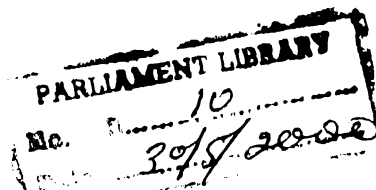


LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

Third Session
(Twelfth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. VI contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debate

(English Version)

Wednesday, December 2, 1998/Agrahayana 11, 1920 (Saka)

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143/5 (from below) 256/36	SHRI DINSHA PATEL	SHRI DINSHAW PATEL
152/15	SHRI VISHNU DATT VAIDYA	VAIDYA VISHNU DATT
224/5	SHRI JAYSINGHJI CHAUHAN	SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN
229,230/9	30.47	30.74
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293/11	SHRI MALAYAM SINGH YADAV	SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV
293/17	(MADRAI)	(MADURAI)
294/25	(BOLAPUR)	(BOLPUR)
299/2 (from below)	MR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMI	DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY
301/10	SHRI MADAN LAL KHARANA	SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA
313/10 (from below)	SHRI T. GOVINDAM	SHRI T. GOVINDAN
365/14	(GUAHATI)	(GUWAHATI)

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, December 2, 1998/ Agrahayana 11, 1920(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met
at Eleven of the clock

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: We demand that the Prime Minister should resign on moral grounds. Mr. Prime Minister has been saying that you must bring forward the No Confidence Motion while the public has expressed its no-confidence in his leadership ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already given a notice for the suspension of the Question Hour to enable the House to take up the question of assault on minorities... (Interruptions). Three hundred copies of the Bible have burnt down by RSS Activitists in Jamnagar ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: We want to say that this Government should immediately resign. Public has completely expressed its no-confidence in this Government. If Prime Minister says that first bring a No-Confidence Motion, than this plea does not carry any weight. If a Government remains in power, it is always with the trust of the public... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you after the Question hour.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Sir, I have already given a notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Arif Mohammad Khan, I will allow you also after the Question Hour.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Please hear me for just two minutes on the question of admissibility... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I will allow you after the Question Hour.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Farming Methods

+

*42. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to bring changes in the present policy regarding farming methods;

(b) if so, the salient features of the new policy;

(c) whether farmers in some areas are using excessive fertilizers and pesticides;

(d) whether the Government propose to educate the farmers to make optimum use of underground water and productive resources;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government propose to set up a high power committee to study and advice on agricultural development; and

(g) if so, the time by when the new Agricultural Policy is likely to be announced?

[English]

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

Statement

(a) to (g) The National Policy on Agriculture, being processed for the approval of Cabinet, seeks to bring about changes in farming methods to promote environmentally non-degrading, technically sound economically viable and socially acceptable improvement of natural resources for sustainable development of agriculture. The endeavour is to promote balanced and conjunctive use of bio-mass, organic and inorganic fertilizers and controlled use of agro-chemicals in a way that achieves balance between productivity and sustainability.

The policy will also *inter-alia* seek to achieve conservation of the natural resource base through sustainable management of land and water resources and protection and conservation of bio-diversity.

The average fertilizer consumption is about 76.8 kg per ha. which is far below the average consumption of advanced countries. The Integrated Pest Management Approach has been adopted by the Govt. as the cardinal principle for minimising the use of chemical pesticides.

A large number of training programmes are being organized by the Government on efficient use of plant nutrients, pesticides and water resources for high productivity and to improve water use efficiency. In order to make optimal use of ground water, subsidy for installation of drip irrigation system is given at 90% of the cost subject to ceiling of Rs. 25,000 per ha. For small/marginal SC/ST/women farmers and 70% of the cost subject to ceiling of Rs. 25,000 per ha. For other categories of farmers, subsidy through this programme is also provided for drip irrigation demonstration @ 75% of the cost to maximum of Rs. 22,500 per ha. Under this scheme, training programme is being taken up through different Plasticulture Development Centres (PDC) in the country for training for the farmers as well as field functionaries.

No proposal for constituting a high Powered Committee to study and advise on agriculture development is under the

consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

SHRIRAMTAHAL CHAUDHARY: I had asked the question whether the Government are contemplating to bring changes in the present policy regarding farming methods. In his reply the hon. Minister has replied that the Government is contemplating to bring about changes in the policy and is also imparting training to the farmers. I would like to know from the Government as to how many farmers have been trained so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the farmers, extension workers, experts and subject matter specialists are provided training under various centrally sponsored projects for bringing about the upgraded and better techniques in farming methods. The training is provided in various dimensions of this programme including biological control, consumptive use of ground and surface water, organic manure fertilizer and bio-pesticides. This training is provided through various organisations. So far these are 26 such Central Integrated Pest Management Centres in the country and four new Centres are being setup in the North-Eastern states. This training is given through Farmer Field School. As far as the extension officers and subject matter specialists are concerned, this work has been going on since 1994-95 under which 22,416 extensive officers and 1,46,898 farmers have been trained so far. These are 857 master trainers which have been trained to impart the training of Integrated Pest Management Programme and other programmes to the farmers in the country.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a lot of things have been said in the reply but I know that the training which was earlier given to the farmers by the "Jansevaks" has now been stopped altogether. "Jansevaks" have been posted in the field, but they do not do their job of providing training to the farmers, they are getting a sort of pension. Now the water-level has also gone down considerably.

About irrigation, he has said that a large number of training programmes are being organised for the efficient and optimum utilisation of the productive resources and under ground water, Rs. 2500 per hectare are being provided to the small farmers as subsidy to cover 98 percent of the total cost for setting up a drip-irrigation system. But I have the information that the amount of Rs. 2500 granted by the Government is not sufficient for irrigation purpose and the percolation of the irrigation water is not deep enough. The ground water level has considerably gone down. The amount of Rs. 2500 is very less for the purpose of irrigation I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will consider increasing this amount so that enough water could be made available for the purpose of irrigation?

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the village level agricultural trainers, also called village level workers are concerned, their job is controlled by the State Governments and the Centre has no direct interference in it. If they do not work then the responsibility for its monitoring lies with the State Government. The Central Government only provides assistance

for various training programmes.

As far as the issue of sprinkler set and drip-irrigation set is concerned, the maximum limit for that is Rs. 25,000 and not Rs. 2500. As far as Scheduled Castes/tribes farmers and women farmers are concerned, they are provided 90 per cent grant by the Centre and others are given 70 per cent grant; under the opinion of the Government, this amount is sufficient...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister does not have information about it. Now the ceiling has gone upto Rs. 32,000 and he is saying that it is Rs. 25,000...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, in the reply, it has been mentioned that the average consumption of fertilizers is about 76.8 kg per hectare.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sharad Pawar, please wait for a minute. There is one supplementary question to be put by Shri Rampal Singh.

Shri Rampal Singh.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to tell the hon'ble Minister that at present the condition of the farmers is very pathetic and the price which they get for their produce is very less. Presently in other countries like U.S.A., the subsidy on agriculture is 20 per cent while in other countries it is upto 45 per cent. I would like to know whether the hon'ble Minister would provide for increasing subsidy on agriculture so that the farmers could get the proper price for their crops. I would also like to know the time by which the National Policy on Agriculture will become ready and will be announced?

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the issue of providing remunerative price for the produce of the farmer is concerned, the Government announces the minimum support prices for 24 agricultural commodities every year and this announcement is made keeping in view the recommendations of Commission on Agricultural Cost and Prices which include the costs of all inputs. It also includes the provision for providing 10 per cent profit to the farmer and the compensation for the farmer's management skill. These support prices are sufficient in the opinion of the Government. It is a further testimony to this fact that in the past, whenever we have announced these prices, enough quantity of agricultural produce has been made available for procurement by the farmers to the Government. Often, these prices are announced before the start of sowing season.

As far as the subsidy is concerned, it is true that the percentage of subsidy in other countries is higher but in India various subsidies i.e. subsidies on irrigation, power, fertilizers, are given. The subsidy which is being given to the farmers at present is considered sufficient keeping in view our limited resources and the needs of the farmers.

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: In the reply it is mentioned that the average fertilizer consumption in our country is about 76.8 kg per hectare which is far below the average consumption of advanced countries. Is the Ministry aware that there is shortage of fertilizer throughout India which is affecting the entire *rabi* crop? If it is true, then what immediate actions the Government is going to take?

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the overall availability of fertilizer is not lacking, but in certain pockets there are reports that fertilizer is in short supply. We are moving fertilizer to those areas with immediate effect. There is sufficient availability of fertilizer at all India level. I would like to repeat that certain areas are experiencing shortage of fertilizer and we are taking steps to move fertilizer to those areas...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is an important question. I will allow more hon. Members to raise supplementaries to this question.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is an important question. I will allow more hon. Members.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Fertilizers are missing in whole of Uttar Pradesh...*(Interruptions)* Nowhere in the whole of Uttar Pradesh, fertilizers are available... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY: The whole country is deficient in fertilizer and especially in Bihar, there is no fertilizer.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is Question Hour.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is true, even hon'ble Minister knows about it, but he is not speaking for being in the Government. Today, farmers in the whole country are suffering due to the shortage of fertilizers. Hon'ble Members have been expressing their feelings. Your figures may reflect the availability of fertilizers but it is not reaching the villages and there is a long queue for it. If hon. Minister has time then we shall visit his constituency. Meerut, after 12 O'clock. Where he will find as to what the farmer of his constituency has to say about fertilizers. This is a fact that there is a shortage of fertilizers. I am happy to note that the hon'ble Prime Minister has information about this issue. The day before yesterday, he had issued a statement in which he had assured for making arrangement for the fertilizers in the next ten days as sowing operations would be over by that time and the farmer would no longer need the fertilizers. My request is, as Shri Sharadji has also said, that first

of all, the Government should assure the House by today evening that we have rectified the supply of fertilizers at all the places, otherwise after ten days when the sowing will be complete, no one will ask for fertilizers. You give us this assurance by today evening that we have made all arrangements. Second question is...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMPAL: Not by today's evening but right now I want to assure you that though there is shortage in some areas yet I would say...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: There is a shortage of fertilizers in whole of Uttar Pradesh...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: He is making a wrong statement, the farmer is not getting DAP fertilizer and sowing operations are getting late...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please sit down. You are in the panel of Chairman.

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to give assurance to the House that there is shortage of D.A.P. in some parts of the country...*(Interruptions)* The farmers are facing crisis due to this shortage of fertilizers. This is sowing time. We also have information that farmers are waiting in queue at various places for fertilizers.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. The hon. Prime Minister is on his legs.

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: If you have information then what are you doing?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not good.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Effective steps are being taken to remove this shortage. The fertilizer which is laying at ports is being despatched to the places of shortage. If need arises we will import fertilizers from other countries and the need of farmers will be fulfilled...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand that this is Question Hour, not a discussion.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. This is Question Hour, not a discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The issue of fertilizers, issue of D.A.P. is a question of life and death for farmers. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down, this is not good thing.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Farmers are in trouble because of non-availability of fertilizers. Farmers are not getting fertilizers according to their needs. The State Governments have demanded that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down, you are in panel of chair.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: I am happy...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: This is small part of onion.

(English)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Fatmi, please do not give running commentary.

(Translation)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am happy that the hon'ble Prime Minister has given assurance. My little bit suggestion is that this should be monitored because time is very less. This should be done either by Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers or by P.M.O. This should be done for coming ten days so that farmers may not have to face the difficulty.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: We will do that.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: My second question is regarding training schemes which the hon'ble Minister has mentioned today. The farmers takes training in Drip Irrigation and in other schemes at Agricultural Science Centres. I would like to tell the Minister that institutes which provide training do not help the farmers because after training farmer goes back. For loan he has to follow the normal procedure again. His training becomes useless. As far as Drip Irrigation system is concerned, hon'ble Minister, will forgive me for saying that big farmers are reaping its benefits and this facility is not provided to small farmers. I would like to request the government that full information of this should be given to medium and small farmers in Krishi Darshan. After completion of training the same institute should make arrangements for providing loan. According to the policy of State Governments and Central Government farmers should get training there and the same institutes should provide loan facility so that farmers may not face any difficulty. Whether the government is contemplating any change in the present rules to help the farmers.

SHRI SOMPAL: Everybody knows that farmers face difficulties in getting loans. Therefore there is provision for this in our proposed new agricultural policy. In the last Budget also we had said about expanding the Capital base of NABARD from Rs. 2000 crores to Rs. 2500 crores. The amount of Rural Development Fund for rural investment has been increased from rupees 2500 crores to rupees 3000 crores. A provision of Rs. 265 crores has been made in the Budget for reconstruction of Regional rural banks. An attempt has been made in the budget to simplify the process of giving loan. All the nationalised banks have been directed by the Reserve Bank to issue Credit Cards to farmers. For your information I would like to divulge that

Allahabad Bank and the Bank of Baroda have issued credit cards of the denomination of Rs. 40,000, Rs. 60,000 rupees and of Rs. one lakh...*(Interruptions)* Credit Cards worth Rs. 2 crores and 67 lakhs have been issued in Meerut on the 4th of last month. Hon'ble Rajesh Pilot has rightly said that small farmers do not get such type of facilities.

For making available this card to the small farmers, we have asked the Banks to issue Cards of smaller denominations also...*(Interruptions)* first of all I shall reply the question asked by an hon'ble Member of your party, after that you should address hon'ble Speaker. Earlier there was a system that until the farmers had paid every single penny of the loan, no further amount of loan was sanctioned to him.

Through this Credit Card, the farmer can take loan for his needs from any branch of the Bank situated in his District. The only condition is that he will have to repay once in a year and he can give interest on the remaining amount. This is the arrangement which we have made.

As far as your suggestions with regard to training centres are concerned...*(Interruptions)* wherever the Nationalised Banks are situated, this system is prevalent...*(Interruptions)* I have said 'Lagoo' not 'Lalu', Lajuji is in Bihar...*(Interruptions)*. Mr. Pilot, I am of the view that it is not possible to extend loans through training centres because the number of such centres is 26 while the banks are situated much closer to the villages. The Credit lending mechanism of the bank is being made simpler and the farmers should be given the proper information about the credit facilities given by banks like loans for setting up of sprinklers and drip-irrigation system and this suggestion from your side is absolutely fine that this kind of information should be given through the media.

As far as the small, poor and marginal farmers and the backward classes of the society are concerned, I would like to reiterate my viewpoint that they are given 90 per cent grant while the others are given 70 per cent grant which is a greater incentive for them so that even the farmers belonging to the backward section of the society may be benefited from it.

(English)

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said that the shortage of fertilizer is one factor for the low consumption of fertilizers in our country. In addition to this factor, there are other reasons also for low consumption of fertilizers in our country. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what are the other reasons for low consumption of fertilizers in our country.

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the basic reason for low consumption of fertilizers is the lack of availability of irrigation. In spite of the effort which has been made so far only 37 per cent agriculture has assured irrigation in the country and 63 per cent is still dependent on rain. The major thrust of our new policy as well as ours, right since we assumed office, has been to give preference to the rainfed areas which are 63 per cent of our agriculture so far. This has been reflected in the Budget allocations also which have been enhanced by 58 per cent as compared to last year. There is a National Watershed Development Project for rainfed areas through which it is being

done. An amount of Rs. 1100 crores have been allocated during the Eighth Plan. Out of which, Rs. 900 and some crores have spent. This year we have allocated Rs. 677 crore to this project. Plus, there is a long term scheme which has already been cleared by the Planning Commission which seeks to spend Rs. 75,000 crore over a period of 25 years, i.e., next five years including Ninth Plan through which 64 million hectares of additional land will be brought under this programme. This is an eternally sustainable programme which will see that adequate water is available and suitable cropping patterns are evolved and the consumption of fertilizer is also encouraged to sustainable levels.

[Translation]

DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to make a submission to hon'ble Minister of Agriculture that during this season the paddy crop in the Pratapgarh, Faizabad, Sultanpur, Gazipur, Jaunapur and Ajamgarh districts of Uttar Pradesh has been infested with a new kind of pest which damages the crop by eating it, due to which the paddy crop has dried up and the wheat which is being sown has also been damaged by that pest. Consequently... (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, please understand that the whole country is watching the proceedings.

[Translation]

DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI: The Government should make immediate arrangements to protect the crop from that pest so that the pests could be completely eradicated and the crop could be protected. At present, a serious crisis is looming large over the farmers. Centre must surely give a serious thought to this problem, otherwise the wheat crop would also meet the same fate as paddy.

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Vedanti ji has told me about this kind of pest, yesterday. I want to inform him, through you, that yesterday itself, a team consisting of concerned departments of the Ministry of Agriculture, Indian Council of Agriculture Research, Uttar Pradesh based Research Centre, Uttar Pradesh Government and Faizabad Agriculture University has been constituted to study this problem and provide a solution for it.

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I would like to get a little more clarification. In your reply, it is mentioned in the second paragraph:

"...subsidy for installation of drip irrigation system is given at 90 per cent of the cost subject to ceiling of Rs. 25,000 per hectare. That is for average farmers. For small/marginal/SC/ST/woman farmers, 70 per cent of the cost subject to ceiling of Rs. 25,000 per hectare."

There is some confusion.

SHRI SOMPAL: Let me clarify this. This is a typing mistake. It should be read as:

"...subsidy for installation of drip irrigation system is given at 90 per cent of the cost subject to ceiling of Rs. 25,000 per hectare for small/marginal/SC/ST/woman farmers and 70 per cent for other categories of farmers."

It is a typing mistake. It is for clarification... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sompal, typing mistake is also a mistake.

SHRI SOMPAL: I am sorry for that. I will try to see that this does not recur... (Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED (MANJERI): He should have corrected it before he came to this House.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ahamed, I have already told the hon. Minister that typing mistake is also a mistake.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the kind of experiment which was carried on with onion, is being repeated by importing the sugar which is causing a great problem to the sugar industry of Uttar Pradesh. It is expected that after the import of sugar, the sugarcane factories would not be able to make payment to the farmers properly. My request is that this kind of experiment should not be done.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Verma, please understand that this question relates to the farming method. Please bear this in mind.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Sir, the farmers will not get the payment. Fertilizers are not available. DAP is not available. Seeds are not available. Farmers are facing the problem. The middlemen are hoarding fertilizers and seeds, due to which these things are not available to the farmers. My submission is that the Government should put special efforts to come over the crisis.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have disallowed it.

[Translation]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are also small farmers, not big farmers. I would like to know with reference to hon'ble Minister's reply as he has mentioned that there is a shortage of fertilizers in some areas; whether such areas have been identified and special efforts are being made to make fertilizers available in these areas? Along with it, the hon. Prime Minister has said in his intervention that the Government is well aware that there are long queues of waiting farmers and if necessary, fertilizers will be imported.

I would like to know from hon'ble Prime Minister as to why more than 23 days were spent in sending the information regarding the Cabinet's decision to NAFED... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMPAL: It is not connected to this question.

[Translation]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: I want to say that the sowing season for potato, onion and mustard is over and only ten days are left for sowing the crop. If you want to take a decision regarding import or if the need to import is imminent, whether the import of fertilizers in the next ten days is possible? Will the fertilizers be made available to the farmers so that they may be able to sow their crops.

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Prime Minister and I myself had also said that it is not so that we have not imported earlier. We have imported in the past in sufficient quantity and if there is necessity we will import in future also...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: When will this requirement arise because only 10 days are left.

SHRI SOMPAL: It has already been told that import is continuing. It is not as if we have not imported earlier. Monitoring is being done on daily basis to find out the area of shortage and we are sending it there...*(Interruptions)* Farmers will get sufficient fertilizer at the time of sowing. There will be no dearth of fertilizers...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from Hon'ble Minister...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Prem Singh Chandumajra, I have allowed him, not you. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would just like to know from hon'ble Minister the names of areas which have been identified as areas and the names of districts and states where these are situated.

He would have identified those districts so he is requested to give the names of those districts? Secondly, he said that full team had been sent to Faizabad and other places to examine the pests which have arisen there. The kharif paddy crop in entire Bihar has been affected by pests due to bad season and almost half of the crop has got damaged. So in such circumstances which team has been sent to Bihar?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude. Otherwise, I will disallow your supplementary. Shri Sompal, do you want to reply to this question?

[Translation]

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, agriculture is basically a state subject...*(Interruptions)* Let me complete my point first. Sir, I would like to say that only yesterday I was informed by Shri Vedanti about this incident of eastern Uttar Pradesh and immediately a team was dispatched there. No such report has

been received from the State of Bihar. Unless the State of Bihar want...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY: We are giving him information, we are giving report...*(Interruptions)* I am giving the information.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. What is this? This is not good. This is not a debate. Please understand that.

[Translation]

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that hon'ble member has informed just now. If you give information about Particular area of your State then team will be sent to your place also.

SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY: Sir, the situation is same in entire Bihar...*(Interruptions)* The situation is same in Arrah and from Bhojpur to entire Bhagalpur.

SHRI SOMPAL: We will send one Study Team on behalf of Central Government. You have told me just now, let me go to my office.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, I have called the lady Member only.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir though I am not a farmer, yet I am very close to the farmers because my whole constituency is totally a rural one.

Now, I would like to know one thing about the assurance given by the Prime Minister. It is because in West Bengal apart from the rabi crop, potato is also an important crop which is being sown at this time. It is very very essential that we get phosphate and potash quickly. The hon. Minister has said about imports. I want to know whether Haldia is also one among them which will be importing it so that we can get it quickly. If not, you send us quickly through some other method, otherwise we shall be in trouble.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no control over D.A.P., it is available in open market...*(Interruptions)* At present 2.5 lakh tonnes is lying in the port which is being brought immediately. Yesterday we have negotiated to purchase 55,000 tonnes from Jordan which will be loaded from today and it will reach India soon...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now Q. No. 43. Shri Bijoy Handique.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Anyhow, you are going to discuss Agriculture Policy also.

(Interruptions)

Satellite Telephone Policy

*43. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUÉ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether various agencies including Armed Forces and experts have expressed serious doubts about the efficiency of the recently approved satellite telephone policy to tackle the critical national Security concerns;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether even the officials are more skeptical about allowing multinational organisations using multi-satellite systems to operate in the country rather than the proposed small single dual satellite system;

(d) if so, whether DOT's insistence on global mobile personal communications system (GMPCS) providers locating earth stations on Indian soil for addressing security concerns has been accepted by the Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the precautions taken by the Government in the matter so as to address the security concerns?

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

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) As per policy approved by the Government, any Indian registered company having a foreign equity upto a maximum of 49% shall be eligible for GMPCS Services licence on non-exclusive basis subject to clearance from security angle. The policy also stipulates that Gateways (Earth Stations) for all licensed systems would be located in India and their operations and maintenance will be entrusted to a Government authority/organisation.

Each and every gateway will be cleared from security angle by a High Level Committee, after ensuring that adequate facilities have been provided by the operator.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUÉ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in spite of the marvel and excellences of the GMPCS, we should have evolved a clear and foolproof GMPCS Communication Security Policy before we have rushed into it. India's communication security is clumsy in the absence of sophisticated equipments. Defence experts feel that the new security perception should include information technology as a threat area. They feel that the GMPCS and Internet are possibly going to be the major areas that require extension, examination and precaution. Since GMPCS is going to be implemented virtually throughout the world and is irresistible, there is an urgent need for evolving our national approach and policy on the subject with great circumspection and caution, particularly because the service suppliers are basically emerging from the developed world like the U.S., Europe and Japan. We should bear in mind that the

future conflicts may hit the economy *i.e.* heart of a nation—by crippling its core areas through information technology.

The US military being the first customer of IRRIDIUM LLC and it does gateway servicing to about 1,20,000 military users. We have also to keep in view the phenomenon that the US Government had commandeered INMARSAT network during the Gulf War.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Handique, what is your question? You have to ask only the question. Then, the Minister will reply.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUÉ: Sir, I am coming to the question.

Recently the US Government used it to trace the Saudi terrorist leader Mr. Osama Bin Laden despite the Memorandum of Understanding prohibiting the use of satellite phones during military conflicts, whether adequate safeguards have been formulated and whether Armed Forces' reported apprehensions about intrusion into country's security intelligence have been taken care of.

SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir the hon. Member is very much concerned about the security measures because the GMPCS has been given licence in India. But before giving licence, the Government was very much cautious to see that in the field of security nothing is done that can hamper the interests of our country and the security and as a result, while the Government decided that any Indian company may be given the licence which have not more than 49 per cent foreign equity, before giving the licence to a party the Government also decided that an inter-ministerial high powered committee should be set up to see that the question of security is safeguarded. So, when this inter-ministerial high powered committee gave clearance stating that the licence can be given to IRRIDIUM, only then the licence was given.

Sir, the hon. Member has also raised a question whether the Armed Forces have said anything regarding this. I would like to inform that in the high powered committee the Ministry of Defence is also involved and clearance was taken from the Ministry of Defence. After getting their clearance only the question of giving the licence came up and I would like to inform that the Department of Telecommunications, Department of Space, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Home Affairs and others were also involved to see that the security measures are considered very keenly and after doing all these things, only then this licence was given.

Sir, he has also raised a question regarding IRRIDIUM Limited. Yes; we have given licence to IRRIDIUM India Telecom Limited (IITL). On 26.8.98 the Government took a decision to give licence and the Government gave clearance, only after all the procedures were followed and as I have already mentioned security measures and other things have been looked into very carefully and only when the Government was satisfied that there is no question of any security threat, then this company was given the licence. This company has not yet started operations in India.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUÉ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever assurances are given by the hon. Minister, unless, the space segment and the ground segment are all operated and controlled

by the Indian entity, the security cannot be taken as "foolproof".

Along with that, unless the National Coordination Centre is located in India, the pace segment or satellite management system cannot be under the Indian control.

I am not against the system. But the Government should withstand the tremendous US pressure and take its own time in setting up a foolproof system which enables the security agencies to address the national security concerns...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has already replied, Shri Handique. Please ask your supplementary.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: This is no secret. The satellite phone policy was cleared swiftly on August 25. In a span of one month, that is on September 23, IRRIDIUM services in India were allowed to be launched along with the rest of the world. May I know the Government's reaction to that?

SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I have told many things. But I want to say one more thing in reply to the question of the hon. Member. I think, the intention of the hon. Member is noble. He wanted to know about the actual thing. The Gateway will be installed in the country and not outside the country. That Gateway will be managed and operated by a Government organisation, like VSNL. So, any call terminating and originating from India will go through this Gateway. This Gateway has made all facilities and features to ensure that the security issue are not taken care of. If security measures are questioned any time in future then this Gateway managed by the VSNL can be taken up for detailed security. Then, these necessary measures can be taken up immediately, to further strengthen the arrangements.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: Sir, 50 or 60 satellites will be in the orbit which might even bypass the Gateway. Then, what will happen?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): He has clarified everything.

SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, yes, this IRRIDIUM has got 66 satellites. There are three types of satellite orbits. One is geostationary orbit. It is 36,000 km. high. Another is medium earth orbit. It is 10,000 km. high. Then there is the low earth orbit which is 500 to 600 km. high. In case of geostationary systems due to 36,000 km. travel time the quality of voice is often not so good. It is disturbed. That is why, this low earth orbit has been chosen by M/s IRRIDIUM with many satellites. All the measures suggested by the Expert Committee and the High-Powered Committee have been implemented. After considering all these things, the licences are being given. I think, the hon. Member may be assured that there will not be any security threat.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question has two parts. Firstly, I would like to know categorically from the hon. Minister whether the objections ought to have been created by the Ministry of Defence were disregarded while the policy was finalised by the Government.

The second part of my question is this: Is the Minister aware of the fact that technology of IRRIDIUM is such that though the earth station will be located in India, the calls can be received without the calls being routed through the Gateway in India? Is the Government aware of this? Is the Government aware of the implications of this kind of system for the Indian security?

SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA: Sir, as per my information, there was no objection from the Defence Ministry and there was no question of disregarding the objection of the Defence Ministry.

As regards the second part of the question, that is, IRRIDIUM, I think, I have already replied to that and no further reply is required in this ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete please.

SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA: I have already told that all the calls originating and terminating in India will pass through the gateway, which is located in Pune. That has been inspected by a team of experts and they are sure that all guidelines will be complied with by the IRRIDIUM. So, naturally all measures had been taken before doing so...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, you kindly come to my rescue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is no time, please understand that.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, the point that I made was about the technology of IRRIDIUM. The technology of IRRIDIUM is such that it does not require an Indian Gateway to send its calls to Indians or take the calls out of India. The hon. Minister has not addressed himself to this part of my question...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, it is a very relevant question...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is giving a very relevant answer. Please listen to him.

(Interruptions)

SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Sir, we would like to know whether the hon. Minister disputes these facts or not...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to his reply.

(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, it involves the technology aspect also. We should all know the technological aspect, otherwise it will be quite misleading. It is very important...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is giving a very important answer.

SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA: Sir, the question of the hon. Member is that IRRIDIUM has got the technology that without coming through this Gateway they can give the information...*(Interruptions)* Yes. But, this is not the case with India only, there are a number of countries where licences have been given to start the service...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you please address the Chair

and not the Members.

SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA: Sir, a high-powered committee of different Departments which are involved in the security measures, was constituted and that Committee is looking after this. Sir, in addition to this, an Expert Committee is also there. This Expert Committee gives its suggestions and as per the suggestions given by this Committee, the high-powered committee gives the clearance. This method has been adopted and we think that if there is any further foolproof system is to be adopted, we will take that also into consideration, if necessary...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, he has not replied to my question. That was not my question...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed Shri Chandra Shekhar, please.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Sir, it is a very sensitive and serious matter. The point raised by Shri S. Jaipal Reddy is very right that it involves the security of this country. The hon. Minister does not know the implications of this move that the Government has taken...*(Interruptions)* This matter was raised even in the United States of America.

Does the hon. Minister know that the Senate in the United States of America has said that this was the whole game of Pentagon and they did not know its implications? They are doubtful about this whole system of espionage. Unfortunately, our friends in the Government of India have not gone into the implications of this security risk in which we have put ourselves into.

May I request the hon. Prime Minister to go into the details of this thing? It is no use discussing this matter in the Question Hour. It is a very serious threat to the security of this country.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Sir, I entirely agree with the former Prime Minister...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MURLI DEORA (MUMBAI SOUTH): And your *chela*...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: He is my *guru* now.

This is a sensitive question. It concerns with the security of the country. The concerned Department has taken all steps so far as the question of security, maintenance of security is concerned. I have been informed—I am not a technician, I am a layman like you—that there will be no bypassing of gateway for calls either originating or terminating in India. This is the arrangement that has been made and it should suffice. If any further information is needed, I will collect and will pass on to the hon. Member including Shri Chandra Shekhar.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (BALLIA) (U.P.): I shall send some information to you...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we shall go to Q. No. 44—Shri Surendra Prasad Yadav.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Sir, you have called me to

put the supplementary. I have a very important question. The Government of India is equity in IRRIDIUM Please allow me...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your supplementary has already been answered.

(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, you have already called his name. Please allow him to put the supplementary before going to the next Question...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Surendra Prasad Yadav.

Prof. Kurien, do not bother. I will call him now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Surendra Prasad Yadav (Jahanabad)—Not present. Shri Rameshwar Patidar.

[Translation]

Support to Palestine

44. ^{}SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:

SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JAHANABAD):

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been extending moral and materialistic support to the Palestine people;

(b) if so, the material assistance extended by India to the Palestine people during the last three years; and

(c) the steps being taken to further strengthen the Indo-Palestine ties?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE):

(a) to (c) India continues to extend moral, political and material support to the Palestinian people. At the donors conference held in Washington DC (1993) and Paris (1996) India pledged US\$1 million each. Under the pledges tea was supplied the Palestinian Authority in 1995 and two projects are being implemented in Gaza. Besides proposals for supplying text books to various Universities in Gaza and West Bank are being processed. Training courses are also offered to the Palestinians. Moreover, India has pledged further amount of US\$1 million at the third international donors conference held in Washington DC on 30 November, 1998. The utilisation of this pledged amount will be decided in consultation with Palestinian authorities.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now the Hon'ble Prime Minister has said that two projects are being implemented in Gazapatti by Government of India. I would like to know the phase in which those projects are going on and the purpose for which these projects are being implemented?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had

given indication in my reply that in order to assist Palestine in the field of education, we have taken important steps. Books are being provided to them. Material is being made available to them for research work. The Gaza Project Agreement was signed in June 1998 which we are going to complete in 1999. India has always supported Palestine cause. We have welcomed this agreement. I hope that according to the agreement, the work of rehabilitating those people and giving them honourable life should be completed as early as possible. We are contributing in that.

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: According to Oslo talks Palestine should have been given the status of complete statehood within two years but till now it has not been awarded statehood. For this Shri Yaser Arafat is mounting international pressure so that Palestine get statehood. I would like to know whether Government of India will help them in their mission of achieving statehood?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Yes, we agree that Palestine should get the status of complete statehood. We have been making efforts and we will continue it.

12.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Is it a fact that the Palestinian authorities have requested the Government of India to start an Institute of Technology with the Indian assistance? I would like to know whether such a request has been received to set up an Institute of Technology in Palestine and whether it is under your consideration.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: It is a suggestion for action. It will be given consideration.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Did you receive the request?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: So far not.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Now, you will receive.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I would like to clarify one thing that we had accepted Palestine as a state in 1988 and Oslo Agreement is not related to their statehood.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Waiting List for Telephone Connections in Gujarat

*41 **SHRI HARIN PATHAK:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is unduly long list of people waiting for telephone connections in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the list is longer in case Gujarat as compared to many States;

(c) the number of persons on the waiting list of new telephone connections in Gujarat as on Oct. 31, 1998;

(d) the number of telephone connections allotted during the last three years; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to clear the waiting list in the country and particularly in the State of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Number of persons waiting for telephone connections in the country on 31st October, 1998 was 32.47 lakhs.

(b) The waiting list of Gujarat Telecom Circle on 31st October, 1998 was less than that of Kerala, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu Telecom Circles.

(c) The number of persons on the waiting list of telephone connections in Gujarat as on October, 31, 1998 was 2,96,755.

(d) The number of telephone connections provided in Gujarat Telecom Circle during the last three years is given below:—

Year	Connections provided
1995-96	1,34,832
1996-97	1,63,053
1997-98	2,13,824

(d) 10.9 lakhs new connections were provided in the country from April to October, 1998. Another 25.1 lakhs new telephone connections are likely to be provided in the country during the remaining period of current financial year to clear the waiting list. The balance of the waiting list is likely to be cleared during the next financial year.

Out of the 2.91 lakhs of waiting list in the State of Gujarat on 31st October, 1998, about 1.9 lakhs is likely to be cleared by providing new telephone connections during the current financial year and the remaining waiting list is likely to be cleared during the next financial year.

Indo-Pak Talks

*45 **SHRI M. BAGA REDDY:**

SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Ministerial level and official level talks were held between India and Pakistan after the nuclear tests in May, 1998;

(b) if so, the issues discussed therein and outcome of these talks;

(c) whether there was any agreement on Kashmir issue;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the outstanding issues on which agreements were not reached; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by both the Governments to resolve the outstanding issues within a definite time frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (f) Prime Minister met the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, on 29 July, 1998 in Colombo on the margins of the 10th SAARC Summit. During this meeting, the Prime Minister reiterated India's commitment to developing peaceful and friendly ties with Pakistan, and to addressing outstanding issues in a rational and realistic manner. He emphasised that instigation and support to terrorism was incompatible with our common desire for friendly and peaceful relations and that these activities must cease immediately.

The Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan also met in Colombo to discuss the modalities of the dialogue process, and continued their discussions in Durban on the margin of the NAM Summit in August 1998, where an understanding was reached on the modalities of the composite dialogue process.

Prime Minister met the Prime Minister of Pakistan in New York on 23 September 1998. The Prime Ministers expressed satisfaction regarding the agreement on modalities for the dialogue process and issued instructions for the resumption of the bilateral dialogue.

As part of the composite dialogue process, the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan met in Islamabad from 15-18 October, 1998 for discussions on the subjects of Peace and Security, including Confidence Building Measures and Jammu & Kashmir. Discussions revealed that there was convergence of views on the need for exchanging views on security concepts and nuclear doctrines, developing nuclear and conventional CBMs, putting in place communication links that are failsafe, secure and dedicated, increased information flow for greater transparency and predictability, as well as for setting up of a consultative mechanism for periodic review and improved implementation of the CBMs in place. There was an agreement in principle that experts on both sides could meet for further discussions on these matters. In the meeting on Jammu & Kashmir, we made it clear that the entire State of Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of India and this legal status does not admit of any change. We demanded that Pakistan should cease its futile sponsorship of terrorism and adhere to the provisions of the Simla Agreement, including the status quo which was established in Jammu & Kashmir under that agreement.

The composite dialogue process continued in New Delhi with talks being held from 5-13 November, 1998 on the subjects of Tulbul Navigation Project, Siachen, Sir Creek, Economic and Commercial Cooperation, Terrorism and Drug Trafficking and Promotion of Friendly Exchanges in various fields.

During discussions on Terrorism and Drug Trafficking, we gave Pakistan detailed evidence regarding its role in sponsoring terrorism against India and demanded that this should stop. We also asked it to close down training camps for terrorists, and hand over the terrorists and fugitives from the law who have been given sanctuary in Pakistan.

In discussions on Economic and Commercial Cooperation, the two sides recognised the utility of cooperation in international fora on issues such as the environment and the social clause, and felt the need for enhanced exchange of information on economic and commercial matters. It was also decided to hold technical discussions on purchase of power from Pakistan. These discussions were subsequently held in Islamabad from 24-27 November, 1998.

On the subject of Promotion of Friendly Exchanges, the two sides have agreed to hold expert level talks to begin the bus service between Delhi and Lahore, on civilian prisoners and on railway traffic. Talks on the bus service are being held in Islamabad from 1-4 December, 1998. The two sides also agreed that fishermen who innocently stray into each other's territorial waters should be released immediately on completion of necessary procedures. 190 Indian fishermen returned to India on 23 November, 1998 following these talks. Liberalisation of visa regimes was also discussed.

On the subjects of Siachen, Sir Creek and Tulbul Navigation Project, we gave reasonable, practical and realistic proposals to Pakistan. It has been agreed to continue discussions on all eight identified subjects. In February 1999, the Foreign Secretaries would meet to review the discussions held between 15 October-13 November, 1998 and also begin the next round of the composite dialogue process.

It would be seen that there has been some progress in this round of discussions though Pakistan is unwilling publicly to reflect any forward movement. India's approach to the dialogue is positive, constructive and sincere. We would continue with this approach.

[Translation]

Recommendations of TRAI for Increasing Telephone Charges

*46. SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN:

SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has proposed a substantial increase in the telephone rentals as well as local call charges, whereas they have proposed sharp cuts in cellular, international and domestic long-distance call-tariffs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether after the notification of the new tariff structure, there will be a lot of burden on the people of low income group, whereas the affluent sections of the society, who use cellulars and make international calls, will be getting relief;

(e) whether the Telephone Subscribers Organisation have represented to the Government to reduce the rates of Telephones and Cellular Telephone services;

(f) the manner in which the tariff in India compare with

those of the foreign countries;

(g) whether the Government propose to reconsider the proposals of TRAI to remove this paradoxical situation; and

(h) 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 COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India formed under the TRAI Act, 1997 has brought out a Consultation Paper on Telecom Pricing suggesting *inter-alia* increase in rental and reduction in long distance tariff for rebalancing the tariff, based on costs. The proposals are summarised in the attached Statement-A.

(c) As a service provider, the Department of Telecom feels that a sudden and steep increase in rental may not be customer friendly. Also, an abrupt reduction in long distance rates etc. may adversely affect the resource position of the department which may hamper developmental programmes.

(d) At present no new tariff structure has been formalised. The present proposal from TRAI is only a consultation

paper.

(e) After circulation by TRAI of their Consultation Paper a few representations have been received pleading for reduction in rental of local telephone services etc.

(f) As per ITU's publication the tariff structure in different countries for the year 1995 is as furnished in attached Statement-B. Since different components of costs go into determination of tariff i.e. connection fee, monthly rental, local call charges etc. (with another variation of whether the connection is for business or non-business subscribers, a variation that does not exist in this country) the exact comparison of tariff structure in India viz-a-viz other countries is not possible. However, taking into account the weighted average, tariff structure in India compares favourably with weighted averages of other regions e.g. Asia, Europe, Africa and also the world average.

(g) and (h) TRAI is presently in the process of consulting service providers, consumer organisations and the general public to ascertain their views before finalisation of tariff structure. The time-frame of final decision on tariff to be notified by TRAI will depend upon the progress of the TRAI's consultation process.

Statement-A

TRAI's proposals on rentals, local calls, NSD/ISD charges of basic telephony and rental and airtime charges of Cellular Services

(A) Rentals:

Capacity of Exchange System (No. of Lines)	Present Monthly Rental Existing	Proposal Cap for Monthly Rental (Proposed by TRAI)
Rentals in Rural Area	Rs.	Rs.
(for Exchanges with capacity upto 999 Lines)	50	120
Rentals in Urban areas		
(for Exchanges with capacity of less than 100 lines)	50	160
Other Rentals		
100 to 999 Lines	75	160
1,000 to 29,999 Lines	100	160
30,000 to 99,999 Lines	137.5	220
1 Lakh to below 3 Lakhs Lines	180	310
3 Lakhs Lines and above	190	310

The hike in rentals proposed by TRAI ranges from 60% to 220%.

(B) Local Calls and Free Calls

No. of bi-monthly Calls	Present per call charge in rural area	Present per call charge in urban area	Proposed Rates by TRAI
Upto 120	Free	Free	Free
121 to 150	Free	Free	1.30
151 to 250	Free	0.80	1.30
251 to 450	0.80	0.80	1.30
451 to 500	0.80	0.80	1.30
501 to 1000	1.00	1.00	1.30
1001 to 2000	1.25	1.25	1.30
< 2000	1.40	1.40	1.30

The pulse rate proposed is 3 minutes for local calls against the existing 5 minutes for Exchanges system more than 30,000 Lines.

(C) STD Charges

Radial distance between Two exchanges (Kms)	Present periodicity of Pulse in seconds for STD Calls (peak time)	Proposed periodicity of pulse in second for STD (peak time) calls by TRAI
0—20	180	180
21 to 35	90	180
36 to 50	36	180
51 to 100	12	20
101 to 200	8	20
201 to 500	4	8
501 to 1000	3	4
<1000	2	4

(D) ISD Charges

Categories of Countries	Existing Pulse Rate (Peak time)	Proposed Pulse (Peak time) by TRAI
SAARC Countries and other neighbouring Countries	2	4
Countries in Africa, Europe, Gulf, Asia and Oceania	1.2	2.6
Countries in the American Continent and other Places in West Hemisphere	1	2

(E) PCOs VPTs and Coin Booths:

Category	Present Tariff	Proposed Tariff
Non-STD/ISD PCOs or VPTs	Rs. 1.00 per call	Rs. 1.00 per call for rural PCOs and VPTs. Rs. 1.30 per call for private urban PCOs.
STD/ISD PCOs or VPTs.	Rs. 1.25 per call	Rs. 1.00 per call for rural PCOs and VPTs. Rs. 1.30 per call for Urban PCOs.
Coin Box	Rs. 1.00 per call (5 minutes pulse)	Rs. 2.00 per call for urban PCOs. Rs. 1.00 per call for rural. (each for 3 minutes pulse)

(F) Cellular Services:**(i) Rentals:**

	Monthly Cap Existing	Monthly Cap Proposed by TRAI
	Rs. 156.00	Rs. 600.00

(ii) Airtime Charges:

	Existing	Proposed by TRAI
Peak hours charges	Rs. 16.80 per minute	Rs. 6.00 per minute
Off-peak hour Charges	Half the price of Standard hour i.e. Rs. 4.20 per minute	Half the price of Peak hour i.e. Rs. 3.00 per minute

Statement-B**TARIFF**

	Residential		Business		Local Call
	Connection Fee	Monthly Rental	Connection Fee	Monthly Rental	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Bangladesh	497	3.7	497	3.7	0.04
2. Bhutan	16	3.5	16	3.5	0.03
3. India	25	5.9	25	5.9	0.02
4. Myanmar	42	7.9	42	7.9	0.18
5. Nepal	40	3.7	40	3.7	0.02

1	2	3	4	5	6
6. Pakistan	79	1.6	70	1.6	0.05
7. Srilanka	254	1.6	254	1.8	0.05
8. D.P.R. Korea	47	7.1	47	11.4	—
9. Indonesia	311	9.1	400	13.3	0.05
10. Thailand	133	4.0	133	4.0	0.12
11. Korea (Rep.)	10	3.4	10	3.4	0.04
12. Malaysia	19	7.6	19	13.3	0.05
13. Mauritius	115	3.5	173	5.8	0.06
14. Hongkong	69	8.4	69	12.7	—
15. Japan	774	18.6	774	23.0	0.10
16. Singapore	56	5.9	71	8.8	0.01
17. Egypt	118	1.1	266	1.8	0.01
18. Iran	579	0.2	579	0.2	0.01
19. Phillipines	13	10.1	16	23.1	—
20. Russia	30	0.8	252	4.0	0.27
21. Mexico	279	6.3	484	13.7	0.08
22. Germany	45	17.2	45	17.2	0.16
23. France	61	9.2	56	17.1	0.15
24. United Kingdom	183	13.0	183	21.1	0.19
25. United States	43	11.7	72	41.8	0.09
26. Brazil	1217	0.5	1800	5.7	0.02
World	141	7.1	245	11.8	0.08
Asia	136	5.4	283	10.4	0.03
Europe	194	7.3	367	11.6	0.09
Africa	100	7.1	130	9.7	0.10

Note: Figures are in US Dollars:

Source: World Telecommunication Development Report ITU 1996-97

These figures are for the year 1995.

Countries	Teledensity per 100 persons	Per capita Income (US\$)
1	2	3
1. Bangladesh	0.24	219
2. Bhutan	0.62	412
3. India	1.29	287
4. Myanmar	0.32	1348

1	2	3
5. Nepal	0.36	175
6. Pakistan	1.64	407
7. Sri Lanka	1.11	591
8. D.P.R. Korea	4.61	—
9. Indonesia	1.69	920
10. Thailand	5.86	2439
11. Korea (Republic)	41.47	8449
12. Malaysia	16.56	3622
13. Mauritius	13.11	3134
14. Hong Kong	52.96	22970
15. Japan	48.80	37563
16. Singapore	47.85	23724
17. Egypt	4.63	682
18. Iran	7.57	876
19. Philippines	2.09	968
20. Russia	16.99	1880
21. Brazil	7.48	3496
22. Mexico	9.58	4089
23. Germany	49.35	25186
24. France	55.80	23038
25. United Kingdom	50.24	17615
26. United States	62.57	26622
World	12.14	4646
Asia	5.38	2250
Europe	32.95	10863
Africa	1.74	632

Source : World Telecommunication Development Report. ITU: 1996-97
These figures are for the year 1995.

[English]

Natural Calamities

*47. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that unprec-

edented rain and floods all over the country have claimed many human lives, rendered millions homeless and have caused massive damage to crops, livestock and property;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the comparative figures for the last three years and the current year, year-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government have deputed Central teams to assess the extend of devastation in various States during the current year;

(d) If so, the extent of damage reported by the Central teams and the various State Governments separately, State-wise;

(e) the financial assistance sought and extended by the Union Government to each State for relief and rehabilitation works along with the comparative figures for the last three years in this regard, State-wise;

(f) the measures being taken to ensure that the victims get the benefits of the relief released by the Union Government; and

(g) whether the Government purpose to draw a long-term policy to tackle natural calamities and check recurrence of huge losses in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (g) On the basis of reports received from the State Governments, details of loss of human life and extent of damage to crops, houses due to rains, floods and cyclones during 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 (so far) are indicated below:

Year	Human life lost (Nos.)	Crop area damaged (Lakh ha.)	Houses damaged (Lakhs)	Animals lost (Lakhs)
1995-96	2544	85.94	22.14	1.03
1996-97	3794	88.98	23.95	2.08
1997-98	2334	85.58	9.70	0.28
1998-99	4331	66.52	11.13	0.87

2. As per the established procedure, assistance from National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) is provided in the event of calamities of rare severity only. In response to the Memoranda received from the States for assistance from the NFCR, Central Teams are deputed for assessment of the situation and extent of relief assistance required, if the calamity is prima-facie considered to be one of rare severity. On this basis, Central Teams have been deputed wherever necessary.

3. Funds amounting to Rs. 594.88 crores have been released during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 from the NFCR. State-wise details of assistance sought and released from NFCR during 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 in the wake of rains, floods and cyclones are indicated in the enclosed Statement.

As per existing scheme for financing relief expenditure, allocation is made to the States under Calamity Relief Fund

(CRF) for undertaking relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of natural calamities. This Fund is contributed to by the Central and State Governments in the ratio of 3:1. The Central share is released annually in four equal quarterly instalments. State Level Committees headed by Chief Secretaries are supervising the operation of CRF. In addition, the expenditure from CRF is audited by the State Accountants General.

5. In addition to financing of relief expenditure, the concerned Ministries/Departments of the Government of India are implementing various long-term programmes/plans to mitigate the impact of natural calamities. These include:

- (i) Flood control measures like construction of reservoirs and embankments, channel improvement, town protection and river training works under schemes of Ministry of Water Resources.
- (ii) Drought Prone Areas Programmes and Desert Development Programme by Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment.
- (iii) Satellite based cyclone forecasting and warning system by India Meteorological Department.
- (iv) Expansion and upgrading of seismological monitoring network by India Meteorological Department.
- (v) Review and assessment of disaster preparedness measures in the Annual Conference of Relief Commissioners of the States, before the onset of Monsoon by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.
- (vi) Preparation and circulation of Crop Contingency Plans by the States for responding to different types of weather conditions.
- (vii) Monitoring of immediate response measures in the wake of natural calamities by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.
- (viii) The Ministry of Agriculture has established a National Centre for Disaster Management at the Centre and has funded faculties on Natural Disaster Management at the State Level Training Institutes/Universities for upgrading skills for disaster management and for promoting community awareness.

6. Besides the above programmes/plans, various State Governments also implement their own plans and programmes aimed at reducing the impact of floods.

Statement

Statement indicating the assistance sought by State Govts. from National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) for Heavy Rains, Floods, Cyclone and Landslides and Funds released from NFCR

(Rs. in Crore)

S. No.	State	1995-96 Assistance		1996-97 Assistance		1997-98 Assistance		1998-99 Assistance		Total assistance sought released	
		sought	released	sought	released	sought	released	sought	released	1995-99	1995-99
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	875.28	21.00	2819.37	142.00	327.95	12.00	500.00	\$ 4522.58	175.00	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	50.50	10.00	110.53	3.00	105.15	***	200.23	\$ 466.41	13.00	
3.	Assam	—	—	415.91	21.00	—	—	1001.98	\$ 1417.89	21.00	
4.	Bihar	1102.28	21.00	168.92	7.00	428.82	10.00	761.96	\$ 2461.98	38.00	
5.	Gujarat	—	—	282.01	***	664.33	86.90	810.65	\$ 1756.99	86.90	
6.	Haryana	588.09	39.41	102.00	***	—	—	350.00	\$ 1040.09	39.41	
7.	Himachal Pradesh	481.96	12.49	458.37	10.56	609.78	24.80	266.06	\$ 1816.17	47.85	
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	211.08	18.17	273.97	***	—	—	—	485.05	18.17	
9.	Karnataka	256.23	***	621.55	***	397.00	\$ 797.00		\$ 2071.78	⊙	
10.	Kerala	151.12	***	342.00	***	1106.26	12.91	899.94	\$ 2499.32	12.91	
11.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	55.00	***	2510.36	⊙	22.50	2565.36	22.50	
12.	Maharashtra	—	—	—	—	156.76	***		156.76	—	
13.	Manipur	—	—	—	—	59.13	\$		59.13	\$	
14.	Meghalaya	41.13	10.00	—	—	—	—		41.13	10.00	
15.	Mizoram	59.99	4.71	—	—	—	—		59.99	4.71	
16.	Orissa	564.00	30.75	—	—	151.50	—		715.50	30.75	
17.	Punjab	658.00	16.16	—	—	347.72	\$ 1043.19		\$ 2048.91	16.16	
18.	Rajasthan	235.99	***	321.00	***	51.18	\$	—	—	608.17	⊙
19.	Sikkim	—	—	43.92	5.52	107.39	7.00	141.41	\$ 292.72	12.52	
20.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	621.55	25.00	—	—	—	—	621.55	25.00
21.	Tripura	—	—	—	—	—	—	22.53	\$ 22.53	\$	
22.	Uttar Pradesh	357.40	***	589.90	***	566.07	***	2023.72	\$ 3537.09	⊙	
23.	West Bengal	631.99	21.00	309.00	***	177.00	***	694.62	\$ 1812.61	21.00	
Total		6265.02	204.69	7535.00	214.08	7766.40	176.11	9513.29	031079.71	594.88	

*** Not considered as Calamity of rare severity.

\$ Under consideration.

⊙ Memorandum under consideration.

Domestic Agro-Industry

*48. SHRI M. RAJIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "American Rice sets its foot in India, to buy Punjab Company" appearing in the 'Economic Times' dated September 23, 1998;

- (b) if so, the details of the facts reported therein; and
 (c) the steps taken to protect domestic Agro-Industry?

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

(b) The news item appeared in The Economic Times dated the 23rd September, 1998 is about the takeover of Agro Tech India Limited (ATIL) by M/s American Rice Inc. (ARI), Texas (USA). According to the information furnished by the Punjab Government, ATIL is a joint sector company promoted by the Punjab Agro Industries Corporation (PAIC) and a private collaborator. The Company had set up plants for rice milling, Solvent Extractions Plant, etc. in Ludhiana District of Punjab. The Company, however became non-operational due to huge losses amounting to about Rs. 50 crore and was declared sick company by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) on 10.11.95 who appointed the Industrial Finance Corporation of India as the operating agency for working out a revival package. Consequently, after considering various proposals for its revival, the BIFR by its order dated 14.10.98 approved for implementation, the scheme of revival of ATIL submitted by ARI, Texas involving one-time settlement of the dues of financial institutions and banks by ARI, Texas and for the taking over of ATIL.

The salient features of the take over of ATIL by ARI, Texas approved by the BIFR are as under:

(i) As per the sanctioned scheme, the dues of FIS/Banks were agreed to be settled at an aggregate amount of Rs. 49.55 crores, payable as under:

- Rs. 10.55 crores of settlement amount to be paid upfront (Rs. 5.15 crores to be paid within two weeks of sanction of scheme and Rs. 5.40 crores within 6 months thereafter)
- Balance amount to be paid in 5 equal instalments (comprising of 4 half yearly instalments and the fifth and last instalments to be paid after 3 months of penultimate instalment) commencing from 6 months after the entire upfront payment, carrying interest @ 15% P.A. plus interest Tax.

(ii) ARI has since paid the first instalment of Rs. 5.15 crores through its Overseas Corporate Body (OCB), Gem India Holding Ltd. and Associates from Mauritius with the approval of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

(c) The take over of ATIL by the American Rice Inc. will bring foreign investment into the country and will in no way damage the domestic agro industry; rather, it will revive a sick and closed unit. The takeover of the unit by the ARI would lead to foreign exchange generation, utilisation of hitherto idle capacity, generate revenue, to Government by way of taxes and provide an impetus to the transport and the packaging sector alongwith its down stream benefits and also generate direct and indirect employment in the region.

Lifting of Sanctions

*49. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Prime Minister's visit to USA and France has not been successful with regard to lifting of the sanctions;
 (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
 (c) whether the Government assured both the countries about signing the CTBT; and
 (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Prime Minister had visited the United States to address the 53rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly. This was not a bilateral visit. Prime Minister's address to the General Assembly has elicited a positive response. On 7 November, the US announced a partial lifting of unilateral restrictive measures in view of positive steps taken by India. During the same tour, Prime Minister went to France on an official visit. France has not imposed unilateral restrictive measures on India.

(c) and (d) In bilateral discussions with United States and France, Government has stated that India is prepared to bring its discussions with them and other key interlocutors on a range of issues, including the CTBT, to a successful conclusion, so that the entry into force of the CTBT is not delayed beyond September 1999. Government expects that other countries, as indicated in Article XIV of the CTBT, will adhere to this Treaty without conditions.

Availability of Fodder

*50. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether adequate quantity of fodder is not available for milch animals in the country particularly in Orissa, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh;
 (b) if so, the annual requirement of fodder together with the quantity actually available at present, State-wise;
 (c) whether the Government have taken any decision to set up a national fodder bank to encourage production of fodder on additional land in order to ensure its adequate supply in view of the increasing requirement of fodder;
 (d) if so, the details thereof; and
 (e) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to ensure free availability of fodder in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL):

Statement

(a) and (b) The availability of dry fodder and green fodder in the country has been estimated to be below the requirement. The position in Gujarat, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh is as under:

	Requirement	Availability (Million tonnes)
1. Gujarat		
Green Fodder	30.50	26.00
Dry Fodder	13.20	9.60
2. Orissa		
Green Fodder	124.39	2.65
Dry Fodder	15.61	11.75
3. Madhya Pradesh		
Green Fodder	87.60	87.60
Dry Fodder	68.20	68.43

(c) There is no such proposal.

(d) The question does not arise.

(e) The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has the following two Schemes for boosting fodder production:

(i) Central Feed and Fodder Development Organisation;

(ii) Assistance to States for Feed and Fodder Development.

Under the Central Feed and Fodder Development Organisation, the Central and Regional Stations produce fodder seed and undertake training and demonstration. Also fodder minikits are distributed under this programme. An amount of Rs. 18 crores is allocated for the Scheme in the IXth Plan.

Assistance to States for Feed and Fodder Development is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under which assistance is provided to State Governments for the following activities.

- (i) Strengthening of Fodder Seed Production farms;
- (ii) Establishment of fodder banks;
- (iii) Seed Production through registered growers;
- (iv) Enrichment of straw and cellulosic wastes;
- (v) Silvopasture development to increase bio-mass production;
- (vi) Grass land development including grass reserves;
- (vii) Sample survey of area, production and requirement of fodder crops.

An amount of Rs. 40 Crores is allocated for this scheme in the IXth Plan.

[Translation]

Ongoing Irrigation Projects

*51. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps taken by the Union Government to complete the ongoing major, medium and small irrigation projects in the country expeditiously;

(b) whether the Government have formulated concrete schemes for tapping water resources for irrigation and flood control etc.;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the assistance proposed to be provided to the State Governments for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) Schemes for tapping of water resources for irrigation and flood control are formulated and executed by the respective State Governments according to their own priority. The Central Government render assistance for this purpose which is technical, advisory and recommendatory in nature. Completion of a large number of irrigation and flood control schemes got delayed due to various reasons the most important of them being the paucity of funds with the State Governments. Keeping this in view Central Government launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) during 1996-1997 to provide Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to States for their major/medium irrigation projects with the objective to accelerate the implementation of the projects which are beyond the resource capability of the States or are in an advance stage of completion. The CLA is also being provided to the States by National Agriculture Bank for Rural Development (NABARD) through Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) since 1995-1996 for major/medium/minor/flood control schemes.

[English]

Crop Insurance

*52. SHRI K.P. MUNUSAMY:

SHRI JAYARAMA I.M. SHETTY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to modify the present Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up a special agency under General Insurance Corporation for making present Crop Insurance Scheme (CIS) more effective;

(d) whether there is a proposal to include more crops under this scheme;

- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the scheme is likely to be implemented at Gram Panchayat level;
- (g) whether there is a proposal to replace the existing Experimental Crop Insurance Scheme with a Comprehensive Scheme; and
- (h) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) It is proposed to introduce a Modified Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (MCCIS) with following salient features:

- (i) It will cover loanee as well as non-loanee farmers;
- (ii) Some more crops in addition to foodgrains, pulses and oilseeds are proposed to be covered;
- (iii) Actuarial premium rates are proposed to be charged to achieve financial viability of the scheme.
- (c) It is proposed to set up a separate agency under the aegis of General Insurance Corporation for the implementation of the scheme.
- (d) and (e) It is proposed to cover some cash crops like sugarcane, potatoes, etc. In the new scheme subject to the availability of the past yield data in addition to the crops covered at present.
- (f) The unit area for the new scheme would be Gram Panchayat, taluka, mandal, etc. as notified by the implementing State

(g) It is proposed to replace the existing Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) and Experimental Crop Insurance Scheme (ECIS) by Modified Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (MCCIS).

(h) It is proposed to introduce the MCCIS Scheme with effect from Kharif 1999 season.

Terminator Seed

*53. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK:

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "Terminator Stares India in the face" appearing in The Hindustan Times dated August 8, 1998;

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

(c) whether there is fear of terminator seed entering India through legal channel;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure that terminator gene based seeds do not enter the Indian market?

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

(b) The facts reported in the news item include:

- (i) Farmers and social scientists in India fear that the terminator seed may enter India through legal channels.
- (ii) Monsanto, the American market leader which created the terminator seeds and holds the patent in United States, has entered into a research tie-up with the Bangalore based Indian Institute of Science.
- (iii) If terminator seeds are used in cultivation, the first crop would be like any other but it would not yield seeds that can be used by the farmers for the next season. So, the farmer would have to go to Monsanto each time he wanted to sow a crop, making him completely dependent on the market price mechanisms.
- (iv) The authorities in Indian Institute of Science have stated that the research in terminator seeds is not part of the MOU signed with Monsanto. It will be only on basic research. Besides general issues like quality of nutrition of crops will be examined in the collaboration.
- (v) Once the terminator seed is introduced in the fields, it can spread rapidly. The big farmer may have the money to buy a fresh stock of seeds for his next crop, but the small farmer will go down under.

(c) and (d) There is no fear of terminator seed entering into India through legal channels.

(e) The steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure that seeds containing Terminator gene do not enter the Indian market include:

- (i) The Government has issued instructions to all permit issuing authorities to keep strict watch on any likely import of seeds having terminator gene. These authorities have been asked to be extremely careful so that in no case any seed material having terminator gene is imported.
- (ii) There will be only one single point of entry for import of genetically engineering planting material.
- (iii) In the proposed Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Protection legislation, necessary provisions will be made to prohibit seeds with Terminator technology being registered for Plant Breeders Rights.

[Translation]

Pending Schemes Relating to Water Management and Agriculture

*54. DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of schemes relating to water management and boosting of agricultural yield are pending with the Planning Commission for approval;

(b) if so, the number of schemes pending for approval till September, 1998; and

(c) the amount demanded for each of these schemes and the date on which each of the scheme was submitted to the Commission alongwith the reasons for delay in taking decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Irrigation and Agriculture, being in the State List of the Constitution, are the State subjects and accordingly, the responsibility of formulation, funding, implementation and management of all types of irrigation including water management schemes primarily rests with the concerned State Governments. As per the existing procedure for clearance of irrigation, flood control and multipurpose project/scheme, no irrigation project or scheme is directly submitted to Planning Commission for investment clearance. The States submit the project/scheme proposals to Central Water Commission for its techno-economic appraisal, which when found in order, is put up to the advisory committee on irrigation, flood control and multi-purpose projects of the Ministry of Water Resources for consideration. After receiving positive recommendation for a project from the Advisory Committee as well as on obtaining all requisite clearances, where required, by the State Govt., the Planning Commission considers such project/scheme for investment clearance. Also, no Minor Irrigation Schemes and medium irrigation project (Not involving any Inter-State river aspect) requires investment clearance of the Planning Commission. Accordingly, no scheme relating to water management and boosting of agricultural yield received from any State is pending for action in the Planning Commission for investment clearance.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

New Internet Policy

*55. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced the new Internet Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the same is likely to be implemented;

(c) the estimated number of new employment opportunities likely to be generated as a result thereof;

(d) whether huge capital investment would be required for implementing the new Internet Policy;

(e) if so, the estimate of the total capital investment required;

(f) the sources from which it is likely to be made available; and

(g) the target fixed for receiving capital from each source?

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

(b) The new Internet Policy was announced on 6.11.1998. The implementation of the same started on the same day, with the signing of four licence agreements. As on date 21 licenses have been signed.

(c) As per the new Internet Policy, Government is giving licences to private companies to provide both Internet content and access services as an Internet Service Provider (ISP). The growth of these services offer a big boom for employment opportunities, in the area of software development for various types of information services on the net.

(d) to (g) The Policy encourages small entrepreneurs to set up their services in a Secondary Switching Area and to provide service only in one town as well as to big companies who can set up services all over India. The investment involved would be in the range of Rs. 10 Lakhs to Rs. 50 Crores. The various sources of required funding, include promoters' own contribution and the external funding by way of equity investment or loans etc. from financial institutions and other investors. Tie-up and arrangement for requisite funds would be done by ISP licensees.

Laghu Krishi Vyavasaya Sangh

*56. SHRI RIZWAN ZAHEER KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has also been drawn to the news-item captioned "Utapadakata wa chhote Kisanoan ki aya badane wali yojana adhar mein" appearing in the Rashtriya Sahara, dated November 8, 1998;

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

(c) whether the Government have hang in balance the "Laghu Krishi Vyavasaya Sangh" Scheme which is aimed at increasing productivity and income of small farmers for the last six years;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the remedial steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The facts stated in the report point out to the slow implementation of the activities of Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC), appointment of new Managing Director since July, 1998, office space for the Society, preparation for the future activities in consultation with the Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation and delay in meeting of the Board of Management etc. The benefits that may accrue to farmers in various parts of the country through proper implementation of this Scheme have also been highlighted.

(c) and (d) The facts reported in the news item are not entirely correct. The SFAC has started functioning in its independent Office. The activities undertaken by the Society include promotion of State level SFAC in Kerala; establishment of an Agri-Business Information Centre at Ludhiana in collaboration with Punjab Agro Industries Corporation and organisation of district level Workshops to generate awareness of S.F.A.C. and its activities.

(e) The activities of the Society have been given a fillip by appointment of a fulltime Managing Director since July, 1998. The specific activities aimed at welfare of small and marginal farmers have been identified for implementation.

[English]

CTBT

*57. SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to sign Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in the present form;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Prime Minister during his address to General Assembly in UN expressed India's readiness to sign CTBT subject to certain conditions;

(d) if so, the details of those conditions; and

(e) the response of P-5 and G-8 countries thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) The Prime Minister in his address to the UN General Assembly stated that India was prepared to bring its discussions with key interlocutors on a range of issues, including the CTBT, to a successful conclusion so that the entry into force of the CTBT was not delayed beyond September 1999. He also stated that India expected other countries mentioned in the Article XIV of the CTBT to adhere to the Treaty without conditions.

(e) Prime Minister's UNGA address has elicited a positive response. The US has announced a partial lifting of unilateral restrictive measures in view of positive steps taken by India. Canada has welcomed India's intention to adhere to the CTBT. France has welcomed PM's UNGA speech. Japan has said that it recognises that the series of policy statements made recently by India constitute progress.

Production of Foodgrains

*58. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL:

SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the flood and untimely rains has affected the overall prospects of foodgrain production this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the country is likely to face food shortage by 2000 AD;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the preventive measures taken or being taken by the Government to meet the shortage of foodgrains for the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Due to the floods and untimely rains in certain parts of the country, the Kharif foodgrains production for 1998-99 has been marginally affected. But, with the chances of better Rabi crops on account of favourable weather conditions, better reservoir situation, good pace of sowings and adequate availability of inputs, the prospects for overall food production during 1998-99 are brighter.

(c) to (e) There is no shortage of food foreseen by 2000 AD as the overall foodgrains production during the decade of nineties has been maintaining a growth at par with population growth. In order to increase the production and productivity of various foodgrains in the country, the Government is implementing crop specific development programmes and schemes in which incentives are provided to farmers for use of quality seeds and location specific hybrid varieties, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation and improved farm implements. Besides, field demonstrations on farmers holdings including training of farmers and farm labourers are organised for effective transfer of technology. Government is also providing price and market support to the farmers by announcing the Minimum Support Prices for major foodgrains crops and making arrangements for the procurement through the nodal agencies. The subsidised supply of fertilisers encourages its consumption for maintaining growth of foodgrains production. In its National Agenda for governance, the Government proposes to give a fresh thrust to all programmes aimed at doubling the food production in next ten years by adopting regionally differentiated growth strategies, creation of farming infrastructure and more efficient use of resources.

Siachen Issue

*59. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:

SHRI T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Pakistan shuts out ceasefire on Siachen" appearing in Statesman (Calcutta Edition) dated November 7, 1998;

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

(c) the fresh initiatives taken by the Government to resolve the Siachen issue?

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

(b) and (c) As a part of the composite dialogue process that has begun between India and Pakistan, the Defence Secretaries of the two countries held talks on the Siachen issue on 6 November, 1998 at New Delhi. Government of India proposed that, as a first step, there should be an agreement for a ceasefire in the Siachen area, after which other aspects of the issue, such as disengagement/redeployment could be discussed. While no agreement was reached during these talks on a ceasefire, the two sides have agreed to continue discussions.

Production of Mangoes in the Country

*60. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the total production of mangoes of different varieties in the country;
- (b) whether the Government are aware that the Banarasi and Langra varieties of mangoes are disappearing year after year;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government to save the crop of the above varieties of mangoes from ruination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The annual production of mango in the country is to the tune of 108.11 lakh metric tonnes. The variety-wise details of production is, however, not maintained.

(b) to (d) The Banarasi Langra variety of mango has its origin from Banaras of Uttar Pradesh and is now being cultivated in many parts of the country. This variety, however, has the problem of biennial bearing as a result of which the production get reduced in some years. The Government is implementing the Central Sector Scheme on the Development of Tropical, Temperate and Arid Zone being implemented through the State Government under which assistance is being provided for increasing the productivity and production of fruits including mango through various measures such as supply of quality planting material, rejuvenation of senile orchards, training of farmers besides area expansion. Allocations of Rs. 74.30 crores were made for the scheme during the Eighth Five Year Plan. The Scheme is being continued during 1997-98 and 1998-99 with an outlay of Rs. 17.00 crores and 25.00 crores respectively with similar pattern of assistance followed during the VIII Plan. The work on improvement and development of agro-techniques in Langra mango is being done under the All India Coordinated Research Project on Sub-tropical fruits of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). Under this project, three superior types of Langra mango have been developed at Bihar College of Agriculture, Sabour. The Central Institute of Sub-tropical Horticulture (CISH), Lucknow is also engaged in the improvement of agro-techniques of Langra mango.

Beypore-Kallani Canal

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

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from the State Government of Kerala for the development of Beypore-Kallani Canal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter so far?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Assistance to Kashmiri Terrorists

462. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that dreaded international terrorist Laden had visited Pak occupied Kashmir recently and is providing monetary assistance to the Kashmiri terrorists;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government so far to deal with this adverse situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) Government has no evidence to suggest that Osama Bin Laden visited Pakistan occupied Kashmir. Government is, however, aware of his links with various terrorist groups fighting in Jammu and Kashmir. Government is closely monitoring the situation and is taking all necessary steps to safeguard the security and territorial integrity of the country.

[English]

Assistance to Paddy and Cotton Growers

463. SHRI MADAN PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government plan to assist the paddy and cotton growers of different States who had suffered severe losses due to the recent rains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the assistance actually given so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The primary responsibility for providing relief measures to the people affected by natural calamities is that of the State Government concerned. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing additional resources in accordance with the recommendations of Finance Commissions appointed from time to time. The State Governments are required to undertake relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of natural calamities, including damage to paddy and cotton crops,

from the allocation under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), to which the Centre and State Governments contribute in the ratio of 3:1. The Centre's Share is released annually in 4 equal quarterly instalments. Three quarterly instalments of Centre's Share of CRF for 1998-99 amounting to Rs. 747.08 crore have been released to all the States.

In addition to CRF, a National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) has been created, on the recommendations of Tenth Finance Commission to deal with Calamities of rare severity. As per established procedure for assistance under this scheme, the State Governments are required to submit a memorandum indicating the extent of damage and relief assistance required. Central Teams are deputed, wherever necessary, for assessment of the situation. The Report of the Central Team is first considered by the Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG). The Report of the Central Team and the recommendations of the IMG thereon are then considered by the National Calamity Relief Committee for a decision on the quantum of assistance, if any, from the NFCR.

Procurement Policy of Cotton

464. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged to the Union Government to make changes in procurement policies of cotton as the cotton farmers in the State of Andhra Pradesh were facing bleak future in getting remunerative prices due to the decline in cotton prices in global markets;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) The time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Central Government to make changes in the procurement policy of cotton in Andhra Pradesh. In his letter dated 13th October, 1998 addressed to Prime Minister of India, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has suggested that the Cotton Corporation of India may be directed to purchase at least 20% of the market arrivals at all important market yards during this season. In this regard it may be stated that the textile policy announced in June, 1985 inter-alia emphasised the reformulation of the role and functions of the Corporation to include price stabilisation operations with necessary access to international market. The Corporation has been entrusted the following three roles:

- (i) To undertake price support operations, whenever the market price of kapas touch the support prices announced by the Government without any quantitative limit.
- (ii) To undertake commercial operations only at CCI's own risk and
- (iii) To purchase cotton to fulfil the export quota given to CCI.

In view of above, it may be difficult for the Corporation to

make a fix percentage of purchases of the total arrival in the State, because the Corporation has to undertake its commercial operations at its own risk and responsibility. Further, it may be mentioned that, no budgetary support is provided to the Corporation in case of losses, from the Government exchequer.

The Cotton Corporation of India, however, ensures that its representatives shall remain in the market yards right from the day one of the auction till the last day of the arrivals so as to ensure that the farmers get a competitive price for their produce.

Opening of New Post Offices and Tele-Density

465. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY:

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of targets set up to increase the number of post offices and tele-density in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government are aware that tele-density is far below in Bihar and West Bengal as compare to other States; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve the situation?

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

Department of Posts

(a) A target for opening 2500 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 250 Departmental Sub Post Offices throughout the country during the Ninth Plan period has been proposed, subject to availability of resources. Targets are allocated Postal Circle-wise for each Annual Plan. Circle-wise allocation of targets for Annual Plan 1998-99 is given in the statement attached.

Department of Telecom

The Ninth Five Year Plan proposal submitted to the Planning Commission for approval envisages to provide 23.7 million new telephone connections in the country during the period 1997-2002. This includes about 3 million telephones through Private sector participation. The tele-density in the country was 1.53 per hundred inhabitants as on 1.4.97 and has risen to 1.84 by March, 1998 and is expected to reach around 4 by the year 2002. The State-wise tele-density will be worked out after the approval of Ninth Five Year Plan proposals by the Planning Commission.

(b) Yes, Sir,

(c) Annual targets of new telephone connections for Bihar and West Bengal for 1998-99 have been fixed giving due weightage to tele-density. Targets are fixed in such a manner that it will not only clear the waiting list as on 31-3-98 but will be sufficient to clear most of the new registrations that would take place during the current year in the two telecom circles.

Statement*Circle-wise allotment of targets for opening Post Offices during annual plan 1998-99*

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	Targets Allotted for opening EDBOs in			Targets Allotted for opening DSOs in		
		Other Areas	Tribal Areas	Total	Other Areas	Tribal Areas	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7	3	10	1	1	2
2.	Assam	40	10	50	1	1	2
3.	Bihar	42	18	60	2	1	3
4.	Delhi	17	—	17	3	—	3
5.	Gujarat	32	8	40	2	—	2
6.	Haryana	15	—	15	3	—	3
7.	Himachal Pradesh	7	3	10	1	1	2
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	20	10	30	1	—	1
9.	Karnataka	8	2	10	4	—	4
10.	Kerala	10	—	10	2	—	2
11.	Madhya Pradesh	30	20	50	1	1	2
12.	Maharashtra	46	14	60	3	—	3
13.	North-East	31	19	50	1	2	3
14.	Orissa	6	4	10	1	1	2
15.	Punjab	15	—	15	2	—	2
16.	Rajasthan	16	14	30	1	1	2
17.	Tamil Nadu	7	3	10	2	—	2
18.	Uttar Pradesh	66	12	78	6	—	6
19.	West Bengal	29	8	37	3	—	3
20.	Sikkim	6	—	6	1	—	1
Total		450	148	598	41	9	50

Externally Funded Schemes

466. SHRI JAYANTA RONGPI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of externally funded schemes being implemented in the hilly areas of Assam;

(b) whether Autonomous Hill Councils of the Area are the implementing agency of all such externally funded schemes;

(c) if so, the fund released to the Hill Councils of Assam during last three years, year-wise, and scheme-wise;

(d) whether Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council have demanded that the councils should be

the implementing agency of all externally funded schemes for the hill areas; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in response to the demand of the Autonomous Hill Councils?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Schemes under the Externally Aided Project for District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) are being implemented in Karbi-Anglong District with 85% credit from the World Bank and 15% grant from the State Government.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. The funds released during the last three years are as follows:

	(Rs. lakh)
1994-95	29.06
1997-98	80.00
1998-99	100.00
Total	209.06

(d) No such demand has been received by the State Government.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

NAM Meet

467. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:

SHRI VITHAL TUPE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the issues raised during Non-aligned countries' meet held at Durban;

(b) whether the Government of India have also raised any issue;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the participants thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The XIth NAM Summit at Durban considered a wide range of issues including analysis of the international political situation; the role of the Non-Aligned Movement, North-South Dialogue, UN reforms and UN Security Council restructuring and expansion, disarmament and international security, terrorism, international law; global economic issues such as international trade, agenda for development, financial, investment and monetary issues, environment and development, science and technology, the economic situation in Africa; social issues such as poverty eradication, health, education, population and development, human rights, refugees; issues relating to women and children, international drug control, etc.

(b) and (c) As a founder member of NAM, India actively participated in all discussions and contributed to the formulation of NAM positions as reflected in the Final Document. The Prime Minister, in his keynote address, called for an international conference to agree before the start of the new millennium on a programme of action for the elimination of nuclear weapons. India also called for concerted international efforts in the form of an international conference to discuss and agree on measures to combat terrorism through collective action. India also called for expansion and reform of UN Security Council on the basis of global and non-discriminatory criteria and urged NAM to develop strength to translate its numbers into an

effective voice in international affairs. India stressed on revitalisation of the agenda for management of the international economy.

(d) The issues raised by India were discussed at the Summit and reflected in the Final Document, which was adopted by consensus by the Summit.

[English]

Mustard Oil

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that argemone seeds which grow in the fields along with the mustard plants and are identical in colour and size of mustard is the main cause for contamination of mustard oil resulting in epidemic dropsy in various parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to stop the growth of argemone plant in the field of mustard plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Contamination of mustard seed with argemone seeds does not take place in the agricultural fields as the ripening period of both seeds are different. However, contamination of mustard seeds with argemone seeds may take place at the time of milling when both types of seeds are mixed to extract oil.

(b) Argemone weed growers both in mustard fields as well as in wastelands. It can be controlled in non-cropped area by the application of 2-4 D Ethyl Ester @ 1 kg. in 1000 litre of water per hectare during the active growth of the plant. In the mustard fields the weed can be removed manually. Farmers have been advised to adopt these methods through dissemination of information on contamination of mustard.

Renovation and Modernisation of Mahanadi Delta

469. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the renovation and modernisation of Mahanadi Delta Stage I and Stage II in Orissa is on progress;

(b) if so, the estimated cost thereof and funds spent on these projects so far; and

(c) the time by which the renovation and modernisation programme is likely to be completed?

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

(b) An expenditure of Rs. 1.50 crores has been incurred on these projects upto the end of 1996-97 against the latest estimated cost of Rs. 53.02 crores.

(c) The Renovation and Modernisation Programme is scheduled to be completed by the end of 9th Plan.

*[Translation]***Telephone Connections**

470. SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list of telephone connections in Rajasthan particularly Kota region, district-wise;

(b) whether due to non-availability of materials, the Department is not releasing new telephone connections in the State;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to clear the waiting list in the State?

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

(a) The number of persons on waiting list of telephone connections in Rajasthan and Kota region in particular as on 31.10.1998 are given below:

(i) Rajasthan: 1,65,851

(ii) Kota region: 6,991

(Consisting of Districts Jhalawar, Baran and Kota)

District-wise details of waiting list of telephone connections in Rajasthan is given as per statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The telephone connections are regularly released. 41,500 new telephone connections were provided till 31.10.1998 against the target of 1.63 lakhs for 1998-99.

(d) It is proposed to clear the waiting list as on 31.3.1998 by March, 99 except for technically non-feasible cases.

Statement

District-wise waiting list of Rajasthan Circle as on 31.10.1998

Name of District	Waiting list as on 31.10.98
1	2
Ajmer	12912
Alwar	6318
Bansware	814
Baran	987
Barmer	2964
Bharatpur	4116
Bhilwara	6995
Bikaner	6683

1	2
Bundi	1230
Chittorgarh	3504
Churu	5973
Dausa	2842
Dholpur	770
Dungarpur	1638
Hanumangarh	5473
Jaipur	17050
Jaisalmer	669
Jalore	4887
Jhalwar	738
Jhunjhunu	6140
Jodhpur	10457
Karauli	1885
Kota	5268
Nagaur	8906
Pali	8990
Rajsamand	3117
Swaimadhopur	2015
Sikar	9270
Sirohi	4202
Sriganganagar	9370
Tonk	1904
Udaipur	8186
Rajasthan	165851

*[English]***Revision of MPLADS**

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

(a) whether the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme is modified and revised from time to time;

(b) if so, the date of its last revision; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Govt. for effective implementation of the MPLADS, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN

THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The guidelines on MPLADS were last revised on 15th Feb. 1997.

(c) For effective implementation of the works taken up under this scheme, each State Govt./UT Administration designates one nodal Department for physical monitoring through field inspection and for coordination with the Department of Programme Implementation. The Heads of District are to visit and inspect atleast 10% of the work every year. It is the responsibility of the senior officers of implementing agencies to regularly visit the works and ensure that the works are progressing satisfactorily as per the prescribed procedure and specification. Whenever a case regarding non-effective implementation of work, recommended by an MP, is brought to the knowledge of this Department the matter is taken up with the concerned Collectors/State Government and necessary instructions are issued.

Implementation of Projects

472. SHRI S.S. OWASI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given on July 29, 1998 to Unstarred Question No. 6117 regarding implementation of projects and state:

- (a) whether the information has since been collected;
- (b) if, so the details thereof; and
- (c) the further projects signed or implemented during the last three months with SAARC countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) A Statement containing the information collected is enclosed.

(c) No new projects have been signed during the last three months with SAARC countries. Ongoing projects are being implemented.

Statement

1. Several projects are being implemented by India in SAARC Countries under bilateral agreements. Details are given below:

Nos. of Projects being Implemented Bilaterally in SAARC Countries with Assistance from India	The cost of Projects	The extent of assistance given by GOI to these Projects
79	Rs. 2190.14 crores	Rs. 1599.10 crores

2. There are no specific SAARC projects. However, several programmes for social development and technical cooperation are undertaken under the SAARC Integrated Programme of Action (IPA) through the following 11 Technical Committees:

- (i) Agriculture

- (ii) Communications
- (iii) Education, Culture and Sports
- (iv) Environment and Technology
- (v) Health, Population and Child Welfare
- (vi) Prevention of Drug Trafficking and Drug Abuse
- (vii) Rural Development
- (viii) Science and Technology
- (ix) Tourism
- (x) Transport and
- (xi) Women in Development

Workshops, seminars, expert group meetings, publications of directories, information exchange, short-term training programmes, etc., are undertaken under the Integrated Programme of Action (IPA).

3. Four SAARC Regional Centres have also been established. They are:

- (i) SAARC Tuberculosis Centre
- (ii) SAARC Agricultural Information Centre
- (iii) SAARC Meteorology Research Centre
- (iv) SAARC Documentation Centre

4. India hosts the SAARC Documentation Centre in New Delhi.

5. India also contributes towards the budget of the SAARC Secretariat located in Kathmandu, Nepal and the budgets of the Regional Centres on the basis of an agreed percentage formula.

6. In addition to the above activities, India is actively pursuing economic cooperation amongst SAARC countries to facilitate increased trade flows, more efficient utilisation of resource endowments of the region and to capitalise on regional synergies. In that regard, the South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement (SAPTA) has been signed in April 1993. Two Rounds of Trade Negotiations have been concluded. Tariff reductions have been exchanged on 2459 tariff lines. The Third Round of SAPTA negotiations is currently underway and we hope to conclude these soon.

7. At the Tenth SAARC Summit in Colombo SAARC leaders have agreed to commence negotiations on a Comprehensive Treaty for establishing a South Asian Free Trade Area in South Asia. The leaders have directed that the Treaty should be finalised by 2001.

India has taken some major initiatives to provide substantially enhanced market access to SAARC Countries. At the Tenth SAARC Summit the Prime Minister announced that India would lift Quantitative Restrictions for SAARC Countries on over 2000 products. This decision has been put into effect from 1.8.98. India has also increased the ceiling for overseas Indian

investment in SAARC Countries under the Fast Track from US \$ 4 million in 1997 to US \$ 15 million in 1998. This is expected to encourage Indian investment and joint ventures in SAARC Countries.

8. For the year 1998-99, India has offered to host the following activities under the Integrated Programme of Action (IPA). Expenditure involved depends upon each specific programme.

Activity

1. Workshop on Consensus Development on Germ-plasm and IPA.
2. Seventh Archaeological Congress.
3. Three-days Seminar of SAARC Countries on Post Literacy & Continuing Education for Neo-literates.
4. Workshop on early Childhood Development and Prevention of Disabilities among Children.
5. Workshop on Improvement of care of New Born/ infants especially on breast-feeding and feeding practices.
6. Workshop on Income and Employment Generation in the Rural Areas on a Sustained Basis.
7. Expert Group meeting on Manufacturing, Quality Control and Manpower Training on Cement and Allied Building Materials Industries.
8. Entrepreneurship Training Programme on Manufacturing Common Clay based Products having relevance to Rural Housing, Sanitation, Drinking Water, Irrigation and Tableware.
9. Second SAARC Food Festival.
10. Workshop on "Follow-up Action on Fourth World Conference on Women".

Out of order Telephone Instrument

473. SHRI D.B. ROY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the telephone subscribers of Uttar Pradesh and various other parts of the country are facing problems due to their telephone instruments being out of order;
- (b) if so, whether the Government propose to issue instructions to the telephone exchanges of Uttar Pradesh, particularly Sultanpur district for replacing telephone instruments out of order since long;
- (c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) No major problems are being faced by telephone subscribers due to telephone instrument remaining out of order in Uttar Pradesh and various other parts of the country. Faulty

instruments are being replaced by working instruments in all parts of the country including Sultanpur.

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

Extra Departmental Employees

474. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE: Will , PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of E.D. employees in Post Offices in Maharashtra;
- (b) whether the recruitment of such employees is made through employment exchange;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and other methods adopted for recruiting them;
- (d) the facilities being provided by Postal Department to these employees in comparison to regular employees; and
- (e) the services of ED employees regularised in the State during the last three years till date, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) As on 1.4.98, the total number of ED Agents in Maharashtra Circle was 24246.

(b) and (c) As per the departmental instructions which existed prior to 19.8.98 except where otherwise provided specifically, all vacancies of ED Agents were required to be notified to the Employment Exchange and selection made from amongst the nominees. In the event of Employment Exchange failing to sponsor the required minimum number of suitable candidates within the stipulated date, the recruiting authorities had the option to issue open advertisement and make selection from amongst candidates responding there to. As per the latest instructions issued on 19.8.98 which have come into force from the date of issue, all vacancies of ED Agents excluding those where the process of recruitment through Employment Exchange/open advertisement had already commenced, in addition to notifying through the Employment Exchange, the local authorities are required to simultaneously notify the vacancies through public advertisement, and candidates nominated by the Employment Exchange as also those responding to the open advertisement will be considered. In case the notification and public advertisement so issued fail to elicit any response within the stipulated date or if the effective number of candidates responding is less than 3, the vacancy will be re-notified to the Employment Exchange and advertised, calling for nominations, etc. within 15 days. Dependent of ED Agents who die in harness are also considered for appointment against vacancies of ED Agents in relaxation of normal rules of recruitment.

(d) Important facilities in this respect available at present to ED Agents in the Department of Posts are given in the attached statement.

(e) The information is being collected from Maharashtra Circle.

Statement*Important facilities provided to Extra Departmental Agents in comparison to Regular Employees*

Regular Government Employees	Extra Departmental Agents
1. Fixed 8 hours duty per day.	Maximum 5 hours duty per day.
2. Graded scales of pay.	Fixed allowance on the basis of workload.
3. Retirement at 60 years of age.	Can remain in service up to 65 years of age.
4. Pensionable service.	Non-pensionable service.
5. Not permitted to hold any alternative job.	Alternative source of income is compulsory.
6. Liability for transfers.	Non-transferable.
7. To be a resident of India.	Local village residency is compulsory.
8. Post Office in a Govt. building—owned or rented.	Post Office premises to be located in the BPM's residence, shop, etc.
9. Governed CCS (Conduct) Rules framed under Art. 309 of Constitution.	Governed by Non-statutory P&T ED Agents (Conduct & Service) Rules 1964.
10. Leave of various kind is permissible.	No leave of any kind is allowed, except on condition of substitute arranged by EDA, for a maximum of 180 days.
11. Group Insurance scheme for Central Govt. employees provides graded benefits for different groups of employees. Group 'D' employees are provided risk coverage for Rs. 15,000/- on payment of Rs. 15/- per month as contribution.	EDAS are covered by a Group Insurance Scheme w.e.f. 1.4.92 providing risk coverage for Rs. 10,000/- on payment of Rs. 10/- per month.
12. Gratuity is permissible at the prescribed rates related to length of qualifying service with a prescribed ceiling.	Ex-gratia gratuity upto Rs. 6000/- for EDAS having minimum continuous service of 10 years.

Extra Departmental Agents are given preference for employment in Group 'D' and Postman cadres in filling up vacancies earmarked for outsiders.

Theft of Cables

475. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- the number of cases of theft of cables reported in the Capital during 1997-98;
- the number of cases in which arrests have been made during this period;
- the quantum of loss suffered as a result thereof;
- whether the Government have conducted any inquiry;
- if so, the outcome thereof; and
- the measures taken by the Government to check such thefts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Total cable theft reported during 97-98 are 238.

(b) Nil.

(c) The material loss due to cable theft during 1997-98 was Rs. 30,03,872/- only which does not include the Loss of revenue due to service interruption.

(d) FIR has been lodged in every individual case in respective police stations. It is further pursued by holding meetings with Senior Police Officers.

(e) Cases are still under investigation by police authorities.

(f) Patrolling on the vulnerable (theft prone) cable routes have been intensified in co-ordination with the local police authorities, Co-ordination meetings are being held with police authorities to curb frequent occurrence of cable thefts.

[Translation]

Supply of Instruments

476. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received to supply certain instruments to Bihar Telecom Circle for the speedy

implementation of Expansion Plan in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government to ensure supply of essential instruments?

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

(b) Request from Bihar Circle for supply of 5,000 no. of executive Secretary (1+1) and 200 of Boss Secretary (1+4) Instruments has been received.

The tender has been finalised and Advance Purchase Orders for supply of these instruments have been placed on approved vendors.

[English]

Telephone Exchanges Under S.D.C.A. in Kerala

477. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the exchanges falling under Ernakulam, Kottayan, Muvattupuzha and Idukki Short Distance Charging Area in Kerala;

(b) the details of rent for telephones in each of the exchange under S.D.C.A. scheme before and after introduction of said scheme;

(c) whether the excessive rent charged on small rural exchanges is only because these have been linked with big exchange like Ernakulam;

(d) whether the Government have received any complaints in this regard;

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(f) whether Government propose to give some relief in regard to charging of excessive rent; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) The information is given in the attached statement-I. Idukki falls in Thodupuzha SDCA and is not an independent SDCA.

(b) The information is given in the attached statement-II.

(c) As per the revised Local Area Policy, the total capacity of all the exchanges together will decide the rentals applicable for the SDCA.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) While there will be increase in rental for some subscribers as per the revised definition of local area, many hitherto long distance calls will become local calls and therefore, cheaper. This is expected to balance out the increase in rentals.

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

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

Statement-I

List of Exchanges in Ernakulam SDCA

Name of Exchange	Capacity
1	2
Alangad	1400
Alwaye	11000
Ambalamugal	2000
Angamaly	6500
Annapara	296
Ayyampuzha	152
Arakunnam	1200
Chellanam	296
Chengamanad	1400
Cheral	1584
Chittour	2000
Chottanikkara	1000
Chundakuzhy	552
EKM-Cochin	9000
EKM-Ernakulam I	10000
EKM-Ernakulam II	12000
EKM-Palarivattom VI	9500
EKM-Palarivattom VII	11100
EKM-Palluruthy	5000
EKM-Panampallinagar	13000
EKM-SRM Road	3500
EKM-Ayappankavu	6500
EKM-Service line	256
EKM-Vyttila	6000
EKM W. Island	3256
Edavanakkad	1000
KSY-Kalamassery VI	10500
KSY-Kalamassery VII	7000
Kalady	3000
Kandakadavu	384

1	2	<i>List of Exchanges in Kottayam SDCA</i>	
		<i>Name of Exchange</i>	<i>Capacity</i>
Keechery	1000	Ayarakunnam	3000
Keezhillam	1400	Changanacherry	12000
Kizhakkambalam	4000	Chingavanam	3000
Kolencherry	1500	Ettumanoor	5000
Kombanad	1000	Gandhinagar	5000
Koovapady	1384	KTM-Kanjikuchi	7000
Kumbalanghy	568	KTM-Kottayam VI	16000
Kunnukara	368	KTM-Kottayam VII	2000
Malayattur	192	Kollara (KTM)	552
Manjapara	1000	Karakachal	1400
Marampilly	496	Kangazha	1200
Moothakunnam	1200	Kumarakom	1400
Mazhuvannur	1384	Mimmood	752
Moozhikulam	1400	Neandoor	552
Mulamthuruthy	3000	Pallikkathodu	1272
Narakkal	4000	Pampady	2575
Nettoor	1500	Vakathanam	1512
Odakali	1384	Vazhoor	736
PRU-Parur VI	1632	Total	64,951
PRU-Parur VII	4000	<i>Name of Exchanges in Muvathupuzha SDCA</i>	
Paduvapuram	1000	<i>Name of Exchange</i>	<i>Capacity</i>
Permbavoor	8000	1	2
Puthencruz	2500	Ayavana	424
Puthenvellkara	1000	Chathamattom	184
Sreemoolanagaram	1000	Chelad	1400
Thrikkakaracepz	5000	Cheruvattoor	296
Tripunithura	9000	Edamalayar	106
Udayamporer	1000	Elanjil	1000
Valayamchirangala	1000	Kadavoor	360
Varapuzha	1500	Kalloorkad	384
Vengoor	584	Koothattukulam	1664
Vypin	520	Kothamangalam	5000
Total	1,98,888	Kottapady	568

1	2	1	2
Kuttampuzha	184	Arkulam	1000
Maneed	1000	Arikuzha	360
Makkadampu	1000	Chelachuvadu	160
Mavattupuzha	7750	Elamdesam	1000
Neendapara	184	Ezhallur	360
Nellimattom	1000	Idukki	640
Neriyamangalam	336	Kaloor	360
Oonnukal	384	Kanjikuzhi (IDK)	160
Pampakuda	1400	Karimannur	1400
Pandapally	1000	Karimban	312
Pirayam	1500	Karimkunnam	1000
Pothanicadu	1784	Kodikulam	520
Ramamangalam	512	Kulamavu	88
Vadattupara	184	Mullaringad	368
Vazhakulam	1632	Muttom	1000
Total	31,314	Parapuzha	360
<i>List of Exchanges in Thodupuzha SDCA</i>		Thodupuzha	7000
Name of exchange	Capacity	Udambannoor	1000
1	2	Vannapuram	1000
Anchiri	360	Vazhithala	568
		Total	19,016

Statement-II

Before implementation of the revised local Area Policy, the rent for telephones was determined by the Capacity of individual exchanges in accordance with tariff-chart given below:

Sl. No.	Exchanges Systems	Bi monthly Rental
1.	Exchanges systems of less than 100 lines	Rs. 100
2.	Exchanges systems of 100 lines and above but below 1000 lines	Rs. 150
3.	Exchange systems of 1000 lines and above but below 30,000 lines	Rs. 200
4.	Exchange systems of 30,000 lines and above but below 1,00,000 lines	Rs. 275
5.	Exchanges systems of 1 lakh lines and above but below 3 lakh lines	Rs. 360
6.	Exchange systems of 3 lakh lines and above	Rs. 380

Concessional tariff for subscribers of telephones located in Rural Areas.

Telephone rentals for exchange systems Rs. 100 of 100 lines and above but below 1000 lines.

The details of rentals for telephones working in the above and SDCA's after implementation of the revised local area policy which is based on the total capacity of the SDCA are as follows:

Name of SDCA	Bimonthly Rentals	Total Switching Capacity of the SDCA
1. Ernakulam	Rs. 360/-	1,98,888
2. Kottayam	Rs. 275/-	64,951
3. Muvattupuzha	Rs. 275/-	31,314
4. Thodupuzha	Rs. 200/-	19,016

Rural concession on rentals is not applicable to any of the exchanges in the above SDCAs at present as the SDCA capacity for all of them is above 1000 lines.

Construction of AIR Station in Orissa

478. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- the number of new AIR stations under construction at present in Orissa;
- the present stage of construction work on Soro radio station at Balasore District in Orissa;
- whether any target date have been fixed for its completion; and
- if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) Two new Radio station at Soro and Rairangpur in Orissa are presently under construction.

- Building works are in progress.
- and (d) Yes, Sir. The projects are targetted for completion in 1999-2000.

Doordarshan Relay Centre at Chandigarh

479. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- whether the Union Government propose to start a Doordarshan relay centre at Chandigarh;

- if so, the details thereof;
- the time by which it is likely to be completed and start functioning; and
- the total amount to be spent on the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) to (d) Terrestrial TV coverage at Chandigarh is available from High Power Transmitter (HPT), Kasauli for National programmes. Low Power Transmitter (LPT), Chandigarh (located at Kasauli) relays Punjabi regional service programmes. Besides this, an LPT is functioning at Chandigarh for relay for metro channel DD-II.

There is no scheme for setting up of any additional DD relay centre at Chandigarh.

TV Transmitters in Kerala

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

- The number of TV Transmitters functioning at present in Kerala, location-wise and District-wise;
- the number TV projects of varying capacity pending in the State, location-wise and District-wise;
- the time by which the pending projects are likely to be made operational; and
- the details of the new TV Transmitters proposed to be set up in the State; location-wise and District-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) and (b) A Statement in enclosed.

(c) and (d) All transmitters presently under implementation are expected to be completed during the year 1999 with the exception of HPT, Cannanore which is expected to be completed in 2 to 3 years, time, subject to availability of resources, infrastructural facilities, staff and inter se priorities. Setting up of new transmitters is an ongoing process, subject to availability of resources, infrastructural facilities, staff and inter se priorities, till full coverage of the State.

Statement

District	Existing transmitters	Transmitters under implementation
1	2	3
Alappuzha	LPT, Chengannur LPT, Kayamkulam	
Ernakulam	HPT, Cochin LPT, Cochin (DD-II)	HPT, Cochin (DD-II)
Idukki	LPT, Idukki LPT, Thodupuzha VLPT, Devikolam	

1	2	3
Kannur	LPT, Cannanore LPT, Cannanore (DD-II) LPT, Tellicherry	HPT, Cannanore
Kasargod	LPT, Kanhangarh LPT, Kagargod	
Kollam	LPT, Punalur	LPT, Kottarakkara
Kottayam	LPT, Changanacherry VLPT, Kanjirapalli	LPT, Pala VLPT, Erattupatta VLPT, Mundakayam
Kozhikode	HPT, Calicut (Interim set up) LPT, Calicut (DD-II)	HPT, Calicut (permanent set up)
Malappuram	LPT, Malappuram	LPT, Manjeri
Palakkad	LPT, Attapadi LPT, Palghat LPT, Shoranur	
Pathanamthitta	LPT, Adoor	
Thiruvananthapuram	HPT, Trivandrum LPT, Trivandrum (DD-II)	HPT, Trivandrum (DD-II)
Thrissur	LPT, Trichur	
Wayanad	LPT, Kalpetta	
	Total: LPTs : 22 HPTs : 03 VLPTs : 02 <hr/> 27	Total: LPTs : 02 HPTs : 04 VLPTs : 02 <hr/> 08

Legend: HPT - High Power Transmitter
LPT - Low Power Transmitter
VLPT - Very Low Power Transmitter

Setting up of a Telephone Exchange

481. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received a representation for setting up a telephone exchange at Monjepatkhed, District Solapur in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government so far for preparation of a project and its feasibility reports; and

(c) the time by which an exchange is likely to be set up?

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

(b) Project estimate for the exchange comprising of switching equipment, transmission medium and access network as components has been sanctioned. A suitable building is being hired.

(c) The proposed exchange at Monjepatkhed is expected to be set up during 1999-2000.

M.A.R.R. System

482. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Multi Access Rural Radio system of telephones installed by DOT so far; State-wise;

(b) the amount incurred thereon during the last three years;

(c) the target set up for installation of M.A.R.R. system in the rural areas of the country, State-wise; and

(d) the manner in which the targets in this regard are likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) 10,176 MARR systems (Base stations) have been installed in the country. State-wise details are given in the attached Statement-I.

(b) An amount of about Rs. 1407 crores has been incurred during the last three years.

(c) A target of 45,000 has been fixed for 1998-99. State-wise details are as per Statement-II.

(d) During 1998-99 the target will be achieved by the existing technology i.e. land lines and MARR systems.

Starting with the year 1999-2000, new technology like WLL, TDMA PMP and satellite will be used.

Statement-I*No. of MARR Systems Installed During Last Three Years State-wise*

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	No. of MARR systems installed so far
1	2	3
1.	Andman & Nicobar	5
2.	Andhra Pradesh	868
3.	Assam	251
4.	Bihar	652
5.	Gujarat	573
6.	Haryana	210
7.	Himachal Pradesh	155
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	90
9.	Karnataka	579
10.	Kerala	64
11.	Madhya Pradesh	1326
12.	Maharashtra & Goa	1162

	1	2	3
13.	North-East		66
14.	Orissa		362
15.	Punjab		355
16.	Rajasthan		825
17.	Tamil Nadu		445
18.	U.P. (East)		1279
19.	U.P. (West)		530
20.	West Bengal & Sikkim		374
21.	Calcutta Telephones		5
Total			10176

North East circle comprises of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Tripura, Manipur and Nagaland States.

Statement-II

Circles	Total Villages on 1/4/98	VPT's on 1/4/98	Target 98-99	
	A	B	D	
1	2	3	4	
1.	Andman & Nicobar	282	163	53
2.	Andhra Pradesh	29460	22838	400
3.	Assam	22224	10448	2900
4.	Bihar	79208	18184	6000
5.	Gujarat	18125	13923	0
6.	Haryana	6850	6807	20
7.	Himachal Pradesh	16997	6579	1000
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	6764	2582	1000
9.	Karnataka	27066	20825	2500
10.	Kerala	1530	1530	0
11.	Madhya Pradesh	71526	29345	4000
12.	Maharashtra	42467	28904	2700
13.	North East	14446	3629	1000
14.	Orissa	46989	18584	2400
15.	Punjab	12687	11911	345
16.	Rajasthan	38634	20594	2540
17.	Tamil Nadu	17991	17638	142
18.	U.P. (East)	75698	29970	7500

	1	2	3	4
19. U.P. (West)		39551	16154	5500
20. West Bengal		38337	12462	5000
21. Calcutta		468	421	0
22. Delhi		191	191	0
Total		607491	303582	45000

Agricultural Projects

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

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has sent any proposal seeking Central assistance for undertaking various agricultural projects in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The following agricultural project proposals have been received from the Government of Kerala:

Sl. No. Project	Size of the Project Proposal (Rs. Crores)
1. Project for Boosting up Rice Production in Kerala through Intensive Approach as part of Doubling of Food Production.	383.28
2. Programme for Agro-Based Vocational Training for Women.	17.62
3. Project for Coconut Farming in Kerala.	2303.42
4. Project for Increasing Vegetable Production to Attain Self-Sufficiency in Kerala.	28.63
5. Project for Replanting and Productivity Improvement on Cashew in Kerala.	107.10
6. Cold Chain Scheme for Strengthening Procurement and Distribution Net Work for Fruits and Vegetables.	13.58
7. Project proposal for Post Harvest Handling and Marketing under Commercial Floriculture.	9.89
Total	2863.52

(c) There is no separate approved budget allocation available for funding specific high cost projects of individual States. However, several central sector/centrally sponsored schemes for development of various crops, post harvest management are implemented in potential States including Kerala and the eligible components of the above proposals are

funded under these schemes.

Crop Insurance Scheme

484. SHRI P. SANKARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the crops proposed to be covered under the modified Crop Insurance Scheme;

(b) whether the Government propose to incorporate cash crops widely cultivated in Kerala and also coconut and Areanut under the modified Crop Insurance Scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the criteria for obtaining loans, insurance cover etc. including the requirement of land under this scheme;

(d) whether the said organisation is likely to have representatives from the farming sector especially small time farmers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) It is proposed to introduce a Modified Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (MCCIS) covering cash crops subject to the availability of the past yield data in addition to the crops covered at present in the existing Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS). It is also proposed to raise the limit of the sum insured and charge actuarial premium rates in respect of some farmers and crops. The details of the scheme are yet to be finalized.

(d) and (e) The possibility will also be explored of setting up a separate agency under the aegis of General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) for the implementation of the new scheme.

Sankosh Water Canal

485. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to construct a canal from Sankosh river and linked it with the river Ganges in West Bengal for regular augmentation and better flow of water in Calcutta Port particularly in lean months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated cost of the project and funds allocated by the Union Government so far till date;

(d) whether environmental clearance is essential for the clearance of the project and the project is facing environmental problem; and

(e) if so, the remedial measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Detailed Project Report prepared for a multipurpose project across Sankosh river in Bhutan near the Indo-Bhutan border envisages construction of a 265 metre high dam and a 63 metre high lift

dam for generation of 4060 megawatt hydropower. The regulated discharge proposed for irrigation would be conveyed through a 142 kilometre long gravity canal taking off from lift dam and out falling into the pond of Teesta Barrage in North Bengal, to facilitate irrigation in the Teesta command.

(c) The total cost of the Sankosh Multipurpose project has been estimated at Rs. 7793 Crore, out of which the cost of Sankosh-Teesta Link canal and its the appurtenant works is Rs. 1259 crore. The Union Government has allocated Rs. 6.35 crore for investigation and preparation of Detailed Project Report of Sankosh Multipurpose Project till date.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Environment Impact Assessment studies have been completed both for reservoir portion in Bhutan and canal portion in India. Ministry of Environment and Forest has been approached for appraisal before seeking investment clearance for the project.

Recognition of Unions/Associations

486. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines issued by the Union Government to the Ministries/Departments and States for recognition of Unions and Associations;

(b) whether the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Employees Welfare Association at Central and State levels has been recognised to sort out the grievances relating to service matters;

(c) if so, the instructions issued by the Government to all concerned for protection of interests of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes employees; and

(d) if not, the reasons for non-recognition of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Employees Associations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (d) Recognition of Service Associations of Central Government employees is regulated under the Central Civil Services (Recognition of Service Associations) Rule, 1993 which inter alia provide that membership of Service Associations shall be restricted to "distinct category" of Government servants having common interest and that such associations shall not be formed on the basis of any caste, tribe or religious denomination or any group within or section of such caste, tribe or religious denomination, and as such separate associations of SC/ST are not eligible for recognition. However, adequate avenues exist for redressal of

grievances of SC/ST employees. Central Government do not issue guidelines for recognition of SC/ST Association by the State Government.

[Translation]

Post Offices in Rural Areas of Rajasthan

487. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices functioning in the rural areas of Rajasthan;

(b) the number of villages without post office in the State; and

(c) the action taken by the Government for setting up post offices in these villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) 9523 post offices are functioning in the rural areas of Rajasthan.

(b) 28362 villages are without a post office in Rajasthan.

(c) Post Offices are opened on the norm-based justification subject to availability of resources. Subsequent to the finalisation of the annual plan for the whole country in consultation with the Planning Commission, Postal circle-wise allocation of targets is done based on the various factors including areas in each Circle still uncovered by the post offices and average area and population served per post office in each Circle. During plan year 1998-99, a target of opening 30 Extra-Departmental Branch post offices and 2 Departmental sub post offices has been fixed for Rajasthan.

Centrally Sponsored Schemes

488. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Centrally sponsored schemes is being implemented for the development of agriculture in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the amount spent on these schemes and the outcome thereof and achievements made as a result of these schemes during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) A list of Centrally Sponsored Schemes implemented by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation for the development of agriculture in Gujarat is given in the attached statement.

(b) The details of funds released and the resulting increase in the production and productivity of total foodgrains in the State during the last three years were as follows:

Year	Amount Released (Rs. Crore)	Production Total Foodgrains (in '000 Tonnes)	Yield (Kg/ Hect)
1995-96	28.52	4103.3	1094
1996-97	39.22	5209.1	1303
1997-98	40.66	5700.0 (Prov)	1365

Statement

List of Centrally Sponsored Schemes Under Implementation in Gujarat

S.No.	Name of the Scheme
1.	Integrated Cereal Development Programme—Coarse Cereals.
2.	Sustainable Development of Sugarcane based Cropping System.
3.	Intensive Cotton Development Programme.
4.	National Pulses Development Project.
5.	Oilseeds Production Programme.
6.	Oil Palm Development Programme.
7.	Accelerated Maize Development Prog.
8.	National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas.
9.	Balanced and Integrated use of Fertiliser.
10.	Development of Fertiliser use in low Consumption and Rainfed Areas.
11.	National Project on Development and use of Bio-fertilisers.
12.	Integrated Seed Development Scheme streamlining of certified seeds production of important identified Vegetable Crops.
13.	Grants in Aid to States/UTs for Setting/Strengthening of State Bio-Control laboratories under Integrated Pest Management Centres.
14.	Grants in Aid to States/UTs for Setting/Strengthening of State Bio-Control laboratories under Implementation of Insecticides Act.
15.	Promotion of Agricultural Mechanisation among Small Farmers.
16.	Exchange of Farmers within the Country.
17.	Farmers Scientists Interaction.
18.	Soil Conservation in the Catchment of River Valley Projects.
19.	Reclamation of Alkali Soils.
20.	Development of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants.
21.	Use of Plastics in Agriculture.
22.	Development of Commercial Floriculture.
23.	Integrated Development of Tropical, Arid Temperate Zone Fruits.
24.	Development of Betelvine.
25.	Development of Vegetables.
26.	Integrated Development of Spices.
27.	Investment in Debentures of LDBs.
28.	Non Overdue Cover Scheme.
29.	Failed Well Compensation Fund Scheme
30.	Timely Reporting Scheme.
31.	Improvement of Crop Statistics.
32.	Crop Estimation Survey on Fruits, Vegetables & Minor Crops/Diagnostic study.
33.	Livestock Census.
34.	Agricultural Census.

Production of Soyabean

489. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of estimated production of Soyabean this year;

(b) whether the area of land for cultivation of Soyabean was increased during the last year and additional area of land brought under Soyabean cultivation during this year;

(c) if so, the estimated increase or decrease in Soyabean production this year as compared to last year;

(d) the arrangements made by the Government for procurement of Soyabean from market; and

(e) the details of rates at which Soyabean is being produced in various States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The likely production of soyabean in the current year (1998-99) is 69.1 lakh tonnes which is about 4 million tonnes higher than last year's production.

The soyabean acreage during current year is estimated to be 62.5 lakh hectares as against 57.9 lakh hectares during 1997-98.

(d) The Government announces minimum support prices (MSPs) of soyabean each year. The MSP announced by the Government for 1998-99 season is Rs. 705 and Rs. 795 per quintal for black and yellow soyabean respectively as against Rs. 670 and Rs. 750 respectively for the year 1997-98. The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) is the nodal agency at the Central level for procurement of soyabean as and when prices fall below the MSP. During this season a quantity of 90 tonnes has been procured.

(e) A statement on per hectare productivity of soyabean in major soyabean producing States is attached.

Statement*Productivity of Soyabean in Major Soyabean Producing States*

States	(Kg./hectare)			
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Andhra Pradesh	984	1053	948	600
Gujarat	581	700	767	364
Karnataka	490	936	683	660
Madhya Pradesh	1011	952	1149	1149
Maharashtra	1131	1287	988	1121
Orissa	0	400	250	250
Rajasthan	937	975	1265	777
Uttar Pradesh	781	759	989	981
West Bengal	565	516	750	500

*[English]***Night Post Offices**

490. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices functioning at night in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to open such more post offices in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Number of night post offices functioning in the country, State-wise is given in the attached statement.

(b) There is no such proposal at present.

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

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of N.P.Os.*
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil
3.	Assam	3
4.	Bihar	9
5.	Delhi	13
6.	Gujarat	11
7.	Haryana	2
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	Nil
10.	Karnataka	7
11.	Kerala	6
12.	Madhya Pradesh	8
13.	Maharashtra	16
14.	Manipur	1
15.	Meghalaya	1
16.	Mizoram	Nil
17.	Nagaland	Nil
18.	Orissa	7
19.	Punjab	3
20.	Rajasthan	7

1	2	3
21.	Sikkim	Nil
22.	Tamil Nadu	13
23.	Tripura	1
24.	Uttar Pradesh	16
25.	West Bengal	10
26.	Goa	Nil

* Night Post Offices

Details of NPOs in Union Territories is given below:

Union Territories

Sl. No.	Territories	No. of N.P.Os.
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Nil
2.	Chandigarh	1
3.	Daman & Diu	Nil
4.	Pondicherry	1
5.	Lakshadweep	Nil

Total number of NPOs in the country is 139.

Discontinuation of T.V. Serials

491. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- the details of T.V. Serials discontinued on DD-I channel during the past six months;
- the reasons therefor;
- whether the Government propose to review their decision to restart those T.V. serials particularly 'Junoon'; and
- if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) and (b) It is reported by Prasar Bharati that Doordarshan on its own has not discontinued any sponsored serial on DD-I during the past 6 months. However, three serials viz. 'Awaj Ki Duniya', 'Mera Nam Tera Numbari' and 'Ushool' went off the air due to producers' inability to continue the telecast upto the sanctioned number of episodes.

(c) and (d) The requests of the Producers who were not able to continue their serials upto the sanctioned number of episodes can be considered for resumption of their serials keeping in view the availability of time chunk and programme exigencies of Doordarshan. As far as serial 'Junoon' is concerned, it has already been telecast upto the allotted number of episodes. All such decisions are taken by Prasar Bharati only and Government are not involved in such decision making process.

[Translation]

Lack of Staff for T.V. Tower in Sunder Nagar

492. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- whether due to shortage of staff for Television Tower in Sunder Nagar of Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh, all the programmes of Doordarshan are not being shown to the people of the area;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- the time by which the sufficient staff is likely to be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) to (c) LPT, Sunder Nagar was commissioned in September, 1998 without the availability of staff sanction for its operation and maintenance. Presently, some staff has been deployed at the LPT from other Kendras and this transmitter is providing part transmission. Full transmission would be possible only after sanction of full complement of staff by the competent authority and their subsequent deployment.

Perishes of Agricultural Products

493. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- whether the primary agriculture products worth Ten thousand crores of rupees perishes in the country annually; and
- if so, the effective steps proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent this loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) As per the report of the Committee appointed by Government of India, and headed by Dr. V.C. Panse in 1966, the post harvest losses of foodgrains was estimated as 9.33 per cent. According to Dr. Swaminathan Committee report of 1981, losses upto 25-30% are occurred in fruits and vegetables annually during post harvest handling.

The steps taken by Government to reduce the losses include adoption of modern techniques of grain preservation, training demonstration and publicity, development of marketing infrastructure, godowns, cold storage chain, transportation facilities and promotion and dispersal of agro-processing units.

Scheme for Micro Elements

494. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme for testing of micro elements of soil; and
- if so, the financial assistance proposed to be provided to Madhya Pradesh under the scheme?

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

has formulated a Centrally Sponsored Scheme entitled "Balanced and Integrated Use of Fertilisers" for implementation during IXth Plan. The scheme has an important component of strengthening of soil testing laboratories in the country both for testing major and micro nutrients.

(b) After final approval of the scheme by the Government, administrative approval of the scheme will be issued to State Governments including Madhya Pradesh for inviting proposals for release of funds.

[English]

Waiting List for Telephone Connections

495. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in Sikkim at present, district-wise;

(b) the number of telephone connections allotted during the last three years till date, district-wise; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to clear the waiting list in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) the number of persons on the waiting list as on 1.11.98 district-wise in Sikkim is as under:

District	Waiting List
East	5177
West	499
North	50
South	254

(b) the number of telephone connection provided, district-wise, during the last three years in Sikkim is given below:

District	95-96	96-97	97-98
East	500	1028	1811
West	175	133	40
North	39	34	90
South	90	205	934

(c) the Department proposes to expand 14 existing telephone exchanges and to set up 7 new telephone exchanges in Sikkim by 31.3.99 to clear the present waiting list by providing about 6000 new telephone connection more during the current year.

[Translation]

Remote Controlled Plane

496. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Kashmir mein Pahlī bar Remote chalit do chhote Viman mile" appearing in 'Dainik Jagan' dated November 5, 1998;

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

(c) whether the Government have registered their protest to the Government of Pakistan in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) Security forces in the State of Jammu & Kashmir had recovered bodies of two Remote Controlled Airborne Aerodynamic Modules (RCAAM) an components of one engine from a forest in Rajouri on 3 November, 1998. Government is aware of the efforts of terrorists in Jammu & Kashmir to obtain sophisticated weapons with active assistance from across our border. Government has on various occasions, strongly urged Pakistan to cease its support to trans-border terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir. Government is carefully monitoring the situation and is taking all steps necessary to safeguard the security and territorial integrity of the country.

[English]

UN Convention on Refugees

497. SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR:

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the question of invoking UN Convention on Refugees in relation to J&K oustees who are presently housed in refugee camps;

(b) if so, the result thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (c) No, Sir. The 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees applies to refugees across international borders. The question of the Government considering invoking the Convention in relation to J&K refugees does not arise as Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. Further, India is not a party to this Convention.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Support Price of Sugarcane

498. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that crushing season 1998-99 has commenced but State Governments except Punjab have not declared the support price of sugarcane; and
- (b) if so, the steps being taken by the Union Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Neither the Government of India nor the State Governments declare the support price of sugarcane. Government of India fixes the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane under the provisions of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966. It is that Statutory Minimum Price below which no producer of sugar can pay to the sugarcane growers. State Governments declare the State Advised Price (SAP), which are generally higher as compared to SMP. Government of India is not involved when the State Governments declare the SAP. For the sugar season 1998-99 (Oct.-Sept.), the Government of India has already fixed the SMP of sugarcane at Rs. 52.70 per quintal linked to a basic recovery of 8.5% subject to a premium of Rs. 0.62 for every 0.1% point increase in the recovery above that level.

Losses Suffered by DoT

499. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JAHANABAD):

SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Department of Telecommunications has suffered heavy losses due to the negligence of the Officers and especially due to the fact the different rules have been framed for different places for cellular operators;
- (b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Government into the same;
- (c) if so, the outcome thereof, and
- (d) the reaction of the Government thereto and the steps taken by the Government to make good the said losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) No, Sir. Department of Telecom has not suffered any loss due to the negligence of its officers in framing rules or due to any other reason relating to cellular operations by the private operators. It has also not suffered any loss on account of the terms and conditions of awarding the licences for the Metro cities i.e., Mumbai, Delhi, Calcutta and Chennai being different than those for the Telecom Circles whose geographical areas generally correspond to that of a State.

- (b) to (d) Does not arise in view of (a) above

Telephone Out of Order in U.P.

500. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA:

SHRI RIZWAN ZAHEER KHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that the rural communication system in Uttar Pradesh especially in its Northern areas generally remains dead and telephones lying out of order are not attended to even on written and verbal complaints in Kanpur;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefore;
- (c) the effective steps being taken by the Government to improve the functioning of communication system in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) No Sir, the rural communication system is being paid proper attention and faults reported are being rectified with minimum possible time. With the introduction of electronic exchanges in rural areas performance of rural telecom network has improved. The faults are being attended as and when reported.

- (b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.
- (c) The following steps are being taken to improve the functioning of communication system;
 - (i) All the electro-mechanical exchanges are being replaced by latest State of Art modern electronic exchanges.
 - (ii) Overhead lines are being replaced gradually by underground jelly filled type cables.
 - (iii) Replacement of old and worn out dropwire, housewiring telephone instrument etc.
 - (iv) Replacement of old batteries of the exchanges.
 - (v) Arranging additional engine alternators for areas where power supply is not reliable.
 - (vi) Reliable transmission media like optical fibre cable technology are being inducted in the rural network.
 - (vii) WLL and TDMA/PMP technologies and satellite based VPTs will be used to provide the telecom facilities in remote and rural areas.

Kashmir Issue

501. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ambassador of the USA, Mr. Richard Celeste has made uncalled for remarks about the Kashmir issue;
- (b) if so, whether the Union Government have lodged its protest with the US Government;

- (c) the reaction of the US Government thereto; and
 (d) to what extent India is satisfied with the clarification given by US?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) US Ambassador to India, Mr. Richard Celeste on October 6, 1998 was reported to have stated 'we believe that the only way in which differences between India and Pakistan can ultimately be resolved is through direct bilateral discussions'. In response to a question, he was also reported as having said that 'I don't believe that one can view this solely as an internal matter' and that it had "regional and global ramifications".

(b) This was taken up with the United States Government.

(c) On October 7, 1998 the US Embassy in New Delhi stated that the US Ambassador's remarks were quoted out of context. Later on, the US State Department clarified that there was no change in US policy regarding J&K. It was also stated that the Ambassador's remarks were semantic in nature and not really significant from the US perspective.

(d) Government have noted the above clarifications.

Ongoing Irrigation Projects

502. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the PRIME

MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of ongoing major and medium irrigation projects in the country of present State-wise;
 (b) the estimated cost and funds incurred thereon till date;
 (c) whether the Government have reviewed the position of the ongoing irrigation projects;
 (d) if so, the details thereof;
 (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
 (f) the measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The State-wise details of ongoing major and medium irrigation projects, their estimated costs and expenditure incurred on them upto the end of VIII Plan is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (f) The position of various ongoing irrigation projects is reviewed every year during Annual Plan discussions of the States in Planning Commission. In addition, Central Water Commission also monitors the progress of important projects.

Statement

Details of Major & Medium Ongoing Irrigation Projects in the Country State-wise

Sl. No.	State	No. of Ongoing major projects during IXth Plan.	Latest Estd. cost (Rs. Cr.)	Cum. Expdr. upto end of VIII Plan (Rs. Cr.) (Antd.)	No. of ongoing medium projects during IXth Plan.	Latest Estd. Cost (Rs. Cr.)	Cum. Expdr. upto end of VIII Plan (Rs. Cr.) (Antd.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12	10130.44	4754.95	20	623.34	323.51
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Assam	4	432.82	211.48	9	165.92	99.72
4.	Bihar	15(-1)*	7365.53	2105.27	29	1065.18	429.37
5.	Goa	2(-1)*	678.59	258.65	1	40.00	2.40
6.	Gujarat	9	23300.92	6522.47	9	337.53	280.02
7.	Haryana	5	1013.51	725.87	Nil	-	-
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	150.78	7.47	1	11.30	11.28
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	151.18	122.84	9	223.55	55.88
10.	Karnataka	14	11190.19	5131.64	15	943.67	510.72
11.	Kerala	7	1879.50	942.41	5	478.93	150.56
12.	Madhya Pradesh	25(-2)*	10729.55	3131.15	32	1012.09	733.15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
13	Maharashtra	36	12958.17	5374.43	66	2076.06	1021.98
14.	Manipur	2	491.65	225.85	2	66.58	56.50
15.	Meghalaya	Nil	—	—	1	17.81	8.14
16.	Mizoram	Nil	—	—	Nil	—	—
17.	Nagaland	1	111.02	2.95	Nil	—	—
18.	Orissa	6(-1)*	4953.85	1156.55	18	499.95	410.23
19.	Punjab	1(-1)*	3379.53	2704.93	1	88.49	0.20
20.	Rajasthan	3(-2)*	4692.81	2346.01	6	240.24	12.22
21	Sikkim	Nil	—	—	Nil	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	Nil	—	—	2	103.75	29.53
23	Tripura	Nil	—	—	3	154.00	92.96
24.	Uttar Pradesh	19(-1)*	7539.44	3339.74	2	54.81	39.99
25.	West Bengal	4(-1)*	2037.41	938.83	17	90.42	60.78
Total		172	103186.89	39003.29	240	8283.62	4424.12
		-10*					
		162					

* Deduction for I.S. Projects counted more than once.

[English]

ISI Activities in India

503. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have registered their protest in various international fora or had expressed its reaction to Pakistan regarding disturbance created in various parts of the country and the interference in internal matters of the country by the Inter-Services Intelligence of Pakistan during the last three years, till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Pakistan Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) Government has appropriately and effectively registered their protest in various international fora against Pakistan's interference in the internal affairs of our country. Government has also conveyed their concern regarding these activities to Pakistan at all levels. This matter was recently taken up during discussions between the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan in October, 1998, and between the Home Secretary of India and Interior Secretary of Pakistan in November, 1998. During these talks, Pakistan was urged to take practical steps on the ground to demonstrate its sincerity in tackling the issue of terrorism. It was also given detailed evidence regarding its role in recruiting, training,

arming, financing and infiltrating terrorists into India, and was asked to close down training camps in Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir and also hand over terrorists and fugitives who have been given sanctuary in Pakistan. Regrettably, Pakistan has not ceased its attempts to interfere in our internal affairs and official Pakistani support to terrorist organisations operating in various parts of India continues. Government remain firm in their resolve to take all measures necessary to safeguard the country's security and territorial integrity.

[Translation]

Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite

504. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA:

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:

SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE:

SHRI S.S. OWAISI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposals have been cleared for the global mobile personal communication by satellite;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main features of this system alongwith the names

of places identified where the said system is likely to be introduced first;

(d) whether private companies have been allowed to set gateways under the Government authority in this field;

(e) whether VSNL is likely to lose its revenue on account of the said decision;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or proposed to be taken to compensate VSNL for loss; and

(g) the precautions taken by the Government in regard to security considerations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. One specific proposal i.e. from M/s. Iridium India Telecom Limited (IITL) for operation of Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite (GMPCS) Service has been cleared by the Government and a provisional licence agreement for operation of the service was signed with the company on 28.10.98.

(c) It is a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) System, providing global coverage. The system provides for a unique number for the subscriber and Global mobility in other countries where it has been authorised for operation. M/s. IITL is yet to market its services in India. The details in this regard are not available with the Government.

(d) Yes, Sir. The Government after considering all aspects has stipulated that Gateways (Earth Stations) for all licensed systems would be located in India and their operation and maintenance would be with an authority/organisation designated by the Government.

(e) and (f) It will be possible that certain calls in the CGMPS service will be established bypassing the International Gateway Switch of VSNL. However, the licence agreement provides that VSNL will be compensated when the International Gateway is bypassed.

(g) Specific proposals for GMPCS licence are cleared from the security angle by a High Level Inter-ministerial Committee consisting of Secretaries of Department of Telecom, Department of Space and the Secretaries of the Departments/Organisations dealing with security related issues.

Extraction of Sea Minerals

505. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to invite participation of the private sector in the programme for development of technology for extraction of minerals from ocean;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) As of now, there is no proposal for inviting the participation of private sector, in the development of technology for extraction of mineral resources from the ocean.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Extension of Operational Jurisdiction of MTNL

506. SHRI K.P. MOHAN:

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

SHRI T.R. BAALU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to hand over the Chennai and Greater Chennai Telephones from the control of the Department of Telecommunications in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited;

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

(c) the parameters being adopted for transferring such telephones to M.T.N.L.;

(d) whether the Government have any proposal to install a separate exchange for the use of internet consumers at Chennai; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Government has not taken any decision.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) As a part of National Internet Backbone, it is proposed to set up internet node at Chennai also.

Cultivation of Rice

507. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Assam has approached the Union Government for providing help for cultivation of rapid growing summer rice; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) There is no specific proposal of the Government of Assam under the on-going Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Intensive Cereals Development Programme—Rice for assistance on cultivation of summer rice. However, Agriculture Production Commi-

ssioner, Government of Assam in his letter of 18th November, 1998 has suggested area increase under summer rice as one of the thrust areas under the strategies for doubling food production in the State of Assam during the next ten years.

[Translation]

Pending Scheme of Gujarat Plan

508. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schemes/projects of Gujarat Government lying pending with the Union Government for clearance;

(b) the time since when these projects are lying pending and the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The information received from Gujarat Government indicates that there are 22 Schemes/Projects pending with various Ministries such as Environment and Forest, Rural Areas and Employment, Agriculture, Power etc. No proposal is pending with Planning Commission for approval.

Transmission Relay Station/Centre in Assam

509. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Doordarshan Relay Stations/Centres in the State of Assam with locations thereof;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the poor reception in the Lower Assam Districts of Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Dhubri, Kokrajhar and Goalpara;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to strengthen the system to make Medium Wave Broadcasting available over the region by setting up a powerful permanent Station either at Barpeta or Bongaigaon; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) and (c) Whereas TV coverage to Bongaigaon, Dhubri, Kokrajhar and Goalpara is being provided by Low Power Transmitters, operating at these places, Barpeta lies in coverage range of High Power Transmitters, functioning at Guwahati.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Existing TV Transmitters in Assam

High Power Transmitter

Dibrugarh

Guwahati

Silchar

Low Power Transmitter

Bongaigaon

Dhubri

Diphu

Goalpara

Golaghat

Haflong

Hatsinghimari

Hojal

Jorhat

Kokrajhar

Lumding

Margherita

Nagaon

Nazira

North Lakhimpur

Sonari

Tezpur

Tinsukia

Dibrugarh (DD II)

Silchar (DD II)

Very Low Power Transmitter

Digboi

Transposer

Guwahati

Cyclone Victims Relief

510. SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister had announced an amount of Rupees Fifty thousands in addition to the amount to be provided as relief by the Government of Gujarat;

(b) whether the funds so announced have since been paid to the dependents of each of those who died in cyclone, rains and heavy floods in the various districts of Gujarat such as Kutch and Jam Nagar recently;

(c) the number of persons who died in these districts and their dependents have not received the above relief so far;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Prime Minister's Office in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (e) Questions relating to Prime Minister's National Relief Fund are not admissible under relevant provisions of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha since the corpus of the Fund is constituted entirely from voluntary contributions and not from any allocation out of the Consolidated Fund of India and sanction of grants from the Fund is entirely at the discretion of the Prime Minister.

It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned to undertake relief and rehabilitation measures from the allocation under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), to which the Central and State Government contribute in the ratio of 3:1. As per reports available from the State Government, 189 and 954 persons reportedly died in Jamnagar and Kutch districts in the cyclone of June, 1998.

Production of Vegetables and Pulses

511. RAO INDERJIT SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the total production of onions, potatoes, tomatoes and pulses in Haryana and other States in northern parts of the country during the past six months, month-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government have provided any help directly to farmers to boost the production of those items;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps contemplated by the Government to boost the production of the above items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Month-wise details on the production of onion, potato and tomato are not estimated. However, production details of pulses during Kharif season in Haryana and other States in northern part of the country are furnished below:

State	Production of Kharif Pulses As advanced estimates (1998-99) in 000' tonnes
Haryana	60
Himachal Pradesh	21
Jammu & Kashmir	30
Punjab	67
Uttar Pradesh	850

(b) to (d) Government of India is implementing two Central Sector Schemes namely, (i) Production and Supply of Vegetable Seeds and (ii) Development of Root and tuber Crops. These schemes provide the incentives to the farmers through supply of quality seeds of improved varieties of vegetable through minikits which includes onion, potato, tomato and other vegetable in Haryana and other States of the country. In case of pulses, incentives to the farmers are being provided through State Governments on the use of certified seeds, rhizobium culture, micro nutrients, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements, plant protection equipment, etc. under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "National Pulses Development Project" to motivate the farmers to adopt the improved production technology to increase the pulses production in the country including Haryana.

[Translation]

Pending Irrigation Projects of Bihar

512. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several irrigation projects of Bihar are pending for the consent of Nepal Government;

(b) if so, the details of such projects and since when these are lying pending; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) A few water resources development projects to be developed jointly by India and Nepal in Nepal territory, benefitting both Bihar and Nepal have been identified and are under negotiation with Government of Nepal.

(b) and (c) Sapta Kosi High Dam, Kamla and Bagmati Projects were under consideration of both the Governments for a number of years. Sapta Kosi High Dam Project has been under active discussion in Joint Committee of Experts constituted for the purpose in 1992. Kamla and Bagmati Projects are also under discussion in the Joint Committee of Experts reconstituted as Joint Team of Experts in 1996. All the three projects are under preliminary stages of discussion.

*[English]***Backlog Vacancies**

513. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is backlog in every department of Central Government as well as State Governments regarding posts reserved for SCs and STs;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on date alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the Union Government propose to take effective steps to fill up the vacant posts reserved for SCs/STs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, reservation in posts in the State Governments is out-side the purview of the Central Government.

(c) Instructions already exist which provide for ban on de-reservation of reserved vacancies in direct recruitment and temporary diversion of unfilled reserved vacancies in promotion quota to direct recruitment quota and extended zone of consideration for promotion. In addition, instructions have also been issued from time to time emphasising the need to ensure timely filling up of the posts by making second attempt for recruitment if the first attempt to effect recruitment fails.

Improvement of Telephone Services in Western Rajasthan

514. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the functioning of telecom services like maintenance and working of telephone exchanges STD, PCOs and telephone is unsatisfactory in Western Rajasthan especially in Jaisalmer and Barmer districts;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that there is shortage of equipments, material and skilled manpower for installations, maintenance and to attend people's complaints quickly;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to take remedial measures to improve Telecom services in these districts and to attend to Public Complaints promptly; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) No, Sir. Telecom Services in Western Rajasthan including Jaisalmer and Barmer Districts are functioning satisfactorily.

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

(c) Constant monitoring is done to review the performance of telecom services. Customer Service Centres have been opened to attend the Public complaints promptly

and Telephone Adalats/open House Sessions are also being held for proper disposal of the complaints/suggestions.

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

Lifting of Economic Sanctions

515. SHRI ARJUN SETHI:

SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI:

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the USA and other countries have relaxed/lifted the economic sanctions imposed recently in the wake of Pokhran tests against India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the USA has made it a pre-condition to signing of Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty to relax/lift the economic sanctions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The US President was recently provided authority by the US Congress to waive for a period of one year some restrictive measures imposed on India. In partial exercise of this authority, the US Government has decided to waive measures relating to:

(i) Restrictions on assistance through the EXIM Bank, Overseas Private Investment Cooperation (OPIC) and the Trade Development Authority.

(ii) Restrictions on US Banks, and

(iii) Resumption of International Military Education and Training (IMET) programme to facilitate limited education and training cooperation between the uniformed forces of the US and India.

These waivers are in addition to removal of restrictions on finance and credit guarantees for agricultural commodities, medicines and fertilisers, which were exempted earlier in July 1998.

(c) A high level Indo-US dialogue is underway to discuss CTBT and other issues related to disarmament and non-proliferation. The dialogue is intended to bring about a better understanding between India and the US and lead to an overall improvement of relations. Neither side has approached this dialogue in a spirit of trading concessions, nor has any side set any pre-conditions. The dialogue is continuing.

*[Translation]***Construction of Dam**

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

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that due to intermittent rain in Ambala region of Haryana there is heavy damage of crops in the absence of concrete dam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal is pending with the Union Government for construction of dams in Ambala region of Haryana State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the dams are likely to be constructed in the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (e) Information is being collected from the State Government.

[English]

Plan Allocation

517. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:

SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of allocation made, actually released and amount utilised by the State Governments during the Eight Plan period;

(b) the reasons for non-utilisation of funds by the State if any;

(c) the details of any diversion of funds released to State Governments alongwith the reasons therefore;

(d) whether Union Government have evolved any monitoring mechanism for the implementation of allocated fund; and

(e) the details of action taken/proposed to be taken to check the diversion of funds during the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (e) The Plan outlay of States consist of Central Assistance as well as State's Own Resources (SOR). The details of Plan allocation/Central Assistance Released to different States and the expenditure incurred in the Eighth Plan are indicated in the attached statement. The expenditure in some States has been less as compared to the Plan outlay, which is generally because of inadequate resource mobilisation on the part of the concerned State Governments. No information pertaining to diversion of Central Plan assistance by the State Governments beyond the permissible limits has come to notice. The progress of implementation of State Plans is reviewed at the time of Annual Plan discussions in the Planning Commission. Various Central Ministries/Departments of Government of India also monitor implementation of State Plan schemes concerning them. Monitoring would be undertaken during the Ninth Plan also to check any diversion of funds.

Statement

Plan Outlay/Anticipated Expenditure/Central Assistance Released During the Eighth Plan

(Rs. Crore)

Sl. States No.	Plan Outlay (at 1991-92) prices)	Anticipated Expenditure	Central Assistance Released
1	2	3	4
			5
1. Andhra Pradesh	10500.00	12931.00 (10,006.50)	6757.86
2. Arunachal Pradesh	1155.00	1739.20 (1,306.92)	1693.98
3. Assam	4662.00	4980.68 (3,761.45)	4914.07
4. Bihar	13000.00	5507.92 (4,201.83)	4870.75
5. Goa	781.00	840.64 (641.14)	263.55
6. Gujarat	11500.00	11848.60 (8,962.21)	2707.56
7. Haryana	5700.00	5024.62 (3,793.51)	1292.07
8. Himachal Pradesh	2502.00	3494.73 (2,634.51)	2286.19

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	4000.00	4397.14 (3,301.95)	8920.97
10.	Karnataka	12300.00	14863.36 (11,250.15)	3123.43
11.	Kerala	5460.00	7052.57 (5,249.79)	2374.87
12.	Madhya Pradesh	11100.00	12328.69 (9,414.14)	3467.83
13.	Maharashtra	18520.00	26129.38 (19,537.24)	6509.37
14.	Manipur	979.00	1207.75 (905.19)	1261.36
15.	Meghalaya	1029.00	1087.30 (831.00)	1073.72
16.	Mizoram	763.00	1051.06 (796.46)	1105.76
17.	Nagaland	844.00	801.41 (603.11)	1211.75
18.	Orissa	10000.00	7150.30 (5,383.71)	2873.96
19.	Punjab	6570.00	6286.44 (4,786.30)	4157.62
20.	Rajasthan	11500.00	12038.65 (8,983.79)	3562.83
21.	Sikkim	550.00	708.86 (534.87)	711.27
22.	Tamil Nadu	10200.00	14015.91 (10,558.47)	5490.99
23.	Tripura	1130.00	1353.77 (1,027.12)	1363.88
24.	Uttar Pradesh	21000.00	20001.05 (15,208.93)	10499.66
25.	West Bengal	9760.00	8241.98 6,137.84	3635.38
Total (States)		175485.00	185083.01 (139,818.11)	84130.68

Figures in brackets are on the basis of 1991-92 prices.

* Actual Expenditure for 1992-93 to 1995-96 and Revised Estimates for 1996-97.

Drought

518. SHRI TATHAGAT SATPATHY:

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:

SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment of the losses sustained by Orissa and various other States due to severe drought during the current year;

(b) If so, the steps taken to ensure timely help to the farmers and farm workers in the State; and

(c) the details of the Central assistance provided to Orissa and other States for combating drought situation in the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments concerned to undertake relief and rehabilitation measures from the allocation under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), to which the Central and State Governments contribute in the ratio of 3:1. In addition to CRF, assistance is provided to the States from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) in the event of calamities of rare severity. The Governments of Orissa and Rajasthan had recently requested for assistance from the NFCR in the wake of drought.

The details of allocation made and Central share released to Orissa and Rajasthan during 1998-99 under CRF is indicated below:

	(Rs. in crore)		
	Calamity Relief Fund		
	Allocation	Central share	Central share released
Orissa	54.36	40.77	40.77
Rajasthan	198.56	148.92	111.69

In response to the Memorandum submitted by the Government of Orissa for assistance from the NFCR, a Central Team visited the State for assessment of the situation and had submitted its report. The report is under process as per the established procedure. The Memorandum received from the Government of Rajasthan for assistance from the NFCR is also under process.

Ground Water

519. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of State Ministers was held recently to discuss the draft bill of the Union Government to regulate the tapping of ground water;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the water level in most of the States has drastically reduced over the years; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to check this trend?

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

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Long term observations made by the Central Ground Water Board have shown a state of both rise and fall in the level of ground water in various States.

(d) The steps taken by the Union Government to check the declining trend in ground water level includes:

(1) Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development. The Authority has been holding periodical meetings to, inter-alia, advise the State Governments to take suitable measures to check over-exploitation in view of decline in the level of ground water and to assist the Authority in discharging its functions. It has also taken various measures for creating mass awareness on the subject.

(2) Circulation of a Model Bill to all the States/Union Territories to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.

(3) Circulation of a Manual on artificial recharge of ground water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water level.

(4) Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme on studies on recharge of ground water in some 'Over-exploited' areas of various States in the country.

(5) Formulation of a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to assist the States in artificial recharge of ground water. This scheme is at consultation stage.

Procurement of French Products

520. SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have recommended to various States/Union Territories to Procure French Products viz. French Medium Straws, Frozen Semen, Embryo Transfer Equipments, Sheets French Medium and Castrators from French Multi-National Companies;

(b) if so, the total amount of Central Assistance provided to various States/Union Territories in foreign exchange/Indian rupee to procure these products during the past three years;

(c) whether Indian manufacturers have offered these products at low rates and if so, the difference in prices between Indian Companies and Multi-national Companies;

(d) whether the Government propose to hold an enquiry against officials protecting foreign companies and start accepting Indian products; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) There are three Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely, Extension of Frozen Semen Technology (EFST), Progeny Testing Programme (PTP) and National Bull Production

Programme (NBPP) under which assistance is provided to the states towards strengthening of breeding infrastructure and breed improvement programmes. Procurement of the equipments and consumables mentioned above is a part of the activities covered under the assistance. During the last three years the assistance provided to the State Governments under these three schemes amount to Rs. 5282.66 lakh.

(c) More than a decade ago Government of India formulated a system of quality testing of some of the indigenously manufactured equipments and consumables required in the frozen semen network. This was aimed as a measure of import substitution. Products manufactured in India are tested for their quality at designated test laboratories of repute and thereafter recommended for procurement on the basis of test performance. Such quality certificates have been issued for indigenously manufactured cryocans, guns, straws and sheaths. Prices of the indigenously manufactured item is cheaper than the imported ones. Arrangements for quality testing is made whenever an indigenous manufacturer approaches this Department for a quality certificate.

(d) and (e) In view of answer given in (b) and (c) the question does not arise.

Healthy and Educational Films for Children and Youths

521. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether very few number of healthy and educational films are being produced by Doordarshan for the children and youth in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of such films produced during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Doordarshan for the production of healthy, educational and entertaining family films?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) to (c) Sufficient number of programmes are already being telecast by Prasar Bharati, Doordarshan for children and youth. 7 programmes per week on DD-1 and 28-30 programmes on DD-2 are presently being telecast. Besides this, Regional Kendras also telecast such programmes regularly. The planning/production is done in such a manner so as to ensure a judicious mix of healthy, educational and entertaining programmes. The statement giving details of programmes produced by Doordarshan under Commissioning Scheme during the last 3 years are attached as statement.

Statement

Details of the programmes produced by Doordarshan for children and youth during the last 3 years

S.No.	Name of the Programme (with duration)
-------	---------------------------------------

- | | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| 1. | Kitty (telefilm of 90 minutes) |
| 2. | Suno Kahani (serial of 13 episode) |

3. Prayas (serial of 13 episodes)
4. Break Free (serial of 13 episodes)
5. Band Kaliyan (telefilm of 50 minutes)
6. Career Path (serial of 13 episodes)
7. Funtoosh Ka Funtoosh (serial of 8 episodes)
8. Football Ki Wapsi (serial of 10 episodes)
9. Aakanksha (serial of 6 episodes)
10. Hip Hip Hurray (serial of 7 episodes)
11. Neev (serial of 13 episodes)
12. Nanhe Jasoos (serial of 7 episodes)
13. Chori Chuppe (serial of 10 episodes)
14. Natkhat Rani Badi Sayani (serial of 6 episodes)
15. Papa Jab Bachche The (serial of 1 episode)
16. Khoj Khajana Khoj (serial of 6 episodes)
17. Hari Bhari Phulwari (serial of 7 episodes)
18. Apoorva (serial of 6 episodes)
19. Zara Hat Ke (serial of 7 episodes)
20. Gagar Mein Sagar (serial of 4 episodes)
21. Teen Talk (serial of 13 episodes)
22. Great Experiment (serial of 13 episodes)
23. Ikdam Tikdam (serial of 4 episodes)
24. Givri (telefilm of 55 minutes)
25. P.T. Master (serial of 7 episodes)
26. A to Z (serial of 26 episodes)
27. Hamare Gaurav (serial of 8 episodes)
28. Dekha Parkha Sach (serial of 5 episodes)
29. Meena Aur Pappu (serial of 3 episodes)
30. Sargam (telefilm of 70 minutes)
31. Nokidding (serial of 24 episodes)
32. Apoorva (telefilm of 55 minutes)
33. School Bus (telefilm of 90 minutes)
34. Babu (serial of 7 episodes)
35. Basta (telefilm of 55 minutes)
36. Neena Gupta Talk Show (serial of 12 episodes)
37. Uplabdhayan (serial of 7 episodes)
38. Pema Aur Joyous (telefilm of 30 minutes)
39. Boond (serial of 4 episodes)

40. Neena (telefilm of 60 minutes)
 41. Choti Si Asha (serial of 4 episodes)
 42. Saptrishi (telefilm of 60 minutes)
 43. Hum Sab Ek Hain (telefilm of 60 minutes)
 44. Educating the child (serial of 2 episode)
 45. Hum Bachche Hindustan Ke (serial of 6 episodes)

- (b) No, Sir.
 (c) Does not arise.
 (d) The Index of HPI-2 is constructed for measuring poverty in the industrialised countries.

Telephone Tower Service in Bihar

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

- (a) whether Telephone Tower Service in Giridih, Hazaribagh and Koderma is satisfactory;
 (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
 (c) the funds allocated during the last three years for the purpose and money actually spend thereon, year-wise; and
 (d) the steps taken by the Government for providing satisfactory telephone service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) The village public telephone services through MARR technology (Tower) is not very satisfactory in Giridih, Hazaribagh and Koderma districts of Bihar. It needs improvement.

(b) These areas are lightning-prone, Equipments get damaged frequently by lightning. Due to lack of proper roads, rural areas are not easily accessible. Therefore repairs takes considerably longer time.

(c) Fund allocated and expenditure incurred for the last three years is furnished below.

Year	Allocated fund Rs.	Expenditure incurred Rs.
1995-96	1.60 Cr	1,56,21,936/-
1996-97	1.70 Cr.	1,67,93,423/-
1997-98	0.70 Cr.	67,81,110/-

(d) The following steps have been taken for the repair of the faulty equipments, and to provide satisfactory services.

- (1) A repair centre has been set-up in the region.
- (2) Equipments damaged beyond repair are being replaced.
- (3) Suppliers of equipment are also being engaged for repair of the equipments.
- (4) In future more reliable technologies will be used.

Soil Erosion and Flood Control

524. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to evolve any special scheme to control the floods and soil erosion in the country;

Human Poverty Index

522. SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the new Human Poverty Index (HPI-2) of United Nations Organisation;
 (b) whether the Planning Commission is considering the HPI-2 of UN as the base for defining poverty line in India;
 (c) if so, the details thereof; and
 (d) if, not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The Human Development report, 1997 published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) introduced the Human Poverty Index (HPI) in an attempt to bring together in a composite index the different dimensions of deprivation of human life. HPI provides an aggregate human measure of the prevalence of poverty in a community by drawing attention to deprivation in three essential elements of human life, i.e., longevity, knowledge and a decent living standard. In order to capture the multiple dimensions of poverty in the industrialised countries, a composite measure of poverty index named as HPI-2 has been introduced in the Human Development report, 1998. This index is comprised of:

- (i) Deprivation in survival, measured by the percentage of the population likely to die before 60;
- (ii) Deprivation in knowledge, measured by the percentage of the population functionally illiterate—lacking an ability to read and write adequate for the most basic demands of modern society, such as reading instructions on a medicine bottle or reading stories to children;
- (iii) Deprivation in economic provisioning, measured by the proportion of people whose disposable personal income is less than 50 per cent of the median, leaving them unable to achieve the standard of living necessary to avoid hardship and to participate in the life of the community; and
- (iv) Social exclusion, measured by the percentage of long-term unemployed (those out of work 12 months or more) in the total labour force.

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the time by which this scheme is likely to be accorded sanction;
- (d) whether the Union Government have received any request from the Government of U.P. for special assistance for controlling the soil erosion in the State;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by the Union Government thereon; and
- (f) the allocation made by the Union Government to the State Government of U.P. during each of the last three years for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) Schemes to control flood and soil erosion are formulated and implemented by respective State Government according to the priorities fixed by them. Ganga Flood Control Commission and Brahmaputra Board under the Union Ministry of Water Resources have prepared comprehensive plans for flood management (including soil erosion) for Ganga and Brahmaputra basins respectively which have been sent to State Government for formulating detailed schemes and their implementation. Central Government is providing grant to the States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar for specific anti erosion works to protect Gandak and Kosi embankments. A central scheme on flood proofing programme has been in operation in North Bihar during Eighth Plan which is being continued during Ninth Plan. Central Loan Assistance Scheme for undertaking Flood Management Works in Brahmaputra Valley for the State of Assam is also in operation since 1974-75. Funds in the form of special central assistance, as a one time measure, has also been released to Government of West Bengal during 1998-99 for undertaking top priority anti erosion schemes, on Ganga in the districts of Malda and Murshidabad.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) In accordance with the guidelines of the Planning Commission, the State Government of Uttar Pradesh has been advised to refer all schemes costing more than Rs. one crore to Ganga Flood Control Commission for examination. An amount of Rs. 47.95 lakh was provided to Government of Uttar Pradesh during 1998-99 towards expenditure incurred by the State on anti erosion works of Gandak embankment.

(f) The allocation made by the Government of India as annual outlay under State Plan to Government of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years under flood control sub sector (including erosion control) are as under:

(i) 1995-96	-	Rs. 1073.00 Lakh
(ii) 1996-97	-	Rs. 1081.00 Lakh
(iii) 1997-98	-	Rs. 811.00 Lakh

Action Plan on Core Sector

525. Dr. RAVI MALLU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister's Action Plan on core sector prepared by the Planning Commission has chalked out a three pronged strategy to meet the basic food requirements in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the action plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) A Special Action Plan (SAP) has been prepared by the Government for doubling food production and making India hunger free in 10 years. The agriculture development strategy envisaged in the SAP has been consciously interwoven with the country's food security concern. The SAP defines the scope of food production (to include not only foodgrains i.e. rice, wheat, coarse cereals and pulses but also all major food items including edible oils, sugar, fruits and vegetables, livestock products like milk, egg and meat and fish) and spells out detailed strategy and specific programmes to increase the supply of various food items in such a way that the demand for these items for the entire population is comfortably met and some exportable surplus also become available. A three pronged strategy, namely, (i) increase in overall employment/income by raising farm productivity; (ii) provision of gainful supplementary employment through poverty alleviation schemes such as Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Employment Assurance Scheme; and (iii) distribution of foodgrains through PDS at concessional prices to the poor has been chalked out to increase the purchasing power of the poor to enable them to have access to basic food items.

Fruits and Vegetables used in Food Processing Units

526. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of fruits and vegetables produced in India and are being used by Food Processing Units; and

(b) the annual quantity of each such fruits/vegetables produced and being used in the food processing units in public and private sector separately during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Though almost all the fruits grown in the country are used to some extent in processing but the major fruits used are Mango, Citrus, Papaya, Apples, Pine-apple, Litchy, Guava and Banana. Likewise the prominent vegetables that are used for processing are Peas, Onions, Garlic, Okra, Mushrooms and Gherkins.

(b) During 1995-96, total production of fruits in India was 41.5 million tons and that of vegetables was 71.5 million tons. Data regarding quantity of each fruit and vegetable used for processing is not maintained. However, it is estimated that about 17 lakh tons of fruits and vegetables was used for processing in 1995-96, 19.2 lakh tons in 1996-97 and 18.2 lakh tons in 1997-98 by all the units licensed under Fruit Products Orders, 1955.

NAM Summit

527. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received request from South Africa to help them in organising recently concluded NAM Summit;

(b) if so, the details of help sought;

(c) whether the Government have provided the necessary assistance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir. The Government did not receive any specific request from the Government of South Africa for help in organising the recently concluded NAM Summit.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

M.A.R.R. System

528. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the MARR (Tower) telephones installed in every State during 1998-99;

(b) if so, whether most of the village PCO's installed on MARR system are not functioning properly in the country particularly in Bihar;

(c) if so, whether the Government are aware that telephone based on MARR system have not been installed as per rules as a number of irregularities have been noticed in installing these telephone in Bhagalpur, Banka and Goda districts of Bihar;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(i) As per status of VPT's report as on 30.9.98, the position is as following

Total MARR VPT + SCVHF	=	1,73,246
VPT's fault in case of above.	=	22,153
% fault	=	12.8%

(ii) In Bihar

MARR installed = 9,858

MARR faulty = 3,148

% fault = 31.9%

(c) MARR (Tower telephones) in Bhagalpur, Banka, Goda Distt. in Bihar are installed as per rule and no irregularities have been noticed yet.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) Question does not arise.

Telegraph Offices Linked with FTC System

529. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BAINDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telegraph offices in the country linked with Formatted Terminal Concentrator (FTC) system;

(b) the number of telegraph office out of them which can transmit or receive messages only in English as well as in English and Hindi both;

(c) the time by which arrangements are likely to be made to transmit and receive telegrams in Hindi through FTC system from the telegraph offices at the places where this system is not available at present; and

(d) the time bound plan formulated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) 169 telegraph offices are linked with Formatted Terminal Concentrators.

(b) All 169 telegraph offices can transmit and receive telegrams in English only.

(c) Transmission and reception of telegrams is already in vogue through other means like bilingual teleprinters, Electronic Key Boards, etc. Formatted Terminal Concentrators are also being made transparent to Hindi through additional interfaces.

(d) Since provision of equipment like FTC is part of modernisation projecting telegraph service, it is an ongoing process and no time frames have been fixed.

[English]

Food Parks

530. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of food parks that have been set up in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether any food park has been/is being or is proposed to be set up in the State of Kerala, Maharashtra and

West Bengal and the allocation made during the current year; and

(c) if so, the location thereof, the allocation made for setting it up and the extent of work completed on the project so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Although the Ministry of Food Processing Industries has rendered assistance in a few States to set up food processing industrial estates or food parks. None of them has been completed as yet.

(b) One Food Park in the State of Kerala and another in the State of West Bengal are being set up with the assistance from the Ministry. The Ministry has also received another proposal to set up a Food Park for preservation and processing of fish in West Bengal.

(c) In the State of Kerala, the Ministry has approved financial assistance of Rs. 2.0 crores and has released Rs. 1.25 crores so far for setting up of a Food Park at Kakkancherry, Malappuram District, Kerala. The project is under implementation and has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 5.50 crores on land and land development, road, waste water management and facilities for power, communication water distribution, water tank, common facilities building, power distribution etc.

Food Park in West Bengal is being set up at Dankuni, District Hooghly, West Bengal with the financial assistance approved by the Ministry amounting to Rs. 3 crores, out of which Rs. 75 lakhs has been released so far. The project is under implementation for which 130 acres of land has been acquired, and steps have been taken for water supply and other infrastructure facilities. The company has already invested Rs. 3.5 crores in the project.

Another food park is proposed in Mouza Chakgaria, District 24-Parganas for preservation and processing of fish in West Bengal. This will be established at a project cost of Rs. 13.08 crores. It is still in the preliminary stage of implementation.

[Translation]

Documentaries on Rivers

531. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received by Prasar Bharati Board to make documentaries on rivers and the number of proposals out of them on which work have been started;

(b) whether the former Minister of Information and Broadcasting had announced in September this year that documentaries on rivers would be made and telecast on Doordarshan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR

NAQVI): (a) Prasar Bharati have intimated that Doordarshan has not received any proposals for making documentaries on rivers.

(b) No such information is available either with the Ministry or with Prasar Bharati.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

World Conference on Dams

532. SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have not granted permission to the World Commission on Dams to visit India due to protest from some State Governments; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The World Commission on Dams had proposed to convene a meeting of the Commission at New Delhi on 19-20th September, 1998 and also for holding a public hearing on 21-22 September, 1998 at Bhopal. The proposal of the Commission for holding a public hearing at Bhopal, was strongly objected to in view of the fact that one of the Commissioners of World Commission on Dams from India is from Narmada Bachao Andolan, an Organisation opposed to Sardar Sarovar Project and other dam projects in Narmada Valley, which had filed a Civil Writ Petition against the Sardar Sarovar Project in Supreme Court of India and is being heard. Therefore, the Chairman, World Commission on Dams was informed that it was not an opportune time for the visit of the World Commission on Dams.

[Translation]

Vacancies in CBI

533. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH:

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts lying vacant in CBI, category-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to fill up these vacancies; and

(c) the time by which these vacancies are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE): (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) As on 31.10.1998, there were 787 posts vacant in the CBI. Category-wise distribution of these posts is as below:

Group 'A'	156
Group 'B'	35
Group 'C'	584
Group 'D'	12
Total	787

(b) Action for filling up has been initiated in respect of more than 700 posts. The various stages reached in the filling up process include circulation of posts, inviting applications, verification of antecedents of selected candidates and issue of appointment letters.

(c) Filling up vacant posts in the CBI often involves coordination and consultation with different agencies like UPSC, SSC, State Governments, other Ministries/Organisations etc. and, therefore, it is not possible to give a fixed time frame for it.

Task Force for Private Investors

534. SHRI SADASHIV RAO D. MANDLIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted any special task force to promote private investment in the sector of telecommunication; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) Department of Telecommunications has constituted a Focus Action Group (FAG) on Private Investment and not a Special Task Force. It is in the nature of internal administrative arrangement, which has been considered useful in giving focussed attention and coordinated review and follow-up. The membership of FAG comprises senior officers concerned with different aspects of the work involved who as FAG meet periodically with a view to improve efficiency of implementation of related work pertaining to private telecome projects.

[English]

Agreement with Naga People

535. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 16-point Agreement between the Union Government and the Naga people has been placed under the Ministry of Home Affairs without obtaining the consent of the people of Nagaland as envisaged under the third point of the agreement;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to again place the same under the Ministry of External Affairs to protect the rights of Naga people;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the other measures being taken to safeguard the interest of Naga people as promised under 16-point Agreement?

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

Additional Plan Funds

536. DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have released the additional plan assistance of Rs. 700 crores to Andhra Pradesh Government which was agreed to during the year 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The Union Government had not agreed to provide additional plan assistance of Rs. 700 crores in 1995.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Norms for Transfers

537. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some senior bureaucrats were recently transferred in a very arbitrary manner;

(b) if so, whether the Government follow any norms for transfer of bureaucrats;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and in what manner Government propose to insulate officials handling sensitive posts from the hazards of frequent transfers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE): (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Para 17.01 of the Central Staffing Scheme prescribes the periods of tenure for posts at different levels, as below:

(i) Under Secretary: 3 years

(ii) Deputy Secretary: 4 years

(iii) Director: 5 years

(iv) Joint Secretary 5 years

(v) Additional Secretary 4 years

(vi) An officer holding the post of Joint Secretary or equivalent, when appointed to a post under the Government of India at the level of Additional Secretary, would have a tenure of 3 years from the

date of appointment as Additional Secretary subject to a minimum of 5 years and maximum of 7 years of combined tenure as JS/AS.

(vii) Secretary: No fixed tenure.

Ordinarily, an officer joining the Central Government on deputation basis under the Central Staffing Scheme, would revert at the end of his tenure. However, if the parent cadre of the officer wants his services for an assignment, in the cadre, the Central Government normally accedes to such a request. Similarly, if an officer gets promotion to the next higher grade in his parent cadre for availing himself of promotion, he is permitted to return. Further, the provisions of para 17.13 of the Central Staffing Scheme stipulates that no lateral shift of officers from one Ministry/Department to another will normally be considered.

(d) Provisions relating to tenure as contained in the Central Staffing Scheme and the provisions of para 17.13 of Central Staffing Scheme stipulating that no lateral shifts of officers from one Ministry/Department to another will normally be considered, provide adequate protection to officers from frequent transfers.

Sriram Sagar and Ichampalli Irrigation Projects

538. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh to declare major irrigation projects such as Sriram Sagar and Ichampalli on the Godavari river as national project;

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

(c) the time by which the projects are likely to be declared as national projects?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

New Advertising Policy for AIR and DD

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

(a) whether the Government have formulated a new Advertising Policy for AIR and Doordarshan to mop up huge potential of resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the approved agencies for the collection of advertisements and the commission given to them on the business booked by them during each of the last three years, agency-wise; and

(d) the names of the fresh agencies under consideration for approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) and (b) Matters relating to advertising for All India Radio and Doordarshan are handled by the Prasar Bharati as an autonomous corporation. In view of the need for augmenting the advertising revenue, Prasar Bharati are considering various initiatives including strengthening of their commercial wing.

(c) Detailed information is being collected from Prasar Bharati.

(d) List of agencies under consideration by Doordarshan for accreditation/registration is attached as statement. No fresh request for registration/accreditation of agencies is pending for consideration in All India Radio.

Statement

S.No. Agency Name	
1	2
1.	M/S Equation(s) Advertising and Marketing, Chennai
2.	M/S Bright Advertising(P) Ltd., Calcutta
3.	M/S F.K. Advertising Co., Srinagar
4.	M/S Blmb TV Advertising, Bhopal
5.	M/S Insignia-intercom, Mumbai
6.	M/S Creative Workshop, Mumbai
7.	M/S Divyadrishti, New Delhi
8.	M/S Mangla Advertising Agency, Hydrabad
9.	M/S Everest Integrated, Mumbai
10.	M/S Video AD, Cuttack
11.	M/S Indian Publicity(P) Ltd., Calcutta
12.	M/S AD Vantage, Bhubneshwar
13.	M/S Remya Advertising, Kerala
14.	M/S Apex Judgement, New Delhi
15.	M/S Raaji Screen, Chennai
16.	M/S Naini Media Marketing Company, New Delhi
17.	M/S Globe Village TV, Trivandrum
18.	M/S Aarambh Advertising and Marketing, Calcutta
19.	M/S 21 Century Advertising and Creative Agency, Lucknow
20.	M/S Allan Advertising and Marketing, Hyderabad
21.	M/S A.K. Advertisers, Bhubneshwar
22.	M/S Harmony Advertising Communications, Chennai
23.	M/S New Time Production Advertising & Marketing, Bangalore

1	2
24.	M/S Aquarian Multichannel Media P. Ltd., New Delhi
25.	M/S Indus Marketing and Advertising Services, Patna
26.	M/S Vinotham Ads Erode
27.	M/S Cine India International, New Delhi
28.	M/S Ech Telemagic, Bhopal
29.	M/S Sangeetha Vision (P) Ltd., Trivandrum
30.	M/S Vibrant Advertising, Ahmedabad
31.	M/S Solution Integrated Marketing, New Delhi
32.	M/S Vertex Infotech P. Ltd., New Delhi
33.	M/S International Merchantising Corp., New Delhi
34.	M/S Bihar Institute of Films, Patna
35.	M/S Adakar, New Delhi
36.	M/S Access India, New Delhi
37.	M/S Y. Communications, New Delhi
38.	M/S Seven Arts Advertising, Madras
39.	M/S Chhetri Advertising, New Delhi
40.	M/S Sign, Noida
41.	M/S Breeze Advertising P. Ltd., Secundrabad
42.	M/S Dee's Marketing P. Ltd., New Delhi
43.	M/S Flame Advertising Company, Madras
44.	M/S Bar Brown Advertising, New Delhi
45.	M/S Transvision Comm., Hyderabad
46.	M/S Priyanka Communications, Hyderabad
47.	M/S World Wave Advertising, Ludhiana
48.	M/S Bhairavi Pub., New Delhi
49.	M/S TN 2 Communications, Chennai
50.	M/S Brahmaputra Advertising Agency, Guwahati
51.	M/S Time Slot, New Delhi

[Translation]

Development of Eastern U.P.

540. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any representations regarding the development of Eastern Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the Government have constituted any study group for purpose; and

(c) if not, the details of the action the Union Government propose to take to set up such study group?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

[English]

Food Aid to Sudan

541. PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Southern Sudan was in the grip of yet another drought and that was killing people especially the children;

(b) if so, whether the Government knew that UN issued an appeal for food; and

(c) whether the Government of India responded to this human tragedy and if so, in what manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The recent drought and floods in Sudan have caused considerable destruction of lives and property. The Government of Sudan and the UN have issued appeals for assistance to meet the situation. The Government of India have decided to send relief supplies consisting of dry milk powder and medicines to Sudan. While the former item has already reached Sudan, steps are being taken to send the consignment of medicines expeditiously.

[Translation]

Edible Oil/Pulses

542. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the production and consumption of pulses and edible oil in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether the production of the above items have increased or decreased in comparison to the year 1977;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any plan to increase the production to meet the shortage; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) A Statement showing State-wise production of pulses and oilseeds is attached. The reported consumption of pulses and edible oils during 1996-97 was 150.59 lakh tons and 85.45 lakh tons respectively.

(b) The total production of oilseeds and pulses during 1977 and 1997 is as under:

Crop	1977-78	1997-98
Oilseeds	96.6 lakh MTs.	222.4 lakh MTs.
Pulses	119.7 lakh MTs.	133.5 lakh MTs.

(c) and (d) The Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses has been set up to give an impetus to the production of oilseeds and pulses in the country. Two centrally sponsored schemes viz. Oilseeds Production Programme and National Pulses Development Project are being implemented in a mission mode. Under these schemes, financial assistance is provided to states for various critical inputs like production and distribution of seeds, distribution of minikits, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements and rhizobium culture. In addition, frontline demonstrations and general demonstrations are being organised on farmers' fields to disseminate production technology.

Statement

Production in 000. tonnes

Sl. No.	State	Production During 1996-97	
		Pulses	Oilseeds
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	768.40	2425.50
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6.30	24.20
3.	Assam	68.40	155.00
4.	Bihar	612.80	160.70
5.	Goa	7.90	2.70
6.	Gujarat	663.40	3808.90
7.	Haryana	342.80	1003.80
8.	H.P.	11.40	9.50
9.	J & K	17.00	43.80
10.	Karnataka	669.10	1714.20
11.	Kerala	14.60	11.30
12.	M.P.	3715.40	4997.60
13.	Maharashtra	2036.80	2384.00
14.	Manipur	-	1.50
15.	Meghalaya	2.50	6.50
16.	Mizoram	6.80	7.00
17.	Nagaland	10.70	21.50
18.	Orissa	298.90	177.20

1	2	3	4
19. Punjab		80.80	310.00
20. Rajasthan		1875.70	3524.60
21. Sikkim		6.00	7.60
22. Tamil Nadu		410.20	1929.00
23. Tripura		5.60	8.50
24. Uttar Pradesh		2664.00	1772.00
25. West Bengal		155.60	450.99
26. A & N Islands		1.00	-
27. D&N Haveli		3.10	-
28. Daman & Diu		1.00	-
29. Delhi		0.10	0.80
30. Prodicherry		3.50	2.10
Total		14459.80	24960.40

Migration of Population

543. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that 85% population of earthquake hit areas in Madhya Pradesh have migrated due to continuous earthquake tremors being felt there; and

(b) if so, the measures being taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of the people of the area and to rehabilitate the migrated families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The Government of Madhya Pradesh is reported to be fully aware of seismic activities in and around Pandhana town of Khandwa district since 12.9.1998. In the beginning (September-October), about 50% of inhabitants of Pandhana had left but all have since returned to their houses. There is no migration at present.

(b) The State Government have reportedly taken all precautionary measures and have gained confidence of the local residents of the affected areas. The seismic activities are constantly monitored. The entire population in the affected area of 30 villages have been insured at Government cost. Other properties worth Rs. 50.50 crore have also been insured. Three mobile medical units, to handle any emergency, have been set up at Pandhana. 85 big tents have been erected and the people below the poverty line have been given bamboos at a very concessional rate for erecting seismic huts in front of their houses. A detailed Action Plan has been prepared to meet out any disaster in the area. The district administration is reported to be fully geared up and alert to face the situation if earthquake of high intensity occurs.

*[English]***Loss of Lives of Fishermen**

544. SHRI D.S. AHIRE:

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that more than 200 fishermen have lost their lives in a cyclonic storm that has been raging over the Arabian Sea on October 16, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any compensation has since been paid in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No report on loss of life of fishermen has been received from the Governments of Gujarat and Maharashtra due to the cyclonic storm of October 16, 1998.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Policy on Crop Patterns

545. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a policy on 'crop patterns' as part of the macro/micro planning of agriculture for the various parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to constitute an 'Expert Panel' for this purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Macro/Micro planning of agriculture envisages regionally differentiated strategy based on agroclimatic conditions for agriculture development. This includes optimisation of crop patterns and promotion of suitable efficient cropping systems for different zones. Accordingly, ICAR have identified 30 important cropping systems in the country.

(b) There is no proposal under consideration to constitute an 'Expert Panel' on the crop patterns.

(c) Does not arise.

Coconut Farming

546. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to assist the Government of Gujarat to implement the project for the development of Coconut Farming; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) For developing Coconut Cultivation in Gujarat, Government of India is implementing an area expansion project through Coconut Development Board under which assistance is provided to the farmers @ Rs. 6,000 per hectare. For this project, during 8th plan Rs. 7.28 lakhs were provided to Government of Gujarat. For the year 1998-99 an allocation of Rs. 2.5 lakhs has been made for covering an area of 80 hectares under Coconut in Gujarat.

Action Plan

547. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Action Plan is under consideration of the Union Government to make India hunger free; and

(b) if so, the target set up to achieve the plan and the details of the operational strategy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (b) A Special Action Plan (SAP) has been prepared by the Government for doubling food production and making India hunger free in 10 years. The agriculture development strategy envisaged in the SAP has been consciously interwoven with the country's food security concern. The SAP defines the scope of food production (to include not only foodgrains i.e. rice, wheat, coarse cereals and pulses but also all major food items including edible oils, sugar, fruits and vegetables, livestock products like milk, egg and meat and fish) and spells out detailed strategy and specific programmes to increase the supply of various food items in such a way that the demand for these items for the entire population is comfortably met and some exportable surplus also become available. A three pronged strategy, namely, (i) increase in overall employment/income by raising farm productivity; (ii) provision of gainful supplementary employment through poverty alleviation schemes such as Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Employment Assurance Scheme; and (iii) distribution of foodgrains through PDS at concessional prices to the poor has been chalked out to increase the purchasing power of the poor to enable to have access to basic food items.

*[Translation]***Development Scheme for Betel Leaf**

548. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are implementing the Regional Betel Leaf Development Scheme in various States particularly in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the administrative clearance for the year 1997-98 has been given to Madhya Pradesh for implementing this scheme by the Union Government; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay in taking a decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) Government of India has phased out the Central Sector Scheme for the development of Betelvine during the 9th Five Year Plan. As such, administrative approval has not been issued.

[English]

Telecom Services

549. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKAR RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether ASSOCHAM has requested the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to offer enhanced telecom services;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith salient features of the suggestions made therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b). The salient features of the suggestion made by ASSOCHAM are:

(i) In order to encourage private participation on basic Telecom Services, one of the identified pre-requisites is viability, dictated among other things by the capital cost at entry. If local loop linkages are separated out from the local network and made open to free competition, this would lower the initial investment significantly.

(ii) The investment in long distance transmission network per DEL is taken on average Rs. 7,750 by the TRAI in its working paper. The proposal of ASSOCHAM regarding investment per DEL towards long distance network is Rs. 12,000 which is considered more realistic.

The suggestions made by the ASSOCHAM to TRAI on tariff are enclosed as statements I and II.

(c) As per Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997, TRAI is empowered to notify the rates at which the Telecom Service within India and outside India shall be provided. With a view to finalise and notify the rates, the TRAI had issued Consultation Papers on Telecom Pricing, one on 04-11-1997 and the other on 09-09-1998. TRAI has invited the comments from public, service providers and from the Government so that these comments could be looked into before finalising the Telecom Pricing Policy ASSOCHAM on its part has given its comments to TRAI on this issue.

Statement-I

TRAI Tariff Proposals for Telecom Basic Services

1. Rental is cost based on the rate of annual recurring expenditure (ARE) on the capital cost of the local network (or cost of capital plus depreciation).

- In the total cost of Rs. 31,000 per line for basic services, the cost of the local network is taken to be in the range Rs. 23,250 and Rs. 25,000 (A).

- The ARE is taken in the range 25% and 30%.

- The estimates of cost based rental range from Rs. 485 to Rs. 625 per month. TRAI has proposed the increase in rental to be limited to 65% over the last revised rental of 1993 to cover the 50% inflation and 15% GDP growth in the last 5 year period. Thus the cap on rental proposed are Rs. 310, 220 and 160 for exchanges of capacities over 1 lakh between 30,000 & 99,999, and below 30,000 respectively. For rural exchanges below 999 lines it will be only Rs. 120. TRAI has assessed that the cap for the overall average monthly rental will be about Rs. 260 leaving a gap of about Rs. 365 per line per month when compared to the upper limit of the cost based rental (Rs. 625) TRAI has proposed that this gap be recovered only from NSD/ISD calls.

2. Local Call Charge is cost based on the operational cost of the local network excluding the cost of capital and depreciation.

- In the DOT-MTNL total operating cost (96-97) of Rs. 4028.79 the long distance accounted for Rs. 1045.03, leaving Rs. 2983.76 for local network.

- The local network handles both local calls and NSD/ISD calls. The share of operating cost for local calls alone is in the range 83% and 90%.

- Total number of metered calls in 96-97 was 9579.86 crores.

- The share of the local calls is taken in the range 25% and 30%

- The holding time of local calls is taken in the range 2.5 and 3 minutes.

- The estimated total minutes of local calls, taking the above range of share and holding time, lies in the range 5987.41 and 8621.87 crores.

- The estimated cost of a three minute local call, taking into account the range of operating cost and the range of total minutes, lies in the range Rs. 0.92 and Rs. 1.35.

The higher figure, corresponding to 25% share of local calls and 2.5 minutes holding time, is expected to reflect the actual situation and hence TRAI has proposed a cap Rs. 1.3 per three minute pulse for local calls irrespective of size of exchange.

3. *NSD Call Charge* is based on the operating cost of the long distance network plus AE on its cost plus the cross subsidy to cover the gap between cost based rental and proposed cap on rental.

A. *The portion of call charges based on operational costs is estimates below.*

- * The total number of metered calls in 96-97 was 9579.86 crores. The share of NSD-ISD calls range from 70% to 75%. Out of this, the share of NSD alone is 75% (or 52.5% to 56.25 of the total calls).
- * Average pulse rate is assessed to range from 9 and 12 seconds.
- * Taking the range of NSD calls and the range of pulse rates, the estimated number of minutes of NSD calls lies in the range 754.4 and 1077.7 crores.
- * The operating cost of the long distance network (handling both NSD-ISD calls) in 96-97 was Rs. 1045.03 crores. To this add 10 to 17% of the local network operating cost (NSD-ISD) share. The share of NSD alone is 85 to 88% of this total. This share ranges from Rs. 1142 to 1366 crores.
- * The average NSD call charge per minute based only on operational costs, but with a 20% profit rate, ranges from Rs. 1.27 to Rs. 2.17.

B. *The portion of call charges based on capital costs is estimated below.*

- * There were 1.322 crore lines in 96-97 and the *per line capital cost of long distance network ranges from Rs. 6000 to Rs. 7750 (B)*.
- * The ARE is taken to range from 25% to 30%.
- * Amount of capital cost to be added range from Rs. 1999 to Rs. 3062 crores.
- * Share of above for NSD calls range from 85 to 88%.
- * The average NSD call charge per minute based only on capital cost range from Rs. 1.57 to Rs. 3.57.

C. *The portion of call charges to offset the gap in rental is estimated below.*

- * The total annual gap (1.322 crore line at Rs. 365 per line per month) is Rs. 5790 crores to be made up by NSD-ISD call charges.
- * Share of NSD ranges from 85 to 88%.
- * The number of minutes of NSD calls range from 754.4 to 1077.7 crores. The average NSD call charge per minute to offset the gap in rentals range from Rs. 4.57 to Rs. 6.75.

D. *The overall (A+B+C) range for average cost based NSD calls is Rs. 7.41 to Rs. 12.49 with the upper limit likely to be an overestimate. It is seen that the distance category 201 to 500 kms is likely to be the one for which the cost based price is applicable. For*

this range a tariff cap of Rs. 9.75 per minute (8 sec pulses) is proposed. For all distances above 500 kms it will be Rs. 19.5 per min. (2sec. Pulses) while for distance 51 to 200 kms it will be Rs. 3.9 per min. (20 sec. Pulses). For distances upto 50 kms it will be only Rs. 1.3 for 3 minutes (180 second pulses).

4. *ISD Call Charge* is based on the following in terms of per minute ISD cost.

- * Share of long distance network operational cost range Rs. 1.40 to 2.02.
- * Share of long distance network capital cost-range Rs. 1.75 to 3.32.
- * Share for making up the gap in rental-Rs. 5.0 to 6.3.
- * Average cost for international transmission of ISD calls-Rs. 6.5.
- * Total average cost based tariff range from Rs. 14.64 to 18.14 per minute.
- * The payment to the foreign carrier is to be added to this and the ISD call charges could range from Rs. 24.50 to 44.0 per minute.

TRAI has proposed a cap of Rs. 39 per minute for America/W. Hemisphere, Rs. 30 for Gulf, Europe, Africa, Asia and Oceania and Rs. 19.5 for SAARC countries.

Statement-II

Cost Based Tariffs for the ASSOCHAM Proposed on Telecom Basic Services

1. *Rental: In the ASSOCHAM proposal for Basic Services, the local loop or access link which is unique for each customer, is separate from the network which is common for the customers. The rental will be based on the capital cost and operational cost of the local loop/access link.*

- * Capital cost of a local loop is Rs. 12,000 with ARE (at 25%) of Rs. 3,000.
- * Total operating cost of the local network, including the local loops, with 1.322 crore lines or local loops is Rs. 2983 crores. The share of the local loop is 60% and with 20% profit margin this amounts to Rs. 1,625 per local loop.
- * The ARE plus operating cost of each local loop adds up to Rs. 4,625 equivalent to a cost based rental of Rs. 385 per month.

Following the TRAI proposal, the rental cap will be Rs. 310 per month, with lower caps for smaller exchanges. With the overall average rental at Rs. 260, the gap per line is Rs. 125 (32.5%). The total gap per year for 1.322 crore loops is Rs. 1913 crores which is to be recovered from NSD-ISD call charges as proposed by TRAI.

2. *Local Call Charges* will be based on the capital cost and operational cost of the local network excluding the local loops.

- The capital cost per line is Rs. 12,000. With an ARE of 25% and 1.322 crore lines, the total ARE amounts to Rs. 3.966 crores.
- The share of the operating cost for the local network excluding the local loop, is 40% and with 20% profit margin this amounts Rs. 1.432 crores.
- The ARE and operating cost add upto 5,398 crore.
- The meet the universal service obligation at an affordable reasonable cost to the customer, certain subsidy (the same 32.5% as in the case of rental) has to be given to the local call charges also. In the TRAI proposal all the subsidy is allotted to the rental, while in this proposal the subsidy (the totals in both proposals are of the same order) is share between the rental and local call charges. The 32.5% subsidy for local call charges amounts to Rs. 1.574 crores.
- The total minutes of NSD/ISD calls are around 15% of the local minutes hence 15% of the costs or Rs. 811 crores is transferred to NSD/ISD costs.
- Deucing the subsidy and the transfer, the total cost is Rs. 2,833 crores.
- The local call minutes range from 5987.41 to 8621.87 crores.
- The estimated cost of three minute call lies in the range Rs. 0.99 to 1.42.

This is close to the range of Rs. 0.92 to 1.35 as estimated by the TRAI. Hence the proposed cap of Rs. 1.3 per three minute pulse for local call is applicable to this proposal also (D).

3. *NSD Call Charges* will be based on the capital cost and operational cost of the long distance network.

- The capital cost of long distance network per DEL is Rs. 12,000. With an ARE of 25% and 1.322 crore DELs the total ARE is Rs. 3.966 crores.
- The operating cost, with 20% profit margin, is Rs. 1,254 crores.
- Amount transferred from local network is Rs. 811 crores.
- Subsidy to cover the gap in rental is Rs. 1,913 crores.
- Subsidy to provide lower local call charges is Rs. 1754 crores.
- The above costs total Rs. 9,698 crores.
- The number of ISD call minutes is around 5% of the NSD calls. Hence 5% of above (Rs. 485 crore) is to be allocated and transferred to ISD calls leaving Rs. 9213 crores for NSD calls.

The number of minutes of NSD calls lies in the range 754.4 and 1077.7 crores.

The average cost based NSD call charge per minute range from Rs. 8.55 to Rs. 12.21.

This is close to the range of Rs. 7.41 to 12.49 as estimated by the TRAI. Hence the cap of Rs. 9.75 per minute for distances 201 to 500 kms. Rs. 19.5 for distances above 500 kms and Rs. 3.9 for distances from 51 to 200 kms proposed by TRAI is applicable to this proposal also (D).

4. ISD Call Charges will be based on the costs allocated and transferred to ISD calls from the long distance network, the average cost of international transmission of calls and the payment to the foreign carrier.

- Cost, including the subsidy element, allocated and transferred to the 1st calls is Rs. 485 crores.
- Of the total metered calls of 9579.86 crores, the share of NSD-ISD calls are in the range of 70% to 75%. Within this, the share of ISD calls is 25%. The average pulse rate for ISD calls range from 1.2. to 1.6 seconds. Thus the estimated number of ISD calls range from 33.52 to 17.9 crores.
- The average ISD call charges per minute due to the transferred cost, range from Rs. 10.3 to 14.75.
- With the addition of Rs. 6.5 as the cost international transmission of ISD-Calls the total amount of average cost based tariff for ISD calls range between Rs. 16.8 and 21.25.
- This is close to the range of Rs. 14.65 to 18.14 estimated by TRAI. Taking the payment to foreign carriers into account, the TRAI has proposed a range from Rs. 24.5 to Rs. 44 per minute. The cap of Rs. 39.30 and 19.5 proposed by TRAI for different areas is applicable to this proposal also (D).

Support Price for Copra

550. SHRIN.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received the report of the Commission for Agricultural Cost and Price recommending support price for "Copra" for the year 1999; and

(b) if so, the support price recommended by the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has received a report of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices for Copra for the year 1999. The Report is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Krishna Water Tribunal

551. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have prepared any action plan to reconsider the award given by the Krishna River Water Dispute Tribunal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any representation from the State Governments of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Telephone Bill Arrears

552. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of arrears of telephone bills pending for payment by the State/U.T. Governments for the last three years till date; and

(b) the steps being taken to recover the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) The total accumulated arrears of telephone bills pending for payment by State/U.T. Governments for the last three years are as under:

As on		Rs.
31-3-96		150.23 Crores
31-3-97		164.26 Crores
31-3-98		175.89 Crores
31-7-98		191.35 Crores

(b) (i) Telephone bills are payable within 15 days from the date of issue of bills. In case of non-payment by the pay-by-date, i.e. a 15+6 day grace period, a surcharge at prescribed rates is levied.

(ii) A disconnection list is prepared for subscribers from whom payments have not been received. Telephone reminders are given to subscribers for making payment, and registered notices issued to the defaulting subscribers of non-electronic exchanges. In the case of electronic exchanges, the facility for making outgoing calls are first withdrawn from the subscriber for 15 days. If even after the above exercise, no payment is received, the telephone of the subscriber is to be disconnected by the 42nd day after the date of issue of the bill. The matter is pursued through visits to subscribers by telephone inspectors etc. and taking up with higher authorities through letters. In the event of non-payment finally, the subscriber's other phones are also liable for disconnection under the Indian Telegraph Rules 443.

[Translation]

Production of Paddy

553. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of paddy is more than the target fixed for it during the current year due to sufficient rain;

(b) if so, the target fixed for paddy production during the current year; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to procure paddy from farmers and the details of purchase made in various regions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The rice production target (provisional) for 1998-99 is as under:

(Million Tonnes)

Season	Target	Likely Achievement
Kharif	73.20	71.7
Rabi	11.00	Season in progress
Total	84.20	71.7*

* Excluding Rabi crop

The kharif rice production is likely to fall short of its target by about 1.5 million tonnes due to erratic monsoon, pre-winter rains and floods in several parts of the country.

(c) The Minimum Support Price (MSP) for 1998-99 for Fair Average Quality (FAQ) of common grade of paddy has been announced at Rs. 440 and that of grade 'A' variety at Rs. 470 per quintal marking an increase of about 6% over the last year's MSPs. Elaborate arrangements have been made by public procuring agencies to buy rice/paddy for the central pool at the MSPs announced by the government. The details of region-wise procurement of rice are given in the attached statement.

Statement

Region-wise Progressive Procurement of Kharif Rice During 1998-99 Marketing Season (As on 27-11-98)

(Figure in Tonnes)

States/U.Ts	Total Progressive Procurement in Terms of Rice
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	216148
Haryana	78001
Madhya Pradesh	6995

1	2
Maharashtra	8
Orissa	21191
Punjab	3935801
Rajasthan	350
Uttar Pradesh	40950
Chandigarh	5282
Delhi	99
Pondicherry	527
Total	4305352

[English]

United Nations Population Fund

554. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of adolescents and elderly persons in the country as per recent report of the United Nations Population Fund;

(b) the steps being taken to create more jobs to accommodate young workers to reduce unemployment; and

(c) the measures taken to provide social security and adequate medical facilities to elderly persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) United Nations Population Fund publication "The State of World Population—The New Generations" 1998 does not indicate the number of adolescents and elderly persons in India. However, in the Report of the Technical Group on Population Projections published by the Registrar General of India in 1996 the number of adolescents (10-19 years) and elderly population (65 years and above) as on 1st March 1998 have been estimated to be 213.8 million and 42.2 million respectively.

(b) One of the primary objective of the Ninth Plan is to generate greater productive employment in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are more labour intensive in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and under employment.

(c) In order to provide social security and to improve the quality of life of elderly people various measures including contributory and non-contributory pension, affordable health care services to meet the health needs, affordable shelter etc. are being taken up during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

[Translation]

Extradition Treaty

555. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Germany have finalised an Extradition Treaty;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which this treaty is likely to be signed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The text of an Extradition Treaty between India and Germany is being negotiated and is expected to be signed at the earliest mutually convenient period on completion of requisite formalities by both Governments.

[English]

Funds for Drip Irrigation Scheme

556. SHRIDILEEPSANGHANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated to the State Government of Gujarat for drip irrigation scheme during each of the last three years till date;

(b) whether the State Government have asked for increase in the amount;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any report has been submitted by the State Government in regard to utilization of the funds allocated;

(e) whether the State Government have informed the Union Government regarding the drought conditions of the area; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the additional amount demanded by the State Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The Government of Gujarat was allocated amounts of Rs. 154.40 lakhs, Rs. 24.80 lakhs and Rs. 216.00 lakhs towards the drip irrigation component under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Use of Plastics in Agriculture" during the Years 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 respectively.

(b) to (d) During the year 1997-98, the Government of Gujarat requested for an amount of Rs. 292.00 lakhs. After taking into consideration, the unspent balance available with the State Government, an amount of Rs. 98.84 lakhs was provided to the State Government for the drip irrigation components. The State Government have reported an expenditure of Rs. 117.00 lakhs under the Plasticulture Scheme during 1997-98.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Review of Plan Panel

557. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission has decided to review Plan panels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any concrete revamping plan has been worked out;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of new features being considered to make it more objective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (e) It is proposed to bring in functional changes in the working of the Planning Commission in the context of the implementation of the economic reforms so that the Commission could concentrate more on new emerging areas/trends. A view on the proposal for restructuring of the Commission will be taken by the Government after due process.

AIR and DD in West Bengal

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

(a) the details of All India Radio stations and Doordarshan Kendras in West Bengal having the facilities of Producing original programme in Bengali language, location-wise;

(b) the details of such projects under consideration in the State;

(c) whether Bengali language is given adequate time for telecast on the National network and DD channels; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) Whereas all AIR stations in West Bengal, namely, Calcutta, Kurseong, Siliguri and Murshidabad except Asansol are equipped with programme production facilities, three Studio Centres of Doordarshan at Calcutta, Jalpaiguri and Shantiniketan have facilities for programme production, including in Bengali language.

(b) There is no such approved AIR/DD project at present.

(c) and (d) Regional language programmes in Bengali are telecast exclusively on DD Satellite Channel in addition to programme telecast by DDK Calcutta primary service. None of the regional programmes are telecast on National Network.

Revision of Pension

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

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to revise the pension of retired Central Government employees before January 1, 1996 as per formula recommended by the Fifth Pay Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the orders are likely to be issued for implementation of revised pension formula?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE): (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The recommendation of the Vth Pay Commission to the effect that the pension of those Central Government employees who have retired prior to 1.1.1996 should be brought to the level of 50% of the minimum of the revised scale of pay of the post held by the pensioner at the time of his retirement has been accepted. Necessary orders on the subject are under issue in consultation with the Minister of Finance.

Ban on Irrigation Schemes

560. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission has proclaimed a ban on new irrigation schemes despite the fact that water is most crucial input in the agricultural sector;

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

(c) whether financial constraints and inadequate water facilities have become an impediment in the way of achieving foodgrain target;

(d) whether the Planning Commission propose to help the State Governments to tide over the situation; and

(e) the number of irrigation projects pending for sanction with the Planning Commission and since when, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir, Planning Commission has not put any such ban.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The achievement of foodgrain targets depends on several factors including irrigation facilities. Irrigation is a State Subject and, therefore, the development and management of irrigation facilities primarily is the responsibility of the State Government. As such the irrigation development programmes are financed under the State Plan. The Government of India is providing financial assistance to the State Governments under various schemes to increase agricultural production and achieve the targets.

(d) Under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme the Government of India provides financial assistance in form of loans to the States for timely completion of selected irrigation and multi-purpose projects.

Further, Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) provide loan to the State Governments for financing Rural infrastructural projects including major, medium and minor irrigation schemes.

(e) There is no irrigation project pending for action with the Planning Commission for investment clearance.

Channelisation of Food Items

561. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of food items channelised to food processing industry, item-wise;

(b) whether the Government have conducted any survey as to how far those items are affecting the availability and prices of food items in general;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) All Food Processing Industries are delicensed except for brewing and distillation of alcoholic beverages and those items reserved for small scale sector. Therefore no Industrial License is required in such cases. Under Fruit Product Order (FPO) 1955, Ministry grants licenses for food items which ensures good quality and that these products are manufactured under hygienic conditions. There are two Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under the Ministry namely (1) M/s. Modern Food Industries Limited, manufacturing bread, fruit drinks and energy food, and (2) M/s. North-Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited (NERAMAC) marketing and processing of fruits and vegetables grown in North-Eastern State. There is no quota of any food items as raw material reserved for these two PSUs. The processing activities by the food processing industries including these two PSUs are carried on in accordance with open market forces and no regulation by the Ministry exists in this regard. Hence there is no channelisation of any food items as raw-materials for food processing industries. Furthermore, the food processing industries being in both organised and unorganised sectors, data relating to the quantum of food items channelised by these industries is not maintained centrally.

Government Employees

562. SHRI H.G. RAMULU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central Government employees as on April 1, 1998 posted in India and abroad;

(b) the number of employees who would have retired on April 1, 1998 but for the enhancement of retirement age to 60 years;

(c) the number of Central Government Employees died while in service since April 1998;

(d) whether the Government are aware that the enhance-

ment of retiring age has affected the unemployed youths for two more years;

(e) If so, whether the Government have any proposal under consideration to restore the retirement age to 58 year; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE): (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN): (a) The total number of Central Government employees posted in India and abroad, including those of Union Territories without legislatures, as on 1st March, 1998 was 3880345.

(b) and (c) This information is not being maintained centrally.

(d) Since the age of retirement has no one to one relationship with the employment opportunities, for the country as a whole, the extent of loss, if any, can be quantified. Furthermore, opening of Power, Transport Communication etc. Sectors to the private entrepreneurs, the employment opportunities have increased.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Scheme for Food Processing Industries

563. SHRI T.R. BAALU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to implement any special scheme to improve food processing industries;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up high power Committee to study and advise on the development of the food processing industries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Under the Plan Schemes of the Ministry, financial assistance in the form of soft loan or grant-in-aid is made available to industry, non-Governmental Organisations, Cooperatives, Research & Development Institutions and Human Resources Development Centre, for the development of processed food sector.

The thrust areas of the Plan assistance are:

1. Establishment of post harvest infrastructure particularly cold chain facilities.
2. Establishment of Food Processing Industrial Estates/Parks.
3. Setting up/expansion/modernisation of food processing industries.
4. Research & Development on food processing, including development of traditional food products, packaging and utilisation of by products.

5. Human Resource Development.
6. Strengthening of traditional fish processing technologies.

(b) and (c) Government has constituted a Special Subject Group in the nature of Task Force to consider and recommend implementable Action Plans in the area of Food and Agro Industries Management Policy.

[Translation]

Bateshwar and Sultanganj Pump Canal

564. SHRI PRABASH CHANDRA TIWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bateshwar Ganga Pump Canal and Sultanganj Ganga Pump Canal projects in Bhagalpur district of Bihar are still incomplete;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) No Work was done on Bateshwarthan Ganga Pump Canal Project due to paucity of funds for several years. Sultanganj Pump Canal Project has not been included in the proposals for IXth five year plan by the State. Completion of these projects will depend upon the priority attached to them by the State Govt.

[English]

Internet Facility in Kerala

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

(a) whether the Government propose to improve the internet facility in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to establish an additional routers with more lines in Kollam District and also to provide local internet connectivity; and

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

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

(b) In Kerala Circle, Internet nodes are already operational at six District Headquarters. In addition, routers at three more District Headquarters are planned to be opened during this year.

Internet access to the nearest node on local call basis from all exchanges have been provided.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) There is a proposal to establish a higher capacity router in Kollam District.

Indo-US Talk

566. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission was again sent as the Prime Minister's Special Envoy to Rome for the next round of Indo-US talks on non-proliferation issues, including the CTBT on November 19, 1998; and

(b) if so, the details and outcome of the talks, indicating precisely the stand taken by the two sides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Shri Jaswant Singh has been engaged in an ongoing dialogue with USA which is headed on the US side by Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Strobe Talbott. The last meeting between the two was held in Rome on November 19-20, 1998.

(b) The two sides reviewed issues related to disarmament, non-proliferation, bilateral relations, as well as regional and international developments. The results of the November, 9-10 expert level meeting on export controls were discussed and positively evaluated. The Indian delegation expressed concern over the publication of the entities list by the United States and over access to international financial institutions. Both sides found the exchanges constructive and agreed to meet in January 1999 in New Delhi to carry forward the process.

New Broadcasting Policy

567. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a new Broadcasting policy;

(b) if so, the broad outlines, features and thrust areas thereof alongwith time bound action plan for its implementation;

(c) the details of implications of the policy changes; and

(d) the details of foreign direct investment proposals received and action taken thereon alongwith projection for the ninth plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The present policy does not permit private broadcasting from within the country and therefore, no foreign direct investment proposals have been entertained.

*[Translation]***Fax Machines in Agra**

568 SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of fax machines operating in Agra district during 1997-98;
- (b) whether licences have been issued for operating these machines; and
- (c) if so, the amount received as licence fee by Tele-communications Department during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) 309 (Three hundred and nine).

- (b) Yes, Sir.
- (c) 1995-96 Rs. 1,58,300/- only
1996-97 Rs. 1,96,800/- only
1997-98 Rs. 2,24,300/- only

*[English]***Industry Status to Film Production**

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

- (a) whether the Government have received representations from film producers and other organisations for granting industry status to film production in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard; and
- (d) the time by which it is likely to be operative?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) to (d) The Government has already conferred 'industry' status on the film sector in May 1998. Consequent upon this decision, the Ministry of Finance have been requested to include film production and allied activities in the list of activities eligible for institutional finance in accordance with the provisions of the Industrial Development Bank of India Act, 1964. Various advisory councils have also been established to facilitate the all round development of this sector.

Cyclone in Gujarat

570. SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Chief Minister of Gujarat requested for appointment of a Commission of Enquiry on the Gujarat cyclone;
- (b) whether instead of setting up Commission of

Enquiry, the Union Government constituted a Fact Finding Committee;

- (c) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report to the Government;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Union Government on the said report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. A High Level Fact Finding Team was constituted with a view to understand the sequence of events and advise ways and means for ensuring better preparedness in future. The Team had submitted its report and further action is being taken on the recommendations contained in the report in consultation with the concerned Departments/agencies.

*[English]***Command Area Development Programme**

571. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any survey has been conducted for the implementation of Command Area Development Programme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise alongwith the areas likely to be brought under CADP in the country particularly in Rajasthan;
- (c) if not, the time by which the survey is likely to be conducted; and
- (d) the target fixed and progress made in implementing the Command Area Development Programmes during the Ninth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) No State-wise survey has been made regarding the implementation of the Command Area Development Programme. Proposals for inclusion of new irrigation projects under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme for implementation are received from the State Governments and are considered for inclusion on the basis of their merit.

- (d) The 9th Plan and targets of Command Area Development activities have not been finalised. The progress made in respect of core components of on-farm developmental works during 1997-98 are as under:

	(Unit: '000 hectare)	
Item	Achievements during 1997-98	
1. Field Channel	315.84	
2. Warabandi	353.31	
3. Field drain	54.01	
4. Land Levelling	30.96	

*[English]***Development of Animal Husbandry and Dairy Industry**

572. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA:

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA MALLICK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a programme to tap the immense dairy potential for the development of animal husbandry and dairy industry in the country particularly in Maharashtra and Gujarat;

(b) the details of perspective plan for the programme; State-wise;

(c) the target fixed for the development of dairy industry during the current financial year, State-wise; and

(d) the revenue earned by the Government from dairy industry during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Sir, no specific programme has been formulated for the States of Maharashtra and Gujarat. However, Government of India has been implementing many schemes for supplementing the efforts of the State Governments of Maharashtra and Gujarat and other States for the development of animal husbandry and dairying. The important schemes are as follows:

1. Extension of Frozen Semen Technology and Progeny Testing Programme.
2. National Bull Production Programme.
3. National Ram/Buck Production Programme.
4. Assistance to States for Control of Livestock Diseases.
5. National Project on Rinderpest Eradication.
6. Professional Efficiency Development Programme.
7. Assistance to States for Feed and Fodder Development Programme.
8. Animal Husbandry Extension Programme.
9. Integrated Dairy Development Projects in Non-Operation Flood Hilly and Backward Areas.

(c) Specific targets for the development Schemes are fixed by the State Governments.

(d) No revenue is earned by the Central Government under development schemes being implemented.

Prawn Cultivation

573. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Government propose to develop cold storage and other infrastructural facilities in Goa to improve prawn cultivation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not set up cold storage and other such infrastructural facilities on its own. However, under Plan Schemes of the Ministry financial assistance is provided to various agencies such as NGOs/Cooperatives/Govt. undertaking/Joint Sector/Assisted Sector Units/Private Sector etc., for establishment of infrastructural facilities for processing of fish.

Surrendering of Amount Earmarked for Improvement of Telecom

574. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated by the Union Government to Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh for the improvement of telecom services during the last three years;

(b) the amount out of it utilised/surrendered by the States separately;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) whether some other telecom circle of the country have also surrendered any amount out of the allocations made by the Union Government during the said period; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) The amount allocated during the last three years are given below:

(Rs. in Crores)

Circle	95-96	96-97	97-98
U.P. (E)	259.48	445.31	577.46
U.P. (W)	280.33	335.85	399.59
M.P.	475.00	335.76	303.32

(b) (i) Amount Utilised:

Circle	95-96	96-97	97-98
U.P. (E)	258.03	359.29	393.94
U.P. (W)	281.65	314.35	424.15
M.P.	398.43	307.87	329.84

(ii) Amount Surrendered:

Circle	95-96	96-97	97-98
U.P. (E)	1.45	86.02	NIL
U.P. (W)	NIL	21.50	NIL
M.P.	76.57	27.89	NIL

- (c) The amount surrendered by these Circles is due to: (e) (i) Statement of surrender by other telecom Circles is enclosed.
 —non receipt of equipments
 —delay in receipt of bills of suppliers. (ii) The reasons for surrender by these Circles are same as given in para (c) above.
- (d) Yes, Sir.

Statement*List of Circles which Surrendered Funds*

(i) 1995-96

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Circles	Allot Exp.	Surrender	%	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	484.24	476.56	-7.68	1.59
2.	Assam	62.51	62.04	-0.47	0.75
3.	Bihar	189.80	187.59	-2.21	1.16
4.	Gujarat	474.22	468.21	-8.01	1.27
5.	Haryana	200.24	200.12	-0.12	0.06
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	78.25	50.01	-28.24	36.09
7.	North East	88.40	76.83	-11.57	13.09
8.	Orissa	160.74	140.56	-20.18	12.55
9.	Punjab	370.00	369.52	-0.48	0.13
10.	Rajasthan	318.28	309.85	-8.43	2.65

List of Circles Which Surrendered Funds

(ii) 1996-97

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Circles	Allot	Exp.	Surrender	%
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	10.74	5.28	-5.46	50.84
2.	Andhra Pradesh	497.73	470.32	-27.41	5.51
3.	Bihar	232.00	231.66	-0.34	0.15
4.	Gujarat	484.72	453.19	-31.53	6.50
5.	Himachal	154.99	132.46	-22.53	14.54
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	97.64	70.56	-27.08	27.73
7.	North East	106.00	100.82	-5.18	4.89
8.	Orissa	184.61	171.06	-13.55	7.34
9.	Punjab	439.44	425.19	-14.25	3.24
10.	Rajasthan	375.47	337.43	-38.04	10.13
11.	Chennai (Phones)	229.07	200.00	-28.27	12.34
12.	Other Units	809.19	741.75	-67.44	8.33

List of Circles Which Surrendered Funds

(III) 1997-98

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Circles	Allot	Exp.	Surrender	%
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	13.51	9.95	—3.56	26.35
2.	Haryana	214.98	181.21	—33.77	15.71
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	54.63	52.51	—2.12	3.88
4.	Kerala	645.97	631.11	—14.86	2.30
5.	Orissa	168.39	167.28	—1.11	0.66
6.	Tamil Nadu	665.42	652.38	—13.04	1.96
7.	West Bengal	232.00	227.54	—4.46	1.92

*[Translation]***Flood Control**

575. SHRI ANUPLAL YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Bihar has requested the Union Government to formulate a scheme to tide over the problem of the flood prone areas of North Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Ground Water

576. SHRI KRISHAN LAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ground water level in Delhi is going downward sharply;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the factors responsible for the same; and

(c) the effective steps taken/ proposed to be taken by the Union Government to conserve the water resources in view of the growing needs of water in the capital?

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

(b) Long term observations made by the Central Ground Water Board have shown that both quantity and quality of ground water in Delhi has deteriorated due to over-exploitation. Ground water level has fallen upto 15 metres in some areas and shows a declining trend. During the last 10 years, the level of ground water has declined by 6-8 metres in Mehrauli block, 2-5 metres in Alipur, Najafgarh, Nangloi and City blocks and 1-2 metres in Shahdara block. The decline in level of ground water

in Delhi is mainly due to large scale withdrawals in excess of annual availability of replenishable ground water resources, variation in the amount and distribution of rainfall and reduction in recharge of ground water due to increased urbanisation.

(c) The steps taken by the Union Government to check the declining trend in ground water includes:

- (1) Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority under the Environment (protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development. The Authority has been holding periodical meetings to, inter-alia, advise the State and U.T. Governments to take suitable measures to check over-exploitation in view of decline in the level of ground water and to assist the Authority in discharging its functions. It has initiated the process of registration of ground water extraction structures in Delhi to make an assessment of withdrawals vis-a-vis availability of ground water. It has also taken various measures for creating mass awareness on the subject.
- (2) The Central Ground Water Board has prepared a report titled "Development and Augmentation of Ground Water Resources in National Capital Territory of Delhi." A copy of this report has been made available to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi for taking following-up action.
- (3) Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme on studies on recharge of ground water in 'Over-exploited' areas of various States, including NCT of Delhi. In Delhi, the recharge studies are being carried out in Jawaharlal Nehru University and I.I.T., Delhi.
- (4) Circulation of Manual on artificial recharge of ground water to the States/Union Territories including NCT of Delhi to enable them to formulate area specific recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water level.
- (5) Circulation of a Model Bill to all the States/Union Territories including NCT of Delhi to enable them to

enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.

- (6) Formulation of a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to assist the States in artificial recharge of ground water. This scheme is at consultation stage.

[English]

World Bank Assistance

577. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any loan has been provided by the World Bank to the State Governments of Gujarat, Maharashtra and U.P. to undertake water management projects in State recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made by each State to achieve the target fixed for completion of work?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Kailash Mansarovar Yatra

578. SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN:

SHRI SHEELA GAUTAM:

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH:

SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY:

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether China is willing to open a motorable route to Kailash-Mansarovar in Tibet; and

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The possibility of providing an alternative route for the Yatra has been under discussion with the Chinese side since 1993.

We have proposed alternative routes through Shipki La (Himachal Pradesh) and the Demchok route through Ladakh (Jammu and Kashmir). The Chinese side have indicated that our proposals for alternative routes are under consideration in consultation with the local authorities in the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR). They have cited difficulties in opening new routes on the grounds that it would involve travel over much

longer distances over difficult terrain with poor road conditions and lack of proper infrastructure for accommodation and communications. They have also expressed the view that development of infrastructure in these remote areas would not be an easy task and building facilities for alternative routes could take a long time. It could lead to a substantial escalation in the fee charged from Indian pilgrims (currently frozen at US \$500 per pilgrim until the year 2000 A.D.).

On the India side Government are willing to consider all possible routes, including the motorable option, taking into account the availability of infrastructure, logistical facilities and other relevant factors. Our efforts to open a new route are continuing.

Irrigation Projects in J & K

579. SHRI VISHNU DATT VAIDYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some projects of the National Water Management are under implementation in the State of Jammu and Kashmir at present; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the date of implementation, cost of each project and the total area of land which is likely to be irrigated after the completion of the said projects?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Sardar Sarovar Dam

580. DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of construction of Sardar Sarovar vis-a-vis the progress on upstream R & R works;

(b) whether the Sardar Sarovar Dam did not attain an obligatory minimum water level of 110 metre so far;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to attain the prescribed water level;

(d) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has been extending its cooperation for the resettlement of the oustees of the project;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the other measures being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) At present, effective height of the Sardar Sarovar Dam is being maintained at EL81.5m. The progress upto 15.10.1998 on upstream Resettlement and Rehabilitation at the full height of Dam is as under:

State	Total Number of Project Affected Families (PAFs)	Total Number of PAFs Resettled
Gujarat	4600	4452
Maharashtra		
(a) In Gujarat	999	684
(b) In Maharashtra	2114	1515
Madhya Pradesh		
(a) In Gujarat	14124	2983
(b) In Madhya Pradesh	18890	733
Total	40727	10367

(b) and (c) A minimum water level of 110.63 metre with a dam height of 112.5 metre is necessary to derive partial benefits of irrigation and power. However, in view of the Supreme Court orders of 5.5.1995 on the Writ Petition of Narmada Bachao Andolan raising of the spillway blocks beyond the effective height of 81.5 metre has not been possible so far. An Interlocutory Application of the Government of Gujarat filed on 9.12.1996 seeking permission to raise the effective height of the spillway portion of the dam from the present level of 81.5 metre to 85 metre is still pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The matter was last heard on 24.11.1998.

(d) and (e) Since the last meeting of Review Committee for Narmada Control Authority held on 13.11.1996, the Resettlement and Rehabilitation Sub-group has held 8 meetings, the Rehabilitation Committee has undertaken 4 visits to Rehabilitation and Resettlement sites. Besides 3 Inter-State meetings of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat Field Officers to resolve operational field level difficulties coming in the way of smooth implementation of Resettlement and Rehabilitation Programmes have already been held.

(f) Does not arise.

TV Transmitters in Orissa

581. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA MALLIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the capacity of TV transmitter at Bhubaneswar in Orissa State and the areas covered by it;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up some new TV transmitters in Orissa particularly at Narasinghpur;

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

(d) whether the Government also propose to increase the capacity of any transmitter in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) Whereas Bhubaneswar lies in the coverage range of High Power Transmitter (HPT) DD-I Cuttack providing national network and regional programmes, a Low Power Transmitter (LPT) DD-II is functioning at Bhubaneswar and providing metro network service in the coverage range of about 20 kms. inclusive of fringe service range.

(b) Yes, Sir. An LPT at Narasinghpur is already functioning since April '95. There is no proposal, at present, to set up another transmitter at Narasinghpur.

(c) A statement is enclosed.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Schemes for raising the power of HPT, Sambalpur from 1 KW to 10 KW and upgradation of LPTs at Behrampur and Sambalpur (DDII) to HPTs are, at present, under various stages of implementation.

Statement

Existing TV Transmitters in Orissa	Under Implementation TV Transmitters in Orissa
1	2
PPC	PPC
Bhubaneswar	Bhawanipatna
Sambalpur (Int.)	Sambalpur (Pmt.)
HPT	HPT
Baleswar	Sambalpur
Bhawanipatna	Behrampur
Cuttack	Behrampur
Sambalpur	Sambalpur (DDII)
Cuttack (DDII)	
LPT	LPT
Anandpur	Nayagarh
Angul	Tushara/Saintala
Athamalik	Karanja
Balangir	Rajgangpur
Ballapal	Birmitrapur
Banapur	Khariar
Bargarh	
Baripada	Simliguda
Behrampur	Jalpara
Bhadrak	Gondiya (Kapilas)
Bhanjanagar	Kulad
Bhuban	Chikiti

1	2	1	2
Bonal		Rayagada	
Boudh		Redhakhol	
Brajrajnagar		Rourkela	
Dashrathpur		Sonepur	
Deogarh		Sohela	
Dhenkanal		Sundergarh	
Durgapur		Talcher	
G. Udalgiri		Tirtol	
Jeypore		Umarkot	
Joda		Bhubaneshwar (DDII)	
Kabisuryanagar		Dhenkanal (DDII)	
Kamakhya Nagar		Dudurkot (DDII)	
Khandapara		Sambalpur (DDII)	
Kendrapara			
Keonjhar		VLPT	VLPT
Koraput		Aul	Machhkund
Kotpad		Bada Barbil	Kashipur
Kuchinda		Barpalli	Lanjigarh
Lutherpunk		Chitrakonda	Jayapatna
Malkangiri		Kalampur	Simlipalgarh
Mohana		Koksara	Udiagiri
Narsinghpur		Nagchi	Sukinda
Navarangpur		Nayagarh	Palkamal
Nuapara		Thuamal Rampur	Sabdega
Padampur		Lalitgiri (DDII)	
Padmapuram		Rourkela (DDII)	
Padua		Xser	Xser
Pallahara		Sunabeda	Dhenkanal
Paradeep			Chandipara
Pariakhemundi			
Patnagarh			
Phulbani			
Puri			
Rairangpur			
Raj Ranapur			

Legend

- PPC — Programme Production Centre
 HPT — High Power Transmitter
 LPT — Low Power Transmitter
 VLPT — Very Low Power Transmitter
 Xser — Transposer

Crop Insurance Scheme

582. KUMARI KIM GANGTE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the crop insurance scheme is not being implemented in Manipur;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the measures proposed to be taken to compensate the loss incurred by the farmers in the State due to natural calamities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The existing Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) is voluntary in nature and as such the States are free to opt for the scheme. The State of Manipur is not participating in the scheme at present.

(c) In the event of crop damage due to natural calamities the State Governments are required to assist the affected farmers out of the corpus of the Calamity Relief Fund.

Use of Neem as Pesticide

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

- (a) whether the Government propose to launch schemes for the effective use of neem as pesticide; and
- (b) if so, the steps taken to promote the neem-based pesticides and to popularise its organic farming?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) For effective use of neem as pesticide, the Government has taken various steps under different schemes as under:

(i) Under the Central Sector Plan Scheme namely "Central IPM Centres" use of neem based pesticide is being encouraged amongst farmers for control of various crop pests.

(ii) Registration Committee constituted under the Insecticides Act, 1968 has made an exception to allow commercialisation during the pendency of provisional registration for Neem-based pesticides with a view to popularise them for control of pests of agricultural importance.

(iii) Data requirements for registration of neem-based pesticides under the Act have been simplified to encourage entrepreneurs for easy availability of such a botanical pesticide for the benefit of farmers and the environment.

(iv) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is publishing "Neem Newsletter" on quarterly basis for faster dissemination of promising results for effective use of neem as pesticide.

Mulla Pepiyar Dam

584. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government have received any

representation from the Government of Tamil Nadu regarding increasing the height of Mulla Peryar Dam recently;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the decision taken by the Union Government thereto?

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

- (b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Microwave Facility to Rewa

585. SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that due to a storm in summer, the Microwave tower located in Sohagi hill of Rewa distt. of Gujarat has fallen down;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide microwave facility in the district;

(c) whether Government propose to set up new Microwave tower in the district;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The Rewa District already has micro-wave facility at Nauwsta, Mangawan. However, services affected due to fall of Sohagi Hill Tower, were restored on Optical Fibre media.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Towers are proposed at the following stations;

1. Mauganj
2. Sirmore
3. Hanumana

(e) Not applicable in view of (d).

Opening of Telephone Exchanges

586. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the subscribers in villages of Madhya Pradesh had deposited security, one year in advance, for opening of telephone exchanges, but neither the exchanges have been set up nor they have been provided telephone connections;

(b) the time by which these exchanges are likely to be set up; and

(c) the names of places where advance security has been deposited for opening of exchanges in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes, Sir. In 57 villages, the subscribers have deposited security for telephones.

(b) These exchanges are likely to be opened during 1999-2000.

(c) Names of places where advance security has been deposited for opening of exchanges are given in the attached statement.

Statement

The Names of Places Where Advance Security has been Deposited for Opening of Exchanges in Rural Areas

District	Names of Places
1	2
Betul	Khamata, Malajpur, Pankha.
Bhopal	Mathani, Satrana, Mangaliachap, Bhauri, Laloi, Nandner, Rizadia Kadeem, Bairagarh Chichi.
Dewas	Agora, Dhasad, Bawdikheda, Rajavi, Bangarda, Chhota Telguru, Bedgaon.
Durg	Armarikalan, Amleshwar, Mampur.
Hoshangabad	Datwasa, Surajpur, Dharmakundi, Kajalkhedhi, Nasirabad, Budhwada, Jhindgaon, Jamli, Piplia, Khamial.
Jabalpur	Panwanli, Mungwari, Umarlia, Choubay, Bhalnawal, Bhudsa.
Jhabua	Bakhatgarh, Phoolmal.
Raigarh	Aspa, Jakbahala.
Raipur	Tosgoan, Khorpa, Gadhorli.
Rewa	Kamarjee, Kheora, Sathni.
Sagar	Chhirani.
Satna	Bihara, Choond, Shivrajpur, Ramgarh, Pindra, Sarla Nagar.
Shahdol	Papond, Manthar.
Shajapur	Madana.
Sidhi	Saral.

[English]

Scheme on Agricultural Development

587. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Uttar Pradesh Government has submitted some new schemes relating to agricultural development for approval of the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government thereon?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Funds Under MPLADS

588. SHRI PRABHAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount released under the MPLADS to each Member of Parliament in the State of Orissa alongwith date of release during the year 1998-99;

(b) if no amount has been released, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) As per the existing practice MPLADS funds are released in 2 instalments of Rs. 50 lakhs each to the Members of Parliament whose unsanctioned balance is less than Rs. 50 lakhs. Accordingly, a total amount of Rs. 18.0 crores has been released under MPLADS to the State of Orissa during the year 1998-99 which includes 1st instalment for the year 1998-99 released in respect of 10 Lok Sabha MPs and 9 Rajya Sabha MPs, 11nd instalment for the year 1998-99 for 2 Rajya Sabha MPs and the instalments pertaining to the year 1997-98 in respect of 13 Lok Sabha MPs and 2 Rajya Sabha MPs. A statement indicating the date of sanction in respect of these MPs in attached Funds for the remaining MPs could not be released so far either due to non-receipt of the requisite expenditure statement from the concerned collectors or because of their unsanctioned balance being more than Rs. 50 lakhs.

Statement—I

Details of Funds Released under MPLADS for Ist and IInd Instalments of 1997-98 and Ist and IInd Instalment of 1998-99 as on 27.11.98

State : Orissa

Lok Sabha

S.No.	Constituency	Name of Lok Sabha MP	(1997-98) Instalment		(1998-99) Instalment	
			Ist	IInd	Ist	IInd
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Aska	Sh. Naveen Patnaik	07/07/97	04/12/97		
		Sh. Naveen Patnaik	—	—	10/11/98	—
2.	Balasore	Sh. Kartik Mohapatra	07/07/97	04/12/97		
		Sh. Mahameghabahan Aira Kharabela Swain	—	—	25/06/98	—
3.	Berampur	Sh. P.V. Narasimha Rao	10/11/97	—	—	—
		Smt. Jayanti Patnaik	—	10/11/98	—	—
4.	Bhabrak (SC)	Sh. Murlidhar Jena	27/08/97	—	—	—
		Sh. Arjun Charan Sethi	—	10/07/98	—	—
5.	Bhuvaneswar	Sh. Soumya Ranjan Pattnaik	—	—		
		Sh. Prasamna Kumar Patasani	16/10/98	50+	—	—
6.	Bolangir	Sh. Sarat Pattanayak	10/09/97	03/12/97	—	—
		Smt. Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo	—	—	INR	—
7.	Cuttack	Sh. Anadi Charan Sahu	07/07/97	04/12/97		
		Sh. Bhartruhari Mahtab	—	—	10/11/98	—
8.	Deogarh	Sh. Sri Ballava Panigrahi	28/11/97	01/12/97		
		Sh. Debendra Pradhan	—	—	26/10/98	—
9.	Dhenkanal	Sh. K.P. Singh Deo	11/09/97	—		
		Sh. Tathagata Satpathy	—	25/06/98	INR	—
10.	Jagatsinghpur	Sh. Ranjib Biswal	04/11/97	—		
		Sh. Ranjib Biswal	—	08/09/98	18/09/98	—
11.	Jajpur (SC)	Sh. Anchal Das	04/11/97	—		
		Sh. Rama Chandra Mallik	—	05/08/98	27/11/98	—
12.	Kalahandi	Sh. B.C. Das	07/07/97	—		
		Sh. Bikram Keshari Deo	—	INR	—	—
13.	Kendrapara	Sh. Srikanta Kumar Jena	07/08/97	—		
		Sh. Prabhat Kumar Samantaray	—	10/11/98	—	—
14.	Keonjhar (ST)	Sh. Madhaga Sardar	07/07/97	—		
		Sh. Upendranath Nayak	—	25/06/98	26/11/98	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15.	Koraput (ST)	Sh. Giridhar Gamang	25/11/97	—		
		Sh. Giridhar Gamang	—	15/07/98	INR	—
16.	Mayurbhanj (ST)	Miss. Sushila Tiriya	01/10/97	—		
		Sh. Salkhan Murmu	—	24/03/98	26/11/98	—
17.	Nowrangpur (ST)	Sh. Khagapati Pradhani	25/11/97	—		
		Sh. Khagapati Pradhani	—	21/08/98	50+	—
18.	Phulbani (SC)	Sh. Mrutyunjaya Nayak	4/11/98	—		
		Sh. Padmanva Behera	—	27/11/98	20/05/98	—
19.	Puri	Sh. Pinaki Mishra	—	—		
		Sh. Braja Kishore Tripathi	18/01/98	50+	—	—
20.	Sambalpur	Dr. Krupasindhu Bhoi	25/11/97	—		
		Sh. Prasanna Acharya	—	25/06/98	INR	—
21.	Sundargarh (ST)	Miss. Frida Topno	07/08/97	04/12/97		
		Sh. Jua Oram	—	—	10/11/98	—

Note: First Name is of 11th Lok Sabha MP.

Second Name is of 12th Lok Sabha MP.

50+ Means Unsanctioned balance is more than Rs. 50 Lakhs.

INR Means Complete expenditure information not received.

R Means funds released.

RES Means Resigned.

Statement-II

*Details of Funds Released Under MPLADS for 1st and 11nd Instalments of 1997-98
and 1st and 11nd Instalment of 1998-99 as on 27/11/98*

States: Orissa

Rajya Sabha

S.No.	District Opted	Name of Rajya Sabha MP	(1997-98) Instalment		(1998-99) Instalment	
			1st	11nd	1st	11nd
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

The Present Sitting Member of Rajya Sabha

1.	Sambalpur	Sh. Sanatan Bisi	26/03/98	INR	—	—
2.	Keonjhar	Sh. Rahas Bihari Barik	07/07/97	04/12/97	25/06/98	26/11/98
3.	Nowrangpur	Sh. Bhagaban Majhi	12/09/97	18/03/98	10/11/98	—
4.	Sundargarh	Sh. Dilip Kumar Ray	07/07/97	04/12/97	25/06/98	10/11/98
5.	Sundargarh	Sh. Maurice Kujur	07/07/97	18/03/98	10/11/98	—
6.	Bhadrak	Sh. Ananta Sethi	27/08/97	28/08/98	10/11/98	—
7.	Balasore	Dr. M.N. Dass	—	—	07/09/98	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8.	Jajpur	Sh. Ramachandra Khuntia	—	—	10/11/98	—
9.	Cuttak	Sh. Rangnath Mishra	—	—	07/08/98	—
10.		Miss. Farida Topno	—	—	—	—
The present non-sitting Member of Rajya Sabha						
11.	Rayagada	Smt. ILLA Panda	27/03/98	INR	—	—
12.	Khurda	Sh. Somappa R. Bommai	50+	—	—	—
13.	Cuttack	Sh. Narendra Pradhan	18/03/98	11/06/98	20/05/98	—
					1st	11nd

R Mean funds released.

RES Means Resigned.

T.V. Serials on Tamil Saints

589. SHRI K. KRISHNAMOORTHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the present policy of Government for propogating the life and philosophy of ancient Tamil Saints;

(b) whether proposals from several T.V. Serial producers for giving slots for such television serials are pending in Chennai Doordarshan till now; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to expedite such proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) Prasar Bharati have intimated that programmes are telecast by Doordarshan to propagate the philosophy/teachings of ancient Tamil Saints on their anniversaries.

(b) and (c) Under the New Sponsorship Scheme (NSS), the following serials on the ancient Tamil saints have been approved by Doordarshan Kendra, Chennai:

1. Thamizh Thattha
2. Thiruvalluvar
3. Vallalar
4. Arputha Ramanujar
5. Thiruvirutthithar Thirumoolar
6. Arunagirinathar
7. Vallalar Kanda Orumaipadu
8. Thirumurubatrupalai.

Out of the above serials 'Thamizh Thattha' and 'Thiruvalluvar' have already been telecast from June '96 to August '96 and December '97 to April '98 respectively.

The remaining approved serials are in the second list and will be slotted as and when their turn comes.

Harassment to Indian Women

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

(a) whether there has been numerous reports regarding ill-treatment, harassment and sexual abuse of Indian women, particularly Keralites, who are employed in the Gulf countries as maid servants; and

(b) If so, the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) Immediately on receipt of the complaints, the Indian diplomatic Mission in the concerned country takes up the matter with the sponsors/employers/Indian guarantor, if any, and with their cooperation the employee is repatriated to India at the cost of the employer. In cases where the employer was not traceable or was not cooperative, the maid servants have been repatriated to India at Government cost.

With a view to streamline the employment of maid servants from India in the Gulf countries, following safeguards have been introduced:

- (a) No female worker who is less than 40 years of age is allowed to migrate for work unless her employment documents are attested by the Indian diplomatic Mission/Post in the Gulf countries.
- (b) No female below 40 years of age having a passport with the classification of "Emigration Check Required (ECR)" is granted emigration suspension even for purposes other than employment in Gulf countries unless she produces a sponsorship certificate duly attested by the concerned Indian Mission/Post.
- (c) Certain Indian diplomatic Missions/Posts in the Gulf countries have also devised additional local safeguard measures.

VLPT at Mananthody and HPT at Cannanore in Kerala

591. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(b) whether the work on the proposed VLPT at Mananthody in Wynad District and HPT at Cannanore in Kerala have commenced and completed respectively.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) Whether the Government are aware that some parts of tribal District of Wynad are still not getting the Doordarshan programme telecast from Trivandrum; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure that all parts of Wynad District have access to the programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) and (b) Work for the construction of building at High Power Transmitter (HPT), Cannanore has commenced. The scheme for Very Low Power Transmitter (VLPT) at Mananthody in Wynad District is yet to be sanctioned.

(c) and (d) Low Power Transmitter (LPT), Kalpatta is presently functioning in Wynad District. Parts of District are covered by HPT, Calicut (interim set up). Both HPT, Calicut (interim) and LPT, Kalpatta relay programmes set out from DDK, Trivandrum during regional service time slot. TV service in Wynad District is expected to improve with the commissioning of HPTs under implementation at Cannanore and at Calicut (permanent set up).

New Billing System By MTNL

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

(a) whether MTNL has decided to evolve a new billing system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of mechanism evolved to instantly solve the disputes of over billing etc; and

(d) the time by which this new billing system is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) to (d) To evolve an integrated package, so that all customer related pre-and-post connection issues as also issues relating to billing and accountal are effectively addressed, MTNL is experimenting with a new package called Customer Service Management System (CSMS). Time frame of implementation will depend upon the outcome of experimentation.

Saving Schemes in Post Offices

593. SHRI S.S. OWAISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total deposits made in post offices in Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to introduce some new schemes to attract people to deposit more amount in post offices; and

(c) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Sir, the total deposits made in post offices located at Hyderabad during the last three years are as follows:

Year	Amount (in Rs.)
1995-96	206,82,01,389.40
1996-97	185,68,25,495.98
1997-98	226,27,33,615.59

(b) For the present there is no proposal to introduce a new scheme to attract people to deposit more amount in post offices.

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

Modernisation of Postal Services

594. SHRI D.B. ROY:

SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK:

SHRI C.D. GAMIT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have undertaken any survey to modernise the postal services through the induction of new technology in the rural areas of the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to improve the postal services in the rural areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

Modernisation of post offices involves introduction of computer based counter machines for providing efficient, responsive and speedy transactions for all classes of postal articles through a single window. Secondly, the introduction of technology is with reference to installation of VSAT with a view to expediting transmission of money orders which are mainly destined for rural areas. There are departmental post offices and extra departmental branch offices in the rural areas. Computerisation of the counters is confined to only departmental post offices as extra departmental branch offices stand on another footing. The main benefit of installation of VSAT is targeted, towards remittances of money from major urban centres to rural areas for the rural population. In Uttar Pradesh 7 VSAT and 44 ESMO have been installed and in Karnataka 5 VSATs and 33 ESMO have been installed so far.

Setting up of New TV Relay Centres in Maharashtra

595. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) The number of new TV relay centres set up in Maharashtra during the last three years, location-wise and capacity-wise;

(b) the total number of relay centres at present and their coverage in percentage of total population of Maharashtra;

(c) the total expenditure incurred during the last one year on setting up of new relay centres;

(d) whether a number of relay centres are not functioning properly; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and action taken to improve their quality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) 85 transmitters of varying power (6 HPTs, 69 LPTs, 9 VLPTs, 1 transposer are presently functioning in Maharashtra, giving TV coverage of 86.5% population of Maharashtra.

(c) 4 LPTs at capital cost of about Rs. 97 lakh each and 2 VLPTs at capital cost of about Rs. 83.0 lakh each have been set up in Maharashtra during last one year.

Statement

Locations of TV transmitters commissioned in Maharashtra during last three years (1.1.96 to 26.11.1998):

1. LPT, Mahad
2. LPT, Satara
3. LPT, Tumsar
4. LPT, Umarchad
5. LPT, Mhaple
6. LPT, Nagpur (DD II)
7. LPT, Rajapur
8. LPT, Riased
9. LPT, Aheri
10. LPT, Chandur
11. LPT, Navapur
12. LPT, Shirpur
13. LPT, Sironcha
14. VLPT, Badlapur
15. VLPT, Bhokar
16. VLPT, Khad

17. VLPT, Malkapur

18. VLPT, Malwan

Allocation for Food Processing Industries

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

(a) whether the percentage of allocation of annual outlay in favour of the Food Processing Industries is declining from 0.09% in 1992-93 to 0.04% during 1998-99;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to wind up this Department; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Whereas annual outlay for Food Processing Industries has remained between Rs. 40 to Rs. 47 Crores, the percentage decline from 0.09% to 0.04% during 1992-93 and 1998-99 has occurred on account of increase in the total central sector outlay.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Setting up of Doordarshan Production Centre at Shekhpura

597. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Doordarshan production centre at Shekhpura in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Foreign Equity Participation in Electronic/Print Media

598. SHRI MADAN PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have taken any decision with regard to allowing cent per cent foreign equity participation in electronic and print media;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Media plays an important role in shaping public opinion and influences the country's polity and cultural norms.

Foreign Investment in Agriculture

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

(a) whether the Union Government propose to allow foreign investment in Agricultural sector; and

(b) if so, the details of the joint ventures which have been allowed in the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Foreign direct investment for Agricultural Production through certified high yielding hybrid seeds and synthetic seeds and certified high yielding plantations developed through plant tissue culture are in the category of automatic approval for foreign equity upto 51%. The guidelines for consideration of foreign direct investment proposals by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board in the Ministry of Industry lay down that priority will be accorded to items which have large scale employment potential especially for rural people, and items which have a direct or backward linkages with agrobusiness/farm sector. The Ministry of Agriculture is in favour of allowing foreign direct investment in high-tech areas where there are technology gaps to be addressed in the country for establishing market infrastructure such as post-harvest arrangements and cold chains for storage and transportation.

(b) The details of joint ventures allowed in the agricultural sector during the last three years are as under:

	Total No. of Projects	Amount of FDI approved in US \$ (in Crores)
1	2	3
1995		
1.1.95—31.12.95		
Horticulture	26	0.47
Agriculture	26	1.29
Floriculture	79	2.11
1996		
1.1.96—31.12.96		
Horticulture	20	0.57
Agriculture	14	0.81
Floriculture	31	5.20
1997		
1.1.97—31.12.97		
Horticulture	09	1.97
Agriculture	12	0.80
Floriculture	12	0.13

1	2	3
1998		
1.8.98—31.10.98		
Horticulture	84	3.55
Agriculture	101	3.68
Floriculture	174	8.37

Setting up of Film and Television Institutes

600. SHRI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Film and Television Institutes in the country and the location thereof;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up additional number of such institutes during the Ninth Plan period; and

(c) if so, the places identified for setting up new films and television institutes, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) Presently, there are two Film and Television Institutes in the country; namely (i) Film and Television Institute of India, Pune and (ii) Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Calcutta.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

New Agriculture Technology

601. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government for effective transfer of the newly developed technology to farmers of Rajasthan which has been developed by scientists in India and abroad in agriculture field;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether field demonstration is being organised and training imparted to the farmers in the State by the Government and Agriculture Universities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures being taken by the Government to increase the production of foodgrains in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have established 31 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in Rajasthan. Their activities include vocational skill-based training to farmers, in-service training of extension personnel to update their knowledge, on-farm testing and front-line demonstrations on various agricultural technologies. In

addition, two Centres for Technology Assessment and Refinement through Institution Village Linkage Programme (IVLP) and 7 Centres for Technology Evaluation and Impact Assessment are also being implemented for effective transfer of newly developed technology on location-specific basis.

The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) through their Directorate of Extension facilitates transfer of technology efforts in the State through information support programme, including exhibitions, agricultural films, print and electronic media.

(c) and (d) In order to demonstrate the production potentials of important oilseed and pulse crops, the KVKs have conducted 1719 field demonstrations in 801 hectares during the year 1997. A total of 1220 training programmes have been organized benefitting 34050 farmers in various areas of crop production, livestock production, fruits and vegetables cultivation, use of farm machinery and tools under both rainfed and irrigated conditions.

(e) During the 9th Five Year Plan, the functioning of 31 KVKs, 2 Centres for Technology Assessment and Refinement through Institution Village Linkage Programme (IVLP), 7 Centres for Technology Evaluation and Impact Assessment will continue to benefit the farmers in Rajasthan. Besides, new project will be taken up for the establishment of Agricultural Technology Information Centres (ATICs) to provide single window support system, linking various research departments with different users in decision making and problem solving exercise.

Internet Facility in M.P.

602. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of cities connected with 'Internet' in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the number of persons and agencies registered themselves for availing the said facility during the last three years;

(c) the name of the companies providing Internet facility in the State and whether these companies are in the public sector or private sector;

(d) the amount to be deposited for availing the facility and the rates charged in this regard;

(e) whether these rates are fixed by the Union Government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) As per attached statement-I.

(b) 2356.

(c) As on date, only Department of Telecom, Govt. of India is providing Internet service to the Public in Madhya Pradesh.

(d) The details of the tariff charged by Department of Telecom are at Statement-II. The tariff for usage of Internet services has been fixed with the approval of TRAI.

(e) As above.

(f) As above.

Statement-I

S. No.	SSA	Station
1	2	3
1.	Balaghat	Baihar
2.	Balaghat	Balaghat
3.	Balaghat	Katangli
4.	Balaghat	Waraseoni
5.	Balaghat	Rajogaon
6.	Balaghat	Laiburra
7.	Bastar	Akashnagar
8.	Bastar	Basheli
9.	Bastar	Bastar
10.	Bastar	Charama
11.	Bastar	Dantewada
12.	Bastar	Jagdapur
13.	Bastar	Kanker
14.	Bastar	Kirandul
15.	Bastar	Kondagaon
16.	Bastar	Tonkapal
17.	Bastar	Korar
18.	Bastar	Keshkal
19.	Bastar	Antagarh
20.	Bastar	Bijapur
21.	Bastar	Naraiyanpur
22.	Bastar	Pakhanjore
23.	Bastar	Narharpur
24.	Betul	Betul
25.	Betul	Betulbazar
26.	Betul	Sarni
27.	Betul	Pathekheda
28.	Betul	Shahpur
29.	—	—

1	2	3	1	2	3
30.	—	—	65.	Bilaspur	Pali
31.	Bhopal	Bungu	66.	Bilaspur	Mungell
32.	Bhopal	Misrod	67.	Bilaspur	Lormi
33.	Bhopal	Parwalia	68.	Bilaspur	Pamgarh
34.	Bhopal	Adampur	69.	Bilaspur	Kargi Road
35.	Bhopal	Bukhisewania	70.	Bilaspur	Koni
36.	Bhopal	Ratbar	71.	Chhatarpur	Chhatarpur
37.	Bhopal	Nebrullaganj	72.	Chhatarpur	Khajuraho
38.	Bhopal	Kajauri Sadak	73.	Chhatarpur	Nowgong
39.	Bhopal	Barkhedl	74.	Chhatarpur	Tikamgarh
40.	Bhopal	Ashta	75.	Chhatarpur	Niwari
41.	Bhopal	Budhni	76.	Chhindwara	Pratappura
42.	Bhopal	Sehore	77.	Chhindwara	Chhindwara
43.	Bhopal	Ichhawar	78.	Chhindwara	Pandurna
44.	—	—	79.	Chhindwara	Parasia
45.	—	—	80.	Chhindwara	Linga
46.	—	—	81.	Chhindwara	Amarwara
47.	Bilaspur	Balco	82.	Chhindwara	Harra
48.	Bilaspur	Bilaspur	83.	Chhindwara	Borgaon
49.	Bilaspur	Bilha	84.	Chhindwara	Rohankala
50.	Bilaspur	Chakrebhata	85.	Chhindwara	Sausar
51.	Bilaspur	Champa	86.	Damoh	Damoh
52.	Bilaspur	Darri	87.	Damoh	Hatta
53.	Bilaspur	Dabhra	88.	Damoh	Narsinghgarh
54.	Bilaspur	Gevraproject	89.	Damoh	Patharia
55.	Bilaspur	Baloda	90.	Damoh	Tendukheda
56.	Bilaspur	Gondadih	91.	Damoh	Batlagarh
57.	Bilaspur	Sakti	92.	Dewas	Bagli
58.	Bilaspur	Korba	93.	Dewas	Dewas
59.	Bilaspur	Takhatpur	94.	Dewas	Kannod
60.	Bilaspur	Naila	95.	Dewas	Kshipra
61.	Bilaspur	Masturi	96.	Dewas	Khategaon
62.	Bilaspur	Pendra Road	97.	Dewas	Sonkatch
63.	Bilaspur	Katghora	98.	Dewas	Agrod
64.	Bilaspur	Kusmunda	99.	Dewas	TonkKhurd

1	2	3	1	2	3
100.	Dewas	Bhorasa	135.	Durg	Mohla
101.	Dewas	Hatpipalia	136.	Durg	Rajnandgaon
102.	Dhar	Badnawar	137.	—	—
103.	Dhar	Bagdoon	138.	—	—
104.	Dhar	Bandedi	139.	—	—
105.	Dhar	Dhamnood	140.	Guna	Mungaoli
106.	—	—	141.	Guna	Shadora
107.	—	—	142.	Gwallor	Datia
108.			143.	Gwallor	Indergarh
109.	Dhar	Kanwan	144.	Gwallor	Sonagiri
110.	Dhar	Rajgarh	145.	Gwallor	Seonda
111.	Dhar	Mandu	146.	Gwallor	Dabra
112.	Dhar	Kukshi	147.	Gwallor	Gwallor
113.	Dhar	Manawar	148.	Gwallor	Baretha
114.	Dhar	Khalghat	149.	Gwallor	Ghatigaon
115.	Dhar	Dharampuri	150.	Gwallor	Tekanpur
116.	Dhar	Tirra	151.	Gwallor	Milowali
117.	Durg	Balod	152.	Gwallor	Bhander
118.	Durg	Borai	153.	Gwallor	Bhitarwar
119.	Durg	Dallirajhra	154.	Gwallor	Ratwai
120.	Durg	Durg	155.	Gwallor	Pachhore
121.	—	—	156.	Gwallor	Bitholi
122.	—	—	157.	Hoshangabad	Babai
123.	—	—	158.	Hoshangabad	Banapura
124.	Durg	Kawardha	159.	Hoshangabad	Harda
125.	Durg	Anda	160.	Hoshangabad	Hoshangabad
126.	Durg	Bemetra	161.	Hoshangabad	Itarsi
127.	Durg	Dondlithara	162.	Hoshangabad	ORD. Factory
128.	Durg	Charonda	163.	Hoshangabad	Piparia
129.	Durg	Dhamdha	164.	Hoshangabad	Timarni
130.	Durg	Utai	165.	Hoshangabad	Khirkhiya
131.	Durg	Gurur	166.	Hoshangabad	Temagaon
132.	Durg	Patan	167.	Hoshangabad	Kesla
133.	Durg	Ambagarhoho	168.	Indore	Depalpur
134.	Durg	Dongargarh	169.	Indore	Dhudhya

1	2	3	1	2	3
170.	Indore	Bicholihabsi	205.	Jabalpur	Gadaripri
171.	Indore	Bicholimardana	206.	Jabalpur	Sukha
172.	Indore	Dakachia	207.	Jabalpur	Pandariya
173.	Indore	Gautampura	208.	Jabalpur	Gosalpur
174.	Indore	Indore	209.	Jhabua	Jhabua
175.	Indore	Jawahartekri	210.	Jhabua	Meghnagar
176.	Indore	Kanadia	211.	Jhabua	Thandla
177.	Indore	Lusudhya	212.	Jhabua	Petlawad
178.	Indore	Mhow	213.	Khandwa	Burhanpur
179.	Indore	Rau	214.	Khandwa	Khandwa
180.	Indore	Sanwer	215.	Khandwa	Pandhana
181.	Indore	Tejainagar	216.	Khandwa	Nepanagar
182.	Indore	Sagroth	217.	Khandwa	Doiphodia
183.	Indore	Harsolia	218.	Khandwa	Chhagaon Makan
184.	Indore	Sonwai	219.	Khandwa	Shahpur
185.	Indore	Hatod	220.	Khandwa	Bir
186.	Indore	Mangalla	221.	Khargone	Sendhwa
187.	Indore	Attaheda	222.	Khargone	Anjad
188.	Indore	Dharpuri	223.	Khargone	Panwa
189.	Indore	Betma	224.	Khargone	Barwani
190.	Indore	Jamli	225.	Khargone	Kasrawad
191.	Jabalpur	Barginagar	226.	Khargone	Gogaon
192.	Jabalpur	Bheraghat	227.	Khargone	Mandleshwar
193.	Jabalpur	Barela	228.	Khargone	Maheshwar
194.	Jabalpur	Jabalpur	229.	Khargone	Barwaha
195.	Jabalpur	Katngi	230.	Khargone	Bedia
196.	Jabalpur	Katni	231.	Khargone	Khargone
197.	Jabalpur	Kundam	232.	Khargone	Sanawad
198.	Jabalpur	Kymore	233.	Khargone	Bistan
199.	Jabalpur	Manegaon	234.	Mandla	Dindori
200.	Jabalpur	Panagar	235.	Mandla	Mandla
201.	Jabalpur	Patan	236.	Mandla	Maneri
202.	Jabalpur	Shahpura	237.	Mandla	Shahpura
203.	Jabalpur	Sihora	238.	Mandla	Kanha
204.	Jabalpur	Suhagi	239.	Mandla	Sitmau

1	2	3	1	2	3
240.	Mandsaur	Dalaudamandi	275.	Narsinghpur	Salichouka
241.	Mandsaur	Garoth	276.	Narsinghpur	Berman
242.	Mandsaur	Kakaria	277.	Panna	Amanganj
243.	Mandsaur	Suwasra	278.	Panna	Gunnore
244.	Mandsaur	Mandsaur	279.	Panna	Panna
245.	Mandsaur	Rampura	280.	Panna	Pawai
246.	Mandsaur	Pipallamandi	281.	Raigarh	Raigarh
247.	Mandsaur	Jawad	282.	Raigarh	Parhelgaon
248.	Mandsaur	Manasa	283.	Raigarh	Kunkuri
249.	Mandsaur	Neemuch	284.	Raigarh	Dharamjaigarh
250.	Mandsaur	Shamgarh	285.	Raigarh	Sarang Garh
251.	Mandsaur	Sarwania-Maharaj	286.	Raigarh	Kharsia
252.	Mandsaur	Kukdeswar	287.	Raigarh	Jasipur Nagar
253.	Mandsaur	Degaomali	288.	Raigarh	Ghargoda
254.	Mandsaur	Dikkan	289.	Raipur	Abhanpur
255.	Morena	Bhind	290.	Raipur	Arang
256.	Morena	Gohad	291.	Raipur	Bagbahara
257.	Morena	Sheopurkalan	292.	Raipur	Balodabazar
258.	Morena	Bljajpur	293.	Raipur	Raipur
259.	Morena	Sabalgarh	294.	Raipur	Saraipalli
260.	Morena	Malanpur	295.	Raipur	Deobhog
261.	Morena	Kaitaras	296.	Raipur	Sikara
262.	Morena	Umrail	297.	Raipur	Hirmi
263.	Morena	Jora	298.	Raipur	Simga
264.	Morena	Morena	299.	Raipur	Kasdol
265.	Morena	Ambah	300.	Raipur	Basna
266.	Morena	Mehgaon	301.	Raipur	Mahasamund
267.	Morena	Banmore	302.	Raipur	Pallari
268.	Morena	Porsa	303.	Raipur	Mainpur
269.	Morena	Lahar	304.	Raipur	Kharora
270.	Narsinghpur	Gadarwara	305.	Raipur	Neoratilda
271.	Narsinghpur	Gotegaon	306.	Raipur	Bhatapara
272.	Narsinghpur	Kareli	307.	Raipur	Dhamtari
273.	Narsinghpur	Narsinghpur	308.	Raipur	Kurud
274.	Narsinghpur	Salikheda	309.	Raipur	Fingeshwar

1	2	3	1	2	3
310.	Raipur	Rajim	345.	Sagar	Dhana
311.	Raipur	Nandirhasud	346.	Sarguja	Ambikapur
312.	Raipur	Pithaura	347.	Sarguja	Baikunthpur
313.	Raisen	Bangrasia	348.	Sarguja	Chirimiri
314.	Raisen	Gairatganj	349.	Sarguja	Manendragarh
315.	Raisen	Mandideep	350.	Sarguja	Rajpur
316.	Raisen	Obedullaganj	351.	Sarguja	Ramanulganj
317.	Raisen	Raisen	352.	Sarguja	Surajpur
318.	Raisen	Sanchi	353.	Sarguja	Amarkantak
319.	Raisen	Baroli	354.	Sarguja	Balrampur
320.	Rajgarh	Blaora	355.	Satna	Amarpatan
321.	Rajgarh	Kurawar	356.	Satna	Chitrakoot
322.	Rajgarh	Khilchipur	357.	Satna	Jaitwara
323.	Rajgarh	Narsinghgarh	358.	Satna	Maihar
324.	Rajgarh	Rajgarh	359.	Satna	Nagod
325.	Rajgarh	Pachore	360.	Satna	Rampurbaghelan
326.	Rajgarh	Zeerapur	361.	Satna	Satna
327.	Rajgarh	Padliyamata	362.	Satna	Segmania
328.	Rajgarh	Sarangpur	363.	Satna	Bamori
329.	Ratlam	Jaora	364.	Seoni	Seoni
330.	Ratlam	Ratlam	365.	Shahdol	Anuppur
331.	Ratlam	Sailana	366.	Shahdol	Beohari
332.	Rewa	Gangeo	367.	Shahdol	Dhanpuri
333.	Rewa	Mangawan	368.	Shahdol	Kotma
334.	Rewa	Naubasta	369.	Shahdol	Jaithari
335.	Rewa	Rewa	370.	Shahdol	Shahdol
336.	Rewa	Mauganj	371.	Shahdol	Umaria (Band)
337.	Rewa	Rypkarchuliya	372.	Shahdol	Neorojabad
338.	Sagar	Chanatoria	373.	Shajapur	Agarmalwa
339.	Sagar	Garhakota	374.	Shajapur	Berchha
340.	Sagar	Rahatgarh	375.	Shajapur	Maksi
341.	Sagar	Rehli	376.	Shajapur	Shajapur
342.	Sagar	Sagar	377.	Shajapur	Shujatpur
343.	Sagar	Bina	378.	Shajapur	Kalappal
344.	Sagar	Khurai	379.	Shajapur	Akodia

1	2	3	
380.	Shivpuri	Karera	(A) <i>Terminal Dial up service</i>
381.	Shivpuri	Pichore	(i) Registration fee (one time, non-refundable) Rs. 500
382.	Shivpuri	Shivpuri	(ii) Annual (or 500 hours which ever is early) Usage Charge Rs. 5000
383.	Shivpuri	Khaniyadhana	(iii) Pass word alteration/re-introduction fee (each time) Rs. 100
384.	Shivpuri	Kolaras	
385.	Shivpuri	Hatod	(B) <i>TCP/IP Service (dial up)</i>
386.	Shivpuri	Pohari	(i) Registration fee (one time non-refundable) Rs. 500
387.	Shivpuri	Sesai	(ii) Annual (or 500 hours whichever is early) Usage charge Rs. 5000
388.	Sidhi	Churhat	(iii) Pass word alteration/re-introduction fee Rs. 100 (each time)
389.	Sidhi	Sidhi	
390.	Sidhi	Singrauli	Note: For dial up services, Registration fee and Usage charges are leviable at the time of registration. Usage charges are not refundable once deposited.
391.	Sidhi	Vindhya Nagar	(C) <i>Leased Line Service</i>
392.	Sidhi	Nigahi	(i) Registration fee (one time non-refundable)
393.	Sidhi	Jayant	2.4 kbps Rs. 15,000
394.	Sidhi	Waldhan	9.2 kbps Rs. 15,000
395.	Ujjain	Badnagar	64 kbps Rs. 20,000
396.	Ujjain	Ghatia	(ii) Annual Usage charge (unlimited use)
397.	Ujjain	Jaithal	Software Exporters/100% EOU*
398.	Ujjain	Khachrod	General
399.	Ujjain	Nagda	2.4 kbps Rs. 1.5 lakhs Rs. 1.2 Lakhs
400.	Ujjain	Tarana	9.6 kbps Rs. 6.0 lakhs Rs. 4.8 Lakhs
401.	Ujjain	Ujjain	64 kbps Rs. 12.0 lakhs Rs. 9.6 Lakhs
402.	Ujjain	Ghonsala	*—With Annual export turn-over of above US \$ 1,00,000
403.	Vidisha	Ganjbasoda	(iii) Leased line charges will be same as applicable to point-to-point data circuit charge of similar capacity.
404.	Vidisha	Vidisha	(iv) <i>Installation and testing charges.</i>
405.	Vidisha	Khamkhera	2.4 to 9.6 kbps access service = Rs. 2,000
406.	Vidisha	Sironj	64 kbps access service = Rs. 10,000
407.	Vidisha	Nateran	Note: (i) For 64 kbps connection, recognised educational institutions will be charged Rs. 4 lakh p.a. as annual usage charge. (For 9.6 kbps and lower speeds, rates would be indicated after obtaining the same from VSNL)

Statement-II

Copy of the letter No. 111—1/95—PHC Dated—8.8.96

Subject—*Tariff for Internet Services*

1. Reference is invited to this office letter of even number dated 26th July, 1996 regarding launch of Internet Service from Lucknow.

2. It has been decided that the tariff for the services will be same as VSNL tariff. Accordingly following tariff may be made applicable to the services:

- (ii) At the time of registration only registration fee is leviable.
- (iii) Registration fee for leased connections is refundable only in the following case:
- (a) Service being non-feasible
- (b) Subscriber surrenders the registration before issue of demand note.
- (D) Minimum period of hire:
- (i) One year (though VSNL have kept it as one month's notice) in the case of leased connections.
- (ii) In the case of dial up connections it would be one year or 500 hours whichever is earlier.
3. The application form detailing commercial conditions is being sent separately.
4. The billing data will be transferred on the internet link from VSNL node New Delhi to Lucknow node till a server is installed at Lucknow. However, payments have to be taken in advance in respect of registration deposit, usage charge, installation and testing charge.

5. The subscribers may be informed of the tariff while issuing the application forms. For this purpose a separate tariff card may please be prepared.

Copy of the letter No. 111-1/95-PHC Dated 12.8.96

Subject—*Tariff for Internet Service—Corrigendum.*

Reference is invited to this office letter of even number dated 8th August, 1996.

2. Item 2(B) (ii) which specifies Annual Usage Charge at Rs. 5000 due to typographical error may be modified to read as; Annual (or 500 hours whichever is earlier) Usage Charge Rs. 15,000.

Copy of the Letter No. 111-1/95-PHC Vol. II)

Subject—*Reduction in Tariff for usage of Internet Services.*

The Deptt. of Telecommunications had made a proposal before TRAI for reduction in the tariff of Internet TCP/IP dial up services. The proposal of DOT has been accepted by TRAI provisionally.

2. Accordingly following usage tariff for TCP/IP dial up services will be applicable for the connection provided on or:

Type of Plans	Duration for one year	Existing Tariff (Rs.)	New Tariff (Rs.)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Plan—I	100 Hours	—	3,000
Plan—II	250 Hours	—	6,500
Plan—III	500 Hours	15,000	10,000

Incremental subscription in steps of 20 hrs. each at a rate of Rs. 30 per hrs.

Subscriber desiring to have incremental subscription may make an application on a plain paper.

Remaining instructions on this subject will apply without change.

Copy of the letter No. 111/1/95—PHC dated 16.3.98

Subject—*Concessional Internet access service for students.*

Reference is invited to this office letter of even number dated the 8th August, 1996 vide which tariff for Internet service was conveyed.

2. It has now been decided to extend concessional Internet access Service for students as per the following tariff at all Internet nodes.

Name of service: 2.4 kbps Terminal Dialup Service

Registration Fee

Nil

Annual (or 500 hours whichever is earlier) usage charge Rs. 500/-

Password alternation/reintroduction fee Rs. 100/- each time

3. Students of Class XI and above can avail this service by registering in the prescribed form. Verification of the bonafides of students will be done from certificate signed by the Principal or Head of the recognised academic (noncommercial) institution to the effect that the person concerned is a full time student of the said institution and is likely to remain a student for the academic year. The certificate should mention identity card number of the student issued by that institution and the Government/authority by whom the institution itself recognised. Such certificate will be required at every renewal of the subscription of Internet Service.

Copy of the letter No. 111/1/95—(Vol. II) dated 3.7.98

Subject—*Reduction of tariff for Internet leased line ports.*

512 kbps	36.0	26.0
1 Mbps	60.0	43.0
2 Mbps	100.0	72.0

In order to promote Internet services as well as software exports and based on the Government's decisions in this regard, the tariff for Internet leased line ports of various capacities have been reviewed and it has been decided to fix the annual tariff as follows:

Speed of Port	Annual charges (Rs. in Lakh)	
	Existing	Revised
2.4 kbps	1.5	1.1
9.6 kbps	6.0	4.5
64 kbps	12.0	8.0
128 kbps	18.0	13.0
256 kbps	25.0	18.0

Installation and testing charges of Rs. 10,000/- as applicable for 64 kbps port will also be applicable to date rates up to 2 Mbps.

Tariff for leased ports for recognised educational institutions/organisations/newspapers/news agencies for 64 kbps port will continue to be Rs. 4 lacs per annum. However, for higher speeds, Nx64 kbps tariff becomes higher than the promotional tariff of the same port speed, lower of the two shall be charged.

The existing concession of 20% to software exporters and to 100% EOUs will continue to be applicable on the new tariffs

For leased lines to promote Internet Service and software exporters the tariff for leased lines has been fixed as below:

Name of Circuit	Chargeable Distance	Tariff per Annum	
		Existing	Revised
1	2	3	4
64 kbps	Upto 50 kms	Rs. 1,87,500	Rs. 1,50,000
	51—100 kms	Rs. 2,25,000	Rs. 1,80,000
	101—200 kms	Rs. 3,43,750	Rs. 2,75,000
	201—1000 kms	Rs. 1,125 per km subject to a minimum of Rs. 3.75 lakhs	Rs. 900/- per km subject to a minimum of Rs. 3.0 lakhs
	Beyond 1000 kms	Rs. 11.25 lakhs ⊕ Rs. 562.50 per km subject to max. of 1500 kms (Rs. 14,06,250)	Rs. 9.0 lakhs + ⊕ Rs. 450/- per km subject to max. of 1500 kms (Rs. 11, 25,000)
2 mbps	Upto 50 kms	Rs. 15.0 lakhs	Rs. 12.0 lakhs
	51—100 kms	Rs. 20.00 lakhs	Rs. 16.0 lakhs
	101—200 kms	Rs. 30.00 lakhs	Rs. 24.0 lakhs
	201—1000 kms	Rs. 5,375/- per km subject to minimum of Rs. 37.51 lakhs	Rs. 4,300/- per km subject to a minimum of Rs. 30.0 lakhs
	Beyond 1000 kms	Rs. 53.75 lakhs + ⊕ Rs. 2687.50 per km. subject to max. of 1500 kms (Rs. 67,18,750)	Rs. 43.00 lakhs + ⊕ 2150 per km subject to a max. of 1500 kms (Rs. 53,75,000)

This revised tariff would be applicable w.e.f. 1.1.98.
This issues with the concurrence of TRAI.

*[English]***Vacant Posts of SCs/STs**

603. SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of class I, II and III posts earmarked for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes quota lying vacant and those manned by non-scheduled personnel as on October 1, 1998 for over a year; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to fill up these posts with SC/ST incumbents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE): (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Instructions already exist which provide for ban or de-reservation of reserved vacancies in direct recruitment and temporary diversion of unfilled reserved vacancies in promotion quota to direct recruitment quota and extended zone of consideration for promotion. In addition, instructions have also been issued from time to time emphasising the need to ensure timely filling up of the posts by making second attempt for recruitment if the first attempt to effect recruitment fails.

State Information Minister's Conference

604. SHRI M. BAGA REDDY : Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Information Minister's Conference was held in New Delhi on September 1, 1998;

(b) if so, the details of subjects discussed in the Conference and recommendations made therein;

(c) the number of delegates from each State who attended the Conference; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to implement the recommendations?

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

(b) to (d) The subject discussed during the conference inter alia include the development of existing infrastructure of AIR and Doordarshan, issues relating to vulgarity and violence on the small screen and enforcement of Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act, special attention to North Eastern and other sensitive regions bordering foreign countries by Prasar Bharti, Prasar Bharati as a Public service broadcaster, publicity of State Governments programmes through All India Radio and Doordarshan and time slots for State Governments for this

purpose, industry status to Film production, rationalisation to Entertainment Tax, transfer of Cinema from State List to Concurrent List, De-Blocking of long pending newspaper titles. etc. The number of participants, final recommendations and action taken thereon are given in statement I and II respectively.

Statement-I*List of States And Union Territories*

Name of the State	No of Delegates
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	4
Arunachal Pradesh	1
Assam	3
Bihar	5
Goa	3
Gujrat	6
Haryana	5
Himachal Pradesh	4
Jammu & Kashmir	3
Karnataka	2
Kerala	1
Madhya Pradesh	2
Maharashtra	2
Manipur	2
Meghalaya	3
Mizoram	1
Nagaland	3
Orissa	2
Punjab	3
Rajasthan	3
Sikkim	1
Tamil Nadu	3
Tripura	2
Uttar Pradesh	3
West Bengal	3
Andaman & Nicobar	2
Chandigarh	4
Delhi	5

Statement-II

Recommendation	Action Taken
1	2
1. The places/locations indicated by States/UTs for setting up VLPTs/LPTs/HPTs/DDKs radio stations etc. would be compiled and would be given special consideration while undertaking future expansion programmes	Such requests from States/UTs are compiled and sent to Prasar Bharati on regular basis. Prasar Bharati has taken note of the requirement of States/U.Ts., for due consideration within the constraints of overall resources.
2. Uplinking from Indian soil to be made mandatory to make Satellite Channels adhere to Indian rules in order to control vulgarity in the small screen.	The suggestion has been noted. This would be examined while formulating the Broadcasting Bill.
3. North Eastern and other sensitive region bordering foreign countries would continue to receive special attention by Prasar Bharati.	Prasar Bharati continues to accommodate special requirements of such regions.
4. Prasar Bharati would continue to function as public service broadcasting organisation.	Prasar Bharati has been functioning as public service broadcaster.
5. State Government would write to Prasar Bharati about their publicity requirements and need for time slots etc.	Prasar Bharati has been receiving such requests from State Govts from time to time which are accommodated to the extent possible within the constraints of over all resources and availability of slots.
6. States would consider granting Industry status to Film production.	Action to be initiated by the State Government.
7. The proposal to transfer Cinema from the State List to the Concurrent list would be put on hold, however, in the meantime the State Governments would reconsider the proposal.	The proposal has since been kept in abeyance till the State Governments reconsider the same.
8. The Newspaper/Periodical titles has been verified for a long time has not commenced publications would be deblocked to enable genuine publishers titles of their own choice.	A number of advertisements have since been issued in the form of public notice addressing such intended publishers who have blocked the titles for long, and seeking reason why the titles held by them should not be deblocked as they have not commenced publications over a long period. The last date for submission of such representation was 31.10.1998. Only 553 representations have been received. All the titles except those registered with RNI and also those in respect of which representations have been received, will be treated as deblocked and would be available for allotment to the new applicant.

*[Translation]***Illegal STD/ISD Facilities**

695. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to states.

(a) whether the Government have detected any cases regarding providing illegal STD/ISD facilities by manipulating computer readings in Uttar Pradesh causing loss of crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the steps being contemplated by the Government to check the recurrence of such incidents in future; and

(c) the action taken against the persons found guilty in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) Yes Sir, some cases have been detected regarding fraudulent use of STD/ISD facility in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) Instructions have been reiterated to all field units to provide STD/ISD facility strictly as per DOT instructions. Now a days STD/ISD facilities, are provided from Digital Exchanges only, Control of STD/ISD facility in such Exchanges is with subscribers only with the help of four digit secret code, Subscribers are also advised not to let any one know the secret code and keep on changing it frequently to maintain its secrecy.

(2) Instructions have also been issued for regular threshold monitoring of subscribers and TAX junctions to detect long duration calls.

(3) Instructions for effective password management in the Exchange have again been reiterated.

(c) Investigations by Departmental Vigilance/police have been taken up. Action will be taken against the officials found guilty as per rules.

Lifting of Sanctions

606. SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN :

SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK :

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India took strong exception of the "discriminatory decision" of the United States in lifting economic sanctions against Pakistan in comparison to India;

(b) if so, whether Indian Government has lodged its protest to US Government for discriminatory treatment; and

(c) If so, the reaction of United States in this regard?

MINISTER OF STATES IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) In partial exercise of waiver authority given by the US Congress, US Government has decided to lift restrictive measures, imposed on India and Pakistan, related to assistance through the EXIM Bank, Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) and the Trade Development Authority (TDA) in addition to resumption of International Military Education & Training Programme (IMET). USG also announced support to an IMF Programme in Pakistan in response to Pakistani financial emergency.

India has always maintained that unilateral and restrictive economic measures are unjustified and counter-productive and should be lifted.

India has nothing against economic assistance to Pakistan and has consistently voted in the World Bank and other forums in favour of such assistance. India, however, does not agree with selective and discriminatory approach in this regard.

(b) The issue of resuming non-basic human needs financing from the World Bank and other multilateral financial institutions has been taken up with the US Government authorities as it contrary to the purposes and charter of these development organisations.

(c) USG have stated their view that the decision to seek support from multilateral development banks for an IMF programme in Pakistan is in response only to the Pakistani financial emergency and does not constitute lifting of all restrictions.

MPLADS

607. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

SHRI VITHAL TUPE :

SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :

SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the attention of the Union Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Sansad Kehestra Viskash Scheme Ki Adhi Rashi Hi Kharch Huyee" appearing in the "Dainik Jagaran" dated August 17, 1998;

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

(c) the details of funds released/actually spent under the scheme during the last five years, Statewise;

(d) the reasons for not spending the released amount;

(e) whether the concerned State Governments have returned the unused funds to the Union Government; and

(f) if so, the details of such funds and if not, the reasons thereof?

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

(b) to (d) The release of funds by the Government of India, issue of sanctions to implement works and the actual expenditure under the Scheme is a continuous process. Normally, the works are sanctioned by the Collectors after the release of funds by the Government of India. The expenditure takes place once the works are sanctioned. There will, therefore, always be a time lag between the release of funds, issue of sanctions and the actual expenditure. The above process is also subject to the initiative taken by the MP in recommending works.

An amount of Rs. 3208.38 crore has been released from inception of the scheme on 23.12.93 till 31.10.98 by the Government of India under the Scheme out of which 80% of the amount is reported to have been sanctioned while the actual expenditure is 60.3% of the funds released. The Statewise funds released, amount sanctioned and the actual expenditure is given in the statement attached.

(e) and (f) The funds released by the Government of India under the Scheme are non-lapsable and non-refundable.

Statement
Statement for Release/Expenditure of LS and RS MP's (as on 31/10/98)

Name of State/UTs	1993-99				
	Release by G.O.I (Rs. Lakhs)	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. Lakhs)	% Sanction over Release	Expenditure Incurred (Rs. Lakhs)	% Utilisation Over Release
1. Andhra Pradesh	24995.0	20561	82.3	14948.5	59.8
2. Arunachal Pradesh	1265.0	1022.1	80.8	785.6	62.1
3. Assam	8305.0	6474.1	78.0	4993.3	60.1
4. Bihar	31760.0	25673	80.8	21402.2	67.4
5. Goa	1165.0	641.5	55.1	610.2	52.4
6. Gujarat	15285.0	10728	70.2	6523.3	42.7
7. Haryana	6075.0	5323.2	87.6	4394.1	72.3
8. Himachal Pradesh	2885.0	2330.3	80.8	1521.7	52.7
9. J & K	1800.0	753.5	41.9	513.8	28.5
10. Karnataka	17650.0	13825	78.3	10223.0	57.9
11. Kerala	11995.0	9740.8	81.2	6339.7	52.9
12. Madhya Pradesh	23925.0	21093	88.2	16112.7	67.3
13. Maharashtra	29533.5	24866	84.2	16692.7	56.5
14. Manipur	1515.0	1133.6	74.8	1055.8	69.7
15. Meghalaya	1215.0	570.9	47.0	493.8	40.6
16. Mizoram	910.0	710.0	78.0	708.7	77.9
17. Nagaland	910.0	810.0	89.0	810.0	89.0
18. Orissa	12400.0	9908.5	79.9	6658.9	53.7
19. Punjab	8105.0	5369.8	66.3	4404.3	54.3
20. Rajasthan	14325.0	11529	80.5	7676.0	53.6
21. Sikkim	760.0	696.7	91.7	545.8	71.8
22. Tamil Nadu	24335.0	19483	80.1	16440.6	67.6
23. Tripura	965.0	739.8	76.7	535.7	55.5
24. Uttar Pradesh	51295.0	41633	81.2	34449.0	67.2
25. West Bengal	20785.0	15763	75.8	11480.1	55.2
26. A & N Islands	305.0	157.8	51.7	132.7	43.5
27. Chandigarh	455.0	283.5	62.3	246.1	54.1
28. D & N Haveli	455.0	403.5	88.7	242.8	53.4
29. Daman & Diu	455.0	363.0	79.8	276.8	60.8
30. Delhi	4045.0	3225.1	79.7	2160.0	53.4
31. Lakshdweep	305.0	229.4	75.2	22.3	7.3
32. Pondicherry	660.0	538.5	81.6	117.9	17.9
Grand Total	320838.5	258577.3	80.0	193518.0	60.3

Statement for Release/Expenditure of LS MP's (as on 31/10/98)

Name of State/UTs	1993-99				
	Release by G.O.I (Rs. Lakhs)	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. Lakhs)	% Sanction over Release	Expenditure Incurred (Rs. Lakhs)	% Utilisation Over Release
1. Andhra Pradesh	17455.0	14703	84.2	10630.1	60.9
2. Arunachal Pradesh	760.0	619.5	81.5	440.1	57.9
3. Assam	5270.0	4163.2	79.0	3303.1	62.7
4. Bihar	22560.0	18690	82.8	15607.6	69.2
5. Goa	860.0	602.4	70.0	597.0	69.4
6. Gujarat	11180.0	8121.2	72.6	4816.2	43.1
7. Haryana	4000.0	3359.4	84.0	2825.5	70.6
8. Himachal Pradesh	1520.0	1225.3	80.6	802.5	52.8
9. J & K	1100.0	508.3	46.2	372.9	33.9
10. Karnataka	12290.0	9872.4	80.3	7135.4	58.1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11.	Kerala	8500.0	7058.5	83.0	4546.2	53.5
12.	Madhya Pradesh	17495.0	15719	89.8	12224.4	69.9
13.	Maharashtra	20980.0	18049	86.0	12126.3	57.8
14.	Manipur	1010.0	729.8	72.3	710.8	70.4
15.	Meghalaya	780.0	454.8	59.8	377.7	49.7
16.	Mizoram	455.0	355.0	78.0	355.0	78.0
17.	Nagaland	455.0	405.0	89.0	405.0	89.0
18.	Orissa	8300.0	6718.0	80.9	4666.5	56.2
19.	Punjab	4865.0	3515.4	72.3	2950.3	60.6
20.	Rajasthan	10275.0	8619.8	83.9	5943.9	57.8
21.	Sikkim	405.0	405.2	100.0	277.4	68.5
22.	Tamil Nadu	16195.0	13132	81.1	11071.0	68.4
23.	Tripura	610.0	435.1	71.3	356.0	58.4
24.	Uttar Pradesh	36075.0	29545	81.9	24945.9	69.2
25.	West Bengal	15405.0	11919	77.4	8589.4	55.8
26.	A & N Islands	305.0	157.8	51.7	132.7	43.5
27.	Chandigarh	455.0	283.5	62.3	246.1	54.1
28.	D & N Haveli	455.0	403.5	88.7	242.8	53.4
29.	Daman & Diu	455.0	363.0	79.8	276.8	60.8
30.	Delhi	2780.0	2469.2	88.8	1610.6	57.9
31.	Lakshdweep	305.0	229.4	75.2	22.3	7.3
32.	Pondicherry	305.0	260.9	85.5	81.1	26.6
Grand Total		223840.0	183092.3	81.8	138688.5	62.0

Statement for Release/Expenditure of RS MP's (as on 31/10/98)

Name of State/UTs	1993-99				
	Release by G.O.I (Rs. Lakhs)	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. Lakhs)	%Sanction over Release	Expenditure Incurred (Rs. Lakhs)	% Utilisation Over Release
1. Andhra Pradesh	7540.0	5857.9	77.7	4318.4	57.3
2. Arunachal Pradesh	505.0	402.6	79.7	345.5	68.4
3. Assam	3035.0	2310.9	76.1	1690.2	55.7
4. Bihar	9200.0	6982.7	75.9	5794.6	63.0
5. Goa	305.0	39.1	12.8	13.2	4.3
6. Gujarat	4105.0	2608.5	63.5	1707.1	41.6
7. Haryana	2075.0	1963.9	94.6	1568.7	75.6
8. Himachal Pradesh	1365.0	1105.0	81.0	719.3	52.7
9. J & K	700.0	245.2	35.0	140.9	20.1
10. Karnataka	5360.0	3952.5	73.7	3087.5	57.6
11. Kerala	3495.0	2682.3	76.7	1793.5	51.3
12. Madhya Pradesh	6430.0	5373.4	83.6	3888.3	60.5
13. Maharashtra	8553.5	6817.0	79.7	4566.4	53.4
14. Manipur	505.0	403.8	80.0	345.1	68.3
15. Meghalaya	455.0	116.1	25.5	116.1	25.5
16. Mizoram	455.0	355.0	78.0	353.7	77.7
17. Nagaland	455.0	405.0	89.0	405.0	89.0
18. Orissa	4100.0	3190.5	77.8	1992.3	48.6
19. Punjab	3240.0	1854.5	57.2	1454.0	44.9
20. Rajasthan	4050.0	2909.3	71.8	1732.1	42.8
21. Sikkim	355.0	291.6	82.1	268.4	75.6
22. Tamil Nadu	8140.0	6350.1	78.0	5369.6	66.0
23. Tripura	355.0	304.7	85.8	179.8	50.6
24. Uttar Pradesh	15220.0	12088.0	79.4	9503.1	62.4
25. West Bengal	5380.0	3844.3	71.5	2890.7	53.7
26. Delhi	1265.0	755.9	59.8	549.3	43.4
27. Pondicherry	355.0	277.6	78.2	36.8	10.4
Grand Total	96998.5	73484.9	75.8	54829.4	56.5

*[English]***ISI Activities**

608. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA BABA PATIL:

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Afghanistan Government has sought India's assistance to curb ISI's activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Indian Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The Government of Afghanistan has kept India informed of Pakistan's unabated interference in Afghanistan. They have also made this extensively known to the international community. Dr. A. Abdullah, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan during his address at the 53rd Session of the UN General Assembly on September 29, 1998, referred to an evil collusion between the Pakistani Military Intelligence Service (ISI), the Taliban and international terrorism and drug trafficking. At a hearing of the US Senate Foreign Relations Sub-Committee on Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs on October 8, 1998, Dr. A. Abdullah said that, apart from receiving military logistics, fuel and arms from Pakistan, more than 28,000 Pakistani citizens including paramilitary personnel and military advisers formed part of the Taliban occupation forces in various parts of Afghanistan. He also added that aircraft from Pakistan participated in bombing Bamyan city in Afghanistan in August this year. The leaders of the Government of Afghanistan have repeatedly said that there is no military solution to the conflict in Afghanistan. The withdrawal of foreign military and armed personnel, political dialogue aimed at achieving a lasting political settlement of the conflict, and the formation of a fully representative, broad-based, multi-ethnic government would ensure a lasting peace in Afghanistan and the entire region. Government of India has been sending humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan both bilaterally and through the UN.

Rehabilitation of Cyclone Victims in Gujarat

609. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by the Government of Gujarat on relief works and rehabilitation of cyclone victims;

(b) the funds allocated and released by the Union Government for the purpose so far;

(c) the reasons for such low allocation;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to allocate additional funds to the Government of Gujarat in view of the heavy losses suffered by the State due to cyclone and heavy rains;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (f) As per available information, the State Government of Gujarat had reportedly made ex-gratia payment of about Rs. 4.04 crore for 472 death cases. The assistance for household kits was enhanced from Rs. 150/- to 300/- per person. A sum of Rs. 87.79 lakhs was paid as cash-doles to 23390 families.

An allocation of Rs. 154.83 crore was made to Gujarat under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 1998-99, including Central Share of Rs. 116.12 crore. Three instalments of Central Share amounting to Rs. 87.09 crore have already been released to the State. The State Government had also submitted a Memorandum seeking assistance of Rs. 610.65 crore from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR). The Memorandum is under consideration.

Electronic Technology Parks

610. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Electronic Technology Parks have been set up in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether innovation centres have been set up in any Electronic Technology Parks and whether any proposal has been received in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Central assistance is being given to such Electronic Technology Parks and innovation centres; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the amount provided or proposed to be provided in this regard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) The Government of India, Department of Electronics (DOE) have two schemes namely, Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP) and Software Technology Park (STP) which are in operation in the country. An EHTP and STP may be set up by the Central Government, State Government, Public or Private Sector undertakings or any combination thereof. The Government of India on its own has not established any EHTP. The DOE has established seven Software Technology Parks at Pune, Bangalore, Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad, Noida, Gandhinagar and Thiruvananthapuram through an autonomous society, STPI. DOE has also provided financial support to the State initiated Software Technology Parks at Goa, Jaipur (Rajasthan), Mohali (Punjab), Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Central assistance has been provided for setting up following STPs:

STPs Centre	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1. Bangalore (Karnataka)	
2. Bhubaneshwar (Orissa)	
3. Gandhinagar (Gujarat)	
4. Noida (Uttar Pradesh)	3121 (total for 7 STPs)
5. Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh)	
6. Pune (Maharashtra)	
7. Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala)	
8. Goa (Goa)	100
9. Jaipur (Rajasthan)	50
10. Mohall (Punjab)	50
11. Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra)	50

New Telephone Exchanges in Tamil Nadu

611. SHRI K.P. MUNUSAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up new telephone exchanges in Tamil Nadu particularly in Krishnagiri district during 1998-99;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of old telephone exchanges in the State, district-wise;

(d) the number of persons on the waiting list of telephone connections in Krishnagiri district in Tamil Nadu; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to clear the waiting list in the said district?

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

(b) The Krishnagiri is falling in Dharmapuri Revenue District. The New Telephone Exchanges are proposed to be set up in Dharmapuri Revenue District at the following places during 1998-99;

1. Bairanatham	C-DOT 256
2. Anandur	C-DOT 256
3. Beharahalli	C-DOT 256
4. Kallipettai	C-DOT 256
5. Kottappatti	C-DOT 256

(c) There are 5 old electromechanical telephone Exchanges in Chennai Telephone District in Tamil Nadu.

(d) The total number of waiting list in Dharmapuri District is 12,230 as on 31.10.1998.

(e) The waiting list is proposed to be cleared progressively by way of expansions of the existing exchanges and opening of new exchanges.

[Translation]

UN Owe to India

612. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU:

SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Cash-starved UN owes India \$47 m" appearing in the Observer on October 29, 1998;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay; and

(c) the steps taken/propose to be taken by the Government to realise this outstanding amount from UN?

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

(b) and (c) The Government of India have been making efforts to obtain full reimbursement from the United Nations for the services rendered by it in the UN Peace-Keeping Operations. The UN Secretariat is reminded from time to time for the expeditious settlement of claims and payment of arrears. In its statements in debates relating to budget appropriations and financial situation of the UN, India has been calling upon Member States in arrears to pay their contributions in full, on time and without condition so that timely reimbursements can be made to all troop-contributing countries.

New Water Policy

613. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

DR. SUSHIL INDORA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate the new water policy in view of the river water disputes, inability to tap the existing water resources, the cost escalation of various water projects due to time over-run etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/propose to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the new water policy is likely to be declared?

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

Water Policy was adopted by National Water Resources Council, under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister, in 1987. The Policy is proposed to be reviewed and updated in the context of experiences gained during the last ten years of its implementation and emerging challenges. In this context, a revised/updated National Water Policy was considered by the National Water Board (NWB) in its tenth meeting held on 29th October, 1998. Once this Policy is approved by the National Water Board, it will be placed before the National Water Resources Council for its consideration and adoption.

(c) The adoption of revised/updated National Water Policy is dependent upon its approval by the National Water Resources Council.

[English]

Mobile Veterinary Dispensaries

614. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to increase the number of mobile veterinary dispensaries all over the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The issue of establishment of Mobile Veterinary Dispensaries is a State subject and does not come under the purview of this Department/Ministry.

Corruption Cases

615. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL:

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that corruption amongst Government officials throughout the country is rising day-by-day;

(b) if so, the details of Central Government and Delhi Government employees against whom corruption charges have been levelled and proved during the past one year, Ministry/Department-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to adopt any fool proof strategy to check such corruption and bring transparency in the functioning of Government employees; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAM): (a) to (d) The Heads of the Ministries/ Departments and Organisations of the Government of India are responsible to ensure purity and integrity in their respective organisations. Similarly, the State Governments are responsible to ensure purity and integrity under their respective Organisations. As on the 31st July, 1998, a total of 9659 disciplinary cases (including corruption cases) in the Ministries/Departments in were in different stages of process against Central Government Employees is given in the attached statement. Information in respect of Delhi Government employees is not maintained in the Department of Personnel and Training. Elaborate provisions already exist in various statutes/rules and regulations to check corruption and provide fairness in the functioning of the Government.

The Government of India is advocating the idea of transparency at all levels in the functioning of Departments under its control. The Government also invokes the public in general not to be a party to corrupt practices indulged in by the Government servants.

Statement

Disciplinary Cases Pending in Various Ministry/Department as on 31.7.1998

Sl. No.	Name of the Ministries/ Department	No. of cases pending less than one year	No. of cases pending over one year	Total	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	D/o Agriculture & Cooperation	21	9	30	
2.	D/o Animal Husbandry & Dairying	25	89	114	

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	D/o Agricultural Research & Education	-	-	-	
4.	D/o Culture	15	34	49	
5.	D/o Atomic Energy	220	203	423	
6.	D/o Bio-Technology	1	-	1	
7.	M/o Civil Aviation	397	294	691	
8.	D/o Consumer Affairs	13	4	17	
9.	Ministry of Coal	3	9	12	
10.	M/o Commerce	106	151	257	
11.	D/o Company Affairs	-	-	-	
12.	M/o Defence	146	275	421	
13.	D/o Defence Production & Supplies	168	125	293	
14.	D/o Defence Research & Development	42	39	81	
15.	D/o Economic Affairs	1	4	5	
16.	D/o Education	2	6	8	
17.	M/o Finance (Banking) S.S	-	-	-	
18.	M/o Finance (Insurance) S.S	-	-	-	
19.	D/o Electronics	5	7	12	
20.	M/o Environment & Forests	-	-	-	
21.	D/o Expenditure	-	1	1	
22.	Foreign Secretary	36	63	99	
23.	D/o Family Welfare	-	-	-	
24.	D/o Fertilizers	29	11	40	
25.	D/o Sugar & Edible Oils	-	2	2	
26.	D/o Food & Civil Supplies	8	35	43	
27.	M/o Food Processing Industries	5	4	9	
28.	D/o Health	22	60	82	
29.	D/o Indian Systems of Medicine & Homeopathy	1	2	3	
30.	D/o Heavy Industry	4	1	5	
31.	M/o Home Affairs	130	158	289	
32.	Inter State Council Sectt. Ministry of Home Affairs	-	-	-	

1	2	3	4	5	6
33.	D/o Industrial Development	0	6	6	
34.	D/o Industrial Policy & Promotion				
35.	M/o Information & Broadcasting	27	104	131	
36.	M/o Labour	-	-	-	
37.	D/o Legal Affairs	-	-	-	
38.	Legislative Deptt. M/o Law and Justice.	-	-	-	
39.	D/o Mines	33	56	89	
40.	M/o Non-conventional Energy Sources	-	5	5	
41.	D/o Ocean Development	-	3	3	
42.	D/o Official Language	-	-	-	
43.	M/o Parliamentary Affairs	-	-	-	
44.	M/o Petroleum & Natural Gas	1	-	1	
45.	Spl. Secy, Planning Commission	3	-	3	
46.	D/o Posts	2235	1139	3374	
47.	M/o Power	61	94	155	
48.	D/o Programme Implementation	-	-	-	
49.	D/o Public Enterprises	-	-	-	
50.	Chairman, Railway Board	111	458	567	
51.	D/o Revenue	72	95	167	
52.	D/o Rural Development	1	4	5	
53.	D/o Rural Employment & Poverty Allevation	35	17	52	
54.	M/o Science & Technology	1	-	1	
55.	D/o Scientific & Industrial Research	17	8	25	
56.	D/o Small Scale, Agro & Rural Industries	2	18	20	
57.	D/o Space	47	43	90	
58.	D/o Statistics	21	5	26	
59.	D/o Steel	95	39	134	
60.	D/o Supply	1	16	17	

1	2	3	4	5	6
61.	M/o Surface Transport	392	289	681	
62.	M/o Textiles	1	2	3	
63.	M/o Tourism	2	5	7	
64.	D/o Telecommunications	62	102	164	
65.	D/o Urban Development	268	558	826	
66.	M/o Water Resources	43	32	75	
67.	M/o Welfare	—	—	—	
68.	D/o Women & Child Development	2	2	4	
69.	D/o Urban Employment & PA	—	—	—	
70.	National Commission for SCs & STs	—	—	—	
71.	National Commission for Minorities	—	1	1	
72.	D/o Chemicals & Petro- Chemicals	—	—	—	
73.	D/o Youth Affairs & Sports	28	13	41	
Total		4961	4698	9659	

Patel Ayog*[Translation]*

616. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have set up a Patel Ayog to suggest ways and means to improve the backwardness of the 4 districts of Eastern U.P.

(b) if so, whether the Ayog have submitted its report; and

(c) if so, the recommendations made therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. A joint study team known as "Patel Commission" was set up in December, 1962 for the development of four eastern districts viz. Ghazipur, Azamgarh, Deoria and Jaunpur of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) The Commission has already submitted its report to the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission in January, 1964 and the State Government has reported that most of the recommendations have been implemented by the end of the Fourth Five Year Plan. The recommendations basically relate to agriculture, cooperation, horticulture, irrigation and flood control, minor irrigation, industries, PWD works (Roads and Bridges).

Production of Oilseeds

617. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated for producing oilseeds during the year 1997-98, State-wise;

(b) the amount proposed to be allocated to the States during the year 1998-99;

(c) whether this amount is likely to be allocated as grant or loan; and

(d) steps taken to boost the productions of oil seed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) A statement showing allocation and release of funds to the various States during 1997-98 and amount allocated during 1998-99 under Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is given in the attached statement.

(c) The entire amount allocated to the States under OPP is given as grant.

(d) Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) Scheme is in operation in 23 States covering 374 selected districts for increasing the production of oilseeds. Under the programme,

financial assistance is provided to the States for various critical inputs like production and distribution of seeds, distribution of minikits, sprinkler sets, gypsum and pyrites, improved farm implements and rhizobium culture, in addition, frontline and general demonstrations are also organised on the farmers fields to disseminate production technology.

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.	State	1997-98		1998-99
		Central Allocation (Revised)	Central Release	Central Allocation
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1742.00	1502.00	1100.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	40.32	40.00	40.00
3.	Assam	175.00	—	200.00
4.	Bihar	100.00	—	100.00
5.	Gujarat	1200.00	1142.00	1130.00
6.	Haryana	327.68	296.36	200.00
7.	H.P.	35.00	—	40.00
8.	J & K	75.00	—	80.00
9.	Karnataka	653.14	653.14	700.00
10.	Kerala	50.00	50.00	50.00
11.	Madhya Pradesh	2109.00	1249.00	1380.00
12.	Maharashtra	1129.89	1050.00	1100.00
13.	Manipur	110.00	110.00	100.00
14.	Meghalaya	25.39	20.00	25.00
15.	Nagaland			30.00
16.	Orissa	500.00	500.00	500.00
17.	Punjab	132.14	100.00	100.00
18.	Rajasthan	1650.00	1650.00	1230.00
19.	Sikkim	55.00	55.00	60.00
20.	Tamil Nadu	882.82	832.50	625.00
21.	Tripura	35.00	35.00	50.00
22.	Uttar Pradesh	1053.82	921.00	600.00
23.	West Bengal	250.00	250.00	250.00
Total		12331.20	10456.00	9690.00

Modernisation of Postal System

618. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to modernise the postal system in the country by introducing automatic sorting machines and P.C. based counters for the speedy disposal of mail;

(b) whether the scheme is likely to be implemented in a phased manner; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes, the Department proposes to set up Automatic Mail Processing Systems at Delhi, Bangalore and Calcutta during the 9th Five Year Plan for the speedy disposal of mail in these cities. The Department also plans to computerise counter services through PC-based multi-purpose counter machines and SB LANs.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In the draft annual plan for the next year the Department proposes to install the automatic mail processing centre at Calcutta. The automatic mail processing centres at Delhi and Bangalore will be installed before 31st March, 2002. During the 9th Five Year Plan, 4000 MPCMs and SB LANS are also proposed to be installed along with 200 VSAT stations. 800 MPCMs are being installed during 1998-99.

Policy for Installation of LPTs

619. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the policy for installation of low power transmitters in the country;

(b) whether the low power transmitters have been installed in Vidisha, Khargaon and tribal areas in Madhya Pradesh;

(c) if so, whether the required staff have been provided for the maintenance of low power transmitters in the country particularly in Vidisha and Khargaon;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of shortage of staff for the maintenance of low power transmitters, location-wise and the time by which the shortage is likely to be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) Doordarshan's constant endeavour has been to expand/upgrade its services throughout the country including remote/hilly, tribal and border areas in a phased manner, keeping in view factors such as suitability of location, availability of funds, infrastructural facilities, extent of resultant coverage and relative priorities while finalising location for Doordarshan project including Low Power Transmitter (LPTs).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Required staff has been provided for operation and maintenance in all LPTs including Vidisha and Khargaon except 273 LPTs. Out of 273 LPTs, partial staff has been provided for 211 LPTs while no staff has yet been provided for remaining 62 LPTs.

(e) There is a shortage of 2147 members of the staff (shortage of 5 each in 29 LPTs, 7 each in 182 LPTs, 10 each in 8 LPTs and 12 each in 5 LPTs) for the operation and maintenance of LPTs functioning in the country. A statement showing locations of all such 273 LPTs is enclosed.

Statement*LPTs Functioning with Partial Staff Sanction***DD-I**

Arsikere	Ashoknagar	Athamalik
Baligurha	Banapur	Basava
Bhander	Bhatkal	Bhuban
Saraikela	Bijapur	Baudh
Chengannur	Chikhli	Devrukh
Emmiganur	Etah	Hojai
Sonepur	Hungond	Kalna
Kamareddy	Kathua	Kavaratti
Khurai	Kosigi	Krishnagiri
Kuchinda	Kumta	L.R. Palli
Laganj (Rae Bareli)	Lahar	Lumding
Madhira	Maihar	Mandassa
Mfham	Mehekar	Morshi
Nokha	Nuapara	Padmapuram
Palitana	Paradeep	Puddukottai
Rairangpur	Rajranapur	Redhakhol
Rewari	Sonari	Talcher
Tinsukia	Tirupati	Udhagamandalam
Vishakhapatanam	Wanaparthy	Wani
Narayanpet	Phoolparas	Kasganj
Rajgarh	Nimaj	Nohar
Sagar (Karnataka)	Shahpura	Mount Abu
Nanpara	Pratapgarh	Karauli
Kelaras	Phalodi	Amod
Mangrol(S)	Silvassa	Shankarankovil
Shirpur	Harpanahalli	Belampalli
Markapur	Basavakalyan	Attur

Tamblapalli	Dessa	Rampur (H.P.)	Srinagar	Shimla	Gangtok
Nagar Kurnool	Nirmal	Mudigere	Guwahati	Itanagar	Jalandhar
Punalur	Medak	Rawatsar	Lucknow	Murshidabad	Bhopal
Baran	Umerga	Sangamner	Panaji	Aizawl	Cochin
Alirajpur	Mangrol(J)	Sanjelli	Mandi Dabwali	Nagpur	Kanpur
Chiplun	Ujjain	Dandi	Dhenkanal	Sambalpur	Tura
Padampur	Nowrangpur	Kamakhyanager	Kohima	Shillong	Imphal
Deogarh	G. Udaigiri	Khandapara	Agartala	Calicut	Patna
Lutherpunk	Pallahara	Abohar	Bhubaneshwar	Dudurkot (Hindol)	Leh
Devgarh Baria	Narsinghpur	Dashrathpur	Other Service		
Kendrapara	Bonai	Tirtol	LPT. Srinagar (Kashmir Channel)		
Brahmapuri	Sironj	Raghoagarh	Annex-III		
Arvi	Marthandam	Karanja (Akola)	<i>LPTs Functioning Without Staff Sanction</i>		
Kanhangarh	Hatsinghmari	Gudiyatam	Kesariyaji	Adoor	Lakhisarai
Arani	Rissod	Idar	Basanti	Sikandra	Rayna
Shamlaji	Rajapur	Thodupuzha	Bishnupur	Pondicherry (DD II)	Mau (DD II)
Durgapur	Shilkhapura	Margherita	Achampet	Silchar (DD II)	Gohpur
Mhasle	Kukdeshwar	Bansi	Tuni	Dibrugarh (DD II)	Bhanpura
Supaul	Mau Ranipur	Mahoba	Garot	Sitamau	Sundernagar
Puttur	Pedanandipadu	Kadiri	Rajampet	Cannanore (DD II)	Radhanpur
Gokak	Pattukottai	Kailashahar	Padua	Piparia	Umardhed
Thiruvaiyaru	Attapadi	Jadcheria	Daudnagar	Limbdi	Satana
Diu	Gadarwara	Sakti	Mushabani	Kailashahar (DD II)	Dhari
Narayanpur	Aheri	Navapur	Tumsar	Dhandhuka	Udumalpet
Sironcha	Chandur	Bari Sadri	Bada Malehra	Mahad	Dharampur
New Tehri	Auraiya	Ganj Dundwara	Botad	Bantva	Patnagarh
Rohtak	Naugarh	Naini Danda	Macheria	Una	Hattihal
Kabisuryanager	Kotpad	Umarkot	Patiala	Narsaraopet	Darsi
Athdama	Farakka	Sohela	Tumkur	Cheyar	Bhainsa
Noamundy	Rajauri	Charkhi Dadri	Hindaun	Chhibramau	Rath
Rudaull	Jhagadia	Kodarna	Amroha	Haldwani	Mehroni
Mohana	Miao	Tellamura	Holenarsipur	Rampur (DD II)	Banswada
DD-II			Khopoli	Mangaon	Sujanpur
Gandhinagar	Kota	Port Blair	Simri BakhtiarpurLunglei (DD II)		
Trivandrum	Jaipur	Jammu			

[English]

Expansion of Doordarshan Network in U.P.

620. SMT. KAMAL RANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to expand Doordarshan network in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the targets fixed during Eight and Ninth Five Year Plan for the expansion of Doordarshan network in Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) the details of progress achieved during the Eighth Plan period and the total amount spent for its expansion and modernisation during the last three years, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. One Studio and 38 transmitters (7 High Power Transmitters, 13 Low Power Transmitters, 17 Very Low Power Transmitters and 1 Transposer) are presently under implementation in the State of U.P.

(c) and (d) Five Year Plans of Doordarshan are prepared for the country as a whole and not State-wise, taking into account present coverage, socio-economic and cultural realities, public demand and inter-se priorities. Locations of studios and transmitters are selected in such a way so as to uniformly increase coverage in all the States to the extent possible. A Transmitter set up in one Studio which is near the border, also caters to other States and vice-versa. During 8th Plan, 1 Studio, 2 HPTs, 17 LPTs and 10 VLPTs were commissioned in the State of U.P. At the end of 8th Plan, 4 Studios, 1 HPT, 18 LPTs and 19 VLPTs were under implementation, out of which 3 Studios, 9 LPTs and 6 VLPTs have since been commissioned into service. An amount of Rs. 18.51 crores have been spent during the last 3 years for expansion and modernisation of TV network in the State. A statement showing Project-wise details of expenditure during the last three years is enclosed.

Statement

Amount spent during last three years in U.P.

	Total Rs. in lakhs
PGF Bareilly	0.56
HPT Bareilly	22.95
HTP Mau	88.73
LPT Champawat	1.31
LPT Etah	15.67
LPT Kotdwar	5.68
LPT Lalganj	16.53
LPT Muhammadabad	1.44

LPT Rasra	1.89	
LPT Sikandarpur	1.69	
LPT Kanpur (DD II)	14.02	
LPT Lucknow (DD II)	—	
VLPT Bageshwar	1.13	
VLPT Didihat	1.45	
VLPT Ghandiyal	38.23	
VLPT Kalljikhali	19.80	
LPT Auraiya	13.69	
LPT Ganj Dundwara	10.19	
LPT Mahoba	15.68	
LPT Mau Ranipur	14.43	
LPT Naugarh	4.21	
LPT New Tehri	31.68	
LPT Kasganj	11.24	
VLPT Karan Prayag	27.28	
LPT Nan Para	18.24	
LPT Athdama	65.02	
LPT Naini Danda	19.21	
VLPT Chaukhatla	2.55	
VLPT Joshimath	7.64	
VLPT Devprayag	14.54	
VLPT Pratapnagar	10.37	
VLPT Gajja	33.88	
S.T.I. Lucknow	501.22	
Studio equipment Lucknow	770.60	Under moder- nisation scheme
Studio equipment Gorakhpur	47.95	
Studio equipment Bareilly	0.30	

Visa to Sikh Pilgrims

621. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Pakistan has refused to grant visa to Sikh pilgrims of Jammu and Kashmir to visit the religious places in Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has discussed this matter with Government of Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the outcome of these discussions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) Government understand that Pakistan has denied visas to pilgrims from Jammu & Kashmir who wished to visit Pakistan as part of the Indian jathas under the bilateral Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines, 1974.

Government believes that Pakistan's actions are contrary to the bilateral Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines, 1974. This matter has been taken up strongly with the Government of Pakistan.

Replacement of Cables

622. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN:

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the replacement of existing cables by the optical fibre cables in different telephone exchanges of rural areas in Orissa particularly in Balasore district, location-wise;

(b) whether all the works have been completed in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA). (a) For providing reliable media to telephone exchanges in Orissa plans have been finalised and work will be done in a phased manner. At present about 1000 km optical Fibre Cable laying work is in progress through out the Circle. There is a proposal to connect 75% of the exchanges on Optical Fibre Cables as per statement in Balasore District. 75 kms of pipe has already been laid and the balance is being laid progressively.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The work is being done progressively. Project Estimate has been sanctioned and budget provision has been made. Order for 50% quantity has been issued for Optical Fibre Cables and equipment. Laying of 110 Kms. of Optical Fibre Cables is already in progress in Balasore District.

Statement

Telephone exchanges where optical fibre cable is proposed to provided in Balasore District

Sl. No.	Name of the Exchanges
1	2
1.	Anantpur
2.	Basta
3.	Bahanaga
4.	Balgovindpur
5.	Baunsadiha
6.	Chandeswar
7.	Dehurda

1	2
8.	Gandbad
9.	Khaira
10.	Kupari
11.	Rajghat
12.	Rajnilgiri
13.	Remuna
14.	Rasaipur
15.	Rupsa
16.	Simulia
17.	Tudigodia

[Translation]

Separate Passport to Children

623. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:

SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently decided to discontinue the present system of including the names of the children in the parent's passport and a separate passport is required for the children;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when, it is likely to be implemented?

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

(b) Since the endorsement of the child's name on the parent's passport was done without any photograph of the child it was open to extensive misuse. Besides, a majority of countries have stopped issuing visas to children whose names were endorsed on their parent's passports.

(c) The scheme for issue of separate passports to such children came into effect on the 29th October, 1998.

Production of Major Crops

624. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth rate of major crops in India is very low as per the World's norm in spite of India being the second largest country in Agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any special plan to increase the production of major crops in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The compound growth rates of major crops in India during the last 10 years (1987-97) have been higher than the world's average as worked out from the data published in FAO's Production Year Books. The details are given in the Table below:

Period	Name of the Crop	Annual (%) Compound Growth Rate	
		India	World
1987-97	Wheat	4.10	1.16
	Rice/Paddy	2.62	1.73
	Sugarcane	3.72	2.31
	Cotton (Lint)	9.28	1.43

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government is implementing various Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector crop specific schemes relating to rice, wheat, coarse cereals, pulses, oilseeds, cotton, jute, sugarcane, fruits and vegetables etc.

[English]

NCDC

625. SHRI K.P. MOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Expert Group has recommended financial and administrative restructure of the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) to widen its activities and strengthen its financial base;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the economic liberalisation and resource crunch have affected the working of developing financial institutions; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures proposed to revitalise the institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) An expert group headed by Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation was set up with following terms of reference;

- (i) To examine the financial position of NCDC;
- (ii) To review the schemes for which assistance is being provided by NCDC;
- (iii) To recommend suitable changes in the schemes of NCDC keeping in view the emerging agricultural situation;
- (iv) To identify key areas in agriculture and allied activities where greater thrust is to be given by NCDC; and
- (v) To make recommendations for revitalising the NCDC and on any other relevant issues.

The above Group has since submitted its report and the same is under examination.

[Translation]

Projects for Approval

626. SHRI JAYSINGHJI CHAUHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received from the Department of Animal Husbandry, Gujarat which are lying pending with the Union Government for approval since 1996;

(b) the reasons for the delay in taking any decision; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No proposal received since 1996 from Department of Animal Husbandry, Government of Gujarat, is pending with Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Employment in Fisheries

627. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the investment worth thousands of crores of rupees in fisheries and the employment of at least two lakh people are in peril due to the harassment caused by environmentalist groups;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take for making environmentalists favourable to the fisheries:

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The Supreme Court in its judgement dated 11.12.1996 on Writ Petition (C) 561 of 1994 regarding setting up of shrimp farms in coastal areas ordered closure of all the shrimp farms set up within the Coastal Regulation Zone, except farms practising traditional and improved traditional culture. The Court also directed setting up of an Authority to protect the ecologically fragile areas and especially to deal with the situation created by the Shrimp Culture Industry. A Review Petition has been filed seeking review of the judgement and the matter is sub-judice. Meanwhile an Aquaculture Authority has been set up in pursuance of the directives of the Supreme Court to perform the functions indicated in the Supreme Court's judgement. The Authority has held several meetings at different coastal States and has discussed the various issues concerning shrimp culture with State Government officials, environmental groups, experts in the field as well as shrimp farmers in order to evolve suitable measures for eco-friendly development of shrimp culture.

Review of Embassies

628. SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times in a year assessment of functioning of Indian Embassies abroad and employees working therein is being made by the Government;

(b) whether the number of complaints had been received from several embassies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The Government regularly supervises the working of our Missions abroad through administrative circulars, government orders, periodic inspections and audit teams. Senior officials who visit the Missions also examine the functioning of the Missions.

(b) and (c) Some complaints are received from time to time regarding the services being rendered by the Missions. These are examined and prompt corrective action, wherever necessary, is taken.

[English]

Sale of Onion

629. RAO INDERJIT SINGH:

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have sold onions through mobile vans and at the outlets of the NAFED at concessional rate after hike in prices of onions in the open markets;

(b) if so, the criteria adopted for the sale of onions through these outlets;

(c) whether the sale of onions at concessional rate through NAFED and mobile vans were at the rate of Rs. 10/- per kg., whereas the same onions were sold through Mother Dairy's Fruit and Vegetable outlets at the rate of Rs. 15/- per kg;

(d) if so, the reasons for the disparity in the selling price of onion;

(e) the agencies through which NAFED procured onions and at what price; and

(f) the profit/loss suffered by NAFED due to sale of onions at concessional rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On the direction of the Department of Consumer Affairs of the Government of India, NAFED has distributed onion through public distribution agencies like Super Bazar, Kendriya Bhandar, Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation, Delhi Wholesale Consumer Cooperative Store, NCCF and its own outlets from 14.7.1998 at a subsidised rate of Rs. 10/- per Kg. The criterion adopted for distribution was first-cum-first served basis.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Mother Dairy was requested separately by the Delhi Government to sell onion at Rs. 15/- per kg, to supplement the supply of onion in addition to the aforementioned arrangement.

(e) and (f) NAFED has purchased onions in the mandies of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Karnataka at the ruling rates prevailing in these mandies. In the above operation from 14.7.1998 to 27.11.1998 a total amount of Rs. 10.32 crores has become reimbursable to NAFED by the Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India towards difference between procurement price paid by NAFED and sale price charged by NAFED in the form of subsidy.

[Translation]

Conversion of DOT into Corporation

630. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI:

SHRI MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to convert the Department of Telecommunications into a corporation;

(b) if so, whether the terms and conditions of the services of the employees working therein would be changed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) The proposal to convert the operating arm of Department of Telecommunications (DOT) into a corporation has been under consideration. However, at this stage, the objective to separate the operating arm of DOT from the policy making and licensing functions is proposed to be achieved by setting up a Telecom Services Board to manage the service operations of DOT.

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

[English]

Implementation of Reservation

631. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that reservation for SCs and STs are not being properly implemented in jobs in States as well as in Central Government offices;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have ever assessed the implementation of reservation in Government jobs; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) No, Sir. However, reservation in State Government offices is outside the purview of the Central Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) State-wise details are not maintained.

Finalisation of Ninth Plan

632. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ninth Five Year Plan has been finalised;
 (b) if so, the details thereof; and
 (c) if not, the time by which the Ninth Five Year Plan is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The Draft Ninth Five Year, 1997-2002, approved at internal meetings of the Planning Commission was released on March 1, 1998 by the then Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. The Government has decided to review this Draft so as to suitably reflect the altered priorities, as enunciated in the National Agenda for Governance. Detailed action plans on the above guidelines have been prepared and suitably incorporated into the existing Draft. The new Draft Ninth Five Year Plan has been discussed at the meetings of the internal Planning Commission and Full Planning Commission. The revised document is to be submitted through due process for consideration and approval of National Development Council.

Irrigation Capacity

633. SHRI ARJUN SETHI:

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA:

SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV

(JHANJIHARPUR):

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have achieved the target fixed for bringing the land under irrigation during the Eighth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if not, the reasons for not utilising full potential of irrigation by the States;

(c) whether the Government have made any assessment of irrigation capacity utilised so far;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the measures being taken by the Government to assess the irrigation capacity utilised so far?

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

(b) A lag of a few years between the introduction of irrigation and its full utilisation is unavoidable as creation of potential and its utilisation is a continuous process and it takes time for the farmers to construct the field channels and to prepare the land for irrigated farming. Also the switchover from rainfed agriculture to irrigated agriculture involves a major change in agricultural techniques which farmers take time to master. Fluctuations in water availability as compared to the water availability assumed at the design stage due to low rainfall in catchment areas, poor maintenance of irrigation infrastructures, change in cropping pattern and poor water management at farm level also contribute to low utilisation of irrigation potential.

(c) and (d) Assessment of irrigation capacity utilisation is a continuous process and is done on regular basis by the concerned State Governments. Details of utilisation vis-a-vis creation of irrigation potential from the First Plan till the end of Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97) are given in the attached statement.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement*Planwise position of Irrigation Potential Created and Utilised*

(In Million Ha.)

Plan	Potential Created					Potential Utilised					
	Major & Medium	Minor		Total	Total	Major & Medium	Minor		Total		
	S.W.	G.W.	S.W.			G.W.					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
At the end of											
— Pre Plan upto 1951	9.70	6.40	6.50	12.90	22.60	9.70	6.40	6.50	12.90	22.60	
— I Plan (1951-56)	12.20	6.43	7.63	14.06	26.26	10.98	6.43	7.63	14.06	25.04	
— II Plan (1956-61)	14.33	6.45	8.30	14.75	29.08	13.05	6.45	8.30	14.75	27.80	
— III Plan (1961-66)	16.57	6.48	10.52	17.00	33.57	15.17	6.48	10.52	17.00	32.17	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
— A. Plans (1966-69)	18.10	6.50	12.50	19.00	37.10	16.75	6.50	12.50	19.00	35.75
— IV Plan (1969-74)	20.70	7.00	16.50	23.50	44.20	18.39	7.00	16.50	23.50	42.19
— V Plan (1974-78)	24.72	7.50	19.80	27.30	52.02	21.16	7.50	9.80	27.30	48.46
— A. Plans (1978-80)	26.61	8.00	22.00	30.00	56.61	22.64	8.00	22.00	30.00	52.64
— VI Plan (1980-85)	27.70	9.70	27.82	37.52	65.22	23.57	9.01	26.24	35.24	58.82
— VII Plan (1985-90)	29.92	10.99	35.62	46.16	76.53	25.47	9.97	33.15	43.12	68.59
During A. Plans (1990-92)	0.82	0.47	3.27	3.74	4.56	0.85	0.32	3.10	3.42	4.27
End of 1991-92	30.47	11.46	38.89	50.35	81.09	26.32	10.29	36.25	46.54	72.86
End of VIII Plan (Provisional)	32.83	NA	NA	56.61	89.44	28.37	NA	NA	52.32	80.69

[Translation]

US President Visit to India

634. SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:

SHRI K.S. RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether US President had written letters to the Indian Prime Minister on wide range of issues in the month of September-October, 1998;

(b) whether US President in his letter has also spelt out the reasons for his decision to put off his visit to India;

(c) if so, the reasons advanced for postponing the visit; and

(d) the reaction of the Government to the issues raised in the letter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Prime Minister has been in regular correspondence with the President of the United States. In this correspondence, the US President has inter alia indicated his desire to visit India in the nuclear future and for the visit to take place in a positive atmosphere.

(d) Our Prime Minister responded to this letter, reiterating India's desire for a broad-based relationship between India and the US befits two democracies, and stating that a visit by the US President would greatly contribute to carrying forward relations between the two countries.

[English]

Moratorium on Nuclear Tests

635. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the countries with whom talks were held on making the proposed moratorium on further nuclear tests inter-

nationally binding with a view to arriving at a decision regarding adherence to Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT);

(b) the outcome of each talk; and

(c) the decision taken on adherence to CTBT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Following our nuclear tests, special envoys have held bilateral discussions with France, Russia, United Kingdom and the United States on a range of issues, including disarmament and non-proliferation, India's security concerns as well as the positive voluntary steps undertaken by India.

(b) and (c) These talks have led to a better appreciation of India's security concerns and an acknowledgement of the voluntary steps announced by India. The United States has announced a partial lifting of restrictive economic measures. The discussions on a range of issues, including the CTBT, are continuing and India has declared that it is prepared to bring these discussions to a successful conclusion so that entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test ban Treaty (CTBT) is not delayed beyond September, 1999. India also expects other countries mentioned in Article XIV of the CTBT to adhere to the treaty without conditions.

Review of MPLADS

636. SHRI TATHAGAT SATPATHY: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any review regarding the amount spent by each State during the last three years on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS); and

(b) if so, the details thereof Constituency-wise during each of these years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME

IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The Government monitors the pace of expenditure under the scheme on periodic basis. The funds released by the Government of India under the scheme are non-lapsable. The funds released in a particular year can be utilised in the subsequent years in the concerned Constituency. Hence a cumulative position of amounts spent is maintained. A statement giving State-wise releases made by the Government of India, amount sanctioned

and the actual expenditure as on 31.10.98 is enclosed as statement.

The Constituency-wise details of funds released and expenditure incurred are available in the Statement of Release and Expenditure, two copies of which have been made available to Parliament Library.

Statement

Release/Expenditure of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha (As on 31.10.98)

Sl. No.	Name of State/UTs	1993-99				
		Release by G.O.I (Rs. Lakhs)	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. Lakhs)	% Sanction over Release	Expenditure Incurred (Rs. Lakhs)	% Utilisation over Release
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	24995.0	20561	82.3	14948.5	59.8
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1265.0	1022.1	80.8	785.6	62.1
3.	Assam	8305.0	6474.1	78.0	4993.3	60.1
4.	Bihar	31760.0	25673	80.8	21402.2	67.4
5.	Goa	1165.0	641.5	55.1	610.2	52.4
6.	Gujarat	15285.0	10728	70.2	6523.3	42.7
7.	Haryana	6075.0	5323.2	87.6	4394.1	72.3
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2885.0	2330.3	80.8	1521.7	52.7
9.	J & K	1800.0	753.5	41.9	513.8	28.5
10.	Karnataka	17650.0	13825	78.3	10223.0	57.9
11.	Kerala	11995.0	9740.8	81.2	6339.7	52.9
12.	Madhya Pradesh	23925.0	21093	88.2	16112.7	67.3
13.	Maharashtra	29533.5	24866	84.2	16692.7	56.5
14.	Manipur	1515.0	1133.6	74.8	1055.8	69.7
15.	Meghalaya	1215.0	570.9	47.0	493.8	40.6
16.	Mizoram	910.0	710.0	78.0	708.7	77.9
17.	Nagaland	910.0	810.0	89.0	810.0	89.0
18.	Orissa	12400.0	9908.5	79.9	6658.8	53.7
19.	Punjab	8105.0	5369.8	66.3	4404.3	54.3
20.	Rajasthan	14325.0	11529	80.5	7676.0	53.6
21.	Sikkim	760.0	696.7	91.7	545.8	71.8
22.	Tamil Nadu	24335.0	19483	80.1	16440.6	67.6
23.	Tripura	965.0	739.8	76.7	535.7	55.5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24.	Uttar Pradesh	51295.0	41633	81.2	34449.0	67.2
25.	West Bengal	20785.0	15763	75.8	11480.1	55.2
26.	A & N Islands	305.0	157.8	51.7	132.7	43.5
27.	Chandigarh	455.0	283.5	62.3	246.1	54.1
28.	D & N Haveli	455.0	403.5	88.7	242.8	53.4
29.	Daman & Diu	455.0	363.0	79.8	276.8	60.8
30.	Delhi	4045.0	3225.1	79.7	2160.0	53.4
31.	Lakshadweep	305.0	329.4	75.2	22.3	7.3
32.	Pondicherry	660.0	538.5	81.6	117.9	17.9
Grand Total		320838.5	256577.3	80.0	193518.0	60.3

Installation of Rural Satellite Telephones

637. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI :

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work of installation of Rural Satellite telephones has been started in the country;

(b) if so, the places where these have been installed till date and criteria laid down in this regard;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide this facility in all the rural areas including hilly and remote areas in a phased manner;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) Yes Sir, 16 Nos. of Satellite based telephone have been installed in the country on experimental basis.

(b) These have been installed mostly at the remote and inaccessible places. The locations are given in the statement enclosed.

The satellite VPTs have been provided on trial basis in remote, inaccessible places and different climatic conditions to evaluate their performance.

(c) This facility will be provided only to the difficult, remote and inaccessible places of the country including hilly areas.

(d) Initially, about 1,000 VPTs are proposed to be provided during 1999-2000 to cover remote/inaccessible places.

(e) Estimated cost of 1,000 VPTs is Rs. 18 Crores.

Statement*Names of Places Where Satellite Telephone have been Provided.*

Telecom Circle/State	No. of Termianals	Locations
Andhra Pradesh	1	Seleru
Arunachal Pradesh (N.E. Circle)	3	Kay'ng, Tenga, Vijay Nagar
J & K	6	Chaulkiya, Kiyari, Saichen, 3in Srinagar
Madhya Pradesh	1	Avapalli
Maharashtra	1	Toranmal
Rajasthan	2	Janya, Sundera
U.P. East	2	Chittouni, Hetmapur
Total	16	

Sino-Pakistan Nuclear Axis

638. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Indian delegation headed by the Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission, visited Washington in August this year for further talks about India's security concerns in the context of Sino-Pakistani nuclear-axis, in blatant violation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the US insistence for signing the CTBT;

(b) if so, the specific points made by the India delegation, and the US Government's reaction and response thereto; and

(c) the confidence building measures, vis-a-vis US and other G-8 countries have been are being taken by Government as follow-up thereof?

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

(b) India and the United States put forth their views on a range of issues including India's security concerns, arising inter alia from proliferation in India's neighbourhood. Ways and means to reconcile India's legitimate security concerns and US concerns on non-proliferation were explored. The voluntary steps announced by India after the nuclear tests and regional and international developments were also discussed.

(c) Having harmonized its national imperatives and security obligations, India has announced the following measures:

- * Maintaining a minimum and credible nuclear deterrent
- * Not engaging in an open-ended programme and consequently dispelling apprehensions of an arms race.
- * No-first-use of nuclear weapons and by implication, non-use with regard to non-nuclear weapon states
- * Maintaining a moratorium on nuclear testing. India has declared that it is now prepared to bring its discussions with key interlocutors on a range of issues, including the CTBT, to a successful conclusion so that the entry into force of the Treaty is not delayed beyond September, 1999.
- * Engaging in FMCT negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament in good faith
- * No transfer of nuclear weapons and maintaining a stringent system of export controls to demonstrate commitment to non-proliferation
- * Maintenance of nuclear arsenal strictly under civilian command and control
- * Establishment of a National Security Council, already tasked to undertake a Strategic Defence

Review.

Observer Status to India

639. SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has participated at the Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS) held in Seoul and as a result, India has acquired an observer status in the influential 22 nations forum; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The invitation to India to participate in the Sixth Western Pacific Naval Symposium, held in Seoul from October 11-17, 1998, resulted from interaction between the Indian Navy and the Navies of the Western Pacific Region during recent years including interaction at the level of Chiefs of Naval Staff. Vice Admiral Madanjit Singh represented India at the Forum. India was unanimously granted observer status and India's inclusion in the Forum has been welcomed by all the participants. It was accepted that continued multilateral links and cooperation at the professional levels would enhance security, cooperation and mutual understanding.

Konar Irrigation Project in Bihar

640. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any meeting has been held between Central Water Commission and other concerned agencies of the Government for early completion of Konar Irrigation Project, Bihar, so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to call any meeting of the Central Water Commission and concerned agencies for the purpose;

(d) whether the construction of the said project has been suspended due to paucity of funds;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the measures taken by the Government for expeditious completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) A meeting with Bihar and West Bengal Government representatives was held in Central Water Commission, New Delhi on 5.12.97 to sort out inter-state issues.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Irrigation projects are planned, funded and implemented by the State Governments out of their own resources and as per their own priority.

Oilseed Cultivation

641. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the area of land under the oilseed cultivation in the State of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the steps taken in this regard; and

(c) the details of the target fixed/achieved for the oilseed cultivation during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The Central Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) for increasing the production and productivity of oilseeds in the State through area expansion and increase in yield. The scheme is being implemented in 23 States including Uttar Pradesh and includes financial assistance for production and distribution of seeds, distribution of minikits, sprinkler sets, gypsum and pyrites, improved farm implements and rhizobium culture. In addition, frontline and general demonstrations are also organised on the farmer's field to disseminate production technology.

(c) The details of the targets fixed/achieved for the oilseed production during the Ninth Five Year Plan are as under :

Year	Target	Achievements
1997-98	255 lakh MTs.	222.4 lakh MT.
1998-99	270 lakh MTs.	
1999-2000	280 lakh MTs.	
2000-2001	290 lakh MTs.	
2001-2002	300 lakh MTs.	

Fund for Ship Building and Repair

642. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has approached the Planning Commission for adequate fund support during the Ninth Plan period and for granting ship-building and ship-repair industry infrastructure status in priority sector, for the purpose of expansion and modernisation of ship repair facilities in Cochin Shipyard;

(b) if so, details of the proposal and;

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN

THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) The Government of Kerala had approached the planning Commission for adequate fund support during the Ninth Plan Period for expansion of ship repair facilities so as to create an infrastructure of international standards in public sector at Cochin shipyard Limited (CSL). Cochin, envisaging an investment of Rs. 240 crore.

(c) In view of the acute constraint on budgetary resources, the Planning Commission had suggested alternative routes of funding either on Build, Operate and Transfer basis or as a joint venture; a final view would be taken at the time of finalisation of the Ninth Plan. In the meantime, the shipyard has been asked to go ahead with preparation of a Feasibility Report.

[Translation]

Krishna Valley Project

643. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the details of the funds spent on Krishna Valley Project so far during the last three years, year-wise alongwith share of the Union Government therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : There is no irrigation scheme by the name of Krishna Valley project in the States of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

Jurisdiction of Planning Commission

644. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to limit the jurisdiction of Planning Commission only to those areas which need detailed planning and delegate powers for the remaining areas to the Central Ministries and the States to formulate plans;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAMNAIK) : (a) to (c) The Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) approved by the National Development Council (NDC) on 16.1.1997 inter-alia states that the objectives will be defined nationally by the States and local governments will be given much larger freedom for choice of programmes, phasing of schemes and choosing appropriate instruments of finance.

It is also proposed to bring in functional changes in the working of the Planning Commission in the context of the implementation of the economic reforms so that the Commission could concentrate more on new emerging areas/trends.

[English]

Tulbul Navigation Project

645. SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

SHRI T.R. BAALU :

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made progress in the proposed Tulbul Navigation Project in Jammu & Kashmir;

(b) if so, whether the 1992 draft agreement on the project was accepted in toto by the Government of Pakistan; and

(c) if not, whether the Government has an alternative proposal for the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) As part of the composite dialogue process, discussions were held in New Delhi between India and Pakistan on the Tulbul Navigation Project on 5.11.1998. Earlier, between October 1987 and August 1992, eight rounds of secretary-level talks had taken place between the two countries on this project.

(b) During recent discussions, India drew Pakistan's attention to the understandings which have been reached in 1991 at Secretary-level discussions between the two countries. Pakistan, however, denied that any understanding was reached in the past in respect of this project. It was agreed that discussions on the project will continue during the next round of talks under the composite dialogue process.

(c) At present, there is no alternative proposal for the project.

[Translation]

Subsidy on Fertilizers

646. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :

SHRI NADENDLA BHASKAR RAO :

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN :

SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY :

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have announced rate of concessions on all decontrolled fertilizers recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the subsidies being provided by the Government under various schemes in agriculture sector;

(d) the total subsidy given for fertilizers during the last three years and also during the current year; and

(e) the steps being taken to ensure that the farmers get the benefits thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The Government had on 28th August, 1998 announced rates of concession on Di-Ammonium Phosphate (both indigenous and imported), Muriate of Potash, Single Super Phosphate and various grades of complexes, which are shown in the statement attached. The Government subsequently decided to retain the prices of these fertilizers at the same level as in Kharif, 98 season and 1997-98. Consequent to this decision the rates of concession announced on 28th August, 98 are likely to be revised.

(c) Bulk of the subsidy to the agriculture sector is on fertilizers, electricity and irrigation. Besides these, farmers are granted several concessions, incentives and assistance in other forms like minikits, machine tools, drip and sprinkler irrigation, plant protection, soil conservation, and training through various plant schemes.

(d) The expenditure on subsidy for urea and decontrolled fertilizers during the last three years as well as budgetary allocation for the current year are as under :

(Rs. in crores)

	Fertilizer Actual Expenditure			
	Budget Allocation			
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Urea (Domestic)	4300.00	4743.00	6600.00	6000.00
Urea (Imported)	1935.00	1162.00	707.00	983.00
Decontrolled Phosphatic & Potassic Fertilisers	500.00	1671.77	2596.00	3000.00

(e) The statutory farmgate price in case of urea and the maximum retail price in case of decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers which are announced by the Government ensure that benefits of subsidy accrue to the farmers.

Product	Rate of Concession (Rupees Per Tonne)
1	2
Indigenous DI-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP)	4000/-
Imported Dap	2500/-
Muriate of Potash	2500/-
Single Super Phosphate	900/-
Complexes for Various Grades :	
C 10 : 26 : 26	3334/-

1	2	1	2
C 12 : 32 : 16	3417/-	3. Raigad	61
C 14 : 28 : 14	3209/-	4. Buldhana	21
C 14 : 35 : 14	3646/-	5. Amravati	41
C 15 : 15 : 15	2501/-	6. Akola	36
C 16 : 20 : 0	2250/-	7. Wardha	23
C 17 : 17 : 17	2834/-	8. Yeotmal	38
C 19 : 19 : 19	3167/-	9. Nagpur	102
C 20 : 20 : 0	2500/-	10. Bhandara	27
C 23 : 23 : 0	2875/-	11. Chandrapur	30
C 28 : 28 : 0	3500/-	12. Gadchiroli	13

*[English]***Construction of Post Office Building**

647. SHRI SADASHIV RAO D. MANDLIK : Will the PRIME Minister be pleased to state :

(a) whether several post offices do not have their own building in Maharashtra;

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

(c) whether Government propose to construct the building of post offices in the State particularly Gadhinglaj sub post office, district Kolhapur, Maharashtra;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the recasons therefor?

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

(b) The number of rented buildings district-wise are attached as statement.

(c) Yes Sir, in a phased manner depending on the availability of funds.

(d) Regarding construction of post office of Gadhinglaj in District Kolhapur, the department has a plot of land measuring 3110 sq. meters and preparation of preliminary drawings for construction of the said post office is under process.

(e) As per reply at (d) above.

Statement**Number of Post Offices Functioning in Rented Buildings**

Name of District	No. of PO's in Rented Building
1	2
Maharashtra State	
1. Mumbai	215
2. Thane	103

13. Aurangabad	39
14. Parbhani	21
15. Nanded	40
16. Nashik	76
17. Jalna	26
18. Latur	23
19. Beed	28
20. Dhule	50
21. Jalgaon	70
22. Osmanabad	29
23. Pune	184
24. Satara	82
25. Ahmednagar	101
26. Solapur	86
27. Kolhapur	89
28. Ratnagiri	72
29. Sangli	73
30. Sindhudurg	55
Goa State	
1. Goa	90

Public Telephones in Nagaland

648. SHRI K. A. SANGIAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages in Nagaland provided with the telephone facility;

(b) the number of villages yet to be provided with the said facility;

(c) the number of villages proposed to be provided with the telephone facility during 1998-99;

(d) the reasons for not providing such facility in the remaining villages; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for providing said facility in all the villages of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) :
(a) 535 villages have been provided with telephone facility.

(b) 657 villages are yet to be provided with telephone facility.

(c) 232 villages have been proposed to be provided with telephone facility during 1998-99.

(d) and (e) Telephone facilities are being provided progressively in all villages, and all villages will be covered by the year 2002. For remote and inaccessible villages satellite media will be used.

Excessive Use of Chemical Fertilizers

649. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :

SHRI RAJO SINGH :

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the fertility of soil have eroded due to over extraction of ground water and excessive use of fertilizers by the farmers;

(b) if so, the extent of soil erosion taking place in the country at the end of each Five Year Plan period;

(c) the effect of soil erosion in agriculture produces; and

(d) the corrective measures likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Over extraction of ground water results in lowering of water table which in turn may also cause disturbance in nutrient balance in the soil profile. Soil erosion due to excessive rains and floods results into reduction of soil fertility and productivity. Fertiliser use continues to give response in crop production. The average nutrient consumption (NPK) was 87 kg./hectare during 1997-98 as against the consumption of 345 kg, nutrient per hectare in Egypt, 135 kg. in Bangla Desh, 375 kg. in Japan and 113 kg. per hectare in Pakistan. As such there is no excessive use of fertilisers in the country. However, in areas where high amounts of fertilisers are being used, the deficiencies of secondary and micronutrients particularly sulphur zinc and iron have started appearing which indicate imbalance in the total nutrient supply to the crops. Governments is therefore, taking steps to promote the use of secondary and micronutrients also.

(b) and (c) The estimated soil loss through water erosion in the country at the end of each Five Year period is 26.5 billion

tonnes of Top soil which may result in the loss of around 40 million tonnes of plant nutrients. Soil erosion does affect the productivity of the soil which in turn results in loss of production.

(d) The corrective measures are being taken by adopting soil conservation practices like promoting agro-forestry, land shaping/levelling, erection of diversion bunds, graded terracing and trenches. Other package of practices have been developed to check runoff losses, such as integrated bioengineering measures, mulching and contour bunding which have proved successful in checking soil erosion.

Setting up of IBM Institute

650. SMT. LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether an American Company International Business Machines has come forward to set up an International Business Machines institute in collaboration with the Andhra Pradesh Government;

(b) if so, whether any agreement in this regard has been signed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (c) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has signed two Agreement with Tata-IBM Limited to set up the "IBM School of Enterprise-Wide Computing" at Hyderabad. It will be an independent, autonomous non-profit, viable and self sustaining institution aimed at promoting the concept of electronic government. The primary activities of such a Centre would be to function as a think tank on issues of concern for effective use of IT for good governance to identify the best practices and to showcase the finest information technology based applications in governance and to provide training for policy makers and key implementation personnel.

Biological Control of Pests

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

(a) the amount spent during 1996-97 and 1997-98 on the research work in regard to biological control of pests:

(b) the progress made so far in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to encourage farmers to go in for biological control of pests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The expenditure on research work on Biological Control of pests in the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 was Rupees 206.50 lakhs and 835.84 lakhs respectively. This includes expenditure on the schemes under plan, non-plan and ad-hoc cess fund.

(b) Success in biological control has been achieved for control of major pests of a number of crops. Control of Pyrilla and

top borer of sugarcane, mealy bug of coffee, lepidopterous pests affecting cotton, tobacco, coconut, sugarcane, vegetables and fruits are a few examples where success has been achieved through the release of bio-control agents. A major achievement has been the development of mass rearing technology for biotic agents such as Trichogramma, Chrysoperla and nuclear polyhedrosis viruses (NPV) of Heliothis and Spodoptera. Spectacular success has also been achieved in biological control of two aquatic weeds, viz., the water hyacinth and the water fern.

(c) The Government has taken following steps to encourage farmers for adoption of biological control of pests :

(i) Integrated Pest Management (IMP) inter-alia includes biological control methods is being promoted in the country;

(ii) Farmers' Field Schools on IPM and IPM demonstrations on Rice, Cotton, Pulses, Oilseeds, Vegetables etc. are being organised to train farmers in the identification conservation and augmentation of biological control agents; and

(iii) Training of farmers in production of biological control agents and their utilisation.

[Translation]

Flood Control

652. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is an agreement between the Government of Nepal and India regarding water sharing and flood control;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the rivers of eastern U.P. were flooded this year due to extra release of water by the Government of Nepal;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to conduct an enquiry in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) India and Nepal entered into an agreement in April, 1954 (revised in December, 1966) for construction of a barrage on Kosi river. Another agreement in December, 1959 (revised in April, 1964) was entered into for construction of a barrage on Gandak river. Both the barrages lie near the Indo-Nepal border and had been in operation for the last three decades. These barrages serve the purpose of irrigation and hydropower generation benefitting both the countries. During February, 1996 India and Nepal signed a Treaty on Integrated Development of Mahakali river for which the centrepiece is the Pancheshwar multipurpose project proposed to be located on Mahakali river at a stretch which forms the boundary between the two countries. Irrigation

and hydropower benefits are envisaged from this project for both the countries and for which a detailed project report is under preparation jointly by India and Nepal.

(c) and (d) Due to heavy rainfall in upper catchments of Ghaghra and Rapti, both the rivers in Eastern Uttar Pradesh experienced heavy floods this year. The floods were not due to extra release of water by the Government of Nepal, as there are no major storages in Nepal on these rivers.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Production of Vegetables

653. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL:

SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL:

SHRI RAMANAN SINGH:

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the annual production of onion, potato, tomato in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) the production of the above items during the current year;

(c) whether the shortage of the above commodities is due to the low production or any other reason;

(d) whether the government provide seeds, fertilizers, loans and pesticides to increase the production of the above items; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to bridge the demands and supply gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The annual production of onion and potato during last three years and during the current year at all India level is given as under:

(Lakh tonnes)

Year	Onion	Potato
1995-96	40.80	188.43
1996-97	42.28	250.65
1997-98**	36.80	192.00
1998-99*	44.50	235.62

*Rough estimates **Advance estimates

The production estimates of tomato are officially not compiled. However, as per the data available from the national Horticulture Board, the production of tomato is estimated to be as under:

	(Lakh tonnes)
1993-94	49.34
1994-95	52.61
1995-96	54.42

(c) The shortage of these commodities is mainly due to low production on account of erratic monsoon, pre-winter rains and floods in several parts of the country.

(d) and (e) The Government is implementing two central sector schemes namely; (i) production and supply of vegetable seeds and (ii) development of root and tuber crops for increasing the production and productivity of vegetables and root and tuber crops.

These schemes includes development of onion, potato and tomato. In order to bridge the gap between demand and supply, the Government has banned the export of onion and put it on OGL at zero rate of duty.

Earthquake

654. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh had demanded the financial assistance of Rs. 2960.32 crore from the Union Government to provide relief to the farmers affected by the natural calamities (earthquake) against which only Rs. 67.76 crore had been given from the National Calamity Fund; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to undertake relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of natural calamities from the allocation under Calamity Relief fund (CRF). In addition to CRF, assistance is provided to the States from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) in the event of calamities of rare severity. In response to the Memorandum submitted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh seeking assistance of Rs. 248.75 crore from the NFCR, a Central Team visited the State for assessment of the situation. Based on the report of the Central Team and recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Group thereon, an assistance of Rs. 45.26 crore was approved from the NFCR and this amount was released to the State Government.

[English]

Foreign Tour

655. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the foreign tours undertaken by him during 1998;

(b) the leaders of each country with whom he had talks and the nature of talks held with each of them;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total expenditure incurred on each visit?

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

Survey of Live stock

656. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a survey has been conducted in Gujarat about live stock;

(b) if so, the details of present population of cattle particularly those of milching;

(c) the details of cross breed cattle in the State; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve the number and breed of live stock in the State by the Central and State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes Sir. The last quinquennial livestock census was conducted in Gujarat in 1992.

(b) As per the 1992 livestock census there are 68 lakh cattle in Gujarat out of which milching cattle are 20 lakh.

(c) The number of crossbred cattle in Gujarat is 2.33 lakh out of which 1.21 lakh are crossbred milching cattle.

(d) To improve the number and breed of livestock in the State, a number of Central/State Government programmes/schemes are being implemented in the State. The important schemes are as follows:

(i) Extension of Frozen Semen Technology and Progeny Testing Programme.

(ii) National Bull Production Programme.

(iii) Integrated Dairy Development Project in Non-Operation flood, Hilly and Backward Areas.

(iv) Special Livestock Breeding Programme.

[Translations]

Redressal of Grievances in MTNL

657. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'MTNL Ke CGM Ka Gherao' appearing in 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated October 17, 1998;

- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and
 (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) and (c) It was not a Gherao but four or five Telephone Advisory Committee Members of MTNL Delhi met CGM jointly during the visiting hours and requested to hold TAC meeting early. The meeting of TAC will be held immediately after the Winter Session of Parliament.

[English]

Colossal Waste of Fruits and Vegetables

658. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKAR RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State :

- (a) whether the Government propose to set up food processing units in the country especially in North-Eastern States;
 (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
 (c) the details of steps taken by the Government to prevent the colossal waste of fruits and vegetables?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not set up any food processing unit directly in any State. However, the Ministry operates its own Plan Schemes for the growth and development of the processed food industry. Under these schemes, financial assistance in the form of soft loan or grant-in-aid is made available to Industry, Non-Governmental Organisations, Cooperatives, Research and Development Institutions and Human Resource Development Centres. The Plan Schemes envisage higher rates of financial assistance in respect of projects set up in North-Eastern States.

(c) The Ministry has given considerable importance and thrust to the development of Fruit and Vegetables Processing Sector under its Plan Schemes. During the period 1992-98, the Ministry provided assistance to various projects in this sector in the following manner. For development of infrastructural facilities in this sector the Ministry has provided about Rs. 18 Crores to 76 units having project cost of Rs. 191 crores. These units were for setting up of pre-cooling, cold store, mushroom projects, gerkins and hops projects. Two projects for setting up of food parks, one in Kerala and another in West Bengal were also assisted. For setting up/expansion/modernisation of fruits and vegetables units, the Ministry has provided about Rs. 15 Crores to 44 projects having total project cost of Rs. 288 crores.

The Ministry supported 17 projects of Research and Development and establishment/upgradation of quality control and analytical laboratories.

The Ministry supported establishment of 250 Food Processing and Training Centres in the country. These Centres are primarily meant for imparting training for fruit and vegetable processing in addition to providing hands-on experience to

prospective rural entrepreneurs.

Such activities would inter alia result in reduction of post-harvest losses of fruits and vegetables.

[Translation]

Study on the Working of AIR/Doordarshan

659. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any study has been conducted on the working of All India Radio and the Doordarshan;
 (b) if so, the details thereof;
 (c) whether the complaints of unsatisfactory broadcasting/transmission and excessive interruption in some of the centres of AIR and Doordarshan are being received continuously;
 (d) if so, the details of such complaints received during the last seven months;
 (e) whether representations have been received about collusion of the permanent employees of the Doordarshan and the AIR with other private T.V. Channels; and
 (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Institute of Mass Communication have made a study on the working of All India Radio Network. They have submitted their report recommending on Functioning, Personnel, Programme and Technological aspects of All India Radio Network. However, no study has been undertaken on the functioning of Doordarshan.

(c) and (d) No specific complaint about unsatisfactory broadcasting has been received by All India Radio. However, Doordarshan has received several complaints about bad quality of transmission of its signals mainly from viewers of Cable Homes of larger cities. Doordarshan has been continuously advising the viewers that they should pursue with their cable operators to provide signals directly from the INSAT satellites by installing a separate dish antenna for Doordarshan channels.

- (e) No, Sir.
 (f) Does not arise.

[English]

660. DR. ULHAS VASUDEV PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have submitted any proposal to include terrorism under the jurisdiction of the proposed international criminal court;
 (b) if so, the details thereof; and
 (c) the reaction of the other countries on India's proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. In the United Nations Diplomatic Conference of the Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court held at Rome, Italy from 15 June-17 July, 1998, India, Sri Lanka and Turkey made a joint proposal to bring act of terrorism within the jurisdiction of the court.

(b) The Indian proposal was intended to cover an act of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations involving the use of indiscriminate violence intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror, fear and insecurity in the minds of the general public resulting in death or serious bodily injury and serious damage to property, irrespective of any considerations and purposes of a political, ideological, philosophical, racial, ethnic or religious nature that may be invoked to justify it. The proposal also included any serious crime which is the subject matter of a multilateral convention for the elimination of international terrorism.

(c) Majority of the countries felt that due to the complexities involved in defining the crime of terrorism, it will not be possible to reach a consensus on this issue in the Conference.

In the Treaty adopted at the Rome Conference only three core crimes were included in the Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC)—the crime of genocide, war crimes and the crimes against humanity.

Article 123 of the Rome Statute provides that 7 years after the entry into force of the Statute, the Secretary-General of the UN shall convene a Review Conference to consider any amendment to this Statute including the list of crimes covered under the Statute. However, the Rome Conference adopted a Resolution, which while regretting that no generally acceptable definition of the crimes of terrorism and drug crimes could be agreed upon for the inclusion, within the jurisdiction of the Court, recommends that a Review Conference pursuant to Article 123 consider the crimes of terrorism and drug crimes with a view to arriving at an acceptable definition and their inclusion in the list of crimes within the jurisdiction of the court.

India shall make all efforts with like-minded States for the inclusion of the crime of terrorism in the jurisdiction of the Court.

Posting of Staff at S. S. A. Rajouri and Udhampur

661. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the clerical staff of S.S.A. Rajouri and Udhampur (J&K) is still operating from Jammu; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to post the staff in respective S.S.A.'s?

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

(b) Initially, there was one division at Jammu i.e. DET, Jammu which was subsequently bifurcated into two divisions i.e. DEP Jammu and DET Jammu who were looking after the

urban and rural areas of Jammu province respectively.

DET Jammu was subsequently converted as TDE Udhampur with Hd. Qr. at Jammu.

Further TDE Udhampur at Jammu was bifurcated in two SSAs i.e. Udhampur and Rajouri. On forming of these two SSAs there was resentment and agitation from clerical staff of TDE Udhampur at Jammu Office for not disturbing them from Jammu to these two SSAs.

(c) Volunteers/Compassionate appointees have been posted in the Office of TDE Udhampur and TDE Rajouri to run these offices from respective Headquarters.

Cultivation of Cocoa

662. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the shortcomings in the cultivation of cocoa in the country; and

(b) the measures taken by the Government to propagate cocoa cultivation in view of high profit margin?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The constraints in the production of cocoa in the country is mainly due to the factors like low productivity of plantations of indisrupt seedling progenies, susceptibility to pest and disease, fluctuating prices, inadequate marketing network and low degree of interest in the farming sector. The Government launched a Central Sector Scheme on Development of Cocoa during the 8th Plan with an outlay of Rs. 3.00 crores against which an amount of Rs. 2.80 crores was released to the State Governments of Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

The scheme was continued during the year 1997-98 at an outlay of Rs. 60.00 lakhs and is being implemented during 1998-99 with an outlay of Rs. 70.00 lakhs. The scheme envisages distribution of vegetatively propagated plants, rejuvenation of unproductive orchards, establishment of clonal seed gardens, setting up of irrigation units, establishment of demonstration plots and providing financial assistance to cooperatives for marketing and training of farmers.

Maintenance of Balance of Power

663. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to make NAM an independent force with a view to maintain balance of power and multipolarity in the world and to prevent a super power from dominating the world affairs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : The XIth NAM Summit was held in Durban, South Africa on September 2-3, 1998. The Summit demonstrated the continued relevance of NAM as an independent political force in the world, India participated actively in its deliberations to reinforce the traditionally independent NAM positions on a range of political, social and economic issues.

Compensation to Kuwait Returnees

664. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) the amount of compensation paid so far to Kuwait returnees and the number of persons who have been benefited;
- (b) the number of applications for the compensation pending at present; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to speed up the payment of compensation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC), Geneva has approved 102,154 Indian claims in category A, in 6 instalments. UNCC has also approved 29,992 Indian claims in category C in four instalments. UNCC has so far transferred \$150.76 million as part settlement at the rate of \$2500 per claim for 60,306 claimants in cat. A. For category C, UNCC has transferred \$28.39m for partial settlement of 11,618 claims.

(b) All claims in category A have been approved by UNCC. In category C, approval of the last instalment, i.e., instalment VII is awaited. Pendency is thus only in respect of C claims. UNCC has the exclusive authority to approve or reject a particular claim. Since we are not aware of the number of claims to be approved or rejected by UNCC, we are not in a position to give the exact figure re: pendency of claims with UNCC.

(c) Government of India is constantly in touch with UNCC through the permanent Mission of India, Geneva, and takes measures from time to time, as required by the situation, to safeguard interests of the Indian claimants as far as possible. The speed of disbursement of claims depends upon the speed with which UNCC can transfer funds. However, once funds are transferred and all necessary data made available, the Government takes required measures to ensure that the designated Banks disburse the claim amounts as quickly as possible.

Aerial Survey of Floods By Prime Minister

665. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister had undertaken aerial survey of all the States that were badly affected due to the rains, avalanche and floods to get first hand information on the damage caused in these states;

(b) if so, the total assistance declared by Prime Minister after the aerial survey of the areas;

(c) whether the declared amounts have been distributed amongst the affected States;

(d) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has intimated to the Union Government that the total loss of Andhra Pradesh State was assessed at Rs. 2,525 crore;

(e) if so, the criteria formulated to award the relief to the

States to meet the flood situation;

(f) whether any permanent measures are being considered by the Prime Minister to check floods that cause havoc every year;

(g) whether the Prime Minister has taken up the matter with the Nepal Government from where these floods occur and cause damage in the Indian States; and

(h) if so, the reaction of the Government of Nepal on the proposals of the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) The Prime Minister undertook aerial surveys of flood affected areas of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataks. During these visits, the Prime Minister announced Plan assistance of Rs. 150 crore to Uttar Pradesh, Rs. 50 crore to Karnataka and Rs. 200 crore to Andhra Pradesh, which has been released to these States. Advance release of 4th quarterly instalment of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 1998-99 has also been made to all the States mentioned above.

(d) In the Memorandum submitted for assistance from the national Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR), the Government of Andhra Pradesh has indicated the preliminary details of losses as Rs. 2235.82 crore.

(e) In addition to Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) which is allocated to the States every year, assistance is provided to the States from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) in the event of calamities of rare severity only. For availing assistance from the NFCR, the State Governments are requested to submit a Memorandum indicating the extent of damage, relief measures undertaken and relief assistance required. A Central Team is deputed, wherever necessary and assistance, if any, is provided from the NFCR after following the established procedure. The Memorand received from these States for assistance from the NFCR are in various stages of processing.

(f) The Ministry of Water Resources is already implementing schemes in connection with flood control measures like construction of reservoirs and embankments, channel improvement, town protection and river training works.

(g) and (h) In this connection, discussions have been going on at all levels including at the level of the Prime Minister and the Government of Nepal has promised its cooperation to India in this field.

Non Functioning of Satellite Telephones

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

(a) the names of the villages in rural areas of Purulia District in West Bengal where the telephone facility through Satellite System has been provided;

(b) whether a large number of Satellite telephones are not functioning due to some technological disorder or break down of battery; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to properly maintain the Satellite telephone facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) No telephone has been provided through satellite media in the villages of rural areas of the Purulia District in West Bengal. However, STD facility to two exchanges of Bagmundry and Pundag in Purulia district have been extended through satellite media. Both the systems are working satisfactorily.

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

Below Poverty Line

667. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government have submitted any representation to the Planning Commission to revise the percentage of population below the poverty line in rural areas of Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the Planning Commission has revised its estimate of the percentage of population of Karnataka below the poverty line;

(c) if so, the present percentage of the population of Karnataka below poverty line;

(d) the details of revision sought for by the Government of Karnataka; and

(e) the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The Chief Minister, Government of Karnataka in a letter dated 10.9.1997 addressed to the Prime Minister, suggested revision of the percentage of people below the poverty line in the State in the light of the price depressing effect of the State Government sponsored food subsidy scheme.

(b) and (c) The Planning Commission considered the suggested revision in the context of the Targetted Public Distribution Scheme (TPDS) and after eliminating the price depressing effect of the food subsidy scheme, revised the percentage of people below the poverty line in the State from 29.9 per cent to 30.6 per cent in rural areas, 40.1 per cent to 40.5 per cent in urban areas and from 33.2 per cent to 33.8 per cent for the State as a whole.

(d) As per the representation made by the Government of Karnataka, the percentage of people below the poverty line be revised to 32.33 per cent in rural areas and 40.52 per cent in urban areas;

(e) The Planning Commission has already re-estimated the poverty ratio of the State for exclusive use in the allocation of foodgrain under the Targetted Public Distribution Scheme.

Micro Waves Linkage by Local DDKs

668. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether local Doordarshan Kendras are allowed to book microwave linkage so as to receive programmes sent to them from various places;

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

(c) the details of arrangements for sending programmes covered by DD camera at various places to the Doordarshan Kendra, Kendrawise.

(d) whether Trivandrum Doordarshan Kendra is unable to send video slots and telecast news clippings on time; and

(e) if so, corrective steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Doordarshan Kendras are allowed to book DOT microwave protection circuit with the prior approval of the competent authority.

(c) The arrangement for sending recorded programmes covered by Doordarshan at various places from Kendras is as under:

(i) Sending tapes by Road transport or air.

(ii) By booking of DOT microwave protection circuits.

(iii) By deploying the DSNG Uplink/TRAC at the OB spot in case of major coverages.

(iv) Earth stations are being used for regional network and for sending feeds for inclusion in National Network.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Allocation for Promotion of Non-Conventional Energy Sources

669. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI:

SHRI DINSHA PATEL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds allocated and released during the last three years for promotion of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether the funds released have been fully utilized; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MIN-

ISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The details of funds allocated and released for promotion of Non-Conventional Energy during the last three years is given in the attached statement.

(b) and (c) The funds released for promotion of Non-Conventional Energy programmes have been utilised fully through the State Govt. Deptts. and State Nodal Agencies implementing the Non-Conventional Energy programmes.

Statement

State-wise and year-wise total funds released under various programmes of non-conventional energy sources in the last three years i.e. 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	States/UTs	Total funds sanctioned and released during 1995-96	Total funds sanctioned and released during 1996-97	Total funds sanctioned and released during 1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1005.55	671.64	956.81
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	695.44	122.86	684.25
3.	Assam	58.59	38.23	85.67
4.	Bihar	176.23	122.09	50.30
5.	Goa	36.03	12.44	11.76
6.	Gujarat	254.10	719.92	611.05
7.	Haryana	164.89	115.60	116.96
8.	Himachal Pradesh	149.31	322.03	361.65
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	40.06	122.60	61.58
10.	Karnataka	613.48	530.88	752.07
11.	Kerala	295.56	113.02	99.50
12.	Madhya Pradesh	562.97	988.80	770.84
13.	Maharashtra	981.04	760.90	697.46
14.	Manipur	92.07	34.16	39.00
15.	Meghalaya	85.61	59.47	25.63
16.	Mizoram	801.41	378.36	943.64
17.	Nagaland	25.70	8.43	32.50
18.	Orissa	642.02	270.26	282.00
19.	Punjab	344.39	287.04	391.82
20.	Rajasthan	258.77	421.74	77.51
21.	Sikkim	170.29	149.89	158.04
22.	Tamil Nadu	848.73	386.38	457.99
23.	Tripura	14.63	6.90	20.66
24.	Uttar Pradesh	923.96	1033.06	497.14
25.	West Bengal	589.18	457.47	384.38
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	60.49	3.66	3.99

1	2	3	4	5
27.	Chandigarh	8.06	3.52	1.20
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1.44	0.00	0.00
29.	Daman & Diu	1.44	0.50	0.00
30.	Delhi	368.21	109.21	70.24
31.	Lakshadweep	2.70	1.19	0.00
32.	Pondicherry	9.26	7.03	5.53
33.	Others*	1674.55	2016.88	2964.74

* Funds released to agencies other than State Government and State Nodal Agencies under biogas, improved chulha, biomass gasifier and small hydro power programmes.

Cauvery Water Dispute

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

(a) the stage at which the adjudication process of Cauvery water dispute stands at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to expedite the adjudication process;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government propose to release at least 40 TMC of Cauvery water to Kerala for its river valley projects;

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal was set up on 2nd June 1990. The Tribunal passed an interim order on 25.6.1991. The dispute is still under adjudication. The Tribunal has been set up under Inter State Water Disputes Act, 1956 which does not provide for a time frame by which the Tribunal should complete its adjudication.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Reconstitution of Haj Committee

671. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reconstitute the Central Haj Committee and to amend/re-enact the Haj Committee Act, 1959;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals, indicating the reasons therefor;

(c) whether term of the present Committee is coming to an end; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to constitute a new Committee?

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

(b) to (d) The Haj Committee Act of 1959 provides that the minimum life of the Haj Committee be of three years. Since the present Committee has already completed more than five years, the Government had decided to reconstitute it. Nominations from different sources as required under the Act have been received. On 25th September, 1998, the Supreme Court issued a stay order on the reconstitution of the Committee. Action to reconstitute the new Committee will be taken after the stay order has been vacated.

The Government has been examining the question of replacing the Haj Committee Act of 1959 for some time. A Bill will be introduced in Parliament after all the required consultations have been completed.

Review of Utilisation of Fund

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

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the position regarding utilisation of funds for basic services like drinking water and other Central schemes by the States;

(b) if so, the details of funds sanctioned, actually released and utilised during each of the last three years, Scheme-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the effective steps being taken/proposed to be taken to ensure effective use of funds sanctioned/released for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) Centrally Sponsored Schemes for basic services like drinking water are formulated by the Central Ministries/Departments in consultation with the State Governments/Union Territories and are implemented by the State Governments/Union Territories. The concerned nodal Ministries/Departments regularly monitor and review their Centrally Sponsored Schemes through monthly/

quarterly progress reports and periodic review meetings with the State Governments. The scheme-wise allocation/releases are done by the Central Ministries/Departments. The Planning Commission does not have any direct role in their implementation or monitoring. It, however, reviews the implementation of Plan schemes during the Annual Plan discussions with the State Governments/Union Territories.

Foreign Investment

673. SHRI DINSHAW PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foreign investment attracted by the Government during each of the last three years for development of food processing industries;

(b) whether the foreign investment in this sector was far below the anticipated level; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to encourage foreign investment for promotion of food processing industries in the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Year wise details of foreign investment approved by the Government during the last 3 years in the food processing sector is as under:

Year	Foreign Investment (Rs. in crores)
1995-96	1019
1996-97	4882
1997-98	1002

(b) No, Sir. Higher foreign investment in 1996-97 is on account of massive expansion undertaken by the soft drink foreign companies.

(c) Does not arise. The food processing industries except for alcoholic beverages has been delicensed since liberalisation in July 1991.

Issue of Passport

674. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Regional Passport Offices situated in four metropolitan cities are issuing large number of passports without conducting police verification;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the number of such cases come to notice of the Government; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in these cases?

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

(b) and (c) Government decided in December, 1992, that passports be issued by all Passport Offices, except in some sensitive States, on police report overdue basis if the reports are

not received from the concerned Police authorities in the Passport Offices concerned within four weeks of their being sought, and provided all other documentation is complete and in order. Since separate records of such cases are not maintained in the Passport Offices, precise figures in this regard are not available.

Pending Schemes

675. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of schemes of food processing industries are pending with the Government for clearance;

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

(c) since when these schemes are pending and the steps taken to expedite clearance of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The details of proposals for financial assistance under the Plan Schemes which are pending consideration by the Ministry are attached as statement. These proposals are pending for varying periods of time. However, action has been initiated to expedite early clearance of these proposals.

Statement

1.	Assam	1
2.	Bihar	1
3.	Kerala	1
4.	Orissa	3
5.	Tamil Nadu	3
6.	Uttar Pradesh	3
7.	West Bengal	3
8.	Maharashtra	2
9.	Andhra Pradesh	2
10.	Delhi	4
11.	Haryana	1
Total		24

Special Status to States

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

(a) the number of States which have been given special status;

(b) the reasons for giving special status to those States;

(c) whether any other State has demanded for special status; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) 10 States are given special category status for allocation of Central Assistance to State Plans. They are Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.

(b) These States are generally those with hilly terrain, low population density and overall economic backwardness. They are also situated along borders of the country and have weak resource base. A number of them were formed from small Union Territories or districts of some other States.

(c) Bihar, Goa, Orissa and Rajasthan have demanded special category status in the past.

(d) These demands were not acceded to because none of these States fulfill the criteria for special category status.

Eco-Friendly Electronic

677. PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up Eco-Friendly Electronic Industries in J&K;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) The Government of India has only a promotional role. Since electronics and information technology has a tremendous potential for generation of employment, incomes and export earnings, the Government would like to encourage the industry throughout India. A proposal of the J&K State Industrial Development Corporation to set up an infrastructural complex for Software Technology Park (STP) units in the J&K has been approved by the Government.

I.R.E.D.A.

678. SHRI P. SANKARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the locations identified by Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency to develop wind energy estates in Kerala;

(b) the States where such estate is existing along with the area covered, the economic viability and the generation of power;

(c) the amount earmarked to develop the estate in Kerala and the approximate target for completion;

(d) whether IREDA proposes to venture into other traditional fields in a large scale in joint sector companies

simultaneously for energy generation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Ten potential sites, namely, Kanjicodu, Kolahalamedu, Kotamala, Kottathara, Kuttikanam, Panchalimedu, Ponmudi, Pullikanam, Ramakalmedu and Tolanur have been identified in the State of Kerala, which are considered suitable for Wind Power Projects. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) with Agency for Non-Conventional Energy and Rural Technology (ANERT), Thiruvananthapuram and M/s. Penta Power Park (Ptv.) Ltd., Cochin for establishment of a wind energy estate in the State, which could not materialise.

(b) A Wind Energy Estate has been established at Jamagodarani near Dewas in Madhya Pradesh by a Joint Sector Company, namely, Madhya Pradesh Wind Farms Ltd. An aggregate capacity of about 14 MW has been established which has generated more than 20 million units of electricity. The Joint Sector Company has declared annual dividend of 20% for 3 consecutive years from 1995-96. The private investors are getting a rate of return of about 30% on their investment through this Joint Sector Company.

(c) to (e) No specific funds have been earmarked for development of wind energy estates by Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA). At present, no such proposal is pending. However, proposals when received, will be considered upon merit.

Bad Quality Reception of TV at Dwarka and Bhuj

679. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the performance of Doordarshan programmes telecast at Dwarka and Bhuj in Gujarat is not upto the mark resulting people are watching Pakistan TV;

(b) if so, the time by which the construction of HPT at Dwarka and Bhuj are likely to be completed;

(c) whether the work on setting up of F.M. Radio Station and H.P.T. at Junagadh in Gujarat has since started; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) and (b) Weak and irregular TV signals are reported to be received from across the border region of Gujarat.

To further strengthen TV coverage in the area, HPT, Bhuj (permanent set up) on 300 meter tower for wider coverage in replacement of the existing interim set up on 100 meter tower is presently under implementation and is expected to be completed during 1999. Existing HPT Dwarka located very near to sea is radiating reduced power due to corrosion in the

Antenna, thus affecting coverage. Alternative site for HPT at Dwarka has been taken over. Setting of HPT at the new site would take about three years after sanctioning of the scheme.

(c) and (d) Work on FM Radio station has been started and the project is expected to be completed by 2000-2001 subject to availability of resources and infrastructure facility. Presently, there is no approved scheme to set up an HPT at Junagadh in Gujarat.

KBK Development Scheme

680. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the replay given to Unstarred Question No. 6552 on July 29, 1998 and state:

(a) whether the fund provided for Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput Development Scheme by concerned Ministries/Department has been earmarked for KBK districts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the Government of Orissa have provided the money accordingly for utilisation in these districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (d) The Revised Long-term Action Plan for the undivided districts of Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi (KBK) includes Central Plan and Centrally Sponsored Schemes for various sectors viz. agriculture, horticulture, watershed development, afforestation, rural employment, irrigation, health, emergency feeding, drinking water, rural connectivity and welfare of SCs/STs. From the Additional Central Assistance available for Basic Minimum Services an amount of Rs. 7 crore has been earmarked for emergency feeding programme and Rs. 2 crore for Mobile Health Units in the KBK districts. Further, an amount of Rs. 37 crore has been earmarked for KBK districts as additionality in Annual Plan 1998-99 for primary residential schools, afforestation, watershed development, and for meeting the interest burden on irrigation schemes.

Utilisation of funds by the Government of Orissa is being monitored closely by the concerned Ministries and Planning Commission through examination of Progress at meetings and by visits of Central Government officials to the region.

Telephone Facility for Panchayat Headquarters

681. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Panchayat Headquarters in Orissa where telephone facility is not available;

(b) the number of Panchayat Headquarters where telephone facility has been provided, connected by tower system and cable lines, separately; and

(c) the time by which the work of laying cables are likely

to be completed in the Panchayat Headquarters connected by the tower system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Telephone facilities are not available to 262 Gram Panchayat Headquarters.

(b) (i) 2048 Gram Panchayat Headquarters have been provided with Telephone facility on Tower system.

(ii) 2974 Gram Panchayat Headquarters have been provided Telephone facility on underground cable/overhead line.

(c) Presently, there are no plans to lay cables to Panchayat Headquarters connected by tower system.

[Translation]

One Family one Employment Scheme

682. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States have adopted one-family-one-employment scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to extend this programme for the remaining States; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Based on the information available, the State of Haryana has introduced one family one job scheme with effect from 22/23.6.1992. The Government of Haryana have decided to provide employment opportunities on preferential basis to those families whose no member is employed. Under the scheme eligible family will constitute parents (Husband or Wife) and major unmarried children within the age group of 18-35 years. To ensure that the benefit of this scheme percolate down to the deserving members, it has been decided to exclude such families whose any member is: (a) Income Tax Assessee; (b) Sales Tax Assessee; (c) Former/Sitting member of Parliament/Member of Legislative Assembly, Chairman of the Board/Corporation/Public Undertaking; and (d) Already in any kind of employment.

The proposed preference for employment will be limited to identified families which are living below the poverty line as reflected in the survey undertaken by the Rural Development Department for the period ending June, 1990 and also the members of those families where nobody is in employment and their names stand registered with the department of employment. Preference is to be given in employment, where other things are equal.

(c) and (d) State Governments implement special

employment programmes. However, Union Government is implementing Employment Assurance Scheme benefits of which are available to all States.

[English]

Audit of NDDB

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

(a) whether the Ministry of Agriculture have sought any advice about the Audit of NDDB (National Dairy Development Board) last year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) the CAG was granted permission by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying in June 1997 to audit the accounts of NDDB from 1988-89 to 1995-96 under section 14(2) of the CAG (DPC) Act, 1971. The Ministry of Law and the Solicitor General have opined that the permission for audit given to CAG is valid, notwithstanding provisions regarding audit contained in the NDDB Act, 1987.

NDDB has filed a civil writ petition in the High Court of Delhi against Government's decision. Audit of NDDB accounts by CAG has been stayed by the Delhi High Court till the writ petition is decided.

Expansion of Telephone Exchanges

684. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the expansion of telephone exchanges in Tamil Nadu particularly in Madurai District during the current financial year;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The details of expansion of exchanges in Madurai Revenue District planned during 1998-99 are given in the attached statement.

(c) Does not arise in view of the reply to (b) above.

Statement

The details of expansion of exchanges in Madurai Revenue District commissioned/programmed during 1998-99 are given below

Sl. No.	Name of Exchange	Type	No. of lines added/ programmed	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Madurai East Masi St.	N.T.	10000	Commissioned
2.	Madurai K. Pudur	N.T.	3000	RSU Commissioned
3.	Madurai K.K. Nagar	N.T.	4000	Main exchange programmed
4.	Madurai Bibikulam	E-10B	1000	RLU Expn. commissioned
5.	Madurai Koodalnagar	E-10B	1000	RLU Expansion programmed
6.	Madurai Tiruppalai	E-10B	3000	RLU Programmed
7.	Madurai Villapuram	E-10B	1000	RLU Expansion programmed
8.	Tirunagar	E-10B	1000	RLU Expansion Programmed
9.	Othakadai	E-10B	1000	RLU Programmed
10.	Nagamalaipudukkottai	C-DDT SBM	256	Expansion commissioned
11.	Samayanallur	C-DOT SBM	1000	MBM Programmed
12.	T. Kalpatti	C-DOT SBM	1000	SBM Programmed
13.	Vadipatti	C-DOT SBM	1000	SPM Programmed
14.	Usilampatti	C-DOT SBM	400	Expansion Programmed
15.	Alanganallur	C-DOT 256 Twin	152	Expansion Programmed

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Checkanurani	C-DOT 256	152	Expansion Programmed
17.	Kalliqudi	C-DOT 256 Twin	152	Expansion Programmed
18.	Kancharampettai	C-DOT 256	152	Expansion Programmed
19.	Kottampatti	C-DOT 256	152	Expansion Programmed
20.	Palamedu	C-DOT 256	152	Expansion Programmed
21.	Pearaiyur	C-DOT 256 Twin	152	Expansion Programmed
22.	Upparpatti	C-DOT 256	152	Expansion Programmed
23.	Vathipatti	C-DOT 256	152	Expansion Programmed
24.	Vellalur	C-DOT 256	152	Expansion Programmed
25.	Chellampatti	C-DOT 256 Port	112	Expansion Programmed
26.	Elumalai	C-DOT 256 Port	104	Expansion Programmed
27.	Karunkalakuch	C-DOT 256 Port	88	Expansion Programmed
28.	Koelavalavu	C-DOT 256 Port	88	Expansion Programmed
29.	Koodakoll	C-DOT 256 Port	48	Expansion Programmed
30.	Muthusamipatti	C-DOT 256 Port	24	Expansion Programmed
31.	Narasingapatti	C-DOT 256 Port	16	Expansion Programmed
32.	Saptur	C-DOT 256 Port	96	Expansion Programmed
33.	Sedapatti	C-DOT 256 Port	56	Expansion Programmed
34.	Uthappanalckanur	C-DOT 256 Port	40	Expansion Programmed

[Translation]

Telegraph Offices

685. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telegraph offices set up in the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(b) whether any targets have been fixed by the Government to set up the telegraph offices in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made vis-a-vis these targets, State-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

[English]

Fax Facilities in Maharashtra

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

(a) the number of fax machines in operation in Maharashtra during the last three years;

(b) whether any request has been received for provision of fax facilities in the two post offices in Manwat Town in Pathri Taluka of Parbhani District in Maharashtra;

(c) if so, whether a decision has been taken in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the said facilities are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) The No. of Fax machines in operation in Telegraph Bureau Fax Centres during the last three years is given below:

Year	No. of Fax Machines in Operation
1995-96	112
1996-97	114
1997-98	114

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Department of Telecom, does not provide Fax facilities in Post Offices. Any Franchising Public Telephone Operator can provide public Fax facility by obtaining due licence.

(d) Does not arise.

Trawlers Confiscated

687. SHRI S.S. OWAISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 6186 on July 29, 1998 regarding trawlers confiscated and state:

(a) whether all the trawlers confiscated have been taken back by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the time by which these are likely to be taken back; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Mini Telephone Exchanges

688. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone connections required for mini telephone exchanges in the rural areas;

(b) whether the Government have set up any such exchanges in North Maharashtra;

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

(d) whether Government propose to set up more such telephone exchanges in rural areas to have easy access of telephone facilities to rural people; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the total expenditure incurred by Government on setting up such telephone exchanges in whole Maharashtra during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) A minimum of 10 applications for new telephone connections are required for setting up of a telephone exchange at a place.

(b) Yes, Sir. 622 telephone exchanges have already been set up in North Maharashtra.

(c) The Telecom. district-wise details are given below: Ahmednagar-193, Aurangabad-67, Nasik-141, Dhule-88, and Jalgaon-133 exchanges.

(d) Yes, Sir. More such exchanges have been planned during 1998-99.

(e) (i) It is proposed to open 96 telephone exchanges in Maharashtra during 1998-99.

(ii) During 1997-98, 183 new telephone exchanges were opened in whole of Maharashtra. The expenditure of Rs. 86.88 crores was incurred.

Meat and Poultry Processing Industry

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

(a) whether the Government propose to bring all the schemes relating to meat and poultry processing under the purview of Ministry of Food Processing Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether during the financial year 1997-98 the Government could spend only Rupees 2.30 crores out of Rupees 11.41 crores allocated for fisheries sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Details of the Plan Schemes being operated by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries in the meat and poultry processing sector are as under:

Name of the Scheme	B.E. 1998-99 (Rs. in crores)
(1) Scheme for development/modernisation of meat processing.	3.50
(2) Scheme for development of poultry and egg processing.	2.00
(3) Scheme for development/improvement of marketing, quality control storage and transport of meat and meat products.	0.75

(c) and (d) Three Plan Schemes of the Ministry with a total outlay of Rs. 12 crores during 1997-98 covered the fish processing sector also. While two of these schemes, with an outlay of Rs. 0.80 crores during 1997-98, were exclusively for fish processing, the third scheme with an outlay of Rs. 11.20 crores in 1997-98 covered fish processing as well as other sectors. The total expenditure on the fish processing projects during 1997-98 amounted to Rs. 2.30 crores and the total expenditure on all these three schemes was Rs. 6.68 crores in 1997-98.

[Translation]

Expansion of Communications Network

690. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to expand the communication network by changing the development and expansion related targets of communication media set for the year 1998-99;

(b) if so, the targets prepared inter-alia stating the criterion laid to achieve these targets on the basis of population; and

(c) whether the action plan is being amended to achieve the targets fixed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) to (c) It is proposed to expand the telecom. network during the year 1998-99 by achieving the following targets:

(i) Switching capacity	49.30 Lakh lines
(ii) DELs	36.00 Lakh
(iii) VPTs	45,000
(iv) TAX lines	4,50 Lakh
(v) Transmission Media	54,500 RKMs

The overall targets of the country have been further divided amongst the 22 Territorial Circles and MTNL Mumbai and Delhi based on the waiting list, tele-density and growth rate telephone demand.

All possible steps are being taken to arrange switching, transmission and other equipment, and line materials to the Telecom Circles, so that the target can be achieved fully.

[Translation]

SHRIMULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you may be knowing that in the previous session... [Interruptions]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you after the Papers are laid on the table.

[Interruptions]

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI (RAIGARH): The demand regarding creation of Chhatisgarh State was accepted but now it is being denied... [Interruptions]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (DARBHANGA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, question No. 47 pertains to natural calamity and it is a very important question... [Interruptions]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will examine it.

[Interruptions]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Papers to be laid on the Table.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

(i) **Corrigendum to Action Taken Report on Jain Commission final Report etc.**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): On behalf of Shri L.K. Advani, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy of the Corrigendum to the Memorandum of Action Taken (MOAT) on the Final Report* of the Jain Commission of Inquiry (in English version only).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1498/98]

(2) A copy each of the following Orders (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 12 of the Governors (Emoluments, Allowances and Privileges) Act, 1982:

(i) Special Order dated the 4th September, 1998 made by the President providing additional funds under Schedule I relating to Raj Bhawan of the Governor of Assam for the financial year 1998-99.

(ii) Special Order dated the 4th September, 1998 made by the President increasing the amounts in respect of Hospitality and Tour under Schedule II relating to the Governor of Assam for the financial year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1499-98]

* Final Report of Jain Commission of Inquiry was laid on the Table of the House on July 31, 1996.

(ii) **Notification under the Apprenticeship (Amendment) Rules, 1998 etc.**

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 37 of the Apprentices Act, 1961:

(i) The Apprenticeship (Amendment) Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 107 in Gazette of India dated the 6th June, 1998 together with a corrigendum thereto in Hindi version only, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 151 dated the 8th August, 1998.

(ii) The Apprenticeship (Amendment) Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 110 in Gazette of India dated the 13th June, 1998 together with a corrigendum thereto in Hindi version only, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 152 dated the 8th August, 1998.

(iii) The Apprenticeship (Amendment) Rules, 1998

published in Notification No. G.S.R. 123 in Gazette of India dated the 4th July, 1998 together with a corrigendum thereto, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 157 dated the 15th August, 1998.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1500/98]

(iii) Annual Accounts, Audit Report and Review of Working of Central Institute of Tibetan Studies Sarnath for the year ending 1994-95 etc.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): Sir, I beg to lay following Papers on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, for the year 1994-95.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, for the year 1994-95, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, for the year 1994-95.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.
[placed in Library. see No. LT-1501/98]
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, for the year 1995-96, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, for the year 1995-96.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1502/98]
- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, for the year 1996-97, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, for the year

1996-97.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1503/98]
- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Ladakh, for the year 1993-94.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Ladakh, for the year 1993-94, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Ladakh, for the year 1993-94.
- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1504/98]
- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Ladakh, for the year 1994-95.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Ladakh, for the year 1994-95, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Ladakh, for the year 1994-95.
- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1505/98]
- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Ladakh, for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Ladakh, for the year 1995-96, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Ladakh, for the year 1995-96.
- (12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1506/98]
- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Ladakh, for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Ladakh, for the year 1996-97, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Ladakh, for the year 1996-97.
- (14) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (13) above.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1507/98]
- (15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Hindi, Agra, for the year 1995-96.
(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Hindi, Agra, for the year 1995-96, together with Audit Report thereon.
(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Hindi, Agra, for the year 1995-96.
- (16) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (15) above.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1508/98]
- (17) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal, for the year 1996-97.
- (18) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (17) above.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1509/98]
- (19) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rampur Raza Library, Rampur, for the year 1996-097, alongwith Audited Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rampur Raza Library, Rampur, for the year 1996-97.
- (20) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (19) above.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1510/98]
- (21) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Delhi Public Library, Delhi, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Delhi Public Library, Delhi, for the year 1996-97.
- (22) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (21) above.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1511/98]
- (23) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad, for the year 1996-97.
- (24) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (23) above.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1512/98]
- (25) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.
- (26) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (25) above.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1513/98]
- (27) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97.
- (28) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (27) above.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1514/98]
- (29) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95.
(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95, together with Audit Report thereon.
(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95.
- (30) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (29) above.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1515/98]
- (31) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Hindi, Agra, for the year 1996-97.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Hindi, Agra, for the year 1996-97.
- (32) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing

reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (31) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1516/98]

(33) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language, Vadodara, for the year 1995-96.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language, Vadodara, for the year 1995-96.

(34) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (33) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1517/98]

(35) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language, Vadodara, for the year 1996-97.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language, Vadodara, for the year 1996-97.

(36) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (35) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1518/98]

(iv) Explanatory Statement regarding Oil Fields (Regulation and Development) Ordinance, 1998

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY): I beg to lay on the Table:

An explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Ordinance, 1998, under rule 71(2) of the Rules of procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1519/98]

(v) Notification under Companies Act, 1956

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): I beg to lay on the Table:

A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 500(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th August, 1998 making certain alterations in Schedule XIV to the Companies Act, 1956, under sub-section (3) of section 641 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1520/98]

(vi) Notification under Central Wakf Council Rules, 1998

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL

JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): I beg to lay on the Table:

A copy of the Central Wakf Council Rules, 1998 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 593 in Gazette of India dated the 30th September, 1998, under sub-section (3) of section 12 of the Wakf Act, 1995.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1521/98]

(vii) A copy of Central Vigilance Commission Ordinance, 1998 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAMNAIK): I beg to lay on the Table: a copy each of the following Ordinances (Hindi and English versions) under article 123(2) (a) of the Constitution:

(1) The Central Vigilance Commission Ordinance, 1998 (No. 15 of 1998), promulgated by the President on the 25th August, 1998, together with a Corrigendum thereto in Hindi version only.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1523/98]

(2) The Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Amendment Ordinance, 1998 (No. 16 of 1998), promulgated by the President on the 29th August, 1998, together with a Corrigendum thereto in Hindi version only.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1524/98]

(3) The Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Ordinance, 1998 (No. 17 of 1998), promulgated by the President on the 3rd September, 1998.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1525/98]

(4) The Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998 (No. 18 of 1998), promulgated by the President on the 27th October, 1998.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1526/98]

(5) The Companies (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998 (No. 19 of 1998), promulgated by the President on the 31st October, 1998.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1527/98]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (MAHABUBNAGAR): The Government introduced the Bill to replace Prasar Bharati Ordinance. It was laid on the Table of the House.

(viii) Annual Report, Annual Accounts, Audit Report and Review of the Working of Tata Institute of Fundamentals Research Mumbai for the year, 1997-98.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): On behalf of Shrimati Vasundhara Raje I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1528/98]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1529/98]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1530/98]

(ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, for the year 1997-98.

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Atomic Energy Education Society, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Atomic Energy Education Society, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1531/98]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1532/98]

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for Plasma Research, Gandhi Nagar, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the

Institute for Plasma Research, Gandhi Nagar, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1533/98]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mehta Research Institute of Mathematics and Mathematical Physics, Allahabad, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Mehta Research Institute of Mathematics and Mathematical Physics, Allahabad, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1534/98]

(ix) Annual Report, Annual Accounts, Audit Report and Review of Working of Rice Processing Research Centre, Thanjavur for the year 1997-98 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): Mr. Speaker, Sir I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Paddy Processing Research Centre, Thanjavur, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Paddy Processing Research Centre, Thanjavur, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1535/98]

(x) Notification under Weights and Measures Act, 1976

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) (Second Amendment) Rules, 1998 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 178 in Gazette of India dated the 12th September, 1998, under sub-section (4) of section 83 of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1536/98]

(xi) Notifications under All India Services Act, 1951

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951:

- (i) G.S.R. 108 published in Gazette of India dated the 13th June, 1998 containing Corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 284 dated the 12th July, 1997. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1537/98]
- (ii) G.S.R. 109 published in Gazette of India dated the 13th June, 1998 containing Corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 285 dated the 12th July, 1997.
- (iii) G.S.R. 171 published in Gazette of India dated the 29th August, 1998 containing Corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 230 (E) dated the 30th April, 1998. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1538/98]
- (iv) The Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Fifteenth Amendment Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 196(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th April, 1998.
- (v) The Indian Police Service (Pay) Fifteenth Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 197(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th April, 1998.
- (vi) The Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Sixteenth Amendment Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 216(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th April, 1998.
- (vii) The Indian Police Service (Pay) Sixteenth Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 217(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th April, 1998.
- (viii) The Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Seventeenth Amendment Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 270(E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th May, 1998.
- (ix) The Indian Police Service (Pay) Seventeenth Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 271(E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th May, 1998.
- (x) The Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Fifth Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 168 in Gazette of India dated the 29th August, 1998.
- (xi) The Indian Police Service (Pay) Twentieth Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 169 in Gazette of India dated the 29th August, 1998.
- (xii) The Indian Forest Service (Pay) Second Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 171 in Gazette of India dated the 29th August, 1998.
- (xiii) G.S.R. 186 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th September, 1998 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 378 dated the 15th November, 1997.
- (xiv) G.S.R. 187 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th September, 1998 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 598(E) dated the 17th October, 1997.

12.01hrs.

ASSENT TO BILLS

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I lay on the Table the following four Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the last Session and assented to since a report was last made to the House on the 31st July, 1998 :-

- (1) The Finance (No. 2) Bill, 1998
- (2) The Beedi Workers Welfare Cess (Amendment) Bill, 1998
- (3) The President's Emoluments and Pension (Amendment) Bill, 1998
- (4) The Salaries and Allowances of Officers of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 1998.

I also lay on the Table copies, duly authenticated by the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha, of the following seven Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the last Session and assented to by the President :

- (1) The National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research Bill, 1990
- (2) The Electricity Regulatory Commissions Bill, 1998
- (3) The Lotteries (Regulation) Bill, 1998
- (4) The Electricity Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1998
- (5) The Interest of Delayed Payments of Small Scale and Ancillary Industrial Undertakings (Amendment) Bill, 1998
- (6) The Governors (Emoluments, Allowances and Privileges) (Amendment) Bill, 1998
- (7) The Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 1998.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICES OF PROFIT
(11TH LOK SABHA)
Third Report—Laid

12.01½ Hrs.

[English]

Secretary-General : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Third Report of Joint Committee on Offices of Profit (11th Lok Sabha) under Direction 71A (6) of the Directions by the Speaker.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS
Sixth Report—Presented

12.02 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the Sixth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Communications on the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India regarding increase in telephone tariff of Basic Telecom Services.

The Sixth Report was presented to the Hon'ble speaker on 19.11.1998 when the House was not in Session. Hon'ble Speaker had issued orders for its printing, publication and circulation under Rule 280.

12.02½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
Second Report—Presented

[English]

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL (JALANDHAR) : I beg to present the Second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on External Affairs on Action Taken on the recommendations contained in the Fourth Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 1997-98.

12.03 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Tenth Report and Minutes—Presented.

[English]

SHRI MURLI DEORA (MUMBAI SOUTH) : I beg to present the Tenth Report and Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Finance on the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 1998.

12.03 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN AND RURAL
DEVELOPMENT
Eleventh Report—Presented

[English]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (MORADABAD) : I beg to present the Eleventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Urban and Rural Development on the Delhi Development Authority (Validation of Disciplinary Powers) Bill, 1997.

12.04 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS
**Forty-sixth, forty-seventh and forty-eighth
Reports—Laid**

[English]

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY (BAPATLA) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs:

- (i) Forty-sixth Report on the Indian Majority (Amendment) Bill, 1997;
- (ii) Forty-seventh Report on the Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1997; and
- (iii) Forty-eighth Report on the Administrators-General (Amendment) Bill, 1998.

12.04½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS
Evidence

[English]

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY (BAPATLA) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of Evidence tendered before the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on the (i) Indian Majority (Amendment) Bill, 1997; (ii) Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1997; and (iii) Administrators-General (Amendment) Bill, 1998.

12.05 hrs.

PRESENTATION OF PETITION

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : Sir, I beg to present a petition signed by Shri Binoy Mukherjee, Working President, National Projects Construction Corporation Ltd. Workers Union of India, 53, A.J.C Bose Road, Calcutta and others requesting for redeployment of NPCC workers from Ministry of Water Resources to Ministry of Power.

12.08 hrs.

FELICITATION TO PROF. AMARTYA SEN ON
HIS WINNING NOBEL PRIZE FOR ECONOMICS

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members are aware that a son of India, Prof. Amartya Sen, outstanding economist and thinker has been awarded the 1998 Noble Prize for Economics for his path breaking work in the field of welfare and development economics. Prof. Sen is the sixth Indian to achieve this rare distinction. Prof. Sen has made all of us feel proud by his achievement.

Prof. Sen's academic work has been both vast and varied. His key contributions are his research on fundamental problems in welfare economics, axiomatic theory of social choice, definitions of welfare and poverty and human development indices, and empirical studies of famine. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has paid tribute to Prof. Sen by saying,

".. Amartya Sen has made a number of noteworthy contributions to central fields of economic science and opened up new fields of study for subsequent generations of researchers. By combining tools for economics and philosophy, he has restored an ethical dimension to the discussion of vital economic problems."

Prof. Sen has over the years many major works in Economics and Philosophy to his credit which has earned him many awards.

I hope the whole House joins me in congratulating Noble Laureate Prof. Amartya Sen on his singular achievement. We all wish him many more years of creative success.

[English]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (BARAMULLA) : Sir, I must have my say. Actually, I support every word that the hon. Speaker has said.

MR. SPEAKER : Statement by Shri Nitish Kumar.

(Interruptions)

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : I support every word that you have spoken. But I have moved the motion in the morning and I must have the right to say something. I want to say something on this. ... (Interruptions) I want to say something on this.

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Soz, please understand. Yesterday in the Business Advisory Committee, it was decided.

(Interruptions)

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (BARAMULLA) : I must say something on this.

[Transiation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASADSINGH (VAISHALI) : What about the adjournment motion?

SHRIMULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please listen to me first. You can make the statement afterwards. We obeyed your orders and did not raise this issue during Question Hour. Now you should listen to my point while suspending other business. We obeyed your orders. During last session also for continuously two months we kept on demanding a discussion on law and order but permission was not granted.

MR. SPEAKER : I will give you a chance.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : You please give me an opportunity to speak before conducting other business of the House. What is your order in this regard?

MR SPEAKER : I will allow you after this statement.

12.11 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER
Side Collision of Jammu Tawi-Sealdah
Express with Derailed Coaches of Golden Temple Mail

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : It is with a feeling of utter sorrow and a sense of deepest anguish that I stand today to apprise the House regarding details of an unfortunate side collision of 3152 Dn Jammu Tawi Sealdah Express with derailed coaches of 2903 Up Golden Temple Mail infringing the down line on Ambala-Ludhiana section of Northern Railway's Ambala Division. The collision occurred at about 3.13 hours on 26th November, 1998.

In this accident, as per the latest reports, 209 passengers have lost their lives and 140 passengers had sustained either grievous or simple injuries. In addition 57 passengers were discharged after rendering first aid. The injured have been admitted to various hospitals in Khanna, Ludhiana and other nearby places and utmost care is being taken to render the best possible medical treatment. The list of dead so far identified and list of injured passengers has been displayed at enquiry booths set up at different locations.

In the early hours of 26th November 1998, 2903 Up Golden Temple Mail passed Khanna station run through on the Up line at 3.10 hours. The train was running 50 minutes behind schedule. At almost the same time, at 3.09 hours, 3152 Dn Jammu Tawi-Sealdah Express passed Chawapail station run through on the Down line. This train was running 18 minutes behind schedule. The block section between Khanna and Chawapail is 10.8 Kms. long and normally it takes each train around seven minutes to cover the block section. Travelling in the opposite direction the two trains would normally cross each other after approximately 3.5 to 4 minutes.

At around 3.13 hours, three minutes after passing khanna, nine coaches of 2903 Up positioned 10th to 18th from train engine derailed. Of these nine derailed coaches, these coaches in the middle, positioned 14th to 16th from train engine fouled the down line. The front portion of 2903 Up consisting of train engine and first nine coaches came to stop about one kilometre from the site of derailment. It is on record that the Over Head Equipment tripped at around 3.13 hours.

Immediately thereafter, 3152 Dn moving on the down line collided with the derailed coaches and both the driver and the assistant driver of the unfortunate train perished in this accident. The collision resulted in derailment of the Train engine and the first seven coaches of 3152 Dn, some of which were totally mangled.

As soon as information about this accident was received, Medical Relief Vans and Accident Relief Trains from both Ambala and Ludhiana were immediately ordered and rushed to the accident site. The Divisional Railway Manager, Ambala along with doctors and Divisional Officers immediately proceeded to the site of accident. General Manager, Northern Railway along with his Principal Heads of Department also left for the accident site to supervise rescue and relief operations

Soon after learning about this unfortunate accident, I along with the Chief Minister of Punjab, accompanied by Chairman Railway Board, Member Engineering, Member Mechanical and other senior officers of Railway Board visited the site of the accident for making an on-the-spot assessment of the situation. I would like to place on record the outstanding contribution of the State Government of Punjab and all their agencies, the units of the Army and Air Force that were based nearby, numerous Non-Government Organisations who rushed in to help with men, material and money, and last but not the least, inhabitants of nearby villages, who rendered yeomen service in selflessly assisting the Railways in this hour of grief.

While money cannot compensate the next of kin for the irreparable loss suffered by the death of their near and dear ones, *ex-gratia* payments of Rs. 25,000 for deceased passengers, Rs. 5,000 to the grievously injured and Rs. 2000 to those who sustained simple injuries have been made. Compensation as admissible will be paid to them by the Railway Claims Tribunal. This amount varies from Rs. 32,000 to Rs. 4 lakh based on the extent of incapacitation due to injuries and Rs. 4 lakh in case of death.

Usually in case of serious train accidents, inquiry is conducted by The Commissioner of Railway Safety. However, keeping in mind the gravity of this particular accident, the inquiry in this case is being conducted by the Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety (CCRS) himself, who heads the Commission and works under the Ministry of Civil Aviation. However, it has now been decided that a judicial inquiry under the Commission of Inquiries Act will be conducted. While the precise cause of the accident would be established after the inquiry report is received, *prima facie* the cause of the derailment appears to be material failure.

On behalf of the Railways and myself, I express deep condolences to the bereaved families and also express sincere sympathies to the injured. I trust the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : Sir, there should be a discussion on this ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : There should be a discussion on this ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, we have already given a notice under rule 193 on this ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The hon'ble Minister submit resignation letter in such cases ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Does everybody want to resign?

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, are you allowing a discussion on this? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : We do not have any objection on discussion ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh, there are two Motions for Elections to Committees. After these two Motions are moved, I shall give you the chance.

12.18 hrs.

ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

(i) All India Council for Technical Education

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : I beg to move : "that in pursuance of Section 3(4) (j) of the All India Council for Technical Education Act, 1987, the members of this House should proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, one member from among themselves to serve as a member of the All India Council for Technical Education for the remaining term, i.e. upto 10 February, 2001, subject to other provisions of the said Act.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That in pursuance of Section 3 (4) (j) of the All India Council for Technical Education Act, 1987, the members of this house do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, one member from among themselves to serve as a member of the All India Council for Technical Education for the remaining term, i.e., up to 10 February, 2001, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

The motion was adopted.

(ii) General Council of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOP-

MENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : I beg to move :

"That in pursuance of the provisions contained in clauses (ii) to (iv) of rule 4 read with clause (3) of rule 15 of the Rules and Regulations of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, the members of this House should proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves, to serve as members of the General Council of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, subject to other provisions of the said Rules and Regulations."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That in pursuance of the provisions contained in clauses (ii) to (iv) of rule 4 read with clause (3) of rule 15 of the Rules and Regulations of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves, to serve as members of the General Council of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, subject to other provisions of the said Rules and Regulations."

The motion was adopted.

12.22 hrs.

High Denomination Bank Notes (Demonetisation) Amendment Bill*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the High Denomination Bank Notes (Demonetisation) Act, 1978.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the High Denomination Bank Notes (Demonetisation) Act, 1978."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN : I introduce the Bill.

12.25 hrs.

Railway Claims Tribunal (Amendment) Bill*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Railway Claims Tribunal Act, 1987.

Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 2-12-98.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Railway Claims Tribunal Act, 1987."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I introduce the Bill.

12.30 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : I beg to lay on the table a copy of the Notification No. S.U. 958 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th November, 1998 seeking to exempt crude oil produced in the exploration blocks to be offered under New Exploration Licensing Policy through competitive international bidding from the cess leviable thereon, issued under sub-section (4) of section 15 of the Oil Industry (Development) Act, 1974....

[Interruptions]

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1522/98]

I am sorry. I was in the other House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now 'Zero Hour'. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we had demanded that after the results of four States, the Prime Minister should resign....(Interruptions)

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (KHURJA) : First, see your State. Tell me, where you stand....(Interruptions). You have no right to say this. You should resign.

[English]

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR (DUMDUM) : Sir, this is not a 'Zero Hour' matter. How can he raise such a matter in 'Zero Hour'?....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed him.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. I have allowed him.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Sir, there is one reason that we have said that the Prime Minister should resign. We want to bring facts before you in this regard. The Prime Minister has said that we shall move No-Confidence motion in the

House and should prove our majority. I want to state that when populace has rejected this Government in the Legislative Assembly elections in four States, there is no need to move No-Confidence motion in this House ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You too will get an opportunity to speak.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav Speaks.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI MALAYAM SINGH YADAV : Sir, the rising prices...

(Interruptions).

[English]

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR : We will not allow him to say all this because this is not a 'Zero Hour' matter. He cannot say this.*(Interruptions)*

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (MADRAI) : How can he say that he will not allow?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats. I have allowed him.

(Interruptions)

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR : This is not a 'Zero Hour' matter.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : They are showing a fascist character by saying that they would not allow him to speak. Let him speak.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in my view the people have rejected them because of the price rise. This is not an ordinary price-rise. The production has gone down by 6.1 and the prices have risen by 600 per cent. The matter is not only related to the prices of potatoes, onions, pulses and oil, but the prices of every item, whether it is tomato or salt have gone up. What is the state of the people of the country due to price-rise. The entire country is troubled by the price-rise ...*(Interruptions)*. If you want us to create the scenes, we are ready for that also.

SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY (KHAGARIA) : The price of milk has also increased ? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Sir, at least 48% people

of this country are compelled to have meal only once a day due to price-rise. And after that the argument tendered by the government that the price-rise is the result of poor climatic conditions, is not logical.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh ji, the elections are over.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Today, if the Prime Minister says that the price-rise is the result of unfavourable climatic conditions, or floods caused by the rage of Lord Indra and the credit of controlling the prices goes to the Prime Minister, this will not go. You have to take full responsibility of it. At that time they said that the state of economy will improve by September, but it has further deteriorated. The people have realised it. As far as the question of law and order is concerned, the entire structure of law and order has collapsed and I do not want to go in its detail. The terrorism and killings have increased ...*(Interruptions)*. The Government are also involved in the killings. And then the Home Minister says that his life is in danger. It might be possible that there is danger ...*(Interruptions)*. When the Minister of Home Affairs is admitting that his life is in danger, what can be said about the common man. What more evidence, do you require? We demand that the Government should immediately resign on moral grounds. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLAPUR) : Sir, he is the Leader of his Party. You have allowed him to speak. These super-speakers should be controlled.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : You have put Shri Lala Prasad ji and other people in jail by misusing the power. The Prime Minister has said that there is a Mafia Raj in the Bihar. But mafia Raj is in Uttar Pradesh, where 19 mafia have become Ministers. The corruption and robbery is rampant there. Similarly, agriculture, sugar industry and many other industries have been ruined. Sugar is being purchased from Pakistan and it has come to light and is true also that the Sugar is bought from the sugar mill owned by Pakistani Prime Minister, Shri Nawaz Sharif...*(Interruptions)*. It is also learnt that sugar is being imported through a relative of the leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party...*(Interruptions)*. This matter is related to the entire House. The result is that all industries, and agriculture of this country are being affected. We are directly alleging that our sugarcane is being wasted, the farmer is ruined. ...*(interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I would like to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Somnath Chatterjee, I will allow you after Shri Shiv Shankar.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : The entire Sugar industry is being destroyed. As a result of repeated threats of dismissal to the Government of Shrimati Rabri Devi ji, they have lost all four seats and other party has won. ...*(Interruptions)*.

You have won election because of us. ...*(Interruptions)*. There is tension in the entire country due to attacks on Christians in all parts of country and on sufi-saints in Karnataka.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have received notices with regard to that.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : The raid was conducted on the house of the world renowned, religious leader, Shri Ali Mian, who is a symbol of Hindu-Muslim unity. Will people tolerate this ? It was said as he is a Pakistani agent and therefore raid was conducted at his house. Christians, Muslims backwards, people belonging to Samajwadi Party and Rashtriya Janta Dal are being killed and Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav has been put into the jail due to political enmity. You have to bear the brunt in the elections. I say, if any morality is left, you should resign. ...*(Interruptions)*. You are using of Vande Mataram for your political gains. We have seen the poster of Pokhran blast in the Rajasthan. It is a result of years of hard work of our scientist. It is their achievement. But its poster has been seen in the elections in Rajasthan. These posters have been displayed by the people of R.S.S and B.J.P. The people have rejected them that is why they are defeated.

The syllabus in schools is being changed, education policy is being changed ...*(Interruptions)*. The present content of the text books is an effort to disintegrate India.

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN (AMROHA) : At present, you can speak on only one topic.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : The people have rejected them. I say, this will become more clear in next three months. Therefore, I say, support Mulayam Singh.

[English]

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR (DUMDUM). There was no raid ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singhji, please conclude now ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : The farmers will be ruined, D.A.P will not be given I would like to ask how many days are left in sowing? Only 10 days are left. Whether D.A.P. will be available in ten days. Why are you fooling us? Urea is also not available. By this way the production of food grains will decrease, then you will import food grains from other countries. You have rallied the whole world against our country due to your foreign policy. You are playing in the hands of United States of America. You have a Swadeshi Jagran Manch.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh ji, are you discussing price-rise?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : That Jagran Manch is also of the view that you are playing in the hands of United States of America. Today, the economy of India is in danger. The

self respect of the country has received a set back. Therefore, this Government should immediately resign on the moral grounds ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Reghuvansji, one minute please. I would call your name also. Shri Shiv Shankar, do you want to say something on the same point?

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR (TENALI) : No ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Then, the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs would say something.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMMATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I would like to say something...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Shiv Shankar ji, you want to raise a different point but Shri Somnathji wants of raise something on the same point. Let his speak first.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. I rise to speak on rule 56.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, you are a member on the Panel of Chairman. You should be aware that there is no point of Order during 'zero hour'. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I urge that the House should run according to the rules. I want your ruling under rule 56. *(Interruptions)*. Earlier, I had resumed my seat as ordered by you. Now, I may be allowed to speak on this issue. My Adjournment Motion is under rule 56. I would like to say something on price-rise. A steep hike in the prices has been registered in the country during the last few days. There are four points ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please understand the situation.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I would like to request that ruling should be given in this regard. Then only a decision could be reached. According to the rule ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : First take your seat.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : According to the rules Adjournment Motion is taken up after 'question hour,' before taking up any other subject. The Government has totally failed in controlling the price-rise. This issue is specific. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : They have earned a profit of Rs. 3000 crore to Rs. 3500 crore for their supporters ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPOZHA) : Sir, I have also given notice for Adjournment Motion.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. I will explain the position.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know that whether you will accept my Adjournment Motion or not? ...*(Interruptions)*. First listen to me. At present, the main issue is of price-rise. They have abolished the Essential Commodities Act. They have favoured a particular class. This is a failure on the part of the Government ...*(Interruptions)*. I want a reply with regard to Adjournment Motion.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (DAUSA) : Sir, what happened to our notice for Adjournment Motion on rising-prices of essential commodities ?

MR. SPEAKER : I am coming to it.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (MADHUBANI) : Sir, what about our 'zero hour' issue?

MR. SPEAKER : I have received notices for Adjournment Motion from Shri Arif Mohammad Khan, Shri Mohan Singh, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh on rising price. The subjects are of utmost importance. Today we have the meeting of Business Advisory Committee at 4 p.m. We will discuss all these notices in that meeting and finalise the time.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA) : Have you admitted it...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (MAVEL IKARA) : We have also given notice.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, the Congress Party has also given notice.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM) : We have also given notice on price rise.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, all Parties have given notices on this subject.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (VISAKHAPATNAM) : I have also given notice for Adjournment Motion.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : You should have mentioned all the names.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Kurien has also given notice.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We have also given notice. Many notices have been given on this very important subject.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : We wanted to raise this issue on the very first day of this Session but we could not do so because the House was not in order on that day.

SHRI SOMMATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel that this highest forum in the country should formally take notice of the verdict of the people in the last Assembly elections. I think we shall be failing in our duty to consider it as a mere routine byelection. Within eight months of this Government coming to power, the economic situation in the country has become so precarious that today, as rightly said, many people are not getting two square meals a day.

An unprecedented price rise has taken place and we have been watching for the Government to take some action. Nothing was done. Not a single hoarder, black marketeer or profiteer was proceeded with, and the people had to undergo a tremendous hardship and misery of such nature which even did not seem — what was shocking — to bother this Government at all. It was very difficult to believe whether this Government had a mind or any conscience.

This is a vote for India's unity and integrity. This is a clear verdict against those who are trying to destabilize India's unity and integrity. We must salute the people of those States who participated in these elections for a very clear verdict against forces of disunity and destruction.

Sir, the economic situation in this country is such that the finance Minister has to go before the World Economic forum — we saw in today's newspaper — making a laughing stock of the whole country. They are even prostrating at the feet of some people who are trying to dictate terms to this country. Sir, there is a competition between the two Jaswants — I saw in the paper — as to who will show greater obeisance to them. What is happening to our country? They talk of *swadeshi* and then do something opposite. Which direction our country's economy is going, nobody knows. The industrial production is around one per cent. The agricultural production is showing a negative growth. Even the small scale sector is under greatest pressure and it is being treated as a Party matter by these people.

Sir, today I had the privilege of appearing on one of the telecast. Shri K.R. Malkani was there. He was even saying that the CIA was responsible for this. This is the state of affairs in their Party. I do not wish to divulge what is said to us in

* Not recorded.

confidence. But this is a shocking state of affairs.

What happened with the Education Policy? Within two months they want to capture the whole thing...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (UDHAMPUR) : Is it lecture that is being delivered?

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : This place is for delivering lecture only.

Sir, what is happening? The important institutions like Council of Historical Research are being taken over, not for the purpose of improving their facilities or conditions of research there, but only to saffronise them. They are taking political control of these organization and it is expected that the people will tolerate this and the Parliament will sit quiet!

Therefore, I feel that this Government has no sense of respect for the people. This massive mandate should make them think, and I should have expected this from him. Shri Vajpayee talks of morality in politics, ethics in politics. But what a motley combination he has got! All sorts of unprincipled coalition. Today, propriety is at stake. What has been sacrificed in this country is political propriety. It is the question of the well being of the people. Who is running this country, we do not know. Therefore, if he really believes in ethical politics or politics of morality, he should come and tender his resignation.

Sir, I want to make it clear that I am not trying to destabilize this country. Today, as rightly said if one leader shows unhappiness, one Minister flies to Chennai, and then if another leader shows unhappiness, the Defence Minister goes to Calcutta to assuage their feelings.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : What is happening? The so-called 'Coordination Committee' is not functioning. After all, this country has to be saved. There is a deep morass of economic problems in this country. This Government does not show any direction at all. No attempt is being made. Therefore, the sooner this Government goes the better.

I am not trying to force a mid-term election in this country. We are not trying to destabilize them; they are destabilizing themselves. But in the process the country should not be taken to rack and ruin. Therefore, I request and demand that this Government should go. I can assure you that not a tear will be shed in the country if this Government goes.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, at present Shri Mulayam Singh Ji and Chatterjee Dada ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMI : Will you please ask him to sit down?

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister is on his legs.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will you ask him to sit down? I will take only a minute.

MR. SPEAKER : He is already on his legs.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : But you can direct him to sit down.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, are you yielding?

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : No.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : He will not yield. He is so scared that he will not yield to me.

You resign and go. That is all I am asking you to do.

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI (RAIGARH) : You have deceived two crore Adivasis...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jogi, please take your seat.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (PANSKURA) : Sir, I require only one minute.

MR. SPEAKER : He is already on his legs. I will allow you after he finishes.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Sir, will you allow me after him?

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : My opinion on, the views expressed by Shri Yadav and Shri Chatterjee is ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed Shri Khurana. Nothing will go on record except what Shri Khurana says.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you after him. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : My reply would have been different, had this question been raised by the Congress. They have right to say this, because they have won. But this question has been raised by Shri Mulayam Singh Ji and Shri Chatterjee. I would like to ask as to on how many seats they have saved their security in these three States. The winning of seats in these States is a far-cry, first you should see as to on how many seats have you been able to save your security ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (DARBHANGA) : Where is your Government?

* Not recorded.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : You are talking of Centre, your was a coalition Government...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Fatmi, I have allowed Shri Khurana. This is not proper. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHARANA : When you were in power, you were defeated in Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let him reply. Pease sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not the proper way...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

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

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, this is too much. Please let him complete.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Fatmi, I have allowed the hon. Minister. Please take your seat. I have not allowed you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jogi, please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : I want to say that there is no need of appeal in the name of morality because when they were at the Centre at the time also their Governments had been defeated. Former Prime Minister, who is sitting here when spoke something you people have always supported him. ...*(Interruptions)* I was not expecting this from you ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as question of price rise is concerned ...*(Interruptions)* if they have courage enough, then they should bring a Motion...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA) : We have already given the notice for the Motion *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Fatmi, please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : So far as the question of price rise which they have mentioned is concerned, I would like to say that in the all party leaders; meeting, which was held in your room day before yesterday, also I had said that we are ready for the debate on any issue, be it price rise, rail accident or anything else...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Fatmi, what is this ? You may take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, we have given eight issues. We said we are ready to debate on whichever issue you want. We will never back track.

Third issue they have raised is regarding Shri Lalu Prasad's arrest. He is an hon'ble Member of this House and everyone knows that his arrest was on the orders of the Supreme Court...*(Interruptions)* Supreme Court's order ...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : What is your Home Ministry doing?...*(Interruptions)* How directives are being given by the Home Ministry? How C.B.I. is being pressurised? Why are you not telling about all this? You may tell all about this...*(Interruptions)* Who said about Mafia Raj? ...*(Interruptions)* Your Prime Minister has said...*(Interruptions)* Who recommended...*(Interruptions)* Are you not ashamed of ...*(Interruptions)* who demanded dismissal of Bihar Government *(Interruptions)* Your Prime Minister did that. Do not you understand this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : It is not proper to say that Supreme Court is being run according to the orders of Home Ministry...*(Interruption)*

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : You have only sent...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want your protection...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed the Minister. What is this? Shri Fatmi, you are a senior Member. Please take your seat. I have not allowed you.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : It is only because of your Government that he is in jail...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, fourth thing which they said was the import of sugar from Pakistan... (Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, the Minister can reply after hearing all the hon. Members.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: We are accused of...(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: There are other hon. Members who want to say something. Why should he intervene now? Sir, he may listen to the other hon. Members and he can reply to them after that...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: I want to say that import of sugar from Pakistan had started during your regime. As I said just now, we want to protect the farmers of India we propose on import of sugar. All this started during your regime...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shiv Shanker.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Sir, are you allowing him on this issue?

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed Shri Shiv Shanker.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: But he is on some other issue.

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed Shri Shiv Shanker. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN (BAHRAICH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my motion is also there...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have given solution to the Adjournment Motion.

[English]

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise with anguish...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Shiv Shanker. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I will give chance to all.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Buta Singh, you may speak after his submission. Every time you are doing this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BUTA SINGH (JALORE): Sir, you have not followed the procedure...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am following the procedure. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am following the procedure. Please take your seat. I have called Shri Shiv Shanker.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise with anguish to make a mention, rather I would charge the present Government with directly or indirectly abetting the disruption of communal harmony in this country.

Sir, in the beginning of this decade, the Home Minister of this Government started the yatra and this infectious disease has now spread to the entire country. The sister organizations of BJP, namely the VHP...

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR: They are not sister organisations.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: They are frontal organizations. I will correct myself.

Sir, I reiterate that the sister organizations of the main party which is in the Government, namely the VHP and their youth wing, the Bajrang Dal have started the yatra for the purpose of liberation of the shrine of the Baba Budangiri of Chikmagalur. It is a matter of great shame and is a matter which makes us to hang our heads in shame.

Sir, what has been said is that there are going to be four yatras. The first yatra is starting from Narasimhavad near Kurandwad in Kolhapur district bordering Belgaum; the second one is from Devaraganapur in Gulbarga District; the third one is from Melkote in Mandya district; and the fourth is from Mudigere in Chikmagalur district. They are proceeding today and are having a camp at a place which is 30 kilometres away from the Budangiri Baba Shrine. They would proceed tomorrow for the purpose of liberation.

This is their plan which in my submission is not only reprehensible but also affects the harmony of different communities in this country. I would like to submit that the resultant effect of such action of encouraging these organisations directly or indirectly by the Central Government is that the constitutional scheme which has been conceived by the makers of the Constitution to keep this country cohesive gets totally tottered. The situation is that this Government is not in a position

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to run the affairs of the country according to the Constitution. Therefore, they disentitle themselves from ruling this country. I would like to submit that apart from the fact that this is a grievous blow to the constitutional system which has to be condemned by all, it is also a question of law and order which might spread out not only to Karnataka but to the other places of the country.

Sir, a couple of years ago, if you recall, an attempt was made to hoist the flag at the Idgah itself in Karnataka and the situation was going out of hand. Even today the situation is that in the States where the BJP is in power, minorities are feeling totally restless.

13.00 hrs.

I have seen myself in Gujarat, villages after villages, the minorities are leaving and coming to the towns. The Christians are not safe and the Muslims are the target. They have even challenged the Sajjada Nashin of that shrine by name Syed Peer Md. Shah Qadri. The resultant effect is commotion entire Karnataka which might engulf the entire country.

This is a serious matter where the Central Government must move. *Yatras* are sought to be taken for the purpose of so called liberation of the shrine...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA (CHIKBALLAPUR): I belong to Karnataka. I may be allowed to speak...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): We must be heard...*(Interruptions)*

13.02 hrs.

(SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*)

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (MORADABAD): These '*yatras*' should be banned immediately otherwise riots may erupt there. Muslims are not safe under their regime of this Government...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, many important points have been placed before the people by our hon'ble Deputy Leader of the opposition Shri P. Shiv Shanker. We support every word said by him. It is a fact that due to these '*Rath yatras*', the '*Mazaar*' of Hajrat at Chickmanglore in Karnataka is no more safe now. We should fully condemn the activities which are taking place behind this *Rathyatra*. Step should be taken to maintain Communal harmony in the Country. All the minorities whether Muslims or Christians, are not feeling secure. Incidents of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Delhi have come to light. Minority Commission is helpless. According to the Chairman of the Commission, different State Governments as well as Central Government are not responding to it. Therefore, it is necessary to take appropriate steps in this regard. Beside threatening the minorities...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Silence Please. Please take your seat. You are interrupting the proceedings of the House...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN: The House can not run like this...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

How many speakers will speak on one issue?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: '*Vandematram*' and '*Sarswati Vandana*' is being imposed on them, therefore, it is necessary ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: A raid was conducted on Mollana Ali Miyan's house. Prime Minister is not going to resign. But, I would make an appeal to the allies of BJP to withdraw their support to BJP Government. Prime Minister has stated...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It is a matter of great concern...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time is over.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I am concluding, let me conclude with the words that the Prime Minister is not going to resign. But I would request the allies of BJP Government to withdraw their support to the Government.

[English]

SHRI BASU BED ACHARIA (BANKURA): It is matter of great concern...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR: Sir, are you allowing a discussion on this or is it a '*Zero Hour*'.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN: In this manner, the issue I wish to raise can never be taken up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It will not be taken up if you keep on interrupting again and again.

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN: All the members are speaking on the same subject. This discussion should be concluded so that another issue could be taken up.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, it is a matter of great concern for the people of our country that the communal harmony is being disturbed by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Bajrang Dal and the Rashtrya Swayam Sevak Sangh. Sir, we had seen how the communal riots took place when the *rath yatra* was taken out by the BJP in our country. We had also seen how on 6th of December, 1992 the Babri Masjid was demolished by the Bharatiya Janata Party, RSS, Bajrang Dal and VHP.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: This point is not in the notice given by you.

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN: Please speak on the subject for which notice has been given.

SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY: The issue being raised by me is very important.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not only the issue raised by you is important but issues raised by all the Members are equally important. Please let me say. How business of the House would be conducted if two Members start speaking at the same time. So, please take your seat.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I am associating myself with this matter...*(Interruptions)* I will speak afterwards. Now, you please allow Shri Hannan Mollah...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA (HASSAN): Mr. Chairman, Sir, a very important issue was raised by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Shri P. Shiv Shanker. This issue concerns not only Karnataka but also the entire country. Dattatreya Pitha is in Baba Budangiri Hills. There are two shrines. One of them is the Darga. *Pooja* is performed not only by Muslims but even by Hindus. Most of the Hindus have belief in that shrine. Dattatreya Pitha is one of the ancient holy places. Both are situated side by side. I visited that place when I was the Chief Minister of Karnataka.

Sir, you have mentioned the Idgah Maidan issue. It is also one of the issues which was raised by the Opposition party. Your Party was the Opposition party at that time and I was the Chief Minister. We resolved that issue without any bloodshed and I must compliment the Muslim minority leaders as they all cooperate to hoist the flag every year without any disturbance. They have shown their respect for the National Flag. The charge alleged against the Muslim minority was that they have no respect for the National Flag. That is why, the BJP said that they wanted to hoist the National Flag. This was the issue taken up by the BJP itself.

Sir, when we were running the Government—Shri Jalappa was also there as one of the senior Ministers in my Cabinet—all the Muslim leaders, irrespective of the party affiliations, fully cooperated. I am not going to say whether they belonged to the Congress Party or the Janata Dal. They fully cooperated. They were allowed to hoist the Flag on the day of 15th August. There was no question of any bloodshed. Previously, six people were killed. Anyhow, I do not want to take up the past events by dragging the political events here. Today, the whole thing is totally seen smooth there. There is no question of any confrontation so far as the *Idgah* issue is concerned. Every year, the Flag Hoisting Programme goes on 15th August without any disturbance. I must compliment all the minority leaders and other leaders because they fully cooperated. They themselves had hoisted the Flag showing respect to the National Flag. There is no dispute whatsoever. It is not a question of the BJP or its allied parties. I do not want to make any political gain by making this statement. But unfortunately I do not know why they

have taken up this issue all of a sudden. This is not going to help them to have any political gain.

I must honestly tell the House that the Hindus and the Muslim minorities go to both the shrines. There is no difference. Even the Hindus to go to *Darga* and perform *pooja* there. They have some belief. Since thousands of years, both the Hindus and the Muslims have been worshipping the Dattatreya Peeta as well as the *Darga*. I do not know why all of a sudden this new idea has cropped up after the election results. My party has also been defeated. I am not bothered about it. I do not want to mix this issue with politics. There must be some political awareness by your brethren. Mr. Minister, your party's Karnataka unit should think twice that this is not going to help them. The State Government is capable of handling this issue. I have already discussed the matter with the Chief Minister. The State Government has made elaborate arrangements. They will not be allowed to enter the premises. The State Government will take stern action. It is not going to be afraid of anybody. There is no need of the Central Government's help. The Central Government's mercy is not necessary now. The State Government can deal with the situation with a stern hand. You have expressed fear. I do agree with you. But it is not an issue of Karnataka alone. It is the issue concerning the entire nation. The question is whether we should live together or whether we should go on with this type of, what is called, petty politics. I do not want to use the words "dirty politics". But it is petty politics.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: It is dirty also!...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: I do not know. I am sorry. If I am defeated, I accept my personal defeat. I am not worried about it. I do not want to hang on to the Chair. You know how I behaved...*(Interruptions)* When so many people came to me including the senior leaders on this side, when they approached me saying that if the Congress withdrew the support, they would support me, I do not want it. Some people think that the Chair is so important in life. My appeal to them is this. Conduct yourself in a dignified manner. Please tell your party unit not to behave like this. This is not going to help them if they behave like this. It is not a question of liberation of that shrine. The people of this country are prepared to liberate these people...*(Interruptions)* The country will be liberated from the hands of these people. This is all what I wanted to tell. There is no fear. The people of this country are going to liberate these people. Do not worry about it. The time is not far off. I am not worried whether I will be there or they will be there. But the country must be there. The safety of the country is paramount. The interests of the parties are not paramount. We are not worried whether Shri Shiv Shanker or some "X" will come and sit there. I have no interest in that. But the only thing is my State is quite capable of handling the situation...*(Interruptions)* Let anybody come. We are not bothered about it. But we will not allow such things to happen in Karnataka. I do not want anybody's mercy in so far as handling this issue is concerned. As I said earlier, my State Government is going to take stern action. There is no question of any fear...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mohan Singh, Shri Rupchand Pal, Shri Basudeb Acharia, Shri Tarit Baran Topdar, Shri Hannan

Mollah, Shri P.J. Kurien all these hon'ble Members are concerned over this issue. Their names are there in the list. In view of the sentiments expressed by all of you, it seems that you share the same views.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Sir, in view of the sentiments expressed by the House, I would request the Minister of Home Affairs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please convey this issue to hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Sir, I feel that this issue has been twisted. I would request the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs to make factual statement in this regard. I would like to say that facts have been distorted in this regard and this matter is purely politically motivated.

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Shri Khurana was just now mentioning that there is distortion and all that. I am sorry to say that their imagination is distorted. I am sorry to say that they have not learnt the lesson after the recent elections also. They do not mind when they are going to decide themselves. Let them decide. In 1670, one Bababudan, who belonged to Sufi cult came here. While he was coming also... (Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI (RAIGARH): Communal harmony is not a State subject... (Interruptions) It is not merely law and order problem... (Interruptions) It is a question of communal harmony... (Interruptions)

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: I can tell you what you are ... (Interruptions) While coming from Arabia, he brought coffee seeds from Yemen and sowed them here. It became the foundation for our coffee growing now. For the last 320 years, both Hindus and Muslims are worshipping both Dattatreya Peeta and Bababudan shrine... (Interruptions) Why are these people now disturbing the peace and order? It has got a serene atmosphere ... (Interruptions) If they are going to disturb peace and order in the State, the people there are going to teach them a proper lesson in the Karnataka election... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the kharif crop of paddy in Madhubani Lok Sabha constituency of Bihar was earlier damaged due to flood is now reeling under the menace of insects. This situation prevails in whole of northern Bihar including Madhubani. There is shortage of fertilizers in this area. Just now hon'ble Prime Minister has stated that fertilizer is being imported. But I would like to say that earlier in election the import of onion caused exit of their party in various States and such import should not be done. I would like to say that Agricultural Department of the Government of India should send a team to ascertain the damage caused to kharif crop due to menace of insects and proper arrangements should be made therefor. I wish that fertilizers and seed should be dispatched by the Government to the affected areas. The union Government should provide assistance to Bihar Government in this matter and required attention should be paid towards it.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Sir, Jammu and Kashmir is

reeling under militancy for the last ten years and approximately 30,000 persons have been killed in such incidents and about 4 lakh persons have been rendered homeless. 26 persons were killed in Prankot on last 17th April, 25 persons were killed in Chapnari and later on 20 persons were killed in Thakurai. On the top of it, about 10,000 families have become homeless in Udhampur and Doda districts. The winter season is approaching. In spite of orders issued by the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs, so far these migrants have neither been given shelter nor ration.

I would like to say that these 10,000 displaced families are living in miserable conditions. They are not provided ration and shelter. In this season of severe winter they should be provided shelter and blankets.

SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY: Sir, nine major rivers flow through Khagariya and Naugachhiya districts in Bihar. There is a Diyara belt which is fully ruled by criminals and not by the Government. The land of farmers is cultivated by criminals there. I demand that the Government should send task force, CRP and BSF to Khagariya and Naugachhiya districts of Bihar to get the area free from the clutches of criminals.

SHRI RAJO SINGH (BAGUSARAI): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards its decision of floating shares of some companies including Indian oil in Share market. A present stock market is facing recession and economies of several developed countries are staggering. It is not prudent to start disinvestment of shares of prominent companies at such a moment. Why the Government is trying to sell the shares of prominent companies at such a low rates. What will be the use of funds mobilised in this manner. What is the criteria for it. What is the intention of the Government behind it. It is not advisable to resort to disinvestment without discussing these questions. Such decisions and fixing the time for its implementation should be taken cautiously because it may lower the credibility of our companies. In view of the high prices of the shares of these companies people may not like to invest their hard-earned money. In such a situation, the prices of the shares of prominent Companies may remain at low level and this decision will be unfortunate for the country. So the Government should review this decision.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (AONLA): Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the problems being faced in telephone exchanges in my constituency Aonla. Sir through you I would request the hon'ble Minister of that machinery installed in telephone Exchanges at Sirauli, Aonla, Visharadganj is not working properly, that should be repaired and made functional. Telephone exchanges installed at Datarganj and Vajirganj are also not working properly. I, therefore, request you that these exchanges be repaired at the earliest so that the problem of the people in rural areas could be solved.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, on 30th October, 1998, the Government has taken a decision to close down eight public sector undertakings. Out of these eight public sector undertakings, six are located in the State of West Bengal. All these public sector undertakings can be made viable. Without trying to make

these public sector undertakings viable, the Government has abruptly taken a decision to close them down.

Even some of these undertakings are under examination by the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction. Their revival package is still under consideration. In spite of that, the Government has taken such a decision.

Most of these are very important undertakings. Because of the closure of these public sector undertakings, at least, 15,000 workers, who are directly employed, will be thrown out of employment. A few thousand workers, who are indirectly working in small, medium and ancillary industries, will also be thrown out of their jobs. I know some of these public sector undertakings, like the MAMC. The MAMC is located in Durgapur.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, other Members should also be given an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This industry is engaged in the manufacture of underground mining machinery and also machinery for power plants. There was a plan for its revival. This industry can be revived. Even some of the industries started production. But Government has taken such a drastic step to close down these industries.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Government will take appropriate action in this regard. Please give chance for speaking to other Hon'ble members.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I demand that this retrograde step and anti-national action of the Government for closing down these public sector undertakings should be reviewed by the Government. The Government should reverse that decision and should also try to revive all those public sector undertakings to save our indigenous industry and also the workers who are engaged in those public sector undertakings.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMA NAND SINGH (SATNA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, whether our turn will come or not. Whether we will be called only when we sit in front rows. Whether we people will be given a chance to speak or not in House. My name is Rama Nand Singh, when you are going to call me for speaking in House.

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, thousands of merchants from southern States are staging a 'dharma' before the Parliament. They are agitating on a very genuine and reasonable demand. You are aware that sometime back in Delhi, there was adulteration of edible oils. And the consequences are known to all of us. Even packed foods are adulterated. No steps are being taken to find out the real adulterators. Adulteration in the case of packed foods takes place at the packing stage or at the manufacturing stage. In one of the States, the State Government is

taking serious steps to find out the real adulterators. Instead, what is happening is that they go to a shopkeeper who is an ordinary merchant or a small shopkeeper. That shopkeeper is caught for adulterating the food at the manufacturing stage. He is arrested and punished.

This is because of the lacunae in the law. They are demanding that the Food Adulteration Act should be amended so that deserving punishment should be given to the real adulterators of food, especially those who are trading in adulterating at manufacturing stage.

SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM (GULBARGA): Same is the case with the pesticides also.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (MAVELIKARA): Yes, I agree with him. Same is the case with pesticides also. Therefore, this Food Adulteration Act should be amended as early as possible. It is with this demand that the traders and merchants from Southern States are agitating here.

I am bringing this fact to the notice of the Government. I would request that an early amendment to this Act should be brought out so that justice is done to them... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: House is adjourned for Lunch till 14.30.

13.30 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till thirty minutes past fourteen of the clock.

14.38 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at thirty-eight minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

(SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU in the Chair)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will now take up Matters under Rule 377.

14.38½ hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(I) **Need to Introduce A Direct Train between Delhi and Kotdwar**

[Translation]

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM (GARHWAL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw attention of Government of India's Railway Minister towards long pending demand of people of Garhwal Mandal.

A large number of people travel between Delhi and Kotdwar station by train. Presently 7-8 Boggles are attached to mussoorie Express which are disconnected at nazibabad Railway station and the train has to wait for three-four hours at night. The passengers have to face difficulties as a result thereof. Likewise, people come across several difficulties while coming to

Delhi from Kotdwar. Due to this a large number of people travel by roadways as a result not only Railways suffer loss but there is loss of money on petrol and Diesel also.

Keeping in view the above problem demand for introducing a direct train between Delhi and Kotdwar is continuing and once trial train was also introduced but due to reasons not known this was not continued.

I urge upon the Union Government to introduce a direct train between Delhi and Kotdwar.

(ii) Need to Retain Office of Provident fund Relating to Employees of Coal Mines at Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh

SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE (JABALPUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Provident-fund Office situated at Jabalpur looks after the Provident fund of 80 thousand Coal mines workers. The Union Government have spent a huge amount on constructing this office building and administrative colony. But this office is being relocated at Bilaspur after bifurcating it and argument given for this is that there is no coal mine in the vicinity of 200 kilometres near Jabalpur. Whereas the distance between Bilaspur and Coal mines is more than 200 kms. When same situation arose in Asansol and Ranchi more than two and three Coal mines Provident Fund Regional Offices were set up there. likewise if too much burden falls on Jabalpur Office then Like other cities two or three regional offices can be opened, this office should not be relocated in other cities after bifurcating it.

(iii) Need to Declare 'Pariyar' in Unnao District of U.P. as a Tourist Resort and take Steps for its Development

SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH (UNNAO) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Pariyar is a tourist spot in my district Unnao in Uttar Pradesh. When Shri Ram renounced Sitaji, she spent many years of her life here. Balmiki Ashrama is situated here and Luv and Kush were also born here. People of the area have constantly been demanding to declare this place as a tourist resort. I had drawn the attention of the Government towards this side during the last several years, but Government has not taken desired action in this regard.

Therefore, I request Minister of Tourism to declare Pariyar of Unnao district as tourist Centre and take immediate steps for its development.

(iv) Need to Declare Support Price for Natural Rubber

[English]

SHRI T. GOVINDAM (KASARGOD) : I would like to invite the attention of the Government to the fall in price of natural rubber and to save the farmers in Kerala by declaring Support Price for rubber.

The demand of rubber producers to declare support price for natural rubber has been rejected by the Central Government. The Government is of the view that this will cause heavy burden on the exchequer. The Ministry of Commerce has opined that fixing a support price for important cash crops will not be lawful. It is also contended that the proclamation of

benchmark price for natural rubber recently announced by the Government, is sufficient to console the farmers.

The Government is following the liberalisation policy, as a result of which trade in this country is regulated by foreign monopolies. To poor farmers are made to suffer. This has led to mass suicides of cotton farmers in Andhra Pradesh and other parts of the Country. Though the rubber farmers were getting a fair price for rubber till the middle of last year, It has been considerably lowered for the last 17 months. International market price of rubber is less than what prevails in India. Moreover, synthetic rubber is widely used in the manufacture of tyres. Ever since the control on rubber and rubber tyre was abolished, the rubber price started falling. If support price for rubber is announced, the farmers can receive at least minimum support price.

It is, therefore, just and necessary that the Central Government declares the Support Price for rubber without any further delay.

(v) Need to Allow Tibetan Refugees to Sell Woollen Garments for their Livelihood

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, since 1959, Tibetan refugees have been living in various parts of the country. During winter season they sell woollen garments, sweaters, pullovers, blankets and bed-sheets at cheap rates in various localities of major cities to earn their livelihood. Recently the Municipal Corporations of Calcutta, Lucknow and other major town's corporation have removed these refugees from public places, as a result of which they are on the verge of starvation. Government of India, on its behalf has given assurance to those Tibetan refugees who are living here for long but in some States they are not being treated properly.

Government of India should, therefore give instructions to State Governments to the effect that if these Tibetan refugees sell woollen garments for one or two months at public places in a town for earning their livelihood, all possible help should be extended to them and a place should be allotted to them for a limited period so that the people of India could get woollen garments at cheaper rates.

(vi) Need to Direct Food Corporation of India to Purchase Paddy from Farmers of Andhra Pradesh

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO (MACHILIPATNAM) : Paddy is the main crop in Andhra Pradesh. Unfortunately, the farmers are not getting remunerative price for their produce. The farmers are committing suicide being overburdened with perpetual debts. This is all because justice is not being done in fixing the prices of paddy. The cost of farming, i.e., diesel, power charges, manures, pesticides, wages and other inputs are increasing substantially bringing the cost of production of paddy to above Rs. 700 per quintal and the minimum support price fixed is only Rs. 440 and Rs. 470 for coarse and fine varieties. The farmers in Andhra Pradesh are not getting even this price. This is because the Food Corporation of India is not procuring paddy

directly from the farmers as is being done in Punjab and Haryana. They have to sell the paddy to the rice millers at less than the minimum support price. After rice millers procure total quantity of paddy from the farmers, the prices of paddy suddenly go up. This is an unfortunate situation which should be looked into by the FCI and the FCI should be instructed to lift the entire stock of paddy from farmers in Andhra Pradesh directly. I request the Central Government that the entire quantity which includes the damaged and discoloured paddy due to frequent rains and cyclone, be procured by the Food Corporation of India.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (TENALET) : Please allow me for a minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will be allowed after completion of matters under rule 377.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : I am only associating with this matter.

MR CHAIRMAN : Shri Shiv Shanker, you have not given your notice.

SHIP P. SHIV SHANKER : I am associating. That is all. I am not saying anything at all.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are a senior Member. You know the rule.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : We can always say that we can associated with the Member who has already said.

MR. Chairman : Once you ask, then everybody will ask for their turns.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : It is only association. I am not saying anything. That is all.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. He has not said anything. He associated with it.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No further discussion is allowed on this

(vii) Need to Send a Central Team to Khagaria Parliamentary Constituency in Bihar to Chalk out a Plan to Check Recurring Floods

[Translation]

SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY (KHAGARIA) : Nine major rivers pass through Khagaria Parliamentary constituency of Bihar and as a result of heavy floods in this area in 1998 all the embankments of Ganga, Koshi, Gandak, Bagmati, Kail, Koshi and Karait etc. rivers have been badly damaged, and thousands of houses have collapsed and standing crops of Banana and Maize worth lakhs of rupees have also been destroyed.

Therefore, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the need of strengthening the embankments of all the rivers without delay and providing per acre compensation to the farmers for their crops and to get their houses rebuilt. I want to draw attention of this House and also request the Govern-

ment to send a team of Planning Commission to the Khagaria Parliamentary constituency to chalk out a plan to check flood. Action should also be taken to strengthen security embankments of the rivers without any delay.

(viii) Need to Provide Adequate Funds to Government of Andhra Pradesh to Assist the People Affected by Recent Cyclone

[English]

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARY (ADILABAD): Sir, the Andhra Pradesh faced another cyclonic storm on 15.11.1998 causing heavy loss to crops, besides loss of human lives and property. The State was expecting to reap a bumper harvest but the havoc wrought by floods and cyclones made the farmers and weavers of the area suffer miserably. Although timely measures taken by the district authorities have minimised the damage, yet extensive repair of roads, electrical installations and minor irrigation sources need assistance from the Centre. The State Government has already paid *ex-gratia* amounts as per norms to the next of kin of those killed in the nature's fury and to the paddy farmers and cane growers as well as to the weavers who suffered damage to cotton yarn and looms, and also to those whose houses were damaged in the cyclone storms. I, therefore, urge the Union Government to assist to the maximum extent to tide over the heavy losses on account of the recent cyclone in Andhra Pradesh.

(ix) Need to Provide Central Funds for Construction of Dam on Ganga at Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (BILHAUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Kanpur metropolitan city is the biggest city of Uttar Pradesh from population point of view. Problem of drinking water is acute here. Though the city is situated on the bank of river Ganga, it is deprived of Ganga water, because the mainstream of the river flows towards Unnao district. In order to solve this problem a proposal to construct a Dam on Ganga was considered in the year 1990 which was given permission by Planning Commission through letter AN-11016/6193/P.C. and discounts which were given were in such a way that the cost of the project was to be equally shared by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh and the Central Government. According to the estimate drawn by the Ministry of Urban Development, the construction of the Dam is likely to cost rupees 200 crores, out of which water supply project is estimated to cost Rs. 90 crore and 40 lakhs. Central Government have provided only Rs. 6 crores so far whereas Uttar Pradesh Government have provided rupees 40 crores. All the funds made available so far have been utilised for the construction of the project. Uttar Pradesh Government have made a provision of rupees 50 crores in this year's Budget but the condition is that Central Government should pay its share.

While drawing the attention of Hon'ble Minister of the Ministry of Urban Development I consider it my duty to inform that a letter was written by the Chief Minister on 2nd April, 1998 and a letter was also sent by the Urban Development Department to Hon'ble Prime Minister on 22nd April, 1998. But no

action has been taken so far in this regard. As a result the construction work of Dam remains incomplete.

I, therefore, request the hon'ble Prime Minister and the Minister of Urban Development that the share of Central Government should be provided without delay so that Ganga Dam project at Kanpur is completed without delay.

(x) Need for Revival of Hindustan Shipyard Limited

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (VISAKHAPATNAM): Sir, the Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam, a pioneer ship-building industry, was making profit up to 1979-80. It started incurring losses from 1980-81 onwards due to the worldwide recession in ship-building industry, unremunerative prices, dumping prices/highly discounted price by the foreign yards, lean order-book position and oversized manpower, etc. The Government of India has given a sum of Rs. 148 crore (approximately) from 1984-85 to 1994-95 to meet the wages and salaries of employees. In addition to that, HSL was allowed to draw a cash credit of Rs. 69 crore from the State Bank of India during the period 1984-85 to 1992-93 to meet the working capital needs. For the last three years no budgetary support has been provided to HSL and also no working capital has been provided by SBI or any financial institution.

The present subsidy extended by Government of India will not meet the total cost of the vessel.

I request the Central Government to provide Non-Plan Assistance of Rs. 30 crore per annum for the next three to four years till HSL becomes viable, allow rationalisation/down-sizing of manpower and exemption of MAT for HSL, to implement capital restructuring proposal, to provide moratorium and interest holiday for a period of five years, and exemption of sales-tax.

In order to boost up the ship-repair turnover, HSI proposes to construct a new dry dock for which about Rs. 180 to 200 crore are required as a Plan assistance.

(xi) Need to Check the Menace of Drug-trafficking in North-East Region, Particularly in Manipur

[English]

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUÉ (JORHAT): Mr. Chairman, the transit route of drug lies through the North-East to the rest of the country and beyond the national frontiers. Being located in a geographical position bordering on Myanmar with easy access to Laos, and not far from the notorious Golden Triangle, Manipur in this region has been chosen by the narcotic cartel as the most suitable launching pad for pushing on drug traffic. In Manipur where about one per cent of the population is addicted to drugs, seventy two per cent of the incidence is caused by needle sharing. Out of the total population of about twenty lakh people, twenty five thousand are estimated to be drug addicts. Among the addicts, more than seventy per cent are HIV positive. Now, the disease is not confined to drug users alone. From the drug addicts the infection has spilled over to the general population. The problem has assumed such an alarming dimension that in order to curb the growth of the bigger evil,

AIDS, a scheme 'Needle Exchange Programme' has been launched to minimise needle sharing. Unless Government takes stringent measures and effective assistance from the UN agency, in expertise and fund, this menace will not only overwhelm Manipur but the entire North-East. It is imperative that the international drug mafia which operate in collusion with their counterparts in the country, most of whom are outsiders in the North-East, must be chased out of the region, vigilance fortified and rehabilitation of the drug addicts strengthened.

(xii) Need for Immediate Repair and Maintenance of the Tamil Nadu Part of the Thiruvananthapuram — Kanyakumari National Highway No. 47

[English]

SHRI N. DENNIS (NAGERCOIL): The Tamil Nadu part of the Thiruvananthapuram-Kanyakumari National Highway Number 47 is in a very bad condition for several years. This causes grave difficulties and inconveniences to the passengers and general public. This road located in the distant South end of the country, far away from Delhi and Chennai, fails to catch the attention and care of the authorities. The funds allocated on prior occasions for the execution of the work repeatedly lapsed due to non-utilisation. Now, the road is full of pits, cracks and holes. Deep trenches are formed on both the sides of the road. The bad condition of the road is posing grave danger to the passengers and the vehicular traffic and road accidents occur frequently. It is one of the busiest roads in the country. Once this road was hailed as the longest cement road in India, but now, it is in a very had condition. Further abandonment of the execution of the work would aggravate the condition worse and leads to enhanced criticism from the passengers and common people.

So, I urge upon the Government to take urgent and special steps for the immediate maintenance of the road at the earliest.

14.58 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF
 OILFIELDS (REGULATION AND DEVELOPMENT)
 AMENDMENT ORDINANCE
 AND
 OILFIELDS (REGULATION AND DEVELOPMENT)
 AMENDMENT BILL*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up Statutory Resolution. Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy, the mover of the Resolution.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (VISAKHAPATNAM): Sir, I beg to move:

*That this House disapproves the Oilfields (Regulation and

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 2.12.1998.

[Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy]

Development) Amendment Ordinance 1998 (No. 17 of 1998) promulgated by the President on 3 September, 1998."

The proposal has come to amend the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948, with the intention to encourage oil exploration. Of course, the idea of the amendment is welcome, but at the same time, the House would also like to know the various facts relating to effective exploration of oil of this country. It is really painful—of course, not specifically, but still I must say—that in the last fifty years, in spite of making all efforts, our country has not been able to produce more than 25 per cent of the total demand of oil in the country. Not only that, after globalisation, the demand has been increasing, but our production of oil within the country is absolutely not increasing compared to the increase in the demand. The wells have been dried and the foreign exchange has been drained. We have been importing heavy quantum of oil.

Now, the most important problem before our country is how to explore the maximum reserves.

15.00 hrs.

It has been an accepted fact that there is a huge quantum of gas available in our country. For instance, in the Bombay Offshore, we have 330 million tonnes of gas reserves, and in Kerala-Konkan Offshore, we can produce 70 million tonnes of crude oil. In the Cauvery basin and also in Krishna-Godavari basin, we have 100 million tonnes of gas reserves, and there are five million tonnes of gas reserves in Rajasthan. Like this, at various places, we have got gas reserves. How to explore it?

No doubt, this Amendment Bill has been brought with the good intention of reducing the royalty or increasing the royalty depending on the availability of gas, and also to encourage oil exploration. I agree with it. But at the same time, I want the hon. Minister to clearly specify as to how he is going to plan it. We came to know that the largest oil producing company in the United States of America, that is, UNICORN Corporation, the world leader in oil and gas industry, has come forward with a proposal outlining an ambitious five-year plan projects in our country requiring an estimated investment of US 4 billion dollars. They have come forward with a very good ambitious plan.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN (TRICHUR): You have to raise an objection.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: I will raise my objection.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Subbarami Reddy please address the Chair.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN (TRICHUR): You must say what your objection is.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. He is the mover of the Resolution and I have given the chance to him.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Before I raise my objection, I am telling the Minister what he should specify. Then only, I will withdraw my objection.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not argue

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: I would like to clarify to my colleague that my ultimate philosophy is to find out what is useful for the country or what is necessary for this nation and how to attain prosperity and progress. That is my philosophy irrespective of my political affiliation. The burning problem about this nation is how to explore maximum oil. Though I have my objections about this Amendment Bill, I want to highlight some important points. While taking various factors into consideration, the Minister must specify, before this Bill is passed, how he is going to utilise the offer given by the largest oil producing company in the world. One Chinese company, Shri Raghavan's favourite, has come forward to explore our oil-fields. We are very much interested to cooperate, and I am very happy to welcome it. But the moment I said America, he stood up and wanted me to raise my objection. Chinese are the first to come forward to explore oil our country. So I would like to know from the hon. Minister how he is going to utilise these offers to solve our burning problem. That is very important. What are his plans for the next ten years and how much is going to be produced? What are the schemes which they have finalised? There is nothing wrong in utilising anybody's help to explore oil, I mean, whether it is Russia, China, America or any other country. We should not mind that. Ultimately, we want the results.

The next point is that the Minister should explain very clearly how the increase or decrease in royalty, depending on the circumstances, is going to help us. Are there any ten-year plans and how is he going to explore? We are able to meet only 25 per cent of the total demand, and it is not a joke that we are yet to meet 75 per cent of the demand. How can an economically backward country like ours afford so much of foreign exchange? You must convince the nation and this House by explaining how you are going to produce the oil to fill up the gap.

After listening to the Minister and when I get the opportunity, I will say whether I will withdraw my objection or support this Bill.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Sir, my objection is on an entirely different ground.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will get a chance after the Minister's reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: The Chairman has allowed me.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY): Sir, the hon. Members who want to speak on the Statutory Resolution have given their names. Once that list is exhausted, I will reply to them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no need to give a chance to everybody. The Mover of the Resolution has already spoken. Now, the Minister will reply, and then I will give a chance to the other Members.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Sir, my objection is that the Government should not have given to itself the power to fully exempt the royalty by promulgating an Ordinance. How can the Government give to itself this power without the consent of the House? It is wrong.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister will refer to it in his reply. The Minister may now move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the Mover of the Statutory Resolution, hon. Member Shri T. Subbarami Reddy, has raised certain preliminary objections and also wanted to know as to how far our country would become self-sufficient in oil production. First of all, I would like to say that if you take into account the growing demand, growing population, the fast pace of development, the depository position of the natural wealth in oil sector will not suffice for our requirement. It is not going to be enough to cope with our demand. We will always be dependent on the import of crude oil.

Once some Western countries came up with the idea that India did not have any oil deposits. Fortunately our Russian friends found that our East and West coasts and also the north-eastern parts of our country were having huge deposits of oil which would meet some of our requirement. Accordingly, ONGC, GAIL, IOC and the other national oil companies were established in our country with the cooperation of the Russian experts. Whatever crude we are able to enjoy now at the Bombay High is because of their help. I have to appreciate their help at this juncture.

With regard to exploration effort, ONGC is an organisation which is tirelessly going on with its effort to find oil. They have completed 3-D seismic survey throughout the country including the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and the Himalayan ranges. Deep-sea drilling is one of the recent innovations at international level. Our ONGC and other associated companies are going in for deep-sea drilling now. We can only pin hopes on this deep-sea drilling and also the shallow water drilling, particularly in the Krishna, Godavari, and Cauvery basins.

It is not that we have slowed down our efforts. Unfortunately the demand is increasing every year at a projected rate of 7 per cent to 8 per cent. In the Eighth Five Year Plan, our requirement was 74 million tonnes. The estimated demand during the Ninth Plan would be not less than 134 million metric tonnes. Now our import, including crude oil and petroleum products, is only 64 per cent. So, our effort has not slowed down but the demand has overtaken us. I assure the House that our effort will not slow down. We promulgated this Ordinance to accelerate our production.

This Bill was introduced in the last Session but it could not be passed. The Ordinance had to be promulgated because of the urgency for a new exploration licensing policy which would augment private foreign investment and joint ventures in the field of oil exploration in this country.

Sir, for this, we need this kind of an amendment to the existing clause. This is only an enabling provision. By doing so, the House is going to empower the Government to make some

adjustments in the rate of royalty and period. Some kind of a power will also be given to the Central Government to exempt where the exploration or the profit sharing exploration was going on and it had failed.

The present position is that only one rate has to be given as royalty to all the petroleum products. Now, according to this amendment, it will vary. The fixation of the royalty will vary from product to product and also by the period for which the royalty is to be fixed. The existing practice is that it is fixed once in a block of three years. Now, it will be fixed every year, or whenever the Government feels, it can fix the royalty.

So, I hope that the whole House will agree with me. This is only an enabling provision, a small amendment. But it will accelerate the production of crude oil in our country with the help of private investment, foreign investment and joint ventures. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): What happens to our gas coupons ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY: That is left with the Speaker... (Interruption)

MR. CHAIRMAN: If your suggestion is accepted by all the Members, we can pass the Bill without discussion.

(Interruption)

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, about the Telephone coupons and the Gas coupons, we will take up the matter separately. There is also some order by the Court... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, we will discuss this later.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR (MUMBAI NORTH-WEST): Directives were given by the hon. Speaker in this regard. What jurisdiction has the Court got there? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI K.S. RAO (MACHILIPATNAM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I heard with attention what the hon. Minister has expressed and more particularly, his intention is to have increase in the exploration of the hydrocarbons. He was telling that at one point of time, the Americans have said that India will be short of hydrocarbons. There will be no oil and no gas. Well, the Russians have come to our rescue. Anyway, we are happy about it.

But the point before us is that the amendment that you have brought gives so much executive authority that they can misuse this authority regularly. Even where we find that some of the acts are draconian, some of the traders in the business community have gone to the extent of being responsible for the downfall of certain Governments by their acts, by hoarding and misdeeds. If that were to be the case and if you were to come with so much softness in giving powers to the executive in

[Shri K.S. Rao]

amending the royalty on any occasion or for any situation, then we can certainly understand about how much misuse will be done by the executive authorities. More particularly, in the oilfields, the people know that a lot of mischief is being done by various executive authorities which runs into thousands of crores of rupees. It is not hundreds of crores or tens of crores. It is running into thousands of crores.

There are allegations that the crucial information is being given only to certain corporations by which they are taking undue advantage.

In certain cases, the share of the oil is so much that some multinationals are getting undue benefits and the transactions also run into thousands of crores of rupees.

We are all aware—it may not be scientific but this is what we feel that gas and oil are available in abundance in the Krishna-Godavari basin. Later, it was told that not oil but only gas was available. A public statement has been made by the hon. Minister as well as others that there will be an abundance of gas in the Godavari basin which could be put to use for generation of power and also for other industries. Till today, we are not aware of anything on this. There has been no allocation more than what was allocated earlier.

I will restrict myself to the amendments made. It is said that different rates will be charged as royalty for the same mineral oil or gas that is explored in different conditions and the difference could even be on a monthly basis. How can there be a check on the misuse by any officer if it is done on a monthly basis? If the hon. Minister were to think about it, he should keep in view encouraging exploration and getting more and more gas and oil to save foreign exchange or utilise the maximum resources. We do understand it, but certain specified prices could be fixed for royalty under a set of different circumstances. So, I only wish that he should not be too liberal in giving authority to executives who will go beyond not only his control but even beyond the control of Parliament.

I am of the opinion that by this amendment Parliament is deprived of the check that they can have on the bad elements in the executive. It is said that the royalty charged will not be more than twenty per cent of the prices at the exploration point. There is also a mention of 'the same price'. I want to seek a clarification from the hon. Minister whether there will be some increase also or will there only be a decrease.

The fluctuation of oil prices in the world market are so frequent and so varied that they are unimaginable. Sometimes, there is a fluctuation of even a hundred per cent to two hundred per cent. I do not know whether this particular aspect has been taken into account or not. All these factors were to be taken into account while bringing this amendment. I want the hon. Minister to be more cautious.

Instead of passing this Bill now, he may go back and make an assessment by going into the details himself and keeping in view the situation of the executive authority's misuse of power in this country. I think, it will be more sane for him to do that. I request the hon. Minister to refer it to a Joint Committee of

Parliament to decide. I am suggesting this not to come in the way of his objective or intention but to plug the loopholes and restrict the misuse of power by the executive authority.

The third amendment, which deals with empowering and making consequential amendments under section 6 of the Act says, 'laying the notifications before Parliament'. This means, giving the executive authority the right to make amendments beyond the purview of Parliament. I think, it is improper to give the executive authority the right of making amendments outside the House.

With these few words I request the hon. Minister to be more cautious and do the needful by not allowing the officials to misuse the power to the detriment of the nation and the people.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (CHANDIGARH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to express my views in support of this bill. The hon. Minister has apprised the House in detail about the Bill. Oilfield Regulation and Development Act was enacted in 1948. This Act is directly deals with the regulation of gases and oil explored from under the ground and water.

Much water has flown under the bridge since 1948. Alongwith this, the need to extract the water, gas and oil etc. has also increased to a great extent. A great need is being felt for it and during this entire period we have exploited large quantity of minerals, gas and oil. These days oil and gas are among the most sought after commodities in the country today. People in every village wants L.P.G. connection. The demand for the oil has been increasing to such an extent that the Government have been forced to increase the prices of oil not just one time but many times and due to which a lot of problems crop up.

The royalty on what we extract, goes either to the State Government or Central Government and two conditions were laid down in the sub-section 4 of the section 6A of the main amended act regarding the distribution of royalty received in this manner. Central Government was given a right under this section of the Act that it can amend the schedule of the Act from time to time to decide about the royalty being given to States. Two conditions have already been laid down in this Schedule. One of the conditions is that the royalty in regard to minerals will not be more than 20 per cent and the second is that this limit of royalty, could not be revised for three years. This section could not be amended before three years. This condition was there in the 1948 but its demand kept on increasing. A large number of problems and hardships kept on cropping up and the Government of India framed a new policy for accelerating the exploration process of natural gas and oil and this new policy was renamed as Exploration Licencing Policy. It was stipulated under this policy that the exploration of oil and natural gas should be accelerated and the Government laid down. Three conditions under the newly framed policy. Firstly, it was said that the royalty on crude oil would be 12.5 per cent in land areas and 10 per cent on off-shore areas. It was also stipulated that the calculations about the amount of royalty will be done on the basis of international prices. Therefore under the newly framed

policy, the rates of various minerals, gas and oil varied as per the depth of water and location of the land. The different rates could be fixed for commodities as per situation, location and depth of their availability. But the existing law did not permit the revision of rates before the lapse of three years and the ceiling of 20 per cent envisaged in the Act was also not sufficient. Therefore it had become quite necessary that the law should be amended after the adoption of a new policy, so that new rates could be fixed as per the new policy. That is why the Government have tried to amend this law.

The second point is that the Government have decided to scrap the existing administered pricing mechanism system w.e.f. 1 April, 1998. This system will be abolished in several phases and it will result in the association of crude oil prices with international prices in place of the earlier system of revision once in every three years. Now, Rao Sahib was saying that you have to revise very frequently. As per the new policy this royalty will differ and if the prices differ every month then its quality will also differ and so it was necessary to amend the law without waiting for the lapse of three years and if the oil prices are linked with international prices and royalty varies automatically then rates will also vary automatically and you do not have to wait for three years.

The third point is that due to the condition of three years period, the States have to pay royalty within this period and a lot of practical problems were being faced due to existing law. I would like to bring it to the notice of the House that the amount of royalty to be paid to the States for a period of 1993 to 1996 and 1996 to till date, is still unsettled.

If the Central Government has paid any royalty it has been paid on adhoc basis. A lot of disputes could not be settled for long and remained pending. That caused losses to the Central Government and the State Government too could not get royalty on time. Therefore, it was necessary that a mechanism be evolved, under which these problems could be solved automatically.

An era of privatization has arrived. If you went to privatize then you will have to vary this condition of three years period and 20 per cent ceiling. No private concern would like to step into this area until there is a condition which will be binding upon them. It was very necessary for this reason also. Today, every field is passing through a period of privatization. This issue is being supported by every party. It is not possible to accomplish every thing without it. Our experience also tells us that the management which we have handed over to private sector, has been managed more efficiently. If we have to promote privatisation, the condition of three years will have to be removed. Therefore, hon. Minister has brought three amendments in it.

My friend Rao Sahib has expressed his apprehension in his speech that the power which is being delegated to the executive can be misused. This thing can be said about any law. The Parliament makes a law and delegates its power to an officer or an authority with the belief, that it will be properly exercised by that authority. Whether it be article 356, the power of MISA, TADA or arresting some body. We presume that an authority will exercise the power delegated to it with honesty

and in a sensible manner. Therefore, the framing of law can not be prevented based on the notion that it can be misused. Second thing you have said that the check by Parliament ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Satyapal Jain, please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAPAL JAIN: Today, the kind of people and the way by which they have been becoming members of Parliament has changed the complexion of the House and such type of issues are raised in the House which have no concern with the House. If any authority misuses the power conferred to it by the law and deals with the present Act in an arbitrary manner, it will certainly be noticed by this House.

SHRI RAJO SINGH (BEGUSARAI): You are a parliamentarian as well as a legal expert. You should not cast aspersions on the House.

SHRI SATYAPAL JAIN: I am praising the House.

SHRI RAJO SINGH: You are not praising, you are complaining that day can come when the persons of low calibre will become the Members of Parliament.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: I have not said so. I said that the keeping in view the high calibre of Members, there is no issue which can remain out of their sight, whether it may fall within the purview of law or not. I am showering praise. Now, we raise even those subjects which do not fall into the purview of the Parliament and are State subjects. Today morning itself such an issue was raised here. Therefore, you leave this apprehension out of your mind. Therefore, the thing like abuse of power and arbitrariness, does not carry any weight. The amendment of section 3 of this Act will have three results, which I would like to tell you. First is—

[English]

(i) confer upon the Central Government the powers to notify more than one rate of royalty in respect of the same mineral oil produced from different classes of leased areas;

(ii) empower the Central Government to grant partial or full exemption from the payment of royalty in respect of offshore areas; and

(iii) make consequential amendments in section 10 of the Act for laying the notifications before Parliament.

[Translation]

I fully support this Bill and I am fully sure that it will be exercised with honesty and in a sensible manner by the authority to which it is being delegated.

[English]

SHRI LAXMAN CHANDRA SETH (TAMLUK): The hon. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas has sought permission for inclusion of the enabling clause in this Act so that the Government may fix the royalty as per their choice. Apparently,

[Shri Laxman Chandra Seth]

we do not have much objection to it. Several hon. Members have expressed their concern about the misuse of power. The legislature will devolve the power to the authority to the Executive for fixing royalty. The Executive decides the amount of royalty payable to the States. At present in the Western coast there is huge deposit of oil and gas. These States will be benefited by the fixation of the royalty. Other parts of the country, particularly the Northern and Eastern parts of the country where the exploration has not been undertaken intensively will lose.

So, there is every chance of this amendment or this authority being misused. No doubt, the Executive will enjoy his right. My suggestion to both the Hon. Minister of State and the Hon. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas is, for determining the royalty, a Committee consisting of the representatives of various State Governments may be formed at the Centre so that they can give their opinion on this particular issue.

In the year 1997, in the month of March, the new Oil Exploration Licencing Policy was announced. This policy provides level-playing field for national companies at par with the private companies. Uneven competition was encouraged by introduction of that new licencing policy. A number of private companies have been allowed to enter into this important field. There is always an apprehension that the national oil companies will lose their monopoly and will be lagging behind due to the competition from the private companies. This apprehension should certainly be taken into consideration.

In this context, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards the oil exploration operation in the North-Eastern part of the country. Everybody knows that in Tripura there is huge deposit of gas but the Government has not taken any step to bring this gas to our country through the corridor of Bangladesh. I think the Government has failed to convince Bangladesh to allow as the corridor for bringing gas from Tripura by which not only the country would be benefited but small States would also grow economically. This should be properly looked into. The purpose will not be served just by introducing an amendment. The Government should look into the matter seriously.

A few days back, we came to know that Petronet LNG Limited has been formed to import LNG from foreign countries. This Petronet LNG Limited has decided to set up two terminals; one in Gujarat and the other in Cochin. Eastern States have been neglected. We have also come to know that for setting these two terminals, the Government will be giving some subsidy also. The Eastern States have not been considered in this respect. In the Consultative Committee we brought on record our opposition to this. The Eastern States should not be neglected and the Government should lay emphasis on setting such LNG terminals at Haldia Eastern Region so that gas can be brought either from Bangladesh or from Tripura or from other countries.

While expressing his views on this particular amendment, the hon. Minister has categorically stated that this enabling clause has been inserted so as to promote exploration work. I

do not know how much progress has been made in this regard, particularly in the north-eastern region. We know Bengal basin has huge deposits. Some time ago the exploration work was started in Bay of Bengal but afterwards nothing has been done in this respect. A number of experts are of the opinion that in this Bengal Basin there are huge deposits of oil and gas but exploration work has not been undertaken intensively. This is why I request the hon. Minister to see to it so that his object to promote exploration can be successfully achieved. Without gas and oil, nation cannot survive. This is a very important issue. So, I once again request the Hon. Minister to look into the matter and see that the executive power is not misused and a Committee consisting of the representatives of various States is formed to look into it. With these words I conclude.

SHRI T.R. BAALU (MADRAS SOUTH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I would like to place on record in this august House that this aspect of bringing an amendment is the baby of the United Front Government in which yourself, Shri P. Chidambaram, myself and other colleagues had participated to play a key role in this regard.

Sir, before I enter into this subject I want to give some arithmetic so that the august House could know what is the present position. During 1998-99, the estimated demand of the product is 89 million metric tonne (MMT). The estimated crude oil requirement is 90 MMT and the estimated shortfall of crude oil is 57 MMT. The estimated natural gas demand is 72 million cubic metre per day and the production of natural gas per day is 63 million cubic metre. As far as natural gas is concerned, there is a shortfall of nine million cubic metre per day. There is a shortfall of 57 MMT of crude oil. At the same time, by the year 2001-02, the estimated demand of the product would be 113 MMT, the estimated crude oil requirement would be 115 MMT. The estimated indigenous production of crude oil would be 39 MMT. So, the total shortfall of the crude oil in the year 2001-02 would be 76 MMT. As far as the estimated demand for natural gas is concerned, during 2001-02, it would be around 147 million standard cubic metres per day and the production would be around 63 million standard cubic metres per day. There would be a shortfall of 84 million cubic metre per day.

As regards the cost of import, as on date, the import bill at the present value of dollar would be about nine billion US dollars because we have to import 37 MMT of crude oil and at the same time we have to import the product of around 23 MMT. So, the cost would be about nine billion US dollars. In terms of Indian currency, it would cost approximately Rs. 40,000 crore.

After having examined all this, the United Front Government had made a prudent decision during 1997 to go for new exploration. The total sedimentary area within India is 3.14 million square kilometres. Out of which so far we have explored only 32.7 per cent. So there is an unexplored area of 67.3 per cent. So, during the past 50 years, in fact, up to 1997 nobody took pains to go for new exploration and invention. It was only the United Front Government which were at the helm of affairs in the year 1997 took pains and they decided to go in for new exploration. They wanted to upgrade the policies. That is why the new exploration licensing policy was announced by Shri P. Chidambaram, the former Finance Minister during his Budget

Speech. After that it was drafted and announced by me in this House in March 1997. There has not been any finding of new oil for the past 25 years after the Bombay High. As has been said just now, we announced the New Exploration Licencing Policy (NELP) to make the level playing field because the exploration required huge risk factor, high technology and long lead time to get the returns on investment. This was the thrust area which was announced by the United Front Government. The thrust areas are frontier areas hitherto unexplored and deep waters beyond 400 metre depth. In pursuance of this, the United Front Government wanted to announce concessional rate of royalty. That is the crux of the issue. The hon. Minister for Petroleum has brought before this House the amendment to pay 12.5 per cent of royalty at the Well Lead Price as far as on land production is concerned. At the same time, if a particular company goes to explore and produce in the off shore area, they can pay only ten per cent. That is the crux of the issue.

We had identified 37 blocks. The United Front Government had identified 37 blocks—28 in off shore and nine in on shore. I do not know what follow up action was taken on those blocks which we had identified during that time. I do not know what is happening in the Petroleum Ministry. At the same time, the ONGC, the national oil company was inducted to take up deep water drilling in selected off shore areas located in the Cauvery Basin, Krishna Godavary Basin and Konkan-Goa Basin. At that time, everything was transparent. In fact, each and every day I was attending to the work and I was in the know of things as to what was happening in each and every national oil company. I do not know what is happening now. At that time, in Konkan-Goa Basin, the ONGC was inducted and the ONGC has identified new area of oil source. Even the Sagar vessel which was a deep drilling vessel, has been converted. The hon. Minister some two or three weeks ago announced about it as if he had done it. I do not know why he is saying that. The United Front Government had announced it. Probably, he may not be a part of that particular issue. I know after the discussion with the then Prime Minister Shri Deve Gowda, the former Finance Minister Shri Chidambaram instructed me to take up the matter to meet the challenge. I took lot of pains in that regard. The seismic survey of the entire Bay of Bengal was completed. The survey was conducted in the area of about 12,500 line kilometres. I have not disclosed anything up till now. In the Andaman off shore area, the data which we had collected, has been sent to Western Australia.

As I said earlier, we had collected precious data off the Andamans. The data collected had revealed that gas hydrate was available off the Andamans. I want to say that many of my friends may not be knowing the technical words. What is a gas hydrate? Three hundred units of natural gas is equal to one unit of gas hydrate. Natural gas will transform into liquid. After the liquid stage, it will transform into solid, that solid state of gas is called gas Hydrates. This gas hydrate are available plenty in Andaman off shore.

We are having natural gas in the deep water area off the Andamans. It will cater to the total needs of India for another thirty years. This could not be announced by us at that time because we were going on collecting the data, confirming and reconfirming it and like that. At that time, some of our friends

were a part of the coalition Government. Many multinational companies had come. In fact, they purchased our data. The data had been collected and sent to Houston, the world market. The data had been purchased by paying a higher price by two times than what they paid for the Bombay High gas. They collected the data. They purchased the data for the East Coast area which is your area, Mr. Chairman. You know how many multinationals have got interest in purchasing the data by paying a higher rate, by two times, than what they paid for the Bombay High gas. It is high time that the hon. Minister for Petroleum should sit tight and extract work from the oil company people.

The United Front Government appointed one Director General of Hydrocarbons. I think even now he has not been given full freedom to look into the affairs. I do not know whether his salary has been fixed or not. The Director General of Hydrocarbons is there. But it seems that he has not been properly treated. He has not been vested with proper powers to go into the details and to see why the ONGC has not been taking enough care to go for new drilling. So, proper power should be given to the Director General of Hydrocarbons.

By and by, in Konkan-Goa sector, we had collected very good data. Like that, we had collected the data in respect of the East Coast and the area off the Andaman. So, I request that all these things will have to be looked into by the hon. Minister.

When I became the Minister, I paid a visit to my local constituency which is my birth place, hail from the Cauvery Basin. In the Cauvery Basin, the Narimanam fractionator is there. A fractionator is a plant through which LPG can be extracted from natural gas. The gas will come to the fractionator and from the fractionator we can get the LPG. But the point is that the fractionator, which was constructed at a cost of Rs. 48 crore, was abandoned during 1997. It has kept idle. I had instructed and told the authorities concerned that it should function within 15 days. Within ten days, I got the result. I got a telephone call from the refinery people saying that it started functioning. Now, it has been abandoned. It is not working properly. Why is it not working properly? The LPG production unit was constructed at a cost of Rs. 48 crore. It is kept idle. I do not know why it is not functioning.

The United Front Government announced one scheme called the "on-demand supply of LPG" by 1999...(*Interruptions*) The wait-listed LPG customers were of the order of about 120 lakh. The United Front Government announced that the 120 lakh backlog should be wiped out by 1999. That was the instruction given by the then United Front Government. The aim was that by another one year period, the 120 lakh wait-listed people should get the LPG.

I do not know what action has been taken by the hon. Minister.

We have revived tatkal scheme. Previously it was there in the Congress regime. We have reduced the charges to Rs. 4000. It has been reintroduced now. I want to know the present position of *Tatka*/Scheme. I would request the hon. Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas to kindly go through the data collected by the United Front Government to see what best he could do. He would not have concentrated because of infighting

[Shri T.R. Baalu]

in the alliance. Probably he would have been one of the representatives to see that nothing goes wrong...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY: You have faced the same thing in the United Front Government.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: The hon. Minister would have been engaged otherwise; At least hereafter we will not disturb you. The Opposition has taken a decision not to disturb you. You can see from the situation that is prevailing in the House for the last three days. Neither the Congress nor any of us is interested to disturb you. We do not have the numbers. We will not topple you. Nobody in the Opposition is going to topple you. You are a better performer that is why you have lost in three or four States ! Till the completion of five years, we want you to enjoy power and to commit more mistakes to that after five years, at least 90 per cent of the results will be in our favour. That is why, I request the hon. Minister to continue and commit more mistakes.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, before expressing my opinion on this bill. I would like to thank Shri Baalu for giving so many arguments, in very expressive manner to convince the House about something which should not have been stated by the hon'ble Minister. Till now, no good deed has been done by this Government on its own except presentation of the bills in the House at regular intervals like a 'Munshi', in respect of the good work done by the United Front Government. I would like to thank the Hon'ble Minister for this.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this country has vast demand for petroleum products. The actual need and expectation of this country is much more than what has been stated by the Minister and the former Minister. Our difficulty is that we are not ready to rely on our resources. We have to import all petroleum products, due to which budget deficit is continuously increasing. During the last 20-22 years, it has become customary to fix administrative prices of petroleum products. We had excluded it from the budget. As a result the oil pool deficit is continuously increasing. According to one estimate, this deficit may become equivalent to the defence budget of the country. We have to become self-reliant in this area to erase this deficit. We have got no other option. For self-reliance, we have to make efforts to search for possibilities of exploration in local areas. Taking this into account, it was decided that the price of petroleum products in the country will be fixed according to the international rates. The prices will rise and fall according to that.

Just now, the hon'ble Minister has issued a statement saying that since international prices of diesel has fallen, the Government of India is also considering to reduce its price. A few days ago, it was reduced by 7-8 paise. For doing this, we are in need of resources. We should search for the possibilities of petroleum products available in the interior of the earth in our country. we are in great need of it. I have been demanding regularly that its exploration should take place in my area. For the last 10-12 years, exploration work is at standstill for our contry due to scarcity of the funds because we are spending the entire capital on importing this product. We are lacking means

to increase our resources. Therefore, it is quite appropriate that we should increase exploration. There are different ways to increase it. For instance, the risk and expenditure are more in case of exploration in deep sea. If the amount given whether in the form of royalty or expenditure, is equivalent to that of the amount allocated for the plain areas, then nobody will come forward for exploration in deep sea. In view of this, there was possibility to amend this legislation, and for this you presented the bill. The spirit behind my moving the satutory resolution was that the debate could be held in the House. I had no feeling and intention to oppose this bill. I welcome to this and thank you for presenting this bill.

[English]

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN (TRICHUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, let me go on record that an amendment like this should not have been implemented with an Ordinance. I think, Clause 5 which empowers the Government to completely exempt royalty cannot be accepted. I am afraid the present Government is not safeguarding the interest of the States. Our federal set-up is being threatened, in my opinion. In that context, if we give powers to the Government to completely exempt royalty. I am afraid, the States may lose their vital interests. So, I am opposed to this amendment of completely exempting royalty to the deserving sectors.

Sir, this amendment has to be viewed in the background of the Policy Statement of the Government on the Development exploration on Oil and Natural Gas. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation is one of our most thriving public sector units, which we call as 'Navaratnas'. Both ONGC and IOC, are immensely helping our economy and our country. The present Government has declared that both ONGC and IOC are going to be privatised, or they are listed for disinvestment.

SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have never announced that. It is a wrong information.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: I am speaking on the basis of Press reports.

SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to clarify at this juncture that this Government has no intention to privatise any of our public sector oil companies including ONGC and IOC.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: There are authentic reports to the contrary.

SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY: I am saying this on behalf of the Government. Where is the authentic report then?

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: If that is the position of the Government, I am glad. But still two of these 'Navaratnas' are listed in the disinvestment list.

16.00 hrs.

SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY: Shri Baalu has claimed all this.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: All right.

SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY: Regarding disinvestment, you are a part of it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Raghavan, please conclude.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Disinvestment is not only to the Indian Capital but it is also disinvestment even to the foreign capital. The oil and natural gas are an immense wealth of our country. I am grateful to Shri T.R. Baalu who has given some statistics of our immense wealth. We have competent technicians. We have competent infrastructure. These two companies came under our *Navratnas*. Why should we invite private capital and foreign capital for exploring this immense wealth? When these companies function, you reduce royalty. You are asking for powers to reduce royalty to the States. You are asking for powers to exempt royalty completely. This amendment is not so simple as the hon. Minister makes us to believe. This immense wealth is going to be explored and exploited by private companies including foreign companies. I must say in this connection that accepting foreign capital for such vital sectors is very dangerous, I would remind the hon. friends on the Treasury Benches that not only we the left Parties but in your own ranks also there are elements who oppose foreign companies the 'Jan Jagran Manch' is campaigning against letting these foreign companies come in such vital sectors. Even the RSS meeting at Bangalore passed a resolution some months ago opposing the multinational companies. Before the elections, you have said that no such foreign capital will be allowed and no multinational corporation will be allowed to exploit our wealth. After coming to power, you are running very fast—faster than Dr. Manmohan Singh. After the MNGS. So, I am against giving powers... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Thank you. So, this amendment is not so harmless as the Minister has make us believe.

[*Translation*]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (MADHUBANI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

I rise to speak on Oilfield Regulation and Development (Amendment) Bill, 1998. As a matter of policy, it is right that water level is different at different places where oil wells are sunk. If the destination of exploration site is far off, the rate of regulation should be definitely different, but in my opinion the rights we have given to our executive are far too more.

You must be remembering the result of giving more powers to the Executives of Oil and Natural Gas Commission. The scams in ONGC during the last 2-3 years and the Vigilance cases in that regard are no longer a secret. Therefore, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister and would like to tell the Government not to give so much liberty to the officials, lest it should become difficult to control them afterwards and mistakes of the past could be repeated. There should be some control on the officers of the Indian Oil Corporation and the ONGC. They should not be given those powers which could be misused by them. My hon'ble friend Shri Jain has rightly stated that power to execute any Legislation made by us is vested with the officers on the basis of trust only. But if that Organisation or

people of that organisation betray the Government then we should pay attention in that regard. We should consider all the facts before giving them the responsibility. It is said that the price of indigenous crude oil will fluctuate every month. I understand that this will lead to uncertainty in the economy. If on first day of the month, there is one price and afterwards it changes, then the whole economic situation will become uncertain. Due to this the assessment of crude oil traders will get disturbed and so will the entire economic situation. Therefore, the monthly regulation is wrong, it should be removed and some time should be given and for this a definite duration should be fixed. If there is more fluctuation, there would be more uncertainty and market will not be stable.

It has been said in the third amendment.

[*English*]

"(iii) make consequential amendments in section 10 of the Act for laying the notifications before Parliament."

[*Translation*]

An attempt should not be made to bypass the Parliament. The Parliament is Supreme. The notification should definitely come to Parliament and the work should be done only after the approval of the Parliament. It is right that we should explore oil to conserve our resources. We should explore oil resources to save foreign exchange. But what happens is that whenever a Minister comes on a visit and he talks with the ONGC and Indian Oil Officials and asks them about a particular project, they say that there was no such project and that the project was a political project. Thus the influential people make them to start exploration work in their area. It is going on for the last eight to ten years. As long as the indications of availability of oil in particular area are not received and the criterion for that is not fulfilled no project should be launched. I know about many projects, about which the people of your department say, that it was not viable and that the project was started for political mileage due to pressure of the hon'ble Minister. Therefore, this should not happen.

At Dulli Pathi in Jainagar subdivision of Madhubani district of Bihar, the oil exploration was started 8-10 years ago. We are aware that in the report it was said that the oil reserves are available there, but the work was stopped over there. I would like that the hon'ble Minister should enquire into the matter and do whatever is possible in this regard.

[*English*]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (KALAHANDI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the discussion on this piece of legislation which is taking place today is a welcome measure relates to the New Exploration Licensing Policy, that is, NELP. It has been seen that the demand of oil has been growing but our country has not been able to produce oil to meet the demand and supply of oil.

Therefore, this piece of legislation was necessitated which had lead to further exploration of oil besides encouraging private sector participation in the exploration of oil. You will see that in the production of oil, there has been a shortfall. The production of crude oil in 1997-98 was 30.9 million tonnes

[Shri Bikram Keshari Deo]

which was less by nearly 10 million tonnes compared to 1996-97. Therefore, this legislation will definitely encourage the vast deposits to be explored and also to improve the oil production in the country. You are sitting on an oil resource covering 1.4 billion square kilometres of sedimentation which is full of oil, but you are unable to explore it.

I would like to mention here that the performance of the ONGC was not satisfactory. The ONGC, the only company which was exploiting these natural resources, has not been able to meet its optimum level. Therefore, this has necessitated in this legislation. By means of this legislation only, we could save a lot of foreign exchange for this country which is being drained out, and which could have been utilised for other important developmental and social projects.

You can see that with this regulation, they have brought a lot of changes. For example, in *The Economic Survey, 1997-98* it is mentioned in the heading Major Policy Reforms in the Oil and Gas sectors. I quote some points from the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP):

"No mandatory state participation through ONGC/Oil.

ONGCL and Oil to compete for obtaining petroleum licenses.

Open availability of exploration acreages to provide a continuous window of opportunities to oil companies.

Freedom to contractors for marketing of crude oil and gas in domestic market.

Royalty payment at the rate of 12.5 per cent which is clearly evident in this Bill."

Therefore, in right earnest, this Government has shown us the way and has taken the first step towards solving this chronic problem of oil and natural gas which is becoming a scarce commodity though we have plenty in the country. Today, we have been importing gas from Oman and Iran for our consumers, which could have been averted. If in all seriousness the previous Government had implemented this Bill, we would have become self-sufficient. But the previous Government never tried it.

Therefore, I thank the hon. Minister and this Government for bringing this legislation and it should be implemented in right earnest.

SHRI P. C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA): The exploration and exploitation of oil is one of the most important works which the Government has to undertake and in the developing countries like ours it is one of the major thrusts which we have to give. I am sure the Government will take this very seriously and take all measures to see that the 67 per cent of the grey areas which are identified but not tapped so far, will be taken soon to task. I am also sure that amendments of this nature may be necessary to give more powers to the Government and to see that not only more companies are attracted but also to see that more drilling takes place. I am sure that there has to be some broad norms and as per the NELP which has been

announced, the rates of some mineral oil will have to change from place to place and for that matter the present law is not adequate enough to give powers to the Government. Therefore, I do not stand in the way of this amendment which may be necessary as far as new thrust is concerned.

However, I would submit that there are areas which have been identified and work has to be taken up in those areas very soon. For example, it has already been said that the coast in the West as well as in the East has to be developed. It has also been said specifically that some of the coastal areas in Kerala have also been found to be having great oil deposits. I am sure that the Government will see to it that new exploitation is taken up in these areas very soon.

I do not propose to speak more. But I would only make a suggestion. The need for LPG, LNG and also oil is so great that the distribution is also as important as the need. The areas are many as far as India is concerned. We have so many States and so the needs of the States are also in different ways and as far as some States are concerned, we do not have enough sources of energy to have the very important infrastructure like electricity and energy fuels which are necessary for the industries to develop.

As far as some of the States which are industrially backward like Kerala are concerned, which is always applauded as a very good State for so many other things, like literacy and so many other aspects, I feel that industrialisation is so poor that we have to see that something immediate is taken up in this regard.

There is an LNG projects in Kochi—I am sure that the hon. Minister knows about it—which has to be expedited. There is a refinery project in Kochi which has to be expedited. I am mentioning because it is in my constituency. About 500 MW of power is going to be produced in Kochi by that refinery project. However, the fuel input is to be met from the Kochi Refinery itself. I think that it is a project which has to be expedited. About Rs. 2480 crores is the project amount. As the hon. Minister knows, Kerala is a State where electricity is still something very difficult for us to have. We have power cuts even though there has been a good rainfall. I am not accusing anybody. But it is a fact that in Kerala industries are going down to down. So, I feel that these projects which have been taken up must be expedited.

I request the hon. Minister to take immediate steps.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE): Mr. Chairman, I am not 'Swami' but I am 'Swain'. Some people call me 'Swine'. I am not a pig. Anyway in Hindi they write all the time as 'Swine'. I have been telling so many people that I was not 'Swine', I am 'Swain' but still nobody listens to me. From swine you have made me 'Swamy'. I am not 'Swami', I am 'Swain'.

I rise to support this Bill and I want to support it just like many other speakers even from the Treasury Benches and from the Oppositions Benches.

All of them have supported it and I also support it.

I also made an exhaustive presentation. I prepared for this.

The same thing has been going on repeated time and again. I am not going to repeat. I will just say two or three sentences. The point is, in our country we are falling short of crude oil. We want to be self-sufficient. Otherwise, as Shri B.K. Dev said earlier, very valuable foreign exchange is being drained out to foreign countries. So, we want to be self-sufficient and if we want to be self-sufficient, we have to allow the private sector to enter into it. The private explorers should also be allowed to enter into it. If we want that the private explorers should enter it, then they should be given some incentives also which have been proposed in this Bill.

I thank the hon. Minister of Petroleum for having brought such a very good Bill, though through an Ordinance. But he has brought it.

But, having brought it, he is now trying to take the support of this august House. Sir, I will just mention two or three more points on this case. I would draw the attention of the hon. Minister to one thing which is this. He should see to it that by 2000 AD, unleaded petrol should be made available. Unless you do that, a time will come where none of us will be able to stay in Delhi. It is because the atmosphere of Delhi has been polluted so much. Every year the pollution level is increasing so much not only in Delhi but also in all the other metropolitan cities and towns of this country. The main cause of pollution is exhausts from the petrol-driven vehicles. So, I appeal to you to see to it that by 2000 AD unleaded petrol is made available.

In Orissa, Paradip Petroleum Refinery is going to be set up with an amount of Rs. 8,000 crore. Let the Prime Minister go and inaugurate it in a very short period so that the paucity of petroleum in our country will be squared up.

Last but not least, I would like to make an appeal to you just like Shri Baalu. Why is it taking seven years to get a gas connection in our country? They should get it immediately. All the private operators who have LPG dealerships opened their companies in small towns all over India. But they are closing their companies very early. Why are they closing them?

Shri Baalu is not here. Finally, I will just tell him a very small thing. He is very much worried that no credit has been given to him for the good work he had done. But I would just tell him that this Government is not going to snatch any credit from anybody for any good job done by him. This Government, our hon. Prime Minister and our hon. Petroleum Minister are not so undignified in just depriving somebody of his credit. So, if Shri Baalu has done anything, due credit will be given to him.

Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

[Translation]

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE (CHIMUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome the oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 1948 brought here for further amendments by the hon'ble Minister and thank him for bringing this Bill. Treasury benches have welcomed this amendment bill and we, the Members of opposition also welcome and support this bill.

Sir, I would not take much time but like to put forth certain points before the House regarding this Bill, ours is a developing

country and requirement of oil and gas is increasing day by day. In view of increasing demand, this bill has been brought here. The exploration of oil should be expedited and encouraged in border areas of the country and I feel that this amendment will help in this direction.

The points mentioned by the hon'ble Minister and provisions made in this bill are very good and it would help oil and gas sector to a great extent. The Geological Survey of India and ONGC are not making efforts to the required extent in the field of exploration of oil and gas. The objectives of this amendment bill should be achieved so that requirement of oil and gas for people of this country could be fulfilled.

The demand of cooking gas is increasing day by day. Just now my colleagues have stated that in our country 67 places have been identified in sea and other places for exploration of oil and gas but so far efforts are not being made to the required extent in this field and thus we are unable to meet the demand of oil and gas in the country. While supporting this amendment bill, I would request the Hon. Minister and the Government that with the help of prestigious organisations like ONGC and Geological Survey of India we should strive to be self reliant in oil and gas sector, I would thank the hon. Minister and the Government if this objective is achieved through this amendment bill. While supporting this Bill I again thank the hon'ble Minister for bringing this bill.

SHRI RAJO SINGH (BEGUSARAI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through this Bill hon'ble Minister has proposed a few ordinary amendments. This Bill was passed in 1948. Now two amendments 4 and 5 have been added in its section 6 (a). Under the first amendment he has proposed to fix the rates on the basis of distance and secondly he has stated that the place of fixing the rates will be announced through a notification. Several hon. Members have drawn the attention of the House towards their problems. I would like to say that this bill deserves commendation and I support it. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are also an MP and member of panel of Chairmen. Just now Baaluji has said that action is delayed on applications received for allotment of gas connections whether there is one Government in India or not, perhaps hon'ble Minister knows that there is one Government in this country, then why Members of one House of the Parliament enjoy the privilege of gas connection and Members of Lok Sabha are deprived of this privilege when we take up this issue with the hon. Minister he replies that this matter is pending in Court. Efforts should be made in this regard. Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Minister of Law should interfere in this matter. The advocate of hon'ble Minister may be in Tamil Nadu, why directions are not issued for him in this regard. There are also senior officers in your department. I am not one of those who don't trust the officers of your department. Mutual trust is necessary for worldly business. History tells us that Akbar used to trust people and Aurangzeb did not have faith in others. We should have faith and this matter should be solved.

Now-a-days people do not use wood as fuel and gas connections have become necessity for them. People of our constituency come to us with this demand because through radio and T.V. they come to know that M.Ps are given privilege quota of issuing telephone and gas connection. When we tell

[Shri Rajo Singh]

that this quota is not given to us, they do not believe us. Perhaps voters of your constituency do not come to you for it but voters of our constituency demand that. When we say that this issue is pending in court, our voters feel that we have given connections to someone else.

At present the consumption of kerosene is increasing. The prices of petrol and diesel fluctuate but what arrangements have been made for supply of kerosene which is used by poor. Its prices should not be increased. Prices of petrol can be increased as the people using it in buses, cars and tractors can afford that but poor people living in *Jhuggi-Jhonpris* can not bear this burden. Our Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas was earlier in Congress Party and was president of congress party in Tamil Nadu but now due to certain circumstances he joined other party. Indira Gandhiji had said that *jhuggis* of poor should be illuminated. You should think for welfare of poor. It is a small bill and much debate is not required on it. I support this Bill.

[English]

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN (AMROHA): Sir, the Ministry should issue a letter saying that there is a restriction on the issuance of gas connections so that, at least, we can show it to the people.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you and would like to say that Ramamurthyji will speak comprehensively on this Bill after me. It is true that after formation of this new Government several important decisions have been taken by this Ministry. The public is gradually coming to know about it. First of all on 1.4.1998 our Ministry took a decision to dismantle APM, NELP is connected with it and people know about that. Their prices are determined once in a month as per the international prices of oil. We have decided to apply NELP and State Governments have agreed to do so.

As Satyapalji was saying that States are facing problems due to the period of three years because they do not get a fixed amount. In view of international scenario we can say that at present the prices of crude oil are quite low and Baaluji has told in detail how we would be able to control the situation when the price of crude oil will increase in near future our Ministry has tried to take the country in a right direction. This Government have signed 18 agreements to solve the cases pending with the Ministry for last three-four years. Earlier agreements were concluded in the field of export only but now we have decided to prepare an agreement in the field of exploration of oil. It is a well known fact that identifying the places for exploration of oil is just like a lottery and is a costly affair especially in deep sea. In this new policy we have proposed to invite foreign countries to identify the fields of oil exploration and sharing contract may be signed when the oil is struck. People liked this policy. I would not like to say much in this field. There are some apprehensions in minds of people. Just now Baaluji has said that waiting list of LPG. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJO SINGH: You are Minister. But what about us. Please make arrangement for LPG connection for us also.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: That is why I am speaking. He has said that 270 lakh persons are in the waiting list. It is not so. There are 127 lakh persons in the waiting list for LPG. We have also decided to clear it in the next three years. As far as quota of LPG connection is concerned it is true that members of Rajya Sabha are getting their quota of LPG connection but Members of Lok Sabha are not getting the same. My Ministry is ready to give it. Whatever direction we get from Hon'ble Speaker we will act accordingly. We are not against this that they should not be given LPG quota. We are also M.Ps. we also want to satisfy people of our area. It is also correct that people of the country should know the facts. It is equally applicable on every Member that they should not misuse their privilege. Therefore, I would like to say that we have decided the policy. After, coming to power it seems to us that in the country the storage capacity of crude oil is very less. We have to see as to how this capacity can be increased. During the last three years, interviews have not been conducted for giving LPG and other retail outlets. At present in the entire country more than 6000 places have been advertised for retail outlets and their interviews are likely to be conducted.

We have not made provision for private Members on Selection Boards to ensure transparency. Only retired judge as Chairman and two members from oil companies would be there on the Board. We have told them that they have to declare the result within 24 hours after interview. Besides this we have decided to constitute 50 Boards so that quick decision can be taken as there are 14 places available. These Boards have been constituted and they have started functioning.

Mr. Chairman, I do not want to buy much but I would definitely say that we are answerable to the House and in future also there will be transparency in our Ministry.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are proud that our Companies are among the best in the world and O.N.G.C. is earning a name for itself not only in India but also in other countries. Just now one of our friend was saying that there is possibility of oil deposits in Ganga basin. Our Ministry is trying to explore it. In this direction we will give good results to this House and to the people of the country very soon. We will prove as to how properly our Department is working because it seems to us that our production is insufficient for us. We should extend our sedimentary area. At present 66% of our area remains unexplored we also have to see as to how maximum exploration work can be undertaken. Today people of all countries of the world are being attracted towards us. They want that the present Government alongwith their cooperation should make efforts in this direction.

I am happy that most of the members have cooperated in the promulgation of ordinance regarding N.E.L.P. Bill. We wanted to pass this Bill last time itself but unfortunately due to other works pending before the House we could not do so and we had to promulgate this ordinance. The present Government do not want to function as an ordinances Government. We want

that whatever we do we should present it first before the House and only then further action should be taken. I thank you for giving me time to speak.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Members from both sides of the House who have participated in the debate on Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 1998. I also express my sincere thanks to my colleague the Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for having intervened in the debate.

Sir, the hon. Members have in general agreed that our country needs more and more exploration. Our organisations like ONGC, IOC, OIC and other oil companies, are not in an adequate position to fulfil the demand of petroleum products which is growing every day in the country. It is high time that our country welcomed more investment and more technology into this field. We possess almost 90 per cent of the technology of exploration whether it is in onshore, offshore, shallow waters or in the deep-sea drilling. Though we possess certain technologies, we need those technologies which are very new to us.

We want that those countries which are all possessing this new technology should come to India and participate in the exploration.

Sir, in the New Exploration Licencing Policy, there are three points involved. First is to invite more capital, either foreign capital or the joint ventures capital or the Indian capital. The capital should be invested more and more in the exploration ventures. Second is that while doing so, our country will get more crude oil. Third is that more areas will be covered under the exploration.

Sir, Shri T.R. Baalu, my predecessor, has said that the United Front Government was responsible for the opening up of this front for the private sector, particularly, foreigners to invest. I do not deny that fact. But he must also remember that during 1993 when Capt. Satish Sharma was the Petroleum Minister, it was he who had opened up this front. Even now, in the East coast and the West coast, is lot of private entrepreneurs and foreign multinationals are operating on off-shore as well as on-shore exploration. Under this New Exploration Licencing Policy, even though the United Front Government had identified 37 blocks, we have now further identified the blocks. It has come to 48 blocks both off-shore and on-shore as well as shallow water and deep sea water drilling.

Sir to achieve this goal, we need this Bill to be amended because in the international arena when we go for a road show, it is highly necessary to know about the kind of concessions, tax concessions, tax holidays and royalty being fixed. The tax code is also necessary for the foreign investors to know what is available in this country. So, according to that, the previous United Front Government had envisaged this NELP. They had given an outlined picture. Then we had to amend the Income Tax Act, and it was amended.

Now, this Act also is to be amended and it is going to be

amended by the House. Now, tax code is almost ready. By January or so, we are in a position to go for a road show in the 48 blocks. Already, the datas, tender forms and other things are being issued from the Ministry.

Sir, in this respect, some of our hon. Members have expressed their apprehension whether this will be misused by the authorities concerned. Here there is a clause 10 in the parent Act. It says:

"Every rule made under this Act and every notification issued under sub-section (4) of section 6A shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made or issued, before each House of Parliament, while it is in Session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one Session or in two or more successive Sessions, and if, before the expiry of the Session immediately following the Session or the successive Session aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or notification or both Houses agree that the rule or notification should not be made or issued, the rule or notification shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule or notification."

However, any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity or anything previously done. So, under this amended Act, if at all any adjustment is made on the royalty or the rates of royalty, it is going to be notified and it is going to be laid before the House. So, I do not find any ground for any apprehension on that.

The hon. Member, Shri V.V. Raghavan wanted to know why we have now come to the House for passing this Bill after promulgating an Ordinance. Taking the House into confidence, I am informing the House that this is only an enabling provision and the Government has so far not acted on it even after the promulgation of the Ordinance. The other point which I would like to mention here is that this enabling provision is more advantageous to the States than the Centre.

Another apprehension was expressed by Shri V.V. Raghavan that the States were going to lose heavily before amending this Act. We have consulted all the State Governments by sending a gist of the amendments to them. All the State Governments except a few have agreed and the others are also sending their letters of agreement to the Government of India.

Here, we are amending only aspects that relate to off-shore exploration but not on-shore drilling. Even if we were fixing different rates of royalty for on-shore drilling, it will be done only in consultation with the States. It will not be done in an arbitrary manner. So, there is no question of misuse of power in fixing the rates of royalty or in making this amendment to be implemented. There will not be any misuse of authority.

The other point that some of the hon. Members have raised is that the State Governments will lose their revenue. Even Shri Satya Pal Jain has mentioned about it. We have been following the Administered Pricing Mechanism, that is, the 'cost plus' formula till the 1st April, 1998. As the Kelkar Committee and the expert group have given a phased out liberalisation programme

[Shri Vazhapady K. Ramamurthy]

for the petroleum sector, we have dismantled the Administered Pricing Mechanism from the 1st April, 1998. It is no more followed except in respect of by-products. Accordingly, the prices which were already fixed by the Government on the basis of the Administered Pricing Mechanism have been completely dismantled. We are now following the import parity price. This has also necessitated the bringing in of this amendment. Hereinafter the rates of royalty cannot be fixed at random. We will go through it every month or every two or three months, whichever way we do it is beneficial to both sides.

We will take into account the international price and the import price in our country and we will fix the rates of royalty according to the import price parity. This is the international formula which is being followed everywhere. We have also fixed a minimum of 12.5 per cent as royalty. Nowhere in the world has this rate of royalty been offered for off-shore drilling.

Hon. Members have raised a point about the long queue of LPG consumers. I would like to mention — the hon. Minister of State has also made a mention of it — That 125 lakh people are in the queue.

Here, I would like to mention that the Government of India is extending Rs. 72 per cylinder as subsidy for the domestic use. We have also opened up the parallel markets in LPG. But they were not in a position to offer this kind of a subsidy to the LPG consumers. Some of the unscrupulous parallel markets have also started the business like mushrooms and subsequently, they had shut down. Now except four or five reputed firms which are running their parallel markets in LPG, others have shut down. Now only they are thriving and they are also not in a position to extend this kind of a subsidy. That is why people are making a long queue with the Government distribution system, that is, from the oil companies.

Unfortunately, since there were cyclones in the Gujarat areas, one after another, in the last four or five months, the Vadiva Port has become unusable and we had to stop the import of LNG. Fortunately, with the alternate source from Chennai, Cochin and Haldia, we were able to augment the demand and we were able to maintain the supply.

As was assured by the Minister of State here, within the next two or three years, this queue will be exhausted. The old system of 'tatal' — that is, by depositing an amount of Rs. 4000, one can get a priority in the LPG connections — is reintroduced and is continuing. For LPG, there is a growing demand. We are in a position to import and meet the demand, but unfortunately, infrastructural facilities particularly at Ports and also the pipelines are the handicaps. Otherwise, we would have been able to wipe off the waiting list, with all our resources in the oil companies.

Another point that has been raised was to supply unleaded petrol to all the places in the country. Now, only in the Metropolitan cities we are supplying the unleaded petrol. After the decision of the Supreme Court in connection with pollution, the oil companies have spent more than Rs. 8000 crore to have some machineries and to reduce the sulphur content in diesel

and also in unleaded petrol. In such a vast country, we were unfortunately not able to introduce the provision of unleaded petrol simultaneously at all the places. But we hope that, as per the direction of the Supreme Court, we will be able to supply unleaded petrol within two or three years to all the places in our country.

Another point that has been raised by some of the hon. Members is this.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH : If this case has been filed in High Court then it should be fought in High Court ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY : I am coming to that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please wait. The Minister will give the reply.

SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY : The hon. Minister from Haldia has raised certain points regarding the liquefied natural gas which is the future of energy; now in the whole world, that he become the fuel for energy generation. In our country, we have planned about this and we have entrusted this matter with the Petronet LNG. Petronet LNG is the Consortium of our own oil companies; initially, we have started this at Gujarat, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. These are the three places which have already been identified — Dahej in Gujarat, Cochin in Kerala and Ennore in Chennai. In Dahej and Cochin, work is in progress. In Tamil Nadu, now the tender has been opened; and I am glad to say that the Consortium — consisting of Gas Authority of India Limited, Petronet LNG and Petronas of Malaysia — has been declared as L-1, that is, the lowest number one. These three companies have joined together to have that Consortium. So, I hope that the Government of Tamil Nadu would very soon issue orders and they will start the work.

I have also had a discussion with hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. He is also taking initiative to have an LNG terminal at Kakinada. We have made a request to the hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal also. If the State Governments come forward to participate in the equity participation, like the Government of Kerala, the Government of Gujarat and the Government of Tamil Nadu, the Central Government, particularly the Petroleum Ministry is prepared to sanction any amount of LNG terminals. It is a sensitive issue.

SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH : What about the Eastern region?

SHRI VAZHAPADI K. RAMAMURTHY : I have mentioned about Haldia. It is in the Eastern region.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS) : What about the Andaman and Nicobar islands?

SHRI VAZHAPADI K. RAMAMURTHY : I have already said LNG terminals are taken up with the cooperation of the State Governments. The Gujarat Government, the Kerala

Government and the Tamil Nadu Government are all equity participants. So if your Government also participates in the equity participation, we are prepared to sanction LNG terminals. I am giving an assurance in the House.

16.56 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

About further exploration in the farflung areas like Andaman and Nicobar islands, Lakshadweep and Himachal Pradesh, the seismic survey and all other things have been done. All these areas come under a block which has been identified for the New Exploration Licencing Policy. After completing these formalities for NELP, I hope, the foreign investors would be interested in India. From the interest which they have shown so far for getting the tender forms and other datas, I hope a large investment will come into our country in this sector and there will be some more improvement in our crude oil production. It would also reduce the burden on foreign exchange outflow.

With these few words I request the hon. House to pass the Amendment Bill.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (VISAKHAPATNAM) : The hon. Minister has given very extensive clarifications. But he could not fully satisfy the Members. He merely said that the reserves in Bombay High and other seashores is not enough to meet our demand. But the hon. Minister has forgotten that our country has got huge reserves. If we make efforts we would be able to achieve self-sufficiency.

During the tenure of the United Front Government in October last ONGC Videsh signed an MoU with China Oil and Gas Exploration Development Corporation. China had decided to explore 2,000 kilometres the contract for which it has decided to give to Asian countries. India wanted to take advantage of that. Shri T.R. Baalu feels that he has taken the initiative. We welcome that. We are also happy that the present hon. Minister is also taking pains to achieve results. So, it should not become an issue to score points. We want best results for our country.

Before I accept to withdraw, I would like to make one request. A comprehensive statement should be given to the House in the course of time by working out, how the country is going to achieve the maximum exploration in the next ten years by making use of the latest technology and capital from various countries of the world, like Australia, China and America.

17.00 hrs.

Secondly, besides depending on the ONGC or the OIC, who have done a great service for the nation, new organisation should crop up. It is a challenge for both the Ministry as well as the Government. It is for the Government to see how it is going to achieve all these and what is going to be the future demand and supply position of the country. Without having a pessimistic view, let us be optimistic and say that by determination, dedication, concentration and making maximum efforts anything is possible. We would be able to achieve the maximum goal. While initiating this Resolution, I did not find any fault with the Bill. I merely wanted a glorious success, in the field of oil, for our country which it needs the most. I request the Minister to

give a comprehensive Report in due course of time. With these words I withdraw my Resolution.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY) : I am thankful to the hon. Member, Dr. Reddy, for withdrawing his Statutory Resolution moved on this Bill. I assure the House that this Ministry will not leave any stone unturned.

Within the short time, we were able to progress in our dialogue and discussion and were able to sign protocol with various countries for joint venture equity participation in marketig as well as exploration in other countries. With countries like the erstwhile USSR and now the CIS countries, particularly Azerbaijan, Caspian Sea countries Turkmenistan and Moscow, we are in a position to progress at great length and we have signed some joint ventures with them. Moreover, during the South African Enengry Conference, we were able to have bilateral talks with nine countries. China is one among them. We are not dropping any country because now the international oil price is very low. This is the time we should go abroad exploring more and more possibility of getting the crude and petroleum products. So, our strategy would be to accelerate exploration work within our country as also encourage more and more participation by India in other countries. By doing this we would be able to achieve self sufficiency in crude oil production. This is what we are aiming at.

As envisaged by Dr. Reddy, I would like to say, once NELP is completed we would be in a position to come up with a comprehensive policy and at that time we will definitely take the House into confidence.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : I would like to seek one clarification. Since the amendment pertains to royalty, I would like to know whether the apprehension of a number of States has been cleared or not. During the course of the discussion the Minister has informed the House that many States have agreed to it. I would like to know which are the States which have agreed, in particular about the States of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.

SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY : I would like to inform the House that so far, the State Governments of Rajasthan, UP, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Arunachal Pradesh have given their concurrence to the terms and conditions of NELP and other States have informed that they would also convey their response to the Ministry shortly.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I seek leave of the House to withdraw my Statutory Resolution.

MR. SPEAKER : Is it the pleasure of the House that the Resolution moved by Dr. Subbarami Reddy be withdrawn?

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (GUWAHATI) : Sir, we welcome a Bill of this kind. The hon. Minister has covered many points at length. But I have some doubts about the usefulness of this Bill itself. Sir, as far as the exploration by ONGC and other organisations outside this country is concerned, certainly this Bill is useful. But so far as the domestic exploration of oil and gas reserves are concerned, many of the countries are reducing

[Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita]

their exploitation of oil and gas reserves. But as against that we are opening up and are trying to exploit as much as possible knowing fully well that these reserves are restricted. It is there only for some time and one day it will be finished. So, we should also follow the other countries which are restricting and reducing the exploitation of oil and gas reserves.

I am on a different point now. This Bill may prove to be a barrier in fixing the royalty for the crude oil. Sir, as you know, my region has oil reserves. But the oil royalty that is paid to my State of Assam is the lowest. It is because if you compare the import price of oil and the royalty paid for the domestic crude oil to Assam and Gujarat, you would find that it is very less. It is just negligible. As a result of which our State is losing.

MR. SPEAKER : They have already covered these points. Please conclude.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA : Sir, I want that the royalty should be increased. It should be brought at par with the price of imported crude oil.

Secondly, he has made a mention about the gas reserves also.

MR. SPEAKER : Again you are repeating the same thing.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA : Sir, I am not repeating it. I am on a different point now. This is regarding finished products. As you know, our region is a mountainous region. The shrinkage allowance is paid to the mountainous region where the patrol pumps are situated at very high altitude. This issue was taken up as back as 1992. But up till now, I do not know what is the result. All over India the shrinkage allowance is being paid. I do not know why it is not being paid in the North-Eastern region. I had raised this matter about three months back also. But up till now, no decision has been taken.

I request the hon. Minister to look into this seriously and take a decision about this.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : The House shall 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.

New Clause 4

Amendment made :

Page 2, -

after line 20, insert

Repeal and saving "4. (1) The Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Ordinance, 1998 is hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under principal Act as amended by the said Ordinance shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the principal Act as amended by this Act." (2)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That new clause 4 be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1

Amendment made :

1. Page 1, -

for lines 5 and 6, substitute-

"(2) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 3rd day of September, 1998."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

That Enacting formula and the long title stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

"Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill."

SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY : I beg to move :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Shri Chidambaram to speak.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM (SIVAGANGA) : Sir, I am glad that the present Government is continuing with the policy of the previous Government as far as this Bill is concerned.

I wish to seek a very brief clarification from the hon. Minister. At that time, it was estimated that Oil Pool Account was in deficit of about Rs. 18,000 crore. We introduced bonds. But when the bonds were actually issued and the deficit had come down, according to reports, to about Rs. 13,200 crore.

A few minutes ago, the House heard the hon. Minister say that prices of crude have hit historical low. But it is common knowledge that the benefit of low price has not been passed on to the consumer. I can understand why. That is because, the Government is wiping out the Oil Pool deficit. I want the hon.

Minister to clarify (1) what is the status of the Oil Pool Account today? What is the deficit today and how much of these bonds have been redeemed? Is the Account in deficit or has the Account moved into a surplus?

Secondly, if the Account has moved into a surplus, when can we expect the benefit of lower prices to be passed on to the consumers particularly in kerosene, LPG as well as petrol? I am not saying, he should do that tomorrow. He is in a position to indicate when the benefit of lower prices will be passed on to the consumer. But that will depend upon whether the Oil Pool Account deficit has been wiped out or not. I wish the hon. Minister will clarify these points.

SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Member and the former Finance Minister of this country. Thanks to the international price of crude which is historically very low to even 10.40 dollars per barrel. It is a logic that whenever international price is coming down, the Oil Pool Account will be in surplus. Whenever it will go up, it will dry up. As on date, we are considerably redeeming the oil bonds and also settling our own oil industries' dues. Since we know that we are not in a position to redeem the bond or are not in a position to settle the dues, the day is not far off when like Shri Chidambaram, my Finance Minister will also take my surplus. I will not leave that. I will see that the bonds will be redeemed as soon as possible and now we have redeemed more than 50 per cent.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

17.16 hrs.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up the Export-Import Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, 1998. Shri Kadambur M.R. Janarthanan.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN) : Sir, I beg to move:**

"That the Bill further to amend the Export-Import Bank of India Act, 1981, be taken into consideration."

The Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank), as the hon. Members are aware, is a specialised financial institution constituted under the Export Import Bank of India Act, 1981. It is wholly owned by the Government of India. The charter of the Exim Bank

stipulates that it shall provide financial assistance to exporters and importers, and function as the principal financial institution for coordinating the working of institutions engaged in financing export and import of goods and services with a view to promoting the country's international trade and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The Exim Bank has been assigned a special role in providing medium and long term export credit to exporters, that is to say, project exporters as well as exporters of capital goods and other manufactured goods on deferred payment terms; providing lines of credit to banks, and foreign Government agencies to finance imports of eligible goods and services from the country; providing term loans to export-oriented units in the country and equity finance to Indian companies setting up joint ventures/wholly owned subsidiaries abroad; and providing information and advisory services to Indian exporters.

The Exim Bank's performance over the ten years (1988-98) has been satisfactory. During this period, its loan assets have grown at an annual average of 19 per cent with cumulative sanctions at Rs. 14,893 crore. In 1997-98, sanctions and disbursements amounted to Rs. 1840 crore and Rs. 1370 crore respectively. The Bank's operations have been profitable since the first year of its establishment and it has also been paying dividend to the Government every year.

The authorised capital of the Exim Bank is Rs. 500 crore. The paid-up capital of the Exim Bank has been augmented every year out of budgetary allocation. In the year 1995-96, an amount of Rs. 59.66 crore was released to Exim Bank increasing the paid-up capital to Rs. 500 crore approximately. In order to provide the Exim Bank an adequate capital base to support its future business growth, maintain its creditworthiness with international lenders, to enable it to raise external commercial borrowings at competitive rates and to retain adequate resource flows to enable the Exim Bank to maintain its flexibility, the Exim Bank's authorised capital is proposed to be raised from Rs. 500 crore to Rs. 1000 crore provided that the Central Government may by notification, increase the said capital to Rs. 2000 crore.

Sir, I now commend this Bill to this House for consideration and passing.

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Bill further to amend the Export-Import Bank of India Act, 1981, be taken into consideration."

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH (NARASARAOPET) : Sir, at the outset, I would like to say that I welcome the Amendment Bill. But, at the same time, I would also like to remind this Government that this amount of Rs. 1000 crore may not be sufficient looking at the present day prices in the country and also in the international market.

This quantum of Rs. 200 crore was fixed in the year 1981. You try to compare the rates prevalent in those days for different commodities which we were exporting and try to compare the prevailing rates of today in the market. So, Sir, according to me, this amount of Rs. 1000 crore is not sufficient. It requires further enhancement. The Government of India may

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part II, Section 2, dated 2-12-98.

** Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[*Shri Konijeti Rosaiah*]

enhance, by up to Rs. 2000 crore and beyond Rs. 2000, whenever they feel necessary, they may do so by notification.

Sir, not only this, Export-Import Bank credit amount is to be increased. In this country, an atmosphere must be created for stepping up exports. In the recent past, we have seen the attitude of this Government headed by Shri Vajpayee. They have enhanced the list of commodities to be imported by 294 which are also manufactured in this country. I do not know why they have permitted such a large number of very petty items like *bindis* also to be imported from other countries. I think the Government of India may have a fresh look into the list of recently permitted items to be imported.

Now primarily we are exporting our agricultural products to certain other countries. For instance, from India we are trying to export chillies to certain countries where there is a need. China has become the biggest competitor for us in the international market. Quality-wise, chillies produced in China is better than our chillies. This is the first point. Secondly, the rate they are offering is also comparatively lower to our rates. So, primarily we have to educate the growers of our country to improve their quality of production, to reduce the cost of production, and to stand in competition with other countries as far as exports are concerned. The future of this country depends mainly on stepping up of our exports. The list of commodities that are to be exported is to be enlarged. Quality-wise also we have to take a lot of steps to educate the people.

For instance, some of the industrial manufacturing units are also engaged themselves in the export markets. Again, there also, the standard is to be improved. Unless we improve the standard and quality of the manufacturers of engineering products garments and certain other products, we will not be able to step up our exports. Therefore, I would request this Government to take necessary steps to educate our agricultural community to maintain quality, to reduce the cost of production, and to think of more and more exports. Similarly, the Government should create an atmosphere for the manufacturing units also to step up their exports.

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN (AMROHA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Bill brought forward by the Minister of Finance.

In 1981, the authorised capital of Export-Import Bank of India was only Rs. 200 crore.

With liberalisation, privatisation and with the Government's policy of allowing the foreign companies to invest in India, this authorised capital, which was very less, was increased to Rs. 500 crore. At present, the Government wants to increase this authorised capital upto Rs. 1,000 crore.

Sir, as we all know, more and more foreign companies are coming into India and they want to invest money here. Foreign trade is increasing in various countries, especially after the signing of the WTO Agreement and to encourage our exporters, it was felt by the Export-Import Bank to increase this authorised capital and now it has been decided to increase it to Rs. 1,000 crore. As the hon. Member has said, there is, of

course, a provision to increase the authorised capital upto Rs. 2,000 crore. But for the moment, I think, the Government thinks that Rs. 1,000 crore is enough and that is the reason why it wants to increase the authorised capital from Rs. 500 crore to Rs. 1,000 crore.

Sir, our foreign exchange reserves have increased from 27,034 billion dollars to 29,000 billion dollars in the month of June. But we will have to be very careful, especially because the slowing down of the economy is a big concern for the people. There is, at the moment, a recession in India. Of course, it is a phenomenon which is there in foreign countries too. So, it is a global recession. The fall of the currencies of the East Asian countries has also brought in this situation. We have to take steps to see that the recession in the economy is somehow overcome.

Sir, it is found that over Rs. 60,000 crore of surplus money is available in the banks which can be lent out. But because of the recession, maybe the banks do not have the confidence. They are looking around for big companies and blue-chip companies. But unfortunately, due to the recession other industries are looking around for money and this is a very big problem. The medium level industries are looking for working capital.

Some time back, we did have a meeting of the Standing Committee and it was pointed out to the officials of the Reserve Bank of India that the banks will have to be lenient and I had even suggested that if some kind of cheaper loans could be given to the industries, it would be better. Due to the recession, the industries are not able to repay their debts, especially to the financial institutions and banks and it was suggested that on a case-to-case basis the banks could consider a moratorium on the instalments of repayment. It would solve the problem to some extent. The kind of a suggestion was given by the Standing Committee. I would request the hon. Minister to please get this suggestion examined. I do not suggest it as a general policy, but he may consider this suggestion on a case-to-case basis for industries, especially in the core sector, which is not doing well. It is facing a lot of problems now. At the moment, if some kind of an encouragement is given to it like a moratorium on repayment to industries like steel, cement, solvent etc., I think, it will help the industries, because most of them are not able to repay the bank loans and also they are not able to repay their instalments to the financial institutions.

Sir, on the positive side, we have got NRI deposits of about 20,402 million dollars. We must encourage because of the gap and because of the problems faced by the industry at home. We will have to encourage the NRIs. We will have to create a cordial industrial atmospheres.

There is an urgent need to increase the investment infrastructure. The hon. Prime Minister has declared some time back that a national highway — a freeway — will be constructed. And work for constructing about 7,000 kms. will start soon. I am sure that this kind of investment in infrastructure in India, in the core industries, especially steel and cement industries — will get a big boost. That will indirectly boost up the economy of this country.

I would like to mention one point here about import of sugar. We have been discussing this. I wrote to the Prime Minister. I did get a reply. Now sugar is being imported from Pakistan. I believe, the contract has been for about 16 lakh tonnes out of which nine lakh tonnes have already come into India. Because of this, the Government has lost on import duty because the import duty, at the moment, is only five per cent. Secondly, because of the import, the price of sugar has come down. It is going to result into big problems for the sugar industry.

My concern is for the poor farmers. In case the sugar industries face problems, they will not be able to make payment to the farmers who are going to supply sugarcane this year. The season has already started. Especially in Uttar Pradesh, the rates of sugarcane have not been declared as yet. So, my request is that the import duty on sugar which is being imported especially from Pakistan, should, at least, be 15 per cent so that it can match the rates which are prevalent in India.

The Government will have to take steps especially in the industrial sector. Because of the recession and unemployment, some of the industries are closing down. Some of the industries are incurring losses. Even the big companies, which are there, have incurred losses in the first six months of this year. The Government will have to take urgent steps.

With this, I congratulate the hon. Minister for increasing the authorised capital from Rs. 500 crore to Rs. 1,000 crore. I am sure, this increase in the authorised capital will give a boost to the exporters because the exports have also come down. Of course, because of the global recession, the exports have come down. But if we give cheaper credit to the exporters, I am sure, the exporters will be able to increase their exports and bring in the much awaited and expensive foreign exchange. With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this bill. The 20th century is coming to an end and we are heading towards 21st century. In 1990, the value of Indian currency in terms of dollar was around 20 to 23 and today it is around Rs. 45 which has almost doubled. We are continuously devaluing the rupee in terms of dollar and pleading that we have globalised our trade. Now we have entered the international market and the country's traders will go to other countries and it will help boost import and export of the country. But I feel that the position with regard to extending help to them through the Bank, is very weak.

The second thing which I would like to say is that the continuous import and export of food items from the country has adversely affected our country's economy. India is an agricultural country and after China it is the second largest country of the world where consumption of food grain is more. Food items are being exported from our country to earn foreign exchange but farmers are not getting remunerative price for their produce. The Government are of the view that perhaps they will get higher price in international market. Thus it allowed export of these items. Your party is paying political price for it. We have exported these items at cheaper rates and afterwards we imported these items through OGL. When we imported

these items we had to pay 4-5 times more price than the price at which we exported. While we want to encourage import-export, we should identify the items which we can export and the items which we can not export. We should also ensure that the item which we are exporting should be available in sufficient quantity for our own consumption. Therefore, when we want to improve Export-Import Bank and raise its capital then we should take decision not to import those items which would affect country's production, trade and industry. While exporting items from the country a similar view should also be taken. In this connection the export policy which you have announced outside this house and has given wide-publicity, I feel that Government itself is in a dilemma over that question. Sometimes it is said that foreign investment should be allowed. But we find that there is no unanimity within the party on this issue and it is raised in 'Swadeshi Jagaran Manch'. It is only your party M.Ps who make hue and cry in the House. The Ministers make announcements in the House, that certain resolution will be passed in this Session and outside the House some other Minister say that this resolution cannot be moved in this Session as there is pressure of M.Ps. within the party and outside as well. This is the position of Government. As regards policies your Government should give clarifications. By raising the Export Import bank limit we should not think that we are increasing the India's trade activities.

Sir, regularly it is published in the newspapers that our trade is declining continuously. The trade deficit has direct affect on foreign trade of our country. Therefore, I would like to say that you should increase the bank limit and at the same time the Government should follow a clear cut import-export policy. If this policy is not clear then it affects country's entire trade. Finally it has direct affect on the economy of our country.

Third thing which I would like to say is that we want to help the exporters. We want to encourage them. Much attention is not being paid to the new practices of tax evasion through under invoicing and over invoicing. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to what efforts are being made by the Ministry of Finance to control such practices and how much attention is being paid in this regard?

I would like to draw the Government's attention towards a small bank functioning under the Ministry of Agriculture. The farmers of our country have been trying for the last 7-8 years to export floriculture and fruity culture and want to earn foreign exchange. The farmers also want to promote fruity culture trade in this country but bank is incapable to provide any assistance to them. I would like to say that you should extend the limit of Export Import Bank. The Government should encourage agricultural farmers through this Bank for making export of these items. With these words, I support this Bill.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHARJEE (PANSKURA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir there are branches of this Bank in several places and Calcutta is one among them. But interestingly I find that the IDBI Report on Developing Banking in India for the year 1994-95 gave the names of the States, how much assistance these States have got from this Bank and other details. There I find that in 1994-95, Karnataka has got Rs. 47.20 crore; Maharashtra

[*Shrimati Geeta Mukharjee*]

has got Rs. 129.00 crore; Rajasthan has got Rs. 31.5 crore; Tamil Nadu has got Rs. 86.90 crore; Uttar Pradesh has got Rs. 19.10 crore. Where is West Bengal? Where is Andhra Pradesh? Where is Kerala? Where are other States? I do not understand this.

First of all, I would like to know, after this Report of IDBI, whether the situation has changed at all. If so, in which direction it has changed and whether these States have got any loan assistance from this Exim Bank?

Now, where should we give loan? We find that loan is being given mainly for food products, textiles, chemical and chemical products, basic metals and transport equipment. I have no objection. But, then, this Bank is also supposed to help in diversification. I would like to know how much loan has been given to jute industry for modernisation and diversification. Has anything been given? If so, have you given anything to NJMC mills? NJMC Mills are in a tottering condition. That being so, the Exim Bank in Calcutta should have seen that NJMC mills get the assistance for diversification. As per my knowledge, that has not been done as yet. If I am incorrect, then, the hon. Minister should kindly correct me because yesterday itself we went and met the hon. Minister of Textiles. There was a big demonstration of jute workers came who from Calcutta. They also talked with him about these NJMC Mills as well as the entire jute industry. The hon. Minister said that they have made some requests to the Ministry of Finance and it is going to the Cabinet. Uptill now, nothing has come out of it. I would like to request the hon. Minister to see that the Cabinet approves those things, otherwise these NJMC Mills will be closed. If diversification is done in jute industry, then really a large amount of exports can be made.

Now-a-days when you go to foreign countries sometimes you see various types of wall hangings, etc., made of jute and they are very popular. That being so, this is one of the areas where diversification is very much needed and that would give some profit both to the bank and some revenue to the Government. It is very important for the workers also. I hope you will look into that.

The Managing Director of the EXIM Bank, Shri Desai advised that software companies would be most profitable. If that be so, then Calcutta is a place where software industry can very well develop. Some are already going on. Then there is a port at Haldia. Calcutta Port is also operating; both the Ports are there. These are the places from where we can easily export. The costs also will be less.

But we find, unfortunately — I do not know why — that our State has been receiving a step motherly treatment from the Central Government. I hope that the hon. Minister will think over it. I am not talking only about my State. The other States also, who do not have any opportunity to get this help either for diversification or for setting up new export-oriented units etc., are feeling it. I think the hon. Minister may pay some attention to it and see that in future the pattern changes. Then I would like to know what has been the position after 1995 and what it is now,

whether the same situation continues or some improvement has been there in this respect.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOGLY) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was just thinking what suggestions I should give with regard to this particular Bill. Ultimately I came to the conclusion that my suggestion to this Government would be that the earlier it goes it would be better for our economy and for our exports.

[*Translation*]

You have not taken a single step to revive the Indian economy during the last eight months, be it exports, capital market or industrial sector. Now there will be no benefit in creating a capital base in Exim Bank. You are operating under W.T.O. which also called multilateralism system of trade but it has been seen that the industrial countries like America etc. have decided that they will form trade blocks in the name of multinationalism and create hindrance in our exports. I would like to say one or two more things. Our jute material which has a long tradition of export has been linked with child labour and Human Rights issues by them. And where their efforts fact to restrict the flow of our exports, they impose sanctions. Their authorised Capital in Exim Bank has reduced to just half. Their plea is that the condition of our exports is pathetic. In this way our exports have been reduced to half. The steps taken in our industrial sector during 1991-92 in the name of privatization and globalisation and economic reforms have rendered our industrial sector, including steel industry to a State of helplessness.

I do not know what is the condition of SAIL. Hon. Minister may have some knowledge about it. This is not the condition of steel only. Other things are also in the same state. Capital is not being properly utilized. You were thinking in terms of closing the Eastern Coal-fields. You want to give alms to the public sector. Those who had a lion's share in exports, you want to destroy them. Some have been destroyed and some will be destroyed. What will Exim Bank do about it. A situation of recession has arisen in India. Some time ago, a new confidence had come among the exporters but now their confidence has been eroded. Export is based on import and export units depend on import. This has resulted in losses to the trading houses. Not only World Economic Forum but many people have said that if the Indian trade runs in deficit then its economic condition will worsen. This trend has started. A crisis similar to the 1991 B.O.P. crisis is going to arise now. Nothing can be achieved by speaking negatively about exports. We have several items in our country for exports.

Finance Sub-Committee got a chance to meet the captain of Indian industries in Mumbai. Their view was that the capital utilisation in the automobile sector is below 50 per cent and in some areas it is merely 35 per cent. Traditional export items like gem, jewellery, garments, tea, jute etc. have not been paid sufficient attention by the Government. They have paid no attention to the suggestions given by our party. You have caused so much losses to the country during the last eight months that my suggestions is that you must immediately vacate the seat of power. If you do not take any step for the protection of exports and for improvement of economic situation then the situation of the country is going to worsen.

I would like to ask some more questions. You have selected a new option for Exim Bank. This bank has been in profit. It cannot mobilise money from smaller places. Same is the condition of Nationalised Banks ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

I am concluding. Am I saying anything wrong?

MR. SPEAKER: No.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Do you not accept my suggestions? Through you I am giving these suggestions to them. A number of measures have been announced but they are too late and too inadequate.

[Translation]

Several countries of the world have been facing the same fate. Eastern Asian Countries too are in the same conditions.

[English]

They were export dependent economies.

[Translation]

India is such a country where the economy should not be export dependent. It is essential to increase the purchasing power of the Indians.

[English]

We can have a very good developing domestic market.

[Translation]

That is the only solution. Mittal Sahib purchased one or two units abroad and the Asian crisis occurred. Some profit was earned after going over there. The money of Export-Import Bank was bungled by so many people. But when farmers were given subsidy, you said that subsidy must be withdrawn. You had taken the subsidy in exports, money was consumed but you took no step to increase exports. Exim Bank did nothing to increase exports. There will be no benefit by increasing the authorised capital.

[English]

Small-scale and cottage industries account for more than forty per cent of the exports. What are they doing for them? If they need raw material, they are not providing them. If they need money, they are not providing them. If they need the technology, although they do have the infrastructure, there is no one to help them. This is our experience. So, if they have to do something, they will have to take care of our small-scale and cottage industries, they will have to relook at their industrial policy and they must not dismantle these giants, the public sector units which have contributed all these days to our economy and to our exports.

If they do not rethink on these issues, merely by augmenting the authorised capital base, nothing is going to happen. So, my plea will be that they should have a relook at the whole scheme of things, they should have a relook at the functioning of these exporters, export houses, financial institutions

and also the EXIM Bank.

I am not going into the grave cases of irregularities and lapses amounting to corruption which have come to my notice and to the notice of the people of this country. Although I am not going into them, but they should also be looked into properly.

Sir, with these words, I thank you very much and request the hon. Minister to take care of the points made by me.

[Translations]

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU (MAHASAMUND): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, right now the House is discussing. The Bill seeking amendment in the Export Import Bank Act, 1981.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now, learned Member of this House Shri Rup Chand Pal has said that the Government has not taken a single decision during the last eight months. This House and the whole country knows that the announcement regarding the amendment in the export policy was made here under which 340 commodities were brought under O.G.L. These have been made licence free. New Exim policy has been announced and it has been discussed in the House. If you permit me, I shall draw your attention towards a question and to reply which was asked here on 1st June, 1998. If Pal Sahib could listen to its reply. I will feel obliged. The reply that has come for the question from hon'ble Member A. Vijayaraghavan says that the exports have registered an increase of 2.64 million U.S. dollars in 1997-98. Therefore, to say that no increase has taken place is totally incorrect. On the contrary, the economic thought of communism has been tattered to pieces. Hon'ble learned Member Geeta Mukherjee was talking about West Bengal. What is happening in West Bengal now?

18.00 hrs.

Are they following the policy of communism. Does any such economic idea exists? Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you permit me, I would like to request you and this House to consider the improvements in the dividends and performance of this Bank which has been quite good from 1980 to 1988. To bring about further improvement in it is the subject matter of this House. If you allow me to speak further for a while then I would like to say...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (IDUKKI): You can speak tomorrow...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, today, in the BAC meeting, we have finalised a lot of business. Tomorrow also, we have to take up some Bills, in addition to the discussion on the price rise. There are only two or three Members who want to speak on this Bill. If the Members cooperate, we can pass this Bill and then adjourn the House.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Sir, very important Bills are not coming before the Parliament, and all these comparatively unimportant Bills are coming. So, why should we waste our time?

MR. SPEAKER: Tomorrow onwards, there are important Bills which will be coming before us. Today, there are only two or three speakers. We can pass this Bill today. I request to you cooperate with the Chair.

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH: Sir, we are all prepared to cooperate, but where are the Members of the ruling party? I find only two or three Members there. Is it enough?

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (MADHUBANI): Only those Members are sitting who have to speak.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, last year export worth 34 billion dollar was made and under the new Exim policy, a target of 40 billion dollars has been fixed for export. Thus, this Government has set a target of 20 per cent increase in export. Even otherwise, your share in the world trade has been around five per cent, you have hovered around that only. One more important decision has been taken under this policy. As you have mentioned about small and medium scale industries that the ceiling of 20 crores fixed for small scale industries should be reduced to one crore rupees. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would not speak in detail about what the Public Accounts Committee has stated in its report during the tenure of last Lok Sabha but I would say that all that has been pointed out in the report, has been imbibed in the new Exim policy. Some suggestions have also been made here. Delhi exporters and the foreign trade consultants too have some expectations from it. I do not say that all the problems would be solved by enhancing the ceiling of Exim Bank to rupees five hundred crores and I am not claiming that it will result in increase in exports. But there are some points which can be sorted out by acting together. You have said that the balance has declined due to payment or exports last time. If you read the report of RBI then it becomes clear. That this Government had no role to play in it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is clear from the RBI report that the closing figure of industry-wise foreign exchange investment in domestic appliances is 222.8 cores.

It has happened simultaneously with the coming into power of this Government. Besides there, has been an increase in engineering, electronic, electrical equipments and computers. If you prepare a consensus that no economic export base is possible in this country. We do agree with it. But whenever the question arises as to how to export more and more agricultural commodities, how to earn maximum foreign exchange, then it is said, yes, for this we need to make progress in the field of exports. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to urge the hon'ble Finance Minister, to issue the clearance of cargo, export goods within 24 hours. There is no other option available. There are some problems in Exim Banks, particularly in draw back payment of agricultural products. In this case export loan should be made available without insisting on draw back payment. It will definitely benefit the small exporters, whose contribution is much higher. If you bring the interest on patent and post shipment to zero level, it will definitely benefit the small exporters of Delhi, Madras and eastern areas, like Calcutta and Mumbai. Similarly if you simplify the

Passbook system of the Exim Bank, it will also prove beneficial. Similarly if you encourage the import of consumer items, we will not get any benefit out of it. Therefore, if we change the policy of encouraging it, it will prove beneficial. It is important to note how we convert the new interest rate of exim policy into new interest rate of financing. As hon'ble Minister had stated in his introductory speech, we will use Exim Bank as effective instrument in view of import-export for Indian exporters and if it becomes effective instrument then in view of funding also, new interest rates will apply.

In the end, I would like to state one more thing. In the case of core sector, we fully agree that, there is a utter despondency due to slump for the last two years in traditional areas of export like gem, jewellery, garments and jute etc. There is a need to come out of it but along with it there is a frightening slump in the core sector. If you do not levy anti-dumping duty, anti-dumping tax on import of steel, the condition of dumping of steel and scrap of core sector will get worsen, and you will not be able to come out of it. Therefore, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister and the Government of India to impose anti-dumping tax on import of steel and scrap and immediately steer the core sector out of recession.

There are some points also. I would like to say particularly about the indication given by you that through this bank we will try to help in many agricultural fields and try to develop joint collaborations. Rice producers should also get encouragement in the field of exports. Many hon'ble Members are elected from the rice producing areas. If they get help, it will be beneficial. With these sentiments, I fully support this bill and urge you to pass this bill.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (MADHUBANI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. The Exim Bank was established in 1981 with the initial investment of Rs. 200 crore and the Government of India was equipped with the powers to increase its limit upto Rs. 500 crore from time to time. This limit was achieved in 1995-96 and today it needs further increase. During the last 17 years, the prices of many items have increased, the export-import of our country has increased. I think it requires much more increase and hence, this bill was definitely much needed one. But this amount should be further increased. In 18 years, the prices and import-export have increased by as much as 18 times, but you have made increase in it by only 5 times. You have increased the amount from Rs. 200 to Rs. 1000 crore and the provision for increase from Rs. 500 crore to Rs. 2000 crore, which is just four times, but in reality in the last 17-18 years, the prices have increased due to increase in imports.

Therefore, it is my suggestion that soon you should try to increase this amount by bringing another bill. In import-export, the Government have exported the onion and duce to irregularities in import of onions, the voters in three States voted them out. Therefore, you should take lessons in import-export. You have not done import properly and that is why the voters in three States rejected you.

I would like to say that this Bank should definitely be used in the interest of export-import. The B.J.P. people say different things about the Mughal period, but I would like to tell you that

in Mughal period India's share in world trade was 24% but around 1947, when Britishers left India, at that time India's share in world trade slumped from 24% to 0.4%. Therefore I would like that you should change your mentality and accept the reality. ...*(Interruptions)*. No, in 1947, the Government of Congress party was not in power it was the British Government that was in power, you people were with them. We were fighting against the Britishers. Priority should be fixed as to which items are to be imported and bank should encourage export of those items. It is true that this matter is related with the Commerce Ministry, but then also bank can decide priority of items which are to be imported, then we will finance them or will help them.

The goods which are not available in our country, or are very essential or are needed at war footing should be definitely imported and the goods which are given priority by the Exim Bank or in respect of which, India is self-reliant should be exported. The goods which are produced in abundance in India and after fulfilling the needs of the country such goods could be exported and in case of import, the permission should be granted for the import of only those goods which are not available in our own country. The Exim Bank should support only these types of goods.

With these words, I would like to reiterate that during the last 17-18 years prices have risen our export-import has risen and privatisation has taken place. Privatisation is taking place all over the world. I do not agree with my hon'ble friend. I know that their CPM leader, West Bengal's Chief Minister, Shri Jyoti Basu had gone abroad 20 times to attract foreign capital...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: It was done in the mutual interest, for the mutual benefit*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Therefore, this question is not confined to one country, we are in the world trade, we definitely have to compromise with the world, but at the same time we have to take into account our advantages and disadvantages. We should definitely do, whatever is beneficial for the country and should not do anything which hurts the interest of the country.

With these words, once again I would like to suggest that this amount is very small and therefore it should not be raised upto Rs. 2000 crore, but upto Rs. 10 thousand crore or Rs. 20 thousand crore because we cannot afford to get isolated in the world.

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE (CHIMUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the bill which the hon. Minister has brought forward to amend the Export and Import Bank of India Act, 1981.

While supporting the Bill I would like to appeal to the hon. Minister and draw his attention to the point to which my colleague Shri Shakeel has also drawn attention and say that when Exim Bank was set up its authorised capital was Rs. 200

crores with a provision to increase it to Rs. 500 crores. During the last 18 years, competition has increased in the world, prices have increased in our country and many changes have taken place in the area of import-export. In view of this situation I am unable to understand as to why the Minister has increased the authorised capital from rupees 200 crores to rupees 1000 crores and whereas then provision for increase was upto 500 crores, now the provision for increase has been raised to Rs. 2000 crores. In view of the present situation if the authorised capital had been increased from Rs. 1000 crores to Rs. 2000 crores and provision for increase in the capital from Rs. 2000 crores to Rs. 5000 crores, then this would have helped the Exim Bank to increase export in our country. There are two types of imports in the country. The first type comprises infrastructural goods, which are very essential and absence of which can cause harm to the country and people can face difficulty and our economy may also face crisis. Those things should be imported. Secondly, there are items which can be processed after import then can be exported.

Ruling party members talk about 'swadeshi', but they all help foreigners. It is easy to talk about 'swadeshi', but going by the situation in the country I would tell the hon. Minister that the methods adopted in the foreign policy in this regard should be such that small exporters are encouraged fully through the Exim Bank. Simultaneously, we should also try to curb import. Importers should be encouraged the least and small exporters, big exporters and capital goods exporters should be encouraged to the maximum extent.

There are some Public Sector undertakings in our country which do not want to purchase goods produced by the Public Sector Units. For instance, goods produced by the Heavy Engineering Corporation are not purchased by the railways. Similarly goods produced by H.M.T. are not purchased by other P.S.U.s. If these undertakings do not purchase these goods then how will the common man and domestic market purchase them. The eatables which are brought from foreign countries, is another area which hamper domestic market whereas quality products of this category are produced in our own country. Today, cold drinks, wafers and soft drinks are coming from foreign countries. The foreign multi-national companies which come from outside are affecting our economic policy to a great extent. I support the bill which the hon. Minister has brought, but I want to request him that special attention should be paid by the Exim Bank towards the people belonging to backward classes, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes engaged in export and import business so as to increase export. The people belonging to weaker sections can help the economy by exporting goods. They should be encouraged. With these words, I welcome this bill and conclude.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (MUMBAI NORTH-CENTRAL): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the subject matter of the bill which the hon. Minister has brought is indeed very good. The Government has taken a laudable step by enhancing the capital by Rs. 1000 crores to develop the economy of our country but I think this increase in dollar terms means only twenty five crores dollars. I think to develop the economy this fund should have been increased to Rs. 2500 crores. In agricultural sector farmers, co-operative societies, should be helped by banks in

[*Shri Ramdas Athawale*]

providing more benefits to them. Traders should also get the profits. The Bank should think as to how the farmers could get more benefits for their production. The Government of India should also think on these lines. If you do not think in this direction soon it will become necessary to vote you out also. Three State Governments have been voted out. Think about it.

[*English*]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to express one word about this Bill.

I am sorry that I cannot support this Bill for the simple reason that it will not help the industry also.

So far as the traditional industries are concerned, the first thing that I would like to mention is about the coir industry. About five lakh families are fed up with this industry. Now they are put to starvation for the simple reason that the Exim policies are adverse to them. With some modification in the Exim policy, recently, you have allowed foreign countries especially Philippines and Sri Lanka to export coir into our country. So, the production in Kerala has been adversely affected and they are put to starvation.

The second think that I would like to emphasise is that the Exim policy is at the expense of the traditional industries like the rubber industry. Kerala is the only State which produce 90 per cent of natural rubber in our country. Now, the rubber growers numbering about 22 lakhs are put to starvation because tyres are being imported. So, the natural rubber growers are at a loss. You are also not prepared to declare a floor price for natural rubber. The get result is that lakhs of people are put to starvation. Starvation is the order of the day because of the Exim policy that you are following.

I would say a word about the software industry. Kerala is the foremost State in the production of software. We are producing it. I invite the hon. Minister to come and see the software industry which is flourishing in Kerala. Unfortunately, the Exim policy is not helping anyone. They are doing nothing and they are not supporting them. So far as the software export is concerned, we are proud of telling that we will be able to control the international market in the production of software, if you encourage us. If you are prepared to encourage the people of Kerala in the production of software and if you take a reasonable step towards that production, I am sure that we will be the foremost in the international field in the production of software which is flourishing.

So, I would request the hon. Minister to consider these aspects. My feeling about the solution is that you may quit the Office. That is the only solution, but at the same time, with a ray of hope, I am submitting all these things to you.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AD MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BAKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset I thank all the

hon. Members who participated in this discussion and supported the Bill for the amendment to increase the statutory reserves of Exim Bank. Nearly ten hon. Members participated in the debate.

First of all I would like to inform the hon. Members that Rs. 1000 crore or Rs. 2000 crore is not enough. Our target for the next five years, that is up to 2003 is Rs. 10,000 crore. The Bank has been projected to grow by fifteen per cent in the next two years that is 1998 to 2000 and at twenty per cent for the subsequent three years, that is up to 2002 to 2003. This is my humble answer to the question raised by many hon. Members as to whether this amount is sufficient or not.

As you are aware, the Exim Policy is different and amendment to this Bill is something different although they are related. To the West Bengal Exim Bank has given Rs. 301.32 crore for the five year period, that is from 1990-94 to 1997-98. The State of Kerala has received Rs. 50.46 crore. Though jute comes under Textiles Ministry jute has been given a loan of Rs. 2.14 crore upto 30.9.1998 and the amount utilised is Rs. 14.35 crore. I would like to assure the hon. senior Member, Smt. Geeta Mukherjee that we do not come here simply to increase the money. The job of the Exim Bank is to advise and give assistance that the country needs. Some hon. Members have talked about floriculture. We are giving great importance to floriculture.

MR. SPEAKER: She also asked about Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN: The State of Andhra Pradesh received Rs. 256.45 crore. The Exim Bank is used by those who are interested in exports. They must come forward. There must be some sponsors from the State. We talked about agriculture. Up to 1964 when Jawaharlal Nehru was alive, we were importing cotton from Sudan and Egypt. In 1960s and 1980s we had no cotton. But our agriculturists have started producing very good variety of cotton for 1900s. Therefore, we have improved and we are improving. As I have some knowledge of cotton, I can tell you that till 1964 India was importing cotton from Sudan and Egypt for 1980s.

Today, we are exporting cotton, silk and so many other things. I would like to tell Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan about the assistance which he has asked for in the export of rubber. I would like to say that the tyres produced in Kerala alone cannot run all the lorries...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: You are not importing the tyres.

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN: We are importing tyres. We are now importing onions...(*Interruptions*) Just imagine, how much our traffic has increased.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The entire rubber produced in Kerala is not at all found in the market.

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN: What is our requirement of rubber today?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): We are prepared to meet the entire requirement provided we are given all the ingredients...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not Question Hour.

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN: One of the hon. Members from Janata Dal said that the food articles should not be exported. He is not present here. Chilli used to be our traditional export item. Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are the largest producers of chilli. The Sri Lankans were eating the chillies produced by India. Now China has become the competitor. So, wherever possible, the Government is taking steps. Shri Rupchand Pal said that the Government should go. We will go when people will ask us to go. BJP is a coalition of the people, by the people and for the people. Right from 1947 to 1998, Congress was the main Party. Today the Congress is in Opposition.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (GUAHATI): Sir, the Minister is provoking the Members.

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN: I am not provoking the Members. Since Shri Pal said that we should go, I am saying that we will be here in the Parliament as long as people want us to be here.

Now, as far as the position of NPA is concerned. I would like to say that our Non Performing Asset is only 4.2 per cent excluding for Iraq. Out of Rs. 891 crore of NPA, Rs. 396 crore are on account of Iraq loans. When we will get the sanction, deferred payment will be allowed to be made. Our NPA position of Exim Bank is only 4.2 per cent. Government has taken measures to provide for SSIs but at the same time we are promoting exporters also. I would like to tell Shri Chauhan, the great cricketer, that we have given instructions to all the banks, not to include assets into NPA which are not NPA till today and NPA should not be made a chronically sick industry. This is the general instruction which we have given.

I would like to say that this Government under the leadership of Shri Vajpayee, is doing everything that is required. I once again thank all the Members for having participated in the discussion. I would like to assure all the hon. Members that

whatever encouragement is required on the export side, we are prepared to give. I again thank all the hon. Members for having taken part in the discussion. With these words I would request Members to pass the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Export-Import Bank of India Act, 1981, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 1, the Enacting Formula and/ Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House now stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

18.36 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, December, 3, 1998/Agrahayana 12, 1920 (Saka).