the coal mines of Nagpur, Wardha and Chandrapur in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the exploration work has since been started;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons for delay in starting exploration work; and

(f) the time by when the exploration work of coal bed methane gas is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (f) Preliminary geological studies have indicated the presence of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) in Wardha Valley coal field in the State of Maharashtra. Government has

approved the policy for exploration and production of CBM. This policy provides for offer of blocks through International Competitive bidding. The carving out and offering of CBM prospective blocks is an ongoing and continuous process. The offer of CBM blocks, including any block in Wardha valley, in the future rounds of bidding depends upon several factors, viz. Inter-ministerial clearances, concurrence of CBM policy by the concerned State Governments etc.

[Translation]

### Power Generation

7642. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:  
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether power generation is undertaken by institutions run by the union Government, State Electricity Boards and private sector institutions;

(b) if so, the installed power generation capacity in the three sectors;

(c) the percentage utilization of the installed capacity in each sector during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002; and

(d) the steps taken to augment the capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Sector-wise installed power generation capacity as on 31.3.2002 is given below:

	Installed Capacity (MW)
Central Sector	31605.50
State Sector	62220.28
Private Sector	11091.72
All India	104917.50

(c) Sector-wise percentage capacity utilization (PLF) of thermal power stations in the country during 2000-01 and 2001-02 is given below:

	Plant Load Factor (%)	
	2000-01	2001-02
Central Sector	74.3	74.3
State Sector	65.6	67.0
Private Sector	73.1	74.7
All India	69.0	69.9

(d) The following steps are being taken to augment capacity in the country:

- (i) Expeditious implementation of capacity addition programme and doubling of the capacity of 2012.
- (ii) Renovation and Modernization (R&M) and life extension of existing old and inefficient generating units. Funds are being provided for R&M works under Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme.
- (iii) Disbursement of loans by the Power Finance Corporation for improving operation and maintenance of thermal power stations under Accelerated Generation Programme.
- (iv) Increasing the inter-state and inter-regional power transfer by construction of missing transmission links and system improvement and finally development of the National Grid.
- (v) Coordinated operation of Hydro, Thermal, Nuclear and Gas turbine power stations in the regional power system.
- (vi) Speedy implementation of Reform process in the Power Sector.
- (vii) Early stabilization of newly commissioned generating units.

### Doubling Work of Paldhi-Amalner Line

7643. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the earth work and construction of bridges on small nallahs for doubling of rail line from Paldhi to Amalner was completed during 1985;

(b) if so, the reasons for not starting rest of the work of laying double line on the said route so far; and

(c) the time by which the doubling work is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, work of Patch doubling between Amalner-Takarkheda and Takarkheda-Dharangaon was taken up in 1989-90. Earth work and bridges completed between Amalner-Dharangaon. Work was subsequently abandoned as was not required from traffic considerations.



**Films on Personalities**

7644. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Film Division produces films including the films on personalities;

(b) if so, the names of such films produced by the Film Division during each of the last three years;

(c) the names of films which are under production;

(d) whether the Government propose to produce a film on the life of Birsa Munda;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of films, including biographical films, produced by the Films Division during the last three years i.e., 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 are enclosed in Statement I.

(c) Names of biographical films which are under production are given in enclosed Statement II.

(d) to (f) As, Films Division have already produced a documentary film titled "A Song for Birsa" on Birsa Munda, there is no proposal, at present, to produce another film on him.

**Statement I**

*List of Films produced during the Year 1999-2000*

*(Including Biographical Films)*

Sl.No.	Title
1	2
1.	Save the Environs for Future
2.	Even We can
3.	Paradise
4.	An Express Highway
5.	Indian Football Association

1	2
6.	Darkness of Terror
7.	Ae Vatan Tere Liye
8.	Urban Land Ceiling Act—A Repeal
9.	Jawan Tuje Salam
10.	Hamara Bharat
11.	Rajbhasha Sansadiya Samiti
12.	Communal Harmony Part I
13.	Communal Harmony Part II
14.	The Price Affair
15.	The Flag
16.	And The Bamboo Blooms
17.	Johad (A Source of Water)
18.	Charkha
19.	Let me Live (Muje Jine Do)
20.	Dharavi Ek Navi Pahat
21.	Views & Vision
22.	Status Quo
23.	Parivartan
24.	Vijay Hamari Hogi Part-I
25.	Vijay Hamari Hogi Part-II
26.	Let there be no doubt Part-I
27.	Let there be no doubt Part-II
28.	11th International Children Film Festival 1999, Capsule-I
29.	11th International Children Film Festival 1999, Capsule-II
30.	Inflation (Mahangai)
31.	Vijay
32.	Logo for MIFF' 2000
33.	Promotional Films for MIFF-2000 (10 Nos.)
34.	A voice Calls

1	2
35.	Song based film on Kargil Issue
36.	Compilation film for back projection at inaugural & closing function at MIFF' 2000
37.	MIFF' 98
38.	Curtain Raiser MIFF' 2000
39.	Ghar Apna
40.	Training film on Law Enforcement—NCB Part A
41.	Training film on Law Enforcement—NCB Part B
42.	Exchange of soiled Notes. Video Spot No. I
43.	Exchange of Soiled Notes. Video Spot No. II
44.	Exchange of Soiled Notes. Video Spot No. III
45.	Radio Spot on Exchange of Soiled Notes.
46.	What is New
47.	How to handle Electronic Voting Machine
48.	Friendly Machine
49.	Public Provident Fund Scheme
50.	Public Provident Fund Scheme (NTR)
51.	Logo for CFSI Film Festival
52.	Jagi Dishyen Khilli Aashayen
53.	Mushroom Production
54.	Poultry Farming
55.	Effective Decision Making
56.	Gubban Moopan's Dream
57.	Oru Yatra
58.	Kochu Kochu Mohangal
59.	Pyas
60.	Disha
61.	Rashmi Rekha
62.	Koodu

1	2
63.	Jatamer Jami
64.	Chakram
65.	Manikkan
66.	Masterniji
67.	Dukhiram
68.	Phire Pelam
69.	Desha Bhakthan
70.	Gandhi Nehru and Modern Art
71.	A Journey to Bastar
72.	Hindi
73.	Sindhu Gatha
74.	Curtain Raiser Film on Singhu Gatha
75.	Saral Upay
	<i>Biographical Films produced during the year</i>
76.	Lal Bal Pal (Freedom Fighters)
77.	Pratibhavan Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma (former President of India) (SV)
78.	A dedicated worker Shri Gulzarilal Nanda (National leader)
79.	People's Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam (Rebel Poet)
80.	Hanuman Prasad Poddar (Greater) (SV)
81.	Bhartendu Harishchandra (Great Poet) (SV)
82.	Singh Bandhu (Classical singers) (SV)
83.	Kabir (Saint)
84.	Bhaiji—A Great Human Being Hanuman Prasad Poddar (Great Philosopher) (LV)
85.	Sheikh Chinna Maulana (famous musician of Nagaswaram) (LV)
86.	Jayshankar Prasad (Famous writer) (LV)
87.	Ek Hi Sur Mein (LV)
88.	Hamini (Classical dancer) (LV)

1	2
89.	Bhartendu (Bhartendu Harishchandra (A great poet) (LV)
90.	Babu Jagjivan Ram (National leader) (LV)
91.	A man of Silence Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Great Nationalist leader) (LV)
92.	Kavi Pradeep (Great Poet) (LV)
93.	Kalamandalam Gopi (famous Kathakali dancer)
94.	Malika Sarabhai (famous dancer) (LV)
95.	The Gentle Knight of Music—V. Doraiswamy Iyengar (Veena Maestro)
96.	The Gentle Knight of Music—V. Doraiswamy Iyengar (Veena Maestro)
97.	Guru Gorkay Raghunath Murmu (Inventor of Ol-Chiki script for Santhal Tribe)
98.	G. Aravindan (film maker)
99.	Dreamer (famous dancer, Swapnasundari)
100.	Veena Sahasrabudhye (famous classical singer)

*List of Films produced during the year 2000-2001  
(Including Biographical Films)*

Sl.No.	Title
1	2
1.	A Glimmer of Hope
2.	A Death Trap
3.	Sacred Groves
4.	Sarangi The Lost Cord
5.	Dholavira
6.	Disha
7.	Aaaj Ki Nari
8.	Tribal Women Artists
9.	Hindi Ki Vikas Yatra
10.	Unity Wheel

1	2
11.	The Wet Desert
12.	Jyoti
13.	Landscape
14.	Indian Women in the 21st Century
15.	From the land of Buddhism to the Land of Buddha
16.	An Autumn Evening
17.	Rock Sculptors of Mahabalipuram
18.	Chitrakoot
19.	Jeevan Rekha
20.	Temptation
21.	Mummy
22.	Wearing the Face
23.	Vedic Mathematics
24.	Nutrition for Your Child
25.	Netaji
26.	BIFF'92
27.	Sindhu Darshan
28.	Army's 1st Mount Everest Expedition 1985
29.	Shahadat
30.	MIFF, 1998
31.	Anti-Plastic
32.	Environment
33.	Water Conservation
34.	Anti-Tobacco
35.	Brain Drain
36.	Self Treatment
37.	Mahilaon Ka Cancer
38.	Meendum Thendral
39.	Bhandhavya
40.	Maunadachina Gahana

1	2
41.	Kalkkalam
42.	Nagore Express
43.	India-2000
44.	Dhanna
45.	Janm Bhoomi
46.	Ajopa Gacha (The Tree)
47.	Arive Shakthi
48.	Gaali Maathu
49.	Pappaya
50.	Dharma
51.	Kakarana Yugadi
52.	Journey into Faith
53.	Fight to Future
54.	Fact to Face with MND
55.	Managing Motor Neurone Diseases
56.	Satras and Naamghars of Assam
57.	Infiltrators
58.	Main Yeh Sochati Hun
59.	Kargil Swasthya Mela
60.	Mahananda
61.	Khatghar
62.	250 years Defence Accounts Department
63.	Ghar Apna (SV)
64.	Bansuriwala
65.	Her Marz Ki Dawa
66.	Man Mein Ho Vishwas
67.	Kaise Banoge Karodpati
68.	Choti Choti Batein
69.	Jeevan Ki Muskan
70.	Tarmac Procedure

1	2
71.	Administrative Training Institute (ATI) Airforce
72.	Fire Power Demo I & II (Armed corps centre and schools)
73.	Mechanical Transport & Training Institute (MTTI)
74.	History of Workshop Training Institute (WTI) Air force

*Biographical Film completed during the year*

75.	Bala Murali Krishna (Carnatic vocal maestro) (LV)
76.	Rashtra Kavi Pradeep (poet) (SV)
77.	Malika Sarabhai (classical dancer) (SV)
78.	Prasad (Hindi writer and poet Jaishankar Prasad) (SV)
79.	Forever Legend (M.S. Subbulakshmi, famous Carnatic musician)
80.	Searching for Smita (pioneering actress—Smita Patil)
81.	Sangeet Martand Pandit Jasraj (famous music maestro) (LV)
82.	The Living Legend Dr. Rajkumar (film actor) (LV)
83.	Semmagudi Sreenivasier (Carnatic musician)
84.	Many Facets of a Genius—Dr. K. Shivarama Karanth (Gyanpith Award winner from Karnataka) (LV)

*List of Films Produced during the year 2001-2002 (Till date)**(Including Biographical Films)*

Sl.No.	Title
1	2
1.	Remembrance
2.	Government Role in Gujarat Earthquake Relief
3.	Lost Innocence
4.	Aawaran

1	2
5.	Bhagawan Buddha
6.	Handle Them with Care
7.	Culture and Handicrafts of Tripura
8.	Mangroves of Sunderbans
9.	Swavalamban
10.	Abuse
11.	Azadi
12.	Kya Yahi Hein Lorian
13.	Hosiar III
14.	Tribals of Nilgiri Hills
15.	Suraksha
16.	Banyan
17.	Where to Go
18.	Hunger Free India
19.	Soone Sapne
20.	Khuddari
21.	Holy Ganga
22.	Freedom from Hunger
23.	Mizoram—A Heaven of Peace
24.	Chahiye Thoda sa Pyaar
25.	Mahilaon Ka Cancer
26.	Phase Paradhi
27.	Mobile
28.	I.T.B.P. conquer Everest
29.	Sankalp
30.	Zara Suniye
31.	Rajiv
32.	Take a little care—avoid AIDS
33.	Vedna

1	2
34.	Terrorism
35.	Kaali
36.	Vairam
37.	Chevvezhai
38.	Mantra
39.	Kandari
40.	Rami (The Baby Elephant)
41.	Sabla
42.	Baluvai
43.	Bishan Yuddher Par (After Fierce battle)
44.	Going to School
45.	Ooru Vilakku
46.	Alemari
47.	Mokel Ni Pohor
48.	Tune of Tandav
49.	Kargil Swasthya Mela
50.	Geeta Ki Kahani
51.	Kalkalam
52.	The Mospas of Arunachal
53.	Devil and the Deep Sea
54.	History of Tirupati Balaji
55.	Promos for MIFF 2002—11 films
56.	Logo for Parliamentary Proceedings
57.	Gwdan Muga
58.	Apna Utsav
59.	Fire Power Demo (Arty)-2 films
60.	Integrated Services Design Network
61.	Shirdi Sai Baba
62.	Writing on the wall.
63.	Shrishti Ka Aadhar

1	2
<i>Biographical Films produced during the year</i>	
64.	Iron Man—Sardar Patel (great nationalist leader) (SV)
65.	Teejan Bai—(Pandavani singer from Chhattisgarh) (LV)
66.	Teejan Bai—A Pandavani Singer (SV)
67.	Mother of Century (Mother Teresa) (LV)
68.	Oru Akashram Oru Chuvadhu (Smt. K.V. Rabiya—a handicapped woman, winner of literacy award from Kerala.
69.	Sonal (Classical dancer—Smt. Sonal Mansingh)
70.	A few things of know about her.
71.	Sister Nivedita
72.	Is Yug ki Arundhati (film on freedom fighter late Mrs. Kasturba Gandhi)
73.	Smita

Note: SV: (shorter version)

LV : (longer version)

### **Statement II**

*Names of Biographical Films which are under production by Films Division*

Sl.No.	Title
1	2
1.	Smt. Ramadevi—A Great Social Reformer of Orissa
2.	Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia
3.	Maharana Pratap of Chittor (great warrior)
4.	Late Shri Biju Patnaik (National leader)
5.	Sudershan Singh Chakra
6.	Mrs. Uma Sharma
7.	Vijayalakshmi Pandit (National leader)
8.	Chandrashekar Azad (freedom fighter)

1	2
9.	Sardar Bhagat Singh (Freedom fighter)
10.	Salil Chowdhary (famous music director)
11.	Madam Bhikaji Cama National leader)
12.	Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherji

[English]

### **Doordarshan to Remote North-East and Far-flung Areas**

7645 SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:  
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:  
SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATI:  
SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the working group on the Tenth Five Year Plan on information and broadcasting has made suggestions to achieve 100 percent coverage of Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has pointed out that Rs. 4000 crore would be needed to reach out to the remote North-East and far-flung areas by the existing terrestrial network;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the steps, the Union Government are considering to take the television coverage to the rural population in remote areas during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government/Planning Commission to provide the required funds?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Working Group on 10th Five Year Plan of Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has recommended provision of TV Coverage to uncovered areas with a multi-channel bouquet in free to air mode in Ku band through satellite distribution system.

(c) and (d) A Sub-Group on 'Carriage and Technology' set up by the Ministry of Information &

Broadcasting in connection with the finalisation of the 10th Five Year Plan had estimated that for extending Doordarshan coverage to 100 per cent population in terrestrial mode, an expenditure of about Rs. 3456 crores would be required.

(e) and (f) In terrestrial mode DD coverage is available to about 90 per cent population of the country (including the population in rural and remote areas) and this is expected to increase to about 91 per cent after commissioning of the ongoing transmitter projects. The expansion in terrestrial mode will be continued in 10th Plan as well. Alternative technology options have also been included to provide coverage to hitherto uncovered areas. Adequate provision for this purpose has been made in the draft 10th Plan of DDn.

#### Development of Village by NTPC

7646. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTPC plants spend one per cent of its profits for the development of the surrounding villages;

(b) if so, the amount of money spent in Kaniha, Banaharpalli and Ib valley area of Orissa during the last three years till date, village-wise; and

(c) the details of schemes implemented in these villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has a comprehensive

Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) policy. As per this policy, a detailed socio-economic survey is carried out by NTPC based on which a Rehabilitation Action Plan (RAP) is prepared in consultation with representatives of affected population and district administration. The RAP includes development of affected villages based on the need as assessed. All costs towards implementation of RAP are borne by NTPC.

(b) and (c) NTPC has Talcher-Kaniha project at Kaniha and do not have any project near Banaharpalli and Ib valley. For Talcher-Kaniha, the peripheral development works in the surrounding villages are carried out depending on the necessity as finalized after discussions in the meetings of the Rehabilitation Advisory meeting.

A total expenditure of about Rs. 1004 lakh has been spent on Peripheral Development (PD) Works till date by NTPC. However, an amount of Rs. 179.08 lakh has been spent on PD works during the last three years as detailed below:

Year	Amount spend on PD works (Rs. in lakh)
1999-2000	34.56
2000-2001	73.89
2001-2002	70.63
Total	179.08

The village-wise and year-wise details of the above expenditure are as follows:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Village	Financial Year	Road	Education	Health	Water	Sanitation	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>1999-2000</b>								
1.	Bijigol		-	-	-	-	-	
	Derang		-	1.17	-	4.20	-	
	Masunihata		-	0.66	-	3.48	-	
	Kaniha		-	-	-	3.30	-	
	Takua		-	-	-	3.60	-	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Bhimkhand		-	0.50	-	3.28	-	
	Gadasila		-	-	-	9.16	-	
	Karadel		-	-	-	3.30	-	
	Rangabeda		-	-	-	0.30	-	
	Baradangua		-	-	-	0.60	-	
	Tolakbeda		-	1.01	-	-	-	
	<b>Total</b>			<b>3.34</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>31.22</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>34.56</b>

2.	2000-2001							
	Bijigol		3.00	3.60	-	1.50	-	
	Derang		-	0.87	-	4.40	-	
	Masunihata		5.40	-	-	-	-	
	Kaniha		-	6.80	4.33	4.96	-	
	Takua		1.00	-	-	0.50	-	
	Bhimkhand		-	0.50	-	-	-	
	Gadasila		1.00	3.00	-	0.50	18.00	
	Karadel		-	1.39	-	-	3.00	
	Rangabeda		-	1.94	-	-	-	
	Baradangua		-	0.60	-	-	-	
	Tolakbeda		0.50	1.70	-	-	-	
	Kateni		-	-	-	-	1.92	
	Sivrampur		-	-	-	0.30	-	
	Jadunathpur		-	-	-	0.30	-	
	Patharmunda		-	-	-	1.31	-	
	Ambapal		-	1.57	-	-	-	
	<b>Total</b>		<b>10.90</b>	<b>21.97</b>	<b>4.33</b>	<b>13.77</b>	<b>22.92</b>	<b>73.89</b>



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3.	<b>2001-2002</b>							
	Bijigol		-	6.00	-	-	-	-
	Derang		11.21	5.50	-	-	-	-
	Masunihata		4.00	-	-	-	-	-
	Kaniha		-	-	9.00	1.50	-	-
	Takua		-	1.70	-	-	-	-
	Gadasila		-	-	-	0.30	-	-
	Karadei		-	1.50	-	-	-	-
	Rangabeda		-	-	-	-	8.61	-
	Patharmunda		-	-	-	1.00	-	-
	Kakudia		7.00	-	-	-	-	-
	Kansamunda		2.40	-	-	-	-	-
	Badahira		6.91	-	-	-	-	-
	Ballpatta		4.00	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>Total</b>		<b>35.52</b>	<b>14.70</b>	<b>9.00</b>	<b>2.80</b>	<b>8.61</b>	<b>70.63</b>

*[Translation]***Blackmarketing of Tickets**

7647. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway employees found to be in connivance with touts, Zone-wise;

(b) the number out of them put under suspension; and

(c) the measure proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) The information to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

*[English]***Import of AC Coaches**

7648. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether six AC chair coaches were imported from Germany to commemorate 150th anniversary of first train journey in India;

(b) if so, the cost of such coaches and the number of coaches which are likely to be imported during 2002-2003 and 2003-2004;

(c) whether the country lack capability of building such type of coaches;

(d) if so, the steps being taken to improve the capabilities of indigenous coach building units; and

(e) if not, the need to import coaches from Germany?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir. Twenty four coaches with latest "State-of-the-art" technology were imported from M/s ALSTOM LHB of Germany in the year 2000, alongwith transfer of technology contracts to upgrade the coach manufacturing technology in the country. Five of these coaches were used in the commemorative train run on 16th April, 2002.

(b) The average cost of LHB coach imported from Germany in the year 2000 is Rs. 4.42 crores (Free on Board) including the cost of jigs and fixtures. No more coaches are likely to be imported during 2002-03 or 2003-04.

(c) to (e) The existing coach manufacturing of Indian Railway is based on an old technology of 1950s, acquired under transfer of technology contract from M/s Schelieren of Switzerland. Action was, therefore, taken to acquire state-of-the-art coach manufacturing technology to provide world class comfort and safety to Indian Railway passengers. Technical know-how for manufacturing such coaches is being acquired under transfer of technology contract from M/S ALSTOM LHB of Germany. Special type of machines required to upgrade manufacturing capability have been planned/are under installation at the Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala, where the actual production has already commenced.

[Translation]

**LPG Agencies/Petrol Pumps to Relatives of Government Employees**

7649. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to allot petrol pumps/gas agencies to the relatives of the Government employees who laid down their lives during discharging their duty;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of letters to this effect issued for allotment of petrol pumps/gas agencies so far under the said proposal and the number of petrol pumps/gas agencies set up alongwith the position with regard to the remaining petrol pumps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The Government have earmarked a discretionary quota of retail outlet dealerships/LPG distributorships/SKO-LDO dealerships for allotment on genuine compassionate grounds to deserving persons in the following two categories:

- (i) Dependants of Defence/Paramilitary/Police personnel, who are killed in action or persons permanently disabled while performing their duties and have not been suitably rehabilitated.
- (ii) Dependants of Central/State Government employees, who are killed or permanently disabled while performing their duties and have not been suitably rehabilitated.

According to the guidelines, the number of discretionary allotments in a year shall not exceed 10% of the average Annual Marketing Plan or 75, whichever is less, of which allotments of retail outlets for petroleum products will not ordinarily exceed 5% of the average Annual Marketing Plan.

The guidelines for discretionary allotments were issued on 20.4.2001. No allotments have been made under the discretionary quota so far.

[English]

**Railway Over-Bridge at Kadipikonda**

7650. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:  
SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for construction of a Railway over-bridge at Kadipikonda in Warangal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There has been correspondence with State Govt. since 1985 in this regard.

(c) The work for construction of Road Over Bridge was sanctioned in 1992-93 on cost sharing basis. Even Estimate amounting to Rs. 13.73 crore was also sanctioned in March' 1993. Work could not be taken up because of change of Road Over Bridge location by State Govt. Now, joint survey has been conducted and General Arrangement Drawing prepared as per latest site details which is under finalization. An amount of Rs. 1 crore has been provided during 2002-03 for this work.

#### **East Coast Zone**

7651. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether foundation stone of the New East Coast Railway Zone was laid in 1996;

(b) if so, whether this new Railway Zone has become functional;

(c) if so, the funds allocated therefor; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) During the year 2002-03, a sum of Rs. 4.0 crores has been allocated for East Coast Railway Zone. The progress in setting up the new Zones, including East Coast Railway has been slow due to severe resource crunch being faced by Railways.

#### **Supply of CNG to Automobiles**

7652. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have directed GAIL not to supply CNG gas to automobiles which do not fulfill certain registration requirements;

(b) if so, the details of order issued by the Ministry to CNG outlets on March 22, 2002 with regard to restrict the sale of CNG to cars and other vehicles in Delhi;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the norms/requirements for registration of cars and other vehicles now fixed are too difficult and time consuming;

(d) if so, whether the Government have given any thought having a more simpler form of registration and allow the sale of CNG to car and other vehicle owners who are innocent and spent a huge amount in the installation of CNG kits; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to avoid imposing bureaucrat requirements on obtaining such certificates by vehicle owners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Government of India vide communication dated October 29, 2001 advised Indraprastha Gas Limited to place suitable advertisement in the newspapers that CNG availability being limited, CNG will be supplied only to private vehicles that have been registered originally as CNG vehicles upto the date of issuance of advertisement.

(c) to (e) Registration is the subject matter of the State Government. State Government have been asked time and again by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highway for endorsement on R.C. books of vehicles registered as CNG vehicles.

Those private vehicles which had been registered as CNG vehicles upto the date of issue of advertisement are not being denied supply of CNG.

*[Translation]*

#### **Earning of Revenue through Advertisements on DD/AIR**

7653. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether AIR/DD are earning revenue through advertisements;

(b) if so, the revenue earned by both the organizations separately during 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and till date, State-wise;

(c) whether there is a possibility of decline in the revenue earning of both the organizations during the current year as compared to previous years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details of year-wise and state-wise revenue earned by Doordarshan and All India Radio are given in enclosed Statement I and II respectively.

(c) As informed by Prasar Bharati, there is no likelihood of decline in revenue in the current year.

(d) Does not arise.

**Statement I**

*Gross Revenue earned by Doordarshan during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02*

(Rupees in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Station/Kendra/ Channel	Year 1998-99	Year 1999-2000	Year 2000-01	Year 2001-02
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	National Capital	DD-I, DD-Metro, DD-World, DD-Sports, Delhi-Reg., DD-Bharti	291.34	462.94	526.31	493.76
2.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	2.78	2.89	3.80	4.08
		Rajkot	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
3.	Karnataka	Bangalore	13.73	16.76	8.43	13.62
4.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	1.81	1.48	1.70	2.47
5.	Orissa	Bhubneswar	2.01	1.83	2.73	3.19
6.	West Bengal	Kolkata	16.80	25.84	29.92	27.74
7.	Assam	Guwahati	0.98	1.07	1.58	2.17
		Silchar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
8.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	14.62	19.44	12.87	9.08
9.	Rajasthan	Jaipur	1.21	1.70	1.93	3.22
10.	Punjab	Jalandhar	5.02	4.30	4.73	7.04
11.	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	3.10	4.14	3.20	4.10
		Gorakhpur	0.00	0.15	0.15	0.14
		Varanasi	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.10
12.	Maharashtra	Mumbai	14.25	14.76	14.34	18.19
		Nagpur	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01
13.	Bihar	Patna	1.20	0.86	1.84	2.20

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Ranchi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04
14.	Tamilnadu	Chennai	14.7	18.52	7.2	7.51
15.	Kerala	Trivandrum	15.31	20.17	16.24	14.81
16.	Jammu & Kashmir	Srinagar	0.46	0.31	0.43	0.93
		Jammu	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.22
17.	Goa	Goa	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.07
18.	Pondicherry	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.02
19.	Chhattisgarh	Raipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15
20.	Tripura	Agartala	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06
21.	Andaman & Nicobar	Port Blair	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02
22.	Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03
23.	Mizoram	Aizawl	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08
24.	Meghalaya	Shillong	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
		Tura	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
25.	Manipur	Imphal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04
26.	Nagaland	Kohima	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
27.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07
	<b>Total</b>		<b>399.32</b>	<b>597.19</b>	<b>637.51</b>	<b>615.21</b>

**Statement II***Gross Revenue earned by AIR during the Years 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02**(Rupees in Crores)*

Sl. No.	Name of State	Year 1998-99	Year 1999-2000	Year 2000-2001	Year 2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Gujarat/Daman & Diu	2.17	2.60	0.95	0.60
2.	Karnataka	3.85	2.69	1.61	2.15
3.	Madhya Pradesh/Chhattisgarh	3.50	2.49	1.92	1.64

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Punjab/Haryana/Himachal Pradesh/Chandigarh	1.25	0.95	0.76	0.65
5.	Tamil Nadu/Pondicherry	8.22	8.11	4.95	5.73
6.	Orissa	1.10	0.77	0.42	0.44
7.	Delhi	11.68	13.84	10.72	16.61
8.	Andhra Pradesh	5.63	5.98	1.97	1.69
9.	Rajasthan	1.83	1.62	0.98	0.73
10.	West Bengal/NER/Sikkim	5.25	5.13	3.71	3.73
11.	Uttar Pradesh/Uttaranchal	4.24	5.20	3.17	2.94
12.	Maharashtra/Goa	11.36	10.45	7.36	7.38
13.	Bihar/Jharkhand	2.39	1.95	1.64	1.15
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.37	0.35	0.34	0.63
15.	Kerala/Lakshadweep	5.19	4.68	3.69	4.09
16.	CSU/VBS	25.71	14.03	29.71	46.52
Total		93.74	80.84	73.90	96.68

[English]

**Contract for Supply of Parachutes**

7654. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Defence establishment concluded two contracts in 1996 with a firm based in US for supply of Pilot Parachutes and Brake Parachutes at a cost of Rs. 2.35 crores;

(b) whether the parachutes contracted for were manufactured in Russia;

(c) whether the contract provided for 100% payment against LC as against normal provisions of 90% payment against proof of despatch;

(d) if so, whether the LC was encashed by the supplier against forged documents;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken in this regard?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The contracts provided for 100% payment against Letter of Credit (LC). The LC was opened after the supplier provided two Performance cum Warranty Bonds of 5% of contract value.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The SBI (FED) released the payment without checking the authenticity of documents produced by the supplier.

(f) The Legal Adviser has advised to file a civil suit against the supplier and SBI (FED) in the Delhi High Court to recover US D 489,970.

**Expansion of Ordnance Factory**

7655. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ordnance factories in the country which are proposed to be expanded during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether any steps are being taken to restructure these ordnance factories;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any proposal to set up an ordnance factory during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken to stop the frequent fire and other mishaps in ordnance factories?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Product Diversification/Expansion and Modernisation of Ordnance Factories is a continuous process. Ordnance Factory Board has already drawn a modernisation plan for all the Ordnance Factories covering X Plan period to meet the present and futuristic requirements of the Armed Forces. No plan for restructuring of any Ordnance factory is under consideration.

(d) and (e) An Ordnance Factory is being established at Nalanda for which the process was started during the IXth Plan period to meet the requirement of the new generation of Bi-Modular Propellant Charge System for high calibre ammunitions. The factory will commence operations during the Xth Five Year Plan period.

(f) A structured system exists in Ordnance Factories to investigate the causes of accidental fire, explosion etc. Each case of fire/mishaps is investigated by the Experts/Board of enquiry and the recommendations of the enquiry are implemented to avoid recurrences. Ordnance Factories are also observing safety month in May 2002. During the safety month safety audits at different levels and elaborate training to the employees on General Safety Directions, safety instructions and other safety related issues to improve awareness amongst the employees is being carried out.

**Explosion in DRDO Laboratory**

7656. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI:  
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:  
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:  
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:  
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:  
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

SHRI C.N. SINGH:  
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fire had broken out recently in DRDO laboratory known as High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL) killing six persons including three casual labourers;

(b) if so, whether employing of casual labourers at sensitive defence units working on nuclear and missile projects have raised questions of security;

(c) if so, whether the Government enquired into the employing of casual labourers in sensitive units;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) the compensation paid to the dependents of deceased employees;

(f) whether any incident of fire could delay the nuclear and missile programme; and

(g) if so, the steps taken by the Government to prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. Fire had broken out on 25th April, 2002 in solid propellant processing unit of High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL), Pune, a laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). Six personnel were killed including two Technical Officers of HEMRL and four workers of contractor.

(b) There is no breach of security procedures. There is Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between HEMRL and Vishvat Chemicals of Mumbai for operating the solid propellant processing unit under the guidance and supervision of HEMRL.

(c) and (d) The processing facility is operating under Government Owned, Company Operated (GOCO) concept. The firm employees are permitted to work only after security checks.

(e) DRDO has paid Rs. 50,000 each from Benevolent Fund to the deceased contract workers of company and Rs. 1,00,000 to each of the HEMRL employees. In addition Rs. 20,000/- has been paid by HEMRL to its employees and interim relief of Rs. 10,000/- has been paid by the company to dependents of each of the

deceased contractor's employees pending insurance settlement. All deceased will get full compensation as per Factory Act. Other compensation including family pension, insurance etc. will be paid as per rules.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Court of Inquiry is still investigating the causes of accident and to suggest remedial measures.

#### **150th Year Celebration Day**

7657. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:  
SHRI J.S. BRAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways will consider the request to keep open the historical train run on 150th year Celebration Day in Mumbai and keep it on the common public exhibition;

(b) whether a special train just like the first train of India was operated between Mumbai and Thane;

(c) if so, the details thereof stating the special features of the train;

(d) whether any representation has been received in this regard; and

(e) if so, the Government's viewpoint thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The train is hauled by a steam engine and runs between Mumbai and Thane.

(d) Some prominent citizens have represented in this regard.

(e) The Government has agreed to the proposal in principle.

*[Translation]*

#### **Production Target of Defence Materials**

7658. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the targets set by the ordnance factories for the production of defence materials during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the said target was achieved;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the target set for the production of defence material during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The production targets are not set for the Plan period but on annual basis. The targets are subject to revision depending on the requirement and indents by the Armed Forces.

(b) Ordnance Factories achieved turnover of Rs. 24237.30 crore against revised target of Rs. 24549.27 crore during 1997-2002.

(c) The marginal shortfall of 1.27% in achievement is due to shortfall in supply of T-72 tanks and 125mm ammunition owing to quality problem.

(d) the targets would be set on an annual basis during the Plan keeping in view the requirement of the Armed Forces.

*[English]*

#### **Saturated Routes**

7659. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to adopt a well defined plan for decongesting the existing saturated or near saturation rail routes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Railways in this regard;

(d) whether there was a huge shelf of projects costing about Rs. 35,000 crores while the closing balances in various funds were meagre; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Strengthening high density



corridors by means of additional lines and other necessary inputs is a continuous and ongoing process. As a part of this exercise, a number of works which will result in strengthening the Golden Quadrilateral and its diagonals have been taken up and are in progress.

A consolidated plan for identifying all the inputs wherever required, e.g., doubling/laying additional lines, electrification, improvement in signalling, track structure, rolling stock etc., including the funds required is being prepared.

(d) and (e) There is a large shelf of ongoing projects particularly under New Lines and Gauge Conversion Plan-heads. Funds required as on 1.4.2002 to complete ongoing Railway projects under New Line, Gauge Conversion, Doubling, Railway Electrification, and Metropolitan Transport Project plan-heads are approximately Rs. 38,000 crores. These works are mostly funded out of Budgetary Support. During 2002-03, an amount of approximately Rs. 2890 crores has been provided for the projects under the above mentioned plan heads.

#### **Criminal Prosecution of Directors of Companies**

7660. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering allowing of criminal prosecution of Directors of Companies which do not meet obligations of payment of public deposit;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a number of companies funded by IDBI and FIs are also defaulting on payment of deposits taken from the public;

(d) if so, the steps, the Government propose to take to bring about compliance of rules in this regard;

(e) whether any interim action is contemplated in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) The provisions contained in Sections 58A, 58AA and 58AAA of the Companies Act, 1956 regulate the acceptance/repayment of deposits by Non-Banking Non-Financial Companies. The defaulting companies and their Directors,

including companies funded by IDBI and other FIs, are under obligation to ensure repayment of deposits on maturity/interest thereon as per provisions contained in the aforesaid Sections and in the event of default they are liable for prosecution under these provisions.

(e) and (f) The provisions contained in the aforesaid sections are stringent enough to deal with all companies which default in repayment of deposits/interest thereon to deposit holders. No other interim action is contemplated by Government.

#### **Role of RPF and GRP in Railway Operations**

7661. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the responsibility for security connected with railway operations is divided between RPF, a railway organisation and GRP, an arm of the State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the role the RPF and GRP play in regard to railway security;

(c) whether RPF does not enjoy the same powers in relation to Railway property offences as possessed by GRP;

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

(e) whether a large number of RPF personnel are deployed for other than their prescribed duties during the last three years;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Policing being a State subject, the security of passengers and their belongings in the running trains and railway premises is the Constitutional responsibility of State Governments which they discharge through the Government Railway Police (GRP). Hence, prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains is the statutory responsibility of State police whereas the duties and responsibilities of Railway Protection Force are confined to protection of Railway property.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. RPF does not have same power as possessed by GRP for taking action against offences relating to Railway property. However RPF is empowered to take action against offences under the "Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act 1966".

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

[Translation]

**Reconstruction of Old Bridges on  
Surat-Bhusawal Route**

7662. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to reconstruct the bridges built on the rivers and nulahs falling on Surat-Bhusawal rail route which have become more than hundred years old;

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

(c) the total amount likely to be spent on the work; and

(d) the time by which the work on these projects is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d) Railways inspect their bridges systematically every year. Based on these inspections action to repair, rebuild the bridges is taken depending on their condition and assessment of balance life. On this section following 19 number of bridges have been identified for rebuilding/rehabilitation which are targeted for completion in next 5 years.

Sl.No.	Bridge No.	Km.	Approximate Cost (in crores)
1	2	3	4
1.	17	18/10-11	2.22
2.	314	253/4-7	2.25
3.	324	260/2-3	1.09
4.	333	269/2-3	
5.	351	284/2-4	1.28

1	2	3	4
6.	134	118/15-16	2.06
7.	226	181/14-182/1	
8.	240	191/9-11	
9.	288	230/7-11	2.37
10.	98	88/9-10	0.63
11.	110	98/0-1	
12.	76	72/4-5	1.75
13.	93	85/1-2	
14.	112	100/4-5	
15.	131	117/6-7	1.72
16.	294	234/5-6	
17.	31	34/10-11	1.72
18.	257	211/4-7	
19.	151	127/1-2	

[English]

**Safeguard Measures of European Union**

7663. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian steel exporters would hit by the provisional safeguard measures which came into effect in the 15-nation European Union in the month of March 2002.

(b) if so, the measures EU has taken in this regard;

(c) the time by which the provisional measures would continue to operate;

(d) whether India's steel exports to the EU is about 3,00,806 tons during 2001;

(e) if so, the total exports to EU during 1999 and 2000; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) India

has been granted developing country exemption from European Union safeguard action for all products except Stainless Steel Wires and Electrical Sheets (non-grain oriented).

(b) and (c) European Union has imposed provisional safeguard measures in the form of tariff quotas. Imports in excess of these quotas will attract additional duties. The tariff quotas are based on the average of the annual level of imports in the years 1999, 2000 and 2001 plus 10% thereof. These measures will be in operation for six months.

(d) and (e) The India's steel exports to EU during the calendar years 1999, 2000 and 2001 (January to September 2001) is given below:

Year	Quantity (in thousand tons)
1999	613
2000	614
2001 (Jan.-Sept. 2001)	306

(f) The Government has become an interested party in the safeguard investigations. The first submission in this regard has been made on behalf of Government of India to the European Commission on 8th May 2002.

#### **Setting up of Commission to go into the Question of Freedom**

7664. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a commission to go into the question of freedom of speech of citizens regarding the judiciary, its functioning and the accountability of the judiciary itself in the context of issues arising out of the recent contempt of court ruling and conviction of Ms Arundhati Roy by the Apex court; and

(b) if so, the decision taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The provisions of Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 were reviewed in pursuance of the suggestion of the P.C. Jain Commission set up to review the Administrative Laws and it was decided not to amend the said Act of 1971.

Further, at present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to set up a Commission

to go into the question of freedom of speech of citizens regarding the judiciary, its functioning and the accountability of the judiciary itself in the context of issues arising out of the recent contempt of court ruling and conviction of Ms. Arundhati Roy by the Supreme Court.

[*Translation*]

#### **Identity Cards**

7665. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY:  
DR. ASHOK PATEL:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to make the 'multi-purpose identity cards' mandatory;

(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 LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) The Election Commission had made the use of electors' photo identity card, along with other forms of identification, compulsory for identification of voters during the General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies of Haryana, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Pondicherry in 2001 and during the General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies of Manipur, Punjab, Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh held this year. The scheme to issue photo-identity cards to electors is a continuous and ongoing process (excepting for a brief period between the last date for filing nomination and completion of electoral process) on account of more number of persons becoming eligible for the right of franchise on attaining the age of 18 years as also due to movement of electors.

[*English*]

#### **Railway crossing of Khavag Prasad Branch**

7666. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for railway crossing of "Kharaga Prasad" canal of Réngali 486.26 Km. of Nergundi-Talcher broad gauge link of South Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the total expenditure likely to be incurred on this railway crossing;

(c) whether it is a cost sharing basis between railway and the Government of Orissa; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir. Proposal mooted by State Government to pass Khavaga Prasad Branch canal of Rengali irrigation sub-project through the existing Railway Bridge no. 86 at Km 486/3-4 on Nergundi-Talcher section was not found technically feasible. No further proposal received from State Government.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### **RailTel**

7667. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the investment made by the Railways in RailTel so far;

(b) whether the Railways have offered equity to some other parties;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any corporation has shown interest in acquiring equity in RailTel;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the returns that the Railways expect from RailTel;

(g) whether any analysis been done on the other options available to railways instead of going in for RailTel directly; and

(h) if so, the details of such options available to the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Railway have, so far, invested Rs. 15 crores in the RailTel as seed capital. This will form a part of Railways equity in RailTel.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Railways have directed Railway Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) namely Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC), Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR) and IRCON International Limited (IRCON) for equity participation of RailTel Corporation of India Limited (RCIL) to the extent of Rs. 100 crores, Rs. 25 crores and 25 crores respectively.

(d) and (e) As per direction given by the Cabinet, discussions are being held with Department of Telecom (DOT) and PSUs of DOT for equity participation in RailTel. However, no decision has been taken so far.

(f) The Optical Fibre Cable network undertaken by RailTel will provide a reliable and modern Railway communication system for train control, operation and safety. Besides, Railways will be getting lease charges on the valuation of right of way being leased to RailTel for laying Optical Fibre Cable and dividend on its equity in RailTel as and when RailTel declares the same.

(g) and (h) Railways have decided to form RailTel Corporation of India Ltd. under administrative control of Ministry of Railways, after due consideration and approval from the Cabinet. No other options are under consideration of Railways, at present, for laying of Optical Fire Cable by an outside agency along the Railway track.

#### **Wagons/Coaches Rejected by NCW**

7668. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the wagons/coaches rejected by the Neutral Control Wing (NCW) were passed locally by Railway administration on 8 zonal Railways without final clearance of NCW as has been brought out by the CAG in its Report 9 of 1999 (Railways).

(b) If so, whether the matter was enquired into by the Railway Board in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes Sir, Reasons for rejection of Coaches/Wagons have been examined and it has been ascertained that local passing of rejected Coaches/Wagons was permitted in some cases where the reason for rejection was not affecting the safety of train operation. These reasons.

*inter alia*, included non availability of material and consequently non-compliance of certain technical modifications recommended for improvement in performance of the stock.

(c) Although local passing of wagons/coaches was resorted to only in those cases where safety of the rolling stock was not compromised such local passing is not desirable and Railways have taken necessary steps to control incidence of local passing by improving availability of critical materials, training of staff and close monitoring of various workshops and Routine overhauling (ROH) depots over Indian Railways. As a result, cases of local passing have been declining steadily and most of the workshops and many ROH depots have been able to achieve a level of 'NIL' local passing during 2001-02.

[*Translation*]

#### Catering Units

7669. SHRI ARUN KUMAR:  
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of complaints against departmental and contractor operated catering units are increasing;

(b) if so, the number and nature of complaints received against these units during each of the last three years; and

(c) the action taken to ensure that these units provide wholesome and tasty food at reasonable rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

(c) The Government have set up Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC) with a view to improve and professionalise catering services on Indian Railways. The management of catering services on Indian Railways is being transferred to IRCTC. Other steps taken are provision of cesserole meal, provision of packaged drinking/mineral water, regular inspections and drives conducted at various levels, quality checking of food by Medical Officers and Health Inspectors etc.

[*English*]

#### Norms for Appointing Directors

7670. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering releasing norms for appointment of directors in the case of companies operating in special economic zones;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are planning to double the remuneration ceiling for directors and chief executives of companies operating in Special Economic Zones (SEZs); and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) On a reference received from Department of Commerce, Department of Company Affairs is considering revision of the remuneration ceilings for managerial persons of companies operating in Special Economic Zones subject to the other conditions specified in Scheduled XIII to the Companies Act, 1956.

#### Increase in LPG Outlets in A.P.

7671. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any market survey is conducted to increase the LPG outlets by oil companies in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether more LPG connections are provided by the Government of Andhra Pradesh for BPL families on subsidy in the recent past;

(d) if so, whether the Government have increased the outlets in Andhra Pradesh to commensurate the increased LPG connections particularly in rural areas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY

AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) conduct feasibility study for various locations from time to time for setting up of new LPG distributorships and LPG distributorships are set up at the viable locations.

(c) to (e) OMCs have released about 12.23 lakhs LPG connections in rural areas under the Deepam Scheme launched by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh as on 1.4.2002. OMCs have planned to set up 284 LPG distributorships in the rural areas of Andhra Pradesh under various Marketing Plans of which 33 have already been commissioned. Further, it has been reported by OMCs that the LPG distributorship network in Andhra Pradesh is not the limiting factor for release of LPG connections to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families.

#### **Visit of Chinese Lawyers Team**

7672. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Chinese team of Lawyers visited India to study its Legal system and laws in the wake of its admission into the World Trade Organisation and rise in number of cases involving the trade between the two countries;

(b) if so, whether this is the first time ever that such a delegation from China's legal community visited India;

(c) whether this was necessitated due to the anti-dumping petitions filed on Chinese imports during the last year;

(d) if so, whether according to the China, India legal system has been an impending factor to speedy redressal of legal issues; and

(e) if so, the extent to which the Chinese team of lawyers have been welcomed by India?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid down on the Table of the House.

#### **Exemption of Nominee Directors**

7673. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have exempted Nominee Directors of Financial Institutions from disqualification under Section 274(1)(g) of the Companies Act of 1956;

(b) whether orders have been sent to all regional directors and registrars of companies;

(c) if so, whether nominee directors will have any interest in protecting share holders from potential mismanagement of the company;

(d) whether a more suitable punishment will be considered to ensure that Nominee directors are alert; and

(e) if so, the steps being proposed to ensure that companies are well managed?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (e) Clarification has been sent to Regional Directors and Registrar of Companies that Nominee Directors appointed by the Public Financial Institutions and companies established under the Acts of Parliament having non-obstante provisions over the Companies Act, 1956, and Nominee Directors of Public Financial Institutions notified under Section 4A of the Companies Act, 1956, Central or State Government and banking companies are exempted from disqualification from being a Director provided they take measures like observance of good corporate governance practices, prevent misutilisation of funds, activate themselves in audit and remuneration committees and regularly attend the Board/Committee Meetings.

#### **Construction of Neelanchal Ispat Nigam**

7674. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the estimate cost of Neelanchal Ispat Nigam which is being constructed at Kalinga Nagar Orissa;

(b) the amount already spent on the construction on that steel plant;

(c) whether there is any proposal to provide the remaining funds for that steel plant;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) The

estimated capital cost of Neelanchal Ispat Nigam Ltd. (NINL) is Rs. 1524 Crore as per mid-term appraisal carried out by IDBI.

(b) An expenditure of Rs. 890 Crore (approx) has been incurred on the construction of NINL till March 2002.

(c) to (e) The capital cost is planned to be met with debt of Rs. 969 Crore and equity of Rs. 555 Crore in ratio of 1.75 to 1. The debt component has been tied-up with Financial Institutions and Banks leaving Rs. 100 Crore to be raised through Bonds. The equity has also been tied-up providing for initial public offering of Rs. 255 Crore with balance contribution coming from MMTC, Government of Orissa, MECON, IDBI and Equipment suppliers. The company will go for initial public offerings in the market at the appropriate time keeping in view the market sentiments about the steel industry which, off late, has started improving.

[*Translation*]

#### **Photo I. Cards**

7675. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Photo Identity Cards of the voters of Uttar Pradesh were made by the private agencies;

(b) if so, whether these agencies have been authorized to issue a duplicate copy of voters identity cards to any other person;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for giving voters identity cards to others?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

#### **Palace on Wheel Type Trains**

7676. SHRI SHASHI KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether memorandum of understanding has been reached between the various State Governments and the

Indian Railways on running the Palace on Wheels project in the State;

(b) if so, the main features of the MoU, State-wise;

(c) whether the Railways has asked the said State Governments to prepare a feasibility report on the project;

(d) if so, whether the project report has been prepared and sent to the Railways;

(e) if so, the details of the same, State-wise; and

(f) the time by which the Palace on Wheels project is likely to start in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Indian Railways have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Maharashtra for running a Palace on Wheel type train in the Maharashtra Sector.

(b) The Railways will provide the bare shells of the rake and all facilities necessary for the operation of the train. The entire cost of furnishing the rake, Air Conditioning and other coach equipment fittings will be borne by the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation who will also be responsible for housekeeping, hospitality services and sight-seeing.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. However, the Government of Maharashtra got a feasibility study done by a reputed consultancy firm and furnished the report. The project, as per the report, has been found viable by the Government of Maharashtra.

(f) The tourist train in the Maharashtra sector is likely to be launched in the current financial year.

#### **Import of Petroleum Products**

7677. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:  
SHRI AMBAREESHA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the details of lubricating oil, furnace oil and pit oil imported during the last two years from different countries, country-wise, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY

AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

#### Allotment of Petrol Pumps in Maharashtra

7678. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the petrol pumps in Maharashtra have not been allotted as per the guidelines issued by Supreme Court;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any case has been filed against D.S.B. Aurangabad;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken by the Government against the persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Government are not aware of any specific guidelines issued by the Supreme Court for allotment, through the Dealer Selection Boards, of retail outlets (petrol pumps) in the State of Maharashtra.

(c) to (e) 16 cases, where the Dealer Selection Board (DSB) has been made one of the respondents, have been filed in the High Court at Aurangabad against the selection of retail outlet dealerships and LPG distributorships made by the DSB. One of these cases is about the candidate not being called for interview. Action in such cases is taken depending on the outcome of the court cases.

[English]

#### Production and Sale of Petroleum Products

7679. SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTY:  
SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI:  
DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME:

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

(a) the details of petroleum products gained (domestic and imports separately) and sold during the last three years;

(b) the details of turnover, profits incurred by the Government during the said period;

(c) whether the Government have noticed any decline in the consumption of these products during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Details of the availability and sales of petroleum products during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are as under:

(Figures in Million Metric Tonnes)

Year	Indigenous	Imported	Sold
1998-99	68.409	23.771	90.562
1999-2000	82.936	16.608	97.086
2000-01	99.578	9.267	100.075
Total	240.923	49.646	287.723

The figures include production in refineries and from fractionators and the imports data by private companies based on industry assessment.

(b) Details of turnover, profit of the public sector oil companies, viz. Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and IBP Company during the same period are as under:

Year	Turnover	Profit
1998-99	126744.31	3851.74
1999-2000	171061.62	4245.98
2000-01	215748.22	4682.35
Total	513554.15	12780.07

(c) and (d) In the year 2001-02, there has been a marginal decline in the overall sale/consumption of



petroleum products in comparison to the consumption during the year 2000-01.

### **Designated Special Court**

7680. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments have to get permission from the Ministry of Law for setting up of Designated Special Courts;

(b) if so, the norms and conditions required for initiating trials in Designated Special Courts;

(c) whether the Government of Tamilnadu has got prior permission from the Union Government to initiate trial and prosecute the then ex-chief Minister of Tamilnadu; and

(d) if so, the expenditure incurred for the entire trial process and prosecution in various cases pertaining to the then ex-Chief Minister?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Special Courts are set up under section 11 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. According to the Proviso to section 11(1) of Cr. P.C., the State Government may "after consultation with the High Court, establish, for any local area, one or more Special Courts of Judicial Magistrates of the first class or of the second class to try any particular case or particular class of cases".

(c) and (d) The matter relates to State Government of Tamilnadu.

### **Supply of Adulterated Petrol/Diesel by BPCL**

7681. PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints regarding supply of adulterated Petrol/Diesel by BPCL, Kerala Region; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action contemplated against the officials found responsible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY

AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) One complaint of adulteration of diesel at BPCL retail outlets in Kerala was received in March, 2002. However, on investigation it was found that it was not a case of adulteration but only presence of water in under ground tanks of diesel at some Retail Outlets. It was detected immediately and the water was segregated and removed. It was ensured that no contaminated product (with water) was delivered to the customer.

Since diesel is not soluble in water and does not affect its characteristics, inadvertent mixing with diesel cannot be treated as adulteration. Presence of water can be detected easily and separated.

[*Translation*]

### **Contesting of Elections by Independent Candidates**

7682. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the information that a large number of independent candidates fought Legislative Assembly elections and Parliamentary elections recently;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to check unnecessary expenditure on security of these candidates and other administrative arrangements and to remove difficulties of the voters; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Provision for security to independent and other candidates at elections depends on law and order situation. However, the Election Commission of India has not issued any instructions for providing personal security to the independent candidates.

[*English*]

### **Trauma of Spanish Couple at New Delhi Railway Station**

7683. DR. C. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the news item captioned "Battered and Fleeced at Railway station", appearing in *Times of India* dated 29th March, 2002;

(b) if so, the details and facts thereof;

(c) whether a report has been sought from the officials concerned in this regard;

(d) if so, the findings thereof and punitive action taken against Railway police officials and others found responsible for the incident directly or indirectly; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken to improve the medical facility in major rail junctions in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 22.3.2002, a Spanish couple was seen at the Nizamuddin end of platform 6/7 of New Delhi Railway Station. The lady seemed to have been suffering from some injury. Since wheel chairs were only available at the assistance booth located at platform No. 1 and 12, the same could not be made available immediately. However, a licensed porter arrived with a wheel chair and took her away with her companion. Subsequently, Delhi Police traced out the couple and registered a case vide crime No 182 U/S 356 and 379 IPC dated 30.3.2002 at DRP/Delhi.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) the identity of the licensed porter could not be established. The police personnel, who are alleged to have been indifferent to the couple could not be identified either. Hence, it is difficult to take any punitive action against them.

(e) First Aid boxes and trained personnel are available at all Railway Stations. Further, at selected major stations augmented first aid boxes have been provided with wider range of medicines and equipment. Frontline Railway staff have been trained in first aid techniques so that they can render first aid to the passengers in case of need. Besides above provisions, a list of medical facilities, available at nearby railway stations is available with the Station Manager/Deputy Station Manager. The particulars include name of hospitals, nursing homes, names of doctors with telephone numbers, the distance of the facilities from the Station, details about facilities available etc.

#### **Computerised Reservation Counter**

7684. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several representations have been submitted to his Ministry to take steps to computerise the reservation counters at Bathinda Junction Railway Station;

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

(c) the time by when such counters are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) The reservation counters at Bhatinda Jn. Railway Station have already been computerised and is working for the last few years.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Jobs on Compassionate Grounds**

7685. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names and designations of officials in her Ministry expired while in service during each of the last three years, year-wise, office-wise;

(b) the names of those whose eligible dependents have been provided with the suitable jobs on compassionate grounds;

(c) the names of those who have not yet been provided with the jobs on compassionate grounds;

(d) the time by which the jobs on compassionate grounds are likely to be provided to all such eligible dependents of deceased officials?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Foreign Visits**

7686. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:  
DR. BALIRAM:  
SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:  
SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the name of countries visited by him and the Minister of state in his Ministry during the last two years;

(b) the details of agreements signed during the visits;

(c) the amount spent on those foreign visits; and

(d) the details of benefits accrued to the country from those visits?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) During the last two years Raksha Mantri paid official visits to Japan, United Kingdom, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Mauritius, South Africa, Maldives, USA and Tajikistan. Raksha Utpadan Rajya Mantri paid official visits to Malaysia, Romania and Bulgaria.

(b) It would not be in the interest of national security to give details of agreements signed during these visits.

(c) An amount of Rs. 13.84 lakhs was incurred by the Ministry of Defence on the visits.

(d) The visits helped to strengthen the bilateral relations between India and the countries visited in the field of defence and also enabled better understanding of each other's security and defence concerns.

#### **Mass Computerisation of Network of Courts**

7687. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to include Hyderabad in the scheme for mass computerisation and networking of courts and to allocated necessary funds at par with other four Metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, the present status of the request; and

(c) the time by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW JUSTICE, AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) At present, the proposal is for computerisation and networking of City Courts only in respect of the four major metropolitan cities i.e. Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai as a pilot scheme. In Delhi, the scheme is expected to be completed in 2002-2003.

In the other three metropolitan cities, the projects are being implemented.

Due to constraint of resources, it has not been possible for the Central Government to extend the scheme of computerisation and networking in the subordinate judiciary to other cities. However, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of infrastructural facilities for the judiciary, the States/UTs are free to utilize the required amount for computerisation within the overall allocation made to the States/UTs.

The request of Government of Andhra Pradesh will be considered as and when the scheme is extended to other cities.

*[Translation]*

#### **Removal of Chairman of DSBs**

7688. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:  
SHRI SURENDRA SINGH BARWALA:  
SHRI ASHOK ARGAL:

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

(a) whether the Chairmen of some Dealers Selection Boards have been removed before completion of the stipulated period;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) After 12.6.2000, i.e., the date of constitution of the new Dealer Selection Boards (DSBs) and upto 9.5.2002, from which date all the DSBs in the country were dissolved and the Chairmen relieved, the services of 16 Chairman of DSBs were dispensed with before the completion of their tenure of two years as their services were no longer required.

*[English]*

#### **High Court Bench at Hubli Karnataka**

7689. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka as requested the Union Government to set-up a bench of Karnataka High Court in the state particularly in Hubli-Dharwar area;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Karnataka has requested for setting up a permanent Bench of the Karnataka High Court at Hubli-Dharwad.

(c) The Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court has conveyed that it is neither desirable nor feasible to establish a Bench of the High Court at any place away from the principal seat. The setting up a Bench of a High Court, away from the principal seat, is normally considered on the receipt of a complete proposal from the concerned State Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of that High Court.

#### **Proposals from Gujarat**

7690. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat and Gujarat Maritime Board has requested the Union Government to link the ports with railway lines;

(b) if so, the number of proposals sent by the Government of Gujarat and Gujarat Maritime Board for approval;

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government on each proposal; and

(d) the present status regarding linking of ports with rail lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d) A proposal has been received from the Government of Gujarat for development of rail infrastructure in the State, including improving conductivity to the ports in the State. The draft MOU received from the State Government lists nine projects. Of these, three are already sanctioned projects. Regarding the other six projects, Government of Gujarat has been requested to engage RITES to undertake surveys for the same, before

any decision can be taken regarding taking up these projects for execution.

Rail connectivity to the major port of Kandla is already available. BG rail connectivity to Mundra Port has since been established. Rail connectivity to the Port of Pipavav is being developed through formation of a Special-Purpose-Vehicle (SPV).

#### **Guidelines to Oil Companies on Cylinders**

7691. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued guidelines to the oil companies to get the list of serial number of empty cylinders at the time of returning the cylinders from LPG distributors;

(b) if so, whether the Oil companies are also providing such list of cylinders at the time of sending filled LPG cylinders to the dealer's godown;

(c) if so, the policy of the oil companies for getting OMC (other marketing companies) cylinders from the distributor; and

(d) the amount of penalty in case of OMC cylinders have been supplied by oil company to their distributors as well as by the distributors to oil company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) At present, there is no practice in existence nor any guidelines to Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to provide the serial numbers of filled cylinders while sending to a distributor. However, in areas where incidence of spurious cylinders is high, a system of recording serial number of empty LPG cylinders by distributors while returning them through transporter has been in practice. All the bottling plants are under instructions to ensure that no other oil company's cylinders are dispatched/delivered to the distributor of a particular company. In case, other oil company's cylinders are returned by the distributor of a particular company, penalty at the rate of Rs. 900 per cylinder is levied on the distributor.

**Non-Payment of dues to SSIs**

7692. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether big companies in Maharashtra have been directed to reflect their balance sheets, the amounts due to the small scale industrial units;

(b) whether the non-payment of dues to small scale units have resulted in the closure of many such units in the State;

(c) if so, whether any Central legislation is proposed to be enacted in this regard so as to protect the small sale industry from vanishing due to non-payment of dues by big industrial units and lack of financial support from banks and financial institutions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) All the companies registered under the Companies Act, 1956 are required to disclose in their Balance Sheet, the names of Small Scale Industrial Undertakings to whom the company owes a sum exceeding Rs. 1 lac which is outstanding for more than 30 days as per Notification No. GSR 129(E) dated 22.2.1999.

**Ticket Booking at Ring Railways**

7693. SHRI R.S. PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have given ticket booking at Ring Railways in Delhi to various private contractors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether they do not provide the tickets to passengers on demand;

(d) whether at Sewa Nagar Railway Station they do not have all the tickets and BPT is not prepared by them; and

(e) if so, the remedial action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The halt contractors have been appointed at Sewa Nagar, Lodhi Colony, Sarojini Nagar, Naraina Vihar, Chanakya Puri, Inder Puri, S.P. Marg and Kirti Nagar Railway Stations to sell tickets.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) As per public demand tickets are indented for each halt station by the Depot Station. At Sewa Nagar halt station printed card tickets for various stations are available with the halt contractor. A recent indent from Sewa Nagar halt contractor for supplying Sampla railway station's card ticket is pending with the Railway Administration for which supply is being arranged. However, to avoid inconvenience to the public, tickets from Sarojini Nagar halt to Sampla have been made available at Sewa Nagar halt as the fare is the same.

As a matter of policy Blank Paper Tickets (BPTs) are not supplied to the halt contractor.

**Purchase of 140T Cranes**

7694. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:  
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:  
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of 140T cranes purchased by the Railways from M/s Gottwald of Germany;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) the utility of 140T Cranes in the Railways;

(d) the number of Cranes manufactured indigenously after receiving the technology; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to manufacture State-of-the Art Cranes indigenously to save the country's foreign reserve?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Indian Railways have purchased 12 cranes against an order placed in 1984 and 8 Nos. against the order placed in 1997 from M/s Manaesmann Gottwald, Germany.

(b) The Free on Board (FOB) value for the 12 Nos. cranes (6 Nos. fully assembled, 3 Nos. in Partially Knocked Down Condition and 3 sets in partial kit form)

ordered in 1984 was Deutsche Marks 29,182,400 (Rs. 11.42 crore). The landed cost of these cranes came to Rs. 27.88 crore.

The FOB value of the 8 Nos. cranes procured against the order of 1997 was Deutsche Marks 24,905,184.20 (Rs. 59 crore approx.). Landed cost of these cranes is Rs. 94 crore approx.

(c) These cranes from part of a Accident Relief Train and are utilized for lifting of coaches, wagons and locomotives involved in accidents during restoration and salvage operations.

(d) So far, four cranes have already been manufactured in the Railway Workshops and six more cranes are in advanced stage of manufacture during 2002-2003.

(e) The state-of-the art ART cranes are under manufacture in the Railway Workshops in a phased program using technology offered from M/s Gottwald of Germany and M/s Cowans Sheldon of UK.

#### **Use of Information Technology to reduce Transmission Losses**

7695. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA PATIL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are currently focusing on using Information Technology to reduce power distribution losses in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has formed a group comprising officials of the Ministry, State Governments, the Central Electricity Authority and IT experts to make recommendations to achieve this losses;

(c) if so, whether the group has already submitted its recommendations;

(d) if so, the steps being taken to implement their recommendations; and

(e) the time by which the said technology is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Government has constituted a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Shri Nandan Nilekani, Chief Executive Officer, Infosys for exploring the possibilities, inter-alia, to develop synergy between information technology and

power sector with the objective of applying information technology in improving the quality of service in the power sector. The Committee is expected to submit its report shortly.

#### **Purchase of Crude Oil by BPCL**

7696. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited has contracted to buy about 8 million tonnes of crude oil for the next year;

(b) if so, whether a crude supply contract with the three Gulf companies Saudi Aramco, Yemen Oil and Gas and Kuwait Petroleum has been signed recently; and

(c) if so, the main features of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has signed term contract for import of 4.00 million metric tonnes (MMT) of crude oil during 2002-03 with Saudi Aramco and Kuwait Petroleum Corporation Ltd. BPCL is also discussing with the national oil companies of Yemen, Malaysia and Abu Dhabi for import of crude oil.

(c) The main features of the agreement include:

(i) The contracted quantity will be supplied to the buyer over the year on a monthly loading basis.

(ii) The crude will be uplifted on FOB basis by the buyer's vessel in parcel sizes of 450-650 KB.

(iii) Payment for the crude oil be made on the basis of official selling price (OSP) announced by the seller for every month.

#### **Use of Manpower by Indian Institute of Petroleum**

7697. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun continue to keep excess non-technical manpower against the norms of the CSIR and despite repeatedly pointing out the same by the Audit as has been brought out in the CAG report 5 of 2001 (Scientific Department) in paragraphs on page 75 thereof;

(b) if so, the reasons for keeping more non-scientific and non-technical manpower against CSIR norms; and

(c) the present position of the non-scientific and non-technical manpower in comparison to scientific and technical staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

### **Oil Refinery in Rajasthan**

7698. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are exploring the possibilities to set up an oil refinery in Barmer district of Rajasthan where large oil resources have been found; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

### **Delay in Power Projects**

7699. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Power Projects are not completed as per schedule due to delay in tendering, ordering and equipment supply;

(b) if so, the action taken against the responsible in this regard; and

(c) the name of the projects effected by these delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The following six (6) thermal power projects in public sector, cleared by Central Electricity Authority (CEA), are not completed as per schedule due to delay in placement of orders for main plant and equipment.

1. GHPPP St. II (2x250 MW), PSEB
2. Parli TPS Extn. St. I (1x250 MW), MSEB
3. DG Power Station at angat Bay (2x2.5 MW), A&N Islands
4. Tenughat St. II (3x210 MW), TVNL
5. Muzaffarpur TPP (2x250 MW), BSEB
6. Lakwa Waste Heat Recovery Unit (38 MW), ASEB

Ministry of Power is constantly pursuing the concerned project authorities for expediting the placement or order for the main equipment. However, due to non-tie up of financial resources, the project authorities are finding it difficult. MSEB is not able to firm up Parli TPS due to availability of power from Dabhol Phase-I and growing dispute between MSEB and Dabhol Power Co. However, except Muzaffarpur TPP (2x250 MW) of BSEB all the power projects are covered in the list of projects considered for benefits in 10th Plan period.

### **Cases filed by SC/ST Officers for Non-promotion in Higher Scales**

7700. SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a number of SC&ST officers in the country have filed their cases for non-promotion in the higher scales against the Union of India and against some individual officers of the Department;

(b) if so, the details of such cases filed, department-wise, Court-wise, state-wise during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to settle these cases amicably?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Information is not centrally maintained.

(c) Various steps have been taken by the Government for the speedy and amicable disposal of cases including cases of SC/ST officers for non-promotion.

Lok Adalats have been established to settle the disputes amicably in few Central Government's Departments including cases of SC/ST officers.

The Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (1999-2000) (13th Lok Sabha) in their Second Report on the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs (Department of Justice) regarding Representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Judiciary with a special reference to appointment in Supreme Court and High Courts, had suggested that Government should take urgent steps to protect the Constitutional rights of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Accordingly, the Department of Legal Affairs has requested Incharge, Central Agency Section; Incharge, Branch Secretariats of Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Bangalore and Incharge, Litigation (High Courts Section) to ensure that cases regarding reservation for SC/ST are contested effectively in order to protect the Constitutional rights of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and where considered necessary, Senior Law Officers are engaged in such cases.

#### **Supplementary Information**

7701. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Members of Parliament had requested his Ministry to supply supplementary information relating to Unstarred Question No. 5809 dated August 30, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the required information has been made available to the Members;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the information is likely to be supplied?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes Sir. Two such references have been received viz. one reference from Hon'ble MP Shri Arun Kumar and the other from Hon'ble MP Shri Nikhil Kumar Choudhary.

(b) to (d) The information sought for was voluminous and required consultations amongst different Directorates. The information will be supplied as early as possible.

#### **High Grade Steel**

7702. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether some steel companies in the private sector have entered into a consortium for the manufacture of high grade steel for the fabrication of LPG cylinders, pipe lines, petroleum tanks, automobiles and railway coaches;

(b) if so, the names of the companies entering into such a consortium;

(c) whether any demand has been received by this consortium of companies for making supplies of these products to the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the names of the companies presently supplying LPG cylinders to the oil companies in the public sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) to (d) Government is not aware about the entering of steel companies in the private sector into a consortium for the manufacture of high grade steel for the fabrication of LPG cylinders, pipe lines, petroleum tanks, automobiles and railway coaches.

(e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

*[Translation]*

#### **Maintenance and Repair Work by NTPC**

7703. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the maintenance and repairing works of the boiler, turbine, pump and various other types of equipments used in different projects of the National Thermal Power Corporation is carried out by the local manufacturing companies of these equipments instead of doing the same by the original suppliers of those equipments during 1998 to 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure incurred thereon project-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to conduct an inquiry into the irregularities made therein; and

(d) if so, the action taken against the erring officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b)



Maintenance & Repair, overhauling of Boiler, Turbine, Pumps, Condensers etc. in all NTPC projects are normally done either directly through Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) or under supervision of the OEM. Efforts are being made to develop expertise and reduce dependence on OEM, progressively.

The amount spent on Repair and Maintenance for entire plant in different projects of NTPC during the period 1998-2002 i.e. in last 4 years is enclosed as statement.

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

#### **Statement**

#### *Repairs & Maintenance Expenditure on Plant & Machinery*

(Figures in Rs. Lakhs)

S.No.	Station	Capacity (MW)	4 Years Total Amount Spent (1998-2002) (Rs./Lakhs)
1	2	3	4
1.	Singrauli	2000	21151
2.	Korba	2100	20001
3.	Ramagundam	2100	21260
4.	Farakka	1600	25662
5.	Vindhyachal	2260	19363
6.	Rihand	1000	12889
7.	Unchahar	840	9419
8.	Dadri Thermal	840	12309
9.	Kahalgaon	840	9306
10.	Talcher	1000	8122
11.	Talcher (Taken Over)	460	9361
12.	Tanda	440	4788
13.	Anta Gas	413	1919
14.	Auraiya Gas	652	4412
15.	Dadri Gas	817	4463
16.	Kawas Gas	645	3819

1	2	3	4
17.	Gandhar Gas	648	4858
18.	Kayamulam Combined Cycle Power Project	350	1390
19.	Faridabad Gas	430	564

[English]

#### **Officials expired In Service**

7704. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of officials of his Ministry/Departments expired while in service during 1999, 2000 and 2001;

(b) the names of those eligible dependents who have been provided with the suitable jobs on compassionate grounds;

(c) the names of those whose eligible dependents have not yet been provided with the jobs on compassionate grounds; and

(d) the time by which the jobs on compassionate grounds are likely to be provided to such eligible dependents of deceased officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The details of officials of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas who expired while in service during 1999, 2000 & 2001 are as under:

S.No.	Name & Designation	Date of Death
1.	Sh. D.C. Mann, PS	24.04.99
2.	Sh. R.K. Rana, UDC	3.11.99
3.	Sh. Saukar Singh, Peon	8.1.2000

(b) Smt. Makani Devi, W/o late Shri Saukar Singh has been provided appointment as Peon on compassionate grounds.

(c) and (d) According to the instructions compassionate appointments can be made upto a

maximum of 5% of vacancies falling under Direct recruitment quota in any group 'C' or 'D' posts in a year.

While making such appointments on compassionate grounds, the above instructions are kept in view.

#### **Selection Criteria of Members in C.B.F.C.**

7705. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have laid down certain criteria while selecting/considering the names of persons for appointment as Members Advisory panels of CBFC;

(b) if so, whether the persons connected with production, distribution and exhibition of films can not be considered for members of the Advisory panels of CBFC as per the guidelines/criteria set by the Union Government;

(c) if so, the reasons for selecting Shri P. Shiv Krishna, film-maker, actor, producer, film financier as the member of the Advisory panel of CBFC from Hyderabad;

(d) whether the guidelines have been kept aside and gross irregularities was made while selecting Shri P. Shiv Krishna for the said membership';

(e) if so, the reasons for the appointment of the said persons; and

(f) the action being taken to cancel his membership from the Advisory panel of CBFC?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) As per the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952, any person, who, in the opinion of the Central Government, is qualified to judge the effect of a film on the average audience, can be appointed as Member of the Board or advisory panels of regional offices of CBFC.

(c) to (f) Do not arise.

#### **Lloyds Register of Shipping, London**

7706. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Loyds Register of Shipping, London has pulled up the ONGC for unsafe practices, bad

housekeeping and negligent engineering at its offshore platforms;

(b) if so, whether Lloyds Inspection Report observes that many critical systems like Gas Detection, Fire water-pump etc. are not operational;

(c) if so, whether the Director General of Hydrocarbons has also made adverse comments on ONGC's redevelopment plans on Bombay High and the CAG on the under-utilisation of Neelam Oil/Gas field potential; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to rectify the lapses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected/analysed and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Amendment In Civil Procedure Code**

7707. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to amend Civil Procedure Code;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the same is likely to be amended?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2002 has been passed by both the Houses of Parliament and would be shortly sent to the President for his assent.

#### **Preferential and Private Allotment**

7708. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering any change in the guidelines regarding preferential and private allotments of shares;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether DCA, SEBI and MoF have any coordination and discussion on the subject;

(d) if so, whether this route is misused by the unscrupulous promoters;

(e) if so, the details about the private placement, preferential allotment of 10 lakhs share of HFCL by Dilip Chhabaria Design (DCD);

(f) whether both the companies have misused this route;

(g) if so, the details in this regard;

(h) whether DCA and SEBI have written to each other regarding the misuse in this regard; and

(i) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (i) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

### Jobs on Compassionate Grounds

7709. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the names and designation of officials under his Ministry expired while in service during each of the last three years; year-wise, office-wise;

(b) the names of those whose eligible dependents have been provided with the suitable jobs on compassionate grounds;

(c) the names of those who have not yet been provided with the jobs on compassionate grounds; and

(d) the time by which the jobs on compassionate grounds are likely to be provided to all such eligible dependents of deceased officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) The names of officials of the Ministry of Steel and the Organization of the Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel (DCI&S), Kolkata (an attached office of the Ministry of Steel) who died while in service for the last three years are given below, year-wise and office-wise:

Name of office	1999-2000	2000-01	20001-02
Ministry of Steel	Shri H.S. Chawla, Section Officer	Smt. Sarbati, Safaiwala  Shri M.L. Madan, Section Officer  Shri Sadhu Ram, Daftary	Shri K.K. Sirk, Assistant
DCI&S, Kolkata	—	—	Shri P.C. Das, Daftary

(b) to (d) The dependent of late Shri Chawla has been provided with employment on compassionate grounds. In the case of late Smt. Sarbati, the request of her eldest son for compassionate appointment was considered by the Ministry of Steel's Committee on Compassionate Grounds and the same was not agreed to on merits. No request has been received for appointment from the families of Sarvashri M.L. Madan, Sadhu Ram, K.K. Sikri and P.C. Das.

### Purchase of Defective Micro Reactor System by IIP

7710. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun had purchased defective equipment with untested software Micro Reactor System with fixed catalyst bed in September, 1997 at a cost of Rs. 191.59 lakh and IIP field to get the instrument operational during the warranty period and rendering the entire sum of Rs. 95.20 lakh unfruitful;

(b) if so, whether the matter has been enquired into and any action taken against the persons responsible for causing financial loss to the exchequer; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Non-Recovery of Licence Fee**

7711. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Administration has failed to get the agreements renewed with shop owners at Amritsar that led to unauthorised occupation and non-recovery of licence fee amounting to Rs. 1.75 crores during 2000-01;

(b) whether the Comptroller & Auditor General of India has adversely commented on this lapse in his report for 2000-2001; and

(c) if so, the CAG's comments and the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir. In 1981, the land was licensed to shopkeepers. But the shopkeepers had violated the agreement by raising pucca structure instead of temporary one as per the agreement. The licences were cancelled in November 1981 due to violation of agreement.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The following are the comments made by Comptroller and Auditor General in the report:

- (i) Instead of deriving additional earning, the railway landed themselves in unnecessary litigation.
- (ii) Proper and complete record of events relating to the case was not available in divisional office or with zonal HQ.
- (iii) The railway administration failed to take any action for about 16 years from 1982 to 1997 to renew the licences and recover licence fee or get the plots vacated from the parties which resulted in loss of Rs. 1.75 crores on account of non-recovery of licence fee for these plots for the period from January 1982 to March 2001.

The para-wise comments of the Government are as under :

- (i) In 1981 the sites were offered to the outsiders on licence basis in order to increase the earnings of Railways. As the parties started making pucca structure for shops instead of temporary one as per the agreements, initially efforts were made to stop the constructions. The licences were subsequently cancelled in November, 1981. Consequently, the private parties went to the court and court ordered that the defendants would not eject the plaintiffs from the premises in dispute forcibly. However, its right to evict them in due course of law will not be affected.
- (ii) the records were seized by Central Bureau of Investigation for investigation in 1982, which were received back in Division in 1997 only.
- (iii) The proceedings were initiated under PPE Act in 1997. On this 55 allottees filed a case in the Civil Court, Amritsar in August 1997 for permanent injunction against the forcible eviction. This case was decided in favour of Railway in May 2000. Six cases have been already decided in favour of Railway by the Estate Office and these 6 shops have been got vacated. Action has been taken to recover the arrears through District Collectors as per the orders of the Estate Officer. The remaining cases are sub-judice in the court of Estate Officer.

12.00 hrs.

#### **PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Judicial Academy, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Judicial Academy, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 5742/2002]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Status Paper on Indian Railways—Issues and Options (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 5743/2002]

- (2) A copy of each of the following papers Hindi and English versions):

- (i) Memorandum of understanding between the RITES Limited and the Ministry of Railways for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 5744/2002]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the IRCON International Limited and the Ministry of Railways for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 5745/2002]

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) (Audience Research Posts) Service Regulations, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. N-10/13/2001-PPC in Gazette of India dated 11th March, 2002 under section 34 of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 5746/2002]

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Power for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 5747/2002]

12.01 hrs.

## MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[*English*]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:

- (i) In accordance with the provisions of rule 115 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 15th May, 2002, agreed to the following amendments made by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 3rd May, 2002, in the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour (Repeal) Repealing Bill, 2001:

### ENACTING FORMULA

- (1) That at page 1, line 1,—

*for "Fifty-second" substitute "Fifty-third"*

### CLAUSE 1

- (2) That at page 1, line 4,—

*for "2001" substitute "2002"*

- (ii) In accordance with the provisions of rule 115 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 15th May, 2002, agreed to the following amendments made by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 3rd May, 2002, in the Indian Succession (Amendment) Bill, 2001:

### ENACTING FORMULA

- (2) That at page 1, line 1,—

*for "Fifty-second" substitute "Fifty-third"*

### CLAUSE 1

- (2) That at page 1, line 3,—

*for "2001" substitute "2002"*

- (iii) '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 15th May, 2002, agreed without any amendment to the Delimitation Bill, 2002, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 7th May, 2002.'
- (iv) '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 15th May, 2002, agreed without any amendment to the Sugar Development Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2002, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 8th May, 2002.'

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12.02 hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE  
LEGISLATION**

**Sixth Report**

*[English]*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli): Sir, I beg to present the Sixth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

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12.02½ hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT  
ASSURANCES**

**Eighth and Ninth Reports**

*[English]*

DR. S. VENUGOPAL (Adilabad): Sir, I beg to present the Eighth and Ninth Reports (Hindi and English Versions) of the Committee on Government Assurances.

12.03 hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT  
OF WOMEN**

**Eighth Report**

*[English]*

SHRIMATI SANTOSH CHOWDHARY (Phillaur): Sir, I beg to present the Eighth Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Committee on Empowerment of Women on 'Training and Empowerment of Women in Local Bodies'.

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12.03½ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**Action Taken Report**

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY (Narasaraopet): Sir, I beg to present a copy of the Thirty-second Action Taken Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2001-2002) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue).

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12.04 hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS**

**Statements**

*[English]*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (Hindi and English Versions) of the Statements showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final replies in respect of Chapter-V of the 8th Action Taken report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on 1st Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants 2000-01 of the Ministry of Railways.

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*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Before I go to Calling Attention Notice, I would like to take Item No. 13, if the House has no objection.

A motion is to be moved by Shri Somnath Chatterjee regarding the ethics-related matters.

12.05 hrs.

12.04<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hrs.

**MOTION RE: FIRST REPORT OF  
COMMITTEE ON ETHICS**

[*Translation*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, I beg to lay:

"That this House do agree with the First Report of the Committee on Ethics on 'Ethics related matters' laid on the Table of the house on the 22nd November, 2001."

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the First Report of the Committee on Ethics on 'Ethics related matters' laid on the Table of the House on the 22nd November, 2001."

*The motion was adopted.*

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[*Translation*]

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD (Darbhanga): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice under Rule 184 ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will tell about it now.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my humble request is that Calling Attention Notice may be taken after Zero Hour. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Calling Attention Notice always has the priority over the 'Zero Hour'. Therefore, I would take it up and I would request the hon. Members to speak shortly so that we can go to the 'Zero Hour' immediately.

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**RE: NOTICES OF MOTION  
UNDER RULE 184**

MR. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that the notices of motion under rule 184 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha received from Shri Kirti Jha Azad regarding internal disturbances in Bihar and from Dr. Sanjay Paswan on failure of the Government of Bihar in ensuring security of the weaker sections etc. were forwarded to the Ministry of Home Affairs for furnishing facts in the matter.

The notice of motion under rule 184 received from Dr. Bikram Sarkar on failure of the administration in providing the security to the minorities, SCs/STs in various parts of the country, particularly in West Bengal has also been forwarded to the Ministry of Home Affairs for facts.

The reply from the Ministry is still awaited.

I would take a decision on the notices on receipt of reply from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

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12.07 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF  
URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**Government's Inaction for Revival of Hindustan  
Fertilisers Corporation of India and Fertilisers  
Corporation of India**

[*English*]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Situation arising out of government's inaction for revival of Hindustan Fertilisers Corporation of India and Fertilisers Corporation of India."

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA): Sir, the sick fertilizer undertakings, under the administrative control of the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, have time and again engaged the attention of this august House. While I fully share the concern of the hon. Members, the techno-economic unavailability resulting in over Rs. 14,500 crore

[Shri Sukh Dev Singh Dhindsa]

of accumulated losses have also put a serious strain on the exchequer.

Due to sustained techno-economically unviable operations, the Durgapur and Barauni units of HFC stopped production since June 1997 and January 1998 respectively. The Gorakhpur and the two coal based units at Ramagundam and Talcher units of FCI are shut down since June 1990, and April 1999, respectively. The Haldia unit of HFC never started commercial production.

The revival packages formulated in April 1995 for the rehabilitation of HFC and FCI envisaged the limited revamp of some of their units. The revamp of Haldia Project of HFC and Gorakhpur unit of FCI was not found to be techno-economically viable. The requirement of fresh investment for revamp of the functional units of HFC and FCI was estimated at Rs. 465 crore and Rs. 1,736 crore, respectively. These proposals were late reformulated by an Expert Group under the leadership of Industrial Credit & Investment Corporation of India Ltd. (ICICI). The Expert Group had put the requirement of fresh investment for the revamp of Sindri, Ramagundam and Talcher units of FCI at Rs. 2,638 crore and that for the revamp of Namrup, Durgapur and Barauni units of HFC, at Rs. 869 crore. In addition, various other financial reliefs and concessions in terms of write off GOI loans and accumulated interest aggregating of Rs. 5,006 crore were envisaged to make these packages viable.

On the basis of the Expert Group which submitted its report in February, 1997, the Government considered the revival proposals and fresh proposals were submitted in July/August, 1997 for consideration of the Government. The Government decided in October, 1997 on the revival package in respect of Namrup units of HFC.

The revamp of the Namrup units of HFC involves an estimated fresh investment of Rs. 509.40 crore (revised cost). The revamp project is under implementation with effect from 2.11.1998 and the Government has so far provided a budgetary support of Rs. 280 crore. For the year 2002-03, a budgetary provision of Rs. 200 crore has been made.

Revised comprehensive rehabilitation proposals in respect of the remaining units of HFC and FCI have been reformulated and are presently under examination by a Group of Ministers (GoM). The GoM was specifically constituted to revisit the issues relating to rehabilitation of the sick fertilizer PSUs including HFC and FCI.

The technology as well as feedstock related issues act as a serious constraint on any rehabilitation package. Today the gas-based units are financially and functionally efficient and internationally competitive. The use of alternative feedstock will have to be evaluated in the context of production cost and likely impact on the budget.

It may also be stated that the BIFR has ordered for winding up of FCI on 2.11.2001 and that of HFC on 12.12.2001. Both the companies have filed appeals against these orders of BIFR before the Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (AAIFR). While the appeal of FCI has been dismissed by the AAIFR, that of HFC will come up for hearing by the end of May, 2002.

It may, however, be mentioned that the Government has been providing budgetary support for meeting essential capital expenditure and operational requirements, including salary and wages of employees of HFC and FCI. The total budgetary support to FCI since 1991 has been Rs. 1,899.69 crore out of which Rs. 1,601 crore has been Non-Plan support. For HFC, the total budgetary support in the same period has been Rs. 1,588 crore out of which Rs. 1,147 crore has been Non-Plan support.

Further, the shutting down of the various units of these companies has not affected the supply of urea in the country as a whole and in the eastern region in particular. The supply of urea to the eastern region has also been sufficient to meet the demand.

Having regard to the magnitude of the fresh investment and other reliefs required, the Government is committed to evolve a techno-economically viable decision of this complex issue in the overall national interest.

[Placed in Library, see No. LT. 5748/2002]

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sunil Khan ji, it would be better if you ask specific question.

[*English*]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you are aware, there are eight units under the Hindustan Fertilisers Corporation of India and Fertilisers Corporation of India. The revival proposal of Hindustan Fertilisers Corporation of India is pending since 1995. The Government has not given money for revival to any unit of the Hindustan Fertilisers Corporation of India and Fertilisers Corporation



of India, except for Namrup unit, but the Government has not considered giving money to other units in Talcher, Gorakhpur, Ramagundam, Durgapur, Haldia and Barauni. The Minister has suggested that in the revamping of Durgapur and Barauni units of Hindustan Fertilisers Corporation of India, the cost of production of naphtha is a cause of concern to the Government.

It is all right. The investment decision of fertiliser sector may have to wait till Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) is made available. When would the LNG be available? I do not understand how and why LNG is being thought of as an alternative when the availability of naphtha within the country is quite comfortable to enhance the refining capacity of the domestic oil refineries.

The Working Group for Petroleum and Natural Gas for the Tenth Five-Year Plan period has projected during 2002 a surplus availability of naphtha in the country. The projected naphtha is 10.01 lakh MT in 2002-2003 and 40.59 lakh MT in 2006-2007. The energy cost with the use of naphtha as feedstock for urea manufacture is around US\$6.5 per million BTU at present. On the other hand, the creation of infrastructural facilities for LNG import, that is, regasification plant at port site and piping network/grid, etc., would be exorbitant and the energy cost of imported LNG would be around US\$ 6-7 per million BTU which is sure to increase since the exporters will decide its cost. It is, therefore, not advisable to go on deferring the revival proposal of Durgapur and Barauni plants on this plea.

The State of West Bengal is presently having consumption figure of 12 lakh MT of urea per annum which is increasing at the rate of around eight per cent. The State had only Durgapur Plant and, with its stoppage of production, the State is totally dependent on external supply of urea.

It is understood that yet another Group of Ministers, headed by Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission has been formed to formulate a long-term fertiliser policy which is considering withdrawal of essential commodity allocation plan and freight subsidy for urea. In that eventuality, West Bengal would be the worst sufferer and the farmers would be required to pay more to purchase urea.

I, therefore, strongly demand revival of HFCI, Durgapur unit as well as Barauni and other units of the FCI.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is taking any steps either for making a

brown field unit or a green field unit. What steps has the Government taken? There is no decision for any fresh investment. There is no proposal, at present, for removal of control on distribution of urea. The IFFCO and the KRIBHCO want to make a joint bid for the Hindustan Petroleum and the Bharat Petroleum. The KRIBHCO has a surplus of Rs. 1,500 crore. They paid Rs. 100 crore towards income-tax. These are the cooperative units. They have no units in the eastern zone. They say that they have surplus funds to bid for the Hindustan Petroleum and the Bharat Petroleum.

So, if they want to set up any unit in the eastern zone, I do not want to say that it should be in West Bengal. It could be in any part of the eastern zone. That will be better for the cultivators of the eastern zone. If you revive all the fertiliser units in the whole of India, 80 per cent of agricultural farmers will be satisfied. They would produce more and more of paddy and wheat for the Indian people.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, may I request you to be brief.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, this is unfortunate that six units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation and Fertilizer Corporation of India are closed. The Government is suffering from indecision. The Government has not yet taken a firm decision in regard to revival of these six units. These units are closed since long.

The Gorakhpur unit is closed for more than one decade, as there was some accident. Barauni unit is also closed. There was no production of urea in Barauni Fertilizer Unit. Durgapur is closed and only salaries are paid to the employees and workers. Haldia unit is closed since 1986. Since its inception it produced fertilizer but there was some problem and it was stopped since 1986. Talcher in Orissa is closed and Ramagundam in Andhra Pradesh is also closed.

The hon. Minister, in his statement, has not stated whether the Government will take any firm decision in regard to revival of these units. What is his reply? Whenever I write to the hon. Minister, his reply is, 'there is no shortage of fertilizer in Eastern Zone, particularly, in West Bengal'. We know, there is no shortage, but the units, which were there since years together, have been closed.

There was a demand for their revamping. I know, since 1990-91. There was a demand for revamping of

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

Durgapur Unit and the Committee on Public Undertakings also recommended for revamping of Durgapur Unit of HFC, but the Government has not taken any action on this.

Now, there is a growth of eight per cent in the consumption of fertilizer or urea in the State of West Bengal. The annual consumption is 12 lakh tonnes now. The fertilizer is brought from other States. The farmers of West Bengal are to pay more for purchasing the fertilizer. There is no crisis of fertilizer. But why the farmers of West Bengal, farmers of Eastern Zone, and farmers of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are penalised?

SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA: They are not penalised.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The transportation charge is being imposed on the farmers there.

The hon. Minister has stated that both BIFR and AAIFR have rejected the revival of Sindri, Talcher and Ramagundam Units. Why the AAIFR has rejected it, the Government was asked to submit a proposal? Is it not a fact that the Government was given two months time when the matter was brought before the AAIFR by both the Government and the unions? The AAIFR gave them two months time, but the Government failed to submit any revival proposal within two months time and then when the hearing was held on 9.4.02, AAIFR upheld the decision of BIFR.

So, the responsibility was laying with the Government. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, when the AAIFR gave them two months time, why the Government failed to submit a revival package within the stipulated time.

In case of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation, the BIFR has ordered for winding up of all the units, except Namrup. The order was to have a separate unit to hive off Namrup and a separate company should be formed or set up. This has been implemented by the Government. The name has also been changed from a unit of Hindustan Fertilizers to Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizers Limited. This unit is a gas-based unit. But Durgapur is a naphtha-based unit. Barauni is a naphtha-based unit. Naphtha is available. We have surplus stock of naphtha. Then, why is the Government not taking a firm decision in regard to revival of Barauni and Durgapur?

A Group of Ministers was formed. The Finance Minister happens to be the Chairman of that Group of

Ministers. The Group of Ministers met for four times. The Minister replied to my letter that this Group of Ministers met for four times and shortly they will be meeting again to take a final decision. This letter was sent to me on 24th April. Here the Minister has not mentioned about the revival proposal which the AAIFR has asked the Government to submit. I would like to know the reason for this.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please be brief, otherwise I will have to go to the rules unnecessarily.

[English]

I have to go to the rules unnecessarily. You can only ask for clarifications and questions.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I am asking only clarifications. I am not asking anything more.

MR. SPEAKER: I have to go to the 'Zero Hour'. Otherwise, I will not be able to take up the 'Zero Hour'. I was on a Group of Ministers. I know what it is.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I am only asking questions. This is a very important matter. This has been pending for the last 10 years with the Government.

In reply to my letter, the Minister had stated on 24th April that very shortly they are going to meet. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Group of Minister had met and taken a decision. Final decision does not mean closure or winding up. I would like to know whether they have taken a positive decision in regard to revival of Barauni and Durgapur.

When Shri Suresh Prabhu was the Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers, he organised a seminar because for the last several years, I was also insisting that we have abandoned the reserve coal. Sindri was the first Public Sector unit of our country. In 1952, when the first Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, inaugurated that unit of Fertilizers Corporation of India, what did he say? He said: "I am not inaugurating a fertilizer unit; I am inaugurating a temple of modern India." That was the coal-based unit. That coal-based unit was dismantled. In place of coal-based unit, one gas-based unit was set up at Sindri.

At Nagpur, there was a seminar and he was very much interested to have a fertilizer urea unit with coal as

feedstock. As we have abandoned the reserve coal, I would like to know whether the Government is considering to convert some of these units from naphtha-based to coal-based so that the production cost can be reduced, and the units can also become viable.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk): Sir, I have given a notice. Please allow me to speak. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Your notice is time barred.

*...(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. SANJAY PASWAN (Nawada): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I may also be allowed. I have also given a notice. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: As per the rule, permission cannot be granted because there is no notice in your name. That is why I can not give you an opportunity.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, as a special case, you may please permit Shri Lakshman Seth. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Had you taken less time, I would have given him permission to speak. As you have taken much time, I could not allow him to speak.

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Sir, I rise to contradict the hon. Minister's statement. *...(Interruptions)*

He has said that the Haldia unit of HFC did not produce any fertiliser. It is totally wrong. *...(Interruptions)* The Haldia unit produced fertiliser for two years but it did not produce after that because of technological defects and equipment failures. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA: Sir, the entire situation has been mentioned in the statement.

Negotiations were going on in regard to both the companies. Only ICICI had clarified its stand and no one except Namrup has clarified that revival can be done. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This is the report of the Group of Ministers. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Address the Chair while giving reply. There is no need to pay attention to others.

SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, despite suffering a loss of Rs. 14.5 thousand crores, there was a talk of the revival of Namrup plant and it was assured that it would start working according to the capacity. There is no hope of revival of any other unit.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Why there is no hope?

MR. SPEAKER: You please complete your answer.

SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA: Despite that Government formed a group-of-Ministers to explore the possibilities of revival of this unit. Three meetings have been held and fourth and final meeting is likely to be held in the end of this month and a decision will be taken therein.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The decision should be taken for revival. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA: Secondly, I would like to state that all the farmers in India will get Urea at the same price. There will be no shortage of Urea. There is no shortage of Urea in India. Farmers of West Bengal and Eastern States will have to pay more price than others. It means, where there is a Unit, urea will be available at cheaper rate. However, the situation is not like that. Urea should be provided at the same price only. There should not be any shortage.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : He has not replied fully. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister's reply is over. The House will now take up 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This is unfortunate. He has not replied to our questions. We wanted to know whether the Government would take a positive decision.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: For this, a decision is likely to be taken in the meeting of group-of-ministers.

SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA: How can I tell the decision of group-of-ministers just now?

12.35 hrs.

## OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

**Re: Question of privilege**

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I gave a privilege notice against the hon. Prime Minister. When a privilege notice is given, it should be conveyed to the hon. Member concerned with a note whether it is allowed or disallowed. That is the tradition. When a privilege notice was given against the hon. Minister of Home Affairs, the hon. Minister himself, from the Ministry, conveyed to the hon. Member concerned about the status and it was disallowed. If it has been accepted, fair enough, you can say so; if not, I should have the privilege to know and I should be told on what grounds it was disallowed. This is the minimum a member could expect. I found from the book by Kaul and Shakhder that this has always been the practice. Therefore, I would urge upon you to inform me of the status of the privilege notice. I should get to know whether it is allowed or disallowed. Whether it is right or wrong, the status of the notice should be provided to the Member concerned.

MR. SPEAKER: I have gone through the privilege notice given by Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi and also I have received a reply from the hon. Prime Minister. I would like to give the ruling on the privilege notice right now.

Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi gave a notice of question of privilege on 9th May, 2002 alleging that the Prime Minister had misled the House on 1st May, 2002 while intervening in the discussion on the motion regarding Gujarat situation. I had called for the comments of the Prime Minister on the notice of Shri Dasmunsi which have since been received.

Shri Dasmunsi has stated in his notice that the Prime Minister, while seeking to clarify misgivings about certain

portions of a public speech made by him at Goa, stated on the floor of the House and I quote: "Whatever I said about Islam is as follows.... Wherever such Muslims live, they tend not to live in co-existence with others, not to mingle with others; instead of propagating their ideas in a peaceful manner, they want to spread their faith by restoring to terror and threats". Shri Dasmunsi contended that in the video recording of the speech of the Prime Minister made by him at Goa, the word "such" had not been used before the word "Muslims" and by this interpolation an attempt was made to alter the meaning of the sentence. Shri Dasmunsi alleged that this amounted to misleading the House by the hon. Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister, while admitting that the video tape of his speech made at Goa does not contain the word "such", has stated that "no one who reads my entire speech, and takes note of the tribute. I have paid to the tolerant and compassionate teachings of Islam, can be in any doubt that my reference in the second paragraph is only to followers of the militant Islam." A clarificatory note/statement to this effect was issued by the Prime Minister on 14th April, 2002 and the Prime Minister's Office also released the entire text of his speech to the media with necessary correction. The Prime Minister has also stated that "It is this corrected version from which I read out the relevant paragraphs while speaking on the Gujarat situation in the early hours of May 1, 2002."

I am inclined to accept the clarification given by the Prime Minister. No question of privilege is, therefore, involved in the matter. The notice of Shri Dasmunsi is disallowed.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Ferozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are thousands of patients suffering due to lack of treatment in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. This is summer season and during this period some doctors proceed on leave for one month.

When AIIMS was set up in 1956, its only objective was to undertake research work in Medical Sciences but now there is heavy rush of patients also. There are 25 CPD in all. Here 6500 to 10,000 patients are examined daily. Now the situation is that as we the members of Lok Sabha live in Delhi, many people approach us to get themselves admitted in 'AIIMS'. Most of the people who got admitted in AIIMS have

recommendations of influential people. Sir, today the need of the hour is that AIIMS should be expanded because people do not get bed for five-six months, no consideration is given as to how much serious the patient is. The situation in orthopaedic department is such that a patient does not get bed for four to six years.

There are certain cases where a patient died before getting a bed.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request that the people prefer to get themselves free bed there during the summer vacation. Thousands of patients are there but there is no arrangement for their treatment. Doctors are on leave and this practice of taking leave is going on even since the AIIMS came into existence. That is why, there is a need to change this practice. I would like to request you to direct the honourable Health Minister to make arrangements for the treatment of thousands of patients because due to lack of treatment facilities, any unpleasant incident can take place there.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): The people from Patna also come over there but no treatment is provided there. There are two-three persons in the Government from our area.

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN: Honourable Health Minister is not here. I request you to direct the Honourable Health Minister to make efforts to improve the system there. Thousands of patients are waiting in the OPD for the last five-ten days but they are not getting any treatment.

SHRI MANOJ SINHA (Gazipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday Honourable Prime Minister and other members had expressed their concern over the increasing terrorism. It was published in *Hindustan Times* recently that some industrial houses are providing huge amount to some terrorist organisations of North-East whereby helping them in collecting a large number of weapons. The owner of those industrial houses are controversial political leader. I think there were many news published recently about them in daily newspapers. It is said that their office is in Delhi near Regal Building. They were also indulged in the lottery business and caused loss to the Government of Nagaland to the tune of Rs. two thousand crores. They have opened an account in American Bank and Shanghai Bank without getting permission from Reserve Bank and have also helped in sending huge amount to America through Hawala. Even in the past I have personally requested in writing to investigate this case. Through you, I would like to request the government to

expose such elements which are active in politics and are also providing financial help to Terrorist organisations and are associated with treason activities. I would like to request you that such political leaders should be exposed and strict action should be taken against them.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Sir, at present, West Bengal has secured the first position in paddy production. This year the paddy production in West Bengal has surpassed the earlier record. The estimated production might be 150 lakh metric tonnes. But the market price of paddy is coming down. The market price, at present, is roughly Rs. 350 per quintal. While the minimum support price declared by the Government is Rs. 540 per quintal, the market price in West Bengal is Rs. 350 per quintal or even less. FCI is not procuring paddy and rice in West Bengal. The West Bengal Government also have come forward to procure the declared minimum of six lakh metric tonnes of rice from the market.

But it is not adequate. It is meagre. So, I urge upon the Union Government to provide more funds to the Government of West Bengal so that they can procure at least 10 per cent of the total production of the paddy this year.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am raising a issue in the House which is directly related to MP's and I want protection from you. I do not want anything from the Government in this regard. I would like to draw your attention towards one incident. I, alongwith three other members of Lok Sabha, one from Rajya Sabha and also the leader of opposition in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly were beaten mercilessly on 28th April, 2001 in Raipur, Capital of Chhattisgarh.

One year ago I had given notice in this regard in this House which had been forwarded to Privilege Committee. In the same way notice of breach of privilege had been given by leader of opposition in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly and a committee had been constituted. Shri Domendra Bhendia was its Chairman and six members were the hon. Members of legislative assembly. The matter was raised on 26th July 2001 and on 27th July hon'ble Speaker issued some instructions. A member gave a notice of breach of privilege and afterwards many others followed him but State Government of Chhattisgarh has not been able to provide any information in this regard so far. Centre cannot ask

[Shri Prahlad Singh Patel]

for it, but it is certainly a question of respect of the House and its members. The State Government had constituted a privilege committee and it submitted its report. The decision of the report says:

"In the light of above analysis the committee can recommend for the detention of a person if he is found guilty but in order to convey this message the House would not tolerate an act committed with the feeling of contempt with the public representatives. The committee recommend that the district magistrate Shri Amitabh Jain and the then police superintendent Shri Mukesh Gupta should be called in the House and condemned and this should be entered in his service book."

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter does not resolve here. This was laid on the table of the House and the House approved it. After that the next day the Chief Minister withdrew it in the Legislative Assembly of Chhattisgarh. The question is not why they suffered with me and why I was not given any protection. My only demand for protection requires that there must be a Privilege Committee, but the State Government would not send the report to it. If the State Government and Secretariat approve an incident alongwith the statement of the officials and the guilt is proved but despite this, if the committee fail to take any action, how will the public representative get the opportunity. I would like to read out a statement of an Additional S.P. My statement that stones were pelted also appeared in the newspapers, we were attacked not only with sticks but also with stones. Please look into the statement, Additional S.P. has given before the committee "Police superintendent Shri Vivekananda initially stated before the committee that stones were available near the hall being constructed in the collectorate but when the committee draw his attention towards the fact that the collectorate was on the other side of the barricades, the place where the police had been deployed he added that he cannot say anything clearly."

Mr. Speaker, Sir, two points arise. I must be given justice and also whether the report presented in either of the House and approved can be withdrawn? Members should take decision on this.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Shri Patel, I had demanded a report from the State Government and it has been received. I would like to study the report. I would tell you about the action being taken afterwards.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: If you give me permission I would like to lay the report on the table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: You can submit the report.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I express my gratitude, for granting me permission to express my views on such an important subject.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, now the credibility of the capital market is declining. The source of strength to the economy of a country is capital market but during the last ten years there have been many scams in the country. One after the other there has been a scam which destroys the capital market. The small investors suffer financial loss and the world gets the message that capital investment should be made in any country other than India. I would like to draw your attention to some such companies.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there existed about 1000 fake companies. The people which set up companies collected money from institutions and investors but now these companies have no existence. We have requested the Government several times, I have written more than twelve letters to Finance Ministry. The Government have admitted that 229 companies have been traced which have taken money from the public and committed scams. I have demanded from the Government that action should be taken against the directors of the companies who are doing everything openly and unless SEBI and the Ministry of Company Affairs take concrete action in this regard there cannot be any check on such scams. An amount of 10 thousand crore rupees from small investors and 8000 crore rupees from financial institutions and banks have been taken by these companies but Government have paid no attention towards this so far. Capital market cannot rise until there is a check on these scams. Through you I would like to make the demand that Government should conduct a CBI enquiry about the vanishing companies scams, fake companies and 10 thousand crore rupees which had been collected from public issues of small investors, so that capital market may rise again. CBI inquiry should be held and facts be presented to the House.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a multi-crore scam has been added to the series of scams we are facing and the latest one involves the employees' provident fund and the deposits of the common people in a number of co-operative banks, both rural and urban.

Sir, there are 2,500 employees' provident funds which are in the exempted category and the total amount under these 2,500 exempted bodies is of the order of Rs. 30,000 crore. Already, how the provident fund money of Seamen's Provident Fund has been siphoned off and defrauded by some people in the name of investment in Government securities has been revealed. There is an apprehension throughout the country among millions and millions of employees and workers as to how safe their money can be, particularly because of the physical transactions in respect of investments in the Government securities.

After the 1992 scam, the JPC recommended that there should be a switch over to the D-MAT form. In the equity market, it had been done, but in the 'bond' market, till today, it is being allowed, particularly in the cooperative sector. The Government owes an explanation to this House. Let a statement be given covering all the aspects of the scam. The House has a right to constitute a body, if necessary, to look into the new multi-crore scam.

12.55 hrs.

## RE: NON-PAYMENT OF SALARIES TO THE EMPLOYEES OF PSU'S IN WEST BENGAL

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a very important matter. I hope, the Government will respond because Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar is here. For the last six months and more, the employees of the following public sector units in Bengal are not getting their salaries and wages. The employees of National Instrumentation are crying and there is almost a suicidal situation. The employees are deprived of their wages, and this unit falls in the constituency of Shrimati Krishna Bose. In the last six months, they came to Delhi five times, but not a single penny has been released.

In the National Jute Manufacturing Corporation (NJMC), several thousand employees are working, and 50 per cent of them belong to Eastern Uttar Pradesh and North Bihar. In the last four months, they could not send even a single penny to their villages because their entire wages have been withheld.

The Burn Standard employees were asked to opt for VRS, but the VRS fund is not available, and their due wages have not been paid. Three workers have committed suicide. Besides this, Hoogly Dock and Port Engineering is another unit. When you were a Minister, you tried to

help us. Now, you are in this high Office, Sir, and I hope, your direction will give more strength to our demand. Till today, the package has not been settled and they have not been paid any money. Yesterday evening, Sir, I received a phone from a poor lady, and that is why, I gave the notice, saying that her three daughters have been sent away from school because they could not pay their fees. Her eldest daughter could not get married because people refused to come saying that she could not meet or comply with the minimum requirements of marriage. This is the plight of the people.

Therefore, I would request you, Sir, to give appropriate directions to the Government, at least, to settle the pending wages of workers in these three public sector units of Bengal so that they can survive. If we do not do it now, since the Parliament will be adjourned on the 17th, we will have no opportunity to bring it to the notice of the House. The Government should take this matter seriously.

Sir, when you were a Minister, you were kind enough to declare in the House that you would approach the Chief Minister of West Bengal to find out the viability of these units. With your intervention, at one point of time, when you were a Minister, the employees of Burn Standard got some payment. After that, nothing has been paid. Therefore, I sincerely desire, at least, on humanitarian grounds, that you give necessary direction to the Government, and the Minister should respond to it. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): We also associate with what Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has stated.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I would like to associate with what Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has said. The situation is very serious. I discussed this matter with you, when you were the Minister of Heavy Industries. Please give a direction to Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Suresh Prabhu, you are now in-charge of Heavy Industries. I would request you to look into the matter raised by Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the employees of National Instrumentation Limited have not received their salaries for 14 months, and the employees of Burn Standard have not received their salaries for four months. The Government should assure the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister wants to reply. Do you not want a reply from him? Please sit down, the Minister wants to reply.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Sunil Khanji, the hon'ble Minister is on his legs to reply to this question. Please let him reply.

[English]

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI (Salem): Sir, we also associate with what the hon. Members have said because one of the units of Burn Standard is in Salem, and something has to be done by the Government.

SHRI K YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, it is not a question of some hon. Members associating themselves with the issue that has been raised. The whole House is concerned about this.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): I also associate with the hon. Member who has raised this issue.

13.00 hrs.

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): Sir, when the whole House is associating with an issue, the Government obviously would take cognizance of this and would act accordingly.

Sir, as you are aware our Government believe in the concept of a Welfare State and also recognises not only the rights and privileges of the workers but also the importance of the Working Class in the development of the society that has to be an egalitarian society in which all sections must stand to benefit.

Sir, but keeping in view the financial constraints of the State, the revenue earnings of the Government and also the demands of the workers, Government would take all appropriate measures to definitely ensure that the sentiments expressed by all the Members would be taken care of. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a very touching incident. On one side there are inhuman incidents in Gujarat and on the other hand I would like to quote a wonderful example of humanity.

In Madhubani district of Phulpras Purwari Tola village of Northern Bihar on Indo-Nepal border, the goat of a landless labour who is 26 years old and mother of a year old child gave birth to a lamb and died of labour pain. After the death of the goat the woman has been breast feeding the lamb in order to keep him alive and the lamb is in good health.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, cow and goat milk has been recognised equivalent to a mother's milk in nutrition. There have been examples of showing such affection to the newborn babies of mankind but this woman has presented an example unique in itself by feeding the new born of an animal. On one hand modern woman do not breast feed their children with the fear of losing their physical beauty and on the other hand the rural woman has presented a rare example of love and affection. Impressed by this the people of the village decided not to let her sell the lamb which has lead to the problem of livelihood for Dulari Devi. I would like to request the Central Government that an alternative arrangement for her livelihood should be made either by Cattle Welfare Ministry or Human Welfare Ministry or Social Justice Ministry and some National award should be given to her. This is a very important and sensitive issue, I have got a photograph and this is a fact. In his modern world, it is due to the good deed accomplished by the poor woman that she is facing the problem of livelihood. The only means of her livelihood was a goat and people advised her not to sell it and declared it an asset of the village. She dared to take such a courageous step for the sake of an animal. This is a very serious matter.

MR. SPEAKER: I know that this is a serious matter.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: This is a new example of humanity. So the Chair should give an instruction to the Government and the Government should follow it. It would be better if Government responds in this matter. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is present here. This matter should be referred to the Ministry of Animal Husbandry. The Government should pay attention towards this.



MR. SPEAKER: It is alright the hon. Minister would take care.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Devendra Prasad Yadav has submitted such statement which is an example in itself. I would make the concerned Minister aware about the situation and she would take necessary action.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: They should be given prize. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Ramdasji, please sit down.

[*English*]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very important issue relating to other Backward Classes (OBCs). OBCs comprise more than 50 per cent of our population. The National Front Government implemented the recommendations of the Mandal Commission under which OBCs have been given 27 per cent reservation in employment. Those reservations are not being implemented in letter and spirit. We have Parliamentary Standing Committees for women, for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes, but there is no Parliamentary Standing Committee for OBCs. It is a Constitutional reservation that we have extended to the OBCs. Earlier, there was no Backward Classes Commission at the national level. Now, through the National Commission for Backward Classes also we are extending a lot of support to the Backward Class people for their economic growth. To see that those schemes are properly implemented, we have to set up a Parliamentary Standing Committee. This is the need of the hour. I requested the former Speakers Shri Balayogi and Shri Sangma also and they wrote to the hon. Prime Minister in this regard. There is a lot of demand from employees' organisations and from the OBCs that a Parliamentary Standing Committee for OBCs be set up.

Secondly, on the reservation policy to be adopted in the Union Public Service Commission there is a Supreme Court judgment of August 2001. There is a clear-cut judgement. There are disparities in the implementation of reservation policy in the Union Public Service Commission. To remove those disparities, the Supreme Court has already delivered a judgement. The Government should act immediately and implement that judgement.

Thirdly, a very genuine demand has been made that all languages of the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution be allowed for writing examinations conducted by the Staff Selection Commission. This issue has already been discussed on the floor of the House. Even after elaborate discussion on the floor of the House, the Government of India has not taken any action in this regard. I demand that candidates be allowed to write the examinations conducted by Staff Selection Commission in their mother tongues. These are my three demands.

13.08 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Ten Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.12 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Twelve Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House shall take up Matters under Rule 377.

## MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

### (i) Need to increase frequency of trains running between Tirupati and Arakkonam

DR. N. VENKATASWAMY (Tirupati): Madam, Chairperson, Puttur is a big town with a population of nearly 40 thousand. In and around Puttur, there are many semi-urban and rural villages depending on Puttur for travelling to Tirupati, Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Chennai, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Coimbatore, Salem and Erode, etc. The railway station of Puttur is in the heart of the town.

The passenger trains Nos. 193, 194, 195 and 196 depart Tirupati and reach Arakkonam and from there to Renigunta at 8.40 a.m. From 8.40 a.m. onwards these trains remain idle at Renigunta up to 6.00 p.m.

The Saphagiri Express No. 6054 from Tirupati to Chennai leaves Tirupati at 9.55 a.m. and at 10.40 a.m. from Puttur. So, after 9.55 a.m. there is no train facility to Chennai until 5 p.m. There is no train to Chennai or Arakkonam from 10.40 a.m. to 6.20 p.m. In order to provide more facilities to the passengers, two more trips

may be introduced from Tirupati to Arakkonam and back to Tirupati.

I, therefore, request the hon. Union Minister of Railways to take appropriate action on the above request.

**(ii) Need to open a branch of State Bank of India in Banda Town in Sagar Parliamentary Constituency, Madhya Pradesh**

*[Translation]*

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Sagar-Kanpur road in my Parliamentary Constituency Sagar has been declared as national highway No. 86. Banda is a very important town on Sagar-Chatarpur road. This is an important business centre. It has a tehsil court and college too. Banda has only one bank, Central Bank of India which is not sufficient to fulfil the business necessities there and people have to face lot of difficulties due to rush of people in the bank. The businessmen are unable to get their drafts. So in order to expand banking facilities a branch of nationalised bank i.e. State Bank of India should be opened immediately at Banda town.

**(iii) Need to extend Chaura-Chauri rail service upto Raxaul in Bihar.**

DR. M.P. JAISWAL (Bettiah): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Chaura-Chauri train runs from Kanpur to Gorakhpur via Varanasi and Allahabad. This train after reaching Gorakhpur station remains in yard for 16 hours. It is not in the public interest that a train is kept stationed in yard for 16 hours and the proper utilisation of railway services are not being made. If this train is extended up to Raxaul in Bihar then the people of Champaran will find it convenient to travel up to Varanasi; Allahabad and Kanpur. Not only that, it would also increase the revenue of the railways.

I would like to request the Centre, through you, that Chaura-Chauri rail service should be extended up to Raxaul so that Kanpur, Allahabad and Varanasi bound passengers are benefitted and additional revenue to the Government will also be ensured.

**(iv) Need to allocate 0.5 MMSCMD of gas to Gujarat for Power Generation**

*[English]*

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Gujarat State is facing acute shortage of electricity. Due to long distance from colliery and higher railway freight charges for the coal

movement, cost of production of power generation by the Gujarat State Electricity Board is unbearable. In the circumstances, Gujarat Government has made a demand for additional allocation of gas to the tune of 1.25 MMSCMD for 650 MW Pipavav power project to be developed by KRIBHCO because initial allocation of 2.25 MMSCMD of gas is not sufficient and adequate.

Even though it was decided in the meetings of Gujarat State Authorities with Secretary, M.O.P. & N.G. and hon. Minister of Petroleum, Government of India that 0.5 MMSCMD gas would be made available in January, 2001 and the Government of Gujarat should send detailed proposal mentioning the list of different power projects for allocation of 0.5 MMSCMD. The proposals have already been sent by the Government of Gujarat. But till now, this agreed allocation of 0.5 MMSCMD of gas has not been made available.

I, therefore, urge the Government of India to allocate agreed allocation of 0.5 MMSCMD of gas for power generation for the projects in Gujarat immediately.

**(v) Need for construction of an airport at Ajmer, Rajasthan**

*[Translation]*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Ajmer is a world famous historical city of Rajasthan. This city is also known for its educational, cultural and tourist potential through out the world. Ajmer and Pushkar are important attraction centres for Indian and foreign tourists. At present the tourists and other people wishing to visit Ajmer have to fly to Delhi or Jaipur and then cover the rest of journey by train or by road in order to reach Ajmer. And it is very tiring.

Since Ajmer is the land of Dayanand Saraswati and it is close to famous cantonment at Nasirabad and many business centres like Kishangarh, Bhilwara and Byavar and Nasirabad so a large number of air passengers would be available there. There are two headquarters of CRPF. And the officers have to reach to border areas of the country in no time. Therefore, in view of the above facts, I urge upon the Government to construct an airport at Ajmer and connect it by air with the rest of the country at the earliest.

**(vi) Need to set up an All India Ancient Sculpture Academy at Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh**

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): For centuries India has had a very rich cultural heritage in

different forms of Art. But with the change of time, our traditional arts are vanishing. The very survival of the India's cultural and traditional forms of art is at stake. Therefore, it has become necessary for the Government not only to preserve various forms of art of our country but also set up institutions to preserve them.

World famous Khajuraho temples are known for its architecture and sculpture. This great Chandel art exists here through it is on the verge of extinction in Bundelkhand area. Such centres are in South India, Orissa and Rajasthan. But slowly and slowly these arts are getting extinct. It is known to all that the UNESCO has declared the temples of Khajuraho as a world heritage. Therefore, I request the Government to set up an All India Sculpture Academy at Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh.

- (vii) **Need to hand over the unused land under Farakka Barrage Project to the government of West Bengal in various developmental work**

[English]

SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN (Jangipur): During construction of Farakka Barrage project more than forty thousand acres of land was acquired in the district of Murshidabad and Malda in West Bengal. Now the construction work is over. There is no proposal of further construction of any kind. It is observed that few thousand acres of land are lying vacant as unutilised. Out of which hundred acres have already been occupied through unauthorised means. In this situation it will be appropriate to hand over the unutilised plots of lands to the Government of West Bengal from whom those plots of land were originally acquired. West Bengal Government badly needs a good quantum of land for various developmental works, viz. setting up of medium and small scale industries, State Government office, hospital and rehabilitation programme.

I urge upon the Central Government to come forward with positive approach to hand over the vacant plots of lands in favour of the Government of West Bengal as early as possible.

- (viii) **Need to increase the percentage of reservation quota of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in proportion to their population**

DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA (Nellore): It is welcome that Constitution is amended from time to time with a view to include certain new castes in the list of

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to uplift them socially and economically. It is pertinent in this connection to add that the population of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities has increased to 24.75 per cent of the total population of the country, as per 1991 census. But the percentage of reservation has not been increased so far on *pro rata* basis of population increase. My suggestion is, though it is welcome to include some new castes that are under similar conditions of the other categories of Scheduled Castes, the purpose will not be served unless the percentage of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is increased proportionately.

I, therefore, request the Government of India to increase the percentage of reservation quota of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the basis of latest census figures available at the earliest.

- (ix) **Need to extend passenger train running between Jhansi and Banda up to Manikpur junction, U.P.**

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN (Banda): Very large number of the pilgrims of Chitrakoot district in Uttar Pradesh travel on train top on the occasion of Amavasya every month and on the other occasion too. Due to shortage of trains travellers sometimes lose their belongings and have to face hardship. People are demanding that to solve this problem train No. 1523/1524 passenger train running between Jhansi and Banda should be extended up to Manikpur junction so that the passengers of Chitrakoot-Karvi will get relief. This train is stationed on Banda station for about six to seven hours. This genuine demand of the people is neglected for the past 6-7 years on the plea of operational hazards. This has generated wide spread resentment among the people there.

It is requested that arrangements be made to extend this train upto Manikpur railway station and it should also be made daily at the earliest.

- (x) **Need to sanction pension to freedom fighters of Goa**

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia): Mr. Chairman, Sir, even though the matter has been discussed in the House several times the freedom fighters of Goa have not been able to get their pension yet even after Independence. Goa was in the hands of foreigners although the freedom fighters have done a great job even at the cost of their families and property. In this context Goa Government has submitted a report. When Goa was

a part of Maharashtra at that time Maharashtra Government had given this request to Centre Government.

I would like to request the Centre to meet their long pending demand of the freedom fighters of Goa and provide them pension at the earliest.

**(xi) Need to provide special grants to trusts promoting welfare of Muslim minority community in the country.**

*[English]*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): The Muslim minorities are still far below in education and Government jobs. There is urgent need to help more Muslim boys and girls, especially from poor families to get access to all fields of education, including higher and technical education. More representation has to be ensured for Muslims in Government jobs. More funds have to be allotted for free education of Muslims. A sum of Rs. 1500 crores be released to Moulana Azad Trust to safeguard these causes. Other Muslim trusts working in this regard may also be released grants so that they can sustain.

**(xii) Need to set up joint venture of NTPC and CCI for Making PPC Cement by Utilising Fly-ash**

*[Translation]*

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT (Janjgir): Mr. Chairman, Sir, many directions by the Hon'ble Supreme Court are available with regard to stopping of environmental pollution. As per the environment Ministry's Notification dated 14.9.99, fly-ash produced by Coal based power plants is to be used. 65000 tonne coal is burnt daily in Korba (Chhattisgarh) and about 26000 tonne fly-ash is produced daily. There are 82 Thermal Power station in India which produce 8.5 crore tonne of fly-ash each year containing lead, Zinc and heavy metal like arsenic silicon which are proving very dangerous for ground water, plants and animals. At present the Ministry of Energy can find a solution to this problem of manufacturing PPC cement by setting up Joint Venture of NTPC and CCI. The country can be protected from water, air and land pollution along with the safety of the families of officers and employees of CCI unit at Korba and Mandar of Chhattisgarh and also at other places in the country and fly-ash can be effectively utilised.

Therefore, it is requested that Industry Department should take initiative in this direction for setting up joint venture of NTPC and CCI.

**(xiii) Need to Solve Acute Water Problem in Jalesar Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh**

PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL (Jalesar): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards those villages of Jalesar Constituency in Uttar Pradesh where serious diseases are spreading by drinking contaminated underground water. Minerals chemicals are in excess in underground water of Mahopur, Areye, Naglapur, Sikandpur, Kutukpur, Raipur, Chilasani, Ramgarh, Ummergarh and Naglavanshi Nagla Nauji villages of Jalesar Tehsil of Etah District of Jalesar Parliamentary Constituency. The water there is hard and due to excess floride in water Teeth fall at the age of 35-40 years and people there have to defecate 4-5 times in a day. Birds etc. are also dying by drinking this water. Animals are also sent elsewhere due to shortage of drinking water. People become hunch-backed in some villages by drinking contaminated water. It is requested that the source of sweet and pure water be identified with the help of Central underground water survey.

14.31 hrs.

**THE HAJ COMMITTEE BILL, 2002**

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted for this Bill is one hour and I have got a list of six speakers. Therefore, I request all of you to be as brief as possible.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): Madam Chairman, I will be as brief as possible.

I beg to move:

"That the Bill to establish a Haj Committee of India and State Haj Committees for making arrangements for the pilgrimage of Muslims for Haj, and for matters connected therewith, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The Haj Committee Bill, 2002 seeks to replace the Haj Committee Act of 1959, which in turn replaced the Port Haj Committee Act of 1932. While the basic ritual of performing Haj, the reasons behind which Muslim men and women of all age groups and of all financial background seek to perform Haj in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, has remained unchanged, the modalities of

performing the Haj, the systems that need to be put into place, the means of transport and the number of Hajis travelling from India every year have all undergone a sea-change since the Haj Committee Act 1959 was brought into being. It is keeping this in mind that the Government has sought to bring forward the Haj Committee Bill, 2002 to replace this Haj Committee Act to change a number of fundamental aspects of the Haj Committee Act of 1959 that needed a change.

First and foremost was the centrality of Mumbai in the previous Haj Committee Act. This was natural in 1959 because by and large—not by and large, but all—Hajis left by ship from Bombay. It has over the last few years changed significantly. Last year there was no Haji going by ship. In fact, not only there was no Haji going by ship, but Hajis left by air from ten different points of embarkation from India. This in itself is a major change. The number of Hajis has shot up now to a point where from 24,000 in 1992 the number has gone up to 72,000 this year travelling under the Central Haj Committee.

Prior to 1981, all formalities relating to what is called the 'Qurrah', which involved drawing of lots of those who would travel for Haj, were performed by the Central Haj Committee in Mumbai. After 1981, all this work was decentralised to the State Haj Committees.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Sir, it should be Mumbai not Bombay.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please to not disturb. Let the Minister finish what he is saying. Please sit down.

[*Translation*]

It will be Mumbai. You sit down.

[*English*]

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH: Aside from the fact that it was Bombay when I was there, when all this was being done, it was still Bombay. So, I am talking from a historic perspective.

Now these State Haj Committees have a greater role to play. Keeping all this in mind and the fact that there are a large number of Hajis, we felt that both the Central and the State Haj Committees needed to be reconstituted and their orientation needed to be changed.

And for this, a new legislation needed to be brought forward. At this point, I would like to place on record the appreciation for my Ministry for the work done and Shri M.O.H. Farook, Member of Parliament, for the initial hard work and the ground work that went in with spirit.

I would like the House to take this Bill into consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to establish a Haj Committee of India and State Haj committees for making arrangements for the pilgrimage of Muslims for Haj, and for matters connected therewith, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK (Pondicherry): Madam, I rise to welcome the Haj Committee Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already been appreciated by the Minister.

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK: Thank you, Madam. This is a D-Day for us. In fact, we have been working for this for the last 18-20 years and at last, we are able to get through these things.

A Committee was appointed as early as in 1970s and I was asked to head the Committee. I have gone through all the stages. Representation had been received, educated Muslim people's views had been looked into, *ulemas* had been consulted, and a comprehensive Bill had come at that time. I do not know what happened later. To my disappointment, it had been put in cold storage. Afterwards, Shri Salim Sherwani who was the Minister of State called a meeting and then the whole work had been restarted. We did the work. While doing that work, we wanted to see that representations from various parts of the country should be adequately looked into, it should be broad-based and at the same time, more democratic also. With that basis in mind the Bill has been brought forth. I am thankful to the Minister for having brought forward the bill. I must tell that this Government has been kind enough to accommodate all the Haj pilgrims who had applied last year and we are able to do some substantial work.

There are a few things which I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister. In page 2, Clause 3, of the Bill, it is said that the Committee shall have its Headquarters at Mumbai. I am not against having the Headquarters at Mumbai. But is it mandatory on their

[Shri M.O.H. Farook]

part to have it only in Mumbai? The Minister should reconsider this point. It is not necessary to have it only in Mumbai. It can be anywhere else also. At a later stage, if a contingency comes over there, then you have to go according to the Act and we cannot do anything. So, is it mandatory and is it necessary to have it only in Mumbai? ...*(Interruptions)* That is one thing that I would like to ask you. We are not against having it in Mumbai. ...*(Interruptions)*

The second point which I want to bring to your notice is this. For the present, it is going on in the correct direction. What is the work of the Haj Committee abroad? In fact, I have given an amendment that "after India", you may insert "abroad also". If it is technically difficult for the Minister to do it, then I am not pressing at all. But what I wanted to impress upon the Minister is that this Haj Committee should also have some work to do in Saudi Arabia. With the passing of time, a mere Haj Committee is not going to help. On the other hand, it is a Government-to-Government contact which is being done because they have brought it to such a level that only the Ministers have to look into it. The Minister was kind enough last time to go over there and sign the Haj Agreement for 2001.

Now, the Haj Bill of 2002 has come. Therefore, I feel that it is necessary that it has to be passed. I do not know about the diplomatic immunities that are there. But I personally feel that the Minister should look into this matter. This Haj Committee should do the work which we are doing now in Saudi Arabia because it is necessary.

The Bill is going to be passed today. We support the Bill out and out. We would like to see that this Bill is applied for the coming Haj period because we have already started the work and we are doing the work which is needed to be done. It should be expedited and it has to be done on war footing. Otherwise, it would create difficulties. There are some technical difficulties which we are going to face. You have to make the rules. What I am suggesting is that you prepare the rules immediately. You can keep them ready so that it can be put in the House in the coming Session. State Haj Committees can be organised in this direction. My only plea is that all the activities can be coincided. This Act should be implemented immediately. This is what exactly is my plea to the hon. Minister. The Government should take it up. For that whatever action is necessary we should try to do it. This is all what I want to say. I congratulate the Minister. I am the happiest person today. I have been working for this for the last eighteen years.

Now, this has come true. I must congratulate this Government for having brought this Act.

*[Translation]*

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK (Anantnag): Madam Chairman, I would like to congratulate the Government for bringing this Bill in this House. I would also like to congratulate the young hon'ble Minister for this. I would also like to congratulate Minister of Civil Aviation and the Prime Minister that they have increased the number of direct Haj flights from many places. We had been demanding in Kashmir for the 50 years for a direct Haj flight but it was never given. But now direct flights are available from Kashmir, Kerala, Lucknow and from many other places. I want to congratulate to both the Ministers for this. This bill contains two-three important things for which I would like to support this Bill strongly, one of them is that Haj Committee would be constituted on democratic lines. It is a very good thing.

Secondly for the first time there is accountability in Haj Committee. I do not know what type of accountability was there earlier, but now for the first time the Committee will be answerable to the Parliament. Earlier complaints regarding financial and other things will be no more there Haj Committee has to perform several duties. One of them is that training will be imparted to the Hazis. I have to make a suggestion that Government of India should produce a film at the time of Haj and that film should be distributed amongst State Haj committees and they should show the film to the people. Then people will understand that how Haj is performed. This is very necessary. I have been to Saudia Arabia. As per my experience what I feel and what is the desire of the people is that.

*[English]*

There should be a film made on the performance of Haj.

*[Translation]*

The duration of Haj Yatra is five days. It should be shown in the States of India where training is given to Hazis so that they could perform the frija of Haj in right manner. Even I told earlier that Government deserves congratulations for bringing this Bill. This Government brought this Bill. Even earlier several attempts were made to bring this Bill. This Act will not be completed unless rules are framed in this regard. Acts are made but rules are not framed immediately, and hence purpose of the Act is defeated.

[English]

It is because of rules. Rules are not framed. So, they always remain violated. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister that he should take it as a personal case to get the rules framed and brought before this House. After that, this Act can be implemented.

With these words, I strongly support this Bill. I would request the House that it should be passed immediately.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (Murshidabad): Respected Madam, I rise to support the Haj Committee Bill. This Bill has been brought forward in place of the first Haj Committee Act of 1959. After 43 years, this Bill has been placed before Parliament. I know about that. This was drafted in 1997. After five years, it has been placed before Parliament. I welcome this Bill because it is better late than never.

Before going into the details of the Bill, I would like to share with the House what type of change has taken place in the total scenario in the last 43 years. First, earlier all pilgrims were going for Haj pilgrimage by sea from the Port of Mumbai. Now, it has been discontinued from 1995. Secondly all the pilgrims are going for Haj travelling by air by chartered flights from different parts of the country. Third, the number of pilgrims has increased rapidly in the last one decade. Already, the hon. Minister has informed that in 2002, it was 72,000 pilgrims. In 1991, it was only 18,299 pilgrims who performed Haj. In 2000, the number of flights operated was 191. So, everybody feels that a lot of pilgrims are going to Jeddah and Mecca to perform their religious work.

In this regard, I would say that a lot of decentralisation work already has taken place in the meantime as far as application and other things are concerned. The hon. Minister has already mentioned here about it. Now, the work has been decentralised. It has been given to the State Haj Committee now. The earlier perspective was that the Ministry had given weightage to Maharashtra, especially to Mumbai from where the pilgrims were going by sea. But the perspective has changed. I have already mentioned about it. Many of my friends have told earlier about it. So, in this changed perspective, I would demand that the Office of the Central Haj Committee should be shifted to Delhi, the National Capital, from Mumbai. It is very much convenient to everybody. Mumbai Office can act as a Regional Office. So, this is my first demand. I would like to bring this fact to the attention of the hon. Minister.

I would be very brief. So far as the management of Haj facilities is concerned, it handles Rs. 400 crore every year as part of Pilgrimage Fund. Parliament is not informed about it. The accounts of Haj committee are not placed before Parliament or any other House. It is the public money. So, it is not only my suggestion but also my demand that a provision should be made in the present Bill to the effect that the accounts of Haj committee would be audited and placed before Parliament. At the present moment, none of us knows about the balance sheet and the accounts of Haj committee. We have been talking about handling of different types of funds. We have some news also in this regard. Management of Haj affairs would be transparent, if the Haj committee places its accounts and balance sheet before this august House.

Next is about the role of the Haj committee. Shri M.O.H. Farook has already mentioned that the role of the Haj committee is confined only to India. In the object of the Bill, it is said:

"To collect and disseminate information useful to pilgrims, and to arrange orientation and training programmes for pilgrims;

to advise and assist pilgrims during their stay at the embarkation points in India, while proceeding to or returning from pilgrimage, vaccination, etc

to finalise the annual Haj plan with the approval of the Central Government, and execute the plan, including the arrangements for travel by air or any other remains, and to advise in matters relating to accommodations."

We all know it. But the major role has to be played not in India but in Jeddah, Mecca and Madina. Who would do it? Our mission should do this. But our practical experience says that our Mission has failed to do this job. Actually, somebody has told me that it was the work of the Mission, and somebody else has said that it was the work of Central Haj Committee. There is no coordination between the Central Haj Committee and the Mission. I would request our hon. Minister to look into this matter.

What type of difficulties the Hajis are facing? In a nutshell, I would like to mention that it is about the accommodation, especially in Jeddah and in Mecca, it is not up to the mark. Hon. Minister may say that an average of 2.5 to 3 sq. mtr. land is allotted. Most of the persons who avail this facility are aged people. This is not sufficient for them. We must look into it.

[Shri Moinul Hassan]

The next one is about the medical treatment of *Hajis*. I came to know that in the last *Haj* pilgrimage, only 250 medical practitioners were there. I would like to say that it was very much inadequate.

The hon. Minister has already told that there are ten embarkation points. I would like to demand for more embarkation points for the pilgrims.

Every *Haji* is trying to carry the sacred water called *abe jamjam*. At present, it is not possible to carry the sacred water along with them. In other flights, they are allowed to carry sacred water. In the mean time, they have lost their sacred water, which has created great repercussion among *Hajis*. I would request the hon. Minister to look into this and other *Haji*-related matters. For example, they request for hassle-free journey and hassle-free package plane but the difficulty is growing day-by-day.

Another point I would like to say is lack of coordination. Aged senior citizens of our country are going abroad. There is a lack of coordination in the major area in *Haj* operation. Here, authorities have failed completely. There is an utter lack of information regarding flight schedule to *Haj* pilgrims to Jeddah, etc.; dislocation in the schedule; delay in the schedule; and their relatives in India are kept in dark. They know nothing about their whereabouts.

On behalf of my Party, and on behalf of myself, I support this Bill. I would request the Minister that he must overcome all the lacuna and see that the journey of senior citizens of our country is made hassle-free.

With these words, I conclude.

\*SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER (Serampore): Madam Chairperson, today this Bill for formation of Haj Committee has been moved by our hon. Minister. I am grateful to him and also to the Government of India to bring this Bill. I support this Bill. Today we are discussing about the formation of Haj Committee which will look into the arrangements for the pilgrimage of Muslims for Haj. It is a matter of regret that we have discussion umpteen times on Mandir or Masjid but we never discuss about the basic change needed in the lives of the minority community. Who are the people who go for Haj? They are the aged people from 50 to over 70 who save their hard earned money with great difficulty and go for pilgrimage for Haj. They are from Bihar, UP, from Bengal and from any part of India. Haj Committee has done many commendable job. But there are some small matters

which may seem small but are very important. These people who want to go for Haj belong to very poor family. Most of them are illiterate. They save whatever little amount of money they have. When they find they have the required amount for Haj pilgrimage, they undertake it. But by that time they become quite old. Then old people from far flung villages have not traveled by electric train or even by bus. How they would be able to travel by air? They do not know how to travel by air. I went myself for Haj two years back. We were in Delhi Airport. Before the plane took off, the pilgrims had to perform *wuzu*. While performing this, they threw water all over the toilet and the floor of the plane was spoilt. The authorities has to cancel that particular plane and arrange another new plane for the pilgrims. So my first plea to the Minister through you Madam and also to the Members of the Committee is to formulate some procedure so that these ignorant rustic people get some kind of training and orientation and acclimatise themselves in the new surroundings.

My second point is about the types of accommodation provided around the area of Haj. I am not saying that all the houses provided for the pilgrims are bad. But some houses are far from the Haj site and some are 3 storey buildings mostly without any lift. Most of the pilgrims are quite aged with frail body. It is difficult for them to go to their rooms through so many steps or to come down and walk long distance to reach the place of Haj. The hilly roads are also uneven and walking on that hazardous road and reaching Mecca becomes difficult for them. After the pilgrimage their return journey to the accommodation also becomes tiresome. Next problem they face is medical facility. It is true that Government of India provides large number of medical facilities. These facilities are available only in some particular centres. These illiterate ignorant aged village people have difficulty to reach these medical centres and get treatment for their ailment. I have my own experience when I undertook the journey for the Haj. I have seen that these aged people did not know where to go and get medical treatment. They were trying to locate the centre like a blind person. The Government of India, the Haj Committee have been doing a commendable job for the holy pilgrimage. But if they look into these small problems faced by the illiterate or half-literate villagers, they will do immense help to these people.

I would like to mention another problem. After the pilgrimage when they reach the airport for their return journey they have to wait there because of delay or cancellation of the plane they are supposed to board. As it is after paying for the pilgrimage, they spend the small

\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.



amount left for gifts for the near and dear ones. So these people sometimes do not have the money even to buy drinking water or to pay for bare necessities during their waiting time in the plane. The waiting time in the airport may vary from 24 hours to 48 hours. This happens because of negligence on the part of Government as well as the embassy. I have written many letters to the Government to pay attention to this type of problem faced by these people. The Haj Committee should widen its monitoring system so that these people do not encounter such situation.

One more thing I shall mention. There are some brokers who arrange for the Haj pilgrims privately. I request the Government to ban these private brokers so that they cannot exploit the poor villagers in the name of Haj. They charge huge amount of money from the poor villagers, make poor arrangements there, they keep them in the accommodation far off from the Haj site. These poor people suffer a lot due to these private brokers. They should be totally banned.

Madam, I would like to draw the attention of the House to another important issue although this is not related to the concerned Bill. A large number of children may be normal or handicapped are kidnapped from West Bengal and transferred to Saudi Arabia through Nepal or Bangladesh for begging. There is a vicious network which is wide spread in this area. Sometimes the people are caught and the children are made to return to our India. This is an embarrassment for the Government. I urge upon the Government to conduct a thorough enquiry into the incidences so that people involved in the shameful act must be booked and stringent punishment must be given to the culprits. Then only it will be possible to curb this criminal activity and do justice to the unfortunate children.

With these words after supporting the Bill and thanking you for giving me an opportunity to speak, I conclude my speech.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You stand before you are asked. I am calling Shri Ramdas Athawale for one minute because he has to go somewhere.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (*Firozabad*): Shri Ramdas Athawale is a problem, why you are calling him unnecessarily? He can speak lateron.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him speak. You please sit down.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Is it necessary to call Shri Ramdas Athawale on each and every subject under the sun?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants to say something about Mumbai.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: What is an important thing which Shri Ramdas Athawale is going to say and how it is going to enhance the knowledge of the House?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why you are objecting? He has to move an amendment, let him do so.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is an important Bill and I support this Haj Committee Bill. Our Omar Abdullah ji is a very good Minister and that is why when he tendered his resignation it was not accepted. I am also supporting this Bill because you are the Minister incharge. Its office which is in Mumbai. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has to make a very important point, let him speak. When you spoke, nobody interrupted you.

SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER: What he is talking about resignation. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I am supporting it. The Bill of Haj Committee is very important.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You speak about your amendment.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I fully support this Bill. My only demand is that its Head Office which is in Mumbai should remain there. If you want you can open the second office in Delhi; I have to say only this much. At last, I support this Bill once again.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you moved any amendment? No notice has been given in regard to Mumbai.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: There is a notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It has not come here.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: It has not come, I have a printed version with me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has expressed his sentiments that Mumbai office should not be shifted.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (*Firozabad*): Hon. Chairperson, we are discussing Haj Committee Bill, 2002.

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

This bill has been brought to mitigate problems of Haj pilgrims. This is a good attempt. Just now Ramdas Athawale has said that the headquarters of Haj Committee should be in Mumbai, I do not agree with it.

I have objections on two points pertaining to this Bill. I oppose that its headquarter should be kept in Mumbai. Secondly, provisions have been made in the bill to provide assistance to the state Haj Committee offices for the working in those offices, but no provision has been made for the salaries of staffs of Central office of Haj Committee. This is certainly not a good thing.

Hon. Chairperson, the report of Parliamentary standing Committee pertaining to the Ministry of External Affairs came on 21.8.2001. I want to humbly submit through you that it has been mentioned that they elicited requests from common people and organisations talked with people and have come to the conclusion after discussion with all sections of people. I want to humbly submit that for the location of Central office of Haj Committee, discussion was not held throughout India. I want to say that one meeting was held in Kozhikode, second in Mumbai and Third in Hyderabad. The meeting at Calcutta could not be held due to controversy. All in all, three meetings were held throughout India.

Hon. Chairperson, such meetings were not held in North India, neither in Rajasthan, nor in Uttar Pradesh, nor in Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Bihar nor in Delhi. No consultations with people were held where from 80% people go for Haj. One fourth of the pilgrims go from Uttar Pradesh alone. No consultation was held with such people. Moreover, Omar Abdullah is sitting here, he should be asked whether people of Kashmir were consulted? The Prime Minister of India Atal Bihar Vajpayee comes from Lucknow Parliamentary constituency. Whether people of Lucknow were consulted? Shahnawaj jee comes from Bihar. He is Civil Aviation Minister. Whether people of Bihar were consulted?

Hon. Chairperson, where from 80 percent of people go for Haj no meeting was held there, people of that area were not consulted or taken into confidence. The committee has also mentioned in the Report that it took important suggestions from ex. M.P. Shri Saiyyed Shahabuddin. When the recommendations of Standing Committee come out, a statement of Shahabuddin Saheb was published in the press that he was not in favour of keeping central office of Haj Committee in Mumbai as has been recommended by the Committee. Therefore, I want to say that this is totally impractical and has been recommended without paying attention to the geographical

location of India. I also want to humbly submit when people used to go by ship there was utility of keeping the Central Office of Haj Committee in Mumbai, but today due to developed communication and air age not only Mumbai but the whole world has shrunk down. Today people go by air instead of ship. In this situation, there is no justification of keeping the Central Office of Haj Committee in Mumbai.

In the recommendation of the committee it has been provided that after clause by clause consideration the committee recommend that following amendment may be made in Haj Committee Bill, 2002. In the Bill, amendment, recommendations and reasons have been given. In the reasons it has been provided that for Jaddah, Mumbai is a boarding place, basic infrastructure is available here, and permit facilities are available. I want to ask from Minister how many people go Jaddah by Steamer for Haj. I said that utility of Mumbai was existent is past but not now.

Hon. Chairperson, all concerned offices are in Delhi. Haj Directorate is in Delhi, Civil Aviation Ministry is in Delhi, External Affairs Ministry is in Delhi, Ministry of Home Affairs is in Delhi. All the Haj related offices are in Delhi. We the Members of Parliament help common man in reaching those offices. After the office is shifted in Mumbai, who will help them?

I would like to make another submission that many Haj pilgrims cannot go for Haj due to certain reasons. They apply, deposit money and despite that they cannot go. For refund, they face many problems. How many people would be able to go to Mumbai to get back money. Therefore, I say that the way in which this is being done is unjustified.

It has been said in it that they want to keep office in Mumbai because this is a big office and its building is very big. Shri Omar Abdullah Saheb, office is not run by big building. You formed three new states—by that time whether their legislative building was ready? Did they had their buildings? We want to say that question is not how big is the office. When every state has state office, what was the use of making zonal offices? Why do you want to put additional burden? Because the work of this committee is not helped by the Government. They are run by the money of Haj pilgrims, therefore, it will be an unnecessary wastage of their money. I think this will not be justified in any way.

I want to make through you one more submission that in this sequence when the recommendations of the

standing Committee came on August 21, 2001, all organisations of Haj Pilgrims met Hon. Shri Jaswant Singh. Members of Parliament also sent applications to the Prime Minister. Before this they come to Delhi and on 2nd of December, 1999 staged demonstration before Parliament House. After that on 8th of April 2000 a big meeting of Haj pilgrims of Purvanchal was held in Venia Bagh, Varansi. They came again to Delhi on 10th of August, 2001. After this they met the Minister of External Affairs on 8th of December, 2001. They wrote an application to the Prime Minister on 26th of November, 2001 which had the signature of all MPs. A memorandum was given wherein it was said that at any cost this office should not remain in Mumbai and it should be shifted to Delhi.

I want to humbly submit, through you, that keeping the central office of Haj Committee in Mumbai is absolutely impractical. If the Government really want to do justice with Haj pilgrims, they should immediately announce that the Central office of Haj Committee ought to be in Delhi.

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would not like to say much on this Bill. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are many speakers who wish to speak, so you should conclude in five minutes.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: I would finish my speech in five minutes, when you are in the Chair I do not take much time.

I would like to thank you for giving me time to express my views. I would like to welcome this Bill but I would like to submit that its head office should be in Delhi. The Members have to listen grievances of Haj Yatris of their respective Parliamentary Constituencies. The MPs of southern states may say that its head office should be in Mumbai. Shri Omar Abdullah, being a Minister, should take decision keeping in view the difficulties faced by the Haj Yatris. The Home Ministry and Ministry of External Affairs are located in Delhi so it would be better to set up its head office in Delhi. The Standing Committee has said that Jeddah in Saudi Arabia is near to Mumbai. It is a irrelevant logic that since Mumbai is near to Jeddah in Saudi Arabia so its head office should be in Mumbai. This is a very irrelevant thing.

I would only make a submission that 75-80 percent Haj Yatris come from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. So the Central Office should be in Delhi. Haj Yatris have to face

several difficulties. Sometimes many people who want to go for Haj are unable to go there. Their amount is deposited. They go to pillar to post to get their money back but they do not get any success in this regard.

The main reason is that the office is in Mumbai. Omar Sahib many people come to me who have not gotten their money back so far. I try to contact the Chairman, or Members but they are not available in Mumbai or in Delhi. The Haj yatris are not very rich people. They saved their hard earned money for undertaking Haj pilgrimage. This is a big amount for them. It is very sad that they have to spend money to get their money back. The Government and Haj Committee should make some arrangements to refund their money at the earliest.

The planes should be in good condition. The third point I would like to mention that bunglings occurred in chartered planes by which Haj yatris travel. Several persons tried to earn money through it. There should be transparency in it. The old planes are being used for Haj pilgrimage. The Haj pilgrims face difficulties due to it. It is very sad that people try to earn money through this noble purpose. I request Shri Omar Abdullah to make good arrangements so that the money of pilgrims should be used properly. The good planes should be used for Haj pilgrim. The yatris should know that there is no bungling and nobody earned money through it. I would like to request that there should be transparency in it.

I would conclude in five minutes. In the end I would like to say that the pilgrims do not remain in touch with Haj Committee when they reach Saudi Arabia, Haj Committee does not has any power in Saudi Arabia. In our country the Haj Committee provides facilities to Haj yatris but at Jeddah, Macca, Madina in Saudi Arabia Haj Committee has no power. There is an embassy, but it cannot look after the people. It is very difficult for a common man to contact embassy or councilor. The Government can make an amendment in it or it can be passed now as it is. A rule can be enacted later on so that Haj yatris would not face difficulties. You may be remembering the incident of fire occurred there. Several Indians were killed there in that accident. Several people were missing. The relatives of deceased in India and Saudi Arabia were worried about them. The Haj Committee should be given power for taking care of pilgrims in Saudi Arabia also. A Department should be set up in Embassy which should work under the Haj Committee. This Haj Committee should have power to issue instructions and directions for providing facilities to pilgrims. Omar Sahib I would like to submit one thing

[Shri Rashid Alvi]

that the Haj Committee should be given all powers to look after the interests of pilgrims and take care of them right from the very beginning when they make request for this pilgrimage till their arrival in India after completing their pilgrimage. Such a law would be very useful.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Madam Chairperson, today is a very happiest day for me in my parliamentary career. I have been demanding for the new Bill on Haj ever since I entered into Parliament in the Tenth Lok Sabha. Today I am very happy my friend, Shri Omar Abdullah, is fortunate enough to move this Bill.

So far as India is concerned, Haj is not a small matter. India is the second largest country in the world in terms of Muslim population. India has now gone up to the level of competing with any other Islamic country in the matter of Haj because there are more than hundred-thousand Hajis taking part in the Haj from India, of which only 77,000 to 80,000 are being managed by the Committee. Rest are as private Hajis.

Therefore, we have been governed by a Haj Committee Act, which unfortunately was very old and in the present circumstances 1959 Act is redundant. At this point of time the Government has come forward to pass this Bill. We are all happy that the Government has taken this step now.

I would like to say that the most important characteristic of this Bill is that this Bill is of a representative character. Secondly, this is a Bill giving accountability to the Haj Committee. I am fortunate to have had the privilege of being associated with Shri Farook at the time of drafting of this Bill. I have also been associated as Convenor of the Sub-Committee of the Standing Committee on External Affairs, which toured several States to elicit public opinion. So, this Bill is not a Bill prepared and drafted only in a Committee Room. This Bill also has the reflection of opinion of a wide spectrum of Muslim community in the country. They have contributed very much to this Bill. The Committee under my leadership visited Mumbai, Calicut, Hyderabad and Kolkata. Also, the Committee, during its sittings here in Delhi, invited a wide spectrum of personalities and experts for their views on Haj arrangements. All of them had given valuable suggestions.

Haj is not an ordinary event. Haj is a bigger Organisation, a bigger arrangement. How we arrange or organise a Haj is what would tell us whether a Haj is

good or bad. Many of my hon. colleagues have pointed out here several lapses as well as inadequacies in the management of Haj. It is a very important matter and I hope the Government should take note of it.

My friend, Shri Ramjilal Suman has vehemently opposed the location of the Haj Committee Headquarters at Mumbai but I think it is because of a misconception. The Reserve Bank of India, the major authority dealing with the finances of the country, has its headquarters at Mumbai. Should it be shifted to Delhi? There are many such institutions of Central Govt. having their Headquarters in Mumbai. So far as Haj is concerned, as I stated, Haj is an arrangement which must have a culture of its own. Mumbai has that Haj culture. If it were to be suddenly transferred to Delhi, it would be very difficult for the Government to manage it. Those who are experts in Haj matters are required to be in-charge of the affairs. Mumbai has experienced people in abundance on Haj matter. Again, the various State-level Haj Committees have been given more powers in this Bill. Therefore, there is no difficulty if the Headquarters continues at Mumbai.

As I mentioned that the Committee toured Calicut, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Kolkata. In Mumbai, I recall, the Central Haj Committee itself came before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs and said that it wanted the Headquarters of Haj Committee should continue in Mumbai. If you take the number of Hajis, the largest number is in UP. I do admit it but UP includes Uttaranchal and people from some parts of Madhya Pradesh. The second largest is Maharashtra, the third largest is Gujarat and the fourth largest is Kerala. So, the maximum number of Hajis would be from Maharashtra, Gujarat and Kerala. If those States would like to have the Headquarters in Mumbai, how can you deny it? I am asking a logical question. Therefore, I would ask the hon. Minister—as the Committee suggested—to have the Headquarters in Mumbai and a regional office in Delhi for purposes of efficient functioning of the Haj Affairs. Let there be one more regional office in Lucknow also. I know, the Committee have suggested establishment of one regional office each at Lucknow, Calicut, Kolkata and Srinagar. The State of Jammu and Kashmir is only one State in India where the largest population is from the Muslim community.

The suggestion of the Committee was also lauded even by many of the responsible Ministers. So, what suggested was one in Srinagar, another in Lucknow and third one in Kolkata and the fourth in Calicut may be accepted. It is because hon. Member, Shri Ramji Lal Suman was asking why are we spending money. Why do we require regional offices? But it is a necessity.

Madam, in North-Western region, there are small States. They will find it extremely difficult to travel either to Mumbai or to Delhi. Therefore, we suggested one regional office in Kolkata. ...(*Interruptions*) In Assam also. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ahamed, please stop cross-talking.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI E. AHAMED: Madam, had that provision been inserted here, this confusion would have been over? Therefore, Haj Committee Headquarters, which is there in Mumbai from time immemorial, should not be disturbed at this stage. But there are many amendments to be made. We can very well make those amendments. My hon. colleague. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri E. Ahamed, please wind up.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI E. AHAMED: Madam, I was also very much involved in this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I know that. That is why, you are an expert.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Madam, Now this is the only Bill on which we would like to contribute. I am sorry, this is one of the Bills. Of course, this is not the only Bill. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ahamed, you can contribute only on this Bill.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI E. AHAMED: Madam, this is a very important Bill. My friend Farook mentioned an amendment. He has mentioned about the functions and responsibilities which is given to the Haj Committee and these should also cover abroad. He has mentioned the word 'abroad'. The Saudi Government is functioning within their own framework. Even if we make such a law, what is the guarantee that the Saudi Government will cooperate with us? In all other Islamic countries Haj matters are being looked after by countries, the Government themselves. Here, because of our Constitution and because of our functions, we constituted a Committee, which is looking after Haj Matters. This Committee is doing everything. But Saudi officials are not prepared to discuss with the

Committee. They do only with the government. That is the whole trouble. Saudi officials want everything through the Diplomatic Mission. So, even if there is a provision which we insert here, the Government of Saudi Arabia may not recognise us. This is the whole trouble. Therefore, we must also make sufficient arrangements that our Mission in Jeddah should hold more discussion, more consultation and more association with the Haj Committee on Haj arrangements in Saudi Arabia.

Madam, the House should laud this Bill because this is the only Bill giving the accountability of the Haj Committee to Parliament. For the last several years or several decades what happened to the money collected by them? How have the earlier Haj Committees utilised the money? Have they utilised the money properly? Have they utilised the money in accordance with the responsibility given to them? There is nothing—no audit, no public scrutiny.

Madam, this august House should be happy to know that the present Bill has made a provision that not only accounts should be audited, but all the accounts also should be placed on the Table of this House. With respect to the State Committee, the accounts etc., under the law, should be laid on the Table of the Legislature of the State.

Therefore, without any complaint, let us just pass this Bill today and whatever the amendments including that one is suggested by my dear friend, Shri Ramji Lal Suman with respect to the headquarters, we can think about it later on.

SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (Sangrur): Madam Chairperson, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion.

I think, it is the happiest day in the life of the minorities in a secular country like India that the NDA Government has brought forth this Bill which meets the long-pending demands of the Muslim minority, which is the largest minority in India. It brings out clearly the secular credentials of the NDA Government. But Madam Chairperson, the minorities are not understood well enough in this House and in the Indian State.

Now, for instance, this is just one of the demands that the Sikhs have made that they should have an All India Gurdwara Act. This struggle led to 'Operation Bluestar', led to the assassination of Shrimati Indira Gandhi, all of which was very unfortunate. If we are misunderstood and not heeded, I think the minorities will

[Shri Simranjit Singh Mann]

not get justice in the State. For instance, I want to tell you that at the very outset of Independence in 1947, the then Indian Government put the Sikhs in the Criminal Tribes Act. We were called criminals. Then, since the inception of the Indian Constitution in 1950, as per article 25, we, the Sikhs, were clubbed with the Hindus. This is something that we have struggled against. I was very sceptical about the Constitution Review Commission, but fortunately, my scepticism has been put to rest and the Commission has decided that the Sikhs will hereafter have a separate identity and will be called a separate religion. This is a very good thing and I think the NDA Government will swiftly bring in a Constitution Amendment Bill and amend article 25 of the Constitution which is obnoxious to the Sikhs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You must now speak on the Bill, Shri Mann.

SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Madam, this is an opportunity for the minorities that we must also voice our concerns. As I have told you, 'Operation Bluestar' would never have occurred had we been understood by the majority. Now, in the first decade of the 20th Century, a Sikh Marriage Act was enacted by the British Government, but we are still governed by the Hindu Marriage Act and, similarly, we are governed by the Hindu Code Bill. We demand that a separate Bill for all this should be brought before the Parliament.

Like the *Haj* pilgrims who go to Mecca for an annual pilgrimage, the Sikhs also go to Pakistan to visit their holy shrines. As per the Liaquat-Nehru Pact, it was decreed that the Sikhs would visit Pakistan four times, but this year, on the day of the *Baisakhi*, none of us was allowed to visit our holy shrines in Pakistan on the pretext that there was tension between India and Pakistan. But the pilgrimage to Amarnath continues without any let or hindrance, though a lot of pilgrims are murdered by the militants, and the security forces are also shot dead by them. The *Haj* pilgrimage to Pakistan will begin in the second week of June this year and I hope, the hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, who is steering this Bill, will keep our *jathas* in mind for June.

We, the minorities, have very little say in the enactment of India's foreign, defence and home policies. To drive the lesson home, I would just give you one example.

There was a great reign of terror and persecution of the Hindus in Bangladesh. The Government of India sent

specially its National Security Adviser, Shri Brajesh Mishra to Dhaka and he resolved the issue. Though I am still not satisfied with the policies of the Bangladesh Government *vis-a-vis* the treatment of the Hindu citizens, yet, nevertheless, there was a gesture by the Government of India.

A similar thing happened to the Sikhs in the USA last year after the 11th September attacks. We were mistaken as Arabs and Afghanistanis and what not. The Sikhs were massacred in a spate of hate crime by the Americans. Madam Chairperson, the hon. Prime Minister went to the United States; the hon. Minister of Home Affairs went to the United States and the hon. Minister of External Affairs went to the United States. My complaint is that none of them took up the persecution of the Sikhs in United States with the State Department or with President Bush. This is a very discriminatory thing. I think the Indian Government should have, at that time, thought about giving advertisements in the American papers saying that the Sikhs are not Iranians, Iraqis or Afghanistanis.

Day before yesterday I tried to explain the issue of Operation Bluestar. But, unfortunately, there was a great shemozzle in this House then. It was not my purpose to set the cat amongst the pigeons. But I do not know how the two estranged parties got at each other's neck. The question was raised by one Party and your party acceded to my request that an apology to the Sikhs should be given whereas the Treasury Benches opposed it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Chair does not belong to any Party.

SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: They said that it was the work of the Congress. Madam Chairperson, if national policies are to be governed by the Party which does the act, I do not think Korean people could have ever got an apology from the Japanese. The successive Governments to the War Cabinet of Japan could have said that this was the work of Prime Minister Tojo and Emperor Hirohito and the same thing could have been attributed by the Germans to the Nazis and they would have never apologised to the Jews. Similarly the Americans would have never apologised to their Japanese citizens had they taken this plea and said that President Roosevelt imprisoned his own Japanese citizens.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mann, please conclude. There is no time.

SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Madam, I will take a minute.

I will be very grateful if the minorities are also given some time to tell their woes, to tell their troubles. I am very grateful for the opportunity I have been given. I support this very great Bill. It is a landmark in India's secular history.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Shri P.C. Thomas to speak now. Shri Thomas, I am giving you three minutes.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Thank you Madam.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We do not want only one community to support the Bill. You are all supporting it. Please support it and speak only for three minutes.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: I will confine to the time.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Shri Thomas, you can speak, not necessarily on the Bill, but on anything.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ahamed, he does not need your advice. He will speak what he wants.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Madam, I often speak only for two minutes. I am very happy that on this auspicious day, during the 50th year of this Parliament, we are about to pass a very important Bill which will give a sense of security and a feeling of patriotism for all sections of India and especially to the minorities.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your patriotism does not depend on this Bill.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Patriotism in the sense that it is the duty of each individual to the country.

I think, we are executing a very important duty.

SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Madam Chairperson, the hon. Member is saying that everyone will have a sense of belonging. That is what he means.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: It could be more than the sense of belonging. Now, to strengthen that, I think this Bill will be of great importance. Madam, I would submit one or two small changes with regard to this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot move amendments now.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Yes, I cannot move amendments to the Bill, but these changes could be

considered. It was suggested that the law must be implemented immediately. I would like to submit with regard to Section 15 and Section 27. Section 15 deals with Central Committee and Section 27 deals with State Committee. Regarding filling up of the vacancies, I would submit that if the Government could fix up a time for filling up of the vacancies, that would have been very good because it has to be done immediately.

Now, I think that the Section which says about the Head Office at Mumbai, is well taken care of by the additional statement that regional Offices may be opened in consultation with the Central Government in any other place. So, I think that the provision is good enough and there may be necessity for Regional Offices because more and more of pilgrims are coming out from many areas, including my State, Kerala. I know that much more number of pilgrims will come after the enactment of this Bill because the duties which are going to be given to the Committee will take care of many of the facilities which are to be given to these large number of pilgrims, who are going to go from India. I think that this Bill is to be welcomed and the provisions of the Bill are also to be welcomed.

I think that this democratic way of Committee formation, the accountability which has been stated here and the way in which the composition of the Committee has been distributed are well enough to be accepted. I think, the number of pilgrims which is increasing every year will increase further. As has been stated, there were 24,000 pilgrims in 1992 and the number rose to 72,000 in the last year. I think, it will be more than a lakh under the control of this Committee itself. So, it is very important to see that the facilities are improved. The implementation of the duties of the Committee is very important. I think that the complaints with regard to the Committee or with regard to the functioning of the Committee are also to be taken care of. Of course, there are some powers which are given to the Central Government also in case there is a necessity of monitoring. I think, that has to be taken very serious note of.

As has been stated, there are practical difficulties. In Saudi Arabia, there are so many practical difficulties which are arising. I think, those things are to be taken care of but the functioning of the Committee can be confined only to India as far as this Bill is concerned. I would submit that in whatever way our Foreign Mission could act in this regard to expand the functioning of it, it would be helpful. Of course, it has been stated in the Bill that it could be in India, but as far as diplomatic relations are concerned, the Committee as well as the Government

[Shri P.C. Thomas]  
may take all steps in this regard to see that the functioning is well maintained.

Lastly, many pilgrims are going from my State, Kerala. There are, of course, some facilities which are given at the airport, at the Kolkata Airport and two other airports. I think, some more facilities are required. Of course, it does not directly come under the purview of this Bill. I would submit that not only at these three airports but also at other airports, many facilities have been given, but these facilities can be improved further. If these facilities can be improved, it will be of great help to the *Hajis*.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Madam, from the Congress Party, we welcome this legislation and thank the distinguished Minister for having brought it to the House. I also congratulate Shri M.O.H. Farook for his devoted work in this Committee in the first stage of drafting followed by the second stage of drafting and his contribution, along with Shri Ahamed.

I have nothing much to add except three things, and I will do so in four minutes. First, for the last many years, there is a misconception in the country that the Government is giving extra support to Haj pilgrims. This misconception should be dispelled because a secular country like India has certain obligations to different sections of people, including protecting the rights of the minorities.

In this regard, many people may not know about it, I would like to point out that in all the *Kumbh Melas*, it is the Government of the State that takes care of the whole responsibility and it spends a huge amount on setting up of the infrastructure. In the State of West Bengal, every year, we spend huge amounts on pilgrims who come to the *Ganga Sagar Mela*. We also spend huge amounts on *Amarnath Yatris*. We also spend money on several religious festivals and on pilgrims. Therefore, it is not correct to say that this Government, from the very beginning, is taking care of Muslim pilgrims only. This misconception should be removed. In our State, Shri Hannan Mollah will agree with me, during the *Durga Puja*, which is a regular feature in Bengal, to accommodate the pedestrians in the city of Kolkata in a proper way, the entire cost is borne by the State Government, which is not for one day, but for ten days. Therefore, it should not be construed by any section in the country that the Government of India is accommodating, supporting and giving money only to a particular section. We are doing nothing other than accommodating them in the best possible manner. I feel that much more should have been done.

Thirdly, I would like to refer to the Mumbai-Delhi controversy over the headquarters. Earlier, possibly, it was planned to be located in Mumbai because it has a seaport and it could meet all the logistic demands. I am not saying that it should be located there only. Had it been my intention, I would have moved an amendment. Now, the central congregation point is definitely Delhi, under the umbrella of the Home Ministry and the External Affairs Ministry, where the pilgrims can interact with the Embassy. If it is the regional offices—in South, it can be located either in Calicut or Bangalore; in the West, it can be in Mumbai; and in the East, it can be either in Guwahati or Kolkata, but certainly, the supervisory headquarters should be located in Delhi. If it cannot be considered today, the Minister can certainly think over it later on. I do not want to pick up a fight on this. If the headquarters is in Delhi, it would be more appropriate.

Finally, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to clause 16. It has been stated that the Committee should be so powerful and so effective that it can deliver goods. I am not saying that the Committee cannot deliver the goods. Clause 16 says: -

“The Central Government shall appoint a person from a panel of Muslims officers of the Central Government and of State Governments not below the rank of Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.”

My appeal to the hon. Minister is that instead of saying ‘not below the rank of a Deputy Secretary’, you should say ‘not below the rank of a Joint Secretary’ because the Chief Executive Officer of this Committee is to interact with the Ambassador, the Embassy officials and the Government of India for several days. If a Joint Secretary-level officer interacts as the Chief Executive Officer, then a lot of credence will be given to his words rather than to the words of a Deputy Secretary.

With these words, I conclude my speech and thank the Minister for bringing this Bill.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would only like to submit that earlier it had its head office in Mumbai because people used to go for Haj pilgrimage by ship. Now people with vested interests want that head office should remain in Mumbai. Many people of Haj Seva Samiti come to me. Their submission was that its head office should be in Delhi. I support this Bill. If there is any conspiracy that would not be tolerated. Delhi is the capital of India and all the head offices are situated here. Now people go to Haj by



air. I would like to say that its head office should be in Delhi. Its Regional Offices can be set up at Mumbai or in other States.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Abdullakutty, what is the point you are trying to make? I will just you one minute. The time for the debate is over now. There is one more Bill to be taken up after this and then we have the discussion on Bihar. I cannot call anybody's name now.

SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY (Cannanore): Madam, I would like to mention just three points.

The question of recruiting *Haj* volunteers is very important. Recruiting volunteers from India is a very costly thing and also gives rise to complaints. So, it is better to recruit them from Saudi Arabia. So many Indians who are working there have settled down in that country for employment. If people, who are not *Haj* pilgrims, are taken from India, then there is every possibility that they would misuse this opportunity. They would simply take this opportunity for making personal gains.

Madam, secondly, the States and the Centre together should provide sufficient funds for effective functioning of the All India *Haj* Committee. The contribution from the individuals alone is not sufficient. I strongly plead that the concessions as are now being given to the *Haj* pilgrims should be continued. It symbolises the secular character of India.

Madam, finally, the private agencies who are engaged in the transit of *Haj* pilgrims exploit them by charging heavy traveling expenses. Different agencies charge different rates. There is no uniformity in the charges. The *Haj* Committee should look into this aspect and the charges must be made uniform.

Sir, with these words, I strongly support the Bill.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): Madam Chairperson, it is not mentioned in Quran that if people do not go to Haj, they would not salvaged. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: We would not like to have discussion over this issue.

[*English*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Madam, this is too much. This remark should be deleted from the records. ...(*Interruptions*) It should be expunged from the records. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing, except what is said by the Minister, would go on record.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Madam Chairperson, people who do not go to perform Haj, do they not get salvation. ...(*Interruptions*)\*

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Nothing is going on record.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Madam chairperson, a very serious Bill is being discussed. ...(*Interruptions*)\*

[*English*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: This is too much. This Parliament cannot encourage this kind of a thing everyday. ...(*Interruptions*) What does he think of himself? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going on record.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The Government has brought forward this Bill and we are supporting it and he is saying all these things. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why are you getting provoked by him? The Minister is giving reply. Nothing is going on record.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please ignore his remarks. Why are you getting provoked by his comments. Please sit down. Let the Minister reply now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Madam Chairperson, it is very sad....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister would give a reply. Please sit down.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): Madam Chairperson, for the entire duration of this debate and till I got up to respond, I took great satisfaction from the fact that this debate rose above religious differences; it rose above finger-pointing and casting aspersions. In fact, I took a great degree of satisfaction from my hon. friend and Member of this House, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi's speech where he conveyed—what perhaps I could not have done because I am a Muslim and for me to have said what Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi said would perhaps have been taken incorrectly—that what Governments do, they do not just do to appease one community. I belong to the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi was able to allude to the fact that the West Bengal Government does things in their State for other communities. I know for a fact what my State does during the Amarnath *Yatra*. The amount of money that is spent in indirect subsidy on Amarnath *Yatra*, I know. I spent three years studying in Mumbai in college. I know what arrangements the State Government makes for the various festivals, particularly when the statues of Ganapati are immersed in the ocean. Yes, there is a difference between direct subsidy and indirect subsidy...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GUDHE (Amrawati): They do not get subsidy.

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH: Let me reply.

[English]

Because this is a direct subsidy and others are indirect subsidies, this perhaps irks people. This question was raised as to whether if money is spent on behalf of a Haji, Haj is considered complete or not. Yes, there is a debate within the informed sections of Islam whether this is true or not. But it is not for us to question. At the end of the day, this money is the people's money. It is not coming out of some individual's pocket. Government of India raises money from the people through taxes. It does not say that this is Hindu money, Sikh money,

Christian money or Muslim money. It is Government's money. Were some hon. Members of this House to suggest that we collect only Muslim money and then put those notes into the Haj, that is inconceivable. The fact is that the money comes into the Central kitty. It is Government money. It has been collected from all sections of society and it is spent on all sections of society. That is the end of that.

It is also the commitment of this Government that we would like to bring down the expenditure. In keeping with this, whatever needs to be done in terms of reviewing and gradually making the Muslim community of India capable of going for Haj in the same numbers, if not larger numbers, the need for increased subsidy, we will work with the Muslim community of this country to ensure that happens. For the time being, we will not do anything that will affect the ability of the weaker sections of the Muslim community to travel to Saudi Arabia and perform the Haj rituals.

This aside, Madam Chairperson, I would like to place on record my deep sense of gratitude to all the Members who participated in this debate. As I said, they raised the debate above the levels of caste and religious divisions and brought in some very valid points about the Haj, the Central Haj Committee, and the way in which it performs. Broadly, the debate touched on three areas—the location of the Central Haj Committee Office, the role that the Central Haj Committee plays or does not play in Saudi Arabia, and the transparency that is required. Transparency involves the accommodation and all other aspects of the functioning of the Central Haj Committee as well as the Government. I will touch on each of these areas individually.

On the location of the Central Haj Committee Office and whether it should be in Mumbai or Delhi, initially the Government of India, when they had brought about the first draft of this, had suggested that the Central Haj Committee would be located in Delhi for the same reasons that hon. Members mentioned with regard to Delhi being the capital, proximity to all the various Government offices and the various other facts that would be part of this. The entire Bill was referred to the Standing Committee of the Ministry of External affairs. They considered all the pros and cons of shifting this office, all the various other aspects of it.

16.00 hrs.

Madam Chairperson, I may be incorrect in my assessment but my understanding is that the Standing

Committees of Parliament are reflective of the opinion within Parliament. They do not reflect any one school of thought, any one religion. To suggest that the Standing Committee of Parliament recommended the retention of this in Mumbai or it is part of a broader plot or a plan, would be incorrect.

The figures are available with me. As per those figures, amongst the 45 Members of the Standing Committee, 44 recommended that the Central Haj Committee Office be retained in Mumbai. Now, this is not part of some plot on the part of the people living in Mumbai. It is not part of some plot on the part of the Government. It is straight and straight.

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: It is mentioned in the list of business that discussion on Bihar will be taken up at 4 o'clock.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The reply to this Bill is going on. Yes, there was supposed to be a discussion on Bihar issue at 4 o'clock. But let the Bill be passed first. Within a few minutes, we will pass it and then go to Discussion on Bihar.

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I disagree with this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am taking permission from the House.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I take the sense of the House that we will complete this Bill within 10 minutes and then take up the discussion on Bihar. Does the House agree?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I disagree with this. Will you do anything by taking permission to the House?...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have taken the sense of the House.

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I disagree with this...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are the only one who disagree, otherwise all Members are agreed on this.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It will be finished in just ten minutes.

...(*Interruptions*)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The time for which we waited for years has come now...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: When I asked you not to speak because it has to be finished even then you are speaking?

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH: Madam, Chairperson, if I am not interrupted, I will finish it in about 10 minutes...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, do not disturb the Minister when he is replying. We will finish it quickly.

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH: As I said, Madam, the Standing Committee on the Ministry of External Affairs examined all the pros and cons; looked into the aspect of shifting of the office and its viability.

There was only one dissenting voice amongst the Members of the Standing Committee. Forty-four Members of the Standing Committee were of the unanimous opinion that the Central Haj Committee Office should be retained in Mumbai for very simple reasons. I know people alluding to the fact that Mumbai being close to *Jeddah* is not relevant from the point of view that it is not a sea journey that is undertaking nowadays. But one fact that they perhaps slipped their attention is the fact that by and large direct flight connectivity between India and Saudi Arabia is better from Mumbai than it is from Delhi. So, that of course, was one factor.

[Shri Omar Abdullah]

But more importantly than that, the Central Haj Committee functions on a 'no profit no loss' basis. For them to be able to recreate infrastructure in Delhi at this time when the Government is trying to bring down costs, for them to be able to shift all operations at this stage would also have been extremely inconvenient.

16.04 hrs.

[SHRI P.H. PANDIAN *in the Chair*]

Yes, it was suggested that six regional offices be opened. And this is not a recommendation that the Government of India has dismissed. All that the Government of India is saying is that 'Right now, when we are trying to strengthen the State Haj Committees and we want the State Haj Committees to play a greater role, we feel that it is unnecessary to put greater burden on the Central Haj Committee.' But as and when the Central Haj Committee feels that it is necessary to open regional offices in other parts of India, the Government of India will be going along with this recommendation.

So, all that is to do with the location of the Central Haj Committee Office.

Now, as far as the role of the Central Haj Committee within Saudi Arabia is concerned, this is also incorrect to suggest that the Central Haj Committee has no role to play in Saudi Arabia because that is not true. The Central Haj Committee plays a very important role. Perhaps, one of the aspects in the Haj in Saudi Arabia is the accommodation selection. The State Haj Committees send, what is known as, building selection teams. These building selection teams select buildings according to the specifications that are laid down by the Government of India, which means that the buildings must not be more than a fixed distance away *Kaba Shareef*, the buildings must all have lifts; the buildings must all have telephones and other facilities.

Once these buildings are earmarked, then the Central Haj Committee sends officers to approve these buildings that have been selected by the Building Selection teams. At no stage is the building selection or selection of accommodation, purely a responsibility of the Ministry of External Affairs. Both the State Haj Committees as well as the Central Haj Committee are indeed part of the process of building/accommodation selection, at every stage.

In fact, in Medina Sharief, the accommodation in Medina is selected only by the Central Haj Committee.

In fact, the Ministry of External Affairs has no role to play in the selection of accommodation in Medina.

Even as far as transport agreements are concerned, the transport agreements between the Saudi Transport Syndicate and the Haj Committee are entered into or signed by the Chairman and the Members of the Central Haj Committee. The Chairman and the Members of the Central Haj Committee are also involved in the process of air chartering. So, the Central Haj Committee is kept a part of the process; they are involved in all the crucial processes with regard to accommodation and transport, both in India as well as in Saudi Arabia. This role will continue to remain and we will continue to involve the Central Haj Committee in all the important aspects of the arrangements that are to be made both within India as well as in Saudi Arabia.

The third part pertains to the transparency and the financial aspects of the Haj. Sometimes, there have been allegations of lack of transparency or financial mismanagement within the Central Haj Committee and in activities associated with it. In keeping with this, it was my commitment to the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, when I visited last year to sign the agreement, that each and every one of the contracts entered into for hiring of accommodation would be provided to the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

This would allow them to investigate in their own way, whether the price paid was correct, whether there was any under-hand dealings in selection and hiring of accommodation, etc. This is something that we have done and we will continue to do.

Aside from that, to ensure that Parliament is kept a part of the process and there is never an allegation again that Parliament does not know what is happening with the money, audited accounts of the Central Haj Committee will be placed on the Tables of the Lok Sabha and of the Rajya Sabha.

During the course of the debate in Rajya Sabha, an hon. Member made a suggestion that perhaps the Central Haj Committee could be brought under the purview of the Vigilance Wing of the Ministry of External Affairs. We felt that this was an excellent suggestion. Once the bye-laws of the Central Haj Committee Act of 2002 are framed, the functioning of the Central Haj Committee will be brought under the purview of the Vigilance Wing of the Ministry of External Affairs, to ensure that no allegation of financial mismanagement go uninvestigated and unpunished.

There were points that some of the hon. Members made with regard to refunds that have to be made to the pilgrims. Yes, Madam Chairperson, this would be something that would be a cause of major concern.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: 'Chairman' has taken over now.

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH: Sorry. Kindly excuse me, Sir. I had not seen.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are making me 'Madam'. Do not make me 'Madam'!

The other day, I said that Parliament has got all the powers except to make 'man a woman and woman a man'.

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH: I will not do that Mr. Chairman, Sir. That power is not even in my hands.

SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it only means that Indian Parliament has the power to make you a woman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is why, Parliament is sovereign and supreme!

SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: It means that this is the most powerful institution than the British Parliament itself.

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH: That means, I was not paying attention to see who is in the Chair and I was paying attention to what I was supposed to be saying. But perhaps, I should have been more careful.

Anyway, Sir, with regard to refunds to pilgrims, which was talked about, I can understand that this would be a cause of major concern to pilgrims who have put a lot of their hard earned money into it. In the byelaws that are to be framed, we will have to take into account this very important aspect and ensure that a time-line is fixed for refund of money to the pilgrims. It has been our endeavour to ensure that the money comes back as swiftly as possible.

Sometimes, there is a problem with regard to the claims that are made and the validity of those claims. But as soon as the claims are found to be valid, the money is refunded. We will also have to look at the possibility of whether we can involve the State Haj Committees more actively. It is because they are the

people who are in touch with the pilgrims; and better coordination between the State Haj Committees and the Central Haj Committee will perhaps allow us to refund this money earlier.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Anybody can go for *haj*, either through some group or through the private operators. The private operators are taking about 30,000 *hajis* from India. But those private operators are not accountable to Indian Government. There is no regulation on them. Of course, it is difficult to put a check on them because persons can go independently. We cannot regulate them. But if something happens to these *hajis* after arriving at Mecca and Madina or on performing Haj, since they are the citizens of India, our Mission there will not be able to know anything. Will the Government consider making some arrangement so that such *hajis* also report to our Mission so that they oversee them in case there is any danger to their life?

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a fact that a much larger number of complaints come from *hajis* who travel through the private tour operators than from the *hajis* who travel under the umbrella of the Central Haj Committee. We are working with the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to see how best we can ensure that the *hajis* who travel under the auspices of the private tour operators also receive the sort of amenities and facilities that the *hajis* who travel under the Central Haj Committee umbrella receive.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (*Sambhal*): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is right that Government of Uttar Pradesh should do this work. A land was purchased in Okhla on behalf of Haj Committee of Government of Uttar Pradesh on which their office can be built. Today the price of that land is Rs. 150 crore. This piece of land was purchased during the period of my Chief Ministership through Government of Uttar Pradesh. A Haj building (*Bhawan*) was to be constructed on that land but today encroachment of that land is being done. Uttar Pradesh Haj Committee is not interested in building a Haj *Bhawan* on that land. My submission is that if you could interfere or the Central Government could give some help then people who go for Haj will have facility to stay there. I took this decision for the convenience of Haj pilgrims. Today the price of that land in Okhla is Rs. 150 crore.

My submission is that either the Government construct a Haj *Bhawan* on that land, or both the Central Government and Government of Uttar Pradesh interfere

[Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav]

or by giving instructions or providing aid in constructing Haj Bhawan by Haj Committee. I am sure that the Government will have the interest in constructing Bhawan on that land. It will be better if the Government make some efforts in this regard. I regret that inspite of providing such a valuable land, no work is being done on that land. Apart from that, I had given some extra fund but even after that Haj Committee did not get any work done. The Government should see that matter.

[English]

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH: Sir, the State Haj Bhavans are the direct responsibility of the State Government and the State Haj Committees. That having been said, if there are any concrete suggestions that the hon. Member, Shri Mulayam Singh has, if he can send them to me, we will have them examined and if they are viable we will take them up.

As I was saying, Mr. Chairman, Sir, so that I could finish as quickly as possible, a number of Members who spoke alluded to the fact that *hajis* come back from Saudi Arabia extremely dissatisfied with the arrangements and the experience that they have there. That having been the case, this year we tried to ascertain how much weightage is there in this allegation that by and large *hajis* come back unhappy with the experience that they have. Therefore, we circulated Post-Haj Survey forms amongst a large number of *hajis* who came back from there, who were travelling under the auspices of the Central Haj Committee. In fact they were circulated in English, Hindi, Urdu, Malayalam and Tamil to get as broad a sample as possible and the results were revealing in as much as we found that only five per cent of the pilgrims found accommodation in Mecca to be unsatisfactory; only seven per cent found it in Madina; only five per cent found the staff in Mecca Shareef to be unsatisfactory; eight per cent were unhappy with the airport service and only three per cent found the medical staff unsatisfactory. When you look at the fact that 72,000 people travel under the umbrella of the Central Haj Committee, the percentages of dissatisfaction in single digit, I think, is a credit both to the Central Haj Committee for the role that they perform and also for the officials of my Ministry stationed in Saudi Arabia for whom the arrangements of *haj* are more a labour of love than a part of the job, because they rise over and above the work that is expected of them officially, to ensure that the *haj* arrangements year-in-year-out get better and not worse.

Sir, finally, it has been and will continue to be the endeavour of this Government to improve the Haj

arrangements. One last point I would like to end on is the point that one of the hon. Members made that Hajis are not allowed to fly back with their Aab-e-Zamzam. Sir this is incorrect. All Hajis are allowed to fly back with 10 litres of Aab-e-Zamzam in their accompanied baggage. Anything over and above that must come in separate aircraft as part of cargo. Not only that, the airlines also make arrangements of bottles of Aab-e-Zamzam on the plane to be given to those Hajis who are unable to carry Aab-e-Zamzam with them on to the aircraft. So, it is the endeavour not only of the Government but also of the airlines to ensure that the Hajis got as complete an experience as possible and come back as satisfied with the Haj arrangements.

Sir, with this, I would like to commend this Bill to the House and request that the Bill be passed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to establish a Haj Committee of India and State Haj Committees for making arrangements for the pilgrimage of Muslims for Haj, and for matters connected therewith, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramdas Athawale—not present.

The question is:

"That clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 4 was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 5 was added to the Bill.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramdas Athawale—not present.

The question is:

"That clause 6 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 6 was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 7 and 8 were added to the Bill.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri G.M. Banatwalla—not present.

Shri M.O.H. Farook, are you moving your amendments?

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK (Pondicherry): Sir, I do not insist.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramdas Athawale—not present.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 9 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 9 was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 10 and 11 were added to the Bill.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri G.M. Banatwalla—not present.

Shri Ramdas Athawale—not present.

The question is:

"That clause 12 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 12 was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 13 and 15 were added to the Bill.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri G.M. Banatwalla—not present.

Shri Ramdas Athawale—not present.

The question is:

"That clause 16 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 16 was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 17 to 19 were added to the Bill.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramdas Athawale—not present.

The question is:

"That clause 20 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 20 was added to the Bill.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramdas Athawale—not present.

The question is:

"That clause 21 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 21 was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 22 was added to the Bill.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Clause 23.

Shri Ramdas Athawale—not present.

The question is:

"That clause 23 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 23 was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 24 to 26 were added to the Bill.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri G.M. Banatwalla—not present.

Shri Ramdas Athawale—not present.

The question is:

"That clause 27 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 27 was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 28 was added to the Bill.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri G.M. Banatwalla—not present.

The question is:

"That clause 29 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 29 was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 30 to 49 were added to the Bill.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramdas Athawale—not present.

The question is:

"That clause 50 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 50 was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 51 and 52 were added to the Bill.*

*The Schedule was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and Long Title were added to the Bill.*

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): As a Member representing Mumbai, let me thank the Minister for keeping the headquarters in Mumbai. I am indeed grateful to him...*(Interruptions)* I wanted to bring it on record.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we will take up item No. 16.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): We should take up Discussion under Rule 193...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Should we take up Discussion under Rule 193 or item No. 16?

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): Sir, this is a very important legislation...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: No. I would like to submit that Discussion under Rule 193 should have been taken up at 4 o'clock. But the Chair gave a direction that after passing the Haj Bill, the Bihar issue would be taken up. Let us not delay the discussion. Discussion under Rule 193 should be taken up first...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister says that we wants just five minutes.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We want to discuss the Bill...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, you want to discuss the Bill.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You want a detailed discussion on the Bill.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: It cannot be passed without discussion...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, we will take up item No. 17.

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

16.25 hrs.

## DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

### Financial Package for the State of Bihar

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman Sir, on behalf of 8 crore, 30 lakh, 55 thousand



people of Bihar I congratulate you, this House and Hon. Members of this House for the discussion on this important issue under Rule 193 that precious time of the House is being given for discussion on financial crisis, backwardness and problems of Bihar.

Sir, Bihar has a glorious history. The glorious history of Bihar has been mentioned in all the periods—Adikaal, Vedikkaal and Puranic Kaal. Bihar has been mentioned in the history of Lord Ram and Mahabharata of Shri Krishna. When Patliputra was the capital of Hindustan (India) during the period of Magadh then Hindustan was at the top of the world. Lord Mahavir was born in Bihar and message of non-violence and peace spread from Vaishali. Bihar is the Karm-Bhumi of Lord Buddha. Lord Mahavir got enlightenment in Bodhgaya itself. Lichhavi is the mother of democracy. We have not learnt democracy from Abraham Lincon but our ancestors created democracy. 2600 years ago, Lord Buddha has said in Vaishali—they reign by making rules. Rule of law prevails here. I would like to quote some lines of Rashttrakavi Dinkar in regard to Vaishali-

"Vaishali Jan Ka Pratpalak, Gana Ka Aadi Vidhata.  
Jise Khojta Desh Aaj, us Prajatantra ki Mata.  
Ruko Pathik Ek Kshan Mitti Ko Sheesh Nawao,  
Rajya Sidieyo Ki Samadhi par, Phool Chadhate Jao."

Sir, democracy was born in Bihar...(*Interruptions*) . It is necessary to know the history. The race, which acts keeping in mind the lessons from the history can never be enslaved. This is my firm belief. Samrat Chandragupta, Samrat Ashok and Guru Gobind Singh were born there. There is confluence of all religions. In Bihar, first war of Independence was fought against British empire under the leadership of Babu Kunwar Singh in 1857 in Bihar itself in which Britishers were defeated. 23rd April, is celebrated as Vijay Diwas in the name of Babu Kunwar Singh...(*Interruptions*). People from all over world used to come to acquire knowledge in Nalanda and Vikramshila Vishwavidalya. ...(*Interruptions*). Now the question has been raised that why the condition of Bihar has become poor. Bihar and Jharkhand was one at the time of Independence and Bihar was at third place in Hindustan...(*Interruptions*). Bihar was an example in good Governance and Bihar was on third place according to per-capita income...(*Interruptions*). I am placing all figures. The moment you come to know the confusion regarding Bihar will be removed. The per capita investment in first five year plan and second five year plan, was Rs. 25 and Rs. 40 respectively in Bihar whereas it was Rs. 50

in other States. During third five year plan it was Rs. 67 in Bihar while Rs. 90 in other States of the country....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not disturb him. Let him speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, three annual plans were formulated in which capital investment on Bihar was Rs. 41 and national average of all States was Rs. 60. During fourth five year plan, the per-capita investment was Rs. 81 in our Bihar while national average of all States of the country was Rs. 141. During fifth five year plan, the per-capita investment in Bihar was Rs. 140, while national average of all the States of the country was Rs. 232. As a result, Bihar which was at third place in basic infrastructure and social-service, slipped to ninth place during the first five year plan and 13th place during second five year plan, 16th place during third five year plan and 22nd place during fourth five year plan. Today Bihar is at the bottom. During 1991-2001, the national average of increase in population was 21.34% and that of Bihar was 28.43%...(*Interruptions*)

Sir, the density of population in Bihar is 880 per one square kilometer. At present Bihar is the most densely populated State in the country. We were at second place in the world, but after division we slipped from second to third place and not to fourth place.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt him. Let him speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, Bihar has been destroyed by flood, drought, water logging and natural calamity. Bihar was endowed with Mines-minerals. The question of development will be raised inspite of having minerals like coal, mica, iron, copper, Aluminium, Granite etc. Specialists, intellectuals and these people who are in dark would like to know that when all resources were in Bihar then why Bihar lagged behind. Due to freight equalization policy, Bihar could not move ahead inspite of having all mines-minerals and industries,

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

it lagged behind. This is right that Rajendra Babu, Jagivan Babu and all great personalities of India's politics were born in Bihar but they did not have the feeling of regionalism. They considered the entire country as their own country, that's why Bihar lagged behind.

Sir, Planning Commission had constituted a Committee—Dr. Majumdar Committee. The report of the Committee will make it clear to those people, who are in dark as to why Bihar lagged behind. I would not like to take much time on that report. A report with regard to Industrial Development Imperative for Bihar and Jharkhand has also been prepared. Industries Commission has been constituted, I want to quote two lines from this report of Bihar Industries Commission, whose chairman was Dr. Jamshed J. Irani of Tata Industries.

16.34 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

[English]

"Bihar is not just a State but rather a state of mind; it is like a hat that has lost its shape because everybody likes to wear it. When it comes to Bihar, it is more a matter of attitude, opinions and impressions than of facts which often get exaggerated."

[Translation]

It has been said further

[English]

"Much like the mythical bird phoenix, Bihar is bound to rise from its own ashes. As Bihar and Jharkhand begin the journey to redeem their pristine glory, the formation of the Bihar Industries Commission, along with the other Commissions on Finance, Infrastructure etc. becomes the first significant step in the direction."

[Translation]

People laugh on Bihar, and raise questions on Bihar but people of Bihar are toppers in I.A.S. and I.P.S. Exams, they are succeeding in each & every examination because people are intelligent there. Our labourers of Bihar increase production by their hard work and if our labourers of Bihar stop working the factories of Hindustan will be closed. Our students whether they are in India or abroad always come first. Whether they are in Delhi University,

or J.N.U., they always come first. This speaks of the quality of people born in Bihar.

One tragedy of Bihar is that it was divided three times in twentieth century. First time it was divided from Great Bengal in 1912, second time Orissa became a separate state in 1937 and Jharkhand was separated from it on 15 November, 2000. The English rule was against its division, during the tenure of Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru, and Smt. Indira ji, it was said that it should not be divided but now it has been divided due to political reasons...(Interruptions) It is Bihar's misfortune...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): You got it passed in Bihar Legislative Assembly...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will got on record except what Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh would say.

...(Interruptions)\*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Leader of Opposition Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, late Shri Madhav Rao Scindia and opposition were against it and these people were also against it. You know that Maharashtra was fought for one month and Disrobe of Draupadi took place in the court of Duryodhan...(Interruptions) Coward people could not say anything. Sir, same circumstances were there. All warrior of Bihar were in favour of division and said that our amendment should be dismissed. ...(Interruptions) It was a very tragic condition. It is also necessary to know about the financial condition of Bihar after division. Bihar has the population of eight crore thirty lakhs and Jharkhand has only two crores fifty-nine lakhs. One fourth income has left in Bihar and three-fourth income has gone in Jharkhand. Centre's loan on Bihar is 37 thousand crore, three-fourth of it has left on Bihar and one-fourth of it is on Jharkhand. Bihar has to return rupees 2300 crore rupees, 2700 crore with interest etc. in 2000-2001 and in 2001-2002 respectively to Central Government. All investments have gone in Zharkhand...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): Maharashtra has progressed, Gujarat has progressed, Chennai has progressed—how they have made progress? Why your state is still poor?

\*Not Recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except what Dr. Raghuvansh Babu would say.

...(Interruptions)\*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: It will be decided later. Please do not interrupt me now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: This matter belongs to the public of Bihar and to their life and death...(Interruptions) we will object it. We will not withdraw from objecting it. I want to request you that please do not interrupt me so that I could complete on this issue...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please maintain peace in the House. Raghuvansh Babu please address the Chair. Why are you indulging in cross talk while you are a good orator.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: We studied like doctor Lohia's way and I am not afraid of in these things and not get nervous from interruptions. We will follow the way, which we should follow. Government has decided to give three-fourth to Bihar and one fourth to Jharkhand while financial condition of Bihar is very bad. What happened after division of Bihar? All mineral resources have gone to Jharkhand. Tata, Tisco, Telco, Bokaro, HEC, Mecon, R.I.T., B.I.T., ISM. Sindri, Indian school of Mines, Jhumritallya, all these have gone to Jharkhand and nothing has been left in Bihar only flood, drought and sand have left in Bihar.

Today what is the condition of Bihar? I want to talk about the economic indicator of Bihar in brief. Its area is 94193 square kilometer while population is 8 crore 30 lakhs. Its density is 880 per square kilometre, urbanization is 10.26 percent while country's urbanization is 25.7 percent, Bihar's per-capita income is 3835 while national average per capita is 16223, its growth rate is eight thousand and has become negative.

In Ninth Plan state domestic products were 8 percent whereas now it has become 0.14. G.D.P. of country in Ninth Plan was 9 percent but Bihar's G.D.P. was indicated as 1 percent.

Now they are making fun of Bihar. Poor people, labourers and farmers have deposited Rs. 37 thousand crore in banks by restraining themselves but you have taken everything from Bihar. You are calling Bihar as poor state while we have deposited Rs. 37 thousand

crore. Andhra Pradesh is an advanced state. Still it has deposited Rs. 26 thousand crore. I will not mention about other states but credit deposit ration of Bihar is 21 to 23 percent whereas in other states it is 70, 80 and 90 percent. The money which we have deposited in banks is now being used in other states.

Though investment is taking place in Bihar but Bihar is still poor. Country's literacy rate is 65 percent but literacy rate of Bihar is 47 percent. National average below poverty line was 37 percent while in Bihar it was 54 percent. Now national average is 27 percent and in Bihar it is 44 percent. In north eastern states it is below 40 percent. And in same places it is 20-25 percent.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Patratu, Swaran Rekha and Telughat thermal power projects of Bihar have gone in Jharkhand. Small thermal power projects have left in Barauni and Muzzafarpur which can generate only 540 m.w. power whereas power projects which generate 1400 m.w. are in Jharkhand. As far as national electrification is concerned national average is 35 percent but in Bihar it is only 6 percent. Bihar state is far behind other states of the country. In the same way there are 30 thousand villages in Bihar which are without roads but in Andhra Pradesh of such villages is 15 thousand. Rs. 197 crore have been given to Andhra Pradesh under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sarak Yojana whereas only Rs. 150 crore have been given to Bihar. Government claims that all villages will be electrified till 2007 and all the villages will be linked by road. The state which has more villages which are not linked with road has been given less amount and the state which has less villages not linked with road is getting more amount. What sort of justice is this?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the same way in regard to telephone national average is 3.7 percent while in Bihar it is only 0.9 percent. Besides Road, telephones in Bihar has also left far behind in regard to railways. In view of all these things members of Parliament of all parties in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha belonging to Bihar have given a memorandum to the Prime Minister on 28 November, 2000. All members of Parliament had a meeting before that. A core committee under the chairmanship of Shri Nitish Kumar was constituted in that meeting. More than one and a half year has passed but core committee has not met even once. Bihar was poor and it is backward today also. All development works have been stopped there, it has been ruined, politics has been dominant there. Due to this a meeting was held at the residence of Shri Nitish Kumar. At that time Shri Yashwant Sinha had said that a meeting will be held among all members of Parliament, Government of Bihar

and Central Government. Date was also fixed for that meeting. Date of meeting was changed once again but now politics has become dominant on it. That meeting could not be held. We had given a memorandum to the Prime Minister. Two years have been passed but no action has been taken in this regard. In memorandum it was said that loan of Bihar should be waived off. The investment which were made from loan has gone in Jharkhand. All industries, institutions, have gone in Jharkhand. Three fourth burden has been increased on Bihar.

For the eighth five year plan Rs. 12,000 crore were earmarked for the state of Bihar but the plan was cut short and only Rs. 5,000 crore were spent. Remaining amount was not spent. Similarly per capita investment was not made as was required. There are so many reasons behind it. But the required amount has not been spent. Then where is the money? Rs. 12 thousand crore were supposed to be spent during the 8th five year plan, out of which only Rs. 5 thousand crore were spent. Similarly, Rs. 14 thousand crore were earmarked for the ninth five year plan, but only 10 thousand crore were spent. An amount of Rs. four thousand crore remained unspent. We were supposed to get Rs. 7,000 crore in the Eighth and Ninth five year plans under Central plan and Centrally sponsored schemes, but the amount was either not allocated or it was a meager one. Bihar has been kept deprived of many a Central Plans and centrally sponsored schemes. I will elaborate in further.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are precedence of waving off of loans. Earlier, loans of several states have been waived off. We have made correspondence with Finance Department, and was told that Finance Commission takes care of all such issues. When the report of 11th Finance Commission came out, it did not contain the issue of bifurcation of Bihar. For this reason, Finance Commission could not consider over it. Since the matter has not been raised before the commission, so our stake for waiving off of loans is justified. Therefore, loans of Bihar state should be waived off and that is why we have sent a proposal in this regard.

Our other demand is that Bihar should be accorded the status of special state. This issue pertaining to according special status to a state is decided in the meeting of National Development Council. There is not any hard and fast statute for it. Some norms have been prescribed such as, border area, *per capita* low income, tribal population, hilly area etc. After fulfillment of these five conditions, a state is accorded the status of special state. But new formed state Uttaranchal has immediately been given the status of special state, but Bihar has not

yet been given the same. This is discrimination. Bihar should be given the status of special state. Since Bihar is a border area, its 709 k.m. long area shares international border with Nepal. Bangladesh is also very close, though not attached. It should also be taken as border area.

Bihar is in a disadvantageous position in the matter of natural resources. Twenty-seven of its districts face flood every year. Seven-eight districts suffer from drought. 65 lakh hectare of its land is flood-prone. Floods from rivers coming from Nepal are also a cause of destruction in Bihar. These floods take away with them crops, roads, schools, colleges, grounds, public property private property, homes of the poor etc. poor people are killed, their cattle are killed. Bihar suffers irreparable unlimited loss due to natural calamities in this way. Bihar has lowest per capita income *vis-a-vis* to those states who have been given the status of special states. Hardly two or three states out of the states having special status have per capita income lower than Bihar. Otherwise these states have per capita income higher than the average per capita income of Bihar. Then, there is tribal population in Bihar. The state is having 15 to 20 percent scheduled tribes and 55 to 60 percent backward and very backward castes. And as far as tribal population is concerned, which is very backward. Bihar fulfil this condition, too. Fifth point is the hilly area that touches Nepal. Bihar fulfil that too. So Bihar can be given the status of a special state. When hon. Prime Minister went laying down the stone of Bihar rail bridge, Chief Minister of Bihar made this demand in the historical meeting of Gandhi Maidan. I think that his demand should be considered and I hope he would consider it.

After bifurcation, some unusual circumstances emerged, that's why the State should be given status of special state. When the bifurcation was made, hardly any party made the commitment that financial package will be given. And said that whatever loss accrued would be compensated. BJP, Samata Party, Congress and all other parties, have declared it in their manifesto. Even this proposal was unanimously passed by the legislature. When Bihar Reorganization Bill was sent to hon. President, Legislative had made a request that a financial package of Rs. 1,79,900 crore should be given to Bihar. Earlier, when late Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister, he declared during his regime that Bihar would be given a special package of Rs. 5000 crore. That is also due. It is said that Government is a continuous process, but previous commitments have not been fulfilled. Hon. Prime Minister has also announced special package for Bihar. Home Minister has also said at the time of discussion as

the Bill that a cell would be established in the Planning Commission and then special package would be given, why a package? All the parties had committed for compensation. What we got in package? Bihar was divided on 15th of November, 2000.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How much time you need to speak as other hon. Members are waiting for their turn?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Now, I have come to the point.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: The less you speak, the more you get.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: If it is true, I'm ready to sit just now.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a tussle between the Central Government and the Government of Bihar and the state of Bihar is getting step motherly treatment. It is being neglected. The question arises now. When the question is raised in Central Government, they say that the State Governments do not spend the funds, and do not keep the accounts of their expenditure, when the State Government is asked, it holds centre responsible for the lapse. Because of this tussle between Centre and state, 8 crore 20 lac people including labourers, farmers and other classes are suffering badly. They are suffering heavy loss. We have accounts of the expenditure, why should we be asked for accounts? For waiving off the loans, the according Bihar status of special state neither any expenditure is involved nor any accounts and efficiency is needed. But nobody wants to help.

Sir, we have a project pertaining to power transmission involving a cost of Rs. 335 crores. Power Grid Corporation is ready to undertake this project. Help us to get the package as that sector has surplus electricity. If transmission line is set right the state will have electricity round the clock. Get us the package. No accounts are needed there. It is a Government of India institute. Government of India should provide funds for that. Commitment for package is already there. But all these are pretensions. I am telling you openly. Further, the destruction caused due to the rivers flowing from Nepal is seen in the form of water logging in an area of 10 lakh hectares. At the same time eight districts are facing drought. Sen Committee appointed by Reserve Bank of India, has said in its report after visiting the state that the problems of floods, water logging and drought, Bihar is facing, is beyond the control of Bihar Government. State Government is not in a position to

solve these problems. So, that report of Sen Committee should be found out, shown and implemented which contains recommendations to the effect that Government of India and Government of Nepal should sign an agreement and on the basis of that agreement Union Govt. should undertake work pertaining to flood control, drainage from the areas of water logging, use of that water for irrigation purposes during drought. Further all our projects should be pursued and sanctioned. The entire expenditure on these projects should be incurred by the Central Government.

17.00 hrs.

Sir, many development schemes such as Gandak Phase-II, Kosi Phase-II, construction of a high dam on Bagmati-Gandak, construction of embankments along the Ganges to check soil erosion and barren land for development scheme from irrigation department are under the consideration of the government. This scheme is pending with the Planning Commission, in Agriculture department and has not been cleared yet. Why solar tube scheme and government hand pump schemes have not been cleared. The government of Bihar required funds for development and modernisation of Muzaffarpur-Barani thermal power scheme. Bihar Government is short of funds. The Central Government should get it implemented through its undertaking, the thermal power corporation. The Navi Nagar Thermal Power Project is pending due to the neglect of the Central Government. Same is the fate of the Rs. 335 crore transmission Line Project of the power grid corporation.

Sir, the government has announced that by 2007, all the villages of the country would be electrified. The Central Government should take the responsibility of electrification of such villages, particularly those of Bihar which have lagged behind in the drive for electrification.

In Bihar there is a vast scope for hydro-electric projects Kanban hydro electric project is pending due to the laxity of the Government of India.

Sir, there is a great scope and potential of tourism in Bihar. The Government of India and the hon. Finance Minister has stated in his budget speech that six tourism circuits would be developed. The incomplete work of Budha Circuit should be completed.

Bihar was the birthplace of Lord Mahavira and he also attained salvation. There only Mahavir circuit as well as Ramayan circuit should also be completed. Sitamarhi is the birthplace of Sita. Mahatma Gandhi was known by the name Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi before he

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

visited Bihar. He became Mahatma Gandhi only after he visited Champaran in Bihar. It was this place who made him Mahatma Gandhi. So, Mahatma Gandhi circuit should be completed, sufi circuit should be completed. Lakhs of pilgrims visit Bihar sharif, Phulwari Sharif and the shrine of Kashi in Bihar. So sufi circuit should also be constructed.

Sir, in Bihar there is no shortage of water but the people of Bihar have to depend on fishes brought from Andhra-Pradesh. The eggs and chicken come from Punjab and Haryana. Fisheries and dairy development should be encouraged in Bihar besides providing the facility of air-cargo. The hon. Civil Aviation Minister is present here. He should consider this proposal.

The hospitals are in a bad shape there. A research institute and hospital on the pattern of All India institute of Medical Sciences should also be set up there. Patna medical college and hospital, Muzzaffarpur medical college and hospital, Darbhanga Medical College and hospital, Nalanda Medical College and hospital should be further developed.

Sir, after these there is a demand for a financial package. We are demanding that their loans should be written off. In financial matters Bihar is not getting proper attention, and is rather dodged. I would like to submit that the tenth finance commission had recommended a grant of Rs. 125 crore through panchayats and the government of India has approved it. In the first year the funds were released but now funds have been with held for the last four years. There came the recommendations of 11th Finance Commission. The Government accepted these recommendations as well. But the balance amount has not been released, so far the Hon'ble Finance Minister said during his reply to a Calling Attention Motion that he is not going to yield. I would like to submit that he has mislead the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can raise that under rules. You are a knowledgeable person. You should conclude now.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to read what has been said in the guidelines of the Finance Commission:—

*(English)*

"The grant shall be given only in respect of elected local bodies, wherever such elections are mandatory under the Constitution. In case where elected local bodies are not in place, the Central Government shall hold the share of such bodies in Trust on a non-lapsable basis during 2000-05."

*(Translation)*

How does he claim that the funds given to Bihar got lapsed? In the guidelines it has been clearly stated that these funds are non-lapsable. The Central Government would not sanction the funds until there are elections. The 11th Finance Commission has withheld the funds earmarked for the first year. They say that the funds have now lapsed. The 10th Finance Commission has with held Rs. 600 crore earmarked for Bihar to be released during the four years. Whereas the 11th Finance Commission recommended an economic package. This is a sheer fraud being played with Bihar. I am not going to give up the matter. I would raise a question of breach of privilege. Injustice is being meted out to Bihar...*(Interruptions)* In Ninth Five Year Plan Rs. 5000 crore has been spent in centrally sponsored schemes. All the states receive a 10 percent share of that. So Bihar had to receive an amount of Rs. 500 crore but it was given Rs. 50 crore only. Bihar, thus, got a meagre 10 percent of the 10 percent share due to a state. Whereas we should have been given Rs. 100 crore per annum, we got a paltry Rs. 3-4 crore.

In 9th Five Year Plan, Rs. 650 crore had been spent on drinking water throughout the country. All the states of the country received the funds. As against Rs. 500-600 crore. Bihar should have been given during the 9th Five Year Plan, only Rs. 35-40 crore were released during these five years.

Thus our share is being usurped. A package of Rs. 50-100 crore is being offered but we are not getting our due share.

...*(Interruptions)*

In the 9th Five Year Plan, for minimum need programme under the rural electrification scheme, Bihar got Rs. 9 crore whereas Jharkhand was given Rs. 28 crore. I would like to know on what basis was such a discriminatory disbursement of funds made? Was it on the basis of population or anything else? We had raised this matter earlier also but the government is mum. Bihar has been neglected.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Raghuvansh ji, you spoke for 45 minutes. Many hon. Members would like to speak, so please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, injustice has been meted out to Bihar...(Interruptions)

An amount of Rs. 10,000 crore meant for the poor people have been looted in non-banking institutions. During the United Front Government, backward states including Bihar had been selected for the purpose but now their funds have been withheld. Grave injustice and step-motherly treatment has been meted out to Bihar. The farmers of Bihar produce ample foodgrains. You have also expressed your concern about non-procurement of foodgrains from Bihar. Bihar had produced 40 lakhs tonne rice and 47-50 lakh tonne wheat but procurement was negligible. Farmers were cheated. The division which occurred...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Radha Mohan ji, kindly start your speech.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the division of Calamity Relief Fund was done on the basis of population. The Government of India deceitly divided the property of Bihar on the basis of drought, flood, natural calamity and population and handed over to Jharkhand. As per the Bihar Re-organisation Act, the bifurcated Bihar will be the sole owner of property which are out of Bihar. But the Govt. of India decided to even hand over Bihar Bhavan to Jharkhand against the spirit of said Act. If Indian Government has to give Jharkhand then it should make big Jharkhand Bhavan. But why it is snatching Bihar's share?

...(Interruptions)

Lastly, I would like to request the Government to let the hon. Members aware of the provisions made in Tenth Five Year Plan related to centrally sponsored schemes, Central schemes, Central assistance etc. like all-Ab Lo Nasani, Ab Na Nasehon....(Interruptions) We will also request the State Government to spend the fund on time. I also request the Union Government to provide the share of Bihar on time. After that package is to be given. Central Government should write off outstanding debt on Bihar and it should be given the status of a special state. Funds meant for Panchayati Raj should be released and

pending Transmission Line Project should be sanctioned immediately. Road, flood...(Interruptions)

At last I want to say that when Duryodhan did not give share to Pandavas then they said—

Nayaye Karo To Adha Do  
Usmey Bhi Kahin Badha Ho  
To De Do Kewal Panch Gram  
Rakho Pani Dharti Tamam  
Hum Usi Me Khushi Se Khayenge  
Parijan Sahit Khushi Manayeye.

Even then when he did not accept to give their share then they said-

Yachana Nahin Ab Rana Hoga  
Jiwan Jai Ya Maran Hoga.

Similarly when we fail to get our share then we will—

Dilli Chode Chaley  
Karke Garjan Ghanghor Chaley  
Ki Yachana Nahin Ab Rana Hoga  
Jiwan Jai Ya Maran Hoga.

Rashtra Kavi Dinkar has said—

Shurma Nahin Vichlit Hotey  
Shan Aik Nahin Dheeraj Khote  
Kanto me Rah Banate Hein  
Kashto Ko Gale Lagate Hein  
Neend Kahan Unki Aakho Mein  
Jo Dhoon ke Matwale Hain  
Gati Ki Trishakh Aur Badti Jab  
Patte Pag Mein Chaley Hain.

At Last—

Deikhey Is Bharat Mein  
Kaun Bada Vir Balidani Hai  
Kiski Dhamni Mein Khoon  
Aur Kiski Dhamni Mein Pani Hein

[Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

Jat Tod Sab Pat Tod

Jab Fauj Yeh Halla Bolega

Magega Nahin, Jo Chahega So Le Lega.

Therefore, if the people of Bihar awake and raise their voice, it will become difficult for the Union Government to face their onslaught and will continue to raise such questions so far Bihar does not get its due share. Otherwise this Government will have to leave.

With these words, I thank you very much.

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH (Motihari): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will not say anything of my own in regard to glorious and grandeur description of Bihar by our hon. Raghuvansh Babu, whose party is at the helms of affairs in Bihar from last ten years. It is true that he has projected all this very honestly. A meeting was held on 21st and 22nd May in Patna for plan review and draft of 2001-2002 of the final year of 9th Five Year Plan. Shri P.P.S. Thomas was leading Planning Commission and Development Commissioner Shri P. Sinha was leading Government of Bihar. I want that Raghuvansh Babu must listen to this. I am reading out the things which surfaced after two days of discussion. First and foremost the progress of the Planning Development in Bihar State is less in comparison to all other States. Secondly, the size of the original scheme envisaged in our planning is approximately Rs. 1300 crores which is less than the available fund of top mentioned 13 States of India. In 1998-99, state-wise per capita planning expenditure in Bihar was Rs. 233/- while it was Rs. 500/- in Assam and Rs. 697/- in Orissa. Thirdly Rs. 434 crore 9 lakhs could not be spent out of the funds which was received from Indian Government for rural development in 2000-2001. In the last ten years, not even a single scheme of large and medium irrigation could be completed in Bihar. The capacity of power production in Bihar was 15% to 20% while, it was, on an average, 67% in other states. Bihar Road Transport Corporation has only hundred buses but there are 7000 employees. Road Transport Corporation has the loss of Rs. 600 crores till date. 50 lakhs families are homeless in Bihar now and each year the number of homeless people has been increasing.

This is not my version. It is official version of the Government in which Development Commissioner of Government of Bihar Shri P. Sinha was present....(Interruptions)

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Everybody knows this.

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Everybody knows this and what he said, nobody knows? When Shri Raghuvansh Babu was speaking, whether all strangers have been sitting?...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No Honourable member should interrupt in between. Radha Mohan Singh Ji, you speak by addressing the Chair.

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: In Bihar the population growth rate during 1981-91 was 23.38% and in 1991-2002 it was 28.43%. Now the economic situation in Bihar state has deteriorated. In the same report it has been mentioned that the GDP growth rate is 6.5% and in comparison to this the present growth rate in Bihar is 1%. In India 47% of the total population lives below poverty line but in comparison to it the percentage of people living below the poverty line in this state is about 54%. In this state the per capita G.D.P. is Rs. 2197, while in Jharkhand it is Rs. 4165. The basic reasons for financial deficit as explained by them include jumbo size Government and huge bureaucracy at all the levels and wasteful expenditure in addition to indiscipline and inefficiency. So it is necessary to down size the Government...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It seems you are citing the report of the State Finance Commission.

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: I would like to submit that 80% of the total revenue of the Bihar Government is part of the Grant received from the centre or loans taken from the market and in order to improve the economic situation. Bihar Government....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can quote but please do not read line by line.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mandal ji, please sit down. You speak irrelevant. You cannot address the Chair like this. Please read the rules in this regard.

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Three commissions had been constituted in Bihar under the Chairmanship of S/Shri Irani, D.P. Yadav, and M.C. Jha in order to bring about basic improvement in economic conditions, to build an investment-friendly atmosphere, to build infrastructure and to reduce the basic expenditure. All the three commissions have submitted their reports and they are gathering dust. We demand packages for the Bihar Government. We are from the ruling party yet when the grants are being given to Bihar then it has also to be



seen whether the entire funds have been utilised properly or not? Shri Raghuvanshji should not go out. Bihar is quite backward and 55% of the population in Bihar is living below poverty line. So, we must pay attention to the non-utilisation of the planned funds year after year and at the end of the year the amounts are routinely surrendered. I am not saying anything on my own. Therefore, if the Government want to give anything then those who want to get it should also think twice. Now before a bench of Patna High Court the Finance Commissioner has filed an affidavit in response to a public interest petition. He has admitted that during the last 5 to 10 years 9 Departments had surrendered Rs. 700 crore. The details of the rest of the Department were not available. I would like to submit that the Government should ponder over the point why the amount which had been surrendered was not utilised? When Irani Committee and Shri D.P. Yadav had given their recommendations jointly with the officers of the Planning Commission and Finance Commissioner, the priority should be given first to its implementation. In Bihar farmers had been given grants and even on it there was an uproar.

In the House there was an uproar that the Government is not paying full attention towards the paddy growers. You had also visited many centres and I also got an opportunity to visit there. In Bihar Rs. 50 crores has been spent on procurement of rice. The Government of India had opened a centre of FCI. The two people were put on duty and Bihar Government was asked to purchase rice from the farmers for Rs. 50 crores at the price fixed by the Government of India. The Bihar Government had asked for some packs. Collector had sent the list of packs and DCO had issued a certificate that he will deliver you the pack of rice. Packs have their own Secretary and Managers and Assistant Manager and DCO are of the State Government. These people purchased rice from mill owners and amount of Rs. 50 crore which were received from the Government of India as subsidy was given by Bihar Government to the middlemen and traders and not to the farmers. They purchased rice from Uttar Pradesh and in the name of packs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kanti Singh ji, please sit down.

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: I am citing an example of method of procurement...*(Interruptions)* I toured the flood affected Gopalganj district. There not a kilogram of paddy was grown but even then the Secretary of Pads of Panchayat gave the Collector and DCO the certificate that 200 quintals of rice was procured from the farmers. Therefore, FCI was compelled to purchase the

rice and as a result the subsidy amount went into the pocket of middlemen and traders and not to the farmers. Even then the Bihar Government is demanding package and special grant. I am saying it with responsibility that these are wrong facts even in the case of wheat as they could not give this to the farmers. There had been a demand about electricity. Hon'ble Minister had visited Patna in May. There had been a meeting with the hon'ble Minister and it had been discussed that in Bihar 6873 villages had to be electrified and out of which 1744 are new villages and 5132 villages are to be rehabilitated. For this Rs. 190 crore had been demanded while Government of India had already spent Rs. 34 crore on it and still considering how to give the amount, but it wanted to know whether the amount approved under Jawahar Rojgar Yojana, Gram Smridhi Yojna and Harijan Basties has been utilised? I am not submitting my all this on my own, but quoting from 'Hindustan' published from Bihar. Shrimati Kanti Singh is present here and may convey all this to Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh. In 'Hindustan' dated 22 March the Minister of Power of Bihar had admitted of power theft and loss of Rs. 2000 crore each year. If a case is register against 20 engineers then the theft of power could be checked. The Minister had not explained about the obstructions in these cases against them. He knows how Rs. 2000 crore could be saved but they are helpless before the engineers. I would like to know who is compelling them? Each year the State is losing Rs. 2000 crore and see how they are running Bihar. This is a crime against the people of Bihar.

Honourable Minister does not resign even after knowing everything. New what does it mean? He is free to understand the meaning but who bothers about such things? At least, Shakeel Ahmad Saheb accepted this truth. Any other Minister does not have courage enough.

This news is published in 'Hindustan' dated 22 April.

Sir, there was a demand of package for power production in Bihar and there was also reference to road. When we discuss road then I and you will definitely have to pay attention on one thing. Indian Government allocates funds for National Highways, you will also have to pay attention on the condition of State Government's roads. The length of National Highways in the country is increasing every year. The length of roads is being increased by P.W.D. in each State. You will be surprised to learn that there was 2218 K.M. National Highway in the State before R.J.D. Government came into power. After Hon. Rajnath Singh became Minister of this department, 3301 K.M. length of highways was there in Bihar. It means, one thousand K.Ms. were increased. In

[Shri Radha Mohan Singh]

the case of P.W.D. roads, there is a stretch of 8806 K.M. of road in Andhra Pradesh, 19,761 K.M. in Gujarat, 11,395 K.M. in Karnataka, 11,789 K.M. in Madhya Pradesh, 32,359 K.M. in Maharashtra, 1047 K.M. in Rajasthan, 9,647 K.M. in Uttar Pradesh, 4,584 K.M. in Orissa and only 4092 K.M. in Bihar. As per the chart, the length of roads in every State has increased. In 1990-91, the length of the road was 4192 K.M. in Bihar and it came to 4092 K.M. in 1996-97. It means that Bihar is the only State where one hundred K.M. length of road has decreased. In the last ten years, Bihar could not construct even a single inch of road. Raghuvansh Prasad ji has described the condition of Bihar with honesty. There can be no doubt on his honesty, situations can be different. I want to tell the House that allocations of Rs. 150 crore in the year 2000-2001 and Rs. 300 crore in the year 2001-2002 were made under Pradhan Mantri Sadak Pariyojna, but even then not a single inch of road has been constructed. The responsibility of Central Government in this regard, is a separate issue. Hon. Laloo Ji runs the Government of Bihar State and definitely he has sympathy and love for the poor and he wants that Bihar should be developed but people around him do not furnish him correct information or right suggestions.

17.28 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*]

I want to furnish an information to the House. Laloo Ji was going somewhere in the days of election campaign and a road was coming up on the way. There were one or two M.Ps. along with him. Laloo Ji asked, whether work had been started on Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojna in his State. The Hon. Members who were travelling with him said—"Yes, the work has been started." But after ten days when an official meeting was being held, in which those members were also present, and they said the work has not been started on Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojna in Bihar, Laloo Ji asked that hon. Member that he was previously saying that the work had been started on Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojna...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Arrah): I am also an M.P. In my area (constituency), five K.M. road has been constructed under Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojna...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Tenders have not been finalised till now...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go in record except Shri Radha Mohan's statement.

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Sir, Rs. 450 crore have not been utilized in Bihar. I would like to tell the House regarding centrally sponsored food schemes within Bihar and Bihar's disgraceful condition. During February 2001-2002, upto February 2002, with Antodaya food scheme, 653.53 tonne rice for Bihar meant for people living below the poverty line was released out of which only 90.68 thousand tonne was lifted. Free rice for the poor people was meant to be at the rate of Rs. 2-3 kilo and 653.53 thousand tonne rice was released but only 90.69 thousand tonne was lifted. It happened in 2001-2002. 1160.25 thousand tonne wheat was released, out of which 318.10 thousand tonne was lifted, 13.88% rice and 27.42% wheat was lifted, while in all States not less than 50% to 98% of wheat and rice was lifted...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I would like to tell out as example that 35.42% rice in Andhra Pradesh, 98.41% rice in Arunachal Pradesh, 77.81% rice in Assam and only 13.88% rice in Bihar was lifted. Which package they received. There was 55% take off in Chhatisgarh, 81% in Delhi, 57% in Goa, 56% in Gujarat, 57% in Himachal Pradesh and 40% in Jharkhand. There is no money to effect its take off. There is no money for wheat, rice etc. This is the condition of Bihar. Central Government has made thousands of crores of rupees available under Indira Aawas Yojna, Pradhan Mantri Gramyodya Yojna, Gramin Jalapoorti Karyakram, Gramin Svachchhata Karyakram, Jawahar Gram Smridhi Yojna, Rashtriya Vridhavastha Pension Yojna, Rashtriya Pariwar Labh Yojna, Annpooma Yojna, Antyodya Yojna, Swarn Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojna and Sunishchit Rojgar Yojna etc., in which the contribution of Central Government is 80% and that of Government of Bihar is 20%. It was allocated to Bihar in last financial year. Government of Bihar could utilise only 70% of this amount. The achievement of Indira Aawas Yojna was only 59%. These people talk about flood and drought. The achievement of Sukhadounmukh programme is only 40%...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, C.A.G. Report came. Some time back hon. Raghuvansh Babu was speaking on flood and drought and asking as to what Central Government does for flood and drought. It is written clearly in the C.A.G.'s report

*[English]*

Of the Rs. 7 crore obtained during 1999-2000 from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, Rs. 2.18 crore remained

unutilized and was retained in the bank account by the Department.

[Translation]

There are funds but were not spent. When I went to demand funds from Hon. Prime Minister, I came to know that a lot of amount had already been given. Where these funds were spent, is not known. There is no report. Many M.Ps. had gone there. They called officers, we were not able to give any reply. Bihar has a great history. Definitely we are ashamed of it because of what ever happened within ten years. I was not able to give any reply in front of the officers....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh! He is not yielding.

[Translation]

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Sir, the condition is very bad in the area of education. In the last twelve years, the utilization of funds received under Operation Black Board of Central Government is only 14%. Bihar is the only State of this country where literacy rate is below 50%. Under this scheme, Central Government had allocated Rs. 421 crore in between 1987 to 1994.

While only Rupees seven crore were spent by the end of 1999. Who is responsible for that? Rs. 421 crore were provided to the Government of Bihar during 1987 to 1994 under Operation Black Board but only Rs. 60 crore were spent out of it by the end of 1999. Rs. 435 crore were provided under District Primary Education Programme, of which Rs. 105 crore have been spent so far where as it is to be spent by 2003. Similarly, the progress regarding Primary Schools buildings and toilets to be constructed with central assistance is pitiable. Mid-day-meal scheme is also stopped while it is provided free of cost to them but the state Government have no fund to carry it to schools.

Sir, in the financial year 2000-2001, Rs. 29 crore were provided by the Central Government. The Government of Bihar could not utilize even Rs. 55 crore allocated for small irrigation schemes to Bihar in the financial year. There are unlimited possibilities to increase production of pulses and oil-seeds in Bihar. The Central Government had also identified some areas and keeping in view this potential of Bihar, Rs. 104 crore and Rs. 83 crore were provided to the Government of Bihar during

last financial year but the Government of Bihar could not utilize this amount also. Similarly, an amount of Rs. 55 crore provided for Tiger Project could not be utilized. During last financial year an amount of Rs. 700 crore, I have mentioned earlier, under centrally sponsored scheme was also surrendered. I am not mentioning fodder scam....(Interruptions) The Government of India is providing Rs. 600 crore for bringing the economy of Bihar on track and revival of sugar mills and an counsellor is also appointed for this purpose...(Interruptions) The condition of Bihar is really alarming...(Interruptions) Sh. Raghuvansh Babu is a learned person, he is a professor. He should bear in his mind that Prof. Ludes had said that any undeveloped country of state must remember that there are three immediate reasons for economic development. Efforts to make savings, accumulation of knowledge and accumulation of capital. A statement by hon. Raghuvansh ji appeared in the newspapers and he speaks very honestly. He has said that in Bihar officers are manipulating funds meant for schemes. But one thing he did not say that they looting the money in the protection of leaders. Certainly, I agree with these views of hon. Raghuvansh jee. He further said something more there is nothing left in Bihar except flood, drought, balu, bhalu and Laloo—nothing except these Bihar has reached to the verge of destruction over the last then years. I would like to request hon. Minister of Government of India that the Government should consider over the funds which the Government of Bihar was unable to utilize or surrendered by it. I suggest that the funds which cannot be used by Bihar should be provided to M.Ps. because M.Ps. are also demanding more allocations to them. All M.Ps. of Bihar may recommend this and also add some of their funds so that their participation may be ensured. My second suggestion is that...(Interruptions) The Coalition Government with Congress had set up three commissions—Sh. J. Irani Commission, Sh. M.C. Jha Commission and Sh. D.P. Yadav Commission.

If Bihar is to be saved, the recommendations of these commissions—Sh. J. Irani Commission, Sh. M.C. Jha Commission and Sh. D.P. Yadav Commission may be implemented without further delay. These recommendations have been lying in the shelves of Bihar Government. These recommendations should be implemented. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (Aurangabad, Bihar): Sir, how much time I will get from the Chair?

MR. CHAIRMAN: About 25 minutes.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, with a deep sense of despair I rise in this august House to speak on a very important subject which I suppose concerns teaming millions of people in this country, especially from the State of Bihar from where I come, where the State has been thrown into a great turmoil due to a lot of crises natural over a period of many years.

Bihar was once a very historical State. It had a hallowed history. It was Bihar that gave the world its first republic. It was in Bihar that Chandragupta Maurya and Ashoka ruled. It was again in Bihar that Mahatma Gandhi started on his salt *Satyagraha* and he worked for the labourers in the plantations of the Indigo in the West Champaran areas of Bihar; and supported by leaders, in Bihar, he was able to get his demands met. Bihar was on the roads to a lot of progress.

Unfortunately in the last few years, we have seen Bihar getting into a lot of crises natural and unnatural. It is a matter of great concern because I find that the people in Bihar are extremely innovative; they are very intelligent; they have a lot of industrious labour in them. They work in factories; they work overtime as autorickshaw drivers; they as security personnel; they are very good at work in the farms. In fact, most of the labourers supplied by Bihar are working in Punjab which has made Punjab very prosperous. Why then is Bihar in such a distressed condition? There must be very-very valid reasons for it.

I will come straight to the subject now—the economic package for Bihar. During the discussion on the States' Reorganisation Bill, in this House, an assurance was given by the NDA Government that Bihar will get a very special economic package. It has been 22 months since that announcement was made on the floor of the House. Could I ask the Government what steps they have taken during the last 22 months to see that even a Cell was constituted? Members from all sides, cutting across party lines, were a part of that assembly where they were deciding on the economic package for Bihar. What have they done in these last 22 months? I insist that they will push these things forward for the simple reason that we feel that we owe a lot of responsibility to a State that we belong to. After all, the suffering of the people have to be eliminated by some way or the other.

When we talk of Bihar, people either ridicule it or they have some cynicism in their voices. I wonder why. Bihar was one of the richest States in the country. It had all the natural resources at its command. It had all the facilities. It had human resource. It had everything that makes a State very prosperous.

As far as learning was concerned, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh dwelt at great length about all the stalwarts that Bihar produced. He talked about the freedom fighters who took part in the freedom movement, about the natural resources, having harnessed a lot of minerals, coal, electricity, etc. All of a sudden, we still feel that we are in a state of utter crisis. For these things, I do not think that I am here to blame either the Central Government or the State Government. The point is that we are in a state of crisis and we have to be bailed out by the Government that is in power here.

Coming to the point, there are four important points to which I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister, who presently is not here. Bihar today stands at crossroads. On the Index of human development released by the Planning Commission recently, it ranks at the bottom; on the Index of poverty, the percentage of people below the poverty line is at its highest in India; on the Index of energy availability, the *per capita* consumption is perhaps the lowest in the country.

What is the future of the 80 million people who are still left behind after the bifurcation of the State? Any Bihar Package must address these concerns. It must bring Bihar back to the mainstream of the developed States.

It is unfortunate that even though the Cabinet had approved a Bihar Package long ago, no package has been announced so far. The Cabinet had also decided that a Cell under the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission would monitor the package. We have not been informed of any such Cell having been formally constituted or ever met.

We hear alarming reports that this year's annual package might not exceed Rs. 1,000 crore. This is a pittance. The Bihar Assembly had asked for a package of Rs. 1,50,000 crore and the Bihar Government had submitted projects worth Rs. 1,00,000 crore. We demand a package which is reasonable to redress Bihar's development process.

The package must comprise six core elements. Most important is the power sector. It must improve Bihar's energy availability. The North Bihar area has no transmission and distribution system worth the name. The result is, even the small amount of energy available from Chukkla Power Station and Central utilities, cannot be effectively utilised. The package must finance credible transmission and distribution network.

Furthermore, after the separation of Bihar, most power stations have gone away to Jharkhand. The package must revive for seed money to NTPC and other Central utilities for undertaking construction of new thermal power stations, particularly for expansion of Muzaffarpur and Nabhi Nagar. Power availability must be substantially augmented.

Sir, in this connection, I would like to inform the august House that way back in 1989, when Shri Rajiv Gandhi was our Prime Minister, seeing the conditions prevailing in the State of Bihar, he announced a package programme for Bihar. This package included the Super Thermal Power Station at Nabhi Nagar, which happens to be in my parliamentary constituency of Aurangabad. As we all know—all of you must have read it in the newspapers—Aurangabad is a naxalite-prone area. PWG and Ranvir Sena work there. Bihar has all kinds of difficult situations. We have no connectivity by roads and the rural area stands totally isolated. In this background, the Super Thermal Power Station was essential for the South-Central Bihar. It would have brought not only relief but also employment for the people of that area. It is unfortunate that due to partisan or whatever reasons, the Government found it fit to shelve that programme. It required 24 requisites, which we had fulfilled. The market feasibility was also worked out but one fine morning we found the Prime Minister inaugurating a new thermal station at Barh, which happens to be the constituency of Shri Nitish Kumar. It sounds very well because it is a part of development of the State of Bihar and I quite endorse it but not at the cost of project which was already in the pipeline.

I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister to kindly look into this matter seriously and ensure that either the NTPC or any other agency delivers us this station at Nabhi Nagar in Aurangabad. This will go a long way in alleviating the sufferings of the people of that area. It will also generate employment opportunities which are very much needed for the development of that State.

We have no connectivity through roads. All our talks about agriculture, looking after the needs of the farmers, subsidy given the farmers, etc. come to naught since we have no roads in Bihar. This has been the major problem of the State for the last 20 years. In the last few years, we have found that whereas development has taken place across that States throughout the country, Bihar has been a neglected zone. Since now the Minister is present in the House, I would request her to constitute a group of people who could go and see for themselves under what abject conditions the people of that area are living. I would be failing in my duty if I do not bring to the notice

of the House the lack of a well-developed transport system in the State. Our life depends on that because 80 per cent of the people of Bihar are engaged in farming.

The farmers find it of great hardship to operate during the monsoon and when they want to sell their grains. There are no roads. Therefore, the aspect of road connectivity about which the Prime Minister had also assured us in his economic package should be implemented as fast as possible.

Sir, the third and very important point is about irrigation capability. Sir, Bihar, as you know, is very rich as far as irrigation is concerned. It could have been harnessed properly. In the last few years, there have been floods galore. People have been rendered homeless. Almost half of Bihar that is present at the moment after the separation of Jharkhand, is totally flood-prone. Losses and lots of people are rendered homeless for almost six months of the year. You can imagine the situation when the population exodus has to take place at such a rapidity. When floods come, they have no protection over their heads or on the land. Therefore, I think, it is in the fitness of things that the Minister must focus attention on either constituting the flood control schemes and anything that could help to see that the floods are controlled. It may be a project which will entail a lot of cost but then, at least, it will save people from the kind of trauma that they go through every year.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a very important issue and the M.Ps. of ruling B.J.P., are not here. Only 30 M.Ps. are present here. There is lack of quorum in the House...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD (Darbhanga): What is problem in it...(*Interruptions*) Discussion is going on, all are sitting. ...(*Interruptions*) What is the problem with you...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Whether House will run without quorum...(*Interruptions*) There should be some seriousness on behalf of Government. How many M.Ps. of your party from Bihar are here...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: You are worried only about Gujarat...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, if there is no quorum how House will run.

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: It is the issue related to Bihar. You interrupt without any reason.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: It is so important issue...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHAIRMAN: Mr. Suman, I know it is an important issue...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir,\* Nobody is present here only 30 M.Ps. are sitting here...*(Interruptions)* There should be 54 M.Ps. to complete the quorum...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The concerned Minister is here and Shri Ram Naik is also here...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: .....\*  
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is an important issue. Please take is seriously...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prabhunathji, a lady member is speaking, you are interrupting her.

*[English]*

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Sir, I would like the Minister to pay special attention to improve the irrigation capability. The package must finance modernisation and upgradation of the existing waterways which had gone into disuse. It must utilise the abundance of water available in North Bihar for a massive programme started by NABARD. The programme announced last year did not take off the ground. South Bihar must have a string of water harvesting and water shedding programme. There must be marketing outlets for enabling agro-processing and marketing of agricultural products.

As I said earlier in my speech, the road connectivity is very important. In the economic package that has been announced on the floor of this House, the road connectivity is an important aspect of that.

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just before, Raghuvanshji said something. I will see. If anything found unparlimanetary, it will be expunged.

*[English]*

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: The package must upgrade human resource development process. The universities in Delhi and various parts of the country are flooded with students who are coming from Bihar. We have a large bank of human resource. What happens to them? They go to Punjab and they go across all the States in the country but they are not utilised in Bihar. How is it possible for the people who live in Bihar not to be doing a bit of work but when they come to Delhi they shine on the top like a horizon? Sir, I am proud of inform that the person who has topped the Indian Administrative Service Examination also belongs to Bihar.

In fact, we should congratulate him. The person who has topped in the Civil Services examination this year is Mr. Alok Nath Jha from Bihar. Therefore, it is all the more necessary that the human resource must be properly utilised. Universities in Delhi and various other parts of the country are flooded with students migrating from Bihar. After partition of Bihar, it does not have a single IIT. There must be at least two IITs and engineering institutes must be upgraded to become centres of technical excellence. The demographic compulsions of Bihar must be harnessed to include the technical and human resource capability for enabling it to derive appropriate benefits available in the Internet age.

My next point is that the package cannot be left only to Government. The development of Bihar is not a political issue. It cuts across party lines. I would suggest the constitution of an All Party Standing Committee on Bihar development which can periodically meet and review the progress and the implementation of this economic package. I suggest to the Minister that she must call everybody from our Party, from her Party and across all party lines all Members of Parliament from Bihar. They all must meet and a Standing Committee must be constituted to monitor the economic package which has been announced on the floor of this House.

Finally, if there are weaknesses in the implementation, some other strategy must be devised. We have to find a strategy which bypasses implementation difficulties of State Governments. Wherever possible, these projects are implemented through Central Administration Agencies or

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\*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

in a manner where objective decision making takes priority.

Time is running out. For over three years, the Government has done nothing. What I have said is the minimum that needs to be done if we are to have a semblance of fair play and impartiality in the State of Bihar. The 80 million people of Bihar cannot receive a raw deal. They are awaiting the outcome of Government's decision on the package with hope and expectations. We should not let them down.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are holding discussion on an important issue relating to the sorry state of affairs prevailing in Bihar, the State which is afflicted with poverty, helplessness, dejection and diseases. All the Government that have ruled at the Centre since independence have discriminated and neglected Bihar. Justice has never been done to Bihar and there have been deliberate attempts to push the state in the realm of poverty, destitution and helplessness.

Sir, when our country got independence and our Parliament came into existence. Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru founded the Planning Commission, in the capital. While inaugurating the Planning Commission Pt. Nehru clearly spelt out that while on the one hand the job of the Planning Commission would be to prepare a plan for the speedy development of the country, on the other hand it would also ensure that the regional imbalances prevailing in the country are abridged. Our colleague Radha Mohanji is not sitting here at the moment. He has virtually given the reply of government's part and I do not know what is now left for the hon. Minister to say in her reply. The close scrutiny of per capital funds provided so far to Bihar right from the First Five Year Plan in comparison to other states will make any judicious person to come to the conclusion that Bihar has been discriminated against.

Sir, mass leader Karpuri Thakur has been one of the pillars in the public life in the state of Bihar. He was son of the soil and *massiha* of the poor masses.

18.00 hrs.

Sir, we had the privilege of listening to the speeches of Shri Karpuri Thakur in Bihar Assembly when he was a Member of the Opposition as well as the treasury benches and even he was a Minister and the Chief

Minister during his budget speeches he very often used to say that unless some permanent solution to the problem of floods from the rivers originating from Nepal, which cause a lot of damage in Bihar every year especially in North Bihar, is found the progress and development of the state can never be ensured.

Sir, every year roads, hospitals and houses are constructed and farming is done but all are washed away in floods. Houses, hospital schools, crops, lands etc. are all ravaged and none cares to compensate the losses. Even if the Government of Bihar wishes to provide relief by mobilising all its resources, it cannot do so because it is not constitutionally permissible since the funds meant for ensuing all round development of the State cannot be spent in North Bihar alone. Radha Mohan ji was telling that the losses cannot be compensated even if the Government of Bihar presses all its resources into service. Since Nepal is an independent, sovereign country. So the Government of Bihar cannot enter into dialogue with that country on its own. Only the Government of India can talk to Nepal on the Problem of floods being caused in Bihar by the rivers originating from Nepal and how to make up the losses. If the Government of Nepal does not do anything in this regard, then the Central Government should come forward to make up the losses.

Sir, I do not say that such damages have been stated to be caused after Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee because the Prime Minister, that process has been going on since 1951. All the Government that came to power at the Centre since then have pursued the policy of discrimination against Bihar. It is good that the entire nation including several states helped Orissa when the state was hit by cyclone, on the contrary when everything is washed away in floods in Bihar no one including the Central as well as State Government comes forward to help the state. We want to know what is the fault of the people of Bihar? Unless the Central Government hold talks with Nepal to find ways and means to prevent floods to be caused by the rivers originating from that country the devastation of Bihar will continue to take place through you I would like to demand from the Central Government that the losses to Bihar being caused every year due to floods should be compensated by the Centre.

Sir, there is hardly any issue on which we do not make allegations and counter allegations. This issue is however very important and is concerned with the people of Bihar and their lives. The State Government does not implement the schemes of the Central Government. I would like to say to the Central Government that I rise here to discuss why the share of Bihar is not given. We

[Shri Raghunash Jha]

must get our share. The Centre have withhold the State's share of funds meant for the Panchayat elections. The Panchayat elections are over. This issue has been discussed in the House so many times and Members of all the Parties said that the funds which were withhold for want of holding elections should be released. But the Central Government did not do so.

Sir, there was bifurcation of Bihar and Jharkhand came into existence. This was done not only by the Central Government but we all did it together. Unanimous resolution was passed by the Bihar Assembly which was sent to the Central Government for formation of a separate Jharkhand state. We all are involved in it. When the discussion of the Bill in this regard was being hold, the Home Minister was present in the House and he had said that a situation would not be allowed to be arisen in which one state becomes rich and the other remains poor. Now we want to know from him as to what is the way out for bailing out Bihar from the State of poverty. Are the State resources enough for this purpose? Our royalty has gone to Jharkhand, big educational institutions have gone to the newly carved state. The sources of income have all gone to Jharkhand.

We are happy that Jharkhand is a developed state. We wish that Jharkhand may prosper further. There is no dispute about that. But I would like to remind the Government of their commitment made in the House wherein it was stated that a dedicated cell would be set up in the Planning Commission. What will be the functions of that dedicated cell? We want to know what has so far been done in regard to that cell. And how much more time is likely to be taken in setting up of that dedicated cell? What has been done by the Planning Commission for the development of Bihar? I do not want to repeat the story of Bihar because everybody knows it. But at the same time people are also aware of the severity of consequences once Bihar takes the course of confrontation.

Bihar witnesssed Naxalite movement. Other movements are also taking place there. We may accuse the State Government of inaction and may say that Bihar Government does not provide even the utilisation certificate in regard to the funds provided to the State by the Centre.

Raghuvansh Babu was just now telling about the power position. He said that there was a conference of Power Ministers of States. All were invited. The Government of Bihar was required to sign a paper guarantee which it was not willing to sign. What I want

to say is that it causes concern when the Union Government fails to do what is expected of it.

All the Members of Parliament from Bihar met the hon. Minister. I am sorry to say that all of us pose hindrance in development of Bihar. We often observe that the Members of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and of other states talk in unison cutting across party lines when it comes to serving the interests of their respective states. They all raise their demands before the Prime Minister and other Ministers. We also owe some responsibility towards Bihar because we have been born in that State and would die there. The responsibility of ensuring development of the State lies on us because people have elected us. It would not be good if we do nothing.

Just now Raghuvansh Babu read out some figures. I do not want to repeat that but I do support what was stated by him. At the same time I would like to tell Raghuvansh Babu that he should tell the Bihar Government to ensure that the funds released under Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana must be utilised. It is just possible that five kilometres of road is constructed in the constituency of Shri Ram Prasad ji where as there is no such construction in the constituency of Raghuvansh Babu. No work has been started so far as my constituency is concerned. There should be a unanimous resolution in this regard. There is no dispute about Gopalganj, the home district of the Chief Minister. But the fact remains that roads have not been constructed even after funds have been released for this purpose in three instalments. What I want to say is that be it the construction of roads in a particular area or the maintenance/construction of National Highways, the funds that are due to be provided to Bihar must be released. The approved schemes must be implemented.

We are NDA Partner. The hon. Minister is sitting here. I would say that the people of Bihar have not discriminated against you. I may be excused, but I must say that the state from where the Prime Minister has been elected that State Uttar Pradesh did not provide you as such support as you expected. If Bihar had also not provided you the required support, in that event we might have been sitting in the opposition instead on treasury benches and you would not have been occupying the present post.

Therefore, I would like to request that the Central Government must provide Bihar its due share.

SHRI SUBODH ROY (Bhagalpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to respected Raghuvansh Babu and



Raghunth Jha because they have tried to raise here a big issue of Bihar which is directly related to the people.

They have strongly defended the interests of Bihar Government and have demanded from the union government several things for Bihar. Everybody knows that when division of Bihar was taking place, on that very day our Home Minister had assured that interests of Bihar will not be neglected. So far as development of Bihar is concerned, all the interests of Bihar would be protected and its demand would be met through the Planning Commission. Keeping that assurance in view, all the members of Parliament from Bihar and people from all political parties and all regions had jointly submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister had also appreciated that moment that all the members of Parliament from Bihar are raising their issues unitedly. I do not see any reason for having different views by certain other people on this issue today. The day the Bihar Legislative Assembly has supported the reorganisation Bill, on that very day the issue of division of Bihar was raised unanimously. The other question was that our state had sought one lakh 89 thousand crore rupees. It was quite clear and also included in the proposal of Bihar Legislative Assembly. Here ours was the only party which had opposed the division with one voice and said that it was fraud and we should not involve ourselves in that fraud. The people and leaders of Bihar have to face its consequences. The whole thing has become clear after one and a half year and we are seeing that how we have been cheated. The way the people of Bihar are being dealt with, the way politics is being played with them and the way they are being treated, all these things show as if Bihar appear nowhere on the map of India. The way step motherly treatment is being done and the indifferent attitude is being adopted towards the people of Bihar, that hurts not only the people of Bihar but the entire democratic and Parliament system is being seriously hurt.

The question is why I would like to say that the memorandum submitted to the Prime Minister of India, contained the new points of all the members on which we all had agreed, that memorandum was not prepared by Raghuvansh Babu, that was not prepared by Subodh Roy or Communist Party. That was prepared by Shri Nitish Kumar ji, the then Union Minister of India whom the core committee had appointed as its Chairman and under whose leadership all members had submitted their viewpoints which were agreed upon unanimously. As such that is common memorandum of all members and no one should talk of going back from that. How Bihar is to be developed, how negotiations are to be held with Nepal,

how the entire North Bihar is to be saved from flood and how development is to take place there, how the question of development of railway of the people of Bihar is to be solved, how industries are to be developed, how the agricultural development is to take place and the issue of education etc. to be dealt with are the various problems that we have tried to cover in that memorandum. When nothing happen, then a number of members from the Bihar Legislative Assembly including myself and Lallo Prasad ji went to the Prime Minister's residence under the leadership of Chief Minister of Bihar and submitted a memorandum and reminded the Prime Minister that Bihar be given a package. Sugar Mills are lying closed in Bihar. Works have been stalled on many big irrigation projects including a major project Bateshwar Ganga Pump Nahar Yojana costing to Rupees 250 crore. You please tell me whether Bihar Government is able to undertake and complete the works. All the sugar, jute and textile mills are lying closed, 15-16 thousand factories including the big Barauni fertilizer factory are lying closed.

In Bihar thousands of workers are suffering due to shortage of power. Since the transmission line is weak. The uninterrupted supply of power cannot be ensured to the people. At present 12-14 lakh weavers are jobless in Bihar. As many as 10 thousand powerlooms are lying closed with no work in our own parliamentary constituency itself. The weavers are compelled to go out side Bihar in search of work sometimes to Surat, sometimes to Meerut and sometimes to some other States. Once upon a time, Bhagalpur used to be very famous for silk. It used to be called as a silk city. It used to export silk worth crores of rupees. It used to produce best and fine quality silk and now the silk industry is also closed. Now thousands of people are wondering from pillar to post. The farmers, youths and the women are leading a miserable life. The entire Bihar is passing through a worst phase and as such I would demand that whatever promises have been made must be kept and fulfilled. The Government of India, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has prepared a project for the face lift and beautification of the ancient university of Vikramashila in our region only a few days back. They have assigned this task to the Indian Oil Corporation that this work will be done through this cooperation. I have sent a proposal to respected Ram Naik ji and requested him for beautification of the ancient Vikramashila university. I have also stated that if this work stands completed, the work of Nalanda stands completed. Then we must take up other ancient places of importance. Shri Raghuvansh Babu and just now Shri Raghunath Jha has also stated that if all these things of historical importance, are revived, then development would take place in Bihar so far as tourism and industries are

[Shri Subodh Roy]

concerned and like this we would see that the work would be done on a large scale.

Respected Suresh Prabhu ji has taken a commendable step to construct second phase of the 1320 Megawatt Power Project in Kahalgaon area very soon. We have demanded that it should be completed within the schedule time and with the help of it, the problem of electricity of Bihar and other states should be solved. Besides, it the persons and the farmers of Bihar and Kahalgaon who have lost their land, are in distress and they have not been given any compensation and their wards have not been provided any jobs. Now what we see is that in various parts of the country where electricity is being generated and where from electricity is begin transmitted to a number of other places in the country, the people originally belonging to these areas are forced to live in dark and to face all kinds of worst situations having suffered in the name of development. As such we have demanded...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. Other honourable members of your party have also to speak.

SHRI SUBODH ROY: I would conclude very soon. We have demanded from the Union Government that so far as such big projects are concerned, especially Kahalgaon Project, forty kilometer area around these projects should be declared as command area and the farmers and weavers and all other people should be provided electricity. So far as rest of the projects in respect of Bihar, such as doubling of rail line in Peharwa, modernisation of Durgawati Reservoir Project, and Kadwan irrigation project are concerned etc....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Subodh Roy ji, if you do not conclude your speech, other members of your party would not be able to speak.

SHRI SUBODH ROY: I have to say only one thing. I am requesting the honourable members also that people of Northern Bihar are suffering due to the floods coming from Nepal. As whenever there is excessive rain, all the rivers in Jharkhand are over flooded with waters resulting in floods in Southern Bihar and Central Bihar. The area in Southern and Central Bihar have been badly affected and the people of Bhagalpur and Monghyr have suffered loss to the tune of 100 crore rupees. The land of the farmers have turned into a desert. As such I have submitted that whatever package the Union Government have to give to Bihar Government to tide over the

problems being faced by the people of Bihar, that should be given immediately without only political or parochial considerations.

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD (Darbhanga): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Raghuvansh Ji and Shri Raghunath Jha Ji have raised the issue of a package for Bihar and I rise in support to it, Bihar must get a package.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Prabhunath Ji, your name is there. You will be allowed to speak, when your turn comes.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I wonder when my turn will come. Please call me early...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: But when I glanced at some of the figures of the last year, it came across my mind that while a package of Rs. 1,80,000 crore has been demanded for Bihar, we have not been able to utilise about 750 crore out of the sums earmarked under various schemes of Department of Rural Development Ministry on the other hand, as per available figures from the Ministry of Urban Development. We did not even issue the utilisation certificate for seven crore rupees. There are several such instances. I do not want to go into the figures. Shri Raghuvansh Ji and Shri Radha Mohan Singh Ji have given some figures separately according as they deemed them as correct. But the division of Bihar took place on 31st December, 2000 and Jharkhand was very much part of Bihar. All minerals etc. belonged to Bihar then. But the condition of roads was bad before the division of Bihar and was there not even drinking water available there, nor any schools or tap water and whether it has not been affected by floods and droughts situations before its division. Whether such a scenario emerged only after December 31, 2000? Or the situation has arisen in the wake of partition? Whether the floods, the damage, the affliction of people by diseases and the around bad conditions have ceased to be a regular annual feature during the long period of fifty years since 1952 when our Parliament came into existence? The Congress Party ruled the state most of the time during the last fifty years. There has been recurrence of the incidence of floods and Congress Party was at the helm and the same party is supporting the Rashtriya Janata Dal in ruling there why did not anybody consider it at that time. This Government i.e. the thirteenth Lok Sabha has completed nearly two and a half years. Why this scheme was not launched earlier? Shri Karpuri Thakur also thought of constructing high-dam-project in 1971, when he become the Chief Minister, as the Janata-Party Chief Minister of the state. But as nothing has materialised so far. MPs

from the State we had met the Prime Minister to talk to him about the too many problems which keep arising on account of floods.

I recently met Shri Raghuvansh Babu Ji in Central Hall. I hold him in high esteem because I think along the same lines as he regarding the future shape of Bihar. But I am pained to see that nobody thinks about finding out a permanent solution to these problems. Everybody thinks in terms of a relief package, with the package amount, sought for ranging from Rs. 300 crores to Rs. 600 crores. We have been getting that relief package you the last fifty years. If we would not think over it, it is likely that we will continue to seek such relief package even during the next fifty years. How long would it continue? Far how long would we move around with the begging bowl? Now, the situation has reached such a state that Ultranchal remains submerged for five months at a stretch in the event of flood. Cattle have to live on roads and people have to live along with them. When floods hit the state certain people take shelter around small mounds still left from getting submerged. Just imagine, how they manage to go for lavatories while living around these mounds? So, this type of situations keep arising. For saving life some people take shelter on trees, and some jump into water whereas others who take to roads, remain stranded there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Two hours time was allotted for this subject and it is two hours at twenty five minutes past six. With the consent of the House, the time may be extended by an hour.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: All members should be given a chance to speak on Bihar and the time of the House should be increased by two hours.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time of the house is extended by one hour. All members are requested to be brief.

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: Mr. Chairman, Sir, once, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji put a question before hon'ble Minister of Finance and the Minister of Finance replied that no other state in entire India is as prosperous as Bihar. But accounts of the funds allotted are not maintained. Utilisation certification is not issued and I am unable to understand as to how the Government of Bihar would spend 180 crore rupees when they are unable to issue utilisation certificate for seven or eight hundred or one thousand crore rupees.

Sir, drinking water is not available in Bihar. Let us discuss about the power project because power is in

short supply in the state. NTPC and REC generate great quantum of power. The State Government is responsible to ensure proper supply, distribution and transmission of power in rural areas. Power is being generated in Bihar but it is being sold to Andhra Pradesh because there are no takers of electricity in the state. Distribution arrangements have not been made there. I would like to ask you whether these problems are the off-shoots of the division of Bihar. Why these problems were not deliberated upon since their inception. I would like to say that package must be given to Bihar, but it must be ensured as to who would spend that. I would suggest that the Central Government should appoint an agency for that purpose and the Government should think along these lines.

Sir, a delegation visited our area last time for inspection of primary schools. Rajya Sabha member from communist party, who is no longer the sitting Member was the co-ordinator accompanied by Smt. Shyama Singh, who is the MP from Aurangabad constituency of Bihar. We were all on this visit to have a look at the condition of the primary schools. We had heard of schools, without buildings, where students present themselves but the teachers fail to appear for teaching. It is quite ridiculous that we were informed about the landless schools. Eighty two schools were being run there. In enquire from the District Collector that such schools must be existing on the skies, not on this earth or in neither world. I told him that I am the member of Parliament and there we have been supplied with a complete list of students and teachers of those schools. It has been mentioned in the report of Ministry of Human Resource Development. After that we went to see the shepherd schools. Teachers were absent and children were playing there. The Central Government is as much responsible as the State Government in this regard. We resort to mud slinging to draw political mileage. I do not think it proper. We visited Bihar leaving behind all comforts of Delhi city. Gayatri Mantra, which we chant every day, was propounded by Vishwamitra there...*(Interruptions)* I have my own standing. I am here not because of my father. I do not owe my position to him. I am here on my own strength. I belong to Bihar and I am proud of that. Things should be put in right perspective...*(Interruptions)* I visited Bihar because I want to serve the people of Bihar.

I am filled with remorse to see the situation which prevails there. I have seen most of the villages which fall under my constituency. The situation which is witnessed there today is more or less the same, as we had heard during our childhood days.

[Shri Kirti Jha Azad]

Sir, this situation has not arisen out of the division of Jharkhand, but it was already like that. Today also these areas are inaccessible by vehicle. I have to visit certain areas in my constituency. There are certain Panchayats which have fallen apart and isolated due to the crisis crossing of canals and at some points some of the other rivers, originating from Nepal, which pose hurdles in reaching these Panchayat. I have visited such areas which have remained inaccessible for outsiders till date. I met the people there and try to apprise them of the situation as clearly as possible. When they ask us as to what we had done for them, it becomes very much difficult for us to give reply. We read in the newspapers and witness also as to how the Central Government put the blame on the State Government and *vice versa*. Nothing will materialise until and unless we sit together and deliberate on it in right perspective.

Sir, just now one of our hon'ble Members have stated a very good point that sugar mills have been lying closed since the year 1994-95. There are three sugar mills located at Rayyam, Lohat and Sakri in my constituency. Special sugar produced in Rayyam mill used to be exported to Germany. That sugar mill has been closed down by the State Government. Till date arrears worth crores of rupees of farmers are outstanding against the mills. In the case of Ashok Paper Mill, Government of Bihar violated the orders of the Court. They were directed to ensure supply of electricity and water to the mill for its proper functioning but these facilities were not provided to the mill. Presently all people who are affected therefrom are an aggrieved lot. People say that there should be tubewells. We do agree but if they are finding themselves unable to supply electricity there, how these tubewells will function. We do talk about the problems of the farmers but we do not have distribution or transmission lines to supply electricity for the tubewells. When power is in short supply, how the line will be utilised.

18.33 hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

Sir, I am speaking here just for that cause and I am very much happy. Sir, you, please listen to me properly. Under the condition prevailing in Bihar today, there is poverty. The condition has become bad to worse in the last two years since the division of the state. But its not attributable to that only. I do support the proposal, which has been introduced today, but I have got some apprehensions regarding the utilisation of that amount funds were allocated once before also i.e. in the year 1994-95. At that time also, there was hue and cry that

the funds had come. Contractors had started rushing. There was big rush all around. Contractors had started making their estimates as to how much they would get and under which heads, those funds would be utilised. Everybody was in a hurry and all of a sudden it was found out that there were no funds left. They told that the funds received have already been utilised and it was not known as to under which head it was utilised. I, therefore, would like to say once again that the proposal which has been moved today must be taken seriously and considered thoroughly. Proper utilisation of the funds should be ensured. Funds should not be misutilised. At least utilisation certificate should be issued for the utilised funds. The Bihar Government have not still utilised around two three thousand rupees. That should be utilised by the end of this year or by the next year, so that we can put forward our demand for the package in an effective manner.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are debating on the issue of giving special package to Bihar. You have initiated this debate and after you Shri Radha Mohanji from the treasury bench spoke on this issue. It appeared to me that this debate is going to confine to statistics only. I thank Shri Raghunath Jha as he gave a right twists to this debate.

Sir, it is true that the history of Bihar has been glorious right from struggle from independence and even after independence. Though Mahatma Gandhi was born in Gujarat but Bihar has been his centre of activities...(*Interruptions*) In independent India, fight for democracy was fought under the leadership of Shri Jai Prakash Narayan and that too was started from Bihar. I have also participated in that movement. The entire House agree that today there is helplessness and backwardness in Bihar. When bifurcation of states was being debate here in the House, some people had very much impatience. At that time Samajwadi Party was against the bifurcation of states in principle because it is not a petty issue. Demands were being raised from all over the country for creation of different states. Therefore it would have been better to set up a state reorganisation commission and new states are created wherever it is necessary and feasible on the basis of the report of the said commission. We are of the view that more problems will cropped up due to creation of new states and the country will have to bear the additional financial burden and different situation would arise in the entire country. But the people were in haste. When Jharkhand was carved out from Bihar, the revenue sources on which seventy to eighty percent of economy of the state was based all these sources went to Jharkhand. Mines,

minerals and coal went to Jharkhand. It is not so that wealth has not increased in the country since independence but it concentrated further where it was already in abundance. The economic condition of Bihar was very good before independence but the same has now worsened. I do not want to go into details as to how much financial assistance Bihar has got right from the First Five Year Plan to Tenth Five Year Plan. But in the name of development, regional imbalance has widened further and financial condition of the states which were already financially well off has improved further. Sir, through you I would like to request that the burden put on the eight crore population of Bihar and two crore population of Jharkhand is not fair and legitimate and the Government should ponder over it. Bihar has some permanent problems. During rains when Bihar is flooded by international rivers there is even not a single session of the Parliament in which we do not discuss that problem.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have been unable to find out any permanent solution of floods even after so many years of independence and the discussions that had taken place so many times have proved to be meaningless. The devastation being caused to Bihar by the rivers originating from Nepal will continue until we find out a permanent solution of it or make proper arrangements to check floods by these rivers in the state. Today the need is that the Government of India should find out permanent solution to check recurrence of floods by these rivers. Today I have come to know through some papers that fifty lakh families in Bihar have no houses to live in and this number will increase further. We will have to ensure that the condition of Bihar is improved and rich people should make investment in Bihar besides the Government of India. Whether anybody will invest in Bihar in the present scenario? I think nobody will invest in the state. Before making investment in the state anybody will see that condition of power and road is satisfactory and condition is favourable or not in the state to set up industries there. In the present scenario I think the condition in Bihar has deteriorated further. I don't think that there is any difference of opinion in giving economic package to the state. I am glad to say when such major questions pertaining to the country are before us, we request the chair that proposals thereon should be passed unanimously. This is for the first time that we are discussing such a question here in the House. All parties are unanimous on this issue. Today all the members from Bihar are united on this issue. The fifty members of the Parliament from Bihar from different political parties gave a memorandum to the hon'ble Prime Minister in the leadership of Shri Nitish Kumarji. Not only the fifty members of Parliament from Bihar, even all the 545

members of this August House are with Bihar and demand from the Government that a special economic package should be given to the state. It is a serious matter. We have high regards for the Home Minister and the Prime Minister but if there is any breach of trust of the House than I think nothing can be worse than this. I heard the speech of the hon'ble Home Minister at the time of bifurcation of states. He had said that the states which are being carved will get special status. There was nothing in our mind at that time. Uttaranchal was created and status of special state was accorded to it. I have with me the cutting of the statement given by Shri Nitish Kumarji in the press conference called by him after having talks with the hon'ble Prime Minister. He had said that we have decided as to what will be our line of action and he also told that the hon'ble Prime Minister has shown a positive attitude during the course of talks. The hon'ble Home Minister had also made a commitment in this regard. All the Members of Parliament from Bihar as well as the entire House was unanimous then what is the reason for not giving economic package to Bihar. The issue of Bihar is not an ordinary issue. It is the duty of the Government of India to provide assistance to the poor people of Bihar, backward areas and economically weaker states.

Just now four Ministers were sitting here but now only Shrimati Vasundharaji is present in the House. Shri Shahnawaj Hussain ji who is also from Bihar is present here in the House. I request him to kindly convey our feelings to the Home Minister that the issue of giving economic package to Bihar is not confined to Bihar only it is a national issue and all the Members of Parliament support this. Therefore, the Prime Minister should not delay in providing financial assistance to the people of Bihar. This is what I have to submit.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur):  
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for allowing a discussion here in the House under rule 193 on the question of giving economic package to Bihar. I take this opportunity to thank Shri Raghunath Jhaji as he has given a right direction to this debate. Today the entire House has realised that we cannot do justice to Bihar until we do not rise above the party politics. This debate should go on keeping in view the interests of Bihar. The theme of this debate is that special state should be accorded to Bihar. Today, what is the financial condition of Bihar? There is a categorical mention in the report of the Finance Commission submitted to the Government that economy of Bihar has shattered after bifurcation of the state.

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

It means that Bihar has shattered economically. Just now a honourable member was saying that G.D.P. of the country is 6.5 percent whereas in the case of Bihar it is 1.0 percent. In 1996-97 a group of experts under the chairmanship of Lakadawala conducted a national survey and according to this the percentage of people living below the poverty line was 35.97 percent. When the budget for the year 2002 was presented, at that time it was said by the Government that it has come down by 10 percent. All right it is a jugglery of figures which I am unable to understand. If it is presumed that these figures are correct even then we will see that Bihar has left behind Orissa so far as the question of people living below the poverty line is concerned. I do not want to go into details of all this but I do want to tell that the percentage of people living below the poverty line in Bihar is increasing by one and half percent every year. As has been said here that national average is 27 percent whereas it is 44 percent in respect of Bihar. In 1997-98 this figure was 56 percent in respect of Bihar and if it has come down by ten percent despite this fact the percentage of the people living below the poverty line would be 46 percent. Poor people are in dire strait. Today we are discussing was how the condition of Bihar can be changed and improved.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to put some points before this House. As you are aware that there are about 30 lakh agricultural labourers in Sitamarhi, Gopalganj and Motihari districts of North Bihar and most of them have left North Bihar to earn their livelihood in other states because employment opportunities are not available in Bihar. The agricultural labourers are not getting any employment as there are no industries or factories in these areas. The agricultural labourers have not migrated in a day. This number is increasing year after year. This is a national problem. I would like to mention that this is having adverse impact on agricultural status of Bihar. Because if the landless labour migrates then who will take care of agricultural work. The state reality is that the agricultural workers are not available to the small farmers possessing 10-15 acres of land because there are no other means of employment, therefore, all the agriculture labourers have gone to other places for work.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Radha Mohan ji talked about the credit limit in Bihar but I do not want to go into it but if you look at the ratio at the national level, you shall find that this ratio is 10.15 or 18-19 percent of the total amount deposited in the Banks in Bihar. As per the guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India, the rural areas where people invest 35-40 percent money in banks, that

money would be invested there only but that money is being invested in big cities like Mumbai and Kolkata. I am not talking of the states. Money is invested in big cities. This is the condition of C.D. in Bihar...*(Interruptions)* You are saying that it is 11 percent in Kolkata.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as far as flood is concerned, Bihar faces flood and drought for six months each in a year especially north Bihar is flood prone area, It faces flood and drought for six months each in a year. The rivers flowing down from Nepal, Such Kosi, Bhutatibulan, Kamalabalan, Adwada Samnh, Gandak etc. cause devastating floods in North Bihar. The entire infrastructure like schools, colleges roads etc., are destroyed and crops worth crores of rupees are also damaged. Studies were conducted and discussions were also held to resolve the problem of floods caused by these rivers. A team from Japan had also arrived. I have just heard that a separate wing has been setup in the Planning Commission. At the time of constitution of the Reorganisation Commission, it was stated that the Planning Commission has set up a unit for special arrangements in Bihar. Two years have elapsed since then. This special Grid has not done anything so far. Nothing has moved in this direction. An estimate of Rs. 1250 crores was made after conducting the studies in this regard. A high level dam needs to be constructed to control the floods in the Kosi river. A proposal was made to construct in a high level multi-purpose dam in the water catchment area of Shishapani which is located on the course of Kamla river. And Noonther which is located on the course of Adwada group of river will also generate three thousand megawatt hydel power. It is all the more necessary there. The hydel power can be available there at the cheaper rate. Bihar can supply electricity to the neighbouring states like West Bengal from it. With the construction of a high level dam on the said river, three thousand megawatt hydel power can be generated. But the plan for this project is not being approved. You may say something like that a unit has been setup and certain amount is being given but it is like a drop in the ocean. However, this is not going to change the fate of Bihar.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would now come to the issues pertaining to the farmers. Bihar was divided and the rate of Jharkhand was carved out. But what was left in Bihar thereafter.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when you were speaking in the capacity of a Member then you had very rightly said what is left in Bihar is sand and barren land the left out land has got the problem of water logging. Thereafter, the main crops are paddy and wheat and some amount

of crore grain is also produced. This is the state in Bihar. This year a little progress has been made in this field. One lakh thirty metric tonnes of paddy has been procured in Bihar through 715 procurement centres of the food corporation of India. I was just talking to Shri Chaubey ji who told that at least half of it has been procured through the middle men and the farmers were compelled to sell their produce through the distress sale which simply means that they did not or could not get even the minimum support price of Rs. 530/- per quintal determined by government of India. The price of high grade paddy was fixed at Rs. 560/- per quintal but the farmer could not get the MSP. The farmers did not get even their costs. The middle class exploited the farmers. Once the procurement was only 26 thousand metric tonnes and last year 8600 metric tonnes of paddy was procured. The much of production of paddy could be achieved after making all out efforts in this direction. Mr. Chairman Sir, you yourself and Shri Radhamohan Singh are the Members of this Committee. The Committee visited several places, I myself went to certain centres and made assessment at several procurement centres. Therefore, it is needed that one lakh thirty thousand metric tonnes paddy should be procured so that the poor farmers could get some cash and their financial condition could improve to some extent. At least 10 lakh metric tonne procurement should be done in Bihar alone. This much procurement of paddy can give a benefit of Rs. 20 thousand crore to Bihar. I do not oppose other states like Punjab, Haryana and Andhra Pradesh in this regard. However, the increase in procurement ratio in Bihar can improve the financial condition of farmers in Bihar.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Raghunth Jha Ji summed up the entire issue in nutshell and I do not intend to stretch further. Nevertheless I would like to say a thing or two on Bihar package. The real demand in economic package and according special status to Bihar. I do not want to go into the conditionalities as also stated by you. However, Bihar perhaps fulfills all the conditionalities for according special states to Bihar. Hilly terrain from Nepal border to the Bay of Bengal, all providing poverty, the devastating floods and proneness to natural calamities are certain features in this regard. I am saying all this in the larger interest of Bihar and this is not the occasion for indulging in party-politics.

Shri Jha ji had very aptly said that the state they hail from has a glorious tradition. Since the times of independence till today Bihar has been by and large tolerant. But when Bihar is affronted, it rises and creates havoc. Therefore, keeping in view all this, the Government should sympathetically ponder over it.

A resolution was passed in the legislature and it demanded a special economic package and here we submitted a memorandum on 28th November, 2000 and what happened to that. The seriousness with which the issue is being pursued is a clear evident and, therefore, the Government should also take it seriously. I am sad and feel sorry but all the Ministers from Bihar should have been present here also. This is the time for determination of state of Bihar. This is not the issue of any political party. We here, represent Bihar and we can go to any extent to safeguard the interest of Bihar in this august House.

We need to assent ourselves in the larger interest of Bihar. We shall ensure that Bihar gets to due share and we need to wage several battles for it. For this very reason, I mentioned it as to what would happen in the Planning Commission. Hon'ble Minister is here in this House. She would ask as to sit together and decide on it and they are ready what is that is ready? How is it decided in the Planning Commission. For natural calamities, the relief is determined on the basis of population and it is not decided on the basis of damage of the state and Bihar is discriminated against in this regard and the traditionally followed Gadgil formula states that the plan size for a state will be decided on the basis of the internal resources of the states concerned.

1900 hrs.

Mr. Chairman Sir, this way development of Bihar is not possible even in future. With the Gadgil formula, the condition of Bihar can not be ameliorated. For Bihar the Gadgil formula is like the iron gate to which filters have been fitted. The development of Bihar is not possible unless.

[English]

On the basis of needs of the state, on the basis of poverty in the state and on the basis of population in the state

[Translation]

the backwardness, population, devastating floods etc. are not considered and the Gadgil formula is not going to do any good to Bihar nor is this going to enhance the internal resources of the state. Can the internal resources be enhanced with the sand? The state used to get revenue from the rate of wine, industry and royalty from minerals but now Bihar is not getting anything. All this has gone to Jharkhand.

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

Sir, the population of Bihar and Jharkhand is 8,28,79,000 and 2,69,02,000 respectively and likewise the per capita income in Bihar and Jharkhand is Rs. 4,500/- and Rs. 7,000/- respectively. Bihar has got 37 districts and Jharkhand 18 only. The Parliamentary Constituencies in Bihar are 40 and in Jharkhand 14. Similarly, the Legislative seats in Bihar are 243 and in Jharkhand 81 only. Any mineral including the one used for constructing of roads is not available in Bihar. All mineral ores have gone to Jharkhand. In the production of coal at the national level Jharkhand contribute 32.4 percent, similarly, Jharkhand contributes 23.3 percent of iron, 46.6 percent of mica. Besides, minerals like red stone, graphite, asbestos etc. are produced in Jharkhand. Therefore, after division of the state, Bihar suffers a revenue loss of Rs. 1500 crore but Jharkhand has not suffered any revenue loss in this regard. Bihar got only Rs. 1985 crore and Jharkhand 2215 crore. Likewise the Central Government loan on Bihar is Rs. 23000 crore and on Jharkhand it is only Rs. 8000 crore.

What does the Government propose to waive off loans of Bihar? It's true that a cell has been set up in the Planning Commission to look after this problem of Bihar. But I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps are proposed to be taken by the Government to waive of Centre's loan worth 23 crore outstanding against Bihar.

Sir, I want to request that conditions of the Gadgil formula should be realised in this case of Bihar in order to provide assistance to the state. If you want to remove backwardness, poverty and bad condition of affairs of Bihar, then you should

[English]

on the basis of needs of the state, on the basis of poverty in the State and on the basis of population in the State.

[Translation]

Apply the Gadgil formula to the state, only then Bihar would get its plan outlay.

With these words, I strongly demand that the special economic package which the remaining Bihar needs should be provided to it and the status of a special state should also be granted to it. Since Smt. Kanti Singh ji is also sitting here. I would also like to request her to make a similar request to the Government. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would have made the same request to you also. But at this point of time, you are sitting in the chair. Therefore,

I would like to request Smt. Kanti Singh ji to advise the State Government to fully implement the centrally sponsored schemes in the state. Shri Raghunath Jha ji also spoke on this issue. He has already put forth his views very candidly on this issue. I would like to say through you, Sir, giving vent to your views vociferously in the House is not going to serve any purpose. Rather, keep a monitoring on the expenditure and utilisation of funds by the State Government. As of now, the Bihar Government is not able to spend more than Rs. 3 thousand crore. Therefore, I would like to advise to the Bihar Government through you, Sir, that it should increase its capacity for utilization of funds. And the economic package will only be meaningful to the state if it expands its infrastructure and only then the condition of the common public could be ameliorated. Therefore, a stress should be given on the utilisation of funds also on increasing the limit of expenditure. And whatever infrastructural facilities area needed for this purpose should be created, only then the State stands benefited. I want to say this thing here as a representative of the State Government since we have duly discussed on this issue here. I do not want to say anything in the context of irrigation since many other members will speak on that issue.

With these words, I would like to give my thanks to you and conclude.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are grateful to you for the issue you have raised since this issue which relates to Bihar is not a issue related to any party. Rather, this issue relates to eight crore population of Bihar. When the bifurcation of Bihar took place, we and our party had opposed it. We wanted to know as to what the intention was behind bifurcation, reorganisation of the State?

Our Purulia district was earlier in Bihar. I got my education in Bihar right from Intermediate to Post-Graduation level. I did my Intermediate from Chapra graduation from Jharia and post graduation from Ranchi. The bifurcation which took place at that time, a re-organisation commission was set up for the purpose. At that time our demand was that the population in our district was Bangla-speaking. That movement was a linguistic movement and due to this movement, Manbhum district which was the richest district of Bihar, was bifurcated. And a part of it went to Bengal. And as a result of it we came under Bengal in 1956. And the language formed the basis for the said bifurcation. But what formed the basis for re-organisation this time around. And this is the question which we had asked to hon.



Home Minister on which grounds their Government were re-organising the State, carving Jharkhand out of it. But they could not give us any satisfactory reply. Since only politics formed the basis for it, this is the reason why the situation has come to such a pass in the state. We were given several assurances at the time of bifurcation of the state. And it was the unanimous demand of all the parties and this House also that you can bifurcate the state but don't neglect Bihar. Due to this bifurcation of Bihar, all the industry came under Jharkhand. All the coal mines are located in Jharkhand. The Bihar Government used to get a royalty worth one and half thousand crore, now the same will accrue to the exchequer of Jharkhand. The steel industries are also located in Jharkhand. Mica mines are also now part of Jharkhand. These are also now on the verge of closure. Everything has become part of Jharkhand. What is left out in Bihar?

We had raised an issue about the Barauni fertiliser factory through a calling attention motion today itself. It is not a question of Bihar or Bengal only. It's rather a question of the entire Eastern India. The factory at Gorakhpur is lying closed and the Barauni factory is not making and production for the last three four years. The Sindri which is the first nationalised industry of our country is also on the verge of closure. When the hon. Minister was giving reply to the question on the Barauni factory issue, we had asked him to categorically explain the House what their stand was on this issue. We had asked them whether they will submit a proposal before the BIFR to bail out the Barauni and Durgapur factories. But they said that they would take a decision. And that decision could be of shutting down them. The Barauni factory is lying closed today where from the farmers of Bihar will get fertilisers. We had asked them if the farmers of Bihar had to purchase fertilisers from Hazira, how much it would cost? They say that the rate would be the same. But who will bear the transportation cost. This issue is related not only to the farmers of Bengal but also to the farmers of Bihar as well. The Government has not taken any steps to save these farmers. The Bharat wagon factories at Muzzafarpur and Mokama is also facing closure. They are no getting orders enabling them use their fullest capacity. Its not merely a question of funds. The question which you have raised about the advancement of Bengal and the figures presented thereto, the freight equalisation issue also relates to Bengal and there was a time when Bihar and Bengal ranked first and second in terms of advancement. How these states have gradually been relegated to back positions. When the coal is transshipped to Maharashtra or Tamil Nadu, the freight rate charged is the same. Similarly, when the steel is transported to any other state from Bihar, the freight rate is the same.

But when it comes to raw material being transported in Bihar, the freight rate charged is higher. Is this the freight equalisation? We had tried our best to remove this anomaly. Consequently, it was slightly phased out. Is Bihar responsible for this? Bihar is lagging behind in terms of poverty, literacy, employment, industry and all other fields. Regional imbalance is the root cause of it. Our federal structure which envisages upliftment of each state by providing assistance, has several shortcomings. We had told them it was not a question which related to Bihar only. This issue rather relates to the North Eastern Region. The CD ratio was 22 percent in the North Eastern Region ten years ago. They say that the infrastructure does not exist there. Railway network also does not exist there. And if there will be no infrastructure, no industrialisation, then who will make investment there? But who has to think over these things? Obviously the Central Government have to think over these things. Some concrete steps would have to be taken. Providing Rs. 50 crore in a particular year and Rs. 60 crore next year will not serve the purpose. Some correct steps have to be taken. Bihar owes a loan to the tune of Rs. 23,000 crore. Can't this loan amount be written off? What is the difficulty in it? The bifurcation of the State has already taken place. The natural and mineral reserves have not become the property of Jharkhand. And the remaining Bihar has nothing to cheer about. Rather it faces the fury of floods and that too of the rivers originating from Nepal. What arrangements have been put in place to check floods caused by the rivers originating from Nepal. Is it quite possible for the State alone to check these floods? Shri Raghunath ji has rightly said that it is impossible for the state to do so on its own. If the Government mobilises all its resources, even then it is not possible for the State to check these floods. Now it devolves upon the Central Government to take this responsibility. We do not oppose to providing ten lakh tonnes of rice to Andhra Pradesh free of cost since the Government is dependent on their support. But the Government should also pay attention towards the problem being faced by Bihar. A special package should be provided to Bihar. We do not say that the Government should provide one lakh 89 thousand crore rupees.

We say that concrete steps should be taken for industrialisation, employment, irrigation and for preventing floods. How can we prevent the loss caused due to floods in Bihar every year? We should take some concrete steps for that. It is the responsibility of the State Government alone, has the Central Government no responsibility at all? We would like the Central Government to take some concrete steps to solve the problem of Bihar. What is the difficulty in giving special economic package and granting the status of special state. If Uttaranchal and

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

North Eastern states can be granted the status of special state in view of their problems, can the same not be done in case of Bihar. It was stated that the funds of the 10th Finance Commission will not be released because Panchayat elections were not held there. Now the elections are over after some hurdles. So when the elections have been completed. Where is the money due to when the recommended by the 10th Finance Commission. The Finance Minister says that it has lapsed. They have given the money for one year, not for four years. The money for one year as recommended by the 10th Finance Commission has not been given. It is not an injustice to Bihar? We take it as gross injustice meted out to Bihar. We want to know as to what work was done during the 3-4 months...since the constitution of the core committee following the prime Minister's meeting with the all Party delegation. Today, we want the hon. Minister to tell us as to what were the recommendations of the core Committee and what action the Government have taken thereon. What are the Government thinking, what is worth thinking in it? In respect of Bihar it is not that the money was given, last time when this question was raised a reply was given. We do not want the same reply. We want you to take some tangible steps.

We also propose that a motion be passed in the House to grant Bihar the Status of special state in order to compensate for the extensive damage caused by the division of the state. A special economic package should be announced in the House for Bihar's development. We want that this motion be passed unanimously in the House.

We thank you particularly for raising this issue in the House. This is not an issue of a particular party, neither is it meant for any criticism targetted against anyone. But the problem of Bihar is justified and this is a question involving 8 crores of population. We demand it and we would like the House to deliberate on it and pass a motion in this regard unanimously with these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we give notices, then our names come on the first, second, third or fourth number. My name figures fourth but my turn has not come for speaking. Does the notice hold any importance?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your name is there.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: What then is the decision of the Chair? Are we going to get a chance or not?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Everybody will get a chance.

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at least everything has come up regarding Bihar, so the people are getting bored. You have got information regarding Bihar, we do have it and as Achariya ji says he also has it. Besides, all others who are sitting here know that once Bihar was like a king, and a king like Dadhichi who gave away anything just on a simple demand. Now the king is no longer there, it has become a monk, a beggar. This is known to you and to some others also. From the very beginning even after independence the people of Bihar have been on the top. The first President of the country was Rajendra Babu. At least three Cabinet Ministers happen to come from each district—Babu Jagjivan Ram, Ram Sevak Singh ji and Baliram Bhagat ji. But these people also behaved like a monk and worked for the entire country and put Bihar on the back burner. They followed the policy "you eat first, we will be content with whatever is left." Development took place in almost every field in the country but Bihar could not get even a glimpse of that development. We are still behaving like monks and saints. May the country prosper, but it seems that Bihar is solely responsible for nationality. The rest of the states get whatever package, whatever money they demand but Bihar is ignored totally. We are in great crisis today. You are feeling the same pain as I am because household problems are the same for all. My kitchen is the same as yours and as the kitchen of the tribals and Katwaru people there. I thank you Raghuvansh Babu for bringing today this discussion on the track, for bringing out the truth and making it comprehensive.

Now the question is as to what remains in Bihar. What donation do they want from us after such a long struggle. What is not with us, we have minerals, we have iron, we have mica, we have copper, barium, thorium and uranium. But these resources of Bihar are for whom—they are for the country, our motherland and for these sons of hers. But we are devoid of them in our own home. We have nothing left. We do not understand where to weep. One of us has said that Bihar is so self-respecting that whenever it wants the earth will quiver. This is not a story, this is a truth which all began in 1974. Should we take the same path? Will you not understand our situation unless we speak to you? Should we accept silently whatever you do? It is never going to mean the same. There is a saying which is perhaps not

relevant today that "Maunam Sweekritam" (Silence is acceptance). This is not fully correct today. Silence is not acceptance and neither have I accepted it. Neither we nor any other party of Bihar is silent today. All are queuing up like beggars and asking this House for alms and bow in hands in the same way as Jaiprakashji begged in 1967. We are not beggars...*(Interruptions)* What I am saying is that the Central Government have been a silent spectator of our predicament over the last 54 years, of North Bihar being submerged by floods. There was famine in South Bihar and we fought and kept on asking for relief but nobody was there to help us. Jaiprakashji could hear this in 1974. Karpuri Thakur ji heard this and the entire nation rose to the occasion. At the call of Jaiprakash ji when people ran for movement and a great revolution took place, some people started hovering about the Charkha Samiti out of their own greed. They all came forward for their own betterment not for Bihar's. They did not run to save Bihar from what was happening there, on the contrary they came forward with a view to enlarging their own party. I would like to know whether plans for roads, schools, hospitals or irrigation were formulated and implemented in Bihar. This is what we call development. Could they provide fertilizer to the state where 30 crore people of the country did not get foodgrains? Today we are feeding 104 crore people, foodgrains are lying in surplus in the country. If we could get power for 22 hours we would get rid of unemployment. Raghunathji we have not done only this much, we went to Nepal and met the then Nepal Prime Minister Shri G.P. Koirala. We requested him to give us electricity. He asked us to get it requested through the Central Government. They had surplus electricity. Electricity is cheaper there. Hydel power is the cheapest power. Power is generated at the cost of Rs. Seven and 50 paise per unit from naphtha, gas, coal etc. but the power generated from water is the cheapest. He told us that they were ready to give us power if the Central Government asked them to. But we cannot entertain your request. Shall I put Nepal on fire by generating electricity? This was the reply of Shri G.P. Koirala.

Electricity for Bihar had been announced. There are 68000 villages in Bihar. 48000 villages are electrified. But on scrutiny it was found that out of the 48000 electrified villages, 20000 villages have been de electrified and 14000 villages are yet to be electrified. But on paper they all have been electrified. Out of the remaining 14000 villages, 5000 villages are completely without power. And to cap it all Bihar has to pay an arrear of Rs. 5500 crore to NTPC this is the power situation in Bihar. Who is responsible for that? The Government are giving some package, they have done some reforms. Suresh Prabhu

ji has taken some good steps which have been commended by all I also commend them but nothing has so far been done. This is as good as nothing. We should be given such a package as could enable us to put ourselves on the path of progress. It would not be right to release very meagre amount in the package. At least this much amount should be given which may facilitate development of the state and pave way for progress. I would also say that this Rs. 2300 crore must not be waived-off in future as well. I am not opposing Bihar. My submission is far from being in their disfavour. The Government should release this much that we are able to grow out of that and should be able to repay their loan lest other states should start demanding waive-off their loan and Bihar becomes as precedent...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: I would like to tell my friend Shri Chaubeji that the loan given to Punjab, the most developed State of this country, was waived-off by Shri Gujral ji. That is why Bihar cannot become a precedent.

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY: Different Governments have been ruling this country at different times. It depends on the Government the kind of policies it pursues. Different Governments adopt different policies. If the people of Bihar have any objections than I can take back my words, however I would not be doing so from the core of my heart. What I mean, is that it should not become a habit. People take loans and do not repay. People buy tractors by taking loans from the co-operative banks and wait till it is waived-off. I do not wish to complicate matters I want to say whatever is right. It is being said that poor people are migrating from Bihar. The people dying of sunstroke or cold-waves due to lack of food, water or shelter are not few in Bihar. Large number of people are dying and they have been dying from the last 54 years. No Government is responsible for this, it is the system which is responsible. It is the result of the system Tulsidas ji has written-"Bari mathey baru hoi ghril, Sikta se baru tail". It is possible to have ghee churned out from water and oil from sand, but it is not possible to remove poverty from Bihar. Bihar moving ahead on the path of progress is beyond our imagination. Bhuhukshita Kinnkaroti Papam-hunger can compel commit any sin. If Bihar marches for forward on the path of progress then there will be no stopping the system from collapse and then it will follow the trial of Acharya ji. Bihar has lost everything. The royalty which was fought for during 1987-88 and 1990 has become part of another state. Now Jharkhand will be getting royalty. Bihar is in a poor state of affairs. Mr. Chairman Sir, you are in the chair of present. How can you leave Bihar at someone's sweet will. I understand that this proposal has been

[Shri Lal Muni Chaubey]

passed in the House unanimously but there are no members as witnesses there are walls, your chair—Dharam Chakraprawartnai—who is a member here. The motion will be passed as per rule, but how many members are there in the House? This is the magnitude of our anguish and not even 42 out of 542 Members are present in the House. The anguish of Bihar, the discussion on Bihar—the presence here shows as to how many people are suffering or are affected by the problems of Bihar. The reason is that I myself have forgotten so have all these people but still one is reminded of the pain. When we move out, in the open we look for the cool shadow of a tree to relieve ourselves from the torturous heat. There could be opposition based on principles but we sit under the same tree because we all need comfort. We are in that very state of anguish. We feel hot if the air conditioner is out of order, we travel in matador and we feel hot. The more sensitive people suffer more. Those people cannot bear heat. We are not demanding a vehicle here. We are demanding for relief from anguish of Bihar. We are getting singed in this flame, that is why we are sticking here forgetting our principles, thinking, philosophy etc. That a package should be given to Bihar. There is unanimity in the House. We will demand unanimously that is why it should be recorded.

Sir, discussion under Rule 133 was held to sufficient package and special status to Bihar and it was passed unanimously in this House—it shall be done today. I draw your attention to the memorandum submitted by the MPs of Bihar to the present Government. We met two-three times to discuss Bihar. The Government gave us a positive assurance which could be relief upon and could be challenged. We are hoping that Bihar will move forward on the path of progress after this package is cleared...*(Interruptions)* If the Minister wants she can announce a package today itself and this gesture will give us pleasure. She may also say that an announcement in this regard will be made after consultations. It should be announced by the Government not like a time bound programme Members have spoken on this matter and the hon. Minister may say that she would like to know everyone's opinion. One hour more should be given, it is not that everytime extra time is given. Today consultation or advice would be taken as to how much amount should be given in the package. It would have been good if the hon. Minister would have come prepared with her reply otherwise it may be announced after consultation. I want that the package should be announced as early as possible. If it can not be done right now, then let it be through broadcasting. We shall be highly obliged if it is announced alongwith

the amount thereof within seven days, because we are hungry and crying. The people are voicing their grievances. They will be extremely happy and acknowledge your concern for them. The Government is overwhelmed by my voice of concern and I hope that it will erase the curse of poverty from the state.

I would like to conclude by urging upon the two Ministers present here to prevail upon the Government to announce the package within seven-eight days, if not now. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, First of all I would like to thank you for raising a discussion on the question of financial package to Bihar. You have raised a very important matter in the House and we too have got an opportunity to express our views on this subject.

Mr. Chairman Sir, Bihar has been discussed in various ways in this House and whenever there is a discussion. We have been tangling with each other. Today it is an opportunity when we are discussing Bihar with a broad mind and by rising above party politics and we can see clearly the Bihar of yester years and of today. We were prosperous in the then Bihar and now we are suffering. It will take time to look for reasons for this suffering...*(Interruptions)* Bihar is a State where the sages-saints, Gods-Goddesses long to go. I do not wish to go into the list of pilgrim places there, but there is a huge line of sages. But Bihar has been oppressed from the very beginning. This is because we are self-respecting people and from the very beginning our thinking has been not to accept slavery. From day one, we raised a revolt against slavery. Nobody can forget that incident wherein Babu Kunwar Singh ji from village Jagdishpur of Arah vanquished the British by the power of his sword. Likewise, Gandhiji selected the hoogly land of Chamapran, Bihar to launch his movement. He tested the people of Bihar and felt that if he began his protest from Bihar we would be successful. The day when people like Jai Prakash Narain ji and Rajendra Babu joined the movement under Gandhiji's leadership Bihar became an eyesore for the British and they conspired to prune it economically. In fact, the Government that was formed in independent India followed the footsteps of Britishers. The way those Britishers had cut and pruned Bihar economically, similarly the Congress Government also continued doing injustice with Bihar. Today we are afflicted by the problems of Bihar and when it was being partitioned, we were crying in protest. Hon. Devendra Prasad Yadav Ji is a witness to it as he was also strongly protesting the partition. But the proposal was passed by

the Bihar Legislative Assembly under a political conspiracy. It was passed to save respective chairs. The Central Government had already decided in favour of bifurcation of the state. If anybody from the Congress or from the BJP says that he was working in the interest of Bihar, it is not going to be believed by the people of the state. All are equally responsible for Bihar's predicament. The situation that did not warrant bifurcation but it was done. Our heart was taken out of our body.

Lal Muniji is sitting here. He was saying that he did not agree on the question of waiving off the loans. Loans worth Rs. one lakh ten thousand crore are lying unrecovered with big industrialists which the Government is seemingly helpless to realise. This is a question of a meagre Rs. 30 thousand crore for Bihar's destiny and the upliftment of Bihar's new generation.

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY: I objected to the waiver. What I said was that the money that has been waived off should be recovered from the industrialists.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: We are capable today. Bihar's labourers go to the various parts of the country to work in the textile mills. All the industries of Bengal are on the verge of closure. If we closely scrutinise the population of Bengal, we share a good part thereof. In Gujarat where labourers are in demand, Bihar's labourers pour in their sweat to produce cloth. We clothe the country and the work with our diligence but it is a pity that our condition is deteriorating from bad to worse. We are not in a position to buy clothes to cover our bodies. Bihar's labourers work hard to construct highrise buildings but take a look at Bihar where the people do not have even hutments to live in. What are the reasons behind it that compel them to find employment outside Bihar.

Today we are having discussion about the Government of Bihar. I do not want to pass remarks against the Bihar Government but one must accept one's weakness. If we do not accept our weakness we won't be able to make a concerted effort to put Bihar on the right path.

While participating in the discussion, Radha Mohan Singhji and other hon. members said that we could not spend the funds provided by the Centre. What indeed is the reason therefor? I have read in a number of newspapers that the funds are diverted. We shall have to make arrangements to ensure proper utilization of funds. At present an amount of Rs. 150 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana is lying unutilized in Bihar for about 10-11 months. Two and even three

instalments have been released to other states of the country. The third list has come from the rest of the country while the first instalment has just been sent to Bihar. But unfortunately even that money has not so far been spent. The work has started at some places. Tenders were finalised. It is more than 6 months now and those tenders might have been cancelled. Tenders have not been finalized in Bihar till now and hence the money is not being spent. Who is responsible for that?

Once a PIL was filed in the Patna High Court. When Nitish Kumarji was Minister of Surface Transport, money was sent for Bihar but that money was not spent by the Bihar Government. While delivering the judgement of the PIL, the Patna High Court ordered that if the State Government failed to spend the money, the Central Government might get the work done through some other agency. I don't know whether that order was implemented or not but I would like to tell the hon. Minister that it would not be proper to stall the development of Bihar and stop its allocations only for the reason that the Government of Bihar is not able to spend the money. The Government of Bihar should spend whatever money it is able to spend. But Bihar should be developed, hospitals and roads should be constructed all these things should be done there. Difficulties are, of course, there and hence the demand for economic package.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as per my information, I don't know whether it is right or wrong, the Ministry of Defence has proposed to open a Sanik school at Gopalganj which is pending for quite a long time.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Approval for schools at two places—Gopalganj and Nalanda were accorded one and half a years ago but work has not been started yet.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Central Government is giving money to the Government of Bihar and we are not ready to take it. The State Government is unable to provide land. Don't we take it as a package? Likewise a proposal for Central School at Mashrakh is pending. We told Lalluji here that this Central School is not being opened for want of land. The Government has the land. He told us that he would get the land allotted soon but this is yet to happen. Will Bihar not be able to make progress educationally? The Central Government are offering schemes but the Government of Bihar is not completing them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a power project of Power Grid Corporation has been sanctioned in Maharajganj but a

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

no objection Certificate has not come from the Patna Power Complex for the last 10 months. I wrote to the Minister of Power and talked to him over telephone. You might remember that a meeting was organised at Bihar Bhawan which was attended by all the Members of Parliament from Bihar. You also were there in the meeting. When we requested it was told that the NOC would be issued within a week. And today we don't know how many weeks have passed. Shri Chaubeyji deliberated a lot on power. A Grid Corporation project worth Rs. 365 crore is proposed for North Bihar. For this the Government of Bihar had to sign an agreement. In a meeting it was discussed. We had urged the Minister of Power to give assurance by signing the agreement. That meeting was also attended by the Chairman of the Grid Corporation. You also were there in the meeting but the hon. Minister did not give any assurance. He said that he would take up the matter in Patna but nothing has materialised so far. Then what is that package we are demanding for? In no way a package means money in cash. This relates to schemes. Schemes have already been sanctioned and the Central Government are ready to give the funds but we are not ready to take it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit through you that the State Government should spend the funds for schemes offered by the Central Government. If in a scheme land is to be provided, the State Government should provide the land. If the State Government is unable to spend the money, the Central Government should get the work done through some other agency. The state is to be developed, the Central Government have no right to stall its development. When Bihar was being divided, we had registered our protests. I had met the hon. Minister of Home Affairs in camera. He had assured that he would do something for Bihar as a special case and hence we should not oppose it. In his speech he had assuringly said that a separate unit has been created in the Planning Commission. Two years have passed, what happened to that unit, has a report come from there? None so far. What is that unit doing? If it is doing nothing. I would like to say that whatever was said in the House at the time of Bihar's division was a cheating with Bihar. Hon. Raghunath Jha has rightly said that Bihar's soil has a kind of peculiarity in itself. Attempts to suppress Bihar should not be made. A simple spark from Bihar may culminate into a volcano. Bihar's people are oppressed and distressed today. Today Bihar is supporting the Government with all its might. 34 Members of Parliament from Bihar out of 40 are with the Government today. Even after getting support of 34 of Bihar's Members of Parliament, the Central Government have not so far

fulfilled the assurances given through this House. Nothing can be more unfortunate than this. I would like to urge the hon. Minister to fulfil immediately the assurance given by the Minister of Home Affairs at the time of Bihar's division.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was saying that a meeting was held here under the leadership of Nitish Kumar ji...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Had it been Chandrababu Naidu, he would not have left without getting the package. It is unfortunate that despite the support of 34 Members, the Government are doing nothing.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: What to do Priya Ranjan ji, we are in distress.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I did not mean to hurt you.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: We do not think it is a sorrow...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Chairman, Sir, we did not want a discussion but if Priya Ranjan ji has said this I would like to say one thing that Priya Ranjan ji you also are no less responsible for Bihar's predicament. It is you people who are most responsible. Priya Ranjan ji think of the present Government in Bihar, money will come there from outside only when there is law and order and the judiciary is functioning properly in the State. Think of the Government you are giving support to, you are helping massacres to take place-something of Harijans and something of the people of some other caste. Since you are instrumental in genocide to take place there, nobody from outside is ready to invest capital there. That is why Bihar is becoming poorer day by day. You all are involved in Bihar's catastrophe and not only that you are making a mockery of yourself in Bihar and for the situation you are creating there, the times to come will teach you...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you conclude, please.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will conclude within a minute. Since Dasmunsi ji has said so I have told him that they are trying to close their accounts in Bihar. Hence, I would like to request you to be cautious and withdraw your support from the Government there. If a new equation emerges, we will see to it.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The day you decide to withdraw support from this Government we

would also do the same the very evening. First you decide it. This is a contract between you and me. You first take a decision...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please conclude.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: One more point and I shall conclude. We would like today that three motions are passed unanimously by this House. We want that the debt of the Government of Bihar should be waived.

There is an example of it in the country. When Gujara! Sahib, the Rajya Sabha Member from the Rashtriya Janata Dal was the Prime Minister, he had waved off the outstanding loans of Punjab which is the most prosperous state of the country. The situation in Punjab, at that time was not like the present situation of Bihar. The situation in Bihar has become from bad to worse.

20.00 hrs.

We would like the loans against Bihar to be waived through a unanimous resolution passed in this House. I think the House is unanimous about doing away with the misery of the state. If the Government is determined to strengthen the state then it must realise that it cannot be done unless Bihar is accorded the status of a special state. Therefore, another unanimous resolution should also be passed in the House giving special status to Bihar. Similarly, there is an issue of providing financial package to the state. I am not aware of its details and I am also not aware whether the Govt. of Bihar has sent any proposal to the centre in this regard. Of course, I have heard that there is to be a meeting in the Planning Commission in which all the members of Parliament hating from Bihar are invited. The representative of the state Government Kantiji is sitting here and you are also available in the chair. I would like to request that if the above information is correct then I should also be provided a copy of the said proposal of the State Government so that if I attend the said meeting I might be able to read out the proposal and may plead for maximum financial package to be given to the state. At the same time, I would like to propose that in case the State Government does not utilise the funds properly then other agencies should be involved in this work to ensure the development of the state. We used to pass one more unanimous resolution in this regard.

I would like to say to Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi that the day his party decides to withdraw the support from the Bihar Government. We would also withdraw support from the Central Government within 20 days from that date and would establish friendly relations with your party. Even if our party does not agree, we would give you our majority support.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Accordingly to Lucknow style I would request you to come up first.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time limit for the discussion is over. If the members of the House agree the time for discussion may be extended till the discussion is finally over.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, yes!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Since the Members of the House are agreed, therefore the time for discussion is extended till the discussion ends.

20.02 hrs.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

**Re: Business of the House**

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, I have to inform the House that at the meeting of Leaders of Parties held today, it was agreed that a discussion under Rule 193 regarding terrorist attack on bus passengers and at Army Camp at Kaluchak in Jammu on 14.5.2002 may be held on Friday, the 17th May, 2002, immediately after Question Hour by dispensing with the listed Private Members' Business, in view of the importance of the matter. The Minister of Home Affairs may reply to the discussion around 5.00 p.m.

The Private Members' Business (Bills and Resolutions) fixed for tomorrow may not, accordingly be taken up.

I hope the House agrees.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

20.03 hrs.

## DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

### Financial Package for the State of Bihar—Contd.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH (Bikramganj): I am thankful for the motion moved by you and Prabhunath ji under Rule 193 for providing special package to Bihar. Whether it is a member of the treasury benches or the opposition, they all refer to Bihar as a sick state whenever Bihar is in discussion. This state of sickness of Bihar was not there before the creation of Jharkhand. All the streams of development have flown only in other states and not in Bihar.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the situation in Bihar was not so earlier. The partition of Bihar has created several issues concerning the development of that region. At the time of independence Bihar was a developed state but the situations changed with the passage of time and now Bihar is at the bottom in terms of development. The economic and the social structure of the state are in disarray. And it is very important to set them right. Any further negligence of the state may pose a threat to the very integrity of the nation.

Sir, you also cited several data in the House to say how Bihar has been neglected. Shri Raghunath Jha and Shri Radha Mohan ji have deliberated upon several reasons attributing to the sorry state of affairs in Bihar in course of the ongoing discussion focusing on the lack of development in Bihar. I would like to remind that while we were holding discussion in the House on the Bill seeking bifurcation of Bihar Members of all the parties including the Home Minister Lal Krishna Advani had assured that a special package would be given to Bihar. All the Members had agreed in the House that Bihar must get special package for ensuring development in the state. It was only after getting that assurance, the Bill was unanimously passed in the House. But nothing has so far been given even after two years have elapsed since then.

Shri Prabhunath Singh asked why financial package should be given. I would like to tell him that the floods in Bihar caused by the rivers originating from Himalayas play havoc in the entire state through Koshi and Gandak. Financial package was given in Gujarat and Orissa when these states witnessed natural calamities, but no financial

package is given to Bihar when there is floods in the state. Why such a step motherly treatment is meted out against Bihar by the Central Govt.

Sir, there is flood in Bihar every year. When the state was hit by floods during the last year, the Central Government announced to provide rice to the state instead of providing any financial package and it was propagated that lakhs of tonnes of rice have been provided to Bihar for flood victims. I would like to clarify that the rice was provided under "food for work programme" and not as a relief. Moreover, the quality of the rice was so substandard that not even animals were ready to consume it. The Central Government brought an allegation that the Government of Bihar was not lifting the rice for distribution. Now anybody can imagine how the Bihar gov't. could take that rice which was not worthy of being consumed even by animals. I want to ask what the Central Gov't. did to provide immediate relief to the flood victims. The fact remains that the Central Government did nothing to provide any kind of financial package to Bihar, rather it was only propagated that the Gov't. of Bihar was not lifting lakhs of tonnes of rice provided by the Central Government. I would like to accuse the Central Government of misleading and cheating the people of Bihar. Efforts were made by the Central Government to project that the Central Government was trying to help the people of Bihar but it was the Government of Bihar which was not doing anything and that the Central Government provides help to the state on every occasion but the State Government does not lift the foodgrains that is provided as relief measure. I once again repeat my question, what was done by the Central Government to provide immediate relief to flood victims. Bihar is hit by flood every year. Therefore, the Government of Bihar considers it as a national issue and requests the Central Government to pursue this matter.

Whenever there is discussion on this issue the Government assures that it would take up this matter with the Government of Nepal but we never know how the matter is being pursued and how far we have succeeded in this matter.

If one talks about getting rid of floods, the Bihar Government has suggested several projects such as the Kosi upper dam project, Kamla dam project, Bagmati dam project and other projects also. And if these projects are constructed there, we can check floods to a great extent and we can also generate hydro electricity through these projects besides creating new sources of irrigation. That is why we are giving emphasis on special package.



And we have been demanding it since carving of Jharkhand out of Bihar. And the second most important issue in Bihar is of industries. Agriculture is the only industry which is left out in Bihar after its bifurcation. All the industries which could be agriculture based are already there. We have had a bumper crops this time around. We have so much production of foodgrains, it can not only meet the requirement of Bihar but the other states too. The farmers are not getting reasonable prices for their produce as the support prices announced by the Union Government are relatively low. The big land-owners or the mill-owners are rather getting benefited from it. Whereas the Central Government talk about procurement of paddy through the FCI.

Shri Devendra Prasad ji just said that he personally enquired about it at several places. I want to know as to how much paddy or rice was sold there. Our farmer-fraternity cannot meet their both ends meet with this paltry sum.

20.12

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

We had one Kadavan Reservoir Project and if that project is constructed, then I think that lakhs of hectares of land could be irrigated. The condition of the farmers of Bihar is more or less the same as that of the farmers of the rest of India. Rs five crore are required to generate hydro electricity from a mini hydro project. Moreover, we have good network of canals and we can generate hydro electricity from these canal also. As per the information I have, the Central Government are providing funds for power projects in hilly areas but in the areas where hydro electricity is easily generated through the canals, the Central Government are not providing any funds. The scheme which is formulated there could generate electricity upto 72 mw. But the Central Government's assistance is required to implement the same. We have PPCL at Amjhor where a huge reserves of phosphate are found. And only Rs. 90 crore are required for its revival. New infrastructural facilities are available there but the central government are not providing any funds. It is said that the Union Government are providing a special package for the revival of the public sector undertakings.

We have the Dalmiya Nagar Factory. People might not know about other factories of Bihar but everybody knows about the Dalmiya Nagar factory. But that is also lying almost defunct. Lakhs of people have been rendered jobless but no concrete steps are being taken for its revival. As regards package, all members of this House

are of the view that Bihar should get a special package. There is poverty, unemployment and no industries are being set up there. There are several sugar mills but they have also become sick. These sugar mills should be revived. Bihar is a sick state and people are reeling under poverty there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: I wanted to be very brief as hon. Raghuvanshji has already explained the situation in detail...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have covered everything. So, please conclude now.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: All members of this House are also of the view that there is poverty. Therefore, the steps should be taken to grant the status of a special category state on the basis of population and poverty and simultaneously a special package should also be given so that revival work is undertaken there and the poverty of people is alleviated.

As regards loans, I would like to say that the hon. Prime Minister should waive off the....amount outstanding against Bihar as he has done in the case of Punjab, despite it being a prosperous state.

And now I conclude with the hope that this Government would do justice with Bihar in view of its bad condition and having a population of 8 crore, 30 lakh and 55 thousand people.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to be very brief. On behalf of Congress party and on behalf of the leader of opposition, Sonia ji, we fully support the motion moved by Shri Raghuvansh Babu and being discussed in the House in which Members have also participated and we also want to associate ourselves with this motion. Bihar is depicted as a state on the map of India but to call it a state only would belittle its importance. It, virtually signifies India. Right from the freedom struggle to the war of civilisation about which Shri Raghuvansh Babu mentioned, I feel proud of being an Indian with him. Bihar is a place on the map of India which gave direction to the struggle for freedom and the first to teach the lesson of civilisation.

When I used to visit Bihar as a member of Youth Congress, I would astonish to find that Bihar is a repository of the entire history of our country. But we

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

have undermined its importance. Certain people of Bihar have migrated to Bengal in search of a job and are still working there, I have a very close relations with them. Though Bihar and Bengal are two separate states. But this is for the namesake as socially, culturally and their ways of living are just like the members of a same family. We shared their feelings like the members of a same family. Even today when people come from a faraway village from Bihar and tell us about their woes that they are facing drought, flood, and reeling under difficulties. We share their woes as ours. but when we try to help them out, we feel sad as we are not in a position to help them out.

I want to put forward three suggestions through you. We do not want to politicise this issue since we had ruled the state quite for a long time. There must be some shortcomings during our regime in the state which has given rise to some problems in the state and similarly we must have done some good things in the state as a result of which the state has fared very well in some respects. Therefore, I want to suggest the hon. Prime Minister, the Home Minister particularly the Finance Minister, who gave an assurance at the time of creation of Jharkhand state, to call the Chief Minister of Bihar, leader of opposition of Bihar, leaders of all the political parties of Bihar and all concerned to have their views on the issue of economic package as it matters a lot. I really do not want to politicise this issue.

A decision should be taken prior to commencement of the Tenth Plan about the priority sectors which require more funds for the development of Bihar. So far I think, the Government should first focus its attention on two things. The first is to save Bihar from the fury of floods and whatever is needed for the Indo-Nepal river project, be it assistance from the world Bank and technical know-how from abroad, everything should be managed for the purpose so as to save Bihar from the fury of floods. And the second is to provide electricity in each and every village of Bihar. This work should be done on war footing. And a decision should be taken in this regard by the Prime Minister at a cabinet meeting and if Bihar requires more funds than other states for this purpose, I can assure you on behalf of my party that if such a proposal is brought in this House, our party would extend our full support.

My third suggestion is that since Jharkhand State has now become a reality, we should not find fault with it. Now we have to focus our attention on the areas or sectors in which Bihar is lagging behind be it industry, road sector or education. The Government should

immediately take a decision as to how Bihar could be made self-reliant within five year i.e. the Tenth Plan period. Kindly don't let me down. If the Central Government thinks that infrastructural facilities are not available in Bihar, it can provide funds on its behalf through implementing any project for the development of Bihar. But there is no system in place in the country through which the Central Government could carry out centrally sponsored projects in any state, it has to take the help of the concerned state.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to request you once again that after the conclusion of debate on this issue, kindly ensure that this debate does not remain on the paper only. Before the commencement of the monsoon session, I would like to urge upon the Government they should unfold their schemes for the development of Bihar so as to do justice to this debate. And I would like to assure you on behalf of the opposition party that we would raise no objection to any such scheme and even if West Bengal gets five paise less in doing so, we will not make it an issue. Since Bihar really needs it. As Prabhu Nath Singh ji has rightly said that the people of other states have the impression that the people of Bihar fight on the caste based issues and indulge in wrongdoings and they think that Bihar is a third class state. The people who think so are rather doing an insult to Bihar. But the things are not really and sense of discrimination which the people of Bihar are experiencing and the social treatment is meted out to the people of Bihar outside their state has become a practice in the country. And all these things have really hurt the people of Bihar. And this entire House has to think of giving a healing touch to the wounds suffered by the people of Bihar. And I can say it with full confidence be it the world of sports, be it the world of technology, the people of Bihar have made a remarkable progress. When I went to America on a study tour, I met 21 computer engineers and two scientists there and to my pleasant surprise out of them, five were from Bihar.

All the boys were feeling distressed over the fact that people make fun of their region, while we belong to one of the villages of that very Bihar. Those boys were from Nalanda. One of them hailed from the Nawada. Through you, I would like to say that if the spark is really ignited in Bihar then a volcano would erupt in the country. Its examples are 1942 movement and Chamapran movement. I, myself saw one of the instances in the movement led by Shri Jai Prakash Narain, when I was President of the Youth Congress. I had submitted a report to Indira Ji after touring Bihar that the youths of Bihar were longing to join Shri Jai Prakash Narain. I had myself

witnessed the sentiment of hatred against the State Government growing in the hearts of the youths of Bihar and they felt that only Jai Prakash Ji could give them a direction and I felt that a change was taking place. Although it did not please Sanjay Gandhi but I submitted in my report that the signal was coming from Bihar. If at that time Jai Prakash ji had not given a direction of Bihar then today I can say with a challenge that even Atal ji would not have been able to come to power.

That is why we must rise above party lines while deliberating upon Bihar. We cannot express in words the set back Bihar has received after the creation of Jharkhand. When the villagers from Bihar come and talk about it to me I can understand their agony. That is why I would urge upon you that you may not give a reply after today's discussion but final decision in this regard should be announced by the Prime Minister on the first day of the Monsoon Session. We would fully support it.

DR. SANJAY PASWAN (Nawada): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I would like to congratulate Raghuvansh ji for initiating a special discussion in the House in regard to Bihar package. We are neither soliciting any relief nor begging, rather it is the legitimate right of Bihar. There is no reason to doubt the good intentions of the Government as even the Planning Commission in its report has mentioned as even today Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are the most backward states in the country. It is a fact too. The Human Development Report of the Planning Commission has acknowledged Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and North Bengal as the most backward regions. Even the 11th Finance Commission has made a note of the fact that Bihar and Bengal are very backward. I do not think that in view of all the above facts, the Centre will not be in a mood to give anything. Attention should also be paid to the ways in which the Chief Ministers of developed states form groups and equip their MPs. with information and do lobbying in the Ministries, Corporations and civic bodies of the Centre. We must also know as to how much interest Bihar has shown in adopting such tactics. I do not wish to bring in politics in this matter. But I would like to know as to how much efforts are being made by the State Government. If this is not being done then it should be done. If the Central Government lacks in sincerity of purpose then efforts should made to remove this shortcoming. Bihar is very rich in land resources, water and human resources. We have perennial rivers in north Bihar. On the contrary, rivers in South Bihar have water only for 3-4 months. This is why both scarcity and excess of water create problems. The region with excess water face floods every year and the region with scarcity has to face the problem of drought. That is why we must

contemplate upon proper water management. A proper policy is required to be formulated in this regard.

Now, the entire North Bihar is going to be inundated by flood waters. The people of that region will be affected by it. What is going to be the remedy for it. We must pay attention to it. All the Members have expressed their opinion that a solution has to be found out either by holding talks with Nepal or by the intervention of the Planning Commission.

Secondly, 18 irrigation projects were running in Central Bihar which are suspended now. It is to be seen how these projects can be revived. We want that excess water in north Bihar should be channelised to the scarcity hit areas for irrigation proposes. Attention needs to be paid to it.

We are fortunate that Bihar is being discussed in the House today. You must have read in today's newspapers that the boy who has topped in the I.A.S. examination belongs to Bihar. Four students from Bihar have secured top rank in the last ten years. Despite this there are certain shortcomings, lapses, there is no proper atmosphere there but certain good things are also taking place. I would like to thank the Planning Commission and the 11th Finance Commission for their decisions favouring poor states and I hope they would continue the good work and whatever is due to the poor states will continue to be given.

I would also submit that whatever minimum we should be getting, we are being given but it would not be right to consider it a package. This package is given regularly as a routine. Another arrangement, in addition to this should also be contemplated upon. I would like to express my gratitude to the Government for the concern it has shown by setting up a special cell in the Planning Commission. If this cell functions properly then it would definitely pave the way for progress of Bihar.

The Ganga river flowing in U.P. has 14 bridges constructed over it while only three bridges have been constructed in Bihar while the river course in Bihar is longer than the river course in U.P. That is why more number of bridges on river Ganga should be constructed in Bihar. The work of Mungher bridge which is suspended for the last so many years should be resumed. Hon. Minister has given assurance in this regard and we want the work to be resumed.

Organic farming is being discussed all over the world. The land of Bihar is considered most suitable for organic

[Dr. Sanjay Paswan]

farming. If special efforts are made organic farming which is practised without the use of fertilizer and pesticide, can prove to be most successful in Bihar. There is H.F.C. in north Bihar and PPCL in South Bihar which have turned sick. Discussion has been held on these and hon. Minister had given assurance but I would urge upon him that the Barauni based HFC and Rohtas district based PPCL should be revived and developed. The Government should consider it. Besides, a joint committee consisting of MPs belonging to all parties should be set up to monitor the flow of funds, then only the development of the state can be ensured. I want that the vision of the State should be clear and the intention of the Government should also be clear and the Government should come forward to facilitate development. The package being given to Bihar is legitimate. The Government of India had identified 100 most backward districts in 1995. Incidentally 39 districts among them were of Bihar. I do not know for what reasons it is pending in Planning Commission. I would urge upon the Government that those 39 districts be included for the overall development of Bihar.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is very auspicious day for Bihar as special status as well as economic package have been accorded to that state. Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singhji initiated discussion on it which is still going on and Members of all sides are unanimous at least on this point that Bihar should get special package. I would like to say that we have celebrated golden jubilee of our independence as well as that of Parliamentary democracy. During the course of this discussion certain hon'ble Members have traded charges against one another regarding the functioning of the State Government and alleged negligence of Bihar by the Union Government. I would like to say that Bihar has certainly been neglected. But this is not the time to indulge in politics over this. According to me all Members of this House having affiliation to any of the political parties have been in power at some point of time or the other during the last fifty years. Therefore all are responsible for the alleged negligence of the State. The Congress party has been in power for forty years in the State. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasgupta who has just left the House after putting forth his views and the Members of other political parties who participated in the discussion have been in power at some point of time or the other and have neglected Bihar and negligence shown in past is responsible for the present state of affairs of Bihar.

Sir, discussion is going to give special package to Bihar and all sorts of arguments are being advanced. At the time of bifurcation of the state, a proposal was mooted

to the effect that Rs. 180 thousand crores would be given to Bihar. This issue has also been discussed in this House and in the other House the hon'ble Home Minister has said that he will see to it. A special cell was constituted in the Planning Commission to go into it and the Planning Commission got prepared a report pertaining to human resource and there was a categorical mention in that report that there is a need to accord special status to Bihar because there is backwardness in the state as well as lack of infrastructure. There are no roads, no schools for imparting proper education. There are no good hospitals in the state and there is shortage of electricity. You have also been a minister in the United Front Government and a survey was conducted at that time. In that survey hundred districts were identified. There are 39 districts of Bihar and Jharkhand which are the most backward districts. Out of these 36 of 37 districts fall in Bihar. But the Union Government are not talking any action on that report. The Eleventh Finance Commission has recommended status of special state to Bihar and the Government also intend likewise. Besides there is unanimity amongst the members that there is a need to accord special status to Bihar.

Besides this all the hon'ble members have spoken in favour of waiving a loan to the tune of Rs. 23 thousand crores. During the last fifty years Bihar has been deprived of becoming self-reliant. Therefore, there is a need to help it in becoming self-reliant and I support this move. I hope that the Government would take a decision early on this and the hon'ble Minister would make a clear announcement here in the House in this regard. As Shri Priya Ranjan Dasgupta has said that steps would be taken in regard to sanctioning the proposal of Rs. 180 thousand crore package to the state before commencement of the monsoon session. My personal view is that the Government should pay attention to the report of the core group of members of Parliament headed by Shri Nitish Kumar concerning pending schemes be it Sita circuit. Which has a obvious reference to Ramayana, Gandhi circuit, Buddhist circuit along with other pending railway projects including national highway projects and construction of a bridge over the river Ganges and large bridges at other places.

The rivers originating in Nepal are causing flood every year in the state. Sir, through you I would like to request the Government to direct its minister to inform the House during his course of reply about the assurance received from Nepal regarding construction of Dams on rivers Bagmati, Adwada, Kamala Balan, Betia and Koshi as the Government had said that talks with Nepal are in progress on this issue. But later on we came to know that a

Secretary level committee has been constituted and the water resource secretary of the Bihar Government is also the member of the said committee. I want to know from the hon'ble Minister as to what progress has been made in this regard. He may or may not declare the amount of package but he should declare the steps taken to get rid of the havoc played of floods in the state every year caused by the rivers originating from Nepal besides the Government should also tell about its time-bound programme in this regard. If he cannot do anything to get rid of the floods being caused in the state every year by the rivers originating from Nepal atleast he should make an announcement to compensate the loss being caused to the state ever year due to flood by these rivers. The Union Government should compensate the state for damage caused to roads, railway lines in the state every year by floods. I would like to request the government that there is a need to take a one time decision on the question of flood being caused by the rivers originating in Nepal.

Besides this there is another important issue. Several hon'ble members who spoke on this put forward their views about the state Governments and I cannot help myself dwelling upon this issue. Certainly the present day Government have launched a number of new schemes for example the Government has added more than one thousand kilometers to the national highways and some new railway lines have also been sanctioned. Earlier states were not getting their share. There is a need to translate it into action...(*Interruptions*)

Sir, all the hon'ble members took a lot of time. I have also got the right as I have also given the notice to speak. Sir, there should not be any discrimination so far as allotment of time is concerned. I have also to take pains to give notice and now when I have been called to speak, I am being interrupted time and again. This is not fair. I want to point out this thing too. I may also be given time to make my point. Discussion on the states is going on here in the House. This year Rs. 750 crores have lapsed. Funds have not been incurred on rural development. The Government has earmarked Rs. 105 crore for the national highways during the last financial year and only Rs. 50 crores have been spent out of the said amount of funds and Rs. 55 crore out of it remained unutilised. When I talked to Shri Khanduriji on this issue he showed me a circular which stipulates that only one fourth and a quarter ( $1\frac{1}{4}$ th) times of funds would be provided expended in the preceding year to state concerned next year. Last year Rs. 50 crores were spent and Rs. 55 crore remained unutilised. Thus only  $1\frac{1}{4}$  time of Rs. 50 crore would be provided which comes to

only rupees six to seven crore. Rs. 50 to 55 crore of last year which remained unutilised will also be added to this amount proposals of reconstruction of Roads and national highways have been made but work in regard thereto is not being undertaken.

Sir, Shri Prabhunath Singhji told that it was the decision of the High Court that the Union Government should take the construction of national highways directly in its own hands but it is only half truth. At that time the Union Government circulated that directive of the High Court to all the states but the circulation was opposed by 18 states Governments on the ground that it is state matter and because of this fact it is difficult to execute work under this scheme. Pradhanmantri Gram Sadak Yojana was also referred to here in the House every year two to two and half crore rupees remain unspent on rural development or on other schemes...(*Interruptions*)

Sir, through you I would also like to request the Government that special package and status of special state should be given to the state along with waiving of loan, construction of circuit house and permanent solution of floods in the state but it should also be ensured that work is executed on time and at proper place. Proper arrangements should also be made for marketing of paddy, wheat and rice so that it may not go into the hands of middlemen. The Government should constitute a cell for this purpose and it should be monitored by the Government itself. The Union Government and state Government should do this jointly. It will be beneficial only when participation of members of Legislative Assembly and the members of Parliament is ensured. I hope that the package that will be given and scheme that will be formulated for development, proper arrangements for monitoring there of should also be made. I thank Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singhji for initiating this debate and I also request him that the way he vents his views on the programmes of the Bihar Government, likewise he should also ensure that the allocated funds are utilised. Like Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh could draw only four instalments under assured employment schemes. Bihar failed in drawing two instalments and even the instalments drawn could not be utilised properly. He should also come forward to streamline such things. We all the members of Parliament from Bihar will co-operative him in this matter.

Sir, I once again request the Union Government to sanction and announce special package for Bihar. Besides status of special state should also be accorded to Bihar. The condition of the state is worse. The outstanding loan to the tune of Rs. 23,000 crores against the State

[Shri Nawal Kishore Rai]

Government should also be waived of and for monitoring it a cell consisting of MLA's and MP's should be constituted so that everything goes smoothly and as per schedule. Moreover it should not meet the same fate which the scheme meant for Baghmati river met...*(Interruptions)* It was a Rs. 32 crore scheme Rs. 200 crore were spent thereunder during the last fifty years but the scheme could not be completed. This should not happen. This Government of India should constitute a monitoring cell within a certain time frame and the members of Parliament should be taken into confidence and those schemes should be get completed within the stipulated time.

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL (Monghyr): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this discussion has been initiated by Shri Raghuvansh Babu and honourable Raghunath Jha in regard to providing financial package to Bihar. Honourable Raghuvansh Babu has started this discussion. On my own behalf and on behalf of my party, I support it. When some honourable members interrupted, honourable Raghuvansh Babu spoke one thing in his speech that Bihar and we people are on the same track and will remain on the same track and are not going to be distracted. What I want to say is that the path taken by Bihar has led us from the second position to the lowest place and one does not know the extent to which we are going to sink further. As such there is a need to change track because that path leads to destruction. If honourable Raghuvansh Babu has said so only in respect of his own speech that his speech would continue in the same way then I have nothing to say about that...*(Interruptions)* Whatever our honourable members, have discussed here, I will not repeat those things. A package was worked out under the leadership of honourable Nitish Kumar ji on behalf of members of Parliament from Bihar and suggestions of all the persons were invited for the same. That proposal for package was given to honourable Prime Minister and all people know about it. Hence these two packages in respect of Bihar are there both of which have been discussed also here in this house. The package of Bihar Government amounts to Rs. One lakh and eighty thousand crore and the package worked out by Shri Nitish Kumar ji contains the names of the schemes also. Some of the schemes included in both the packages have already been sanctioned and are pending and money has been sought for those schemes. As such those proposals cannot be termed as a package.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, what I want to say is that Bihar should be given a package for new schemes and it should contain some thing as may bring prosperity to Bihar. The

first and the foremost thing, that is talked about Bihar, is about the agony of Bihar that what was the position of Bihar before its division and what is the position now is there for all of us to see. The first thing that I want to underscore is whether Bihar, as has been left after division, contains any mineral resources? My point is that certainly there are mineral deposits there and the proposed package must also include the answer to the question as to whether these mineral deposits should be explored or not. Immense mineral deposits lie hidden in the hills of Bhagalpur, Banka, Jarnui, Monghyr and Lakhai Sarai and the same has indeed been confirmed.

Five months back I had met Ram Vilas ji when he was a minister of mines but he has since submitted his resignation and is no more in office. I also wrote to Ravi Shankar Prasad ji to conduct a survey in this regard. We always lament much about the separation of Jharkhand and go on to assert that nothing has been left in Bihar ever since. Survey of India conducted a survey thereof, such thing are being reported in the newspapers. In Monghyr alone Quarated has been found one hundred meters beneath in Khadakpur, which is used in making lead. It is in great demand and need not only in India but in the markets of various countries of the world. The availability of this mineral can make Bihar prosperous and the country can take it to the international market. Whether it is to be done or not, should be included in the package. There are gold reserves in Karmatiya in district Jarnui. Bihar Government had submitted a proposal in this regard much earlier. When it was tested, gold contents were found to be 1.7 percent in the mineral at its upper level. In all the gold mines of the world, the mineral contents five hundred to one thousand meter beneath are taken as sample and first they are tested to find out the actual availability of mineral therein and then it is decided whether it would be useful or not? Bihar Government does not possess that much resources whereas the Union Government has the resources. The survey of India has revealed that Gold resources are available there. It is said that a mineral with 2.5 percent gold contents is considered to be useful. More than 5 to 7 per cent gold contents are likely to be available in Karmatiya, should be taken into account in the package. It should not only be surveyed and extracted but the money should be invested and the work undertaken there. Wherever there are gold reserves in India, they all are going to be abandoned. I can say this such that if any mine can prove to be more profitable than the mines in South Africa, It can be none other than the mine at Karmatiya. Like this, there are vast potentials of mineral wealth in 4-5 districts of Bihar. The Government of India should take it in its hands. It would lead to prosperity not

only of Bihar but the financial position of the country would also become strong.

One thing relating to the north Bihar Shri Raghunath Jha ji, has mentioned, I would like to add something to that. The Government of India should raise at the international level the matter of launching a multi-purpose project with Nepal Government and in this regard they should talk to the Nepal Government rising above politics. This can help us getting electricity. It is said that there are floods in Northern Bihar every year due to which the infrastructure of entire Bihar gets damaged. These waters can help in generating 40 thousand Megawatt electricity every year. It can involve expenditure upto one lakh 60 thousand crore rupees. The Government of Bihar cannot do this work. But a policy should be formulated by the Government of India to be able to talk to the Government of Nepal in this regard. Negotiations can be held with them in regard to construction of dam. It may help in saving the infrastructure at the rural level, can facilitate irrigation work and electricity can also be generated through it. It can become a multi-purpose project.

When we talk of Punjab and Haryana, we forget the ground reality. These states were also divided. We only talk that the land in Haryana and Punjab is fertile. But land was not so fertile off and on. The division of the state is lamented. I had been to Bhatinda few days back. Bhatinda is inhabited on a sandy land but today that city is a prosperous city. The Government of India should take a note of it. Punjab and Haryana have become prosperous because of the green revolution. The land there is better than that in Bihar and the city is blessed with prosperity although that land was not endowed with minerals. Our state is the richest one so far as mineral deposits are concerned and our land mass also is greater, then why it has happened. Does any scheme of our state cannot be included? Then questions would be raised about favouring something or opposing it. All these things should happen, it is not so. Here I would like to state one thing that the Union Government has so far spent 48 crore rupees on Ganga river project-phase II but we have not got even a single drop of water out of that. Who is to be blamed for that—we or the Union Government? I am not appreciating something but is it not a fact that Bihar Government has got a package?...(*Interruptions*) How much amount has been spent out of the funds provided for Nalanda and Badh Power Project...(*Interruptions*) Recently on 14 instant, the Prime Minister had called all concerned ministers. We also participated in that meeting. He said that the Government of India has provided 921 crore rupees for the projects of Monghyr. If the Government of India is

providing such type of assistance, then we all will have to admit that the Government of India have done it. No purpose is going to be served if we would go on blaming the Government. Now Bihar is in a wretched condition today, if more and more people of Bihar are becoming poor and the state is on the verge of ruin, there it is not the union Government which should be blamed for it. But we all should be blamed. It is because of the type of work culture that we have developed in Bihar. Let us see whether or not we do something to change that work culture. Even if Bihar gets a package, the whole of the package will be wasted on that account.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Home Minister is not present here but the Ministry of Home Affairs should devise means to bring Bihar Government, which has lost its work culture, on the right track and how the projects in Bihar have to be completed in time so that the people of Bihar have to be completed in time so that the people of Bihar could derive maximum benefits out of those schemes. As such, I would like to submit that after taking into account all the problems related to Bihar. I have reached at this conclusion that all the three demands made by the Bihar Government are justified. The Union Government should waive of all their loans outstanding against the Bihar Government. This is not being demanded without reason that Bihar Government cannot give. That Government has nothing to give. Bihar should get a special package. Bihar should get the status of a special state and the Government of India alone has got the power and strength to bring Bihar back on the map of India which has been out of the map for several years. With these words, I thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (*Arrah*): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the issues in regard to providing special package to Bihar under the rule 193, waiving of loan and giving economic package for several power and irrigation projects.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, may of our learned colleagues have stated that Bihar is at the bottom in the index list for poverty, development and education in comparison with the other states of the country. Mineral wealth has gone to Jharkhand. All the industries are dead now. This is perhaps not the occasion for debate and discussion rather an occasion to seek funds from the Union Government.

21.00 hrs.

Hon'ble Member Shri Brahmanand ji talked about mineral wealth and survey but as to who will got the

[Shri Ram Prasad Singh]

survey conducted. This survey is conducted by the Central Government. Not only that much, in our Rohtas district, phosphate reserves worth 100 billions of rupees are there and will last for hundreds of years and this mineral ore provide supplies not only to India but to the entire world also. It helps in manufacturing a very good quality fertilizer. There was only one centrally sponsored scheme in Bihar...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not repeat. Please speak on some new point.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: I won't repeat. Who will make that project operational? I spoke to the Finance Minister. I also met the Prime Minister in this regard, You always apprehend that the Bihar Government does not spend money. To this, I would say that you ask to ascertain the figures in this regard. Whenever, we are given grants, it is given at the end of the year and the State Government funds helped in formulating any scheme and to spent the funds meant for this purpose. I can say with certainty that the Union Government have always given funds at the end of the year. You always try to put the Government in the dock for no fault of it. In this regard, both the Congress Party and the BJP are equally to be blamed as BJP was also in the government in the year 1967. Today, certain members might have joined the Congress Party but everyone is to be blamed in this regard. It is Shri Lalooji's Government there for the last 10 years. We had accelerated the development pace, we had created awareness among the masses and when we geared up to fight in the economic front then we were implicated in all kind of cases to ruin us.

Therefore, the Bihar government should not be viewed with suspicion. We should be given grants in time and if we do not able to utilise the funds then, any ban can be imposed on us.

I would like to add one more thing to what has already been demanded by Shri Raghuvansh Prasad ji that irrigation system should be revamped in Bihar. For how many megawatts of power you had given money but only two units could be commissioned. The project like Patratu is not with us anymore. How we have the capacity of 1600 MW power. We have not been given full amount. Our sugar mills are lying closed...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Manjay Lal, Shri Ram Prasad Ji, you please sit down. I have called Shri Manjay Lal now.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: I am concluding.

What i want to say is that Bihar Government should not be seen with suspicion and we should be given the package in time. An outstanding due of Rs. 608 crores of Panchayats should be released and irrigation and horticulture should also be promoted in the state...*(Interruptions)* Why are you intervening in between. In any case I would express my views. I have great regards for you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, the entire House has supported Shri Raghuvansh Babu in raising the demands in the House and therefore, the House, must pass these demand by majority. I would request the hon'ble Minister to save Bihar, to safeguard the interest of Bihar, to remove the poverty of Bihar, to give special package to Bihar and to declare the state as calamity hit state. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI MANJAY LAL (Samastipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank the Hon'ble Member Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singhji for initiating this discussion under rule 193. At the time of independence, Bihar ranked seventh in the country in terms of per capita income and after 54 years of independence, we have gone to the bottom when we were fighting for independence, we had never imagined that after 54 years, Bihar will be in such a mess.

Today, we indulge in mudslinging at each other. The Union and State Government criticise each other for each and everything. Today Bihar is in very pitiable condition, there is no irrigation, no schools no jobs for youths, no electricity and roads and if we keep criticising each other, it would not serve any good to us and to the state. As was also mentioned by hon'ble Prime Minister, Bihar should be given the special package and Bihar should also be accorded special status and developmental works should be carried out in the state. Othorwise, Bihar has always pioneered the campaigns for change, and it would not be in the interests of the Central Government. Therefore, I demand that Bihar should be given special package and should also be accorded special status.

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (Khagaria): Mr. Chairman Sir, I shall try to putforth my views quite briefly as there is little time left. I extend my sincere thanks to all those hon'ble members who have raised the issues pertaining to Bihar. Today Buddha's and Gandhi's Bihar is begging which makes me recall a famous couplet\*

Mujhe to Apanoan Ne loota, Geraon me Dam Kahan tha.

Meri Kasti to Wahan Dubi, Jahan pani kam tha.



Mr. Chairman, Sir, Bihar has been looted and subjected to all sort of scams, kidnaps, rapes etc. during the last 10-12 years...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please speak on the economic package.

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: There is not much time so I do not want to indulge in any controversy. I would like to say that there are no arrangements for education in Bihar...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Except for what is stated by Smt. Renu Kumari nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Sir, on the division of Bihar, I had cast my vote in favour of the Government, but I was deeply anguished because after division of Bihar industries and education has been destroyed. Bihar is besieged of innumerable problems like scarcity of power etc.

Agriculture has been ruined and the law and order situation has collapsed. In this context, I would like to state that I was attacked thrice, the issue was raised thrice in the House by the leaders of my party but no arrangements were made for my personal security in Bihar nor did the Union Government make any arrangement for my personal security.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please Speak on the subject.

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: I intend to say everything because it is not our Government in Bihar...(*Interruptions*) What do you say as a Senior Member? It is quite surprising...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ram Prasad Ji, please take your seat. You are not allowed to speak without the permission of the Chair. You please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to turn the page and check the demands which have been made by the MPs from Bihar in regard to the package. I do not want to repeat. I associate myself with the points put forward by the members who spoke earlier on various subjects, whether

those relate to flood, drought, power or industries. I would like to state one more point that Chief Ministers of other states come here and meet hon'ble Prime Minister, Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Railways and other Ministers but unfortunately Chief Minister of Bihar never visit Delhi...(*Interruptions*). I would like to say something about the problems being faced by us. I am in favour of this package for Bihar. During the discussion held in regard to the setting up of Tenth Finance Commission, I said that a Government which was not able to spend the entire funds, was not at all entitled for such funds. but considering the condition of Bihar, package must be given to the state.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, package must be provided by the Central Government to State Government in any form. It can be provided in the form of schemes or in the form of funds. but I do not agree with the underlying provision of the constitution that the funds for the development of any state can be provided by the central Government only on receipt of a proposal from the state concerned to that effect. I would like to state that whenever I approached the Central Ministers demanding a certain thing whether that related to roads, railways or any other development work, they always advised me that such a proposal should come through the State Government. As the Central Government are aware, the Bihar Government is a defunct Government and not a single Minister of this Government is prepared to send any type of proposal...(*Interruptions*)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also belong to the State of Bihar so, nobody should take it otherwise instead they should accept the reality. So I do not appreciate the Government's insistence that such a proposal should come from the Government concerned. I, therefore, request to remove this condition, only then the backward states of the country would be able to make any kind of progress.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I demand that the hon'ble Prime Minister, Union-Government and hon'ble Minister should give a package to Bihar with a condition that the State Government should complete the development work, within the stipulated time and send the utilisation certificate to the Central Government accordingly and if the State Government is not able to utilize the allocated funds and agency should be deputed by the Central Government to carry out the development works there. I also demand that the Central Government should set up a committee consisting MPs from Bihar which may be entrusted with the task of monitoring the development work and the Government may seek a monthly, quarterly or six monthly report of the progress made in regard to the development

[Shri Renu Kumari]

works undertaken. Since the time to speak is limited, I conclude by thanking you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): Sir, the House has witnessed an extremely simulating debate over the last five and a half hours. I was told that it was a Short Duration Discussion but it stretched into nearly 5 to 6 hours' debate. Sir, right through it, I see across the board a deep concern for the State of Bihar and that is cutting across all party lines. I have to thank the Members for having put in their very valuable inputs and suggestions about the various problems and prospects that are disturbing Bihar today. Finally, I am grateful to all those Members who have participated in the discussion and it looks like everybody tried to participate in this debate.

Sir, I will confine myself very quickly to the replies which will cover I think *in toto* most of those issues which have been raised by various hon. Members. Let us divide the proposals into two issues. The Government is very concerned about the State of not only Bihar but about other States also where there have been problems of development. But particularly for Bihar, there has been a dedicated cell which has been put together in the Planning Commission so that the implementation of the proposals which have been sent by the Bihar Government can be monitored. The Bihar Government has sent certain proposals and we have sent them on to the concerned Ministries with the request that there should be an appropriate action. As everybody understand and knows over here that there is a way in which all of these issues are structured. The things will come up in the State of Bihar. They will have to go to the concerned Ministries and then the Commission would go back to the State of Bihar where we will all have to work together. The progress is definitely followed up and the reminders have been sent. We have some recent success which I would like to quickly enumerate.

Every Member here has spoken about the flood problem and has also spoken about the problem with Nepal. We have pursued very strongly the issue of construction of dam in that country so that some mitigation of the problem of the flood in Bihar can happen. I am

happy to say to you that very recently some action has been taken. As far as flood control is concerned, an inspection report for the Sapta Kosi High Dam, a multi-purpose project and Sun Kosi Storage-cum-Diversion Scheme have been finalised in 2001. The DPRs for these multi-purpose projects are now being taken up. Similarly the development of the National Highway in the State at a cost of over Rs. 156 crore have been planned for 2002-03. In addition, the work of making four lane of 197 kilometres of NH-2 and 517 kolometres of NH-28, 31, and 57 are being taken up in Bihar by the National Highways Authority.

Yes is the concern for projects like those of railway lines, new lines for gauge conversion and for doubling of track. These have been taken up in the State. Shri Nitish Kumar himself is a part of the State of Bihar and has shown concern. As on date, a total of Rs. 3300 crore worth projects are on hand in Bihar.

Sanctions have been given now by the Planning Commission for the electrification projects. A number of hon. Members present here today have spoken about the lack of electricity and the importance of being able to put up new projects. Sanctions have been given by the Planning Commission for Muzaffarpur TPS Stage II of 2x250 MW and the State can now take up the project. In the Central Sector Kahalgaon Stage-II of 1320 MW has received clearance of CEA and further action being taken on this issue. Similarly, Barh has been given clearance by the Cabinet as a mega project. NTPC has submitted the feasibility report to CEA for techno-economic clearance. The project can now be taken up for implementation after tying up all the various clearances.

The Ministry of Communications had envisaged complete coverage of all villages in the State of Bihar by December 2002. I just checked with the hon. Minister and he said he would be able to stick to the deadline. Similarly, during the Ninth Plan 44 tourism projects with a central financial component of a little over Rs. 912 crore have been sanctioned for Bihar and a development plan with focus on tourism and conservation for Bodh Gaya is under preparation. Patna Airport has been upgraded recently at a cost of Rs. 10.3 crore and the work is going on the develop Gaya Airport at a cost of 18.5 crore. This is supposed to have been completed by March 2002. There may be a little time over run, but it will be completed very shortly. Similarly, the Cargo area in Patna has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 11 crore.

A number of hon. Members have spoken about the concern for the procurement of foodgrains by the State

of Bihar. I checked with the Minister concerned also. As far as we are concerned, procurement operations in the State has been stepped up by that Ministry. Procurement of both wheat and rice in 2001-02 is higher than that of last year. Similarly, Rabi procurement of wheat is still going on. Additional Central Assistance of Rs. 150 crore has been sanctioned in Bihar for the last two years. The Planning Commission has commissioned this Report which I mentioned to you of the State Development Report for Bihar through the Institute of Human Development, New Delhi. The Planning Commission is also considering a special basket of new projects for Bihar. The Planning Commission and the Ministry of Agriculture have taken the initiative to implement this very large programme, what they call, Shallow Tubewells, in the State and subsidy has already been sanctioned for more than one lakh of such irrigation structures and pumpsets.

Some problems have come up recently and they were being discussed at a high level meeting which was taken up by the Deputy Chairman on the 15th May 2002. Central support to the State has also been substantially increased under the Eleventh Finance Commission award. From 1.2.2001 the Ways and Means limits have been enhanced and similarly the period of continuous overdraft which entails the suspension of payment has also been increased by a few days. The basic per capital Normal Central Assistance has also been increased from Rs. 169 crore for undivided Bihar to Rs. 194 crore for the divided Bihar.

I have to thank all the non. Members for their participation in this enlightening debate. Almost all of them have said that we have to cut across the party lines and we have to be able to see that these projects are implemented in Bihar. I have to say that there has been a substantial non-utilisation of funds which have been allocated by the Centre to Bihar under various Central Sector Schemes. I quickly go through them.

Today the utilisation of funds has been only in the range of 65-75 per cent and for the country as a whole it is around 90 per cent. For States like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Rajasthan, it is in the range of 93-95 per cent and sometimes this is even going up to over 100 per cent. Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh have exceeded their approved plan outlays. The Report of C&AG for 1998-99 shows that against the total provision of Rs. 706.77 crores for Centrally sponsored schemes, the expenditure was Rs. 260 crore and almost Rs. 446 crore went as savings.

Similarly, in the rural development sector, the State Government has lost a huge amount because they have not been able to provide a matching grant which was supposed to be given by the State, or because of large opening balance at the beginning of the year which has led to a shortfall in releases. So we have had problems in Central releases under poverty alleviation programmes. This is also true for schemes such as SGSY, JJSY, JRY, EAS, IAY, DPAP, IRDP, PMGY and PMGSY and other schemes in this sector. In the irrigation sector alone, the under-utilisation in the last five years has been to the tune of Rs. 400 crore.

The approved Plan size for the State for 2001-02 was Rs. 2644 crores. The State Government revised the Plan size subsequently to only Rs. 1665 crore. So, the expected expenditure will now be only Rs. 1484 crore. This highlights the fact that Bihar, with the lowest per capita Plan expenditure in the entire country, is not being able to utilise even its due allocations.

The Planning Commission has been requesting and is carrying on requesting the State of Bihar to provide it with information regarding the loss of revenue which has resulted as a result of the separation from Jharkhand. We say that if you are able to provide us the information, maybe, we will start working on that. But a detailed study of its financial resources needs to be carried out by Bihar and so far, no information has been made available to the Planning Commission. So, we have not been able to make progress in this direction.

Regarding governance and law and order issues of Bihar, we were talking about bringing in any kind of investments or bringing in industry in the State of Bihar. That will be impossible if the infrastructure facilities are not able available and also if the law and order situation is such that it does not encourage people from outside to come to that State. Unless this situation is rectified, we will be hard-pressed to bring in that kind of investment in that State. Here, I feel that we need to fully tap the available funds, for example, for the Centrally-sponsored schemes, Rural Infrastructural Development Fund of NABARD, Life Insurance Corporation, HUDCO, Rural Electrification Corporation, Power Finance Corporation as well as multilateral assistance which is being availed of by other States.

We need to be able to look into all these things. I believe that some major initiatives are needed to be taken by the State Government in this direction. So far nothing has happened. If we are able to do it, I believe, there are a lot of funds that we can access. We do not need

[Shrimati Vasundhara Raje]

to look very far. Once we have been able to access those funds, then we can look at the road map and the direction in which we need to go.

In sum, basically, the capacity of the State Government to absorb assistance is under serious question. Provision of funds, whether it is from the Central Government or financing institutions, involve a certain amount of counterpart responsibilities. So, it is important that in some places, you give matching grant and sometimes, you have to have utilisation within a certain period of time. You have to do completion of accounting and auditing and you have to have satisfying monitoring agencies to see that proper utilisation of funds is done and things are taken in the right direction. As far as we are concerned, the Central Government as well as the Planning Commission are committed to solve the problems of Bihar. We will see that no stone is left unturned within the parameters to see that Bihar manages or moves towards development and progress.

Development is not just an outcome of funds. It is also better management and proper functioning of institutions. The issue of governance itself will have to be addressed to by the State itself. It is something which we can be supportive of but the agencies will have to come from within. The decision for planning and development in all the different sector including allocation of funds for the various schemes and programmes will have to be taken by the State Government. The State of Bihar has to continue to make special efforts to improve its delivery mechanism and monitoring, and evaluation arrangements basically to improve its skills in the project preparations.

A number of hon. Members have given very valuable suggestions about bringing in outside agencies to see that special monitoring of allocation of funds is done. A lot of very interesting ideas have come from various Members and there was a talk of even fixing the Gadgil Formula. Now, as far as this is concerned, it is an old Formula. It is basically meant to ensure equity between the States as well as the Centre and the States. I believe that we will have to stick to certain parameters and work within those parameters to see that Bihar starts to move ahead.

In this regard, very little discretion is available with the Centre. Hence, I would say that the responsibility for lack of development cannot just be passed on to the Centre alone. It is a federal set-up. In this federal set-up, we are going to work together. The State will have to take up its own responsibilities. The Centre will take up

the responsibility in exceptional circumstances. The general point that has been made here is that after the division of Bihar, lot of allocations have gone to Jharkhand and as a result of that Bihar has suffered. I have some figures here. As per the latest available estimates of the State Government, and the C&AG, the performance of the State in terms of its own revenue generation, as well as the overall Balance from Current Revenues (BCR) has been much better than originally anticipated. The State Government deserves to be commended for its efforts for keeping the Non-plan Revenue Expenditure in control, which is largely responsible for the improved BCR. It shows that with a little bit of effort, if Bihar can do so better, then, I believe that with a little bit of help from the Central Government and other lending institutions and if the State is able to utilise fully the plan allocations, it would be very easy for it to move ahead.

It is a very large State. It was regarded as a very well run State. Its people are capable and very very hard working. It has rich soil and water resources. I think in a situation like this, there is room for improvement in the areas of agriculture, horticulture and fisheries. We need to be able to exploit fully the basic needs of the farmers, like quality seeds, technology transfer etc. This can be met with the available funds.

I think, at the end of the day, the picture is very clear before us. As far as the Centre is concerned, the Planning Commission is going ahead with some meetings where they will be putting a lot of attention on the development of Bihar. I will certainly convey to the Deputy-Chairman of the Planning Commission the views of all the Members here. There is a need for the Members to meet the Planning Commission to speak about the problems that they have for the improvement of Bihar. We have talked here about the *panchayati raj* funds and infrastructure availability. This is an interpretation of the Finance Ministry that funds have to be given only to those States where elections have been held. Therefore, the moment the elections were held, those funds were released. The Finance Ministry believes that not only has it released the funds after the elections, it gave a little bit extra also. I think that rather than recriminate with each other, it would be very important for all of us to put our heads together because Bihar is going through tough times. It is very important for all of us to be sympathetically aware that we have to work together to try and bring about a change of fortune of that State. I believe that every single Member, whether it is Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Shri Prabhunath Singh, Shri Raghunath Jha, Shrimati Renuka Kuman, who was very impassioned here, Shri Brahmanand Mandal, and Shri

Nawal Kishore Rai, has shown his anguish that he felt towards the State. I really do believe that it was not something meant for Press or for political gains. I believe it came from the heart. I do not believe anyone would have sat for six hours if they did not feel strongly about the State. I can understand the pain and anguish and I will certainly convey it to the right quarters. I do believe that if we work together, we will be able to alleviate the sufferings to a large extent of the State of Bihar.

I thank you all for having spent the kind of time. My thanks especially to Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh who has left no stone unturned. This is the third time that he has brought this issue to the notice of the House. There is not a single party of the Bihar State that has not made itself available to speak about this issue. I have to thank you all for having taken part in this most interesting debate. I must also say that as Minister concerned with this issue, I have been extremely enlightened over the last three Sessions that we have had. Nearly for 12 hours we have discussed this issue. I could learn a lot from it. I think we will be able to sit down to sort out this problem. I crave the indulgence of all the Members. I thank them from the bottom of my heart for the kind of time and efforts and they have given towards this.

*[Translation]*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Not a single assurance came from the Government in regard to the

important issues raised. The reply of the Government is not at all satisfactory. I therefore, leave the House.

21.30 hrs.

*(At this stage, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and some other Hon. members left the House)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Only three points have been discussed during the whole debate. First among them is to accord special status to Bihar, the second is to release financial package and the third is entrusting the job to an agency. You have spoken something about entrusting the job to an agency, but you did not delve over the other two points. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not the tradition.

*[English]*

Now, the House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11 a.m.

21.31 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, May 17, 2002/Vaisakha 27, 1924 (Saka)*

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