

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Thirteenth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, August 14, 2003/Sravana 23, 1925 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, I gave a notice on a very important matter pertaining to the very dignity of the House. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, ...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am not taking that on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are thankful to you for your untiring efforts for the last few days to get rid of this impasse.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise today in defence of the dignity of the entire House, that is the Lok Sabha. The Committees of the Lok Sabha are the Committees of the Lok Sabha only. The Montague-Chelmsford Committee on Finance evolved a policy in 1921 as a result of which today we have the Public Accounts Committee which has been formed according to the regulations of the Lok Sabha. The conduct of any Member of this House, irrespective of his/her Party, the conduct of any Committee of this House can only be commented upon by you and by the House and none else.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Public Accounts Committee is a Committee of the Lok Sabha. Kaul and Shakhder has made it very clear at page 814 that. ...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir what is he speaking about? ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, you have given me the permission to speak. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: A query has been rightly raised by Shri Malhotra as to why Shri Dasmunsi is speaking. Let me reply to him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have received three notices for Suspension of Question Hour. Two notices are about the functioning of the PAC, one has been given by Dr. Raghuvans Prasad Singh and the other has been given by Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi. I have received the third notice for Suspension of Question Hour from Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and that is about non-involvement of Members of Parliament for selection of roads under the Pradhanmantri Gram Sadak Yojana. These are the three notices I have received.

Since Shri Dasmunsi has given a notice for Suspension of Question Hour, I have permitted him. I would request him to restrict his views to the subject only.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am interested in conducting the business of the House. Please co-operate. The entire country is looking at us as to what business we are doing in the House. Therefore, it must go on according to the rules and procedure that have already been made. Under the procedure if he wants to argue as to why the Question Hour should be suspended, then I have every right to permit him to speak and listen to his argument.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Thereafter I will give my ruling whether the Question Hour should be suspended or not. We have to listen to him.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for your kind observation. The concept of the Public Accounts Committee, as it were in 1951-52 was that there would be only Members of the

Lok Sabha in this Committee. But 1954 onwards, after the ruling of Hydayatullah, a new concept was evolved that the Members of the Rajya Sabha could be associate Members of this Committee.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, *Kaul and Shakhder* at page 814 says:

"When any Member of the Committee from Rajya Sabha retires under the provisions of the Constitution their position can further be filled on retirement nominating another Member from the Rajya Sabha. However, such Members are treated as Associate Members but with all equal rights."

Sir, talking about the domain, the Public Accounts Committee is under the Lok Sabha and the Chairman is appointed by you, Mr. Speaker, Sir and the Members are elected on motion that is moved by the Treasury Benches. Even for filling up a vacancy in Rajya Sabha, the motion is to be moved in the Lok Sabha by the Treasury Benches and a message has to be sent to the Rajya Sabha for nominating a Member.

This is the concept of the Public Accounts Committee. I am not entering into any public debate on this matter. Sir, on the functioning of such Committees, right or wrong, conduct or misconduct, commission or omission could be looked into and commented upon only by the Lok Sabha and yourself. Sir, with great regret, I am to say that an observation had been made in the other House yesterday commenting on the conduct of the Members of Lok Sabha which has come in the newspapers which is a public document. *...(Interruptions)* Sir, * entering into the history of the composition of the committee of two Houses. *...(Interruptions)* I want your protection. I did not mention the name of anybody. I want your protection. The functioning of democracy and the dignity of the House solely lies on you, Sir., *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I agree with you. If somebody discusses the conduct of the Chairman or any other Member of the Rajya Sabha, I will remove it from the record.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: It cannot be commented upon except by the Lok Sabha Speaker. *...(Interruptions)* I am not taking anybody's name. I am only drawing your attention to one point. In the premises

of Parliament, can the conduct of Lok Sabha and its Committee be commented upon by any authority other than the Speaker? This is my only question. *...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I have heard your arguments.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, you are the custodian of the House. I desire you to comment on it. *...(Interruptions)*

You are a Rajya Sabha Member. Please keep quiet. *...(Interruptions)* No Rajya Sabha Member should speak here on this issue. *...(Interruptions)* Sir,..."

I can quote page by page on this, if you give me some time. It has never happened in the entire history of Indian Parliament. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can do it using any other device. Suspension of the Question Hour is not the device for that. You can use any other device for that. I am prepared to accept a debate on this. But the Question Hour cannot be suspended on this ground. I have rejected your notice. I have also rejected other notices for suspension of Question Hour and Adjournment Motion. I am ready to hear you during the 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL NATH (Chhindwara): Sir, please give a ruling on whether it is your domain or not. We want a ruling on that point.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is not before me to give my ruling. The question before me is for suspension of Question Hour which I do not agree and the Question Hour will not be suspended.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I can provide a number of instances about the dignity of the House. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody must maintain the dignity of the House. There is no doubt about it. At all times, everybody must maintain the dignity of the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL NATH: If that be so, no Rajya Sabha Member will speak in this House. My submission to you

is, you may kindly tell the House that this is your domain and nobody else's domain. ...(*Interruptions*) That is what I say. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: It is your domain. And your domain cannot be commented upon even by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India. ...(*Interruptions*) It is your domain and the Members belong to this House. How is the other House coming into the picture? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down, Shri Dasmunsi. I have heard you. I will require further details as to who did it and when did he do it. Only thereafter, it is possible to say anything on this matter.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Your notice for suspension of Question Hour will not be accepted. Therefore, you can debate it under any other device and not through suspension for Question Hour.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am prepared to argue your case because you have raised a very pertinent point. I agree that this point is pertinent. Whether matters relating to PAC can be discussed outside by any Member or whether the Rajya Sabha Members can discuss the matter relating to a Committee of the House are all points of importance. Therefore, I am prepared to allow a discussion under any other device. But for that, I do not think, Question Hour needs to be suspended. It is because the specific details have not been mentioned.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Let the hon. Minister of hon. Parliamentary Affairs have her say.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. She may support the suspension of Question Hour. Why should you not allow her?

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I must listen to the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. ...(*Interruptions*) My point of order is that as per the established rules of this House, the proceeding of the other House cannot be referred to in this House. The other thing is that if there is not any lapse on the part of the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, then Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has committed unpardonable crime by raising the matter of his conduct for which he should apologize and whatever has been stated here, should be expunged.

11.11 hrs.

(*At this stage, Shri Adhir Chowdhary and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table*)

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I have rejected the notices for suspension of Question Hour and also the notices of Adjournment Motions. Now, I take up Question Hour.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down. I have taken up Question Hour now.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 341.

Col (Retd.) Sona Ram Choudhary—not present.

Shri Kodikunnil Suresh—not present.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 342.

Shri Ramshakel.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you are not serving the nation by disturbing the proceedings of the House. Please go to your seats.

.. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you may reply.

...(Interruptions)

11.12 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTION

[Translation]

Quality Certification for Sale of Products through Media

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

(a) whether the main objective of advertisements through the media is to promote the sale of various products;

(b) if so, whether the products advertised through Government owned media do not need certification of quality of the products;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken to ensure that any of the products so advertised fulfill the norms of quality certification?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The primary aim of government advertisements is to generate awareness and to inform people of various issues, to publicise Government's programmes, welfare schemes, policies and also the achievements.

(b) to (d) The primary objective of Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP), which is a Government media, is to secure the widest possible coverage of the Government's schemes, programmes, policies and achievements on various social issues only,

the question of certification of quality of the product does not arise.

The advertisements over All India Radio (AIR) and Doordarshan, both under the control of Prasar Bharati, a statutory autonomous organization, are governed by Code for Advertising. These Codes provide that the advertisers shall conform to the laws of land.

Press Council of India, a statutory autonomous self-regulatory body of the Press, have evolved Norms of Journalistic Conduct, which *inter-alia* prescribe do's and don'ts for the journalists. The advertising sector is mainly in private hands and is overseen by the Advertising Standard Council of India, a self-regulatory body of the advertising industry.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramshakal, you can ask your supplementary.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the products advertised through media do not need certification of quality of the products. For example, if any beverage or any food product which is advertised through media on different channels whether the quality of such products is tested. What steps have been taken in this regard so far. Recently Pepsi Cola and Coca Cola were in the news. Whether there is any provision to black list and ban such products which do not fulfil the norms of quality.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Television relay will be stopped. No slogans should go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Probe Into Star News

*341. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

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

*Not recorded.

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Three-pronged probe into Star News launched" published in 'The Hindustan Times' dated July 13, 2003;

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

(c) whether the credential of MCCL (Media Content and Communication Limited), its funds inflow, projected income and expenditure statement, projected profit & loss and share holders agreement are under investigation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) The Government has noted the contents of news item captioned "three-pronged probe into star News launched" published in 'The Hindustan Times' dated July 13, 2003. The facts of the case are as follows:

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting received an application from M/s Media Content and Communication Services (India) Pvt. Ltd on 20th June, 2003, a few days before the expiry of the three month period given to channels/content providers to make the transition to the new regime for foreign News & Current Affairs channels. The application was forwarded to Ministry of Home Affairs and Department of Space, as per procedure. DoS has communicated its no-objection and the comments of MHA are awaited. The application of the company has been examined in detail in order to ensure compliance with the guidelines and also to ensure that the concern of management and editorial control, which formed the basis for the Ministry imposing the 26% Foreign Equity cap, was suitably addressed. Clarification was sought on the said application through communications dated 24th June, 11th July, 14th July, 15th July, 18th July, 25th July and 30th July 2003. Documentations and clarifications have been provided by the company through their letters dated 25th June, 30th June, 03rd July, 16th July, 22nd July, 29th July and 31st July, 2003.

The company has an Authorised Share capital of Rs. 5 Crores and presently the Paid up capital is Rs. 1 Lakh, of which 26% is held by Star India Pvt. Ltd. The company proposes to increase the Paid up capital Rs. 4 Crores.

It has been observed that the company has entered into agreements with a number of other companies viz. M/s Touch Tele Content, M/s Rent Works (India) Pvt. Ltd, M/s Hughes Electronic Communications Ltd,

M/s Himachal Futuristic, M/s Bharati Broad Band, M/s. Star News Broadcast Limited, M/s. Star Television Production Ltd., etc. for provision of infrastructure facility, news gathering connectivity relating equipment; production and post-production facilities; V-SAT satellite and optical fiber bandwidth, use of the brand name "Star News", sale of advertising time on the channel and assignment of distribution rights etc.

Currently the foreign investing company is Star India Pvt. Ltd. (SIPL) and there is a FIPB proposal pending for Star News Broadcast Ltd. (SNBL) to invest 26% equity. Once the FIPB proposal is approved, SIPL proposes to sell its shareholding to an Indian shareholders. The shareholding and the structure of the company is, therefore, yet to be firmed up.

An Inter-ministerial Group has been set up on 15 July 2003 to examine the foreign equity norms/guidelines particularly relating to uplinking of news and current affairs channels, in order to ensure that these are tightened to prevent violations/breaches and to facilitate compliance of the guidelines in letter and in spirit. The Group will discuss measures to plug the loopholes, if any, which may permit any company to circumvent the foreign equity norms.

Loss Making Companies

*343. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the particulars of various companies/entities, set up by Railways for diverse commercial activities like Rail-Tel;

(b) whether none of these bodies is giving a return even remotely proportionate to the original investment;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal to wind up some of these companies which are not making any profits; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) The following companies have been set up by Railways for diverse commercial activities:

(i) IRCON International Ltd.—This was set up in 1976 mainly to carry on business relating to railway and other constructions in India and abroad.

- (ii) RITES Ltd. was set up in 1974 mainly to provide engineering, technical, financial, management and consultancy services for development of projects pertaining to railways and other sectors in India and abroad.
- (iii) Indian Railway Finance Corporation Ltd. was set up in 1986 mainly to borrow money for carrying on the business relating to purchasing, selling, letting on lease in any part of India or abroad.
- (iv) Container Corporation of India Ltd. was set up in 1988 mainly to carry on business of multi modal transport operator, general carriers of International & domestic cargo within India and abroad.
- (v) Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. was set up in 1990 mainly to construct Konkan Railway and to operate the same for a period to which the company discharges its liabilities arising due to such a project.
- (vi) Mumbai Rail Vikas Corporation Ltd. was set up in July 1999 mainly to develop coordinated plans and implement the rail infrastructure project to integrate urban development plan for Mumbai.
- (vii) Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Ltd. was set up in 1999 mainly to professionalise, consolidate and upgrade railway catering services, promote rail based tourism and hospitality business.
- (viii) Railtel Corporation of India Ltd. was set up in September-2000 mainly to plan, build, develop, operate and maintain in India broadband telecom network by laying optical fibre cable (OFC) alongside Railway track, to modernise communication for Railway train control, operational, safety and accident/disaster management systems and networks, to lease and maintain the additional/spare capacity of the infrastructure.
- (ix) Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. has been set up in 2003 mainly to enter into and carry on business relating to creation and augmentation of capacity of rail infrastructure including the Golden Quadrilateral and its diagonals connecting the four metros and any other project(s) under National Rail Vikas Yojana.
- (b) No, Sir. Out of the nine companies set up by Railways, only two companies i.e. Konkan Railway

Corporation Ltd. and Railtel Corporation of India Ltd. have shown losses in their balance sheet during 2001-02. Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. is showing losses in its Balance Sheet mainly on account of finance charges of the market borrowings during construction phase. The Corporation is able to generate operating surplus after meeting its working expenses from the revenues generated and the operating surplus during 2001-02 is Rs. 44 crores. However, the net loss during 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 is Rs. 385 crore, Rs. 381.6 crores and Rs. 369.8 crores respectively. Railtel Corporation of India Ltd. is a newly promoted company and is in the process of creating/acquiring assets. In its second year of operation (2002-03) itself, the company has been able to generate operational surplus of Rs. 222 lakhs after meeting its working expenses from the income generated. The net loss during 2002-03 is Rs. 116 lakhs (provisional).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Generation and Demand of Power

*344. SHRI VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the power generation capacity in Megawatts and the quantum of additional power in Megawatts required presently in the country;

(b) the power generated by Central Sector Power Plants and State owned Power Plants and Private sector players currently, separately;

(c) whether the per unit cost of power produced by the Private Sector is higher than the power produced by the public sector;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government have made any assessment to find out the reasons for quoting high rates of power by the private sector;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to make uniform rate policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) The total power generation installed capacity in the country is about 108930 MW. The total peak requirement of 67,875 MW was met during July, 2003 against a peak demand 76,244 MW, thus leaving a gap of 8,369 MW. To meet this gap, an additional capacity of about 13,500 MW is required.

(b) Details of power generated in July, 2003 for Central, State and Private sector power plants is as follows:

Central	—	18888 Million Units
State	—	20881 Million Units
Private	—	4186 Million Units
Total	—	43955 Million Units

(c) to (f) The unit cost of power generation is a function of capital cost of the project, technology, return on capital, location, fuel cost, O&M cost, overheads and efficiency etc. and varies from plant to plant.

The unit cost of power from some private projects, particularly those based on liquid fuels, such as Naphtha has been on the higher side. The price of liquid fuel such as Naphtha rose sharply due to its import price parity pricing mechanism. Further, exchange rate protection was extended to the return on equity denominated in foreign currency. In addition, cost of development of private project has been effected by the higher risk perception, combined with higher interest rates due to non recourse financing. Interest rates on foreign loans were also higher due to country rating.

(g) It is not possible to have a uniform rate of generation tariff. As explained above, the unit cost of power generation is a function of technology, location, funding pattern, fuel etc. which varies from plant to plant.

Growth of Entertainment Sector

*345. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring the Entertainment Policy to facilitate the entertainment sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to give renewed thrust to enhance the programme content on Doordarshan and Akashvani; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is concerned with

entertainment through cinema as well as the broadcasting medium. This sector depends for its growth on an ambience—in terms of institutional, legal and financial arrangements and technological developments—which allows creativity and spontaneity to flourish. It is the constant endeavour of the Government to review policies whether of the Central or State Government impacting on the sector and to take/recommend action to facilitate growth.

Schemes for content creation for Jammu and Kashmir, North East and for funding of quality programmes have been included in the 10th Plan for Prasar Bharati.

Some measures taken in the recent past include declaring entertainment industry as an approved activity under the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) Act, liberalization of the foreign investment regime for films and TV software, development of film markets abroad, recommendation and steps for reduction of entertainment tax, encouragement for multiplexes, liberalization of uplinking policy for TV channels, licenses for private FM broadcasting and allowing DTH in the private sector.

Recruitment Scam

*346. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of Recruitment Scam prevalent in defence forces;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the exact cause of malpractices in recruitment to the defence forces has been ascertained;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to make stringent recruitment systems and to check the malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) There is no recruitment scam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Isolated cases of complaints relating to malpractices in recruitment to the Defence Forces have

been received. These complaints relate to activities by touts, leakage of question papers, impersonation, fake certificates etc.

(e) Information in given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Complaints received on malpractices in recruitment are investigated immediately and punishment awarded commensurate with the gravity of the cases. The recruitment process for the Defence Forces is transparent and candidate friendly. Interference by brokers is strictly checked and verification of the *bona fides* of the recruits is carried out with the help of the local police. Steps taken to make stringent recruitment systems and check malpractices in the recruitment process are as under;

(A) ARMY:

- (i) Verification of character and antecedents of all recruits is conducted before and after their recruitment, to prevent recruitment of foreigners and anti-social elements.
- (ii) All recruitment is done through the recruitment rallies only where there is direct contact of the candidates with the Recruiting Organization making the system more transparent and open.
- (iii) The qualitative requirements (QRs) for recruits are strictly adhered to and there is immediate reversion of undesirable/unsuitable personnel, where necessary.
- (iv) There is frequent turn over of the civilian staff manning various recruitment organizations.
- (v) A system of independent check by a second Medical Officer has also been put in place to eradicate malpractices.
- (vi) Total security of question papers is maintained and any leakage is immediately and strictly dealt with.
- (vii) Touting activities are reported promptly to the civil police/CBI for necessary action.
- (viii) Cases of corruption are dealt with strictly and stringent action is taken against defaulters.

(B) NAVY:

- (i) Results of written and physical tests are announced on the same day leaving little room for malpractices.

- (ii) The staff of Recruiting Centers is turned over at regular intervals and procedures reviewed to prevent development of any vested interests.
- (iii) Prompt action is taken on suggestions received to streamline the recruitment process.
- (iv) The applications invited for recruitment in the Navy through advertisements in leading national and regional newspapers stating clearly that recruitment in the Navy is a free service and in case of difficulties, the candidates could contact the Directorate of Manpower Planning and Recruitment (DMPP), Naval HQrs.

(C) AIR FORCE:

- (i) Pre and post recruitment verification of character and antecedents of the recruits for the Air Force is carried out through civil police.
- (ii) Utmost secrecy is maintained in the setting up of question papers and different sets of question papers are prepared and randomly selected at the venue for testing.
- (iii) Digital cameras are used for photographing candidates during tests to serve as permanent record and deter impersonation.
- (iv) On receipt of any complaint of malpractice, stringent action is taken, both against touts and Service personnel.
- (v) Constant vigilance is maintained during selection tests through augmented Indian Air Force Police staff.

Agreement with Foreign Broadcasters on Air Slots

*347. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

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

(a) whether the Government have any proposal under its consideration to sell air time of All India Radio (AIR) to foreign broadcasters including British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) for news inputs or exchange of Radio programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether any meeting has been held between Prasar Bharati and BBC to explore the possibility of swapping air time on each other's home turf;

(d) if so, whether BBC refused to give a time slot to AIR for airing its entertainment, art and cultural programmes;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith agreement finalised in this regard; and

(f) the manner in which the AIR would be benefited from it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (f) Prasar Bharati has informed that Prasar Bharati Board took a decision to explore such an arrangement. However, preliminary exploration in this regard revealed that such a barter arrangement may not be feasible.

Irrecoverable Tax

*348. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

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

(a) whether the Government have decided not to compensate the domestic Oil Companies for any irrecoverable tax even if the rate of existing irrecoverable tax has been enhanced after April, 2002;

(b) the existing provision of compensating the companies in this regard;

(c) the total amount paid by the Government to the domestic oil companies on this account during the last three years;

(d) whether the oil companies have agreed to the decision of the Government in this regard; and

(e) the manner in which the loss to be suffered by the domestic oil companies on account of the irrecoverable tax is to be met by them?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (e) Under "The Irrecoverable Taxes Compensation Scheme, 2002", notified by the Government on 16th January, 2003 for compensating the oil companies for irrecoverable taxes, compensation is provided for:

- (i) tax on the entry of crude oil in a local area including octroi, net of set off available, if any; and
- (ii) Tax on inter-company sale transactions for moving petroleum products of domestic refineries inter-state namely central sales tax (CST) and purchases tax being levied immediately prior to 1st April 2002, as stated and at rates not exceeding the rates given in enclosed statement.

This scheme was operative for the year 2002-03 and the Government is examining extension of the same for the year 2003-04.

During the year 2002-03, an amount of Rs. 502.63 crore was spent under the aforesaid scheme for compensating the oil companies. Before 1st April 2002, the oil companies used to get compensated for their under-recoveries on account of irrecoverable taxes through the "Oil Pool Account Mechanism" under the Administered Pricing Mechanism.

The oil companies participating in the aforesaid scheme have giving undertaking that they will abide by the terms and conditions of the scheme.

Statement

Irrecoverable taxes applicable to refineries/refinery despatches eligible for compensation under "The Irrecoverable Taxes Compensation Scheme, 2002".

Refinery Name	Crude		Products
	Entry Tax %	Octroi %	CST/Purchase Tax# %
1	2	3	4
IOCL:			
1. Panipat	4.00	—	4.00
2. Mathura	3.00	—	4.00

	1	2	3	4
3. Koyali		—	—	4.00
4. Haldia		—	—	4.00
5. Barauni		2.00	—	4.00
6. Guwahati		—	—	4.00
7. Digboi		—	—	4.00
IOCL Subsidiaries:				
8. Bongaigaon (BRPL)		—	—	4.00
9. Chennai (CPCL)		—	—	4.00
10. Narimanam (CPCL)		—	—	4.00
HPCL:				
11. Mumbai		—	2.25	4.00
12. Visakh		—	—	4.00
HPCL Joint Venture:				
13. Mangalore (MRPL)		2.00	—	4.00
BPCL:				
14. Mumbai		—	2.25	4.00
BPCL Subsidiaries:				
15. Kochi (KRL)		—	—	4.00
16. Numaligarh (NRL)		—	—	4.00
RPL:				
17. Jamnagar		—	—	4.00

#Purchase Tax will be considered for reimbursement upto 4%.

Note:

Compensation under the scheme shall be limited to the under-recoveries arising from the taxes and at rates not exceeding the rates given in this table. In case of CST under-recoveries incurred at the tap off points/depots, the same would be compensated provided the product has not incurred under-recoveries at the time of despatch from refineries.

Vacant Posts at Board Level in PSUs

*349. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board level posts are lying vacant in public sector enterprises for a long period;

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

(c) the steps being taken to fill up the posts and their present status?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE): (a)

to (c) 28 posts of Chief Executives and 75 posts of full time Directors were vacant in different PSUs as on 30.6.2003. The details of these posts are given in the statement enclosed. The vacancies have arisen due to various reasons like retirement, completion of tenure, etc.

Out of 103 vacancies, 16 are kept in abeyance, appointees are to join in 4 cases and selections have been made in respect of 42. In the remaining cases the selection process is on. Filling up of Board level posts is a continuous process.

Statement

Details of Board level posts vacant in PSUs as on 30.6.2003

S.No.	Name of post	Date of vacancy
1	2	3
Chief Executives:		
1.	Chairman, Airports Authority of India.	1.2.2002
2.	CMD, Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Ltd.	1.5.2003
3.	MD, Bharat Brakes & Valves Ltd.	1.8.2000
4.	MD, Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd.	14.4.2001
5.	MD, Bharat Wagon & Engineering Co. Ltd.	20.2.2003
6.	MD, Braithwaite & Co. Ltd.	2.5.2003
7.	CMD, Educational Consultants India Ltd.	8.8.2001
8.	CMD, Electronics Trade & Technology Dev. Corpn.	17.4.2000
9.	CMD, Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd.	9.2.2002
10.	CMD, Hindustan Cables Ltd.	23.12.2002
11.	MD, Hindustan Fluorocarbons Ltd.	20.8.2002
12.	MD, HMT Machine Tools Ltd.	1.6.2003
13.	CMD, Housing & Urban Development Corpn. Ltd.	5.6.2002
14.	CMD, Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	1.1.2003
15.	MD, Indian Iron & Steel Co Ltd.	2.2.2000
16.	MD, Indian Railway Finance Corporation Ltd.	29.9.1997
17.	CMD, Instrumentation Ltd.	23.5.2003
18.	MD, Maharashtra Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	5.5.2000
19.	CMD, Metallurgical & Engineering Consultants Ltd.	1.2.2002
20.	CMD, National Instruments Ltd.	20.3.2002
21.	CMD, National Jute Manufacturers Corporation Ltd.	1.4.1998

1	2	3
22.	MD, National Textile Corporation (West Bengal, Assam, Bihar & Orissa Ltd.	21.8.2002
23.	CMD, NEPA Ltd.	1.12.2001
24.	MD, North Eastern Handicrafts & Handlooms Dev. Corporation Ltd.	9.3.2003
25.	CMD, North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Ltd.	1.3.2002
26.	MD, Southern Pesticides Corporation Ltd.	22.5.2000
27.	MD, State Farms Corporation of India Ltd.	20.9.2001
28.	CMD, State Trading Corporation of India Ltd.	9.4.2003
Functional Directors:		
1.	Member (Ope.) Airports Authority of India	16.10.2001
2.	Director (PIng.), Andrew Yule & Co. Ltd.	1.2.2002
3.	Director (Pers.), Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Ltd.	1.6.2000
4.	Director (Tech.), Bharat Yantra Nigam Ltd.	1.5.1996
5.	Director (Prod.), Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corpn. Ltd.	12.11.2002
6.	Director (Fin.) Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corpn. Ltd.	12.11.2002
7.	Director (Fin.), Bridge & Roof Co. (I) Ltd.	—
8.	Director (Pers.), Central Coalfields Ltd.	2.2.2003
9.	Director (Fin.), Cement Corpn. of India Ltd.	29.10.2001
10.	Director (Ope.), Cement Corpn. of India Ltd.	1.2.2002
11.	Director (Fin.), Chennai Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.	22.11.2002
12.	Director (Tech.), Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	1.2.2003
13.	Director (Pers.), Electronics Corpn. of India Ltd.	1.12.2002
14.	Director (Fin.), Fertilizer Corpn. of India Ltd.	13.9.2000
15.	Director (Fin.), Goa Shipyard Ltd.	24.4.2002
16.	Director (Ope.), Goa Shipyard Ltd.	14.5.2003
17.	Director (Pers.), Heavy Engineering Corpn. Ltd.	8.5.2002
18.	Director (Prod.), Heavy Engineering Corpn. Ltd.	23.9.1999
19.	Director (Mktg.), Heavy Engineering Corpn. Ltd.	1.5.2001
20.	Director (Fin.), Heavy Engineering Corpn. Ltd.	1.12.2001
21.	Director (Pers.), Hindustan Cables Ltd.	30.11.2001
22.	Director (Fin.), Hindustan Copper Ltd.	29.4.2003

1	2	3
23.	Director (Fin.), HMT Bearings Ltd.	20.9.2001
24.	Director (Tech.), HMT Bearings Ltd.	20.9.2001
25.	Director (Mktg.), HMT Bearings Ltd.	20.9.2001
26.	Director (Int. Mktg.), HMT (International) Ltd.	20.9.2001
27.	Director (Inter. Proj.), HMT (International) Ltd.	20.9.2001
28.	Director (Fin.), HMT Machine Tools Ltd.	20.9.2001
29.	Director (Tech.), HMT Machine Tools Ltd.	20.9.2001
30.	Director (HR), HMT Machine Tools Ltd.	20.9.2001
31.	Director (Mktg.), HMT Machine Tools Ltd.	20.9.2001
32.	Director (Tech.), HMT Watches Ltd.	20.9.2001
33.	Director (Fin.), HMT Watches Ltd.	20.9.2001
34.	Director (HR), HMT Watches Ltd.	20.9.2001
35.	Director (Mktg.), HMT Watches Ltd.	20.9.2001
36.	Director (Tech.), Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.	7.6.2001
37.	Director (Fin.), Hindustan Paper Corpn. Ltd.	12.6.2001
38.	Director (Fin.), Hindustan Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.	26.12.2002
39.	Director (Fin.), Housing & Urban Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	14.12.2002
40.	Director (CP), Housing & Urban Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	29.8.2002
41.	Director (Comr. & Mktg.), India Tourism Dev. Corpn.	1.12.2000
42.	Director (Fin.), Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	6.3.2000
43.	Director (CP&P), Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	1.7.2002
44.	Director (Proj.), Indian Railway Construction Co. Ltd.	1.2.2003
45.	Director (Fin.), Indian Railway Finance Corpn. Ltd.	17.7.2001
46.	Director (Engg. & Com.), Jessop & Co. Ltd.	19.7.2000
47.	Director (Tech.), Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.	13.11.2002
48.	Director (Fin.), Manganese Ore (India) Ltd.	30.7.2002
49.	Director (P&P), Manganese Ore (India) Ltd.	1.4.2003
50.	Director (Fin.), Mineral Exploration Corpn. Ltd.	17.3.2003
51.	Director (Fin.), Minerals & Metals Trading Corpn. of India	1.5.2002
52.	Director (Mktg.), Minerals & Metals Trading Corpn. of India	26.7.2002

1	2	3
53.	Director (Tech.), Mumbai Rail Vikas Corpn. Ltd.	1.5.2002
54.	Director (Fin.), Mumbai Rail Vikas Corpn. Ltd.	13.12.2002
55.	Director (Fin.), National Aluminum Co. Ltd.	26.6.2002
56.	Director (Prod.), National Aluminum Co. Ltd.	1.9.2002
57.	Director (Fin.), National Buildings Construction Corpn. Ltd.	1.10.2002
58.	Director (Fin.), National Jute Manufacturer Corpn. Ltd.	31.7.2000
59.	Director (Fin.), National Textile Corpn. (U.P.) Ltd.	10.1.2003
60.	Director (Fin.), NEPA Ltd.	1.11.2001
61.	Director (P&P), Neyveli Lignite Corpn. Ltd.	1.6.2003
62.	Director (Tech.), Northern Coalfields Ltd.	24.1.2003
63.	Director (Fin.), Numaligarh Refineries Ltd.	11.11.2002
64.	Director (HR), Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.	1.5.2003
65.	Director (P-O&M), Rail Tel Corpn. of India Ltd.	18.4.2002
66.	Director (Fin.), Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.	25.11.2002
67.	Director (Engg.), Rashtriya Pariyojna Nigam Ltd. (NPCC)	31.8.2001
68.	Director (Tech.), Rural Electrification Corpn. Ltd.	7.1.2003
69.	Director (Fin.), Rural Electrification Corpn. Ltd.	20.3.2003
70.	Director (Civil), Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd.	7.1.2003
71.	Director (Tech.), South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	1.6.2003
72.	Director (Pers.), State Trading Corpn. of India Ltd.	12.6.2003
73.	Director (Mktg.), State Trading Corpn. of India Ltd.	23.6.2001
74.	Director (Fin.), Steel Authority of India Ltd.	1.10.2002
75.	Director (Tech.), Tehri Hydro Development Corpn. Ltd.	1.9.2002

[Translation]

Tragedy in Bokaro Thermal Power Station

*350. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether about five workers have died and about twenty injured in the recent incident of roof collapse in the Machine Shop of Power Centre of the Bokaro Thermal Power Station;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether action has been taken by the Government against the persons found guilty of this accident;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have provided any financial and other assistance to the affected persons; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) to (f) On 23.06.2003, the entire roof of Heavy Equipment Repair Shop (Machine Shop) at Bokaro 'B' Thermal Power Station of Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) collapsed causing death of four and injury to ten employees who were inside the building at the time of the accident.

The Sr. Divisional Engineer (Civil) who was in charge of maintenance of the building and was responsible for the structural stability tests of the building was suspended after the accident. The DVC constituted a Committee to enquire into the incident. It has also asked the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) to quickly conduct probe into the incident. CEA has given its report. DVC has been asked to fix responsibility and take action.

Ex-gratia of rupees one lakh each has been paid to the families of the deceased personnel. Appointment offers to the widows of the deceased personnel have been issued. Three widows have already joined.

[English]

Purchase of Computers

*351. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has incurred losses due to defect in computers obtained for ticket booking during the last three years;

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

(c) the outcome of the enquiry conducted by the multi-disciplinary committees of the Railways;

(d) the number of cases handed over to CBI alongwith the result thereof;

(e) whether the Railways has constituted any committee to enquire into all aspects of functioning of these machines;

(f) if so, the recommendations made by the aforesaid committee; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to implement these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) No case has been handed over to CBI for defects in computer-based ticketing machines in the last three years.

(e) No committee has been set up in the last three years by Railways to enquire into all aspects of functioning of defective computer-based ticketing machines.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

National Seminar on Electricity Act, 2003

*352. SHRI KAMAL NATH:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Seminar on Electricity Act, 2003 was held at New Delhi recently; and

(b) if so, the details of discussions held in the seminar and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) and (b) A seminar on the "Electricity Act, 2003—Opportunities for Investment and Growth" was organized on 22nd and 23rd July, 2003 at New Delhi by Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industries (FICCI).

The participants discussed the liberal and progressive features of the Electricity Act, 2003 and the positive developments in the power sector.

The Seminar provided a forum for discussion and appreciation of specific provisions of the Act by the stakeholders aimed at providing competition, protecting the interest of the consumers and promoting the development of the sector for supplying electricity to all.

News Broadcast

*353. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAKIP: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the languages which are being broadcast by the News Services Division (NSD), AIR as of now;

(b) whether all the VIII Schedule languages are included in the news broadcast of NSD, AIR;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the criteria for the selection of a language for broadcasting by NSD, AIR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that the News Services Division of AIR puts out news bulletins in 65 Indian languages/dialects and 15 foreign languages, including English, daily from its headquarters in Delhi and its Regional News Units (RNU) for the listeners in the country and abroad. A list of the same is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The selection of the languages depends upon the number of listeners of the language/dialect, availability of infrastructure facilities, manpower and funds.

Statement

List of Languages/Dialects in which News Bulletins are being Mounted by the News Services Division
List of Indian Languages/Dialects

1. Arunachali
2. Assamese
3. Bengali
4. Dogri
5. Gujarati
6. Hindi
7. Kannada
8. Kashmiri
9. Konkani
10. Malayalam
11. Manipuri
12. Marathi
13. Nepali
14. Oriya
15. Punjabi
16. Sanskrit

17. Sindhi
18. Tamil
19. Telugu
20. Urdu
21. Adi
22. Angami
23. AO
24. Apatani
25. Balti
26. Bodo
27. Chakhesang
28. Chang
29. Dimasa
30. Garo
31. Gojri
32. Hmar
33. Idu
34. Jaintia
35. Kabui
36. Karbi
37. Khampati
38. Khasi
39. Khamnugam
40. Kokborak
41. Konyak
42. Kuki
43. Ladakhi
44. Lepcha
45. Lotha
46. Mahal
47. Mao
48. Mizo
49. Mizu Mishmi
50. Nagamese
51. Nyishi
52. Nocte
53. Paite

54. Phom (a) the total amount of oil bill deficit as on March 2001, March 2002 and March 2003 respectively;
55. Rajasthani
56. Rengma (b) whether oil bill deficit has been increasing continuously;
57. Sangtam (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
58. Sema (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to reduce the oil bill deficit?
59. Tagin

60. Tangsa

61. Thadou

62. Tangkhul

63. Wancho

64. Yimchungru

65. Zeliang

Foreign Languages

1. Arabic
2. Baluchi
3. Burmese
4. Chinese
5. Dari
6. English
7. French
8. Indonesian
9. Persian
10. Pushtu
11. Russian
12. Sinhala
13. Swahili
14. Thai
15. Tibetan.

Oil Bill Deficit

*354. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The quantity and value of imports of crude oil and petroleum products during the period 2000-01 to 2002-03 were as follows:

Quantity (in million metric tonnes)			
Years	Crude Oil	Products	Total
2000-01	74.097	9.267	83.364
2001-02	78.706	7.009	85.715
2002-03	81.989	6.737	88.726

Value (in Rs. Crores)			
Years	Crude Oil	Products	Total
2000-01	65,832	12,093	78,025
2001-02	60,397	7,249	67,646
2002-03	76,195	8,206	84,401

The value of oil imports/oil import bill depends upon the quantity of imports and the prices prevalent in the international oil markets. The quantity of oil imports increased during the period 2000-01 to 2002-03 due to increase in imports of crude oil to meet the demand of domestic refineries.

(d) Steps taken by the Government to reduce the oil import bill include the following:

(1) Efforts made to increase the production of crude oil and gas by:

(i) increasing the exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy.

(ii) improving the recovery factor from the existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes.

- (iii) exploring new areas, especially in deep water and difficult frontier areas, as also exploring in the deeper layers of the producing fields.
- (iv) faster development of newly discovered fields and increased use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over, simulation operations, drilling of wells etc. in producing areas.
- (v) acquiring acreages abroad.

(2) Mandating ethanol blending of petrol in certain States and Union Territories.

(3) Increasing awareness of oil conservation measures.

Control of Commissioner of Railway Safety

*355. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are considering to bring Commissioner of Railway Safety under its control from the Ministry of Civil Aviation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) As on date no view has been firmed up to bring Commissioner of Railway Safety under the control of Ministry of Railways. This issue has already been brought out in the "White Paper on Safety on Indian Railways" presented in the Parliament in April, 2003.

Level Playing Field for Indian Broadcasters

*356. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to have a fresh look at its policy on uplinking by foreign news channels particularly keeping in view the guidelines for 26% cap on foreign equity;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any representations from the Indian Broadcasters demanding level playing field;

(c) if so, whether the Government in response to the demand of Indian broadcasters, has agreed to ensure a level playing field to all broadcasters;

(d) if so whether this decision was taken at a meeting chaired by the Prime Minister which was also attended by the Deputy Prime Minister and Ministers of Finance, External Affairs, Law and Justice and Information & Broadcasting;

(e) if so, the other decision arrived at the aforesaid meeting; and

(f) the extent to which this will be helpful to the broadcasters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) An Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) has been constituted by an Order dated 15th July, 2003 examine the foreign equity norms/guidelines particularly relating to uplinking of news and current affairs channels, in order to ensure that these are strengthened to prevent violation/breach and to facilitate compliance of the guidelines in letter and in spirit. The Group will discuss measures to plug the loopholes, if any, which may permit any company to circumvent the foreign equity norms.

(b) to (f) The Broadcasters met the Prime Minister and have given a representation on various issues. Some of the issues raised are dealt in this Ministry. No decision has been taken during the said meeting of the broadcasters. However, a copy of their representation has been received in this Ministry and the suggestions made have been noted. It is observed that the broadcasting policies of the Government are constantly evolving and adapting to changed circumstances, to advances in technology and to the needs of the changing times. It is the endeavour of the Government to allow public to enjoy the benefits of such advancements while simultaneously having regulation to ensure a minimum code of conduct in the interests of public decency, morality and national security.

Package for Border States to Counter Propaganda

*357. CHOWDHARY TALIB HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have package of schemes to strengthen DD/AIR programmes for border States of the country to counter check the propaganda of the neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far and amount spent during the past three years on such package of schemes;

(c) whether the Government have received complaints regarding misutilisation of funds by DD/AIR authorities in the border States, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Government had announced a Rs. 430 crore package for improvement of Doordarshan and All India Radio services in Jammu & Kashmir. As part of this package, 99 Doordarshan and 12 All India Radio projects were proposed to be set up for strengthening AIR/DD services in J&K. 92 Doordarshan and 11 All India Radio projects have been completed during the last three years.

Government has also approved, in principle, implementation of a special package for expansion and improvement of Doordarshan and AIR services in North East. Rs. 168.4 crores and Rs. 54.69 crores approximately have been spent by Doordarshan and All India Radio, respectively, on the above schemes during the last three years.

(c) to (e) Prasar Bharati have informed that no complaints regarding misutilisation of funds by DD/AIR authorities in border States, have been received by them. However, complaints regarding allotment of time slots/programmes, and violation of terms and conditions have been received from time to time by the Government and these are dealt as per prescribed codal provisions.

ONGC to Acquire Oil Wells in Saudi Arabia

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

(a) whether ONGC has bid for oil wells in Saudi Arabia recently;

(b) if so, details of the proposal of offer;

(c) whether a large number of MNCs are operating in Saudi Arabia in this field;

(d) if so, whether ONGC has assessed the overall environment of oil economy and business in Saudi Arabia;

(e) whether the rejected sites and poor resource areas are being offered to ONGC; and

(f) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to examine whether this offer is worthwhile to ONGC?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) No such offer has been made to Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC). Recently the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Petroleum & Mineral Resources has indicated to offer, in the first round, 3 gas exploration blocks for foreign participation, through open bidding. The data on the blocks would be shown by the Saudi authorities to the companies which qualify as per the Saudi assessment.

(f) Since no exclusive offer has been made to ONGC, assessment of the blocks put on bidding would be made on the basis of techno-commercial feasibility studies by its wholly owned subsidiary, ONGC Videsh Ltd., taking into account the data available.

Coal, Lignite and Gas Based Power Projects

*359. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the coal, lignite and gas based power projects of NTPC at present and their locations, project-wise;

(b) the price of power generated through each of these sources;

(c) whether the NTPC has been providing desired quantities of coal, lignite and gas to its power projects consistently; and

(d) if so, the sources thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) As on date, NTPC has an installed capacity of 21,249 MW, the details of which are given in the enclosed statement-I. Presently, NTPC does not have any Lignite based power project.

(b) The average price of energy supplied by NTPC to State Electricity Boards (SEBs) during 2002-03 are as under:

Coal Based	—	128.21 Ps/kwh
Gas Based	—	215.65 Ps/kwh

Naphtha based	—	379.89 Ps/kwh
Average price	—	147.12 Ps/kwh

(c) and (d) NTPC receives coal for their projects given in the enclosed statement-II. As per linkages accorded by the Linkage Committee of the Ministry of Coal. So far as gas supply is concerned, this has been decreasing due to reduced availability of gas with GAIL.

Statement I

A. List of NTPC's Commissioned & Ongoing Projects

Stations	State	Fuel	Capacity (MW)
Singrauli	Uttar Pradesh	Coal	2000
Rihand	}	Coal	1000
Dadri Coal		Coal	840
Dadri Gas		Gas	817
Auraiya		Gas	652
Unchahar		Coal	840
Tanda		Coal	440
Faridabad	Haryana	Gas	430
Anta	Rajasthan	Gas	413
Korba	Chhattisgarh	Coal	2100
Vindhyachal	Madhya Pradesh	Coal	2260
Kawas	}	Gas	645
Gandhar		Gas	648
Ramagundam	}	Coal	2100
Simhadri		Coal	1000
Kayamkulam	Kerala	Naphtha	350
Farakka	West Bengal	Coal	1600
Talcher Kaniha	}	Coal	1500
Talcher		Coal	460
Kahalgaon	Bihar	Coal	840
Total			20935
CPPs under JVs with SAIL (Durgapur-120 MW, Rourkela-120 MW & Bhilai-74 MW)			314
Total			21249

Statement-II

Station	Source	Company
A. Coal Based:		
Singrauli	Jayant/Dudhichua	Northern Coalfields Ltd.
Vindhyachal	Nighai/Dudhichua	Northern Coalfields Ltd.
Rihand	Amlohri/Dudhichua	Northern Coalfields Ltd.
Korba	Korba Coalfields	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.
Ramagundam	Ramagundam Area/ Belampalli Area	Singreni Coalfields Co. Ltd.
Farakka	Rajmahal/Raniganj Coalfields	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.
Kahalgaon	Rajmahal/Raniganj Coalfields	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.
Talcher Kaniha STPs	Lingraj Mines of Talcher Coalfields	Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.
Talcher TPS	Jagannath/South Belanda Mines of Talcher Coalfields	Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.
Simhadri	Talcher Coalfields/lb Valley Coalfields	Mahandi Coalfields Ltd.
NCTPP Dadri	Piparwar Washery/ North Karanpura Area	Central Coalfields Ltd.
Unchahar	North Karanpura Area Jharia/Adra Coalfields	Central Coalfields Ltd. Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.
Tanda	North Karanpura Area Jharia/Adra Coalfields	Central Coalfields Ltd. Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.
B. Gas Based		
Anta, Auraiya, Dadri, Kawas, Faridabad	HBJ Pipeline	Gail (India) Ltd.
Gandhar	Gandhar Gas Field	Gail (India) Ltd.
Kayamkulam*	Kochi Refinery	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.

*In the absence of availability/linkage of natural gas, presently naphtha is being used as the fuel.

[Translation]

New National Power Policy

*360. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared a National Power Policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) and (b) The Electricity Act, 2003 has come into force w.e.f. 10th June, 2003. Section 3(1) of the Act provides that the Central Government shall, from time to time, prepare the National Electricity Policy, in consultation with the State Governments and the Central Electricity Authority for development of the power system based on optimal utilization of resources such as coal, natural gas, nuclear substances or materials, hydro and renewable sources of energy. Section 79(2) also provides that the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission shall advise the Central Government, *inter alia*, on formulation of National Electricity Policy.

The process has been initiated.

News on Private FM Channels

3167. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

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

(a) whether the Ministry has imposed a ban on the broadcasting of news on the private FM channels;

(b) if so, whether the private FM Channels are still broadcasting news in their own inimitable style despite the ban; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) As per the terms and conditions of Licence Agreement clause-7 Main Text "the licence is for free to air broadcast of audio on main carrier and data on sub-carrier both excluding news and current affairs

and any other services which are under jurisdiction of Department of Telecommunication." and Clause 1(a) section-6 of Tender Document "The licence shall be for free to air broadcasts of audio on main carrier and data on sub-carriers, both excluding News and Current Affairs." Therefore the private broadcasters are not permitted to broadcast news and Current Affairs.

(b) A complaint from Prasar Bharati dated 11.6.2002 was received through CEO, Prasar Bharati regarding broadcasting of News & Current Affairs on Pvt. FM channel in Mumbai.

(c) The matter was taken up with the company, who had responded that it had happened inadvertently and that they have taken measures to ensure that this is not repeated.

Central Monitoring Services had also been asked to monitor the radio stations in Delhi viz. Radio Mirchi, 93.5 RED FM and Radio City private FM channels for 2 days continuously. Reports from Central Monitoring Services has since been received stating that there was no news programme by either of these stations, for the periods monitored by them on 19.07.03 and 20.07.03. Monitoring is being done by the Ministry to ensure that the terms and conditions of licence agreement are adhered to.

[English]

Multi Modal Transport System

3168. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the second phase of Multi Modal Transport System linking Secunderabad, Kachiguda and Falaknuma areas is going as per schedule;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds earmarked thereunder; and

(c) the time by which the said work is likely to be completed for operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir. The works of Multi Modal Transport System (MMTS) linking Secunderabad-Kachiguda-Falaknuma are going on as per schedule.

(b) The project for up-gradation of routes Hyderabad/ Secunderabad-Lingampally and Secunderabad-Falaknuma

as phase-1 of MMTS has been sanctioned in the works Programme at the cost of Rs. 69.64 crores. The cost is being shared in the ratio of 50:50 between the Railways and the Government of Andhra Pradesh. Full funds have been provided.

(c) The work is likely to be completed in the year 2003.

[*Translation*]

Enhancement of Power Generation Capacity

3169. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise increase registered in the power generating capacity of each power station in Jharkhand

New Units

Sl. No.	Name of Project/Utilities	Capacity (MW)
1.	Chandrapura Thermal Power Project (TPP Extn. Units-7&8/Damodar Valley Corpn. (DVC)	2x250
2.	Tenughat TPP St. II Units-3&4/Thenughat Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (TVNL)	3x210*
3.	Jojobera TPP/Tata Electric Co.	1x120

Schemes Under Renovation, Modernization & Upgrading

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme/Installed Capacity (MW) and Utility	Capacity after R&M (MW)	Benefits/Increase in Capacity (MW)
1.	Maithon Unit-2 (1x20 MW) DVC	23.2	3.2
2.	Maithon Units-1 & 3 (2x20 MW) DVC	46.4	6.4
3.	Panchet Unit-1 (1x40 MW) DVC	46	6

*Only one unit of 210 MW included in 10th Plan.

Purchase of Compressors by IGL

3170. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether GAIL is also the co-partner in the CNG stations being operated by the IGL in Delhi;

State during the last three years;

(b) whether the government propose to enhance the power generation capacity of these power stations in the above State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) There is no increase in power generating capacity at the existing power stations in Jharkhand during the last three years.

(b) and (c) The details of new units which have been proposed at the existing power stations as well as the schemes which have been considered for implementation for Renovation, Modernization and uprating to give benefits during 10th Plan in Jharkhand are given as under:

(b) if so, the total number of compressors purchased from the foreign companies since 1999, till date; and

(c) the total expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA

MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir. However, GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL) is one of the promoters of Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL).

(b) and (c) IGL have placed orders for 38 compressors of the value of about Rs. 72.44 crore since 1999. 28 compressors have already been received, on which IGL have incurred an expenditure of Rs. 57.65 crore. Remaining 10 compressors of value of about Rs. 14.79 crore are at various stages of delivery.

[English]

Infrastructure Facilities for Ezhimala Naval Academy

3171. SHRI M. DURAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had asked the Government of Kerala to provide infrastructure facilities expeditiously for the Ezhimala Naval Academy scheduled to be commissioned in 2004;

(b) if so, the detail thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala had failed to honour its agreement with regard to the said project; and

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

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

(b) The State Government of Kerala was to provide 979 Hectares 2500 acres approximate) of land at Ezhimala to establish the Naval Academy, provide sufficient supply of potable water and water for construction work during the functional phase; approach road for Payangadi Railway Station and 05 peripheral roads and a National Highway, standard Southern Approach Road; and augmentation of Payannur Railway Station.

(c) and (d) The work is in progress and the State Government is providing facilities as committed. The Project Management Authority (PMA) has regular Coordination Committee Meeting chaired by the Chief Secretary, Government of Kerala to review the progress of the infrastructure works.

Pipeline from Numaligarh Refinery to Silchar

3172. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for laying a 675 kilometre pipeline from Numaligarh Refinery to Silchar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated cost of the project; and

(d) the stage at which the proposal stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Defence Land

3173. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the land in possession of defence at Igatpuri Taluka in Nasik district of Maharashtra;

(b) whether any representation has been received by the Government to give this land to the persons who are dispossessed by acquisition of the land for defence; and

(c) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon;

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Land measuring 11.275 acres bearing Revenue Survey No. 142 and land measuring 6.45 acres bearing Revenue Survey No. 216 at Igatpuri Taluka in Nasik District is owned by Defence.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Not applicable in view of reply given at (b) above.

Gas Pipeline Project from Cochin to Kayamkulam and Mangalore

3174. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) has commenced the work in respect of Gas Pipe Line

Project to transport gas from Cochin to Kayamkulam and Cochin to Mangalore;

(b) if so, the present status of the project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) At present, pre-project activities such as survey of pipeline route, acquisition of right of use in land etc. is in progress.

(c) Date of commissioning would be known only after detailed project report is approved by the competent authority.

[*Translation*]

Pending LPT Project at Purulia

3175. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have not taken any steps till date in regard to installation of a sanctioned Low Power Transmitter in place of a very Low Power Transmitter of T.V. Centre located at Baramundi in Purulia region of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard alongwith reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to expedite the work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Low Power Transmitter at Baghmundi, in replacement of VLPT has been commissioned w.e.f. June, 2002.

Production of Power without Causing Pollution

3176. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have signed an agreement with some official agencies of US Government to produce power without causing pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this agreement is likely to help the country;

(d) if so, whether any technical or financial help also likely to be given to produce power without causing pollution; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) No, Sir. However, USA is separately considering a proposal for setting up a coal-fired power station with zero emission as a research and development project. India has, so far, not been approached in this regard.

[*English*]

Kerosene to Tamil Nadu

3177. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that in Tamil Nadu differential quantities of kerosene are being made available to PDS outlets in rural and urban areas, respectively;

(b) if so, whether this is in accordance with Union Government's guidelines;

(c) if so, whether in the Union Government's view such differentiation is justified; and

(d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to end such anomalies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) Government makes kerosene allocation to various States/Union Territories for distribution under Public Distribution System (PDS). States/Union Territories including Tamil Nadu, undertake distribution of kerosene through their PDS network and decide the quantities to be made available to PDS outlets such as Fair Price Shops, etc., in rural and urban areas of the concerned State/Union Territory, within the allocation made by the Government.

[Translation]

Income from Advertisements

3178. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have appointed any agency to augment their income which is engaged in the work of printing advertisements on the back-side of the railway tickets;

(b) if so, the name and details thereof; and

(c) the income earned by the Railways so far by printing advertisements on the back-side of railway ticket during each of last three years till date, agency-wise both the Government and the private separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) The Railways have not appointed any advertising agency exclusively for printing advertisements on the back side of railway tickets.

(c) No such statistics are maintained.

[English]

Extra Charges for using Passenger Amenities at Railway Station

3179. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2443 dated March, 6, 2003 regarding modernisation of Railway Stations and state:

(a) whether some railway stations have been selected for development as model stations:

(b) if so, whether the works undertaken for upgradation/renovation/modernisation of railway stations are financed from the provisions made to Zonal railway under the Plan head "Passenger Amenities";

(c) if so, whether the passengers having valid train tickets are entitled to all the passenger amenities without paying extra money from the services; and

(d) if so, the reasons why the passengers having valid train tickets have to pay extra wherever one has to use the toilet and bathroom facilities in the railway stations especially in New Jalpaiguri Station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Passengers are entitled to avail the facilities provided by the Railway free of cost except those facilities for which separate charges have been prescribed.

(d) "Pay & Use" toilets are provided at certain stations and have a higher level of customer satisfaction and nominal charges are realized for the enhanced level of service. In respect of general toilets, no charges are levied by the Railway Administration.

Marketing Margin of Oil PSUs

3180. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the marketing margin of oil PSUs has increased on the sale of diesel and petrol after the dismantling of APM;

(b) if so, whether the increased costs of salaries, electricity, depreciation and competition etc. are main factors affecting adversely on the economic viability of retail outlets;

(c) if so, whether such factors also adversely affect the economic viability of petrol pump dealers;

(d) if so, whether the oil PSU's are taking care of the situation regarding the viability of dealers and Coco operators;

(e) whether the remuneration of Coco Operators was initially fixed as 80 percent of dealers commission in principal;

(f) if so, whether this formula has been dropped or emended; and

(g) if not, the time by which the same shall be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) With the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector effective 1.4.2002, the Government is no longer fixing the dealers' commission on petrol and diesel, which is now being fixed by the oil companies.

The oil companies had last revised the dealers' commission effective 1.11.2002. As per this revision, the dealers' commission on petrol was increased from Rs. 613 per KL to Rs. 639 per KL and on diesel from Rs. 365 per KL to Rs. 385 per KL. The dealers' commissions comprises of various components which *inter-alia* include salary and wages, electricity charges etc.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Do not arise in view of (e) above.

Decisions by Committee of Directors Marketing of Oil PSUs

3181. SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee of Directors Marketing of oil PSUs has informed the Government regarding some illegal clause in the accord of August 17, 2001 signed by the FAIPT and Directors marketing of PSUs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this issue is pending for the last two years and the Committee of Directors is not showing any interest to finalise this issue and causing harassment to dealers;

(d) if so, the time by which this issue is likely to be settled mutually as per provisions of laws; and

(e) if not, the action taken by Government for the sake of justice and honour to the provisions of laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (e) No, Sir. Discussions were held between Directors (Marketing) of Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) and the representatives of Federation of All India Petroleum Traders (FAIPT) on 17.08.2001, in which it was agreed that Joint Committee will look into all aspects of quality and quantity issues relating to retail sales of petroleum products. Pursuant to this a meeting between Directors (Marketing) of OMCs and representatives of FAIPT was held on 21.10.2002 and 17.02.2003.

[*Translation*]

Railway Reservation Racket

3182. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any railway reservation racket has been busted recently at Jamnagar railway station under Rajkot division in Gujarat;

(b) whether a bundle of bogus reservation forms was seized therefrom;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the officials found involved in this racket and the action taken by the Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (d) a case was registered in Jamnagar by Jamnagar Police on 24.9.2002 on the complaint of Railway staff. A bunch of reservation forms was seized from the premises of a suspect who was later arrested by Police and sent to judicial custody. The case is under trial. No Railway official has been found involved in this case.

[*English*]

Petroleum Depots in Populated Areas

3183. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number petroleum depots has been located in the thickly populated areas in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether adequate steps have been taken as a highly explosive projects is stored in the vicinity of densely populated urban areas;

(c) if so, whether such depots would be removed to safer places; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Initially, sites for petroleum Depots are generally selected away from populated areas. However, over a period of time, residential and commercial structures come up in the vicinity, making the area congested.

(b) Adequate built-in-measure are taken while designing the facilities of Depots by adhering to the laid down guidelines, Petroleum Act & Rules (enforced by Chief Controller of Explosives, Nagpur), OISD Standards, Factory Act, etc., as applicable.

(c) and (d) Oil Companies review shifting of depots on various grounds like safety considerations, resitement to other location and strategic storage etc. Several depots in the past have been closed down/resited due to various reasons including safety considerations.

[Translation]

Retrenchment of Employees of IOCL

3184. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to retrench the employees of the IOCL;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the likely impact of the retrenchment on the efficiency of the IOCL;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the efficiency of the Corporation; and

(e) the profit earned by the Corporation during the first quarter of the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The Government have not taken any such decision.

(e) As per the unaudited provisional estimate, the net profit earned by Indian Oil Corporation Limited during April-June, 2003, was Rs. 944.67 crore.

[English]

RPF Officers in Boards Office

3185. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite problems of Law and Order, many RPF officers have been retained in Boards office beyond their tenure;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether some Group 'A' posts has been transferred to Boards office for secretarial work;

(d) if so, the rationale of transferring RPF post to Boards office;

(e) whether this administrative post can be operated by RBSS officer as they were doing it efficiently for the last so many years;

(f) if so, then when this post will be reverted back to RPF for operational duties in administrative interest; and

(g) the time by which the Boards staff as well as RPF Officers/Staff who are working in this sensitive security directorate beyond their tenure will be transferred in administrative interest?

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

(b) No Gazetted RPF officer has been retained beyond his tenure. However, some non-gazetted RPF staff have been retained in Board's office beyond their tenure in the interest of administration to ensure continuity and for smooth functioning of the Security Directorate.

(c) and (d) In order to strengthen the administration of security organisation of Indian Railways at Railway Board's level, RPF posts have been utilized from time to time as considered necessary. No group 'A' post has been transferred from the Zonal Railways at present.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. As an interim measure, RBSS officers had held the post temporarily in exigencies of services. However, the same has been reverted back to RPF.

(g) Overstaying RPF staff are being transferred out in a phased manner.

Implementation of Transfer Rules

3186. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any instruction/rule that all personnel will be transferred after completion of four years from his present position;

(b) whether these rules/instructions have been implemented in Railway Board in administrative interest;

(c) the number of personnel working in Administrative/Establishment/Security Branches beyond four years and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether many personnel have been promoted from junior post to senior post but kept under these branches under the guise of 'administrative interest';

(e) whether these personnel have developed nexus with corrupt officials; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to implement the transfer rules correctly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (d) Various technical posts in Railway Board's Office are filled up by officers/staff coming on transfer from Zonal Railways from time to time for a specified tenure ranging from 3 to 5 years depending upon the Grade, except those posts manned by officers/staff of Railway Board Secretariat Service (RBSS)/Railway Board Secretariat Clerical Service (RBSCS) for whom there are separate instructions prescribing a tenure of 5 years in a post/section. Generally tenure norms as prescribed are followed but in a few cases including the person who gets promotion in Board's Office, Officers/Staff are allowed to remain posted in Board's Office beyond prescribed tenure only in public interest.

(e) No such instances have come to the notice of administration.

(f) Transfer/Posting of officers is a continuous process and various factors such as job requirement, suitability, vigilance clearance; administrative exigencies etc. are taken into account while issuing orders.

Restoration of Computer Reservation Counters

3187. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than half of the reservation counters at New Delhi and other railway stations in Delhi remain closed all the time, causing inconvenience to general public;

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

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to utilise computer reservation centres at New Delhi and other railway stations in Delhi to its full capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. A few cases of some reservation counters remaining closed come to notice from time to time.

(d) The requirement of reservation counters varies from season to season. In fact, during the lean period, the requirement comes down on account of reduced passenger traffic. Moreover, after provision of facility of reservation through Internet, the passengers can now get reserved ticket even while sitting at home. Efforts are, however, made to keep the requisite number of reservation counters opened keeping in view the reservation workload.

Water and Toilets Facilities in AC Coaches of Mangala and Krishna Expresses

3188. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether A.C. Coaches in Mangala Express and Krishna Express are not cleaned on the way and remain without water in toilets;

(b) whether in spite of complaints in mid-June, AC coaches in Mangala Express remain without water and uncleaned toilets while coming to Delhi; and

(c) if so, the action proposed against those responsible for the lapse and steps taken to keep A.C. coaches absolutely clean?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) All coaches of long distance trains including the AC coaches of Mangla Express and Krishna Express are carefully cleaned and watered at their base depot during primary maintenance before commencement of outward journey and at the secondary maintenance depot at the other end before commencement of return journey. Also arrangements have been made for enroute watering and cleaning of toilets of these trains at nominated stations enroute, which are:

I. For Mangla Express (Emakulum-Nizamuddin)

(i) Kankanadi on Southern Railway.

(ii) Chiplun & Madgaon on Konkan Railway (only watering).

(iii) Igatpuri and Bhusawal on Central Railway.

(iv) Itarsi on West Central Railway (only watering).

(v) Jhansi to Agra on North Central Railway (one traveling safaiwala is provided).

II. For Krishna Express (Tirupati-Hyderabad)

Cleaning and watering is done at Vijayawada.

(b) No, Sir. One complaint regarding leakage of water in a coach in Mangla Express has been received during June'03. Defect has been rectified.

(c) Does not arise. Efforts are being made to keep A.C. coaches clean by way of cleaning before starting as well as enroute cleaning.

[Translation]

Ordnance Depots in Rajasthan

3189. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

Ordnance Depot	Location	Nearest Villages	Distance from nearest residential place/village/city
Ammunition Depot, Bharatpur	Bharatpur	Kasauda	1 Km.
19 Field Ammunition Depot	Jodhpur	Jhanjiwal	400 mtrs.
24 Field Ammunition Depot	Lalgarh	Kikai Chak	400 mtrs.
25 Ammunition Company	Jassal	Jassai	975 mtrs.
26 Ammunition Company	Jaisalmer	Rewa Singh Ki Dhani	1 Km.
27 Ammunition Company	Bikaner	Jaitesar & Sattasar	1 & 2 Kms. respectively.

2. As per existing regulations, a safety distance of 1145 Mtrs is required to be maintained from Ammunition Depots. However, the following safety measures have been taken in this regard:

- (i) The civil administration has been informed of the safety distances required to be maintained and move out the civil population beyond safety distance when required.
- (ii) Safety measures in accordance with ammunition stocking regulations have been taken by the Ammunition Depots to avoid damage to civilian population and property.
- (iii) Cases have been initiated to notify the said depots as Works of Defence as per the provisions of Works of Defence Act, 1903.

(a) whether the nearest residential areas are at safer distance from various ordnance depots in Rajasthan; and

(b) if not, the details of the safety measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The details of Ordnance Depots situated in Rajasthan and the distance of the nearest residential places, villages from each Ordnance Depot are given below:

[English]

Settlement of Khanna and Rajdhani Express Tragedies

3190. SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have adopted double standards in disbursal of rescue and relief measure;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of cases of compensation of Khanna, 1998 tragedy and Rajdhani Express tragedy, September 9, 2002 still to be settled;

(d) if so, the reasons for their pendency; and

(e) the action proposed to direct payment of compensation within three months to the next of kin of all victims?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c)

Name of Accident	No. of Claims still to be settled
Khanna Accident	28
Rajdhani Train Accident	87

(d) (i) Non attendance by the applicants for their counsels.

(ii) Delay on the part of litigants to produce documents and witnesses on time.

(iii) Vacancies of Members in Railway Claims Tribunal.

(e) Railway Claims Tribunal is a judicial body and follows procedure for hearing of settlement of claims cases as provided for in the Railway Claims Tribunal Act. No timeframe, therefore, can be prescribed for finalisation of pending claims in Railway Claims Tribunal.

[Translation]

Revision in Fare Structure

3191. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the mechanism to fix the passenger fares and freight rates in the Railways;

(b) whether diesel prices have been slashed recently;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to effect corresponding changes in the fare structures of Railways;

(d) whether the Railways hikes fares every time when diesel prices are increased; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken to cut down the fares with the slashing of diesel prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The passenger fares and freight rates are adjusted from time to time to generate internal resources to meet the rising costs of inputs and the developmental needs of the Railways.

(b) to (e) The prices of High Speed Diesel, which were increasing in the past, have recently shown a downward trend. No increase in the fares and freight rates was proposed during the year 2003-04 despite increase in the diesel prices. At present, there is no proposal to reduce the passenger fares due to reduction in diesel prices.

[English]

FDI in Radio

3192. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether in accordance with the policy guidelines applicable to foreign investment in Radio, no foreign direct investment is permitted and that only Financial Institutions are allowed to investment upto 20% of the total equity of Radio station;

(b) if so, whether the Radio City operated and financed by Rupert Murdoch promoted Star TV Group has been allowed to continue and hold licence; and

(c) if so, the compulsions for overlooking the laid down guidelines permitting the Star Group to acquire stake to operate and manage a Radio station in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Eligibility conditions for private FM broadcasting require that the company should be registered in India under the Companies Act, 1956, all the shareholding to be held by Indians except for limited portfolio investment by FIIs, NRIs, PIOs and OCBs subject to such ceiling as may be prescribed by Ministry of Finance, from time to time, which is presently pegged at 20%.

(b) Licences have been granted to M/s Music Broadcast Private Limited (MBPL) for operating Radio stations, having Channel Identity "Radio City".

(c) Guidelines are followed when permitting applicants to operationalise and manage a radio station. M/s MBPL had applied for licence and as they fulfilled the eligibility criteria, they were permitted to participate in the auction and on being successful bidders, licences were given for operating FM stations at Bangalore, Lucknow, Mumbai, Delhi, Nagpur & Patna. The company has since operationalised stations at Bangalore, Lucknow, Mumbai & Delhi. This Ministry has received complaints regarding M/s Music Broadcast Pvt. Ltd being indirectly promoted by the Star TV Group, owned by Mr. Rupert Murdoch. These issues are being examined, in consultation with Department of Company Affairs and Ministry of Law.

[Translation]

Milking Animal to SCs Under BPL

3193. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any project for approval from the Mujaffarpur district of Bihar in regard to providing two milking animals to each of the identified scheduled caste families living below poverty line in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government has also given its recommendations for this purpose;

(d) whether similar project has been sanctioned in Orissa; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government for sanctioning the above said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A project proposal has been received from Government of Bihar for providing two milking animals to each of the identified scheduled caste families living below poverty line in Mujaffarpur district of Bihar. The Government of Bihar has forwarded the proposal for acceptance.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Government of Bihar has been advised to take further action for implementation of the project as per the guidelines of the Special Central Assistance

Scheme, out of the unspent Special Central Assistance balance of Rs. 8.04 crores, available with them.

[English]

Financial Assistance to States for Backward Class Students

3194. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any financial assistance has been given to Andhra Pradesh, Uttaranchal and other States for backward class students pursuing higher education;

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

(c) whether the utilization certificate of the grants has been received from respective States;

(d) if so, the names thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) and (f) State Governments have been requested for early submission of utilization certificates along with reasons for delay in submission of UCs. However, the release of further funds to the States/UTs is considered only on receipt of Utilization Certificate for releases made in the previous Years.

Statement

State-wise details of funds released to Backward Classes Students pursuing higher Studies under the Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship during the last three years

Sl.No.	State/UT	Funds released during 2000-01 (Rs. in lakhs)	Status of receipt of utilization certificate	Funds released during 2001-02 (Rs. in lakhs)	Status of receipt of utilization certificate	Funds released during 2002-03 (Rs. in lakhs)	Status of receipt of utilization certificate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	559.25	R	357.77	R	247.86	R
2.	Assam	94.47	R	32.77	R	8.39	NR
3.	Bihar	—	—	500.00	NR	—	—
4.	Goa	25.00	R	—	—	—	—
5.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	55.02	NR	—	—
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	8.00	R	42.00	R	14.32	NR
7.	Jharkhand	—	—	191.88	R	214.08	NR
8.	Karnataka	110.72	R	145.57	R	211.69	R

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	Maharashtra	—	—	452.84	NR	—	—
10.	Manipur	91.36	R	—	—	60.20	R
11.	Rajasthan	—	—	—	—	198.95	R
12.	Sikkim	—	—	0.22	R	5.29	NR
13.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	—	352.81	NR
14.	Tripura	—	—	63.31	R	242.88	R
15.	Uttar Pradesh	10.20	R	329.00	R	1016.14	R
16.	Uttaranchal	—	—	25.92	NR	—	—
17.	West Bengal	—	—	—	—	258.14	NR

R Received

NR Not Received

Untouchability/Exploitation of SCs/STs

3195. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that untouchability and exploitation of SCs/STs is still prevalent in the country, particularly in villages of Gulbarga district in the Karnataka State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps the State Governments have taken to reduce the untouchability and exploitation of these communities;

(d) whether the Union Government have agreed to provide help and assistance to the State Governments to reduce the untouchability and exploitation of these communities and welfare measures have been suggested by the Union Government; and

(e) if so, the amount so far provided by the Union Government to the Government of Karnataka and other States Governments to reduce the untouchability and exploitation of these communities state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL): (a) and (b) The Government of Karnataka has specifically identified the untouchability prone areas in the State and Gulbarga District is one amongst such identified districts, the details of which are contained in the Annual Report on the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 for the year 2001, which has already been laid on the table of both Houses of Parliament.

(c) The State Government have taken various steps in this regard viz setting up of special cells, setting up of exclusive special courts, identification of atrocity/untouchability prone areas, appointment of nodal officer, setting up of monitoring committees at various levels,

awareness generation, incentives for inter-caste marriages, provision of relief and rehabilitation and legal aid etc.

(d) and (e) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of implementation of Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, due Central assistance is provided to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations mainly for strengthening of the administrative, enforcement and judicial machinery, awareness generation and relief and rehabilitation to the affected persons, During the year 2002-2003, Central assistance of Rs. 4017.99 lakhs was sanctioned to the concerned State Governments and the Union Territory Administrations under the Scheme. The Government of Karnataka was also sanctioned Central assistance of Rs. 567.50 lakhs under the aforesaid Scheme during 2002-2003. The details of Central assistance sanctioned to the State/UT-wise under the said Scheme during 2002-2003, are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

The State/UT-wise details of Central Assistance sanctioned under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 during the year 2002-2003.

S.No.	State/Union Territory	Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	328.139
2.	Bihar	65.00
3.	Chhattisgarh	88.270
4.	Gujarat	226.621
5.	Haryana	27.279

1	2	3
6.	Himachal Pradesh	4.720
7.	Jharkhand	105.975
8.	Karnataka	567.050
9.	Kerala	73.153
10.	Madhya Pradesh	435.980
11.	Maharashtra	772.523
12.	Orissa	00.812
13.	Rajasthan	19.285
14.	Sikkim	1.905
15.	Tamil Nadu	336.667
16.	Uttar Pradesh	886.640
17.	Uttaranchal	22.420
18.	Dadra & Nagar Havell	26.325
19.	Pondicherry	29.231
Total		4017.995

Shifting of Coal Yard

3196. SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to shift the Ultadanga Coal Yard, Kolkata to Tala, Circular Railway Station, Kolkata;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the proposed site of the new Coal Yard is thickly populated area having the Tala Water Supply Tank, the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in the vicinity and the activities of loading and unloading of coal in that area would pose grave danger to the general health of the public and create environmental problems of that area;

(d) whether the Government have received representation from the Nagarik Swartha Rakhya Committee, Kolkata against the proposed Coal Yard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) and (c) With the saturation of the existing passenger terminals at Howrah and Sealdah, necessity for a third terminal in Kolkata area has become inescapable. The work for construction of new terminal at Chitpur has been included in the Budget of 2003-04 at

a cost of Rs. 78 Crores. Chitpur has been found suitable in respect of availability of space for construction of a new passenger terminal in Kolkata Metropolitan area. This also has clearance of the State Government. For this, the existing coal yard has to be closed down. The released space of coal yard will be utilized for construction of Chitpur terminal. Since the existing coal yard will be closed, an alternative arrangement for dealing with coal traffic at a nearby place has also been proposed. The locations of existing and proposed site for coal dealing are just opposite to each other. Therefore, the effect of coal loading, at either places will have same impact on the surrounding area.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Nagarik Swartha Rakhya Committee has represented against shifting of Ultadanga Coal Yard for new passenger terminal at Chitpur due to pollution, which will result on account of loading/unloading of coal in the adjoining areas of the proposed coal yard.

(f) The representation has been examined. However, it would not be possible to operate the existing Coal Yard at Ultadanga, as without this space, the new passenger terminal can not be developed. The schematic plan of the new terminal at Chitpur has also been accepted by the Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority.

Supply of Poor Quality Foods

3197. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received complaints of supplying poor quality food in the trains and at the railway stations in the country particularly South Eastern Railway and Southern States;

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

(c) whether the Railways would take cognizance of this and improve the food quality at Railway Stations and inside trains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) State-wise data of complaints are not maintained by Railways. On South Eastern Railway, a total number of 56 complaints were received against both departmental and private licensees during 2002-03 regarding poor quality of catering services. Out of which, 22 cases have not been substantiated. Following action has been taken in the remaining cases:

Warning	—	7
Fined	—	1
Disciplinary action	—	13
Inquiry in progress	—	13

(c) and (d) Indian Railways have taken several steps to ensure good quality of food supplied by them on trains from base kitchens and at Railway stations which include use of quality raw material and branded products, setting standards of hygiene and cleanliness, training of staff, frequent surprise checks and inspections etc. With a view to professionalise catering services on Indian Railways, the Ministry of Railways have set up the Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).

Setting up of New Power Generating Projects

3198. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from various State Governments and in

particularly from the Government of Kerala for setting up new Power Generation Projects in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Central Electricity Authority (CEA) had accorded Techno-Economic Clearance to 21 power projects aggregating to 11681 MW during the period from 1.8.2002 to 31.8.2003. Details of these projects are given in the enclosed statement-I. Further 16 proposals were received in CEA and were returned to the project authorities for tie-up of essential inputs/clearances. The details of these proposals, which includes two proposals for setting up power projects in Kerala, are given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement I

Details of Techno-Economic Clearance (TEC) to Power Projects by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) during 1st August, 2002 to 31st July, 2003.

Name of the Schemes/Executing Agency	Installed Capacity (MW)	Date of TEC
1	2	3
Hydro		
Allain Duhangan HEP (Rajasthan Spinning & Weaving Mills Ltd.,) H.P.	2x96	20.8.2002
Uhl HEP Stage III (HPSEB), H.P.	2x50	19.9.2002
Sewa HEP Stage II (NHPC), J&K	3x40	18.10.2002
Teesta HEP Stage III (NHPC), W.B.	4x33	8.11.2002
Subansiri Lower HEP (NHPC) Arunachal Pradesh/Assam	8x250	13.1.2003
Jalaput Dam Toe HEP M/s Orissa Power Consortium, Orissa/A.P	3x6 = 18 MW	31.1.2003
Karcham Wangotoo HEP (M/s. JP Karcham Hydro Corp. Ltd.), H.P	4x250	31.3.2003
Tipaimukh HEP (NEEPCO, Manipur)	6x250	2.7.2003
Total (Hydro)	50x82 MW	
Thermal		
Valithur (Perungulam) CCGT (TNEB), Tamil Nadu	94	2.8.2002
Tau Devi Lal TPS (U-7 & 8) Stage-V (Panipat (HPGCL), Haryana	2x250 = 500 MW	8.8.2002
Neyveli TPS II Expansion (NLC)	2x250 = 500 MW	19.8.2002

1	2	3
Vindhyachal STPS Stage III (NTPC), M.P	2x500 = 1000 MW	27.8.2002
Sipat STPS Stage II (NTPC), Chhattisgarh	1x660 = 660 MW	29.8.2002
Sanjay Gandhi TPS Extn. U-5 (MPSEB). M.P	500 MW	20.12.2002
Kuttalam CCGT (TNEB), T.N	100 MW	27.12.2002
Anpara 'C' TPS (UPRVUNL), UP	2x500 = 1000 MW	16.1.2003
Vijayawada TPS Stage-IV APGENCO, A.P	1x660 = 660 MW	28.2.2003
Kutch Lignite TPS Extn. U-IV GEB, Gujarat	1x75 = 75 MW	6.3.2003
Monarchek CCGT Project in Tripura by NEEPCO (Revised Proposal)	280	24.4.2003
Kahalgaon STPP-St. II, Phase-I in Bihar by NTPC	2x500 = 1000	13.6.2003
Paras TPS Expansion in Maharashtra	1x250 = 250	13.6.2003
Total (Thermal)	6619 MW	

Statement-II

List of returned schemes submitted to CEA for TEC but under examination for technical and financial aspects.

Name of the Project/Capacity (MW)	Date of receipt in CEA/ date of return
1	2
Thermal Scheme	
Korba (East) TPS (2x250) (Chhattisgarh)	8.01.03/27.1.03
Korba (West) TPP St. III (2x250) (Chhattisgarh)	28.5.03/13.6.2003
Sikka TPS Extn. U-3 & 4 (2x250) (Gujarat)	30.7.99/7.9.99
Malwa TPS St. II (2x500) (Madhya Pradesh)	11/02/18.11.02
Amarkantak TPS Extn. (210) (Madhya Pradesh)	13/11.02/4.12.02
Kayamkulam CCPP St. II (3x650) (Kerala)	7.2.03/28.2.03
North Karanpura STPP (3x660) (Jharkhand)	4/2001/11.6.2001

1	2
Tenughat TPS Extn. St. IV. (3x210) (Jharkhand)	9/02/9.10.02
Chandil TPP (2x500) (Jharkhand)	9/02/9.10.02
Hydro Schemes	
Chamera St. III HEP (3x77) (Himachal Pradesh)	19.6.03/30.6.03
Sone HEP (5x20) (Madhya Pradesh)	27.3.03/21.4.03
Mahadayi HEP (2x150 + 2x10) (Karnataka)	19.7.02/13.8.02
Adirapally HEP (2x80 + 1x3) (Kerala)	30.4.02/6.6.02/15.3.03
Teesta Low Dam HEP St. IV (4x42) (West Bengal)	1.1.02/3.1.02
Lower Kopili HEP (3x50) (Assam)	2.6.97/21.7.97 10.8.98 (rev. cost estimate)
Kolodyne HEP St. I (2x60) (Mizoram)	6/2000/29.6.01

[*Translation*]

Projects undertaken by IRCON

3199. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of work done by IRCON during the last two years;

(b) whether some work in Agra, Mathura and Kanpur have been undertaken recently by IRCON;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the work to lay the Jammu-Udhampur rail line has also been entrusted to the IRCON; and

(e) if so, the quantum of funds being allocated for this work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Statement is enclosed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

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

Statement

The detail of the works completed by IRCON International Ltd. during the last two years i.e. 2001-02 and 2002-03 is as under

S.No.	Name of Project	Client Name	Date of Award	Amount (Rs. in Million)	Date of Completion
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Projects completed from 01.04.2001 to 31.03.2002.					
1.	Construction of ROB across Sealdah-Baruipur section of Eastern Railway	CMDA	23.08.99	22.00	July, 2001

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Bituminous Works on E.M. Bye Pass from P.C. Connector and R.B. Connector for CMDA Calcutta	CMDA	19.3.2001	46.50	Jan., 2001
3.	Construction of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry College Campus at Salesih, Aizawal in Mizoram	Central Agricultural University Iroemba Manipur	31.01.97	249.80	Jan., 2001
4.	Construction of road over bridge at Sonarpur for Eastern Railway	Eastern Railway	27.01.2000	10.50	July, 2001
5.	OFC Indoor work in Vishakhapatnam-Khurda road section	CORE, Allahabad	11.01.99	63.00	July, 2001
6.	Reconstruction of Bay No. 1&2 and strengthening of non load bearing area of Bay No. 10, 13, 15 & 16 at NSCBI Airport Calcutta for Airport Authority of India.	Airport Authority of India	10.07.98	42.00	Aug., 2001
7.	Construction of Maternity Hospital-cum-Clinic and Health Administrative Units under IPP-VIII at different locations around Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority for CNDA.	CMDA	23.04.99	82.00	Aug., 2001
8.	Construction of 4 No. Road Over Bridges near Tiruchirapalli for Southern Railway	Southern Railway	31.05.99	27.00	Aug., 2001
9.	Execution of superstructure with PSC Box Girders over already completed substructure for section 'G' H&J for MRTS Phase-II Tirumalai (LUZ) Velacheri.	MTP Railway Chennai	30.07.99	149.40	Aug., 2001
10.	25 KV AC Electrification of Sirhind-Nangal Una Section (Gr. 87B) for CORE Allahabad	CORE Allahabad	05.05.98	87.50	Aug., 2001
11.	OFC Indoor work in Bokaro Hatia Section for CORE/ Allahabad and RE/Ranchi	CORE Allahabad	12.12.97	22.80	Aug., 2001
12.	Extension of Runway at Bhubaneswar Airport	Airport Authority of India Bhubaneswar	04.12.96	80.00	Oct., 2001

1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	Sector Development Project, Noida	Noida	23.06.98	275.00	Jan., 2002
14.	Construction/Reconstruction of 4 No. bridges on Turnkey basis in Cuddalore	Tamilnadu Agricultural Development SCRDS	25.02.99	188.82	Jan., 2002
15.	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources at IARI, Pusa, New Delhi	NBPGR	10.09.96	30.60	Mar., 2002
16.	MGR for Mejia Thermal Power Project at Durlavpur	Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC)	18.11.88	1079.90	Mar., 2002
2.	Project completed from 01.04.2002 to 31.03.2003.				
1.	Rail-cum-Road Bridge over River Gandak	N.E. Railway	13.01.98	102.60	May, 2002
2.	Road over Bridge in Maharashtra Phase-I	MSRDC	Feb., 98	900.00	May, 2002
3.	ROB at Fatuha for Eastern Railway (Bridge portion & approaches)	Eastern Railway	Sept., 98	82.00	May, 2002
4.	Mechanised Coal handling facilities at Paradip Port	Paradip Port	02.08.97	335.00	June, 2002
5.	Further extension of container terminal at Bharati Dock for Chennai Port Trust	Chennai Port Trust	24.10.98	53.40	July, 2002
6.	Construction of RCC Box under Railway embankment at Kharda	Irrigation & Waterways directorate, West Bengal	01.12.00	13.90	Aug., 2002
7.	ROBs over railway lines on Deferred Payment-Phase II	MSRDC	01.03.97	850.00	Sept., 2002
8.	Flyover for outer Ring Road at White field Ring Road	Bangalore Development Authority	24.11.00	61.00	Sept., 2002
9.	Construction of outer Ring Road between Magadi Road and Tumkur Road at Bangalore	Bangalore Development Authority	27.01.01	246.40	Nov., 2002
10.	National Agricultural Science Centre Complex at IARI, Pusa New Delhi	ICAR	09.06.95	520.70	Jan. 2003

1	2	3	4	5	6
11.	Fatuha-Islampur BG railway line project for Eastern Railway	Eastern Railway	12.10.98	344.10	Jan, 2003
12.	Construction of Cable Stayed Bridge and approaches at Bangalore	Chief Admn. Officer, Southern Railway	15.08.98	396.70	Jan., 2003
13.	Land Development Work at New Town, Rajarhat (Contract-I)	West Bengal Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd.	12.11.99	457.20	Mar., 2003
14.	400 KV PGCIL Sub-Station work at MAPUSA, Goa	PGCIL	16.03.01	332.10	Mar., 2003
15.	Sub-station for ACFRM at LATTAKIA, Syria	Arabian company for Rolling Mill Project	12.03.02	48.90	June, 2002

Losses to Bihar and Jharkhand SEBs

3200. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the annual losses being suffered by the State Electricity Boards of Bihar and Jharkhand at present;

(b) the electricity consumption in the said States at present and quantum of electricity being generated by them from their own resources;

(c) the areas from which shortfall of electricity in the State is met; and

(d) the efforts being made by the above State Government to become self sufficient in power generation and the contribution of the Union Government in it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The commercial losses of the State-Electricity Boards of Bihar and Jharkhand and present consumption of power in these States are given as under:

Sl.No.	Issues	Bihar	Jharkhand		
1	2	3	4		
1.	Commercial Losses during the year 2001-02 (Annual Plan) of undivided Bihar State Electricity Board	Rs. 753 crore without subsidy			
2.	Consumption of electricity during April to July, 2003	States own generation and percentage of total consumption	Total consumption	States own generation and percentage of total consumption	Total consumption

1	2	3	4	
		186 MU (10.08%)	1844 MU 905 MU (92.15%)	982 MU
3.	<p>The remaining energy was made available from State's share in the Central sector generating stations and Chukha Hydel Project of Bhutan. Presently, the total allocation of power to Bihar and Jharkhand from the Central generating stations and Chukha HEP is about 879 MW and 123 MW respectively.</p> <p>Jharkhand has a capacity addition programme of 210 MW in the State Sector. Capacity addition of 120 MW in Jharkhand and 135 MW in Bihar is proposed in private sector also. Both of the States are entitled to their shares in the Central Sector projects being implemented.</p>			

Confirmation of Railway Reservation

3201. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure adopted by the Government to scrutinize the letters bearing forged signatures of the Members of Parliament for confirmation of Railways reservations;

(b) whether such letters bearing bogus signatures of the Members of Parliament have been detected during the last three years, till date; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) The requests for allotment of reservation quota are received by the Railways from various sources including Members of Parliament and the same are dealt with on day-to-day basis. Railways do not have any system to check the genuineness of the letters received from Members of Parliament for confirmation of reservation. However, in case of any doubt in specific cases, the genuineness of the requests is verified. No statistics are maintained.

[English]

Cleaning of Coaches

3202. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railway coaches of mail and express trains are not being cleaned both from inside and outside;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to keep the railway coaches neat and clean?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Coaches of all trains are cleaned from inside as well as outside at the maintenance depots prior to commencement of out-ward and return journeys.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Railway have taken the following steps to ensure quality of cleanliness & upkeep of coaches:

(i) Regular washing with water & detergent for exteriors at terminals.

(ii) Regular cleaning of interiors at terminals.

(iii) Regular disinfection of coaches through specialized pest control agencies.

(iv) Monthly intensive cleaning of coaches at base dept.

(v) Use of improved cleaning agents and provision of proper kits for cleaning staff.

(vi) Use of high pressure jet cleaning plants at base depots and mobile jet plants at enroute stations for quick and effective cleaning.

(vii) Deployment of travelling safaiwalas for enroute cleaning services in nominated trains. Checks

and super checks are also conducted from time to time by senior officers/supervisors and shortcomings noticed are rectified.

Mega Power Projects by NTPC

3203. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NTPC propose to set up mega power projects in some States where private sector have withdrawn their projects;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether private power producers have found it tough running power plants due to huge arrears in some States; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government on such action of the private power producers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The following mega power projects are presently scheduled for execution by NTPC:

Sl.No.	Project & Capacity	Location
1.	Talcher STPP Stage-II (4x500 MW)	Orissa
2.	Rihand STPP Stage-II (2x500 MW)	Uttar Pradesh
3.	Vindhyachal STPP Stage-III (2x500 MW)	Madhya Pradesh
4.	Sipat STPP, Stage-I & II (2980 MW)	Chhattisgarh
5.	Barh STPP, (1980 MW)	Bihar
6.	North Karanpura STPP, (1980 MW)	Jharkhand

(c) and (d) The promoters of some of the Private Sector power projects have informed about payment related problems being faced by them with the concerned State Electricity Boards (SEBs). The Government have also taken up the issue with the concerned SEBs etc. or settlement of the issues so that it would facilitate the promoters for setting up such more power projects.

Axle Load and Speed of Freight Trains

3204. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the axle load and average speed of the freight trains in the country in comparison with the other countries;

(b) whether the Government are considering to increase the speed and axle load of freight trains; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and likely cost saving thereafter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The maximum standard axle load of freight stock in the country

is 20.32t for Broad Gauge (BG) and 12.2t for Metre Gauge (MT). BOXNHA wagons are designed for axle load of 22.1t but are being used at axle load of 20.82t due to limitation of track structure on Indian Railways. There are few BG wagons designed for axle load of 22.9t but their use is restricted on certain specified sections in Eastern India. Maximum permissible axle loads in other countries like Australia, Canada, China, South Africa and USA vary from 25t to 35.6t. The following table provides an international comparison regarding maximum permissible axle loads:

Country	Maximum permissible axle load (Tonnes) approx.
India	20.32t*
Australia	35.0t
Canada	32.5t
China	25.0t
South Africa	26.0t
USA	35.6t

*22.9 tonnes on certain specific sections.

The maximum permissible speed of freight trains on Indian Railways is 100 kilometres per hour (kmph) for BG and 50 kmph for MG. The average speed of freight trains on Indian Railways is 24.4 kmph for BG and 18.4 kmph for MG. The average speed of trains on Russian Railways is 38.7 kmph. For other Railway systems, authentic information is not available.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. At present there is no plan to increase maximum permissible speed and axle load of freight trains on Indian Railways. However, in order to improve the average speed of the freight trains, a number of steps have been/are being taken, such as, better design of wagons, introduction of high capacity locomotives, improvement in track and signalling system etc.

Transfer of LPG Customers from IOCL to BPCL

3205. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have directed transfer of customers from IOCL LPG distributor to BPCL LPG distributor at various places in the country;

(b) if so, the present status of transferring customers;

(c) whether the matter is being delayed by some officials of IOCL;

(d) if so, action taken by the Government against those officials for such non-compliance of orders; and

(e) the time by which the process is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (e) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has reported that transfer of customers from their LPG distributors to the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) distributors have been effected as per the Government guidelines in all cases except where the court had given a stay against the transfer of customers on the basis of Writ Petition filed by distributors.

Retail Outlets by Private Sector Oil Companies

3206. DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) whether Private Sector Oil Companies are not following the conditions laid by the Government regarding opening of Retail Outlets in remote/low service areas of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government against these private sector companies and to ensure the opening of agencies/retail outlets as prescribed quota in the remote/low service areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Government have advised Private Sector Oil Companies namely—M/s. Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and M/s. Essar Oil Limited (EOL) while granting authorisation to market transportation fuels, to set up atleast 10.9% of total retail Outlets to be set up by them, in remote and low service areas. So far these companies have not commissioned any Retail Outlet in the country.

[Translation]

Collection and Distribution of News

3207. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of organisations engaged in the collection and distribution of news and write-ups in the country;

(b) the number out of them having recognition of the Union Government;

(c) the quantum of grants/fees/loans provided to them during last three years and till date; and

(d) the norms fixed for recognising them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Press Information Bureau (PIB) grants accreditation, according to prescribed rules to correspondents and cameramen/photographers of organisations engaged in collection and distribution of news. As on date, the total number of such organisations on the records of PIB is 42.

(c) An amount of Rs. 21,61,330 and Rs. 11,25,609 during the year 2000 and 2001, respectively, was provided

as grant by this Ministry to the Press Trust of India for reimbursement of expenses in respect of their London Bureau, Satellite Channel and Staff cost. No loan has been given to news agencies during the last three years. Fees is a commercial transaction between subscriber and service provider of which no record is maintained by Government.

(d) PIB grants accreditation to representatives of news media organizations including news agencies at the Headquarters of the Government of India as per 'The Central News Media Accreditation Rules, 1999'.

[English]

Solar Energy in Karnataka

3208. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of users of Solar Energy in Karnataka;

(b) whether the Government are giving subsidy to Schools, Hostels, Hospitals, Colleges and voluntary organizations for the installation of Solar Energy Equipments;

(c) if so, the amount of subsidy released to Karnataka during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003;

(d) whether the Government propose to launch a special programme to promote Solar Energy in Karnataka especially in Bellary; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) It is estimated that more than 60,000 families in Karnataka are using solar energy systems such as solar water heating systems, solar home systems, solar lanterns, solar pumps, solar cookers and solar power plants for meeting their hot water, lighting, water pumping and other requirements.

(b) and (c) The solar energy programmes in Karnataka are being implemented by the Karnataka

Renewable Energy Development Limited (KREDL), Bangalore, the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and a few banks. The Ministry is providing financial assistance for the installation of solar home systems, street lighting systems, solar pumps, power plants, dish type and community type solar cookers to individuals and non-profit organizations, which include schools, hostels, hospitals, colleges & voluntary organizations. Soft loan assistance is available for installation of solar water heating systems through IREDA and a few banks.

The Ministry released financial assistance of Rs. 115.15 lakhs and Rs. 125.45 lakhs for installation of solar energy systems in Karnataka during 2001-02 and 2002-03 respectively.

(d) and (e) KREDL has proposed installation of 10,000 solar home systems, 1,000 solar street lighting system, 100 solar pumps, 50 nos. of dish type solar cookers, 8 SPV power plants of 175 kWp aggregate capacity and electrification of 50 remote villages in the state through solar energy systems under 2003-04 programme. No special programme is proposed for Bellary district. KREDL is also organizing exhibitions on solar lighting systems, solar pumps, solar cookers and solar water heaters all over the state.

[Translation]

Allocation of Power from Central Pool

3209. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allocated power/ electricity to various States from the Central pool during the last three years; and

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

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

(b) State-wise details of entitlement vis-a-vis actual drawal from Central Generating Stations by various States/ UTs during 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement*Entitlement/Schedule/drawal from Central Sector Generating Stations for the years 2000-01 to 2002-03*

(Fig in MU)

State/Region	2000-01		2001-02		2002-03				
					Pre-ABT Period April-November, 2002		Post-ABT Period December, 2002-March, 2003		
	Entl.	Drawal	Entl.	Drawal	Entl.	Drawal	Entl.	Schedule	Drawal
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Northern Region									
Chandigarh	430.2	453.2	515.4	443.2	376.2	322.2	336.9	312.5	329.7
Delhi	11464.6	10020	11504.8	10443	7389.3	7223.3	3993.6	3451.4	2900.5
Haryana	6574.1	7524.4	5763.1	6547.7	4535.7	5043.5	2480.5	2413.7	2968.5
Himachal Pradesh	1504.6	1635.6	1838.8	1680.1	1026	1055.5	794.3	733.4	916.3
Jammu and Kashmir	4269.6	4717.6	4898.2	5045	3458.7	3768.5	1969.1	1930.8	2044.9
Punjab	7069	6727	7065.2	6690.8	5853.1	5537.9	3182.1	3079.3	2822.1
Rajasthan	8361	10404.9	9356.8	10126.1	6076.3	6336.2	3667.5	3515.9	3336.6
Uttar Pradesh	17325.2	18516.5	18903.5	18690.7	10352.1	9842.6	6047.5	5543.9	5329.7
Uttaranchal	1135.8	1053.9	782.3	708.5	533.2
N.R.	57999.2	57999.2	59666.6	59666.6	40003.8	40003.8	23233.8	21667.4	21161.5
Western Region									
					April-June, 2002		July, 002-March, 2003		
Chhattisgarh	0	0	3330.9	667.8	414.3	481.2	2549.8	2006.25	1379.6
Gujarat	12688.7	13181	13295.3	14407.2	3326.4	3426.3	9311.9	9841.3	9706.1
Madhya Pradesh	12335.6	12263.8	8708.9	10844	2524.9	2439.9	8473.9	6963.2	9128.2
Maharashtra	14155.2	14281.7	15421.9	15099.4	3754.4	3746.9	12448.3	12944.8	13986.1
Goa	1296	749	1666.4	1205	473.1	396.8	1415	950.1	746.1
DD	"	"	"	"	"	"	732.1	725.3	713
DNH	"	"	"	"	"	"	1179.5	1163.4	1179.3
W.R.	44475.5	40475.5	42443.4	42443.4	10493.1	10493.1	36110.5	36194.35	36641.5
Southern Region									
					April-December, 2002		January, 2003-March, 2003		
Andhra Pradesh	8272.5	8249.6	8317.8	8083.3	5449.3	4760.1	2034.9	1850.5	1367.5
Karnataka	5823	6054	5876	6472.2	4776.8	5479.1	2152.6	2118.1	2469.9
Kerala	3142.2	3244.4	3173.6	3363.8	2665.6	2822.8	1262.7	1060	1296

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Tamil Nadu	10364.2	10125.2	10168.9	9742.9	6865.5	6882.4	2691.6	2687.8	2979.2
Goa	518.2	544.9	704.7	568.8	582.4	462	190.7	190.7	146.8
Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	963.2	676.3	363.7	392.1	357.6
S.R.	262201.1	26220.1	28241	28241	21302.8	21302.8	6696.2	8499	8636
Eastern Region	April, 2002—March, 2003								
Bihar	4968.7	5502.1	4727.8	6258.5	4551.6	5640.2			
D.V.C.	1476.1	1296.4	113.6	1380.2	1114.5	539.9			
Jharkhand	\$	\$	\$	\$	80.7	255.8			
Orissa	3358	2354.6	3548.7	609.1	3480.5	3688.4			
West Bengal	4061.8	2675.4	3475.9	2732	3416.7	1166.5			
Sikkim	351.4	78.6	186.1	71.8	147.4	75.4			
Madhya Pradesh	1468.4	2100.9	1624.8	2024.2	2136.7	2133.7			
Gujarat	259.7	370.5	287.7	358.7	353.9	362.3			
Kerala	234	356.8	386.4	590.9	722.4	797.2			
Tamil Nadu	444.6	675.6	686.7	923.1	798.9	1128.4			
Pondicherry	#	#	#	#	59.4	91.8			
Karnataka	427.5	653.9	633.5	864	835	1685.6			
Uttar Pradesh	293.2	455.4	454.8	615.3	402.4	343			
Andhra Pradesh	861.3	1325	1280.3	1721.6	1232.5	1148.1			
Assam	326	483.8	659.3	655.8	739.5	914.7			
Haryana	0	0	115.7	132.6	82.2	78.1			
Chandigarh	0	0	64.7	97.3	116.8	96.4			
Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	46.5	49.7	114	95.6			
Rajasthan	0	0	65.9	70.4	112.8	94.3			
Himachal Pradesh	0	0	37.9	33.1	114.3	95.9			
E.R.	18640.7	18640.7	19396.3	19396.3	20611.2	20611.2			
N.-Eastern Region	April, 2002—March, 2003								
Arunachal Pradesh	206.7	106.5	226.4	113	224.4	139.5			
Assam	1360.2	1718.9	1432.6	1760.9	1594.2	1590.5			
Manipur	437.2	449.6	464.1	436.3	414.1	479.5			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Meghalaya	260.5	43	269.5	135.3	342.5	369.6		
Mizoram	211.4	243.3	228.4	264.5	237.2	279.1		
Nagaland	241	227.1	264	252.9	280.3	283.6		
Tripura	354.5	270.9	269.4	311.5	395.5	340.4		
N.E.R.	3061.5	3061.5	3274.4	3274.4	3488.2	3488.2		

*In pre-ABT period the figure of Uttaranchal are included in U.P.

**In pre-ABT period the figures of DD and DNH are included in Gujarat.

\$Jharkhand is included in Bihar.

#Pondicherry is included in Tamil Nadu.

[English]

Safety of Railway Property

3210. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has sought active cooperation of the State Governments in protecting its property and tracks from the dangers posed by militants and others who might target them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps taken by the Government to protect the railway property and safety of Passengers?

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

(b) At a very high level meeting between the State Govts., Intelligence Agencies and RPF, the need for advance. Intelligence was emphasized. It has been decided that "actionable intelligence" will be shared by the State Governments and Intelligence Agencies with RPF (Railways) for necessary preventive action. This has been further followed up with States' DGPs and Chief Secretaries. Minister of Railways has also addressed to the Chief Ministers of concerned States for their cooperation in ensuring safety of the Railway system.

(c) In each Division of the Zonal Railways, Committees have been formed to identify sections under threat, in consultation with State Police, and introduce security patrolling of the tracks—as State Governments are not in a position to take this preventive measure.

The State Government have been sensitized further, after the North Bihar incidents on 15.7.2003. Two Bills have been placed before the Parliament to suitably Amend the RPF Act and the Railways Act, so that investigation and prosecution of day-to-day hindrances faced by the Railways and passengers are dealt with by RPF. This will enable GRP to focus on serious offences. This authority, once vested in RPF, will also make RPF more effective in playing a role in the areas of securing passengers and passenger areas, in addition to securing of Railway property.

[Translation]

Procurement of Second Hand Aircraft

3211. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI;
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA:
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:
SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the second hand/decommissioned MIG-21 fighter aircraft have been purchased by the Government from Russia and other CIS countries;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the names of the countries from where these were purchased;

(c) the reasons for procurement of second hand/decommissioned MIG-21 fighter aircraft;

(d) the cost of the second hand MIG-21 aircraft as well as the cost of new fighter plane;

(e) whether the MiG-21 aircraft that crashed in Srinagar recently was a second hand aircraft; and

(f) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Second hand/decommissioned MiG-21 fighter aircraft have not been purchased by the Government. However, second hand MiG-21 trainers have been purchased to meet the urgent training requirements.

(b) 19 second hand MiG-21 trainers were procured from Kyrgyzstan and 8 from Ukraine.

(c) As new Mig-21 trainer aircraft are not available in the global market, being out of production, induction of second hand MiG-21 trainer has been resorted to meet the training requirements of the Indian Air Force.

(d) The cost of second hand MiG-21 trainer is approximately Rs. 2.5 crores and the cost of a new fighter aircraft in the air superiority class is approximately Rs. 190 crores.

(e) and (f) The aircraft which crashed in Srinagar recently was a second hand trainer aircraft, bought from Kyrgyzstan and was last overhauled in HAL in March, 1999.

[English]

COCO Pumps

3212. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Company-Owned Company Operate (COCO) petrol pumps running in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have received any complaints from any of the State where COCO petrol pumps have been captured by mafia's in connivance with the officials; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and action proposes to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) As on 31.7.2003, there were, 1,076 company-owned, company-operated (COCO) retail outlets (petrol pumps), run by the public sector oil companies, in operation in the country.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. No specific complaint has been received regarding capture of COCO retail outlets by any mafia in connivance with the officials of the oil companies.

Inclusion of Castes in SCs List

3213. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:
SHRI SOHAN POTAI:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of requests/proposals received from various State Governments/UT administrations for inclusion of certain caste in the list of Scheduled Castes during the last three years, till date, State-wise, UT-wise; and

(b) the present status of those requests/proposals, State-wise/UT-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) and (b) 82 proposals regarding inclusion of certain castes in the list of Scheduled Castes have been received from various State Governments and Union Territory Administrations during last three years and till date. The State/Union Territory-wise number of said proposals received and their current status is mentioned in the Statement enclosed. Out of 82 proposals, one proposal of Government of Punjab has been included in the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950. Remaining proposals are in different stages of processing as per approved modalities. The proposals are required to be processed in consultation with various agencies, therefore, no timeframe can be assigned for finalizing these proposals.

Statement

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Present status of proposals			
		Total Proposals	Referred to RGI	Referred to NCSCST	Included in the SC list
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Chandigarh (UT)	2	0	2	0
2.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli (UT)	1	0	1	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	NCT of Delhi	1	0	1	0
4.	Gujarat	3	0	3	0
5.	Haryana	4	0	4	0
6.	Himachal Pradesh	2	1	1	0
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	3	0	3	0
8.	Karnataka	5	0	5	0
9.	Kerala	8	6	2	0
10.	Madhya Pradesh	9	5	4	0
11.	Maharashtra	4	0	4	0
12.	Manipur	1	0	1	0
13.	Orissa	30	21	9	0
14.	Punjab	1	0	0	1
15.	Tripura	3	0	3	0
16.	Uttar Pradesh	1	1	0	0
17.	Uttaranchal	3	3	0	0
18.	West Bengal	1	1	0	0
Total		82	38	43	1

Earnings from Freight and Passenger Fare

3214. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRIMATI KUMUDINI PATNAIK:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the targets set and achieved in regard to revenue earnings from passenger fare and freight during the years 2002-2003 and till July 2003;

(b) the Revenue collected by the Railways through fare and freight during the above period, zone-wise;

(c) the liability of the Railways during the said period, zone-wise;

(d) whether the liability has outstripped the revenue created;

(e) if so, whether the Government are considering to take some innovative measures to create revenue in order to bridge this gap;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the percentage of the railway income from freight and fares earmarked for the security measures and passengers amenities during each of the last three years, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The targets set and achieved during 2002-2003 and till July 2003 in respect of revenue earnings from passenger fares and freight are as under;

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Passenger		Freight	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
2002-03	12730.00	12575.44	26658.00	26504.82
2003-04	13620.00	4296.29 (upto July Approximate)	27815.00	8201.85 (upto July Approximate)

(b) Revenue collected by the Railways through fare and freight during 2002-2003 and till July 2003 are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Railway	Passenger		Freight	
	2002-03	2003-04 (upto July Approximate)	2002-03	2003-04 (upto July Approximate)
Central	2621.65	589.26	4244.96	717.64
Eastern	1151.44	268.86	2793.88	209.92
East Central*	—	248.00	—	786.87
East Coast*	—	82.97	—	905.28
Northern	2380.43	640.38	4240.67	568.82
North Central*	—	262.10	—	458.51
North Eastern	713.02	172.71	536.56	123.56
North East Frontier	267.27	102.02	618.57	198.41
North Western*	—	152.96	—	235.86
Southern	1344.63	372.94	1271.91	386.01
South Central	1207.03	376.32	2693.26	710.34
South Eastern	868.58	136.26	6870.27	698.34
South East Central*	—	70.99	—	787.95
South Western*	—	129.91	—	219.25
Western	1986.74	519.89	3234.74	639.94
West Central*	—	158.57	—	555.15
Metro	34.65	12.15	0.00	0.00
Total	12575.44	4296.29	26504.82	8201.85

(c) Zone-wise Ordinary Working Expenses during 2002-03 and till July 2003 are as under:

Railway	Ordinary Working Expenses	
	2002-03	2003-04 upto July (Approximate)
1	2	3
Central	4681.11	1060.63

1	2	3
Eastern	3818.75	830.71
East Central*	—	580.93
East Coast*	—	358.04
Northern	4827.52	1192.05
North Central*	—	460.69
North Eastern	1591.56	318.98

1	2	3
North East Frontier	1178.70	381.68
North Western*	—	368.95
Southern	2568.84	804.70
South Central	2834.96	865.63
South Eastern	4523.64	873.14
South East Central*	—	309.80
South Western*	—	176.84
Western	3570.99	880.28
West Central*	—	371.01
Metro	88.27	28.99
Total	29684.34	9863.05

*Note: Accountal of earnings and expenditure in respect of seven new zones are being separately maintained w.e.f. 1.4.2003.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

(g) All the Railways' earnings are deposited into the Consolidated Fund of India. No fixed annual percentage are earmarked for the security measures and passenger amenities out of Railway income from freight and fare. However, expenditure on RPF/RPSF/Order Police is met from revenues as part of working expenses under Demand 12 and major expenditure under "Passenger Amenities" is met from Railways Plan outlay in addition to expenditure incurred from revenue for repairs and maintenance.

Old Rail Engines

3215. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of engines in the Railways along with the number of such engines which are still being plied despite their life-span is over;

(b) whether the Government propose to immediately replace these engines in view of the fear of accidents by plying such engines;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) the amount likely to be spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) On Indian Railways, 33 Steam, 4835 Diesel and 2958 Electric locomotives are working. Out of which 33 Steam, 301 Diesel and 18 MG Electric locomotives are working beyond their codal life.

(b) and (c) Main line broad gauge overaged locos are likely to be replaced by the end of 10th five-year Plan. However, the steam locos are not being replaced for heritage reasons and MG locos are not being replaced in view of ongoing broad gauge conversion. However, it is ensured that all locomotives, irrespective of age, are kept in good mechanical fettle to ensure safety of train operations.

(d) The amount likely to be spent is approx. Rs. 884 crores for replacing main line Broad Gauge Diesel locos.

[Translation]

Computerisation of Air Kendras

3216. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to computerize the Akashvani Kendras to enable them to perform better;

(b) if so, the details of the estimated expenses likely to be incurred in each such Kendra; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of the proposed expenses likely to be incurred on each of the Kendras/offices are as follows:

(i) Zonal Office—Rs. 70.00 lakhs.

(ii) Big Station—Rs. 3.00 lakhs.

(iii) Small Station—Rs. 1.5 lakhs.

(c) The proposal is expected to be finalized within a year.

*[English]***Amount Spent by DAVP on Advertisements**

3217. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of percentage and the amount spent by DAVP on advertisements during the period from April 1, 1999 to March 31, 2003, language-wise;

(b) the details of criteria for getting DAVP advertisements; and

(c) the number of newspapers of North-Eastern States are favoured with DAVP advertisements, language-wise State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) The details of percentage and the amount committed by DAVP on advertisements during the period from April 1, 1999 to March 31, 2003, language-wise are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) For getting DAVP advertisements, the newspapers and periodicals have to be empanelled with DAVP, fulfilling norms prescribed as per the Advertising Policy of the Government of India and Guidelines for Empanelment of Newspapers with DAVP.

(c) The number of newspapers of North Eastern States in which DAVP advertisements were released, language-wise and State-wise is given in the statement-II enclosed.

Statement I**Details of Percentage and the Amount Committed by DAVP on Advertisements during 1st April, 1999 to 31st March, 2000**

S.No.	Language	Percentage of Amount	Amount in Rs.
1	2	3	4
1.	English	45.03	365301023
2.	Hindi	29.48	239139546
3.	Urdu	2.94	23875821
4.	Punjabi	1.64	13314959

1	2	3	4
5.	Marathi	4.16	33725998
6.	Gujarat	3.73	30246669
7.	Sindhi	0.12	952026
8.	Assamese	0.38	3089525
9.	Bengali	4.13	33490076
10.	Oriya	1.45	11803940
11.	Tamil	1.88	15249856
12.	Telugu	0.87	7065318
13.	Malayalam	2.47	20076387
14.	Kannada	1.59	12918192
15.	Sanskrit	0.01	62325
16.	Nepali	0.04	333102
17.	Mizo	0.07	602811
18.	Khasi	0.01	58373
19.	Konkani	0.00	8196
Total		100.00	811314143

Details of Percentage and the Amount Committed by DAVP on Advertisements during 1st April, 2000 to 31st March, 2001

S.No.	Language	Percentage of Amount	Amount in Rs.
1	2	3	4
1.	English	47.25	349104175
2.	Hindi	28.04	207136419
3.	Urdu	2.65	19547760
4.	Punjabi	1.51	11191343
5.	Marathi	3.97	29311752
6.	Gujarati	3.48	25721667
7.	Sindhi	0.11	824761
8.	Assamese	0.31	2285241
9.	Bengali	4.48	33131796
10.	Oriya	1.30	9635101

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
11.	Tamil	1.85	13661079	17.	Mizo	0.07	495856
12.	Telugu	0.98	7224846	18.	Khasi	0.01	55888
13.	Malayalam	2.34	17259402	19.	Konkani	0.00	5178
14.	Kannada	1.62	11960353	20.	Manipuri	0.00	3066
15.	Sanskrit	0.00	7105				
16.	Nepali	0.03	242710		Total	100.00	738805298

Statement-II

Number of Newspapers of North Eastern States, Language-wise to whom DAVP Advertisements were issued during 1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003,

S.No.	Language	No. of Publications			
		1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
1	2	3	4	5	6
Language: ENGLISH					
1.	Assam	13	10	9	9
2.	Manipur	2	2	2	1
3.	Meghalaya	2	2	2	2
4.	Sikkim	1	1	—	—
5.	Tripura	2	3	3	2
6.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	1	1	—
7.	Nagaland	—	—	—	1
Language: HINDI					
8.	Assam	39	28	21	23
Language: BENGALI					
9.	Tripura	21	11	10	8
Language: NEPALI					
10.	Sikkim	2	2	3	4
Language: MIZO					
11.	Manipur	1	1	1	1
12.	Mizoram	1	—	—	1

1	2	3	4	5	6
Language: KHASI					
13.	Meghalaya	2	2	1	1
Language: MANIPURI					
14.	Manipur	—	1	2	2
Total		88	64	55	55

Details of Percentage and the Amount Committed by DAVP on Advertisements during 1st April, 2001 to 31st March, 2002

S.No.	Language	Percentage of Amount	Amount in Rs.
1.	English	50.62	448597844
2.	Hindi	26.96	238936376
3.	Urdu	2.01	17852923
4.	Punjabi	1.31	11628998
5.	Marathi	3.61	31994013
6.	Gujarati	3.25	28774349
7.	Sindhi	0.10	880288
8.	Assamese	0.34	2998489
9.	Bengali	4.10	36312899
10.	Oriya	1.33	11813068
11.	Tamil	1.61	14304425
12.	Telugu	0.94	8292852
13.	Malayalam	2.54	22515101
14.	Kannada	1.17	10390164
15.	Sanskrit	0.00	11529
16.	Nepali	0.02	201601
17.	Mizo	0.06	529314
18.	Khasi	0.00	29351
19.	Konkani	0.00	3451
20.	Manipuri	0.02	189341
Total		100.00	886256376

Details of Percentage and the Amount Committed by DAVP on Advertisements during 1st April, 2002 to 31st March, 2003

S.No.	Language	Percentage of Amount	Amount in Rs.
1.	English	47.56	476287064
2.	Hindi	28.74	287752047
3.	Urdu	2.52	25258183
4.	Punjabi	1.36	13624807
5.	Marathi	3.70	37012223
6.	Gujarati	3.48	34896961
7.	Sindhi	0.12	1245155
8.	Assamese	0.36	3602999
9.	Bengali	4.52	45273382
10.	Oriya	1.44	14463596
11.	Tamil	1.72	17228958
12.	Telugu	0.97	9730259
13.	Malayalam	2.14	21458414
14.	Kannada	1.17	11729360
15.	Sanskrit	0.01	62497
16.	Nepali	0.04	371152
17.	Mizo	0.09	924635
18.	Khasi	0.00	5968
19.	Konkani	0.00	2734
20.	Manipuri	0.05	464432
Total		100.00	1001394826

[*Translation*]

School/Hostel for SCs

3218. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a voluntary organization named Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Sikshan Sansthan, Mungeli, District Bilaspur working for the scheduled castes people in Chhattisgarh State had sent an action plan (project) relating to construction of a residential school for boys and girls students, a hostel and other works to the Union Government alongwith the recommendation of the State Government;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon and also the shortcoming found in the said project;

(c) the reasons for delay in sanctioning the said project; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be accorded sanction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL): (a) to (d) The proposal of the voluntary organization named Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Shikshan Sansthan, Mungeli, District Bilaspur has been received in this Ministry from Government of Chhattisgarh for opening of hostel and residential school. As per the details of recurring and non-recurring costs of the project proposed by the Organisation, the grant-in-aid has not been sought for construction of hostel and residential school and instead the provision for rent has been included in the proposal. The inspection report as received from Government of Chhattisgarh was not in the prescribed proforma, therefore, the State Government has been requested to furnish the inspection report in the prescribed proforma, which is awaited. The proposal of the said organization will be considered for sanction after the receipt of the report from State Government and subject to availability of funds for the year 2003-2004.

[*English*]

Supply of Latest Technology Helmet and Jacket

3219. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Helmet, Jacket and other items of pilots and other crew members of the Indian Air Force are outdated standards;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide latest technology helmet, jacket and other items?

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

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

(c) Only latest version as applicable to the aircraft is provided in consultation with Directorate-General of Aeronautical Quality Assurance (DGAQA)/Central for Military Air Worthiness and Certification (CEMILAC).

[*Translation*]

Action against Guilty Officials

3220. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers and staff against whom action has been taken as a result of the enquiry held on complaints received regarding poor and unsatisfactory state of cleanliness and sanitation at stations and in passenger trains;

(b) the zone-wise details thereof for the last three years;

(c) the outcomes so far of the action initiated during the last three years and the zone-wise details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government on the basis of the outcome?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (d) The complaints regarding cleanliness and sanitation at stations and in passenger trains are investigated and corrective action taken against the defaulter staff found negligent. The details of specific action taken are not separately maintained for this activity.

Various actions taken to improve sanitation on Railway stations and in trains include strengthening of

monitoring and supervision, introduction of Pay & Use scheme of toilets, emphasis on mechanized cleaning processes, provision of washable aprons and additional dustbins, regular removal of garbage, spraying of insecticides, repairs to drains, monthly intensive cleaning of coaches, use of high pressure jet cleaning plants at coaching depots and mobile jet cleaning machines at stations enroute, use of improved and eco-friendly cleaning agents, use of various media to educate the passengers & seeking their co-operation to keep Railway areas and trains clean, developing identified stations as 'Clean Train Station' to provide effective enroute cleaning of long distance trains etc.

[English]

Supply of Matching Metallic Detonators

3221. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the absence of Matching Metallic Detonators has rendered 1.91 lakh grenades useless, and grenades of the value of Rs. 8.94 crore have thereby accumulated at various Arms Depots;

(b) if so, whether Rs. 22.08 crores spent on their manufacture has thus gone waste;

(c) the reasons for non-supply of matching metallic detonators;

(d) whether any responsibility has been fixed for the short supply; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps are envisaged to prevent recurrence?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) A shortfall in supply of quality complaint metallic detonators resulting in rendition of 1.91 lakh grenades, valued at Rs. 8.94 Crores as unusable and an expenditure of Rs. 22.08 Crores incurred on production of 11.50 lakh defective detonators having become wasteful has been reported in para 9 of the Report No. 6 of 2003 (Defence Services) of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India.

In this regard it is stated that the grenades were supplied by the Ordnance Factories along with matching detonators which were as per the specifications and accepted by the Director General Quality Assurance. However, due to under performance of these detonators

in field conditions a ban on use of these detonators was imposed by the Army Headquarters. The grenades are upgraded as serviceable on association of detonators, therefore classifying such accumulation of grenades, as useless, is not correct.

Further based on trials, in consultation with the user directorate, production of detonators of 4 second delay has been approved with three years shelf life. The Ordnance Factories have already supplied 4 lakh and 3.25 lakh detonators of 4 second delay during the years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 respectively. The production of detonators of 7 second delay has not yet commenced pending clearance of the trials being carried out in consultation with the user directorate.

As regards 11.5 lakh detonators reported as defective/unserviceable in the report of the Comptroller Auditor General of India, it is stated that based on the revalidation trials only 3.13 lakh detonators (1.86 lakh of 4 second delay and 1.27 lakh of 7 second delay) were found unserviceable.

Since the grenades were initially supplied with matching detonators there is no question of holding anybody responsible for short supply of detonators.

[Translation]

Import of Machines to Check Bridges

3222. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to import special machines to examine the condition of worn out bridges with latest methods;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred on the import of ultra modern machines; and

(d) the time by which these machines are likely to be imported and made operative?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (d) In pursuance of the recommendations of Railway Safety Review Committee (RSRC), it is proposed to procure some mobile testing laboratories with state of Art Non-Destructive Testing Equipment for condition assessment of bridges. Initially, the equipments and Rail-cum-Road

laboratories, at an approximate cost of Rs. 12.7 crores, have been sanctioned in 2003-04. Some of the equipments, out of these, may get imported also. These equipments are likely to be procured in a years' time.

[English]

Supply of LNG to Public & Private Projects

3223. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms for supply of LNG to public & private projects;

(b) the number of applications received for supply of LNG by the Private Sector as on March 1, 2003, and are lying pending; and

(c) the present status of the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) has been placed under Open General Licence (OGL) with permission for 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). The prices and norms of supply of LNG will be market determined between the buyers and the sellers of LNG. Government does not regulate supply or prices of LNG.

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

(c) There is a large gap between the demand and supply of natural gas. At present, as against an allocation of 119 Million Standard Cubic Meters Per Day (MMSCMD) of natural gas, supply of natural gas is around 65 MMSCMD only.

Reserves of Oil and Gas in Madhya Pradesh

3224. DR. (MRS.) RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA:
SHRI ASHOK ARGAL:

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

(a) whether the reserves of Natural Gas and Oil have been found in Madhya Pradesh particularly in Sheopur and Shahdol districts recently;

(b) if so, whether any team has been sent by ONGC for conducting survey there; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the survey team and the details of the gas and oil reserves found there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. At present, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) does not hold any Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) in the areas falling in the districts of Sheopur and Shahdol of the State of Madhya Pradesh.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above. However, during 2002-03 and 2003-04 (upto 30.06.2003), 91 Ground Line Kilometre (GLK) of two dimensional (2D) seismic data has been acquired by ONGC in Delakheri-Chawalpani-Matkull-Rampur areas falling in the districts of Chhindwara, Betul and Hoshangabad in Madhya Pradesh.

Outlay Plan for Tamil Nadu

3225. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects pertaining to Heavy Industries as provided in the Ninth and Tenth Plan outlay for Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether the delicensing of non-strategic sector, the private sector is setting up heavy industries in areas more suitable to them, rather than socio-economic need, thus creating industrial imbalance in the country; and

(c) if so, the extent to which the Government proposes to remedy this situation?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE): (a) There are 5 PSEs/Units located in the State of Tamil Nadu which are under the administrative control of the Department of Heavy Industry. The schemes of these PSEs/Units broadly fall into the category of renewals, replacement, modernization and for improving productivity. The details of 9th & 10th Plan outlay in respect of these PSEs/Units are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) Consequent upon liberalization and delicensing of non-strategic sector, promoters take their own decision on location for setting up industries/units. Market forces are expected to take care of imbalances over a period of time.

Statement*Details of PSEs alongwith actual expenditure in 9th Plan and proposed outlay for 10th Plan*

S.No.	Public Sector Enterprises	9th Plan (Actual Expenditure)	10th Plan (Proposed outlay)
1.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)		
	(i) High Pressure Boiler Plant, Tiruchi.	226.60	70.00
	(ii) Seamless Steel Tube Plant, Tiruchi		
	(iii) Boiler Auxiliaries Plant, Ranipet.		
2.	Andrew Yule & Company Limited (AYCL) Transformer and Switchgear Unit, Salai Adyar	1.20	5.00
3.	Richardson & Cruddas Limited (R&C) R&C Unit Cassimode	0.71	0.62
4.	Burn Standard Company Limited (BSCL) BSCL Salem Works, Salem	29.22	1.50
5.	Hindustan Photo Films Mfg. Company Limited (HPF) HPF Unit-Ootacamund	8.72	10.00

Promotion of NCES

3226. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that conventional energy sources are depleting due to increasing use and population;

(b) if so, for promoting the non-conventional energy sources, whether the Government propose to increase

subsidies on the non-conventional energy sources; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government are aware that conventional energy resources are finite.

(b) and (c) The Ministry is providing Central Financial Assistance for promoting non-conventional energy, the details of which under various programme during 2003-04 are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement*Central Financial Assistance provided under Major Non-Conventional Energy Programmes during 2003-2004.*

S.No.	Name of Programme	Details of subsidies
1	2	3
1.	Family Type biogas plants	Rs. 1800 for general category; Rs. 2300/- for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, desert districts, small and marginal farmers, landless labourers, terai

1	2	3																																																			
		<p>region of Uttaranchal, Western Ghats and other notified hilly areas;</p> <p>Rs. 3500 for Jammu & Kashmir; Himachal Pradesh; Uttaranchal (excluding terai region); Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu; Sardar Kuroong and Kalimpong sub-divisions of Darjeeling district and Sundarbans in West Bengal; and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.</p> <p>Rs. 11,700 per plant for north Eastern States & Sikkim (except plain areas of Assam); and</p> <p>Rs. 9000 per plant for plain areas of Assam.</p>																																																			
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7.	Biomass Gasifier	
	a. Captive Usage for States	For Thermal Applications (upto 3MWth): Rs. 1.25 lakh/300 kWth
		For electrical/mechanical applications (upto 1MWe): Rs. 1.50 lakh/100 kWe
	Special category States and Islands (Other than UTs)	20% higher CFA of the above
	b. Village Electrification Project For States	60% of the basic package price of Rs. 15 lakh/50 kWe & Rs. 1.50 lakhs/50 kWe towards biomass collection/processing and 5 years AMC and Rs. 1,500/- per household for internal wiring as micro-credit.
	Special category States and Islands (Other than UTs)	90% of the basic package price of Rs. 15 lakh/50 kWe & Rs. 1.50 lakhs/50kWe towards biomass collection/processing and 5 years AMC and Rs. 1,500/-per household for internal wiring as micro-credit.
	c. Demonstration Project with 100% Producer Gas Engines for Power Production.	
	For State	Rs. 15.00 lakh/100 kWe for biomass gasifier with 100% producer gas engine and Rs. 10.00 lakh/100 kWe for 100% producer gas engine alone on pro-rata basis.
	Special category States and Islands (Other than UTs)	20% higher CFA of the above.
	d. Conversion of existing Diesel Power Plants in 11 special category States and all Islands	Rs. 10.00 lakh/100 kWe on pro-rata basis.
8.	Small Hydro Power Programme	
	Capital Subsidy for Govt. sector SHP projects	
	Upto 100 KW	(a) 90% of the project cost upto Rs. 60,000 per KW for N E Region, Sikkim, J&K, H.P. & Uttaranchal.
		(b) 60% of the project cost upto Rs. 40,000 per KW for Notified hilly regions of all other States & Islands.
		(c) 40% of the project cost upto Rs. 20,000 per KW for Plain & other regions of all other States.
	From 101 KW to 999 KW	(a) 90% of the project cost upto Rs. 60 lakhs plus Rs. 43,250/- per KW for N E Region, Sikkim, J&K, H.P. & Uttaranchal.
		(b) 60% of the project cost upto Rs. 40 lakhs plus Rs. 28,850/- per KW for Notified hilly regions of all other States & Islands.
		(c) 40% of the project cost upto Rs. 20 lakhs plus Rs. 14,425/- per KW for Plain & other regions of all other States

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From 1 MW to 25 MW	<p>(a) 90% of the project cost upto Rs. 4.5 crores plus Rs. 75 lakhs per MW for N E Region, Sikkim, J&K, H.P. & Uttaranchal.</p> <p>(b) 60% of the project cost upto Rs. 3.0 crores plus Rs. 50 lakhs per MW for Notified hilly regions of all other States & Islands.</p> <p>(c) 40% of the project cost upto Rs. 1.5 crores plus Rs. 25 lakhs per MW for Plain & other regions of all other States.</p>	
Subsidy for Commercial SHP projects Upto 100 KW	<p>(a) 45% of the project cost upto Rs. 30,000 per KW for N E Region, Sikkim, J&K, H.P. & Uttaranchal.</p> <p>(b) 30% of the project cost upto Rs. 20,000 per KW for Notified hilly regions of all other States & Islands.</p> <p>(c) 20% of the project cost upto Rs. 10,000 per KW for Plain & other regions of all other States.</p>	
From 101 KW to 999 KW	<p>(a) 45% of the project cost upto Rs. 30 lakhs plus Rs. 21,625/- per KW for N E Region, Sikkim, J&K, H.P. & Uttaranchal.</p> <p>(b) 30% of the project cost upto Rs. 20 lakhs plus Rs. 14,400/- per KW for Notified hilly regions of all other States & Islands.</p> <p>(c) 20% of the project cost upto Rs. 20 lakhs plus Rs. 7,200/- per KW for Plain & other regions of all other States.</p>	
From 1 MW to 25 MW	<p>(a) 45% of the project cost upto Rs. 2.25 crores plus Rs. 37.50 lakhs per MW for N E Region, Sikkim, J&K, H.P. & Uttaranchal.</p> <p>(b) 30% of the project cost upto Rs. 1.50 crores plus Rs. 25 lakhs per MW for Notified hilly regions of all other States & Islands.</p> <p>(c) 20% of the project cost upto Rs. 0.75 crores plus Rs. 1.25 lakhs per MW for Plain & other regions of all other States.</p>	
<p>9. Wind Power</p> <p>(i) Land based demonstration project</p> <p>(ii) Wind Hybrid Projects</p>	<p>Upto 60% of equipment cost with a ceiling of Rs. 3.5 crores per MW.</p> <p>Full cost of the equipment subject to a ceiling of Rs. 70 lakh per kW. In addition, up to 90% for laying new or upgrading/extension of existing lines for decentralized electrification in remote and difficult areas.</p>	

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10.	SPV Grid Interactive Power Plant	For States: Maximum upto Rs. 2 lakh/kWp For Special Category States and Islands (other than (UTs): Rs. 2.70 lakh/kWp.
11.	Biomass Power/Cogeneration Interest subsidy	
	a. Bagasse Cogeneration	
	Projects by Cooperative/Public/joint Sector Sugar Mills 60 bar and above (40 to 100 bars and above)	3%-6% (Floor rate applicable = 6%)
	Projects in IPP mode in cooperative/ public sector joint sugar mills (60 to 100 bar and above)	2%-4% (Floor rate applicable = 8%)
	Projects by private sugar mills (60 to 100 bar and above)	1%-3% (Floor rate applicable = 8%)
	b. Biomass Power	
	1. Commercial co-generation projects including captive power (60 to 80 bars and above)	2%-3% (Floor rate applicable = 8%)
	2. Commercial combustion projects including captive power (60 to 80 bars and above)	2%-3% (Interest Subsidy) (Floor rate applicable - 8%)
	3. Atmospheric Gasification including captive power.	2% (Floor rate applicable = 8%)
	4. Biomass Power/Cogeneration Projects: For all special category State, and Islands (Other than UTs)	Additional interest subsidy @ 2%. (Floor rate applicable = 6%)
12.	Power from urban & Industrial Wastes Interest subsidy for Industrial Wastes	Interest subsidy for reducing the rate of interest to 6.0% (Floor rate applicable = 6.0%). For Special Category States-Floor rate applicable 4%.
13.	Solar Water Heating Systems (SWHS) Interest Subsidy Through Banks/FIs (including housing financing org.) SWHS up to 5000 litres capacity Through IREDA SWHS (any capacity) Solar air heating systems, desalination system, solar swimming pool	5% (to end user)-individual, institution, association, Small business establishments, housing society/developers. (Hotels not eligible) 5% for non-profit organisations. 7% for profit-making organisations.
14.	Village Electrification	As per the provisions contained in the Solar Photovoltaic, Biomass Gasifier and Small Hydro Power programmes.

MW = Megawatt. KWp = Kilowatt peak. KW = kilowatt. SPV = Solar Photovoltaic

[Translation]

Bina Refinery

3227. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

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

(a) whether the work on the Bina refinery project is in full swing;

(b) if so, the time by which the said project is likely to be completed;

(c) the cost likely to be incurred on the above project; and

(d) the estimated production capacity of the said refinery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) For the main refinery, review of the process configuration has been initiated by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) in view of the changed demand-supply scenario of petroleum products and recent changes in product specifications in the country. For the cross country crude oil pipeline from Vadinar (Gujarat) to Bina (Madhya Pradesh), meant for supplying crude oil to the refinery, the work between single point mooring and crude oil terminal has been initiated.

(b) The project is likely to be completed by the end of the 10th Five Year Plan.

(c) Revised cost estimates of the project are Rs. 6,354 crore at September, 2001 prices.

(d) The designed capacity of the refinery is 6 million metric tonnes per annum.

[English]

Distance between Bhatinda Ammunition Depot and Civil Population

3228. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to expand Bhatinda Cantonment and Ammunition Depot;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a prescribed limit of distance between an ammunition Depot or Cantonment and civil population area;

(d) if so, the limits prescribed therefor;

(e) whether it is a fact that in the name of expansion of Bhatinda Cantonment and ammunition Depot, these limits are being overlooked;

(f) if so, whether as a result of this expansion a large number of civil population, institutions at Bhatinda are being faced with the danger of evacuation from their own houses; and

(g) if so, the details of the Government's plan to provide relief to the proposed oustees?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Distance between Ammunition Depot and civilian area only has been prescribed in Works of Defence Act, 1903.

(d) The distance varies between 500 and 2000 yds.

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

Bhavnagar-Botad, Botad-Ahmedabad Gauge Conversion Work

3229. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Bhavnagar-Botad and Botad-Ahmedabad gauge conversion work; and

(b) the target fixed for completion of said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) On Bhavnagar-Botad section, gauge conversion between Botad-Dhola has been completed. Track linking on Dhola-Bhavnagar section is in progress and is targeted for completion during 2003-04.

No gauge conversion of Botad-Ahmedabad is in progress. However, a survey for gauge conversion of the section has been sanctioned recently.

National Trust for Welfare of Disabled Persons

3230. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Trust for the welfare of persons of Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental retardation and Multiple Disabilities has been set up;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps the Government are taking to safeguard the interest of these groups;

(c) if so, whether the Government have issued identity cards to persons with disabilities and advised the States and Union Territories to do the same; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities came into being in July 2000. Social, financial and physical security of a comprehensive nature for persons with severe disabilities is the ultimate goal of the National Trust. Government of India has contributed Rs. 100 crores for the corpus of the National Trust and the income from this is being utilized to implement the schemes/programmes of the Trust.

The steps being taken for the welfare and care of persons with autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disabilities include setting up of Local Level Committees to address guardianship issues, providing financial support to run day care, respite care and residential care centres, training of special teachers and home based care givers, establishment of information centres, envelopment and dissemination of information booklets for parents and families, organizing awareness campaigns and seminars etc.

(c) and (d) The identity cards to persons with disabilities are issued by the State Government/U.T. Administration. In order to have uniformity in the identity cards for persons with disabilities, so as to ensure that various legitimate concessions/benefits are available to

persons with disabilities, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has in August 2000 circulated uniform guidelines in this regard to all States/Union territories with a request to adopt the same for the purpose. As per the Guidelines, State Government/U.T. Administration prescribe the appropriate authority and procedure for issue of identity cards, keeping in view the convenience of persons with disability, who should not have to travel for the card. All those who are certified by the appropriate authority to be suffering from disability as per the definitions given in the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act 1995 will be eligible to obtain the Identity Card. A medical certificate is a necessary pre-requisite. In case of any dispute, the appellate authority will be the State Commissioner for Disabilities.

HPT Facilities for Kokrajhar

3231. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3732 regarding "HPT facilities for Kokrajhar" and to state:

(a) whether the scheme for setting up of a High Power Transmitter at Kokrajhar has been approved;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The scheme for setting up a High Power Transmitter at Kokrajhar has been included in the Special Package for North East Region and will be implemented, subject to approval of the competent authority.

[Translation]

Revival of BSCL

3232. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Burn Standard Company Limited established in Niwar in Katni district of Madhya Pradesh since 1965 has been closed down in the year 2000;

(b) if so, whether with the closing down of this company, thousands of workers have become unemployed;

(c) if so, whether tender had been invited in March 2002 with a view to run the said company through private party;

(d) if so, the reasons for not accepting the tender quoting highest rate; and

(e) the reasons for delaying the process of reviving the company by the Union Government in larger interests of the workers?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE): (a) and (b) BIFR while sanctioning the revival scheme of BSCCL on 16.4.1999 recommended closure of 7 (Seven) loss making Refractory Units (LRUs) including Niwar Works, which were not found viable. Accordingly all LRUs including Niwar Works have been closed w.e.f 31.12.2000 and all employees of these units have been paid compensation according to Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS).

(c) Since, BIFR has recommended for the closure of the LRU, action was initiated for its outright disposal.

(d) and (e) The tenders invited could not be accepted as the bids received were below the reserve price. As per the BIFR scheme, the revival of Niwar Unit is not envisaged.

Pending Hydel Power Projects in M.P.

3233. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pending and incomplete hydel power projects in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether there is a proposal to formulate any action plan to complete the incomplete projects in the State which were awarded to private sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) At present, 5 Hydro-electric Projects, namely, Indira Sagar (1000 MW) and Omkareshwar (520 MW) in the Central Sector, Madhikheda (40 MW) and Bansagar Tons Phase-IV (20 MW) in the State Sector and Maheshwar (400 MW) in the Private Sector are under implementation in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) and (c) In order to expedite the execution of Maheshwar Hydro-electric Project, the Government of Madhya Pradesh has decided "in principle" to provide back-up guarantee to the bonds proposed to be floated by the promoter to fill up the equity gap created due to opting out by one of their equity partners.

Kanungo Committee

3234. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Kanungo Committee in Orissa has strongly castigated the private company, BSES for essentially siphoning out money and bringing neither capital nor expertise in its operation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Government of Orissa constituted a Committee of independent experts with Shri S. Kanungo as Chairman to review the power sector reforms in the State in the year 2001.

Main recommendations of the Committee inter alia are as follows:

- (i) Keep in abeyance the up-valuation of assets undertaken during the time of asset transfer as it has needlessly added to the cost of power and made the task of achieving commercial viability more difficult. Up-valuation in respect of Orissa Hydro Power Corporation (OHPC) needs to be set aside.
- (ii) Arrange financial support during transition for financing the revenue gap till commercial viability is achieved.
- (iii) Key to revival of sector is in improving efficiency and bringing down costs. Launch as concerted drive to remove illegal connections such as hooking and effective measures to convert them into regular connections followed up by systematic billing and collection of energy charges. Police protection to be provided for teams carrying out drives to prevent unauthorized use of electricity. Ensure 100% consumer metering within a year.

The Committee has drawn attention to the need for the private promoters to bring in better management and arrange financial support.

The follow up action on the recommendations of the Committee comes under the purview of the State Government.

[English]

Sale of LPG/CNG/Kerosene/Diesel

3235. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are losing on sale of kerosene and LPG/CNG and also on decrease in sales of diesel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the losses are largely due to heavy imports of kerosene and LPG and charging high on the sale of petrol/diesel and other products to customers; and

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to review its import policies to ensure self-reliance in petroleum sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Sales of LPG & CNG have gone up during the last three years. Kerosene is an allocated product, therefore, sales are restricted to allocation. With increasing availability of LPG, Kerosene use is being gradually replaced by LPG especially for cooking purposes. Sale of Diesel recorded negative growth for the first time in the year 2000-2001 and 2001-2002. Major factors affecting Diesel Sales were:

- (i) Sectors like Defence, Power, State Transport Undertakings, Marine, Cement, Mining, Textiles & 'Others' (Private) uplifted less quantity during 2002-2003.
- (ii) Increasing use of cheaper alternate fuels like Private LDO and SKO replacing diesel due to price advantage.
- (iii) Increasing use of CNG.
- (iv) Drought conditions in the year 2001-2002 leading to drop in agriculture production.

(c) and (d) The PSU Oil Companies have reported that increase in imports of the PMS Kerosene is one of the reasons affecting the sale of diesel in the country. As per the extant Exim Policy, Kerosene is a free import item and no review of this policy is proposed.

Efficiency of Railways after creation of New Zones

3236. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the efficiency and safety in operations of Railways have improved with the creation of five new zones w.e.f. April 1, 2003;

(b) if so, whether there has also been some improvement in Railways earnings after new zones come into being; and

(c) if so, the perceptible changes that have been noticed in this period?

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

(b) Since 01.04.2003, the total approximate earning on Indian Railways, to the end of June 2003, has increased by Rs. 240 crores as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year.

(c) An increase of approximate 9.76 Million Tonnes in loading, decrease of approximate Rs. 718 crores in Ordinary Working Expenses and reduction of 18 consequential train accidents have been noticed in the first quarter of the year 2003-04 as compared to the corresponding period of previous year.

Entrepreneurship Development Centres

3237. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Entrepreneurship Developmental Centres have been opened for promotion of Rural Energy in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of entrepreneurs who have been trained in these Centres during the last three years; State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Existing institutions, such as Centre for Entrepreneurship Development at Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh) and Madurai (Tamilnadu); Centre of Energy Studies and Research, Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Indore (Madhya Pradesh); Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati (Assam); Maharashtra Industrial Technical Consultancy, Pune (Maharashtra); Non-Conventional Energy Development Agency, Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh); Rama Krishna Mission Ashrama, Narendrapur (West Bengal) and Ranchi (Jharkhand); Sardar Patel Renewable Energy Research Institute, Vallabh Vidyanagar (Gujarat); The Energy Resources Institute, Bangalore (Karnataka); and North India Technical Consultancy Organisation Limited, Chandigarh (Punjab) were given funds for organizing Renewable Energy Entrepreneurship

(c) The information is given below:

State	Total number of persons trained in renewable energy entrepreneurship during 2000-01 to 2002-03
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	330
Assam	55
Gujarat	23
Jharkhand	40
Karnataka	20
Madhya Pradesh	127
Maharashtra	57

1	2
Punjab	166
Tamilnadu	84
Uttar Pradesh	22
West Bengal	50

[Translation]

Schemes for NCES in Rural Areas

3238. SHRI PRADIP YADAV: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken so far for providing non-conventional energy kit to farmers for undertaking agricultural operations, all over the country; and

(b) whether any subsidy is provided for purchasing non-conventional energy kit; and

(c) the amount of funds provided to each State for the purpose during 2002-2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) The Ministry is implementing the biogas, solar photovoltaic water pumping system and water pumping windmill programmes in the country which help in agriculture and related uses.

(b) The details of Central Financial Assistance for these programmes are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) The state-wise funds released under these programmes during 2002-03 are given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement I

Central Financial Assistance provided under biogas, solar photovoltaic water pumping systems and water pumping wind mill programmes during 2003-04

Sl.No.	Name of Programmes	Details of subsidies
1	2	3
1.	Biogas plants	Rs. 1800 for general category; Rs. 2300/-for scheduled caste, scheduled tribe, desert districts, small and marginal farmers, landless labourers, terai region of Uttaranchal, Western Ghats and other notified hilly areas;

1	2	3
		<p>Rs. 3500 for Jammu and Kashmir; Himachal Pradesh; Uttaranchal (excluding terai region); Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu; Sardar Kursoong and Kalimpong sub-divisions of Darjeeling district and Sundarbans in West Bengal; and Andaman and Nicobar Islands;</p> <p>Rs. 11,700 per plant for North Eastern States and Sikkim (except plain areas of Assam); and</p> <p>Rs. 9000 per plant for plain areas of Assam</p>
2.	Solar Photovoltaic Water Pumping systems	
	Capital Subsidy	<p>For States: Rs. 135/Watt of SPV array with max. of Rs. 2.50 lakh/system.</p> <p>For Special Category States and Islands (other than UTs): maximum 90% of the approved ex-works cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 2.50 lakh/system.</p> <p>For community drinking water supply: Rs. 110/Watt of SPV array maximum of Rs. 2.50 lakh/system.</p>
	Loan from IREDA	Loan @ 2.5% and 5% interest rates to intermediaries and users respectively.
3.	Water Pumping Wind Mills	Rs. 20,000 to 45,000 per system.

Statement-II

State-wise funds released under biogas, solar photovoltaic water pumping systems and water pumping wind mill programmes during 2002-03

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	States/UT	Biogas Programme	Solar Photovoltaic Water Pumping Programme	Water Pumping Wind Mill Programme
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4.28	0.00	0.01
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.13	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	2.52	0.00	0.00
6.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Gujarat	2.47	0.92	0.43

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Haryana	0.16	2.45	0.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.22	0.00	0.00
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00
11.	Jharkhand	0.03	0.00	0.00
12.	Karnataka	5.73	0.00	0.00
13.	Kerala	0.09	0.00	0.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3.98	0.00	0.00
15.	Maharashtra	2.80	0.00	1.68
16.	Manipur	0.19	0.00	0.00
17.	Meghalaya	0.25	0.11	0.00
18.	Mizoram	0.35	0.00	0.00
19.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Orissa	2.55	0.00	0.00
21.	Punjab	0.00	8.38	0.00
22.	Rajasthan	0.07	0.00	0.00
23.	Sikkim	0.25	0.00	0.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	0.27	0.00	0.00
25.	Tripura	0.15	0.21	0.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.01
27.	Uttaranchal	0.15	0.15	0.00
28.	West Bengal	4.14	0.00	0.11
29.	Andaman & Nicobar	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Lakshwadeep	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.03

Modernisation of Dhanbad Railway Station

3239. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on upgradation of Dhanbad railway station so far alongwith the year-wise details thereof;

(b) the details of the works on which the said amount has been spent;

(c) the items of works yet to be executed under renovation and modernisation of Dhanabad railway station and the time stipulated for completion thereof alongwith the details in this regard;

(d) the additional expenditure likely to be incurred on these works;

(e) whether any complaint of irregularity in the work executed so far has come to notice; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Rs. 73.09 lakh in 2000-01, Rs. 109.20 lakh in 2001-02 and Rs. 72.80 lakh in 2002-03 were spent on upgradation of Dhanbad station.

(b) and (c) The details of works completed & works in progress are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) Rs. 22.55 lakh is likely to be spent on the works yet to be completed.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement*Works at Dhanbad station*

S.No.	Details of work	Remarks
1	2	3
1.	Improvement of PF no. 1 by providing water points, drainage, changing tiles and improvement to 2 rooms	Completed
2.	Renovation by changing and replacement of gutter and RW pipe and ancillary work	Completed
3.	Provision of flooring and sanitary works to improve retiring rooms and dormitories	Completed
4.	Provision of facilities for physically handicapped passengers	Completed
5.	Improvement to retiring rooms, dormitories and waiting hall and provision of toilet for physically handicapped passengers	Completed
6.	Provision of manual and computerized auto enquiry system—10 lines	Work in Progress
7.	Replacement of glazed partition wall and false ceiling in concourse area	Completed
8.	2nd class waiting hall with new opening to PF no. 1	Work in Progress
9.	2nd entry to station and improvement to circulating area and new booking office on south side.	Completed
10.	Provision of 2 bay PF shed on PF no. 2&3	Completed
11.	Provision of new SPTM counters, renovation of existing counters,	Work in Progress

1	2	3
12.	Renovation of reservation complex	Completed
13.	Provision of platform benches with granite	Work in Progress
14.	Replacement of corroded and damaged existing pipelines and valves in station area to improve drinking water phase I.	Completed
15.	Provision of corroded and damaged existing pipeline and valves in station area phase II.	Completed
16.	Provision of deep tubewell 250 mm x 200mm for drinking to retiring and reservation complex.	Work in Progress
17.	Model Station works, improvement in circulating area for traffic segregation, provision of island and green passage and provision of walkway for physically handicapped passengers.	Completed
18.	Washable apron at PF no. 2	Completed
19.	Provision of platform shed at PF no. 6&7	Completed
20.	Extension of wiring and signalling facility on PF line no. 6 & 7.	Work in Progress

[English]

Training Institutes of DD/AIR

3240. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up any new Training Institute for the staff of All India Radio and Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details alongwith places identified for the purposes; and

(c) the year by which these new training institutes will start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Diesel Locomotives in South Eastern Railways

3241. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway authority have introduced diesel locomotives in South East Railway after phasing out the steam locomotives;

(b) whether the Railway authority have converted the steam locomotive shed into diesel locomotive shed with a huge capital investment;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the present rolling stock of Kharagpur diesel shed?

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

(b) and (c) In view of lower maintenance and operating costs, superior load haulability and greater operational flexibility, Steam locomotives have been replaced by Diesel locomotives on Indian Railways. An investment of Rs. 8.68 crores was made in constructing Diesel shed at Kharagpur, which started functioning from 1968.

(d) Kharagpur Diesel shed houses 114 Diesel locomotives.

**Rehabilitation of Families of Pucca Building of
Kurla-Thane Six Lane Project**

3242. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the resettlement and rehabilitation of Project affected families of Kurla-Thane Six Lane Project is being done as per the guidelines of World Bank;

(b) whether final decision regarding rehabilitation of 122 families of Pucca building of Kurla-Thane Six Lane Project have been taken;

(c) if so, details of the decision taken in a recent meeting held in July, 2003 among the residents, State Government and Railway Authorities;

(d) whether the request from any local MP and MLAs has been received in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Resettlement & Rehabilitation (R&R) of the Project Affected Persons (PAPs) of Kurla-Thane Project under Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP) is being done by the State Government of Maharashtra.

(c) State Government is yet to convey a decision.

(d) and (e) The following requests have been made by local MP/MLAs

- (i) Resettlement and rehabilitation of PAPs in Ghatkoper area.
- (ii) PAPs be given equivalent area of flat free of cost.
- (iii) Early settlement and rehabilitation.

The State Government of Maharashtra has allotted Plots No. 3, 4 & 5 on CTS No. 194A (Part) at Ghatkoper. State Government is yet to start the construction of the building.

Bifurcation of Godavari Express

3243. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to bifurcate the Godavari Express in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether there is a need for a later train to the north Andhra coastal districts;

(c) whether the South Central Railway has done any study to introduce a train after the Godavari Express which goes to Srikakulam and Visakhapatnam;

(d) if so, the findings thereof; and

(e) the steps to be taken to assist passengers in this matter of northern Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal at present.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Complaints from Cable Customers

3244. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the cable operators in Delhi and National Capital Territory region have divided the areas among themselves for providing cable connections on their own thereby violating various provisions of the Consumer Act;

(b) if so, whether these cable operators have also not been broadcasting DD-I and DD-II in the prime band;

(c) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against the cable operators; particularly Ranga Cables, Panchkuyia Road, New Delhi, P.G. Cables, NDMC Shops, R.K. Ashram Marg, New Delhi and Eagle Cable Network, Abhay Khand-I, Indira Puram, Ghaziabad, and

(d) the further steps taken by the Government to stop such practices by cable operator in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) As per the provisions of

the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, (hereinafter referred to as the 'Act'), any person who is operating or is desirous of operating a cable television network has to be registered as a cable operator under the said Act. There is no bar on the number of cable operators, operating in a particular area, as long as they meet the eligibility criteria and are registered, as required under the provisions of the said Act.

Under Section 8 of the Act, every cable operator shall, retransmit at least two Doordarshan terrestrial channels and one regional language channel of a State in the prime band. Arrangements exist for monitoring of Doordarshan channels on the cable T.V. networks for ensuring proper implementation of the provisions of the said Act.

Chief Executive Officer, Prasar Bharati has written to the Chief Secretaries of all States/U.Ts. to suitably advise local authorities to ensure proper implementation of the provisions of the Cable Act. Superintending Engineers and Station Engineers have been advised to remain in touch with the local authorities and have been asked to maintain close liaison with the cable operators and inspect the 'cable T.V. head ends' and furnish monthly channel placement reports.

Under the provisions of the said Act, the authorized officers have been vested with the powers to seize equipment in cases of violation of compulsory transmission of DDn channels.

Gas Pipeline from Visakhapatnam to Hyderabad

3245. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of 600 kilometre length of pipeline to transport gas from Visakhapatnam to Hyderabad;

(b) the total expenditure so far incurred on this project;

(c) whether the project is going on as per schedule;

(d) if so, the details thereof and likely date of completion of the project; and

(e) the extent to which this pipeline is useful in meeting the LPG demand of Hyderabad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (d) The Visakhapatnam-Secunderabad LPG pipeline has been mechanically completed on 9.7.2003. Currently, its pre-commissioning activities are in progress. The project has been scheduled for commissioning on 27.8.2003.

(b) As of July, 2003 GAIL has spent about Rs. 326 crore on the project. The total project cost approved by the Board of Directors of GAIL is Rs. 490.65 crore.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(e) Presently, to meet the demand of LPG in Hyderabad, LPG is transported through road and railways. With the commissioning of the pipeline an alternative mode of transportation of LPG will be available, which will provide greater security of supply.

Hydro Power Projects in North-East Region

3246. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have planned to set up 25,000 MW hydro power projects in North-East Region;

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

(c) the present installed capacity of Hydel power in the region; and

(d) details of number of ongoing projects and time by which they are likely to start generate power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Government have planned hydro capacity addition of 349 MW in North Eastern Region during 10th Plan and 8380 MW during 11th Plan. Under 50,000 MW Hydro Electric Initiative launched in May, 2003, works relating to preparation of Preliminary Feasibility Reports of 60 schemes with an aggregate installed capacity of 30427 MW in North Eastern Region have been entrusted to different agencies.

(b) A number of projects have been planned by the Government for implementation in the North Eastern Region. Some of the major projects are listed in the enclosed statement.

Preliminary Feasibility Report in respect of 60 schemes with an estimated installed capacity of about 30,427 MW are to be prepared by different agencies in the Central/State Sector in North Eastern region as per details given below:

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of Scheme	I.C. (MW)
1	2	3	4
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	42	25690
2.	Manipur	3	407
3.	Meghalaya	9	1490

1	2	3	4
4.	Nagaland	3	970
5.	Mizoram	3	1870
Total		60	30427

(c) As on 31.07.2003, the installed capacity of existing H.E. Projects in N.E. Region is 1070 MW (considering H.E. schemes of capacity more than 3 MW).

(d) At present, 5 nos. of schemes aggregating to an installed capacity of 359 MW are under construction as per details given below:

Sl.No.	Name of Scheme	Installed Capacity	Likely Benefits
1.	Myntdu (Leshka), Stage-I, Meghalaya	2x42 = 84 MW	10th Plan
2.	Karbi Langpi (Lower Borpani), Assam	2x50 = 10 MW	10th Plan
3.	Kopili Stage-II, Assam	1x25 = 25 MW	10th Plan
4.	Turrial, Mizoram	2x30 = 60 MW	10th Plan
5.	Loktak Downstream	90 MW	11th Plan

Statement

Major Hydro Projects proposed for development in N.E. Region

Sl.No.	Name of Schemes/State/Executing Agency	I.C. (MW)
1	2	3
1.	Kameng, Arunachal Pradesh, NEEPCO	4x150 = 600
2.	Subansiri Lower, Arunachal Pradesh, NHPC	8x250 = 2000
3.	Subansiri Middle, Arunachal Pradesh, NHPC	8x200 = 1600
4.	Subansiri Upper, Arunachal Pradesh, NHPC	2x250 = 2000
5.	Siang Middle, Arunachal Pradesh, NHPC	4x250 = 1000
6.	Siang Upper, Arunachal Pradesh, NHPC	11000
7.	Ranganadi Stage-II, Arunachal Pradesh, NEEPCO	2x65 = 130
8.	Dikrong, Arunachal Pradesh, NEEPCO	2x50 = 100
9.	Kopili H.E. Project-Stage-II, Assam, NEEPCO	25

1	2	3
10.	Lower Kopili, Assam, NEEPCO	3x50 = 150
11.	Hirit, Arunachal Pradesh, NEEPCO	50
12.	Papumpam, Arunachal Pradesh, NEEPCO	60
13.	Tipaimukh, Manipur, NEEPCO	1500
14.	Tuivai, Mizoram, NEEPCO	3x70 = 210
15.	Bairabi, Mizoram, Govt. of Mizoram	2x40 = 80
16.	Tuirial H.E. Project, Mizoram, NEEPCO	60
17.	Tripura Gas based Power Project, Tripura, NEEPCO	280
Total		20845

Electricity Act, 2003

3247. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government's plans to take away the role of state power regulator to fix the tariff and also abandon the system of holding public hearing before hiking the tariff have met with legal hurdles with the Centre notifying the Electricity Act, 2003 whose spirit is against such plans;

(b) if so, the extent to which this new Central Act has blocked the State's plan;

(c) whether the State Government has opposed this; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The Electricity Act, 2003 has come into force w.e.f. 10th June, 2003. Section 62 of the Act provides that the Regulatory Commissions shall determine tariff in accordance with the provisions of this Act, Section 86 (3) of the Act provides that the State Regulatory Commissions shall ensure transparency while exercising its power and discharging its functions.

The State Governments have in Memoranda of Understanding/Agreements (MOUs/MOAs) on Reform committed themselves to the determination of tariff by State Electricity Regulatory Commissions.

National Renewable Energy Policy

3248. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a National Renewable Energy Policy for harnessing various Non-Conventional Energy Sources in the country;

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

(c) if not, the time-frame by which the policy are likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources had prepared a Draft Renewable Energy Policy Statement for accelerated development of renewable energy sources in the country.

The objectives of the Policy Statement are to enhance the contribution of renewables viz. solar, wind, bio-mass and small hydro for meeting rural energy needs, providing decentralized/off-grid supply for agriculture, industry, commercial and household sectors in rural and urban areas; and, grid quality power generation and supply.

(c) The draft of the Policy Statement has been submitted by the Ministry for further approvals. The approvals have not yet been accorded.

Latur Road-Mudkhed Line

3249. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question Number 1659 dated 28.11.2002 regarding Survey for Latur Road-Mudkhed line and state:

(a) whether survey work on the line has since been completed;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the time by when construction work on the line is likely to be started and completed?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Delhi-Howrah Route Under Golden Quadrilateral Project

3250. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the route selected under Golden Quadrilateral Project from New Delhi to Howrah has since been finalised; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The following works have been identified to remove capacity bottlenecks on Delhi-Kolkata route of Golden Quadrilateral:

Name of Project	Estimated Cost (In crores of Rs.)
a. Chandanpur-Gurup 3rd Line	42.30
b. Gurup-Shaktigarh 3rd Line	52.39
c. Kanpur-Chandari Doubling	11.85
d. New Delhi-Tilak Bridge 5th and 6th Lines	33.74
e. Kanpur-Panki 3rd Line	63.36
f. Aligarh-Ghaziabad 3rd Line	230.73
g. Sahibabad-Anand Vihar 3rd and 4th Lines	49.22
h. Anand Vihar Passenger Terminal	83.00

Container Traffic

3251. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether RITES have estimated that container traffic to be carried by Railways will increase from the present 5 lakh TEUs to 9 lakhs TEUs by the year 2008;

(b) if so, the share of the container traffic presently of CONCOR;

(c) whether CONCOR and the Railways have plans to ensure that they get dominant share of the 9 lakh TEUs projected figure by the year 2008;

(d) whether private operators are also entering the field taking advantage of the delays and other

disadvantages exposed by CONCOR in this sector; and

(e) the steps taken by CONCOR to streamline all its operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) RITES Ltd. undertook a study on preparation of a Master Plan for Inland Container Depots/Container Freight Stations (ICDs/CFSs) in India for the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. The final report was submitted in December, 2002. The total container traffic of the country in the base year (2000-01) was worked out at 23.9 lakh Twenty Feet Equivalent Units (TEUs), of which the Railways carried approximately 5.0 lakh TEUs. The projections for the year 2014-15 were 93.2 lakh TEUs of which the railways share was estimated at 34.7 lakh TEUs.

(b) The present share of the container traffic of Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR) is 9.29 lakh TEUs by rail and road during year 2002-03. Out of these, 8.21 lakh TEUs were carried by rail.

(c) CONCOR and Railways are fully geared to move 9 lakh containers by rail.

(d) At present there is no private operator of container traffic by rail.

(e) CONCOR has already created large infrastructure of 51 terminals, spread all over India. In addition, it also owns most of the wagons being used for container transportation by rail in India. The remaining wagons are moved by Indian Railways. CONCOR has a business plan to take care of its future requirements.

Interviews Conducted by IOCL and IBP

3252. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether IOCL and IBP had conducted interview and selected 810 candidates/dealers and had commissioned more than four hundred petrol pumps as per its own policy against the Government policy/Direction and had appointed dealers since January 2002 onwards;

(b) if so, whether the necessary Field Inspection Report was conducted regarding the empanelled candidates in such cases;

(c) if not, whether all the above selection of dealers would be terminated;

(d) if not, whether the Government intend to release some new common dealers selection policy to be adopted by oil PSUs in future;

(e) if so, whether the Government has given some directions regarding the above interviews done by IOCL and IBP; and

(f) if not, the time by which the IOCL and IBP would clear the confusion regarding the pending cases and the reasons for discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (f) After the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism in the petroleum sector

with effect from 1.4.2002, Indian Oil Corporation Limited and IBP Co. Limited have taken necessary action for selection of dealers for retail outlet dealerships (petrol pumps) as per their respective policies. Field Investigation is one of the steps in the process of selection of dealers. Some of these retail outlets have been commissioned.

Inspection by Anti-Adulteration Cell

3253. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Anti-Adulteration Cell inspects the retail outlets in the night just to catch the vehicles and products used in the adulteration on petrol pumps and rest of the aspects of petrol pumps are/could be checked in the day time;

(b) if so, whether the Government has directed/informed this cell to conduct inspections of the retail outlets as per the provisions of standard of Weights & Measurement Act, Petroleum act, Essential Commodities Act and MS/HSD Control Order, 1998;

(c) if so, whether this cell honour the various provisions of above Acts;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the appellate authority against the conduct and behaviour of the officers of this cell?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Anti-Adulteration Cell (AAC) conducts inspection mostly on the basis of information collected from various sources. As most of the adulteration activities take place during the night it becomes necessary for AAC Officers to conduct inspections during the night also. There is no legal bar on conducting inspections at night. However, inspections at night are conducted only in case of retail outlets that remain open during the night.

(b) and (c) Government have authorised AAC to conduct inspection under the provisions of MS & HSD (Regulation of Supply and Distribution and Prevention of Malpractices) Order, 1998 and AAC Officers strictly adhere to provision of this order and the Essential Commodities Act under which these Control Orders have been issued. AAC Officers are not empowered under any other Act.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The Cell strictly complies with the provisions of the Law. If any specific complaint is

received against the conduct and misbehaviour of any Officers of this Cell, Government takes appropriate action.

[Translation]

Committee on CAS

3254. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

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

(a) whether the Government have set up one more committee in order to implement Conditional Access System (CAS);

(b) if so, the features of this committee;

(c) the date by which this committee is likely to submit its report to the Government;

(d) the difficulties being faced by the Government in implementing CAS; and

(e) the measures taken to remove the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. An Implementation Committee, comprising various stakeholders has been set up for effective coordination and monitoring of preparedness to implement Conditional Access System in the four metros w.e.f. 1.9.2003. The Committee would closely monitor the:

- (i) Availability of Set Top Boxes (STBs) and their readiness for installation.
- (ii) Modalities of installation, including testing.
- (iii) Upgradation of the infrastructure and network for implementation of CAS and steps taken to protect consumers' interest.
- (iv) Availability of full information in respect of pricing of channels and the amount that cable TV subscribers will have to pay.
- (v) Any other issues that members of the Implementation Committee wish to raise.

[English]

Gauge Conversion of Defence Siding

3255. COL (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gauge conversion of Jodhpur-Jaisalmer MG section was taken up during 1994-95 and opened for BG traffic during April, 1995;

(b) whether Gauge conversion of Defence siding was to be done on assisted siding terms but the Railways completed the work without getting any deposit or even a formal acceptance of Defence authorities to bear the cost;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and persons responsible for this lapse;

(d) whether this issue was taken up in Audit during September, 1999 whereafter Railways asked Minister of Defence to deposit Rs. 3.42 crores without including debt of Rs. 1.78 crore for interest and maintenance charges for Defence works at 4 stations; and

(e) if so, the status of recovery of this amount from Ministry of Defence and action taken against defaulting officials causing huge loss of Rs. 5.20 crores to the Railways?

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

(b) to (d) As per the policy, the gauge conversion was to be done on assisted siding terms. Defence Authorities were approached in June 1995 for conveying their sanction for the Defence share on conversion of sidings. This was constantly pursued with Defence Authorities and the sanction from Ministry of Defence has been received only in February 2002. Meanwhile, the issue was also taken up by the Audit.

(e) Defence Authorities have informed that the payment will be made during the year 2003-04. After payment of the Defence share, there will be no loss to the Railways except that the payment got delayed.

[Translation]

Safety Departments in Railways

3256. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Safety Department is working in each and every division of Railways;

(b) if so, whether the Railways has failed in compliance of safety rules;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to make their safety departments more efficient?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Recently, it has been decided to make the department broad based by inducting manpower from five major operational departments, instead of confining it to traffic department. It has also been empowered to have an assertive role in administrative action against staff/officers, causing accidents or safety related failures.

[English]

Pending Railway Cases

3257. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Disciplinary Appeal Rules (D&AR) cases are Sub-judicial cases;

(b) if so, the number of DAR & Court cases of different Railways which are pending in Security Directorate from the last one year;

(c) the number of cases for which reply has not been furnished to various Hon'ble courts by the administration alongwith the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is a great resentment in the force due to this non-responsive attitude adopted by the security administration; and

(e) if so, the action to be taken against the personnel who are delaying these court matters due to vested interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The DAR cases are quasi-judicial in nature.

(b) 20 DAR cases are pending. As regards court cases, these are regularly pursued by the respective zonal Railways themselves and guidelines/advice from Board's office is provided wherever necessary.

(c) and (d) Administration forthwith proceeds to decide the DAR cases and files rejoinders in Courts after getting the required information and completing the formalities. Replies have been filed in the court cases and they are being pursued for their early disposal. No case of resentment in the Force on this account has come to notice.

(e) Does not arise.

Observations of Team on CAS

3258. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sent team to the four metro cities to assess the levels preparedness of the proposed Conditional Access System (CAS);

(b) if so, the details of the observations of the team;

(c) whether in some metros the team found that the consumers need more education on CAS; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps are proposed by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Officers of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting have visited the metros of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai to assess the preparedness for CAS and have, inter-alia, observed that-

(i) the demand of STB at the first stage would be met by imports and procurement of STBs is in progress and more are in the process of being received.

(ii) training of local cable operators is in progress.

(iii) the indigenous industry has not yet geared itself to meet the demand.

(iv) some MSOs have already offered attractive introductory schemes of making available of STBs on installments/hire-purchase/rental basis and have declared that they would be able to show approx. 60 free-to-air channels within the maximum price of Rs. 72/- (plus taxes).

(c) and (d) It has been decided to implement the CAS in a phased zone-wise manner in the three metros of Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai and at one go in Chennai w.e.f. 1st September, 2003. The intervening period is being used to step up the preparedness, to educate the consumers and to closely monitor the procurement and availability of the STBs. Through the issue of an order on 29th July, 2003, an 'Implementation Committee' under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary in this Ministry, has also been constituted, with representatives of Broadcasters/MSOs, Cable Operators, etc. This will closely monitor, (i) availability of STBs and their readiness for installations; (ii) modalities of installation (including testing); (iii) upgradation of infrastructure and network for implementations of CAS and steps taken to protect the interests of the consumers; (iv) availability of full information in respect of pricing of channels and the amount the cable T.V. subscribers will have to pay; etc. The Ministry has also launched a multi-media publicity campaign through advertisements in all the leading dailies of the country, through electronic media and through advertisements. The period for duty reduction has been extended upto 30th September, 2003 so as to ensure availability of STBs at affordable prices.

Second Stage Examination of App. Goods Guards

3259. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for conducting second Stage Examination by RRB Bhopal to fill up the posts of App. Goods Guards to be posted within the jurisdiction of RRB Mumbai;

(b) the reasons for conducting the above examinations at Bhopal, when the specific directive dated 11.4.1991 of Railway Board were in force and the candidates were given specific choice to choose their examination centre at Mumbai;

(c) the relief granted to the candidates who were adversely affected by the faulty procedure followed and sudden change in the venue of the said examinations;

(d) whether the tenure of the Chairman, RRB Bhopal is extended with a view to completing the recruitment as per the Notification No. 1/2002;

(e) if so, whether the procedure for said recruitment has transparency;

(f) if not, the reasons for not re-conducting the said examinations as per the vested jurisdiction of RRBs; and

(g) the steps being taken by the Railways for local recruitment by Zonal Railways, State-wise by domicile?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Railway Recruitment Boards/Mumbai and Bhopal have been paired for conducting joint recruitment to common categories in Group 'C' services by Ministry of Railways. In view of limited number of candidates for the 2nd stage examination, it has been conducted at Bhopal only, which is in accordance with instructions contained in Employment Notice.

(c) Does not arise as the examination was conducted with due notice and publicity.

(d) On completion of tenure of Chairman, RRB/Bhopal, a new incumbent has already joined vice him.

(e) Examination was conducted smoothly under the normal rules and procedures which ensure complete transparency.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Railway being a Central Government organization, there is no provision to confine the recruitment to any specific State/Region.

Operation of Radio City

3260. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Radio city operated and managed by Rupert Murdoch promoted Star TV Group in currently negotiating with Malaysia's Measat to acquire two radio stations in Kolkata;

(b) if so, the reasons for initially giving the licences to front Indian companies and later allowing them to transfer their stake to the Star TV group owned by Murdoch whose loyalty to the country has remained questionable; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI

SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) The Government has no information on the matter.

(b) and (c) M/s MBPL had applied for licence and as they fulfilled the eligibility criteria, they were permitted to participate in the auction and on being successful bidders, licences were given for operating FM stations at Bangalore, Lucknow, Mumbai, Delhi, Nagpur & Patna. The company has since operationalised stations at Bangalore, Lucknow, Mumbai & Delhi. This Ministry has received complaints regarding M/s Music Broadcast Pvt Ltd being indirectly promoted by the Star TV Group, owned by Mr. Rupert Murdoch. These issues are being examined, in consultation with Department of Company Affairs and Ministry of Law.

Atrocities against Minorities

3261. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman, National Commission for Minorities sought suitable improvements in the country's legal system to ensure exemplary punishment to culprits involved in atrocities against minorities as appeared in the, Hindu, dated July 17, 2003;

(b) whether any meeting with the law Secretary and Chairman, Minorities Commission has been held recently in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof; and

(d) the further steps taken by the Government on those suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) to (d) The National Commission for Minorities met the Law Minister on 21.7.2003 and sought suitable improvements in the country's legal system to ensure exemplary punishment to the culprits involved in atrocities against minorities. The Commission also observed that the existing system had failed to deal with the problem effectively because of the inordinate delay in the trial of cases. A meeting between Law Secretary and the Chairman, National Commission for Minorities was not held. No proposal in this connection has been received from the National Commission for Minorities.

Child Line Services

3262. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Child Line Services have been introduced in Karnataka in co-ordination with Child India Foundation, Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the name of voluntary organizations identified for this purpose, location-wise;

(c) the funds allocated/released by the Government during each of the last three years and the current year for this purpose;

(d) whether the Government propose to extend this facility to some more cities in the Karnataka and other States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the fund earmarked for this purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of voluntary organizations are given below:

- (1) Young Men's Christian Association, Mangalore, Karnataka.
- (2) School of Social Work, Mangalore, Karnataka.
- (3) National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore, Karnataka.
- (4) Bangalore Oniyavara Seva Coota, Bosco Yuvodaya, Bangalore, Karnataka.
- (5) Association for promotion of Social Action, Bangalore, Karnataka.

(c) A statement showing the details of the funds released to the above stated institutions in Karnataka for running Childline Projects during the last three years and current year is enclosed.

(d) and (e) Extension of Childline Services is a continuous process under which need assessment and identification of eligible institutions for providing Childline Service is undertaken by the Government of India in consultation with the Childline India Foundation, Mumbai. Funds for this purpose are not earmarked State-wise.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the Institutions	Funds released (amount in Lakhs)			
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04 (up to 11.8.2003)
1.	Young Men's Christian Association, Mangalore	0	3.57	3.37	1.79
2.	School of Social Work, Mangalore, Kamataka	0	1.42	0.98	0.51
3.	National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore, Kamataka.	0	0	0.87	0
4.	Bangalore Oniyavara Seva Coota, Bosco Yuvodaya, Bangalore, Kamataka.	0	0	1.55	0
5.	Association for promotion of Social Action, Bangalore.	0	0	1.55	0

IOCL Stake in GAIL

3263. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

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

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation Limited propose to sell its 4.8% stake in the Gas Authority of India Limited;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the extent to which the GAIL propose to make up its deficit, if any, consequent on the withdrawal of IOCL's share?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) IOC intends to realize the value of its investment in the equity of GAIL and consequently reduce its borrowing from the market.

(c) Sale of shares of GAIL by IOC implies change in the shareholding pattern of GAIL and not any deficit to GAIL.

Import of Power from China

3264. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with State Grid Corporation of China on July 9, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which this Power Grid and Chinese firm are likely to help in generation and distribution of Power in India; and

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

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

(b) The Memorandum of Understanding envisages sharing of experience in the field of transmission system and telecommunication.

(c) The Memorandum of Understanding does not cover generation or distribution of power.

(d) The Memorandum of Understanding has become effective from the date of its signing i.e. 09.07.2003 and will remain in force for a period of three years.

Private FM Radio Service

3265. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the *de facto* as well as the *de jure* authority looking after the private FM Radio Service;

(b) whether anybody can start private FM Radio service;

(c) if not, the established rules and adopted procedure to set up a private FM Radio Station; and

(d) the mechanism to monitor the functioning of such private FM Radio service/Broadcast?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) The licences for private FM Radio Broadcasting are given by this Ministry, which is also looking after the implementation. Inter-ministerial consultations, whenever required, are also held. Stations were put up for auction in 2000 and only those companies who were successful and signed Licence Agreements with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting could start FM Radio Services. Private FM radio station were permitted to be setup after fulfillment of eligibility criteria, Inter-ministerial clearances, submission of bank guarantees & obtaining of WPC operating licence etc.

[*Translation*]

Petrol Pumps allotted in Rajasthan

3266. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Petrol Pumps allotted by the I.B.P. in the country particularly in Rajasthan during the last one year;

(b) the number of cases in respect of which No Objection Certificates for setting up Petrol Pumps were sought from the District Collectors in Rajasthan;

(c) whether the I.B.P. has complied with the marketing plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) IBP Co. Limited has commissioned 14 Retail Outlets in the State of Rajasthan during the year 2002-03.

(b) IBP Co. Limited had applied for No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for setting up of Retail Outlets in respect of 40 cases in the State of Rajasthan during the year 2002-03.

(c) and (d) In the de-regulated scenario, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are free to identify locations for setting up of Retail Outlets as per their commercial considerations.

[*Translation*]

Broadcasting of Gojri News by AIR

3267. CHOWDHARY TALIB HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have been receiving proposals from time to time from the Gojri speaking people of the Jammu & Kashmir State to introduce Gojri news bulletins (Morning and Evening) from All India Radio Stations in Jammu & Srinagar; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Prasar Bharati has informed that presently All India Radio is broadcasting two news bulletins in Gojri, one from Radio Kashmir, Jammu at 1700-1710 hours and the other from Radio Kashmir, Srinagar at 1750-1800 hours. It has, however, not been found possible to introduce additional Gojri bulletins from the Regional News Units in J&K and from AIR, Delhi due to financial and manpower constraints.

[*Translation*]

Terminal Facilities at Stations in Bihar

3268. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the railway stations in Bihar where terminal facilities are available at present;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up terminal facilities at those railway stations where these facilities are not available at present;

(c) if so, the details thereof, station-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Railway stations in Bihar where terminal facilities are available are as under:

Coaching Terminals

Broad Gauge Coaching Terminals	Metre Gauge Coaching Terminals
1	2
1. Bhagalpur	1. Chhapra
2. Jamalpur	2. Katihar
3. Mandarhill	3. Jogbani
4. Chhapra	4. Forbeshganj
5. Kishanganj	5. Purnea
6. Katihar	6. Raxaul
7. Dehri-on-Sone	7. Darbhanga
8. Danapur	8. Samastipur Junction
9. Gaya	9. Narkatiaganj
10. Patna Junction	10. Saharsa
11. Rajendra Nagar Terminal	11. Nirmali
12. Rajgir	12. Beraganiya
13. Buxar	13. Jainagar
14. Dildamagar	14. Jhanjharpur
15. Ara Junction	15. Lokha Bazar
16. Gutzarbagh	16. Bhikhanathori
17. Patna Saheb	17. Banmankhi
18. Fatuha	18. Bihariganj
19. Islampur	19. Purnea

1	2
20. Bakhtiyarpur Junction	
21. Mokama Junction	
22. Kiul	
23. Jhajha	
24. Tanghat	
25. Barauni Junction	
26. Muzaffarpur Junction	
27. Sonpur Junction	
28. Hazipur Junction	
29. Mansi Junction	
30. Raxaul	
31. Darbhanga	
32. Samastipur Junction	
33. Narkatiaganj	
34. Sagauli Junction	

Goods Terminals

1. Pirpanti	1. Barsoi
2. Siwan	2. Jogbani
3. Chhapra	3. Forbeshganj
4. Katihar	4. Purnea
5. Kishanganj	5. Katihar
6. Sasaram Junction	
7. Dehri-on-Sone	
8. Sonnagar Junction	
9. Anugraha Narayan Road	
10. Gaya	
11. Danapur	
12. Fulwarisharif	
13. Fatuha	
14. Mokama Junction	
15. Bihar Sharif	

1	2
16. Lakhisarai	
17. Jamui	
18. Jhajha	
19. Warsaligunj	
20. Ara	
21. Patna Saheb	
22. Dumraon	
23. Jahanabad	
24. Semaria	
25. Narayanpur Anant	
26. Karpurigram	
27. Barauni Junction	
28. Begusarai	
29. Hazipur	
30. Kanti	
31. Raxaul	
32. Motihari	
33. Bettiah	
34. Laheria Sarai	
35. Samastipur	
36. Chakia	

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The existing terminals in Bihar are considered adequate to meet the existing Freight and Coaching traffic requirements. Provision of terminal facilities at all the stations in Bihar is neither operationally required nor financially justified.

[English]

Ticketless Travellers

3269. SHRI A. NARENDRA:
SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons apprehended travelling in trains without tickets and the estimated loss suffered by the Railways due to this during each of the last three years till date, zone-wise and State-wise;

(b) the amount recovered therefrom during the said period, State-wise and zone-wise;

(c) whether due to open entry and exit points at railway stations, proper checking of tickets do not take place;

(d) if so, whether the Government have any plan for restricted entry/exit points at each railway station;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the other steps being taken/to be taken to stop ticketless traveling in trains;

(g) whether the Government are considering to assign the job of checking ticket in trains to any private company; and

(h) if so, the details thereof including extent of increase in revenue earnings as a result thereof and the time by which such system is likely to become effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) The number of persons apprehended travelling without ticket and the amount of Railway dues recovered from them, zone-wise, is given in the enclosed statement. State-wise figures are not maintained. However, there is some leakage of Railway revenue but the estimated loss suffered on this account is not quantifiable.

(c) to (e) While the Railway stations; by their location and nature, have a number of openings, every endeavour is made to undertake proper ticket checking by judicious deployment of staff. It is the efforts of the administration to limit the number of entry and exit points to the extent possible and the same is reviewed from time to time.

(f) Besides regular checking by train staff, surprise checks are also conducted at different locations, and during different periods, to check irregular travel. The Railway Magistrates and Police are also associated from time to time. Travelling public are educated through various media about the perils of ticketless/irregular travel.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

Statement

Railways	No. of ticketless travellers apprehended (in lakhs)			Amount of railway dues recovered (in crores)		
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Central	22.00	25.82	27.81	28.01	33.24	37.82
Eastern	16.38	17.26	14.08	14.91	15.11	12.45
Northern	36.46	40.44	44.08	42.05	48.43	54.88
North Eastern	10.58	11.23	9.26	12.63	13.63	13.39
Northeast Frontier	1.90	2.16	2.63	3.16	3.41	4.48
Southern	5.01	5.16	5.73	6.75	7.44	8.45
South Central	10.33	11.27	11.29	17.12	18.31	18.43
South Eastern	8.66	9.31	9.49	9.29	10.47	11.74
Western	19.00	19.63	18.49	24.43	25.68	25.53
East Central	—	—	3.65	—	—	4.86
North Western	—	—	3.46	—	—	6.12
Total	130.32	142.28	149.97	158.35	175.72	198.15

*East Central Railway and North Western Railway had been created with effect from 1.10.2002.

[Translation]

Funds for Power Projects

3270. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:
SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from the State Government of Chhattisgarh for seeking funds for the ongoing projects and setting-up and development of new power projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Non-Utilisation of Funds for Welfare of
Handicapped**

3271. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a certain portion of funds allocated during the Ninth Five Year Plan under the scheme meant for welfare of the handicapped had to be surrendered due to non-utilisation thereof;

- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether reservation for handicapped in admission for higher education has been abolished; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL): (a) and (b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Plan Schemes for Persons with Disabilities

Rs. in Crores

Year	Budget Estimate (BE)	Revised Estimate (RE)	Expenditure (Exp.)	%age of Exp. to RE	Reasons for savings with reference to BE
1997-98	106.44	56.66	56.30	99.36	Due to non receipt of adequate number of recommendations from the State Governments under Scheme of Assistance to Disabled persons for purchase/fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP), Development of special schools for Handicapped children and due to instructions from Ministry of Finance to defer the proposed new schemes to next financial year.
1998-99	141.54	113.75	106.87	93.95	The scheme of development of Special Schools for Handicapped persons was under revision. Non-approval of the Scheme of National Rehabilitation Programme for Handicapped by the Planning Commission. The scheme was approved later as a State Sector scheme and release commenced in 1999-2000. Approval of Planning Commission for the "Scheme arising out of implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act" not received during the year.
1999-2000	179.50	146.29	134.29	91.80	Inadequate recommendations from State Governments under the Scheme to promote voluntary action for persons with disabilities. Savings under the Scheme of Rehabilitation Council of India was due to non-approval by Standing Finance Committee for construction of the building proposed by the Council.
2000-01	230.10	228.20	217.04	95.11	Under the Scheme of Rehabilitation Council of India, non receipt of proposal in all respect for Research and Building grants. Implementation of proposals formulated under the "Scheme arising out of implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act" had just started.
2000-02	232.03	239.80	236.73	98.89	No savings w.r.t. to B.E.

[Translation]

**Action Taken on Recommendation of Khanna
Committee Report**

3272. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the actions taken so far by the Railway on the recommendations of the Khanna Committee Report;

(b) the number of distressed bridges and other safety related assets replaced or renewed so far as per the recommendations of the Khanna Committee Report; and

(c) the fund spent so far for the purpose from the Special Railway Safety Fund, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Railway

Safety Review Committee-98 has made 278 recommendations in both the parts of its Report. Of these, 248 recommendations have been accepted fully or partially. Of these, 53 recommendations have already been implemented. Remaining accepted/partially accepted recommendations are in various stages of implementation, depending upon availability of resources and success of trials, in some cases.

(b) and (c) To implement one of the accepted recommendations, a non-lapsable Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF) of Rs. 17,000/- crores has been set up with effect from 1-10.2001 to wipe out arrears in replacement/renewal of over-aged assets of track, bridges, signalling gears and rolling stock and for some safety enhancement measures over a period of 6 years. State-wise expenditure is not maintained by Ministry of Railways. However, Zonal Railway-wise (net) expenditure under Special Railway Safety Fund is given as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Railway	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04 (upto June) Approx.	Total Net
1	2	3	4	5
Central	264.32	346.33	9.85	620.50
Eastern	142.34	258.23	32.86	433.43
East Central	—	—	7.58	7.58
East Coast	—	—	15.27	15.27
Northern	244.14	360.82	20.68	625.64
North Central	—	—	6.50	6.50
North Eastern	51.67	76.33	5.27	133.27
Northeast Frontier	17.97	119.60	9.02	146.59
North Western	—	—	5.40	5.40
Southern	92.63	194.29	19.83	306.75
South Central	136.30	344.46	23.90	504.66
South Eastern	269.83	466.25	12.86	748.94
South East Central	—	—	6.69	6.69

1	2	3	4	5
South Western	—	—	2.01	2.01
Western	215.08	319.98	34.03	569.09
West Central	—	—	3.06	3.06
Metro	—	0.03	—	0.03
Railway Board	—	—	90.56	90.56
Total Net	1434.28	2486.32	305.37	4225.97

So far 262 number of distressed bridges have been rebuilt/rehabilitated since Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF) has been set up. The number of other safety

related assets replaced on renewed since 1.10.2001 upto 31.07.03, under Special Railway Safety Fund are as under:

No. of Assets replaced/renewed/rehabilitated

Assets	2001-02 (1-10.01 to 31-03-02)	2002-03 (1-4-02 to 31-03-03)	2003-04 (1-04-03 to 31-07-03)
Track	2490 Km.	3343 Km.	854 Km.*
Bridges	280	496	140
Signalling Gear replacement	75 stations	169 stations	27 stations
Rolling Stock	159	315	21

*Upto 30.6.2003.

[*Translation*]

Hydel Power Projects in Bihar

3273. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether not even a single central hydel power project is being implemented in Bihar;

(b) if so, whether a pump storage plant of 2580 megawatt capacity has been set up recently in Kaimur;

(c) if so, whether the State Government has requested the Union Government to take over the charge of the project and implemented it through NHPC; and

(d) if so, the time by which the Government is likely to implement the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) At present no hydro-electric project of a capacity of more than 25 MW is under implementation in Bihar.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Bihar State Hydro-electric Power Corporation has informed that on their request, the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation has already conducted survey and investigation of Kaimur Region and identified four sites of pumped storage schemes with a potential of 60 MW each. These schemes can be taken

up after Detailed Project Reports are prepared, necessary clearances obtained and inputs tied up.

[English]

New Bogie Mounted Brake System

3274. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have developed a new bogie mounted brake system in place of under-floor mounted brake system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details thereof and the likely time frame by which this system is likely to be introduced alongwith the type of trains selected in this regards; and

(d) the total funds required for this new system and the funds earmarked during current financial year for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sjr. Bogie mounted air brake system has been developed for use on Indian Railways for passenger coaches.

(b) and (c) Bogie mounted air brake system is technologically superior to the under floor mounted air brake system as it is more reliable and easier to maintain. Passenger coaches fitted with bogie mounted air brake system were put on trial in 1995 and after satisfactory results Railways have decided to adopt this type of brake system since 1999.

At present all ICF design new coaches except and on generation (EOG) type coaches, are being manufactured by Integral Coach Factory (ICF) and Rail Coach Factory (RCF) are with bogie mounted air brake system. Also, existing coaches with vacuum brake system are being gradually converted to bogie mounted air brake system is expected to be completed by March' 05, subject to availability of resources.

(d) The total funds required for this conversion are approximately Rs. 96 Crores. In the current financial year, Rs. 35.8 Crores have been allotted for the work of conversion to bogie mounted air brake system.

DD/AIR for Bodo-Tribal Areas

3275. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have proposed to set up more new AIR Stations and Doordarshan Kendras in Bodo-Tribal dominated areas within the Bodoland Territory particularly in Indo-Bhutan bordering areas;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) At present a Low Power TV Transmitter at Satrasal in Dhubri district is under implementation. Additional projects for the Bodoland Autonomous Council area are envisaged to be set up under Special North-East Package. Bodo-Tribal dominated area and Indo-Bhutan bordering areas are well covered by Radio signals of All India Radio Stations at Kokrajhar, Dhubri and Guwahati in Assam, Silliguri in West Bengal, Gangtok in Sikkim and Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh. No All India Radio project is envisaged in the 10th Five Year Plan.

Scholarship for SC Students

3276. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are running Pre/Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC students;

(b) if so, the funds earmarked in Tenth Plan under this scheme;

(c) the role of States and Union Territories for implementation of this scheme;

(d) the recommendation of working group on empowerment of SCs in Tenth Plan; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL): (a) and (b) Government is implementing the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Post Matric Scholarship for students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Pre Matric Scholarship for the children of those engaged in unclean occupations. The Tenth Plan allocations under the above schemes are Rs. 154.50 crores and Rs. 87.00 crores respectively.

(c) These schemes are being implemented by the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations who identify the eligible students and make arrangements for disbursement of scholarships. The States/Union Territories bear the committed liability (to the extent of the last year of the previous plan). Also 50% of the expenditure over and above the committed liability is contributed by the States/Union Territories in case of pre-Matric scholarship.

(d) The working Group on empowering the Scheduled Castes during the Tenth Five year Plan recommended continuation of these schemes with modifications to make them more effective. Modifications suggested inter-alia included revision of the rates of scholarships and allowances, revision of the income ceiling of the family of the students and the revision of the funding pattern.

(e) The Ministry has already taken steps for revision of these schemes accordingly.

[*Translation*]

Non-Utilization of Funds in Madhya Pradesh

3277. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any information that Madhya Pradesh State Energy Development Corporation has not utilized the Central grants properly;

(b) if so, the grants provided to the above Corporation during the last three years;

(c) whether Central grant is proposed to be provided directly to the Dayodaya Gaushalla, public trust of Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh after construction of a gohar gas plant of 85 cubic meter;

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal to set up solar energy plants in such villages of Jabalpur and Katni districts of Madhya Pradesh which have not been electrified so far; and

(e) if so, the time by which these plants are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) The Government have not received

any information regarding non-utilization and/or improper utilization of Central Financial Assistance by the Madhya Pradesh Urja Vikas Nigam, the State Nodal Agency for renewable energy programmes in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) This Ministry has released an amount of Rs. 7.736 crore, Rs. 3.805 crore and Rs. 5.453 crore during 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 respectively to Madhya Pradesh.

(c) The scheme relates to Community/Institutional/Night soil based biogas plant has been transferred to the States with effect from 01.04.2003.

(d) and (e) The State Government has identified 22 unelectrified villages in Jabalpur and Katni districts. The State Government implements the programme and sends proposals to the Ministry for which Central Financial assistance is provided.

[*English*]

Railway Staff Colleges

3278. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Railway staff colleges that have been set up in the country and the location thereof;

(b) whether the proposal to set up some new Railway staff colleges is under the consideration of the Government; and

(c) if so, the States where these new Railway staff colleges are proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) There is only one Railway Staff College at Vadodara. Apart from this there are five other Centralised Training Institutions at Pune, Jamalpur, Nasik, Lucknow and Secunderabad, providing training to Indian Railways officers.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Land to Petrol Pump/LPG Agencies to Kin of Kargil Martyrs

3279. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the plans of the Government to rehabilitate the next of kin of Kargil martyrs by giving them petrol pumps and cooking gas agencies has hit a bump on account of non-availability of land;

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

(c) whether the Government have taken any serious steps to acquire the land for the purpose; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay in acquiring the land even after one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) Under the special scheme of the Government for allotment of retail outlet dealerships (petrol pumps) and LPG distributorships to the widows/next of kin of the defence personnel killed in action in 'Operation Vijaya' (Kargil), while 197 retail outlet dealerships and 115 LPG distributorships allotted to the beneficiaries have been commissioned, 21 and 6 cases of allotment of such dealerships and distributorships respectively could not be commissioned for want of land. Apart from regular monitoring of these cases, the efforts made by the Government and the oil companies concerned to acquire land include writing to the State Governments concerned at different levels, visits by the officers of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the oil companies to the State capitals to discuss the bottlenecks with and seek assistance from the State Government officers, close follow-up of the cases by the oil companies, etc.

Identification of NCES in J&K

3280. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified the sources of non-conventional energy in the State of J&K;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have undertaken any projects with the State Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has identified various non-conventional energy sources such as solar, wind, biomass and small hydro power in the country, including Jammu & Kashmir that can be harnessed with some fiscal and/or financial incentives. A potential of 1207 MW for small hydro power and 1.29 lakh biogas plants have been estimated for Jammu & Kashmir.

(c) and (d) The details of achievement under various non-conventional energy programmes/schemes as on 31.3.2003 in Jammu & Kashmir are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

The details of cumulative achievements under various non-conventional energy programmes/schemes as on 31-3-2003 in J&K.

S.No.	Programmes/Schemes	Cumulative achievements as on 31-3-2003 in J&K
1	2	3
1.	Small Hydro Power (MW)	102.24
2.	Biomass Gasifier (kW)	120
3.	biogas Plants (Nos.)	2013
4.	Community/Institutional/Night-soil-based biogas plants (Nos.)	04
5.	Solar Photovoltaic Pumps (Nos.)	18

1	2	3
6.	Solar Photovoltaic	
	i. Street lighting system (Nos.)	389
	ii. Home lighting system (Nos.)	15317
	iii. Solar lantern (Nos.)	9202
	iv. Solar Power plants (kWp)	40
7.	Solar Cooker (Nos.)	345
8.	Energy Park (Nos.)	07
9.	Integrated Rural Energy Programme (No. of Blocks)	28
10.	Village Electrification (Nos. of villages electrified)	90

MW: Megawatt; KW: Kilowatt; KWp: Kilowatt Peak.

Development of Salt Land in Mumbai

3281. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry and its PSUs have taken interest in availability of Salt Land, Mumbai;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas needs salted land for expansion, development and shifting of slums; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural gas to get this land alongwith the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Initially, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) expressed interest to acquire some part of Salt land, Mumbai for their respective oil terminal and facilities. IOCL is, however, no longer interested in the land on commercial considerations. BPCL would have to take a commercial decision, keeping in view that steps have been initiated for disinvestment of BPCL.

Allowing Private Operators to Lay Rail Lines from Depots to Ports

3282. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow private operators to set up rail lines to link their depots with ports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the railways will allow private operators to use their tracks on hire charges or some other commercial stipulations; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed by railways to allow private operators to use their rail tracks from their depots to ports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) Private depots through their sidings can be linked to ports by using Indian Railway/Port Railway network.

(d) and (e) Private depot owners are permitted to operate in their sidings.

[Translation]

Shopping Complexes on Lease

3283. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the entire money recovered by giving the shopping complexes on lease should have been

deposited in Government treasury as per the directions issued by the Ministry of Defence in the year 1995;

(b) if so, whether only Rs. 62.53 lakh (27 percent) out of the total amount of rent collected by Defence Estate Officers in the two commands viz. Eastern Command and Southern Command, was deposited in the Government account and the balance amount was deposited in regimental funds in contravention of these directions;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) As per instructions issued by the Ministry of Defence in 1995, all revenues realized from Defence Land given on lease put to agricultural purposes only shall be deposited into Government Treasury.

(b) The sum of Rs. 62.25 lakhs of rental collected by Services were deposited in Government Treasury, and the balance into Regimental Funds.

(c) Details are being collected.

(d) Detailed guidelines/instructions have been issued by the Ministry of Defence during the year 2001 for regulating management of Shopping Complexes on Defence Land and property, deposit of Revenue, etc.

[English]

Criteria for Allotment of Seats/Coaches in Trains

3284. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for allotment of seats/coaches of different classes in a train;

(b) whether the Government have received requests/demands for allotment of extra seats/coaches of Sleeper Class, AC chair cars, AC-I, II and III class in trains particularly from South Central Railway;

(c) if so, the details thereof, train-wise and class-wise; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon, train-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Coaches are provided in trains depending on traffic pattern, operational feasibility and availability of resources.

(b) to (d) Demands are received from various quarters for provision of extra coaches etc. on a continuous basis and extra coaches are attached to train to clear the extra rush of passengers to the extent feasible and justified.

Delay in Serving Speaking Orders

3285. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of court cases and DAR cases pertaining to Railway Board Secretariat Services of Gr. "A", "B" & "C" pending with the Establishment from the last three years;

(b) the number of cases in which the speaking order has not been served to employees in DAR cases and the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of court cases in which the Speaking Order has not been given to the employees as per the direction of the court and the reason therefor;

(d) whether any responsibility has been fixed upon the officers concerned for delaying it;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to correct the wrongs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (d) At present, 2 (two) Court cases and 4 (four) DAR cases are pending against Group 'A' and Group 'B' (Gazetted) officers and 1 (one) Court case and 8 (eight) DAR cases are pending against Group 'B' (non-Gazetted) staff of Railway Board Secretariat Service. There is 1 (one) Court case and 5 (five) DAR cases pending against Group 'C' Staff of Railway Board. The DAR and Court cases mentioned above are at various stages of process and any order/speaking order in respect of officers/employees involved in these cases can be issued only after DAR/ Court cases are complete. There is no case where implementation of the judgement of Court is pending. Therefore, the question of fixing responsibility does not arise.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

**Examination of Posts Published Through
Employment Notices**

3286. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the post published vide Employment Notice No. 1/98 has since been filled up;

(b) if so, the details of the applications received and candidates called for examination, interview, etc;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the examination fee collected from the candidates has been refunded to them in the event of cancellation of the said examination;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether any inquiry has been conducted and any officer/staff is taken up for allegation of malpractices during the said examinations;

(g) if not, the reasons therefor;

(h) the number of examinations cancelled and re-examinations conducted for the same Employment Notice by RRM-Mumbai since 1997 till date; and

(i) in case certain examinations were conducted, why the same practice has not been adopted in case of Employment Notice No. 1/98?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Indents were cancelled due to reduction of vacancies to nil after a review by the indenting Railway.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The examination fee has not been refunded to the candidates in terms of para 3 of "INSTRUCTIONS FOR CANDIDATES" published in the Employment Notice.

(f) Yes, Sir. As a result of vigilance investigation, 5 officials found involved, were taken up.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) Nil.

(i) The reason for not re-conducting the examination in the case of Employment Notice No. 1/98 was reduction of vacancies by the indenting Railway to nil.

Computerised Railway Reservation

3287. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to improve the computerized railway reservation facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the hardware/software installed in many reservation centers in the country particularly in Karnataka and Maharashtra is an outdated technology and goes out of order frequently;

(d) if so, whether the Railways have any proposal to modernize all the reservation centres in the country and to install latest technology hardware/software system;

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

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Expansion & improvement of computerized reservation facilities is a continuous process. These facilities are sanctioned at a number of new locations every year depending upon need and availability of funds.

(c) No Sir. The hardware equipment installed at PRS centres over all Indian Railways, including the locations in the states of Karnataka and Maharashtra, is based on the latest and most suitable technologies. As regard failures of hardware, there was no major failure and up time of the equipment was of the order of 99%.

(d) to (f) Upgradation of hardware equipment with newer versions is a continuous process. Whenever the hardware equipment gets obsolete, or it has out-lived its useful life, it is replaced.

Review of Grant-in-aid Procedure to NGOs

3288. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had constituted Satyam Committee to review the procedure of grant-in-aid to Non-Government Organisations in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Committee;

(c) the details of the recommendations accepted or rejected by the Government;

(d) whether the norms for grant-in-aid to NGOs have been revised from April 1, 2003; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The final report of the Committee has not been received by the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The Guidelines of the Scheme to promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities were revised

with effect from 1.4.2003. Details are available on the Ministry's website at www.socialjustice.nic.in.

Inter Locking System

3289. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether different inter-locking system has been adopted for various railway tracks;

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

(c) whether the Railways now propose to replace the outdated standard-I and II system;

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

(e) the time by which the standard-I and II system are likely to be replaced by standard-III?

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

(b) There are mainly three standards of interlocking system prevailing on Indian Railways. Std. I for speed up to 50 Kmph. Std. II for speed up to 75 Kmph & Std. III for unrestricted speed beyond 75 Kmph. There are some stations which are provided with modified non interlocked or rudimentary interlocking system also permitting 15 Kmph of speed.

The zone-wise details of the Standard of various signalling systems are as given below (31.3.2002):

Railway	Rudimentary	Std. I	Std. II	Std. III	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
CR	17	26	0	368	411
ER	23	29	0	282	334
NR	53	134	0	496	683
NER	47	113	0	165	325
NFR	32	70	1	235	338
NWR	23	221	35	166	445
NCR	0	33	12	296	341
SR	14	153	7	326	500

1	2	3	4	5	6
SCR	25	102	0	399	526
SER	8	24	2	270	304
WR	44	126	17	360	547
ECoR	0	22	5	202	229
ECR	76	81	0	295	452
SWR	6	46	9	181	242
WCR	5	37	0	221	263
SECR	49	17	0	150	216
Total	422	1234	88	4412	6158

(c) to (e) Upgradation of signalling to Std. III from Std. I is carried out based on growth in traffic and increase in sectional speeds.

Export of State of Art Locos

3290. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether production of state of art diesel and electric locos has started in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some countries have shown interest in state of the art electric locos;

(d) if so, the names of other details by these countries;

(e) the total foreign exchange earned by the Government by exporting State of Art electric locos during the last three years; and

(f) the details strategy chalked out by Indian Railways for earning more foreign exchange by exporting these locos electric and diesel locos?

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

(b) Under different agreements for transfer of technology, the Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW) have so

far manufactured 25 locomotive of 4000 HP, 3-phase AC-AC traction and Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) have so far manufactured 50 locomotives of 6000 HP, 3-phase, indigenously. The 10th plan envisages manufacture of 125 such diesel locomotives and 125 such electric locomotives.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (e) Do not arise.

(f) The Indian Railways participate in international competitive markets for locomotives through RITES or IRCON. With the progressive assimilation of advanced technology, localization of manufacture and experience in global competitive markets, Production Units of the Indian Railways are soon expected to gain the confidence and competence to penetrate the international markets.

Private Sector Participation in NRVY Projects

3291. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways is working on a proposal to offer projects under the National Rail Vikas Yojana to private operators on the lines of road projects;

(b) if so, the projects which the Railways have decided to offer to private sector;

(c) the total projects that will be set for private sector;

(d) whether any agreement has been reached; and

(e) if so, the time by which these private sectors are likely to be involved in these projects?

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Expansion of AIR in Tenth Five Year Plan

3292. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the location-wise number of All India Radio Stations and Doordarshan Kendras functioning in Bihar at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up some more centres in the country particularly in Bihar during the Tenth Five Year Plan period;

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

(d) the time by which these centres are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Two Doordarshan Kendras at Patna and Muzaffarpur, and five all India Radio-Stations, at Patna, Bhagalpur, Darbhanga, Sasaram and Purnea are functioning in the State of Bihar.

(b) and (c) Seventy two FM Radio Stations and six Medium Wave Radio Stations of All India Radio, including four FM Radio Stations in Bihar are expected to be set up during the 10th Five Year Plan. Besides, 12 projects of new Doordarshan Kendras/augmentation of existing Kendras are currently under implementation, as part of 10th Five Year Plan. State-wise locations are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) These remaining projects are expected to be completed in phases by the end of 10th Five Year Plan, subject to approval by the competent authority.

Statement

A. Doordarshan

Doordarshan Kendras

S.No.	State/UT	Existing	Projects under Implementation
1	2	3	4
1.	Assam	Guwahati Guwahati (Regional production centre) Dibrugarh Silchar	
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad Vijaywada	Warangal*
3.	Arunahal Pradesh	Itanagar	
4.	Bihar	Patna Muzaffarpur	
5.	Chhattisgarh	Jagdalpur Raipur	Baipur (Additional studio)
6.	Goa	Panaji	
7.	Gujarat	Ahemadabad Rajkot	

1	2	3	4
8.	Haryana	Hissar	
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	
10.	Jharkand	Ranchi Daltonganj	Ranchi (Additional studio)
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	Srinagar Jammu Leh	Rajourt
12.	Kerala	Trivandrum Trichur	Calicut*
13.	Karnataka	Bangalore Gulbarga	
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal Indore Gwalior	
15.	Meghalaya	Shillong Tura	
16.	Maharashtra	Mumbai Nagpur Pune	
17.	Manipur	Imphal	
18.	Mizoram	Aizawl	
19.	Nagaland	Kohima	
20.	Orissa	Bhubaneshwar Bhawanipetna Sambalpur	
21.	Punjab	Jalandhar	Patiala*
22.	Rajasthan	Jaipur	
23.	Sikkim	—	Gangtok*
24.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Coimbatore Madurai
25.	Tripura	Agartala	—
26.	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow Gorakhpur Bareilly Mau Allahabad Varanasi Mathura	Gorakhpur (new complex)

1	2	3	4
27.	Uttaranchal	Dehradoon	Dehradoon (new complex)
28.	West Bengal	Calcutta Shantiniketan Jalpaiguri	
29.	Delhi	Delhi Delhi (Central) Production Centre)	Delhi (DD Bhawan -new complex
30.	A & N Islands	Port Blair	
31.	Pondicherry	Pondicherry	
32.	Chandigarh	Chandigarh	

*Installation completed.

B. All India Radio

AIR Stations proposed in Xth Plan

I. New FM Station — 72 nos.

State	Sl.No.	Place
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	1.	Kakinada/ Rajamundry
	2.	Karimnagar
	3.	Srikakulam
Arunachal Pradesh	4.	Anini
	5.	Bomdila
	6.	Daporijo
	7.	Changlang
	8.	Khonsa
Assam	9.	Karimganj
	10.	Lumding
	11.	Golpara
Bihar	12.	Gaya
	13.	Motihari
	14.	Banka

1	2	3
	15.	Madhubani
Chhattisgarh	16.	Dantewara
	17.	Rajnandgaon
	18.	Jashpurnagar
	19.	Baikunthpur
Gujarat	20.	Jamnagar
	21.	Junagarh
Haryana	22.	Ambala
Jharkhand	23.	Dhanbad
	24.	Dumka
	25.	Gumla
Karnataka	26.	Sringeri
	27.	Bellary
Kerala	28.	Konni
Madhya Pradesh	29.	Ujjain
Maharashtra	30.	Shirdi
	31.	Oras
	32.	Amravati
Manipur	33.	Tamenglang

1	2	3
	34.	Ukhrul
Meghalaya	35.	Dawki
Mizoram	36.	Champhai
	37.	Tuipang
	38.	Kolasib/Sarchip
Nagaland	39.	Phek
	40.	Zunheboto
	41.	Wokha
Orissa	42.	Deogarh
	43.	Raygada
	44.	Rairangpur
	45.	Parlakimidi
Punjab	46.	Fazilka
	47.	Amritsar
Rajasthan	48.	Ramgarh
	49.	Chautan Hill
Tamil Nadu	50.	Kanchipuram
Tripura	51.	Udaipur
	52.	Nutan Bazar
	53.	Longtherai
Uttar Pradesh	54.	Gazipur
	55.	Banda
	56.	Lakhimpur Khiri
Uttaranchal	57.	Dehradun
	58.	Haldwani/ Kaladungi
	59.	Bhatwari
	60.	Bhageshwar
	61.	Champwat
	62.	Gairson
	63.	Rudraprayag

1	2	3
	64.	New Tehri
West Bengal	65.	Darjeeling
	66.	Purulia
	67.	Maldah
	68.	Kochbihar
	69.	Bardhaman
	70.	Tamluk
	71.	Bakurghat
J&K	72.	Bhadarwah (IX Plan Project) completed in X Plan)
II. New Medium Wave Stations — 6 Nos.		
Chhattisgarh	1.	Manendargarh
Rajasthan	2.	Dungarpur
Uttaranchal	3.	Dharchula
Tripura	4.	Dharmanagar (IX Plan Project continued in X Plan)
J&K	5.	Padum (IX Plan Project continued in X Plan)
	6.	Diskit (IX Plan Project continued in X Plan)

[English]

Smaller Cylinder for BPL Families

3293. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have informed the Union Government that they will opt for smaller cylinders for BPL families with daily earning of Rs. 30 and find it difficult to spare the money required for refilling the 14.2 kg. cylinder;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Government have received a request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh only for the release of 5 kg. cylinder under Deepam Scheme in the State. Government have advised to Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to make available 5 kg. cylinders for the beneficiaries of Deepam Scheme.

[Translation]

Renovation and Modernisation of Thermal Power Plants in Bihar

3294. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has cleared the proposal of Bihar Government relating to renovation and modernization of the Thermal Power Plants located at Barauni and Muzaffarpur for generation of power;

(b) if so, whether the above said work cannot be undertaken without central assistance because of the poor financial condition of the State Government and Bihar State Electricity Board; and

(c) if so, the steps by the Government for renovation and modernization of the power plants at aforesaid places in view of the power crisis in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The responsibility for Renovation and Modernization (R&M) of power plants located at Barauni and Muzaffarpur lies with the Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB). Central Electricity Authority has identified thermal Power Plant at Barauni for life extension programme during the 10th Plan period. Power Finance Corporation provides loans for renovation and modernization programme and an interest subsidy @ 3% is provided under the Accelerated Generation and Supply Programme on disbursement of such loans through Power Finance Corporation in the 10th Plan.

[English]

Gauge Conversion between Rangia-Murkhongselek

3295. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISEMUTHIARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 3705 dated December 12, 2002

regarding Gauge Conversion between Rangia-Murkhongselek and state:

(a) whether the necessary clearance has been given to the gauge conversion project between Rangia and Murkhongselek;

(b) if so, the present status of the project;

(c) the amount allocated to the project; and

(d) the target fixed for completion of said project?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Revival of Lalkoti Refractories

3296. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether to revive the operation of the closed Lalkoti Refractories, a unit of Burn Standard Company Limited and Employees Industrial Co-operative has been formed;

(b) whether the same Co-operative has made request to the Union Government to allow them to revive the Company through this co-operative;

(c) whether such proposal has also been endorsed by the State Government of West Bengal and duly forwarded to the Union Government for their consideration;

(d) if so, details thereof;

(e) whether inordinate delay is taking place in according such permission to run the Company through the Industrial Co-operative;

(f) if so the facts thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE): (a) to (d) A proposal was received from Government of West Bengal that the unit may be handed over to a cooperative society formed by the retired employees. Subsequently

Government of West Bengal forwarded another proposal for permitting the workers cooperative to revive the unit through the cooperative society.

(e) to (g) A proposal was sent to the Government of West Bengal for the transfer of the unit to them on 'as is where is' basis, who would then work out the modalities and pass on the unit to the registered Workers' Co-operative. A final response in this regard from West Bengal Government is awaited.

Construction of Road along McMohan Line by China

3297. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chinese Army has re-started the construction of roads along the McMohan Line on the eastern frontier adjoining the Himalayan State of Arunachal Pradesh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The Chinese have well developed road network in Tibet. Further, they have been developing and constructing additional roads/feeder roads, including roads and tracks in the vicinity of McMahon Line in the Eastern Frontier, as a part of overall development of Tibet and improvement of infrastructure in the border areas. The Chinese road construction activities opposite Arunachal Pradesh has been continuing since 1998 and there has been non unusual activities in the recent times.

Government has drawn up long term plans for construction/development of our road network in Arunachal Pradesh in the vicinity of India-China border to meet our operational requirements and to bring about developments in these far flung areas.

Development of Salt Land in Mumbai

3298. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry and its PSUs have taken interest in availability of Salt Land, Mumbai;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry of defence needs this salted land for expansion, development and shifting of slums; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Ministry of Defence to get this land alongwith the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) There is a requirement of land by Armed Forces in Mumbai to make up the deficiency as well as to resettle the encroaches of Defence land.

Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion) has offered some salt land in Mumbai to Indian Navy. Further action in the matter might depend on receipt of firm proposals from the concerned Departments.

Merging of Commercial Entitles

3299. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose to merge some of the different commercial entitles so as to reduce cost overheads and administrative expenses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any outside agency has been asked to submit a report on how to curb losses in such units; and

(d) the details of the assessment and the steps proposed by the Railways in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Import of Engines

3300. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI:
SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has procured/imported engines and wagons without assessing the ground conditions;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the wagons imported worth several crores are lying unused due to non availability of required upgraded tracks;

(d) if so, the facts thereof;

(e) whether any responsibility has been fixed for such procurements; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, 305 BOXNHA wagons, procured indigenously and fit for a superior axle load of 22.1 tonne, are temporarily deployed on circuits with lower axle load of 20.32 tonne.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Transportation of Coal

3301. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of washed coal in tonnes transported through trains from the Kargali coal washery upto the Bokaro Thermal Power Station during each of the last three years, and till June, 2003;

(b) the revenue earned by the Railways from the transportation of coal to B.T.P.S. every year alongwith the amount outstanding against BTPS; and

(c) the per tonne freight rate fixed for transportation of coal from the Kargali washery to Bokaro Thermal Power Station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The total quantity of washed coal transported by rail from Kargali washery to Bokaro Thermal Power Station is as under:

Year	Quantity (In tonnes)
2000-01	—
2001-02	11134
2002-03	586093
2003-04 (upto June'03)	116463

(b) The details of revenue earned by the Railways are as under:

Year	Freight (In lakhs of Rs.)
2000-01	—
2001-02	8.95
2002-03	529.19
2003-04 (upto June'03)	65.57

The total outstanding dues against BTPS was Rs. 377.01 lakhs as on 30th June'03.

(c) Freight rate fixed for transportation of coal from Kargali washery to Bokaro Thermal Power Station is as under:

Year	Rate per tonne (in Rs.)
2000-01	—
2001-02	80.40
2002-03	84.45
2003-04	56.30

[English]

Norms for Petrol Pumps on Highways

3302. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms fixed for setting up of petrol pumps on the National Highways;-

(b) whether the revised norms for Petrol Pumps on highways was discussed between his Ministry and the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways;

(c) if so, whether the Public sector Oil Companies have been told to submit their suggestions on the revised norms which were circulated by the Ministry of Road Transport and highways of the Ministry of Petroleum; and

(d) if so, the response of Oil Companies to the circular issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) All retail outlets (petrol pumps), set up after 1983, are required to fulfil the norms set out in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MORTH)'s circular of August, 2000 and the Indian Roads Congress code IRC: 12: 1983. MORTH is now in the process of laying down revised norms for establishment of retail outlets on the national highways, and, for that purpose, discussions were held among MORTH, the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MOP&NG) and the oil companies. MORTH has forwarded a draft of the revised norms for the concurrence of the MOP&NG.

Repairing of Old Bridges

3303. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds from the Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF) were allotted for repair of over-aged bridges;

(b) if so, the total funds allotted for these rail bridges during each of the last three years alongwith the funds spent so far;

(c) whether the repairing work has been completed on these bridges; and

(d) if so, the location of such railway bridges where such work has been done, zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Funds under Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF) were allocated for pulling up back log in arrears of bridge rehabilitation. Allotment & utilization of funds during last two years is as under:

(Figures in crores of Rs.)

Year	Budget Grant	Expenditure
2001-2002	61.74 (Revised Estimate)	44.15
2002-03	143.3	151.62

In addition to the above, an amount of Rs. 217 crore has been allocated for bridge works during year 2003-04 from Special Railway Safety Fund.

(c) and (d) Bridge works identified under SRSF have been planned to be completed up to 2006-07. Bridge works completed under SRSF during last two years on Indian Railways are as under:

2001-02	—	280
2002-03	—	496
2003-04	—	571 (Target)

Further, about 809 were rebuilt/rehabilitated under Depreciation Reserve Fund (DRF) during last two years and 1013 bridges are targeted for completion during 2003-04.

Grounding of Mig-21 Aircraft

3304. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Air Force has grounded all MiG-21 'Type-69' twin seater trainer aircraft till the exact cause behind the crash near Srinagar on July 14, 2003 could be ascertained;

(b) if so, whether the cause behind this crash of MiG-21 near Srinagar has since been ascertained;

(c) if so, the details in regard thereto;

(d) if not, the progress made in this regard; and

(e) the life span of different version of Mig-21 aircraft and the number of such aircrafts completed their life span?

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

(b) to (d) A Court of Inquiry has been set up to ascertain the cause of the accident and is still in progress.

(e) The life spans of different versions of MiG-21 aircraft and the details of such aircraft that completed their life spans are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	MiG-21 version	Life span (in years)	No. of aircraft that have completed their life spans
I.	MiG-21 Bis	35	Nil
II.	MiG-21 FL	40	10
III.	MiG-21 (Type-96)	35	01
IV.	MiG-21 trainers	35	Nil

*[Translation]***400 KVA Transmission Line in Bihar**

3305. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bihar is facing a crisis of power supply even after adequate power generation in the eastern part of the country due to absence of transmission line in the state;

(b) whether there is no arrangements for power transmission across the Ganga river between North and South Bihar;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal to set up 400 KVA, 220 KVA and 132 KVA transmission lines in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) For power transmission across Ganga river between North and South Bihar, a 132 KV S/C cable connection between Barauni and Hathidah is under operation and a 220 KV D/C line between Biharsheriff and Begusarai exists, which is charged at 132 KV for the want of 220 KV sub-station at Begusarai.

(c) and (d) Details of approved and proposed transmission lines for Bihar are furnished below:

(I) Powergrid Lines**(a) 400 KV (approved)**

- Purnea-Muzzaffarpur D/C

- Biharsheriff-Muzzaffarpur D/C
- Kahalgaon-Biharsheriff D/C (3rd & 4th)

(b) 400 KV (proposed)

- Kahalgaon-Patna
- LILO of Kahalgaon-Patna at Barh 2xD/C.

(c) 220 KV (approved)

- Sasaram-Arrah-Khagaul 220 KV D/C line and
- Sasaram 400/220 KV S/S.

(d) 132 KV lines.

Under Central Assistance Grant to Bihar, a separate scheme "Bihar sub-transmission strengthening scheme" is being executed by POWERGRID at an estimated cost of Rs. 365 crores. Under this scheme construction of a number of 132 KV lines are also planned apart from one 20 KV transmission line (Muzaffarpur-Siwan D/C). This scheme is being implemented under part-A and Part-B as detailed below:

	Part A Nos. (Ckm)	Part B Nos. (Ckm.)
Transmission Lines	10 (746 Ckm)	12 (487 (Ckm)

(II) Bihar State Electricity Board Lines and Substations.**(a) 220 KV (approved)**

- Begusarai 220/132 KVS/s
- Begusarai-Purnea 220 KV D/C
- Begusarai-Muzaffarpur TPS 220 KV D/C
- Revival of Fatwah-Hazipur 220 KV D/C (Tower failure)
- Khagaul 220/132 KV S/s.

*[English]***Change of Route**

3306. SHRI A. BRAHMANIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the trains plying between Bhopal and Nagpur have to slow down due to old track and thus delaying all Southern bound trains from Delhi;

(b) whether any alternate track or change of route is planned to speed up trains going to South from Delhi;

(c) whether any study has been done in this regard; and

(d) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir. However, suitable temporary speed restrictions, within the permitted time allowance, are imposed to ensure safety while carrying out sanctioned works.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Allotment of Arms

3307. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision to issue arms on out of turn basis on the recommendation of MPs;

(b) the total number of rifles/guns and other types of fire arms allotted on out of turn basis by the Ministry of Defence during the current year, till June 30, 2003;

(c) the total number of applications seeking allotment of arms received during the current year, till June 30, 2003;

(d) the number of applications approved alongwith the number of those rejected, separately, during the said period; and

(e) the grounds on which applications have been approved or rejected, separately?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) There is no specific provision to issue arms on out of turn basis on the recommendations of MPs. The recommendations of the MPs are, however, given due consideration for allotment on out of turn basis.

(b) During the current year up to June 30, 2003, 173 fire arms have been allotted on out of turn basis.

(c) 356 number of applications seeking out of turn allotment of arms were received from 1.1.2003 to 30.6.2003.

(d) during the current year up to June 30, 2003, 173 applications were approved for allotment. During the same period, 208 applications were rejected.

(e) The threat perception to the applicant was the main criterion for recommending out of turn allotment of the weapon. Besides this, out of turn allotments of rifles were considered in respect of Armed Forces personnel who intended to seek re-employment as security guards after retirement.

The case where applicants already possessed a weapon or where there was no convincing evidence of threat were rejected.

[*English*]

Liquidation of PSUs through B.I.F.R.

3308. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central Public Sector Undertaking that have been closed down after invoking 25 (O) of the Industrial Dispute Act;

(b) the number of Public Sector Undertakings have gone on liquidation through Board of Industrial and Finance Reconstruction (BIFR) route;

(c) the position of the satellite township alongwith its assets, where the closed and liquidated companies had such township;

(d) whether the Government propose to initiate dialogue with the concerned State Government to protect the assets of the township hither-to left without any projection so that the existing occupants of the quarters, if any can live through some mutually agreed arrangements and assets consisting of crores of rupees are protected as well; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE): (a) As per available information, 8 Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) have been closed under Section 25 (O) of the Industrial Disputes Act.

(b) As per the recommendations of the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) for winding up of sick industrial CPSUs, Official Liquidators (OL) have been appointed in case of 8 enterprises which have been closed.

(c) The possession of the township, if any, alongwith assets of CPSUs which have been closed/under liquidation is vested with the management/Official Liquidator as the case may be.

(d) and (e) These matters are within the commercial/administrative jurisdiction of the management of CPSU/ administrative Ministry and the Official Liquidator as the case may be.

Assistance from World Bank for NRVY Projects

3309. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has approached the World Bank for funding projects under the National Rail Vikas Yojana;

(b) if so, the details of the projects on which the World Bank is being asked to provide loans;

(c) whether the World Bank has examined the proposals of the Ministry;

(d) if so, the total amount agreed upon; and

(e) the time by which the same is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Railways plan to approach the World Bank through Ministry of Finance for funding of three Mega Bridges; namely, Munger, Nirmali and Bogibeel, alongwith a few other projects under National Rail Vikas Yojana (NRVY).

(c) No, Sir. The proposals have not yet been examined by the World Bank. Only preliminary discussions have been held.

(d) and (e) do not arise.

Handing over of Land to Wakf Board

3310. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a good area of Revenue Land situated at Buniyadabad has been allocated in favour of Indian navy, in which area a very Old Mazar having Tomb and sheds are standing;

(b) whether both Muslim and Hindu Communities having faith in Mazar are pressing to allot this portion of land to Wakf Board for its maintenance and worship; and

(c) if so, the action has been taken to get this portion of land surrendered by the Indian Navy and handover the same to the Wakf Board?

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

(b) No, Sir. No proposal has been received for allotting this portion of Defence land to the Wakf Board.

(c) Does not arise.

Amount from Central Road Fund for Manning Unmanned Level Crossing

3311. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways has got certain amount from the Central Road Fund for manning unmanned level crossings;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years;

(c) the number of unmanned level crossings manned from this fund in each State during each of the last three years; and

(d) the number of unmanned level crossings are proposed to be manned in each State during the year 2003-2004 from this fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The Railways have received certain amount from the Central Road Fund, to be utilized for road-related safety works, viz, construction of Road Over/Under Bridge in lieu of level crossings and manning of unmanned level crossings.

(b) Details of amount received from Central Road Fund for the last three years are as under:

(Rs. in crore)	
Year	Amount
2000-2001	300.00
2001-2002	300.00
2002-2003	264.00

(c) and (d) Status of manning of unmanned level crossing is maintained Railway-wise and not State-wise. A Statement is enclosed in that regard.

Statement

Status of manning of unmanned level crossings during last three years is given as under:

Railway	Manning of unmanned level crossings (Numbers)		
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Central	0	116	45
Eastern	9	15	10
Northern	9	2	0
North Eastern	9	14	11
North-east Frontier	1	26	4
Southern	7	3	11
South Central	12	49	8
South Eastern	14	53	60
Western	6	9	0
Total	67	287	149

During current year i.e. 2003-04, 100 unmanned level crossings are programmed to be manned.

Community Interface Scheme of ONGC

3312. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the concrete measures taken so far by ONGC in the field of community interface;

(b) whether ONGC is considering one set of employees both working and retired for benefits and ignoring the vast majority;

(c) if so, the effect of the so called 'Agrani Samman' scheme on the majority of retired employees who are debarred and effect on this on the working employees as far as their mental health is concerned;

(d) whether in E-8, E-9 promotions adhocism has played a dominant role affecting in general all the employees and in particular SC and ST; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) reaches out to the community by undertaking Socio-Economic Development Programmes in and around its areas of operations all over the country. Since 2001-2002, ONGC decided to allocate 0.75% of its net profits each year for this purpose. These programmes are implemented by all the Assets, Basins and Work Centers in accordance with the laid down guidelines of the Company.

(b) and (c) ONGC extends benefits to all of its employees both working and retired, as per policies and guidelines on the subject from time to time. ONGC has decided to introduce "Agrani Samman" Ex-gratia Benefit Scheme to provide relief to the pre-15.10.1959 employees as also to post-14.10.1959 employees who retired from the services of ONGC prior to implementation of PRBS in ONGC. As far as the effect of "Agrani Samman" Ex-gratia Benefit Scheme on the mental health of existing employees is concerned, it has no bearing on them since they are eligible for Post Retirement and Death In Service Superannuating Benefit Scheme (PRBS).

(d) and (e) ONGC has informed that it has a well-defined promotion policy. ONGC has further informed that the promotions made recently at various levels/grades were in accordance with the various provisions of its promotion policy and hence have not affected adversely the employees belonging to either the general category or Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes category.

Development of Salt Land in Mumbai

3313. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry and its PSUs have taken interest in availability of Salt Land, Mumbai;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry of Railways needs salted land for expansions, development and shifting of slums; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Ministry of Railways to get this land alongwith the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation initiated a proposal regarding utilisation of vacant salt pan land in Mumbai, and called for the remarks of this Ministry. This Ministry has suggested that the salt pan land may be transferred to the State Govt. of Maharashtra who may utilise the same for resettlement & rehabilitation of slums dwellers/encroachers of public land including Railway land.

Street Children

3314. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of street children in the country, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether the objectives of an integrated programme for street children have been achieved by giving grant-in-aid to NGOs;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the financial assistance allocated/released to these NGOs during each of last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise and NGO-wise;

(e) whether any physical check up has been done to ascertain the living condition of children, their nutrition, health care, sanitation and hygiene etc; and

(f) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) to (f) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing a Scheme called "An Integrated Programme for Street Children" with the aim to prevent destitution among children and to facilitate their withdrawal from a life on streets as well as placement into national mainstream. While no study has been carried out of determine the number of street children in the country, the number of street children benefitted under

the scheme during 2002-03, State-wise are given in the enclosed statement-I.

Regular inspections of the projects being implemented under the Scheme indicate that the objectives of providing shelter, nutrition, health care, sanitation and hygiene, education and recreation facilities etc. to the destitute and neglected street children are being achieved by and large. The purpose of the inspections being carried out regularly for these projects is to ensure that living condition of these children is of minimum acceptable standards. Projects not meeting these standards are not sanctioned grant-in-aid.

The details of financial assistance provided to the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), during the last three years and the current year (till 11.08.2003), State-wise are given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement I

S.No.	Name of the State/UT	Number of street children benefitted during 2002-03
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5040
2.	Assam	600
3.	Bihar	100
4.	Gujarat	7132
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	300
6.	Karnataka	1200
7.	Madhya Pradesh	200
8.	Maharashtra	1960
9.	Orissa	300
10.	Punjab	550
11.	Rajasthan	900
12.	Tamil Nadu	2500
13.	Tripura	100
14.	Uttar Pradesh	2850
15.	West Bengal	10675
16.	Delhi	2788
Total		37195

Statement II

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the Organisation with address	Amount released			
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh					
1.	Navjeevan Bala Bhavan, Poomanandmpet, Vijayawada-520003.	9.34	0	14.39	3.8
2.	SKCV Childrens Trust, Santosh Bhavan, Opp. Press Club, Gandhinagar, Vijayawada-520003	7.02	0	14.03	0
3.	Urban and Rural Development Society, India (URDES), Hyderabad-520044	1.9	0	5.99	0
4.	Society for Integrated Development in Urban and Rural Area, (SIDUR) 144/2 RT, Vijay Nagar, Colony, Hyderabad-500057.	4.58	0	2.48	0
5.	Goloconda Urban and Rural Area Development Society (GUARDS), Secunderabad-500090	2.2	6.58	4.34	0
6.	Jagruth Educational & Community Development Society, 1-1-16-12-A/D (Plot No. 384) Jawahar Nagar, Chikkadpally, Hyderabad.	0	4.48	4.5	2.92
7.	Karuna Society, H.No. 13-6-826/30 Bapu Nagar, Mehdiapatnam. Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0.84	0
8.	Kothapet Mahila Mandali, Pothuraju Chowk, Kothapet, Guntur	0	13	8.37	4.18
9.	Sri Venkateswar Mahila Mandali, D.No. 5-8-13/3, 2/7, Prodiapet, Guntur-522002	0	13.65	7.2	3.74
10.	Urban and Rural Development Mission, Old LIC Building, 2nd Line, Pandaripuram, Chilakaluripet, Guntur-522616.	0	0	17.5	0
11.	Ushodaya Yuvajana Samkashema Sangham, 4th Lane, Gunturivari Thota, Guntur Andhra Pradesh	0	0	1.48	0
12.	Nirmala Hrudaya Seva Sansthan Phirangipuram, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh	0	0.93	3.7	1.39
13.	Star Mahila Mandali, HN. 5-2-295,, Rahimpura Street, Village & Post-Koratla Karim Nagar AP	0	0	1.24	0
14.	Nav Bharatha Educational Society KVS Colony, Kothapet Dhone, Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh	0	0.73	2.82	0
15.	Dakshina Bharata Rural Development Society, Kammavari Palem, Nadigama Mandal, Krishna District.	0	1	3.97	1.45
16.	Himagiri Rural Development Society, D.No.7/1-A, Garika Palem, Ranastalam Mandalam Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh-532407.	0	1	3.98	1.49

1	2	3	4	5	6
17.	Viveka Educational Foundation, PAMUR, Prakasham district, Andhra Pradesh.	0	0.75	0	2.94
18.	Navodaya Seva Sangam, H.No. 107, Netaji Road, Jadchirala, Distt. Mahabubnagar	0	0	2.79	1.5
19.	Child Foundation of India, Plot No. 120, 39-5-30, Murali Nagar, Visakhapatnam-530007	0	8.35	7.01	0
20.	Visakha Rural Development Society, 1-4-14, Candhinagar, Vishakhapatnam	0	12.3	6.07	3.59
21.	Bharati Rural Development Society, Door No. 39-1/11/2, East Murali Nagar, Vishakhapatnam-530007	3.04	0	0	0
22.	Sewa Bank, D.No. 49-11-4, Lalitha Nagar, Vishakhapatnam-530007	0	6.77	5.07	0
23.	City Educational Society H.No. 32-41-19 Revenue Colony, Vijaywada	0	0.74	2.97	1.48
24.	Priyadarshini Service Organisation, D.No. 45-56-9, Saligramapuram, Visakhapatnam	1	2.59	4.5	0
25.	Nagesh Village Development Sanstha, West Godavari, Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0.75	0
26.	Sre Krishnadevaraya Yuvajana Sangham Dommaranandyala, Lakshmi Narisimha Nagar, Cuddapah, Andhra Pradesh.	0	0.25	2.98	1.31
27.	B.R. Satya Nariana, Orphanage Thapovanam Chittor Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0.74	0
Assam					
28.	Indian Council for Child Welfare, G.N. Bordoloi Road, Ambari, New Government Emporium, Guwahati-781001.	13.2	6.79	7.05	0
29.	Helal Sangha Community Centre, Village-Taitala, P.O.-Janakalayan Bazar, Distt. Karimganj.	2.67	0	0	0
30.	Sadua Asom Gramya Puthibharal Samth TellaPatty, Chanmari Road, PO Halbar Gaon, District Nagoan, Assam.	0	0	1.23	0
31.	Salesian Sisters of North-Eastern India, Provincial House, St. Mary's Convent Mailgaon, Guwahati, Assam.	0	0	0	1
32.	Gram Vikas Parisad, Rangllo PO Jumarmur, district Nagoan, Assam	0	0	0.75	0
Bihar					
33.	Lal Bahadur Shastri Gramin Vikas Pratiethan, Patna, Bihar	0	0	1	0
Gujarat					
34.	Disha Darshan Seva Trust, 89, Purnkunj Society, Part-I, Meghaninagar, Ahmedabad-380016.	0	5.06	7.91	0
35.	Andh Apang Kalyan Kendra, Jantanagar Road, Ghattodia, Ahmedabad	7.15	3.58	9.6	0
36.	Akhand Jyot Foundation, Fatehpura Gam, B/H Police Chowky, Fatehpura, Paldi, Ahmedabad-380007.	8.4	8.64	4.32	3.55

1	2	3	4	5	6
37.	K.H. Jani Charitable Trust, E-11, New Girdharpark, Opp C.N. High School, Ambawadi, Ahmedabad-380006.	3.15	5.85	14.53	0
38.	Indian Council for Social Welfare, Municipal Bal Bhavan, Paldi, Ahmedabad-380007.	9	4.5	3.53	3.45
39.	Rachnatmak Abhigam Trust, "Hardik" Prema Park Society, Opposite L.G. Hospital, Maninagar, Ahmedabad-380008.	9	4.5	8.01	4.5
40.	Patani Sheri Seva Sangh, 1453, Pragati Chowk, Near Gayakwad Haveli, Raikhad, Ahmedabad	9	4.5	16.02	0
41.	Aayush Foundation, Ahmedabad, Gujarat Pin-380006	0	0.74	2.97	0
42.	Dr. Bhim Rao, Charitable Trust, B.R. General Hospital Last Bus Stop Kalapinagar, Ahmedabad	0	0	0.75	0
43.	Baroda Citizens Council, Above Health Museum Sayajibaug, Baroda-380018.	4.81	3.43	6.64	3.72
44.	Vikas Jyot Trust, Nagarwada Chor Rasta, Behind Bharat Floor Mill, Vadodara-390001.	8.87	6.14	4.37	4.37
45.	Shishu Milap, 1, Shrihari Apartments, behind Express Hotel, Alkapuri, Baroda-380007.	4.19	3.32	3.32	0
46.	Sahyog Charitable Trust, C/14-15, Bhagyoday Complex, Garwa Refinery Road, Vadodara-390016.	0	7.39	0	13.51
47.	Sri Purjit Memorial Trust 2/5, Prakash Society Opp. Nirmla Convent School, Rajkot-360001.	10.89	4.67	7.98	4.66
48.	Navasarjan Xavier Cell for Human Development, Near R.T.O, Ring Road, Surat-395001.	1.6	3.73	2.14	2.14
Haryana					
49.	Akhil Bhartiya Swami Agyandeo Samaj Uthan Samiti, Rohtak Haryana	0	0.25	0	0
Jammu & Kashmir					
50.	Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam Welfare Society, Neha Ghar, Kachhi Chawni Jammu (Tawi)-180001.	5.37	5.96	3.61	2.23
Karnataka					
51.	Young Men's Christian Association, (YMCA) 66 Infantry Road, Bangalore-560001.	8.02	6.94	6.71	4.39
52.	Mythri Sarva Seva Samithi, No. 373, Hundred Feet Road, HAL 2nd Stage Indiranagar, Bangalore.	0	0	0.71	0
53.	Baswa Karya Samiti, Kotgyol, Post Nittur (V) Taluqa-Bhalldi, District Bidar, Karnataka	0	0	1.25	0
54.	Sri Maitri Mahila Mandali, Sri Maitri Association, Sugar Factory Road, Doddabathi Post, Davengere Distt.	8.99	8.98	8.98	4.49

1	2	3	4	5	6
55.	Sri Shakthi Association, Guttur, Harihar, Davengere Dist. Road, Calicut-673001.	10.84	8.98	8.33	4.46
56.	Annapurana Association, Chintamani nagar, Harihar, Devengere, Karnataka	0	0	2.45	1.48
57.	Sharda Niketan, Sharda Niketan Road, Roopa Nagar M.K. Hally, Mysore Karnataka	0	0	0.75	0
Kerala					
58.	Association for Welfare of Handicapped, P.B. No. 59, 17/194-A, M Square Complex, Pavamani Road, Calicut-673001.	3.31	7.68	0	0
59.	Trivandrum Don Bosco Veedu Society, Kalipankulam Road, TC 41/2065, Manacaud, Thiruvananthapuram-695009.	1.21	0	0	0
Madhya Pradesh					
60.	Seva Bharati 'AARADHAN' Sardarpura, Ujjain, MP	0	0	1.38	0.88
61.	Seva Bharati, Madhya Bharat, Bhopal Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0.06	0
Maharashtra					
62.	Salaam Balaak Trust, PT Welfare Centre Asha Sadan, Marg Umar Khadi, Mumbai. Mumbai-400055.	12.38	5.87	4.5	4.5
63.	Society Undertaking for Poor People's onus for Rehabilitation (SUPPORT), Santacruz (East), Mumbai-400055.	0.21	1.8	0.9	0
64.	The Vatsalya Foundation, King George V-Memorial, Dr. Moses Road, Mumbai-400011.	6.78	5.51	5.19	0
65.	Tata Institute of Social Service (TISS), PB No. 8313, Sion-Trombay Road, Deonar, Mumbai-400088.	1.06	0	2.42	0
66.	Child Line India Foundation, Nana Chowk, Municipal, 2nd Floor School, Ferere Bridge, Near Grant Road Station Mumbai	14.41	2.64	2.61	0
67.	Apang Va Niradhar Bahuuddeshiya Kalyankari Sanstha, Zingabadi Tokali Road, Nagpur-440030.	36.73	8.02	16.17	4.09
68.	Sandhi Niketan, Shikshan Sanstha, Wadgaon, Taluqua Mukhed, Nanded, Maharashtra	0	0	0	0
69.	Khatun Minority Women's Social Welfare & Education Society 534 MHB Colony, Malegaon, Nasik, Maharashtra	0	0.74	0	0
Meghalaya					
70.	Impluse NGO Network, Lower Luchumiere Near Horse Sgoe Building, Shillong	0	0.25	0	0
Manipur					
71.	Manipur Mahila Kalyan Samiti, D.M. Road, Dewlahland, Imphal-795001.	11.6	0	0	0
72.	Social Development & Rehabilitation Council, (SDRC) Phouden, Mamang Lekai, BPO Phouden, Thouble, Manipur 795138.	0	0	0.74	2.23
Mizoram					
73.	Baptist Church of Mizoram, Baptist House, Upper Khatta, M.G. Road, PO-Aizawl-796001.	1.06	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
Orissa					
74.	Orissa State Council for Child Welfare, Qr. No. Type VIMR-II, Unit VI, Bhubaneswar-751001.	5.09	0	0	0
75.	Ruchika Social Service, Organisation, G-6, Ganga Nagar Unit IV, Bhubaneswar-751001.	5.12	5.52	4.98	0
Punjab					
76.	Guru Nanak Charitable Trust, Gurmat Bhavan, Mullanpur Mandi, Distt. Ludhiana-141001.	6.38	6.18	6.03	0
77.	Gramin Vikas Kalyan Society, Near Kundan Cinema, Azimgarh, Abohar, Distt. Ferozepur.	0	17.1	7.94	0
Rajasthan					
78.	India Institute of Data Interpretation and Analysis (I-India) 1, Lakshmi Path, Hathroi, Jaipur-302006.	8.05	12.95	11.24	0
79.	Jan kala Sahitya Manch Sansthan, F-70, Shankar Marg, Kanti Chandra Marg, Bani Park, Jaipur-302006.	4.32	14.47	11.34	0
80.	Adivasi Sanskritk Sewa Sansthan E-32 Saraswati Nagar, Opposite sector-06, Malviya Nagar Jaipur, Rajasthan.	0	0	0.5	0
Tamil Nadu					
81.	Indian Council for Child Welfare, No. 5, 3rd Main Road West Shenoy Nagar, Chennai-600030.	7.88	0	10.11	0
82.	Marialaya Mazzarello Magalir Nalvazhvu Maiyam Social Service Society, 29, Pedariar Koil Street, Chennai-600001.	8.5	8.4	8.76	0
83.	Asha Nivas Social Service Centre, 9, Rutland Gate, V Street, Chennai-600008.	8.47	8.06	11.23	0
84.	Asian Youth Centre, L-8, 26th Street, Anna Nagar East, Chennai-600008.	2.44	2.44	3.79	2.74
85.	Nesakkam-Street Ffins Education and Development Society (SEEDS), 6, First Cross Street, Lake Area Nungambakkam, Chennai-600034.	8.43	0	0	0
86.	Don Bosco Anbu Illam Social Service Society, 16, Malayappan Street Mannady, Chennai.	10.1	8.98	10.41	0
87.	Chennai Mahabodhy Society, 2/145, Railway Station Road, Kavariappattai, Chennai TN	0	0	1.25	0
88.	Don Bosco Anbu Illam Social Service Society, Coimbatore, TN	8.94	8.52	4.5	4.5
89.	Madurai Non-Formal Education Society, Education Centre, Madurai-625016.	1.31	0	0	0
90.	Tiruchirapalli Multipurpose Social Service Society, Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu	0	0.74	0	0
Tripura					
91.	ARK Science & Science & Social Organization Jogendranagar, Agartala, Tripura	0	5.44	3	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
92.	Vivekanandan Yuba Mahamandal bridge Chowmuhani, Bishalgarh, Tripura	0	0.25	0	0
Uttar Pradesh					
93.	Sarodaya Viklang Seva Sansthan, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh	0	0	1.5	0
94.	Gramothan Jan Sewa Sansthan, 82 B/4, Asulabad, Allahabad.	9	9	9	4.5
95.	Saheed Memorial Society, E-1698 Rajajipuram, Lucknow-226017.	13.17	13.31	13.1	0
96.	Uttar Pradesh Council for Child Welfare, 2, Rana Pratap Marg, Moti Mahal, Lucknow.	9	8.39	0	11.94
97.	St. Mary Intercontinental Child & Women Welfare Orgn. of India, C-228 Talkatora Avas Vikas Colony, Rajajipuram, Lucknow-226017.	13.5	12.11	13.06	0
98.	Samaj Seva Sansthan, 414, 238, Sarai Mali Khan Chowk, Lucknow.	8.5	8.5	8.5	4.25
99.	Social and Economic Institution, Gaurav C-2116, Indira Nagar, Lucknow-226016.	7.4	0	15.28	3.7
100.	Bodhisatwa Baba Saheb Ambedkar Samark Samiti, 68/363, Chhitwapur, Pajhawa, Lucknow,	0	0	0	0
101.	New Public School Samiti, 504/21-D, Tagore Marg, Daliganj, Lucknow.	1.67	4.1	4.01	2.05
102.	Bhartiya Anusuchit Jati Janjati Vikas Samiti 105, Narayan puri, Krishna Nagar, Lucknow, UP.	0	0	0.75	0
103.	Sarvajanic Shikshonayan Sansthan, Village & Post-Alipur, Dist-Hardoi.	9.85	12.51	8.72	0
West Bengal					
104.	Women's Co-ordinating Council, 5/1, Red Cross Place, Calcutta-700062.	4.17	0	20.09	0
105.	Children's Right Development Service B-25, Aurobindo Park, PO-Purbaputary, Calcutta-700096.	4.5	9	9	0
106.	Centre for Social Development, 68 Barrack Road, Barrackpore, 24-Parganas (North)-700032	3.56	5.99	8.53	0
107.	Humanity Association, 34-A, Sashibhusan De Street Calcutta-700012	5.68	4.03	11.37	0
108.	Ramakrishna Vivekananda Mission, Rajgariah House, 7, Riverside Road, Barrackpore, 24-Parganas (North).	5.91	8.82	8.12	0
109.	Institute of Psychological and Educational Research (IPER), 27, Circus Avenue, Calcutta-700017	13.17	12.25	6.71	4.97
110.	Liberal Association for Movement of People (LAMP), 66 Surya Sen Street, Calcutta-700009	19.91	6.28	19.48	0
111.	Bengal Mass Education Society, 99/IF, Bidhan Sarahi, Calcutta-700004	9.33	8.51	9.45	0
112.	Forum of Communities United in Service (FOCUS), 6, Tiljara Road, Calcutta-700046	4.7	9.31	10.16	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
113.	Bikash Bharati Welfare Society, 20/1B, Lal Bazar Street, Calcutta-700001	8.14	7.92	8.98	0
114.	Tiljala Shed, 6 C Rifle Range Road, Calcutta	0	1.74	7.6	0
115.	Vivekananda Education Society, 13/3, Kalicharan Dutta Road Calcutta-700061.	2.92	7.92	7.02	4.03
116.	West Bengal Council for Child Welfare, 42 Ramesh Mitra Road, Calcutta.	16.1	27.16	21.9	0
117.	Song of Unity and Liberty (SOUL) 5/3, Gope Lane, Calcutta	19.91	6.66	16.32	0
118.	Janasiksha Prochar Kendra, 57-B, College Street, Calcutta-700073	0	16.75	15.04	0
119.	United Bustee Development Association, 6/1A, Delhi Seampur Road, Calcutta-700014.	0	9.85	6.96	0
120.	Society to Education & Environment Development, 150, G.T. Road, South, Howrah-711102.	9.24	7.38	8.1	0
121.	People's Union for Development & Reconstruction, (PUDAR) 30/3-A, N.S. Dutt Road, Howrah-711101	9.65	9.37	9.84	0
122.	Harijan Sevak Sangh, 97/3 Naskar Para Road, Ghurun, Howrah	0	1.06	3.39	0
123.	National Council of Women in India, 166, Bipin Behari Ganguly Street, Calcutta-700012	6.48	0	0	0
124.	Gana Unnayan Parshad (GUP), 10, Gimesh Lane, Calcutta-700014	5.71	13.38	8.93	0
125.	Prantik Jana Vikash Samity, EC-163, Salt Lake City, Calcutta-700064	5.4	8.21	8.35	0
126.	Calcutta Social Project, 172/3, Rash Behari Avenue P.O. Rash Behari, Calcutta-700029	5.34	2.56	8.31	0
127.	West Bengal Scheduled Castes Tribes & Minority Welfare, 90 A/1B Suren Sarkar Road, Kolkata, West Bengal.	0	0	7.3	4.98
128.	Usthi Foundation India, P-125, Metropolitan Cooperative Housing Society, Sector-A, P.O. Dhapa, 24-Parganas (South)-743506.	0	3.57	0	0
Chandigarh					
129.	Youth Technical Training Centre Society (YTTS), Room No. 13, Karuna Sadan, Sector-11B, Chandigarh-160011.	9	0	0	7.37
NCT of Delhi					
130.	Seva Bharati, Keshav Seva Kendra, Kalander Colony, Dilshad Vihar, Delhi-110095.	3	1.58	6.57	0
131.	Salaam Baalak Trust, A-12/5, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110057.	8.89	12.42	18.38	0
132.	PRAYAS F-I-X, DDA Flats, Near Jahangirpuri Police Station, Jahangirpuri, Delhi-110033,	30.93	21.34	28.08	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
133.	Bal Sahyog, Connaught Circus, New Delhi.	7.21	0	11.79	0
134.	Indian Council for Child Welfare, 4 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi-110002,	4.08	0	3.47	4.8
135.	Association for Social Health and Rehabilitative Action by Youths (Ashray), Busti Vikas Kendra Tagore Road, Kamla Market, New Delhi.	0	1.13	0	0
136.	Don Basco Ashalayam, Old Najafgarh Road, Palam Gaon, Delhi.	0	0.74	5.74	0
137.	Bhartiya Parivardhan Sanstha, D. Basti Vikas Kendra, Nand Nagri Delhi-43	0	0	0.74	0.74

Availability of Set-Top-Box

3315. SHRI T. GOVINDAN:
 SHRI J.S. BRAR:
 SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
 DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
 SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
 SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI:
 SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:
 SHRI SAIDUZZAMA:
 DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:
 SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:

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

- (a) whether the Set-Top-Boxes will be available only with the cable operators;
- (b) if so, the reasons in this regard;
- (c) whether the Union Government propose to make STBs available in the open market to give consumer the better choice and restrict monopoly tactics of cable operators;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the schedule drawn for the availability of STBs in the market;
- (f) whether the Government propose to make any provisions for the groups consumers living in the same house in joint families having more than one TV;
- (g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the other options such as DTH are available to be consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (g) The Set-Top-Box will be made available to the consumer by their cable operators. If the consumer moves to the area serviced by the cable operator of the same Multi-System Operator (MSO), he will be able to get his STB activated by the cable operator at the new location. In case there is change in MSO, consumer can return the STB to his cable operator and buy/hire a new STB from the cable operator at the new location.

Initially STBs will be imported by MSOs. Indigenous production is expected to gather momentum subsequently.

(h) Yes, Sir. Guidelines for operation of D.T.H. broadcasting service were issued by the Government in March, 2001 and four applications have so far been received. Both the options of DTH and CAS would be available to the consumers.

[Translation]

Group of Ministers for Media Policy

3316. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has decided to constitute a group of Ministers to consider the media policy afresh to effect changes in it;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the date from which the said group is likely to start functioning; and

(d) the reliefs the media is likely to get after effecting such changes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[*English*]

Joint Exercises

3317. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Joint Naval, Air Force and Military exercises taken place between India and U.S.A. and India and Germany so far;

(b) the details therein; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to enter into any joint exercise of Indian Army and the Army of Israel?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) While the Armies of India and USA have so far carried out four exercises during 2002 and 2003, the Navies of two countries have participated in six major exercises from 1992 to 2003. The Indian Air Force has participated in five exercises so far during 2002 and 2003 including three exercises involving Armies of two countries. Except for a passage exercise involving Indian and German Naval ships during a port call at Kochi in July 2002, no exercises have been held by the Armed Forces of India with the Armed Forces of Germany.

(b) It would not be in national interest to divulge specific details in this regard.

(c) No, Sir.

Statutory dues of Employees in BSCL

3318. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the employees related liabilities towards the employees of Burn Standard Company

Limited, i.e. statutory dues like P.F., gratuity, interest on PF & gratuity, arrears arising out of salary/wage revision etc, will be liquidated by the Union Government/company before such disinvestments;

(b) if not, the manner in which these payments will be made to the employees;

(c) whether the Government will protect the interest of the employees of Burn Standard Company Limited before making any such disinvestments by liquidating all the employees related liabilities;

(d) if so, whether revaluation of the assets of Burn Standard Company Limited has been made unit-wise; and

(e) if not, the action for the sale of assets/equipments of the units of Burn Standard Company Limited can be made simultaneous before such disinvestments as per publication of notices inviting expression of interest made in several Newspaper recently?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE): (a) to (c) Government have been providing funds to BSCL for liquidating employee related dues from time to time. At the time of disinvestment, however, all the admissible dues of the employees will be taken care of by the Government.

(d) and (e) Unit-wise asset valuation is carried out as an essential component of disinvestment. However, certain assets are being disposed of as per BIFR's revival scheme.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 12.00 Noon.

11.16 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Twelve of the Clock.*

12.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha reassembled at 12.00 noon

[*MR. SPEAKER in the Chair*]

... (Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South-Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. ... (*Interruptions*)

The comment which has been made about the Chairman of Rajya Sabha. ... *(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER: Sir, I have given a notice. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: How can you be allowed to 'Create Confusion' and give notice also. Please take your seat.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let me hear what the point of order is.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I must listen to his point of order.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, the comments which have been made here pertaining to the ruling given in the other House is absolutely wrong, indecent and an unpardonable act. ... *(Interruptions)* Discussion should not be allowed here on the ruling given by the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and the ruling given here should also not be allowed to be discussed in the upper House ... *(Interruptions)*. You please give your ruling regarding the comments made here on the Chairman. ... *(Interruptions)*

12.02 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri K.H. Muniyappa and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the table)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you please give your ruling. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar): Sir, will the discussion take place here in this way. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) Nobody can transgress the authority of the Lok Sabha. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Before the House was adjourned Shrimati Sushma Swaraj raised a point of order.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Her contention was that some words had been spoken against a Member of the other House, and also something had been said about the Chairman of the other House.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will you speak in this manner against the other House. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That is her contention. I am not saying it.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If anything is there like that, I will definitely expunge it from the record of the House. This is as per Rules 352 and 354, which I have gone through.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, they should apologise. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, what is your point of order? Please repeat it?

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have spoken about the ruling given by the Chairman of Rajya Sabha. ... *(Interruptions)* I would like to know as to whether you would give your ruling regarding PAC. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please allow him to speak.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No slogan is to be taken on record.

... *(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: The TV relay is to be stopped.

... *(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

12.04 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

(English)

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Army (Amendment) Rules, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.R.O. 08 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th June, 2003 under section 193A of the Army Act, 1950.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7942/2003]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Container Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Railways for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7943/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata, for the year 1999-2000, alongwith Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata, for the year 1999-2000.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.
3.
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata, for the year 2000-2001, alongwith Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working

of the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata for the year 2000-2001.

4. Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7944/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Oil India Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7945/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Thermal Power Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Power for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7946/2003]

- (2) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7947/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Thirty-eighth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Commissioner for Linguistics Minorities in India for the period from July, 1999 to June, 2000.
- (2) A copy of the Explanatory Note (Hindi and English versions) of the Report mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7948/2003]

12.05 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Action Taken Statements

[English]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (Jalore): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing further follow up action taken on the recommendations contained in the following Reports:

- (1) Sixth Report (11th Lok Sabha) on "Salar Jung Museum".
- (2) Seventh Report (11th Lok Sabha) on "Janta Cloth Scheme".
- (3) Ninth Report (13th Lok Sabha) on "Union Government Appropriation Account (Telecom Services-1994-95)".
- (4) Thirty-first Report (13th Lok Sabha) on "Union Government Appropriation Accounts (Railways-1996-97)".

12.05¹/₂ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES.

Thirty Sixth Report and Minutes

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-sixth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes including minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the sitting of the Committee relating thereto on Ministry of Defence on "Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their Seventeenth Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha)—Military Participation Ratio of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Defence Services—Policy and Perspective".

12.05³/₄ hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY

AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Sir, with your permission I inform that the following Government Business will be taken up in the House for the week commencing Monday, 18th August, 2003:

1. Consideration on any item of Government Business left from today's agenda.
2. Discussion and Voting on the Supplementary Demand for Grant (Railways) for 2003-04.
3. The Appropriation (Railways) No. 4 Bill, 2003. (Introduction, consideration and passing)
4. Consideration and passing of the following Bills as passed by Rajya Sabha.
 - (i) The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 2003.
 - (ii) The Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2003.
 - (iii) The Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2003.
 - (iv) The Foreigners (Amendment) Bill, 2003.
5. Discussion on Resolution seeking rejection of Arbitration Board in CA Reference No. 1/1998 in respect of pay scales for the post of computer in the Office of the Registrar General of India.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There are submissions given by Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, Shri Sunil Khan, Shri Hannan Mollah, Shri Basu Deb Acharia, Dr. V. Saroja, Shri S. Murugesan, Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey and Shri Raza Singh Rawat. Let all these submissions be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

... *(Interruptions)*

*SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): The following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

- (1) The cashew workers numbering about five lakhs mostly women are thrown out of employment due to the closure of cashew factories for unstable conditions in the international market. The Central Government's immediate intervention is sought for.
- (2) The coir workers numbering about six lakhs mostly women are thrown out of employment because the Central Government has stopped all subsidies given for the development of the coir industries.

Treated as laid on the Table.

Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries should immediately intervene for saving this ancient cottage industry from ruin.

*SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): The following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

- (1) Serious situation arising out of erosion of embankments of rivers of West Bengal leading to loss of lives and property. There is necessity of dredging the river Damodar, Ganga and other rivers of West Bengal.
- (2) Immediate settlement of price fixation problems of quarters of HFCL, Durgapur Unit.

*SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): The following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

- (1) Serious situation has arisen due to massive erosion of the river Ganges in the districts of Maldah, Murshidabad, Hooghly, Howrah and others. Massive subsidence has already taken place in many villages and paddy fields have submerged under water. Thousands of people are in trouble. The Government should take immediate measures.
- (2) Attack on Dalit in Uttar Pradesh left 70 people injured and there is massive unrest and tension. This must be discussed.

*SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I request that the following items may be taken up for next week business.

- (1) Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd. of Durgapur West Bengal is the only unit in the country for manufacturing of Flint Button. BIFR has ordered for winding up of this company as GOI has failed to submit any proposal for its revival. This unit can be revived with investment of Rs. 29 crores. GOI should approach AAIFR for review of the order passed by BIFR.
- (2) Santhali language is one of the oldest languages of the country. This language is spoken by more than one crore people. It has its own literature this language is taught in various Universities. This language is not recognized by GOI. It should be

included in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution by bringing a constitutional amendment Bill.

*DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): The following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

- (1) Need to pass Women Reservation Bill without further delay.
- (2) Need to discuss the news item appeared in "Hindu" on August 7, 2003 captioned "DRDO Man Questioned".

*SHRI S. MURUGESAN (Tenkasi): The following matter may be included in the next week's agenda.

- (1) Need for full electrification of Railway line between Chennai and Kanyakumari.
- (2) Need for doubling the railway line between Chennai and Kanyakumari to avoid heavy traffic and undue delay of all trains of this route, in the interest of the public.

[Translation]

*SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Girdih): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Need for restarting the 'A' plant of Bokaro Thermal Power station of Damodar Valley Corporation which is lying closed since the last two years and settling the cases pending for the last ten years for providing employment to the dependents of deceased employees of the corporation and providing employment to the dependents of deceased employees who are on the verge of starvation due to rigid stand taken by the management.
2. Need for providing employment to the dependents of deceased employees of all the subsidiaries of the Steel Authority of India particularly Bokaro steel Plant whose employees died in harness and early settlement of such pending cases.

*PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Need for assigning more work relating to broadgauge to Loco and Carriage factories

(Railways) which is the backbone of the economy of Ajmer (Rajasthan) and non-treatment of railway employees.

2. Need for early completion of installation of HPT at Taragarh in Ajmer and early commissioning thereof.

12.06 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Violation of agreement in regard to protecting the interest of workers by the Management of BALCO and Modern Food Industries (India) Ltd. and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Next item is Calling Attention Notice by Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Disinvestment to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The situation arising out of violation of agreement in regard to protecting the interest of workers by the Management of BALCO and Modern Food Industries (India) Ltd. and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you can lay the statement on the Table of the House.

... *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): Sir, I lay the statement on the Table of the House. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The statement is laid on the Table of the House.

... *(Interruptions)*

*SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, in all cases of strategic sale, adequate provisions are made in the Transaction Agreements entered into with the Strategic Partner (SP) for protection of employees' interest. The provisions with respect of BALCO ensure that there would be no retrenchment for a period of one year from the closing date other than dismissal or termination in accordance with the applicable regulations and laws, that any restructuring of the labour force shall be implemented only in the manner recommended by the Board of the company and in the event of any reduction of the strength of the company's employees, the SP shall ensure that the company offers its employees an option to voluntary retire on terms that are not less favourable than the Voluntary Retirement Scheme offered by the company just prior to disinvestment. Adequate provisions for penalizing any breach of the Agreement also exist. In addition the recital to the Agreement states that the SP would use its best efforts to provide adequate job opportunities for members of the Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes, physically handicapped persons and other socially disadvantaged categories of persons and that in the event of reduction in the strength of the employees of the company, the SP shall use its best efforts to ensure that the physically handicapped persons are retrenched at the end. A provision was also introduced for sale of upto 5% of the equity share capital of the company to the employees of the company. In the case of MFIL, the Shareholders Agreement provides that there would be no retrenchment for a period of one year from the date of Agreement unless the affected employee is given benefits, which are the higher of the Voluntary Retirement Scheme offered by the company just prior to disinvestment or the benefits available under law.

In the case of BALCO, the Transaction Agreements were entered into on 2nd March 2001 and the provisions for protection of employees' interest will continue to be available for a period of three years till 1st of March 2004. In the case of MFIL, the Agreement was entered into on 31st January 2000. The provision against retrenchment of employees was applicable for a period of one year from the date of Agreement. Government of India sold the entire residual equity of 25.995% on 28th November 2002 through exercise of the Put Option available in the Transaction Agreements and has exited from the company.

During the meeting of the Central Trade Unions with the Hon'ble Prime Minister, held on 18th October, 2002,

*Laid on the Table and placed in Library. See No. LT-7949/2003.

some of the trade union leaders had complained that workers of Bharat Aluminum Company Ltd. (BALCO) and Modern Food Industries (India) Ltd. (MFIL) have been laid off/retrenched without a fair deal. In view of this, a decision was taken that a small group consisting of representatives of the trade unions, employees and the Government would be constituted to visit these industries and to look into this issue. Accordingly, a team has been constituted comprising of Shri Hasubhai Dhawe, President Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh; Shri Sharad S. Patil, Secretary General, Employers Federation of India; Shri Sanjeev S. Ahluwalia, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Disinvestment and Shri K. Chandramouli, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Labour. The team has so far visited BALCO's head office/factory at Korba on 13-14th February 2003 and one unit of MFIL located at Mumbai on 29th April 2003. The report of the Committee is yet to be submitted.

In the case of BALCO, the representative of the Ministry of Disinvestment has reported that there was no significant labour disputes which could be identified as being outstanding with respect to disinvestment. The VRS implemented by the company post disinvestment is being given in five instalments since the company was cash strapped due to the 67 days strike immediately after disinvestment in March and April 2001. However, after consultations with the employees, the company had initiated a VRS scheme payable in five/six monthly instalments and has subsequently also given interest at the rate of 7% per annum on the delayed payments. Immediately, after disinvestment the management negotiated a wage settlement which was pending since 1999. As against the normal period of ten years, the settlement was limited to only five years and workers have been benefited by a minimum of 20% of their wages due to this settlement. In the case of MFIL, the company management has denied that the VRS offered by the company after disinvestment, in which 853 employees have been given VRS, was compulsory in any way. As stated by the company, the VRS implemented after disinvestment is even more beneficial than the norm prior to disinvestment. The average level of wages has increased from a level of Rs. 6,200 per month at the time of disinvestment to Rs. 8,000 per month after disinvestment under a wage settlement agreed by the new management with the employees. The employees of MFIL have also alleged that the Strategic Partner (SP) has sold assets and discontinued the bakery business in violation of the terms of the Shareholders Agreement, which will be gone into by the Fact Finding Committee.

The performance of both BALCO and MFIL has improved after disinvestment. Government is told that the

capacity of BALCO will be expanded four-fold from the existing capacity of one lakh tonnes per annum of Aluminium at an estimated investment of Rs. 6,000 crores. The cost of various input materials per tonne of aluminium produced has been reduced leading to a reduction in the manufacturing cost from Rs. 38,672 per metric tonne of Aluminium to Rs. 27,597 per metric tonne. The capacity utilization has improved. For instance, the Hot Metal production peaked at 8490 metric tonne in December 2002, the second highest since inception, and the highest since 1986. Consequently, the level of profit has also increased. MFIL was a loss-making public sector undertaking prior to disinvestment. The Strategic Partner has injected funds for financial restructuring and has invested around Rs. 12 crores on safety, quality control and modernisation. Sales have increased significantly since disinvestment. In the year 2001, the company registered a growth in sales of 52%. The SP has submitted before BIFR that it will become profitable by the end of December 2004 and that its net worth will be positive by December 2007. The improvement in the performance of these companies indicates that there has been considerable efficiency enhancement and these companies are now able to compete effectively, which is the only sustainable way of ensuring growth of productive employment opportunities.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please go ahead.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, you bring the House to order first. How can I call the attention of the Minister in this situation? ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask questions. Basu Deb Achariaji, you put questions to the Hon. Minister.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I go to Item No. 12. Shri Nitish Kumar.

12.08 hrs.

DEMAND FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANT— RAILWAYS, 2003-04

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Sir, I beg to present a statement (Hindi and

English versions) showing the Supplementary Demand for Grant in respect of the Budget (Railways) for 2003-04.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7943-A/2003]

12.09 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Fifty-Fourth Report

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Sir, I beg to present fifty-fourth report of the Business Advisory Committee. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I request all of you to go to your seats, since I have to dispose of the business of the House.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There are important items before the House, which are to be disposed of. Please go to your seats.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I once again request you all to go to your seats.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There is important financial business before the House. I request all of you to go to your places. We want to take up Supplementary Demands for Grants.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Yesterday, we did not take up this important business. I am interested in taking it up today. Please cooperate. There has been the practice of taking up this important business concerning the finances of the country. Please go back to your seats.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Supplementary demands are very important for the Country. You kindly get them passed ... (Interruptions) Since no financial transaction can take place without getting them passed so, initiate discussion on them.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, kindly resume discussion on supplementary demands. ... (Interruptions) They are only indulging in politics. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Last time, the Supplementary Demands for Grants were not taken up. Today I want to go ahead with the Supplementary Demands for Grants. Please go back to your seats. Let the official business taken place.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not fair. It is necessary that we permit the financial business to be transacted in the House. That has been the practice. Please go back to your seats.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 1.30 p.m.

12.15 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till thirty minutes past Thirteen of the Clock.

13.30 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at thirty minutes past Thirteen of the Clock.

[Mr. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a matter of controversy was raised in the morning. ... (*Interruptions*) Please allow me to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, I am ready to permit you but please speak from your seat.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Sir, in the morning, a controversy was raised.

MR. SPEAKER: Who raised the controversy in the morning?

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi from our party raised an issue and you admitted that there was some pertinence in his argument.

MR. SPEAKER: I had not admitted; I had refused.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: But you have not resolved the issue. That is why we are agitating.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want the issue to be resolved?

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: You have not issued your ruling on this issue. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have heard you very patiently, Nobody in this House can question your observation but I seek your protection under Rule 354. Rule 354 very clearly states that if the hon. Speaker gives permission to quote the proceedings of the Council of States—which I did not quote—that is not out of order to develop a point of procedure. This is given clearly in Rule 354. ... (*Interruptions*)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is already a ruling before us that cannot be discussed in this House. It is not allowed under Rule 354. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, I will allow you to speak later.

... (*Interruptions*)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, the Chairman's ruling in the other House cannot be discussed or commented upon anywhere. That is the point I wanted to make. ... (*Interruptions*) This is unpardonable.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, my only contention was whether the powers of this House have been transgressed. That was my point. When I gave the notice, I got the permission under Rule 354. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: To my mind, this point is over. I have already given a ruling also.

13.32 hrs.

(*At this stage, Shri Adhir Chowdhary and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table*)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please go back to your seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: We have some important business to take up.

... (*Interruptions*)

13.33 hrs.

(*At the stage, Shri Samik Lahiri and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table*)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please go back to your seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, you may please give your ruling on this issue. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a privilege notice. I may please be allowed to speak. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have submitted a notice of privilege motion, I may please be allowed to speak. ... (*Interruptions*) Sir other members have also submitted privilege notices along with me. ... (*Interruptions*)

13.34 hrs.

(At this stage, Shrimati Kanti Singh and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please go back to your seats.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

13.34 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at one minute past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, for a long time, the Private Members' Bills and Resolutions have not been disposed of. We do not like to encroach upon the authority of the Private Members' Bills and Resolutions. Let the Private Members' Business continue. We shall cooperate. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we will take up Private Members' Business.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: (South Delhi): Thanks. Good sense has finally prevailed. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now don't provoke him any longer.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, unfortunately, he does not understand the tradition of the Congress Party in the parliamentary democracy. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let us take up the Private Members' Business. We had already skipped the Private Members' Bills and Resolutions twice. So, now, we will take up Private Members' Business.

... (Interruptions)

14.02 hrs.

MOTION RE: THIRTY-FIFTH REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we will take up Item No. 22. Shri Denzil B. Atkinson.

SHRI DENZIL B. ATKINSON (Nominated): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-fifth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 6th August, 2003."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-fifth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 6th August, 2003."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, Bills for introduction.

Shri H.G. Ramulu	— not present.
Dr. S. Jagathrakshakan	— not present.
Shri Vijay Sankeshwar	— not present.
Dr. Nitish Sengupta	— not present.
Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi	— not present.

14.05 hrs.

SLUMS AND JHUGGI-JHOPRI AREAS (BASIC AMENITIES AND CLEARANCE) BILL—Contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Ramdas Athawale on the 25th July, 2003.

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh was on his legs. He is not present. Now, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the present Bill as introduced by Shri Ramdas Athawale is a commendable step taken in the right direction. Now when I intend to speak on this subject, I must say it with a deep sense of remorse that the present government in power is least bothered about the poor and their interest. These people at the helm of affairs just cannot understand how the poor of this country are pulling and pushing their lives and what are the troubles and tribulations being faced by them. While formulating the policies, they take care only of big people whereas how and where the poor of this country live and in what conditions do they live is completely lost sight of by them. The matter does not end here, the pity is that they are totally unaware of the plight of slum and jhuggi dwellers. There is no drinking water, no electricity and no other basic facilities available in those areas. Only filth is piled up causing diseases in those areas.

Recently, the Government has taken up the work of removing jhuggi-jhopris in Delhi and Chandigarh—the place which I represent. The thought behind this work was that when poverty cannot be alleviated, let the jhuggi dwellers be ousted from their places one by one by way of demolishing the jhuggi-jhopries. This has led them to face a lot of difficulties and a lot more miseries have been inflicted on them. We hold that the beauty of cities must be maintained, but that should not be done at the cost of demolishing jhuggi-jhopries. We doubt that the Bhartiya Janta Party and the officers of their government are doing all these things to teach a lesson to the poor because they are aware that the Congress Party has always stood with them and for the cause of the poor and has taken measures for the upliftment of the poor.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what to talk of one or two or fifty houses, a large number of colonies were removed some time ago. If you refer to our past stands you will find that we have repeatedly been saying that good housing schemes must be formulated and deserving persons must get their due share. Those people must get small housing units or plots where they might live. But that was not done. We should not forget that ours is one country and every citizen of this country has the right to settle in any part of the country. Suppose some factory has to be set up somewhere. Obviously, the labourers who contribute in construction of a grand

building or a factory which ultimately help in strengthening the economic condition of the country, do also have the right to own at least a small house for them. Those persons have not settled just like that. There are middlemen even among them who influence them to sell their land to be rehabilitated again. They are assured that they will be settled there permanently.

Late Rajiv Gandhi had launched the Indira Awas Yojana with a view to providing shelters to the shelterless in a planned manner. But just opposite to that is happening now. This Government might be thinking that the labourers who live in those jhuggi-jhopries may flee away once their houses are demolished. This is because they are all Congress vote-Banks. What is wrong if they are our vote-Bank? Those who elect MLAs or MPs for State Assembly or Lok Sabha do have some right. If your action is guided by those who voted for you or who did not vote for you then you would be doing injustice to the poor. I am compelled to say all this because the areas selected for conducting the demolition move have been found to be inhabited by the poor who influence elections and they are the men who are exploited in the name of relief and even otherwise and they are also looked down upon.

There is a need to change this attitude. If this Government claims to be the patroniser of the poor, then the hon. minister must stand in support of this Bill and considering the importance of this Bill he must ensure that the Bill gets through. Through this Bill the hon. Member has tried to convey that there is no basic facility available in jhuggi-jhopri clusters. They live beside dirty drains and that too without the facility of drinking water. There is no sewage system, no electricity and what to talk of schools and hospitals.

In regard to hospital I would like to cite one example of my constituency. During the Congress regime we had, after great efforts, got eight dispensaries constructed and each one was manned by one doctor. Now, those dispensaries have also been demolished. There were temples and Gurudwaras. Our colleagues sitting on that side are irked by mere mention of the world temple. Is it not their duty to see with honour the existence of temples in jhuggi-jhopris clusters? But only adverse things have been done over there. I would like to know the ground on which this Government claims to be protector and sympathiser of the poor? The present Bill introduced by Shri Ramdas Athawale calls us to ponder over the issues seriously. This country does not belong to the rich alone but to the poor as well. Generally tall claims are made here.

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

[English]

'that there is one India, and another Bharat.'

[Translation]

What kind of Bharat is that and what do you think of that? Making tall claims do not serve any purpose. The poor men of our country who do not have any shelter to live in, they support themselves any how by earning pittance against the hard labour done by them. They are just able to manage anyhow. If we conduct a survey in the country we will find that even those who are getting good salary are not able to buy houses of their own. But I am talking of the BPL category who are pavement dwellers. They sleep along the roadside even during the winter season. I would like to ask if they would continue to live like that throughout their life.

[English]

Would they be just condemned to live that sort of life for the entire years of their life on this earth?

[Translation]

Nothing is being thought for them.

[English]

Lip-service would not be enough to really meet the minimum essential needs of those people. Here, we find this Government is totally cussed, insensitive to the needs of the poor people.

[Translation]

I would like to submit that this Government must convince us that something would be done for those people. The Ministry of Urban Affairs provides us several survey reports. The reports are published on dazzling papers and it is really amazing as to how those photographs are taken. This Government has completed four years in the office and advertisements with full coverage are given in newspapers. This is also observed that if one Minister completes even 365 days in one Ministry after being shifted from some other Ministry then voluminous books are published telling his achievements. If the money which is spent on advertisements is accounted that will clearly reveal that the same could have proved to be sufficient amount to fulfil the requirements of the poor. No thought is being given in this direction. I would like to say that the works which were undertaken earlier need to be completed on priority basis.

There is a need to see what can be done for the welfare of the poor. There should be no politics on this issue. Union territories come under the Central Government's control. We talk of full statehood for Delhi. But the elected representatives of Delhi who sit in the assembly have not been given full rights. Even the Government in the state of Delhi has not been given its due rights to take decision in this matter. In that situation the state government had to demand from the centre that the houses of the poor should not be demolished. But their demand was not heard. When we said that the Central Government is responsible for that, the big statements were made against that. But only after sometime you saw for yourself that your motives could not succeed because the people have started giving vent to their protests saying that excesses are being committed against them. What happened that time? Swami Sahab went there. He announced that such demolition would be stopped from that time onwards. I am happy at this. The second day Advaniji went. He also announced that demolition would be stopped. Is it not indicative of the fact that you were the people who were doing all that. You had given a signal to carry out the demolition of the houses of the poor. But when you saw that things were going against you then you ordered to stop all that. We are happy that it was stopped but that was not sufficient. The need of the hour is to conduct a survey to find out how many persons have been rendered homeless. You had to consider that small children of the poor in the age group of one to two years were compelled to sleep in the open on bricks during the summer. One lady delivered a child in the open on bricks because there was no houses for them to live in. Even at this time I call upon you to come out in favour of them if at all any humanity is left in you. I am telling only facts. You can go there and verify the facts. My only request to you is that there should be no politics on this issue. Injustice has been done to the people. You should do justice to those who have lost their houses. A law which was enacted long back in regard to Chandigarh provides a cut off date of 8th December 1996. It says that those who came over there till the aforesaid date would be settled. But now that is not being implemented. You are not going beyond that. Today I would like to place before you may demand that the schemes formulated at the time of Indira Gandhi must be implemented. As I mentioned earlier. After conducting a survey Shri Rajiv Gandhi had said very emphatically that housing problem is a big problem. That time greater amount of grants were given. But that has been stopped now. Chandigarh contributes hugely to the consolidated funds of India. What is spent on Chandigarh against that? My demand is that

the needy people of Chandigarh should be provided with dwelling units commensurate to the amounts contributed by this city to the consolidated funds of India. I am often alleged of raising local issues.

This Bill also tells that in the larger interest such places should be kept clean and it should be made mandatory for the Central Government to look after these colonies. The inhabitants of these colonies must have enforceable right to raise their demand in this regard and also may be able to achieve that may not have to face problems on this account and they should get their lawful rights fulfilled. With these words I conclude and support this Bill and hope that the Government would ensure the passage of this Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singhji you had not completed your speech. So you should get the chance of completing your speech first. I had called your name but you were absent.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): He should have been given time to put his views later on because he was absent when his name was called. You should give him at least some punishment.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You should not say like that. Otherwise he will also interrupt when you are on your legs.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Sir, please listen to the voice of the poor and ponder over that. You may not be able to understand but we will try to make it comprehensive.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Gopal Singh Nepali was an eminent poet of India. While supporting this bill, I would like to start my speech quoting the verse from his poem.

A kavi sammelan was being organized in Delhi under the auspices of the eminent poet of Hindi Shri Surya Kant Tripathi 'Nirala'. The poet read out his poem in the sammelan, "Chandra Kiranoan se mahloan ki divar chamakati rahti hai, Chandani jhoonpadi se lipat bhar rat risakati rahti hai" this was the feeling of a contemporary poet. Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, the then Prime Minister was present in that kavi sammelan. He left the auditorium after having listen to this line of poem. What does it mean was the poem soaked in pain? Shri Gopal Singh Nepali said, 'Din gaye baras gaye yatna gai nahin, rotiyen garib ki prarthna bani rahi', then he said, "Shyam ki banai

baji, Ram ka dhanush chadha, budh ka bhi jnan badha, nirdhanta gai nahin.' India is the birthplace of great personalities. Lord Buddha preached Jnan (true knowledge) to all, Dhanush of Ram had unlimited power. Lord Krishna played flute. Even after that poverty did not diminish, its pace did not slow down rather it kept on increasing. This is the sense of agony which found expression in this Bill.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hastinapur was the capital of Pandvas and Delhi was the capital during the regime of Mughals. But the Britishers preferred to make Calcutta their capital. In 1912 they shifted it to Delhi. At that time the population of Delhi was around four lakh which has risen to one crore and forty four lakh now. What is the reason for such a huge increase in the population? When the poor and hardworking people do not get employment in villages, they rush towards metropolitans and cities. The poor people migrate to the cities in search of employment no matters whether it is Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, or Delhi. There is no law sort of minimum wages for these poor people. He gets one thousand to twelve hundred rupees to support himself and the poor man is covered in the list of employed people. Some one is employed in factory, some other works for a rich man while some are engaged in sanitation related jobs. But if he would get 1000-1200 rupees in a city like Delhi, where from he would manage to find a place to live in? People opine that food, clothing and accommodation are three basic necessities of life. Even though he managed to get work, but how he will be able to get all these things with Rs. 1000-1200. It takes Rs. 1000 to hire a room. Then he builds a jhuggi-Jhoanpadi in an open space. Somehow he manages plastic cover as a roof to it and passes his time in this way. I would like to ask the reasons as to why the Government does not conduct survey of such people who toil for the whole day and sleep on pavements at night after drinking water on depending on whatever meagre food they manage to arrange or whether this government have an iota of sympathy left in them for the poor and hard working people? The officers employed with Health and Food Processing Departments are taking huge salaries while an NGO has detected a poisonous element in soft drinks. In the same manner, scams after scams are being busted continuously in poverty alleviation, urban poverty alleviation, slums departments and whereas the poor man in sleeping on the pavement. Whether the Government of India have any account thereof? He does not have any place to live in and the police is bent upon arresting them under section 109 and putting them behind the bars taking them shelterless for during night time. They do not have any place where they can take shelter

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and the police impose section 109 against them and send them to jail. Is this the law of the land? When these poor and hardworking people settled here and there in Delhi, the Government passed order to remove their hutments to pave the way for beautification of Delhi.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a place in Delhi called Wazirpur. This has sprung up on railway land. When Mamtaji took charge of the rail department, the officers of the department were ordered to get the land vacated. Bulldozers were sent there and police was deployed in such a large numbers that it seemed that Indo-Pak war was going to break-out. Bulldozers were there to demolish the houses of the poor. Ex-Prime Minister Shri V.P. Singh sat on a dharna. How it was possible for the frontrunners like us to be inside our houses when a sick man was going to sit on a dharna. We moved onwards and stood in front of bulldozers and staged dharna there. Thousands of people gathered there and the bulldozers came to a halt and task of demolition works has been stopped in the mid-way. Would it pave the way for enactment of an act? Same is the case with Laxmipur mohalla. They came to know that houses were being demolished. They rushed to the spot. But they demolished 5-7 houses even before they reached there. Their children were thrown out on the roads. Poor old women was crying. All her belongings, all her savings were thrown outside. If a high statured person is thrown outside his house, what would be his condition. The poor has somehow managed to build an hutment but they are bent upon demolishing it with the help of bulldozer, by deploying police and army. This is inhuman. How it is being allowed. This is like pepping up enmity towards poor. Without providing any alternative arrangements, the Government are resorting to such move. I would like to ask the Government as to whether the responsibility to provide food, clothing and accommodation lies with the Government or not.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I have come to know that the Government propose to formulate a national slum policy. Where is that national slum policy? A national slum policy should be formulated which should include hardworking labour class who prepare bricks, construct roads, run factories and who have built Delhi. The entire production whether it is being produced in factories or by the farming community, it is the result of the tolling labour class. It is the labour class, who have built Delhi with their toil. Yet the Government want to demolish their houses to beautify Delhi. To beautify Delhi they are being shifted from here, excesses are being committed there upon and hutments are being removed. Dozens of such

examples are published in the newspapers. But there is no one to listen to the grievances of the poor and ponder over them. Several big wigs, who were also the cabinet members, have constructed their houses on Government land. But the Government officers resort to flattery and they are demolishing the houses of the people rendering them homeless. What type of policy is this? What type of policy is this Government following? Why this Government has so much hatred for the hardworking and poor people? What I want to say that those who have helped in shaping Delhi if they are rendered homeless and thrown out of Delhi, the things for affluent people would turn worse. They won't have anyone who can clean their houses, do their household chores and to serve them in all their earnest. They can't do without them. But such is the intensity with which they hate them and this is the repressive policy of this Government. This is not the way, the Government should work. This is inhuman. What happened to their national slum policy. Now the pressure is mounting on every city. People are coming from villages, where they will live? Will they manage to take a house on rent? What provision would be made to provide them sustenance and drinking water facility. Once we came to know that an alternative arrangement is being made. Land is being allotted to the poor. The people who are doing labour work in Uttam Nagar they are being relocated to Narela. There is no school for their children in Narela neither there is facility of drinking water and nor are there any other facility for them. The wages they earn will be spent on travelling to and back. How they will live and work to earn their livelihood. The Government does not have any planned policy. If they are displaced without allotting them alternative land, it will be a crime and atrocity against the poor. There can not be a great injustice than this on the labour class. It is the responsibility of the Government to provide clothing, housing, hospital, education, transport, drinking water etc. The Government formulates a policy to demolish jhuggi-jhopdis, to run away from their responsibilities and get applause. They say that they are doing the beautification work in Delhi. The concerned staff comes there alongwith the police force as if they are doing a very good work. This is not good work at all and we should put an end to this practice and stop demolishing slums. Why the Government has turned a deaf ear to this problem and why it is harbouring ill will against the jhugi dwellers. There are hundreds of instances where big people have encroached upon Government land, they have built palatial building on that land but nobody dare touch them. All the laws and campaigns of the Government are totally detrimental to the poor. The poor are being treated as their enemy. The policy of the Government is to demolish

jhuggi jhonpadi. This Government is adopting double standards. If the poor approach the Government with their complaint that their jhuggi's are being demolished they pass the buck on the DDA and if they approach the DDA, they pass the buck to the NDMC and they again pass it on to the MCD. If one approaches the MCD, they say that it is the urban development department of the GOI which is doing this work. If one approaches to this department they say that the Delhi Government is doing this work. Injustice and atrocities are committed against them from all quarters. The poor people runs from pillar to the post but his requests go in vain. There is ban on making fresh ration cards. Government have launched several schemes like Antyodaya Yojana. But there are only on papers. The poor are not getting their quota of foodgrains. There is no one to hear their request in office and courts. If somehow they succeed in getting card at all they have to pay bribe for that from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1000. They do not have clothes to wear and houses to live in and they also do not have any means of livelihood. The labour class which have migrated here for earning their livelihood contribute in the beautification of Delhi, where would they live there? There should be a scheme for them on the part of the Government. The Government should conduct a survey about the number of people living in jhuggi-jhonpadi and also find ways and means for an alternative arrangement for them. If you locate these labour class working in factories in far flung areas, say 30 km away from their work place then how they will travel to and back and where they will pay the bus fare from the Governments decision on this aspect is never well thought. As a result of which the poor are hard hit. Therefore, I request that the Government should ensure the passage of this bill. The Government should make a national policy on slums so as to make it clear as to where the poor will live. All the Indians feel proud in reciting the following lines of the poem of renowned poet, Iqbal: "Sare Jahan se achcha, Hindostan hamara."

But what a poor man says there:

"Sare Jahan Se Achha, Hindostan Hamara,
Rahne Ko Ghar Nahin, Hindostan Hamara."

What the poet Iqbal had visualized when he said 'Hindostan Hamara'. What is the actual position of a poor man, in what conditions he is living. All these things have been depicted in it. He is saying that there is no shelter over his head, he is born in this country and toiling here from morning till evening but he has no house to live in. On the other hand a rich person have dozens of houses equipped with all the modern facilities he is

leading a luxurious life. He is wasting the natural and national resources without thinking for the less fortunate people of the country. Poor people do not get water to drink and the rich people waste water like anything. The children of a poor person cannot take bath due to scarcity of water and on the other hand high rise buildings are coming up in which high quality Italian Marble is used which happens to be dazzling bright. A poor person is living with his family in jhuggies where his children work as rag pickers. Their life is not better than that of a worm. It cannot go on like this. Our national poet Shri Ramdhari Singh 'Dinkar' had said—

"Hosh karo Dilli Ke Devo Hosh karo,
Ab Na Yeh Manmani Chalne Wali Hai,
Khali Karo Sinhasan Ki Janata Aati hai."

Therefore, the Government should formulate a comprehensive policy to ensure food, clothing and shelter for the poor and toiling masses who are engaged in construction and production. This injustice and atrocity cannot continue for long. On the one hand—

"Swano Ko Milta Doodh-bhat,
Bhookhe Bache Akulate Hain."

On the one hand milk is not available to the child of a poor person whereas dog of a rich person is enjoying 'milk and rice'. A poor person is not cared. It cannot go on like this. We will not allow this to go on.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, therefore, there should be a provision under the National Slum Policy that the slum dwellers will not be uprooted till any alternative arrangement is made for their rehabilitation at a nearby place. A policy should be framed to rehabilitate the slum dwellers near the locality they are living in.

Sir, one day I went to Narela. I saw a long queue of buckets, containers and pitchers etc. When I enquired whether this queue is for ghee or oil I was told that this queue was for drinking water. It is a pity that on the one hand bottled water and milk is being sold at the rate of Rs. 10 per litre and on the other hand drinking water is not being provided to the people. There are long queues for potable water but nobody cares for such things, no arrangements are made. Who will make arrangements for drinking water? If this Government has the sense of responsibility, it should understand that they carry the responsibility of providing drinking water, education facility, medical facility, housing and transportation facility to these people. One cannot do without these facilities. If all these amenities are not provided, it may lead to violence in the

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country. When people will have no faith in socialism and Parliament it will cause difficulty for one and all. It is the question of poor people and it is now clear that their problems will have to be solved.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: You divested the entire funds meant for slum improvement in Patna city to a marriage function and this has led to worsening the situation. Your party Government has done this. Therefore, you do not have any moral right to make such a speech.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan boasts of becoming a second Ambedkar. Now he has crossed over to this side. Earlier when he was on that side he was equated with Shri Shahnawaz Hussain. Similarly Shri Sharad Yadavji was also equated with Shri Shahnawaz Hussain.

The senior leaders were honoured in such a way that the portfolio held by one such leader Shri Sharad Yadav was taken back to pass it on to Shahnawaj Hussain and another senior leader Shri Ram Vilas Paswan was also divested of his portfolio and rendered idle. The senior leaders who project themselves as Ambedkar today find themselves in such a precarious condition that they have crossed over to this side. What a sorry plight they are in! They relate their pathetic condition to us when we happen to meet personally. What is the condition to Ramji Majhi? When a supporting MP is facing all this, you can simply imagine what will happen with the common people, the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes. The practice of bonded labour is existing and if it continues, how can the poor be benefited. Karla Munda was given portfolio which was of no interest to him. There is no way out. The circumstances in which the people of the backward classes, SCs and STs have won and the number of people who have been made Minister, is to be seen.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: After independence, it is for the first time that 11 SC and ST Ministers have been included in the present cabinet which is the largest ever number. If so many SC and ST people have ever been made Minister in any other Government before this Government, kindly tell me. The highest number of Members of my party, i.e. 26 Members have been made Ministers. You can tell us if ever there has been a representation of these classes in the Cabinet of any Government on such a large scale. I would also like to tell you that I belong to the Scheduled Caste and am the National Secretary and Whip of my party and I command a respectable position in my party.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: What is your position, why is your turn not coming? I am very much concerned about this. What a chaos! ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Raghuvanshji, I think your time has come now.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, this is a subject related to the poor. Where do they hear the poor, they are big people ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: They listen to it quite attentively. You see, the Minister are sitting here.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, they listen but do not implement what they hear ...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: I would like to tell you that I have lived in slums for 15 years as my father worked in the Nagda Gracy Mill ...*(Interruptions)*. Nobody knows him as much as I do. You are a palace dweller and can make lectures only.*...* You have now lost the right to do these things....*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If you keep on interfering like this, your speech will never come to an end.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, there is a saying 'Jake pair na phate biwai, oh kya jane peer parai' (meaning 'only the wearer knows where the shoe pinches') He is right but even after that agony you are not free to speak on the agony of the poor because if you speak you may lose your ticket. So the poor are taken care of from this side. ...*(Interruptions)* Ever since your Government was formed, you drove away a number of poor families from Delhi ...*(Interruptions)*. I challenge the hon. Minister that ever since your Government have taken over, a number of slum clusters have been demolished by you. What and how much was done by the DDA, MCD and your Department and what happened to your dream of a beautiful Delhi? If we give an account of all this, their eyes will be opened otherwise...* what about your account in this regard? People are reeling under agony and are not allowed to speak the right thing ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Raghuvanshji, after you it is the turn of Rasa Singh Rawatji.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Rawatji will speak but who is going to listen to him? ...*(Interruptions)*.

*Expunged as order by the chair.

He will be allowed to speak just for an eye-wash, whatever he speaks is not going to be heard. They are determined to remove the poor. They have no affection for and interest in the poor who toil, so we have to say all these things. Slum clusters are not only here but are there in Mumbai, Chennai and other cities also. If there is a national policy of the Government in Kolkata, it will be applicable to all other cities of the country. It will ensure that wherever the poor are dwelling they will not be rendered homeless. If school, hospital or any other project of the Government is proposed there, they can be removed but before that they should be rehabilitated somewhere else. You should make a policy like this and protect the poor. The mohalla where the poor are being rehabilitated should be provided with basic amenities like drinking water, education and proper living etc. The Government are getting very clever, they do not want to regularise the unauthorised colonies and evading their responsibility. They are not willing to provide electricity, roads, water, educational institutions and medicines etc. for them. They simply brand them as 'unauthorised colonies'. What is this? How can one brand the colony as unauthorised where our citizens have settled. Who has coined this word 'unauthorised'? It is the responsibility of the Government to protect the poor who have settled in such colonies. If for a couple of days or four some fair is held somewhere, drinking water and sanitation facilities are provided there but the Government are apathetic towards humanitarian considerations. They declare human settlements as unauthorised and work towards removing them. Facilities of road, transport, health, education, medicines, electricity etc. should be provided there. I seek a clear statement and decision in this regard from the Government ...(*Interruptions*).*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Government will decide on this.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: If we go for a division on this, you will be exposed. You all will vote against the interests of the poor, you have instructions from your superiors not to pass it. So you need not compel us to expose you, otherwise this Government should give in and state that no slums will be demolished and if needed they will be properly rehabilitated and provided with all facilities. Only then this bill should be passed otherwise they will oppose this bill and if their real intention is exposed, how can the poor be taken care of. That's why I raised this question so that the Government could give a specific reply.

With these words, I thank you very much for lending your ears for the poor. Those people are getting restless but even then I am not going to withdraw.

"Garib ki awaaj gunjegi aur yeh desh hoga angaar tale,

Punjshahi jab jagegi, manavta ki kali bindi tar tar ho jayegi".

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (*Ajmer*): Hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Slums and Jhuggi Jhopri Areas (Basic Amenities and Clearance) Bill, 2001 moved by Shri Athawaleji but the way the Members of the Opposition spoke and shed crocodile tears for the poor, I think they are the ones responsible for the sorry plight of the slum dwellers.

Do not oppress the poor, they will weep and their walls will be heard by the God who will finally destroy you. The poor are most oppressed in Bihar where they are being rendered landless and homeless and are being compelled to flee to Delhi and Kolkata to find a refuge in slums there. Who indeed is responsible for that? calls for introspection. I do not want to level any charge against anyone, but it is the duty of every Government. Today we all want our capital to be clean and tidy and beautiful like the capitals of other countries so that people from all over the world come to our capital and other metros and appreciate them. Pawan Bansalji has left. I seek his pardon, but the party which ruled this country for 45 years and in whose regime the slum clusters flourished like mushrooms, are today holding the merely 4-5 years old NDA Government entirely responsible for all this. Had the people who ruled the country for 45 years worked sincerely to bring swaraj in the villages, provided employment to the people right in their villages, made genuine efforts to control the population, provided the village people with all the facilities, they would not have been compelled to flee to big cities to find a shelter in slums and earn their livelihood. But nothing was done for them and today things are assuming dangerous proportions, there are high rise buildings in the cities on one hand and on the other the poor men and women who have toiled to erect these buildings are forced to live in slums. Who indeed are behind this discrimination? I think all will have to give some serious thought to this issue.

In this motion, hon. Athawale ji has expressed his concern about the pitiable condition in the jhuggi-jhopadis. Hon. Raghuvansh Prasad Singhji just now said a very good thing in his own style and recited only one line of the couplet. I am completing that couplet:

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

"Swano ko milta doodh yahan,
Bhukhe balak akulate hain,
maan ki chhatti se chipak,
ve sisak-sisak rah jate hain."

On the one hand there are rich people, even their dogs lead luxurious lives taken rides in cars and drinking milk.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Hato vyom se, megh path se, swarg lootne hum aate hain.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Those poor children do not get even milk to drink so they keep crying in the laps of their mothers. The life in jhuggis and jhonpadis is very miserable and it is a matter of concern for all of us. I would like to thank the N.D.A. Government as it rehabilitated the slum dwellers in habitable colonies through the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation. Around 300-400 unauthorised slum clusters have been regularized and efforts are being made to extend all facilities like water, electricity, health and education there. For this, I would like to congratulate the Government, But as they say, "Ja ki rahi bhavana jaisi, Prabhu murati dekhi tin talsi"—i.e. everything looks yellow to a jaundiced eye. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: 'Jasu raj priya praja dukhari, tehi nrip hoi narak adhikari'.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Whose regime was it earlier? Raghuvanshi has conveniently forgotten that he was a Minister in the Government which preceded our Government. What did that Government do? That Government lasted for one or one and a half year, what did the Ministers in that Government do?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now you come to the next point.

...*(Interruptions)*

14.51 hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Through you, Sir, I would like to urge that all facilities should be provided to the slum dwellers on the lines of the facilities being provided in other regularized colonies under municipal corporation, nagar parishad, municipality, urban improvement trust or development authority etc. Facilities like drinking water (through hand pumps) and electricity should be provided there till the time they are allowed to live in slums. Proper health care should also be provided

to them as they suffer from diseases like T.B., Cholera and Anemia etc. Their children suffer from malnutrition. The schools which should be in place, do not exist there. I do not want to make allegations as that would lead to counter allegations. The opposition people should keep in mind—"dosh paraya dekhi kar, chaliye hasant-hasant, darshan apan chitt hi na hoi, jiske aadi na ant." Those full of evils, fail to see their evils. How was this situation created? Everybody knows that in Delhi, the leader of a particular party encouraged the people to construct jhuggis on railway and other public land and told them that they would be taking care of them. They have got patronage of leaders as they constitute a good vote-bank. That is why the jhuggis have come up like mushrooms. Today, those people are out of power but the capital city of Delhi is cursed to suffer due to their misdeeds. Not only in Delhi but in every city be it Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Patna or Jaipur, on one side there are high rise buildings and posh colonies while on the other, there are people cursed to live in jhuggis. Those who construct these buildings and keep the surroundings clean, are the labourers living in these jhuggis. Therefore, since the motion has a humane face, I support it. But, as the speakers from the Congress Party and from other Opposition Parties have tried to find fault with the existing Government only. I think, this is not a time for finding faults with each other. Today, we should work unitedly. Tomorrow, we are going to celebrate our independence day and hoist the tri-colour. We have to take a resolution at such an auspicious time. We shall not sit in peace until we provide all facilities to the slum dwellers like food, clothing, electricity and schools etc. Then only celebration of independence day and our claim to be public representative will be meaningful in the true sense.

The slum dwellers are evicted. It is necessary to evict them as they live near railway lines and their children are always in danger. In such a situation when the Government offers them alternative plots or houses, then some 'contractors' appear on the scene and advise them to stay put there only and thus exploit them. They sell the new houses thus the conditions remain filthy there as before. We have to be cautious of these 'contractors' and resolve to appreciate the good and condemn the bad. Those who have encroached upon the railway land, play grounds and schools have to be evicted. But their livelihood should be ensured before they are rehabilitated at an alternative place so that they can lead comfortable life. After all they are human beings, they too have the right to life, they too are citizens of this nation.

This Bill is partially good but criticism of the Government should not be its sole objective. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to bring legislation in the time to come, to facilitate rehabilitation of slum dwellers in habitable colonies, regularisation of unauthorized colonies and provision of all types of facilities so that the black spots in the form of jhuggis are wiped out from the face of every city. Certainly, we shall support that Bill. The Government intends to do welfare of the poor and provide them employment, not to evict them. If they are evicted, they should be provided alternative shelter. HUDCO is offering several LIG, MIG and other housing schemes. Today, MCD in Delhi is in the hands of Congress Party. I am sorry to point out that recently a scam of crores of rupees has been unearthed there. Nobody knows as to where they have spent an amount of Rs. 50 crore in the name of sanitation, water and development of jhuggi-jhonpadis. Today, there is no water, no electricity and no sanitation in slum clusters in Delhi. The MCD people and the Congress people are criticizing the Central Government. If you are criticizing this Government, then what is your MCD doing, what is your Delhi Government doing? Instead of finding faults with each other, we should resolve to remove all jhuggi-jhonpadis which create problems in big cities. Therefore, they should be rehabilitated at alternative sites to develop colonies and to provide all types of facilities. At the same time, they should be given employment opportunities.

The economy of villages should be made self-reliant so that people do not migrate to urban areas. Employment opportunities should be provided in village through Khadi and Village Industries, small scale industries, small factories and by providing loan facilities. They should be encouraged to start cottage industries so that they can lead a comfortable life in villages itself and are not compelled to migrate to the cities to live in jhuggis. We shall have to ponder over it. We have to worry about the increasing population also.

15.00 hrs.

Development has not kept pace with the fast growing population. Family planning measures do not reach those people. They do not know the benefits of small family because they are not educated. They are not exposed to the publicity measures of population control. They take the child birth as a god gift which results in population increase. Whosoever is born on the soil of Bharat, has a right to live, they all have a right to live. The Government as well as all of us are duty bound to provide everyone employment, food and shelter. We should

endeavour to solve the problem of unemployment, food and shelter too.

The spirit behind this Bill moved by Shri Athawaleji is good but the Bill is not comprehensive. I urge the Government to bring a comprehensive Bill so that our capital city may become clean. Recently, I visited London, Paris and New York. There I witnessed very clean and beautiful environment. There is no filth, no jhuggi-jhonpadis there. We want such healthy environment and greenery to be here. We want that Delhi, the pride of India should be neat and clean as also other cities like Kolkata and Chennai to be like Bangalore, the city of gardens. We want that there are no jhuggis in our Delhi. For this, we shall have to make concerted endeavour.

The politicians should endeavour that unauthorized jhuggi-jhonpadis are not encouraged for the sake of vote-politics. Rather they should be given houses, may be small, but in open and clean environs so that they have a zest for life. In the end, I will conclude by reciting a few lines of poetry.

"Gyan dur kuchh kriya bhinn hai,
ichcha kyon puri ho man ki,
ek-dusare se na mil saken,
yahi vidambana hai jivan ki.

There should be a proper synthesis of knowledge and duty so that these problems are solved in the national interest.

[English]

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga): Mr. Chairman, this Bill seeks a statutory obligation on the part of the State, especially a welfare State, to provide certain basic amenities for the citizens. No doubt, we have got the Directive Principles of State Policy in the Constitution of India. It enunciates that social as well as economic protection has to be given to the people. But our statutory obligation is very limited. When the State provides certain amenities like water or when the State provides health security or educational security, they are not covered by any social enactments. These are done by the State Governments and the Government of India by way of orders and regulations. If there is any fault on the part of the Government to fulfil its obligations, no remedy is available to citizens. They cannot seek remedy from the judiciary. They have to give a petition and wait for their chance. If they could not get it, they have to live with it. The same situation prevails now in

[Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan]

the cities also. Many of the youths, especially the educated ones, are migrating from the rural areas to the cities. They want to lead a decent life. But when they enter the cities with high hopes, they find that they are dumped in the slums. They have to seek employment.

They are just running here and there for shelter. Even for animals, there is shelter but the human beings are not getting shelter. They are suffering. They are just withstanding natural calamities. Therefore, the State Governments and the Central Government are planning for their development in every Budget. But the Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plans could not be fully implemented and the targets were not achieved. Huge amount of money which was allocated for the purpose of social security was not properly utilised. Therefore, India is one of the countries facing one of the biggest problems of the world relating to slum areas.

Sir, this is high time when the Government should have the obligation to have the statutory right for the citizens that whenever they live in a particular place, they should have the right to have shelter and they should have the right to have water, electricity and road facilities. These things will show that the administration is running properly and the society is civilized. People should have the ambition to see that they are living in the same way as others are living. That feeling should be inculcated in the society. We see a plenty of money, whether it is black money or neatly earned money, being utilised for constructing palatial buildings in every city but at the same time, they have to live their day-to-day life with the help of the small employees, that is, the people who are coming to the cities from the slums. The slum people, when they are coming into this posh area, they want to help them. They are depending upon rich people to earn their livelihood. But at the same time, knowingly or unknowingly they are carrying the diseases and other backward things which are available in a slum area. Therefore, we should look at things in a proper way. If the slums are properly developed, have basic amenities and are free of diseases, then people who are living in the posh area can also lead a healthy life. But the point is, people in one area are totally living in inhuman condition but people in another area are having all the richness and even then they are spending a lot of money for their health.

Then, the people who are living in the slum areas have to take up employment as auto rickshaw drivers, lorry drivers, small vendors and street vendors. These people have to earn their livelihood only within the city

as they are not able to get the facilities in their habitation area. Wherever we have the railway properties or public properties, or wherever there are private properties which are not properly protected, then these areas are now encroached by these people and they do not have basic amenities. Whenever we go for election campaign, we make some promises. We promise that we will lay a road or we will legalize that particular area. We know that the cities like Chennai, Mumbai and Delhi are facing such a situation. At this juncture, I would like to request that the Urban Development Ministry should make proper plans when they build any posh colony and see that a secluded place or an enclave for the servants who are coming or who are living on the employment opportunities provided by the people in that posh area, whether they are auto rickshaw drivers, lorry drivers or small housemaids, is built for them also. These people should have a habitation area for them within the posh area. We have to develop that type of thinking. Now, we are having shopping complexes but at the same time we are not thinking of the people who are living in the shopping complexes as servants or maids in houses as to whether they are living with all the basic amenities.

We are not planning for them properly. These days, many multi-storeyed housing colonies are coming up in urban areas and even there also the people who do household jobs do not have proper living area for them. So, when they make plans for the development of towns and cities, the Ministry of Urban Development should see that there is a separate enclave in each housing colony for the shelter of the ordinary people who are working as housemaids in such colonies. That type of provision should be made while preparing plans for the development of towns and cities. Then only this problem can be solved.

Then, the distance covered by menial servants to their work place is too much. That is why, they try to come nearer to their work place, encroach some area and live there even without basic amenities. But if we provided basic amenities as part and parcel of urbanisation, then this type of problem will not be there.

Sir, now the entire world is looking towards our country's development. Our cities are developing, but basic amenities are not being provided to all human beings. There are human rights violations also. These problems can be solved only through proper planning and execution.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Bill which has been introduced by Shri Ramdas Athawale is very much

pertinent in view of the present circumstances prevailing in the *Jhuggi-Jhopri* areas. The Bill seeks to provide basic amenities to those vulnerable sections of our society. Therefore, the contents of the Bill must be appreciated by all.

Sir, it is a fact that due to continuous shrinking of employment opportunities in rural areas we are observing a steady migration of rural people to urban areas. That is why, slum areas are increasing day-by-day. However, there is no comprehensive plan formulated yet to sort out the growing problem of our country.

Sir, in the First Five-Year Plan it was stated that slums are the disgrace of our nation. But still we are not able to erase that disgrace of our country. Slums and *jhuggis* are expanding unabated. If we see the Tenth Five-Year Plan, it is stated that according to 2001 Census, the total urban population is 285.35 million which accounts for 27.78 per cent of the total population of the country. While the total population of the country increased by 21.34 per cent during 1999-2001, the urban population grew by 31.36 per cent. That means, there is a steady increase of urban expansion. But so far as poverty ratio is concerned, it is curious to note that in the year 1973-74, the poverty ratio in urban areas was to the tune of 49 per cent and in the year 1993-94, it has been reduced to 32.4 per cent. If we see in absolute terms, then it is surprising to note that in 1973-74, the combined population below the poverty line in urban areas was 60 per cent and in the year 1993-94, it was hovering around 76 per cent.

That means, poverty ratio in the urban areas is increasing. But in view of the combined ratio of urban areas, the poverty ratio has not been decreased. Therefore, to stem the rot that we are now experiencing in view of the growing expansion of slums and *jhuggi* areas, everybody must feel that some comprehensive plan must be formulated.

We know that the municipalities or urban local bodies will look after the basic amenities for the urban population. But it is also a fact that the allocation of funds in rural areas is much higher than that in the urban areas. The allocation of funds in an urban area can never be in commensurate with the allocation of funds in a rural area. However, the population in the urban area is being increased. Therefore, more funds will be allocated for amenities in the urban areas. The urban *jhuggi* and *jhopri* areas have become the epicentres of various diseases that my friends have already adduced. Not only

in the Slum Policy itself, but it was also otherwise stated that before relocation of any slum area, a resettlement exercise must be followed. But what we have observed in Delhi is this. Without having made a provision for resettlement, a razing exercise was carried out by the Delhi Development Authority. It has thrown away hundreds of people into the dark without having any amenities. They have been compelled to live under the open sky.

However, an observation by the Supreme Court has made it clear that before any relocation exercise could be done, firstly, the resettlement has to be ensured. However, this exercise was carried out with an eye on disenfranchising the voters. It is the fundamental right of the people of India. We are entitled to exercise our franchise. But due to the demolition of those slums, hundreds of people have been deprived of exercising their franchise. This is also a disgrace on our nation. It was deliberately carried out in order to influence the voting pattern in Delhi areas. Specifically those people who were supposed to be in favour of the Congress Party were picked up and deliberately thrown away from their *jhuggi-jhopri* areas. Therefore, a slum policy must be formulated in tune with the amenities required for the *jhuggi-jhopri* dwellers.

It has been observed that slum-dwellers are facing the most serious and grave problem in today's world. When we are affording space for the NRI people, we are not able to afford such space for those poor people who have been compelled to migrate to the cities for their livelihood. These people are suffering from housing vulnerability. They are suffering from economic vulnerability, social vulnerability and personal vulnerability.

Sir, there are so many Centrally sponsored schemes such as NHDP etc. These schemes are not being implemented properly in the small cities and towns because the small urban bodies are not capable of providing the requisite funds for those amenities. Therefore, the Central Government must pursue the policy by having bodies like NHDP etc. in a right manner. In this regard, a proper monitoring body must be formulated. Without proper monitoring, there will be scope of misappropriation of the funds, which are made available for those slum dwellers.

We hail from small cities and we know the problems of the small cities. It is found that the employment opportunities in the big cities are larger than the opportunities which are available in the small cities. If you take the case of Delhi, you will find that here the

opportunities of employment to the slum dwellers are more than the opportunities of employment to the people in the small cities. Therefore, the small cities should be provided adequate funds so that they can make use of those facilities, which will give them more amenities, such as, sewerage, electricity, toilets, etc.

So, I would request this Government that in view of the deteriorating situation in the slum dwelling areas, the Government must come out with a holistic approach so as to provide the necessary amenities to these slum dwellers.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, on an ideological plane I agree with "The Slums and Jhuggi-Jhopri Areas (Basic Amenities and Clearance) Bill, 2001" moved by Shri Ram Das Athawale but only partially. However, I do not agree with the contents of this Bill. I believe that the hon. Members who have supported this Bill have not read its contents. They must have come to the House despite their busy schedule and since they were to represent their party and make submissions, that is why they were in support of the Bill. Hon. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh was sitting there. I particularly resent his stance over this issue. The manner in which he has supported this Bill suggests that since he is in the Opposition and just because this Bill has been introduced by some hon. Member of the Opposition, he has got to support it.

After having read the objectives and clauses of this Bill, I would like to know his views in this regard when he comes here later. This Bill is concerned only with the metropolitan cities and Union Territories. If this Bill is implemented only in these areas then we would be doing injustice with the crores of people living in jhuggis-jhopris in other parts of the country devoid of basic amenities.

I would like to read clause 6 of this Bill: "The competent authority shall not allow a jhuggi-jhopri cluster to come upon a Government land and if any slum exists in such a land before the commencement of this Act, the competent authority shall remove it in such manner as may be prescribed". Now the ones which are already existing, you will either not allow such settlements or if these are already there you will remove them, when this Bill is passed. If there were an alternative arrangement then such utterances would be unjust for this section of people. Firstly, what is the reason behind encroachment? The competent authority pays attention to such

encroachments when 10-12-15-20 years have passed. If he is the one who rigidly goes by the book, he would immediately order the removal of these encroachments. What is implied is unless there is an alternative arrangement such kind of Bills are not welcome. Clause 7 of the Bill States:

"Where the competent authority is satisfied that the most satisfactory method of dealing with the conditions in a slum area is the demolition of all the buildings in the area, the authority shall by an order notified in the Official Gazette declare the area to be a clearance area, that is to say an area to be cleared of all buildings in accordance with the provision of this Act and the rules made thereunder".

It is totally contrary to clause 6. If he has constructed a building on encroached land and a competent authority is satisfied that it is an unauthorised construction and should be removed then he shall issue a notification for the clearance and shall remove all the constructions—buildings however, old till such a notification is issued in the official gazette. In the wake of such provisions, I would like to ask the hon. Members who have supported this Bill. Whether justice would be done to those people who out of some compulsion have settled down in jhuggis near slums and nullahs, whether these should be removed. Such simple order would provide for dictatorship. If anyone has supported this provision, it is to be condemned. I condemn the submissions made by hon. Members supporting the Bill and would simultaneously request them that they should first go through the contents of the Bill in view of the larger interests of the people and then support it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to read out clause-8 of the Bill wherein it is stated:

"As soon as may be after the competent authority has declared any slum area to be a clearance area it shall make a slum clearance order in such manner as may be prescribed and submit the order for the clearance by the appropriate Government and if the appropriate Government confirms the order, the order shall become operative from the date of such confirmation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as per those three clauses the people who have constructed their shanties in the slums, their constructions will be demolished once this Bill becomes an Act. I am also compelled to state that the Government which are functioning with your support have done these kind of works and you have supported them.

Our country became independent 56 years ago. This is not for the first time, it has happened on several occasions. We have borne emergency. Bulldozers were used to demolish slums during the emergency and you and your party extended full support to that. I had gone to Chandigarh to attend a meeting of the S.C. section of Bhartiya Janta Party where incidentally I heard hon. Bansalji saying that houses were being demolished. I asked my people what the matter was and I was told that Congress had a hold on the Municipal Corporation. They Mayor was from the Congress and the houses were being demolished as per the orders from the Congress Council. Had Shri Bansal been here I would have asked him was it justified. There he talks about clearing the slums and here he makes speech in favour of the slum dwellers. Why is there a difference in what he preaches and what he practices.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I told you that I belong to Scheduled Castes category. My father used to work in Nagada Grasim factory. The factory's quarter is allotted as per seniority. We did not get quarter for 10-12 years. I have lived in jhuggi-jhopri. It was built near a nullah. We used to study in lanterns light. Although in those times there was no arrangements for electricity. Yet Birla factory had equipped its colony with light. I have studied in lantern's light. I have seen everything. You belong to higher section of society, you have dwelt in well furnished houses* I have heard those sermons. But when I see you and your party leader's actions I wonder what pains do they take to provide for the basic amenities to such sections of society. When I study the financial position of each state of the country and the economy at large I observe that your state Bihar ranks third-fourth from the bottom. I do not wish to name anyone. You people belong to socialist ideology. But do the teachings of hon. Lohiaji or any of your socialist leaders permit millions of rupees to be spent on a wedding. If you continue to implement these kind of schemes then within few days you will find that public would be distanced from you whom you have been misguiding in the name of Lohiaji. I put it very humbly that in reality Lohiaji, Shri Deen Dayal Upadhyay, Gandhiji, Baba Saheb Ambedkar thought about this section of the people. And if you try to implement their ideology, only then this section would be able to safeguard their interests, otherwise not.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I oppose this Bill because I want that the State Governments and the Union Government through various laws implement the provisions made therein. There is a need to implement those provisions in right earnest and with complete honesty. The Union

Government and the State Government in unison can enable those organisations and local bodies which are entrusted with the work of clearance of slums to make arrangements for proper sanitation, lighting and drinking water. For this purpose these bodies should be made financially sound. I would like to thank this Government which has taken innumerable steps in the interest of these sections.

I would like to submit that Indira Awas Yojana was implemented by hon. Indira Gandhiji which is now being implemented by this Government uninterruptingly through Jawahar Rojgar Yojana. Our Government has leaped four hundred times during the last four years in comparison to the progress made in the time of Shri Narasimha Rao's Government and through that Indira Awas Yojana is being implemented. In addition to this, the Government felt that there was a need to construct dwelling units for the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes living in slums. The Union Government has constructed and allotted sixty lakh houses to the people belonging to these categories last year through HUDCO and are giving long term loans on lower rate of interest. They are being given subsidy and grant as well. I do not want to refer to what happened in the past but the then Government could have also taken similar steps, but they did not do so.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our hon. Finance Minister has drafted a Bill providing for changing the very definition of lighting arrangement in jhuggi-jhopris. There is a provision that as long as Scheduled Caste category or slum area is not electrified, that village will not be treated as electrified. This way, the very definition is being changed. The objective is that until those unelectrified slums are not electrified, we shall not treat those villages as electrified. Such a step has been taken by this Government. I can enumerate not one but several such schemes. Besides, Slum Area Clearance Scheme and Antyavasi Cooperative Development Scheme are also being implemented. The Centre sponsors that scheme through the 11th Finance Commission in the Urban areas under the Slum Area Clearance Scheme where there are such habitations without metalled, cemented or concrete roads.

Sir, the Union Government provide funds in the form of grants to the local bodies, be it Municipal Corporation or Municipal Council on the proposals sent by them. Urban Water Augmentation Scheme is being implemented to provide drinking water in these slums. The Union Government has implemented this kind of scheme for

*Expunged as ordered by the chair.

[Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot]

the first time. Under this scheme the local bodies, be it Municipal Corporation or Municipality have to pay only 5 per cent funds while the remaining 95 per cent is given by the Centre for the arrangement of water. Several cities have been benefited under this scheme.

Sir, there are at least seven-eight Nagar Panchayats in my Parliamentary Constituency alone whose schemes worth Rs. 1 to 1.25 crore each have been sanctioned. They had to contribute only rupees two and a half or three lakh. Local administration or local body, be it a Municipality or a Nagar Panchayat will have to bear five per cent cost. The Central Government has provided Rs. one crore or Rs. 95 lakh under the drinking water augmentation scheme. What I am telling is about my area. In rural areas also, the Swajaldhara Scheme has been launched as in cities for water augmentation. If the Committee of local citizens or local self government body wants to make water available in Harijan settlements, slum or tribal settlements, where drinking water is not available, then it will have to contribute 5 per cent money and the remaining 95 per cent cost will be met by the Central Government. Whereas Municipality, Nagar Panchayat, Municipal Council or Gram Panchayat will have to bear 10 per cent of the total cost for providing drinking water in rural areas and 90 per cent funds will be provided by the Central Government for the purpose under the Swajaldhara Yojana. Likewise the Central Government is also providing funds for construction of roads, pucca nullahs in slums and settlements which have come up along a dirty nullah and also for erecting a wall along such a nullah to stave off stench coming out from such a nullah. The Ministry of Urban Development has launched several schemes for this purpose. Had such schemes been launched after five-seven years of Independence, there would not have been any slums in the country today.

Sir, there was a time when the poor were removed in the name of removing poverty. You simply watched that and also supported that. Injustice, crime and exploitation continued in the name of progress. I do not want to name them but they have tested the fruits of their doings. We should not think that merely making a speech ends our duty. If really there is any further scope for amendment in the rules and laws and if they really feel so, then they should come forward for that. Its alright that there is provision for that in the rules and laws but there is difficulty in compliance of these rules or laws somewhere or the other. Corrupt staff and officers and laxity on their part is responsible for poor, compliance of rules or laws. But if we really come across any loopholes

in the existing rules or laws and feel that they should be further strengthened, then we should come forward for that.

Sir, if someone encroaches upon the Government land, he should be prevented then and there from doing so and if he is not being prevented, he will occupy that piece of land and in that case there should be a provision that strict action will be taken against the officer during whose tenure such encroachment occurred. Only then we could prevent encroachment. If someone is doing encroachment and laying the foundation for construction or is doing any other construction activity, he should be prevented at that very point. But this does not happen. What happens is that a leader intervenes there as an mediator and asks that person to give him five thousand rupees. Out of that, he gives Rs. three thousand to the officer in whose area encroachment is taking place and keeps the remaining two thousand rupees with him and this easily facilitates encroachment on the Government land and jhuggis come up there overnight. These jhuggis which come up there illegally take the shape of slums in course of time. A systematic master plan should be prepared for this purpose. Proper estimate and design-layout should be prepared and the piece of land encroached upon should be given to them on lease. I have been a State Minister from 1990 to 1992 in Madhya Pradesh. We had prepared this sort of scheme then and gave assurance to the people living in slums that they would be given pucca houses elsewhere in lieu of the land encroached upon by them. Suppose they have encroached upon a piece of land measuring 10x12 somewhere and put up there a makeshift jhuggi, we assured them that they would be given a pucca house in lieu of that. Thus we gave them not one but hundreds of houses constructed systematically in a row. We also provided them tap water by laying water pipe line. We also constructed some shops, chaupal, community house and stages for conducting social and cultural programmes and we also tried to form panchayat in such areas, we constructed schools too. Thus, we converted slums into better places to live in after identifying good place by implementing several action plans.

I hope that the existing rules and laws are enough for making such an arrangement, I, therefore, do not support this bill. I request this House to bring forward a legislation with a view to effecting improvement in the existing provisions and strengthening them as well so that the interests of the people of this section are safeguarded.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (*Malegaon*): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the bill moved by hon. Members Shri Ramdas Athawale which relates to jhuggi-jhonparis. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

The sufferings of the people living in slum clusters are not new. It is an old story. Their condition is very pathetic. But none has paid any attention towards their problems so far. I have little expectations from the present government also. I think only God is there to look after them, none else can take care of them.

How this come about. Due to pitiable economic condition, the people from villages migrated to cities to earn a livelihood. The people living in jhuggis are the people who have migrated from villages. These people encroach upon Government land and put up jhuggis there. They are leading a pathetic life in these jhuggis. They do not have the facility of drinking water and other basic facilities like clothes and pucca houses. It is not merely a question of jhuggi-jhonpri, it has become a national issue. You also know it. We all have to address this national issue together. The members of the treasury benches and also the members of the opposition have to address this problem as this malady has risen to a gigantic proportions i.e. the malady of encroachment. We have to think as to why and how the encroachments take place. It is also not proper to displace people from the land encroached upon. It is not good on a humanitarian ground too. They should also not be relocated at far-flung areas say 13-14 miles away as they are usually engaged in works for their livelihood nearby their jhuggis. Other cities have also been brought under the purview of mahanagarpalika. I would like to request through you that cities having a population of 20-25 thousands should also be included in this Bill. They are also facing similar problems. Therefore, the land they have encroached upon should be allotted to them. They should be provided the means of livelihood, education, drinking water and clothes as well. If we have a car, they should at least have a bicycle. Despite of being myself an M.P., there is an area named Magrate in the municipality where I am still residing, they have given me three small plots measuring 15 x 20 for putting up a Jhuggi. I humbly request you to come to my home and see for yourself where I am living. Since I am living there, now they have provided some facilities there. There has been some improvement there. One daughter of an hon. Member also lives there. He is also from there. Now, some good arrangements are in place there. What I want to say is that it is the work only which brings

about improvement in the situation but one needs to pay attention towards this. The thing is that there should be a spirit in one's mind for doing work. The Government needs to formulate a policy in this regard. I want to submit that the better facilities should be provided to the people living in jhuggi-jhonparis. The most important thing is that it should be in one's mind that something is to be done for jhuggi-dwellers. Sage Balmiki chanted 'mara-mara' instead of Ram-Ram, yet the chanting contained the word 'Ram-Ram'. There is a proverb in Marathi—"khar badhe anduri karti, kansodhaya te phirati, parianti nirash hoti, lavkarhi te soutali sadhala, gangot jase apanala", meaning thereby that a rat runs here and there in a house in search of food but if it does not find any food there, then he runs away from that house, in the same way the relatives of a poor man desert him. Plight of the poor is there from rural areas to urban areas. But their condition here in cities is very pitiable. You have introduced this Bill to ameliorate their condition, therefore, I support this Bill.

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (*Cuttack*): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the main basis of the Bill is to provide basic minimum amenities of water, electricity, sanitation and health services. As has been told by some previous speakers, the basic defect of this Bill is that this Bill confines itself to corporations and Union Territories.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Two more Hon. members are also to speak on this Bill. Thereafter, the hon. minister will give a reply. If all the members agree the time for this Bill may be extended by half-an-hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: All right.

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: As has been mentioned, the Bill has been moved by the hon. Member who belongs to Mumbai and for his political activities, being a Member of this House, he stays in Delhi. Perhaps that was the concept in his mind that he thought of only corporations and Union Territories. It would have been better if all urban local bodies would have been encompassed in this Bill.

I would come to the basic human needs—food, clothing and shelter. A decade back, in the nineties, the United Nations had organised a number of summits, which started in 1991.

[Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab]

Subsequently, for about six years or seven years, different Summits were organised. I had the privilege of participating, as a delegate, in at least three such Summits. One Summit was a Social Summit held at Copenhagen; second was a Food Summit held at Rome; and the third was a Summit for Habitation or Housing held at Cairo. These three Summits were Summit-level Conference organised by the United Nations on the occasion of its Golden Jubilee.

The problem, which we are discussing today, is not confined to this country; and not confined to certain Corporations or to certain Union Territories. It is a universal phenomenon. Plight of people is there from rural areas to urban areas; from developing countries to developed countries. The plight is there of human resources; the plight is there of population; and that brings in a lot of problem in different urban sectors.

One Summit on Women was also held in Beijing, which was organised by the United Nations. Another Summit was also held on Population.

When I stand here to speak something on food, shelter and clothing, I am reminded of all that has been said by one hon. Member of this House about the Directive Principles of State Policy. This also reminds me of the date on which we are discussing on this subject, that is, today the 14th August, on the eve of the Independence Day. This also reminds me of the Resolution—The Quit India Resolution—that was moved on 8th August 1942, and the speech that was delivered at Gowalia Tank field. There it was asked: "What type of Independence we require and we conceive?" The Mahatma had said that: "Independence would come not only for the enlightened; not only for the rich, but it will be Independence and freedom for the toiling masses who are on the fields, in the farms; for the labourers who work in the factories; for the underprivileged, who will get a voice to speak about their own issues." This Bill in a certain way also reminds us of how much we have achieved and what more is to be done.

In the Constitution it has been very categorically stated that we have given ourselves a 'Welfare State'. I am using the words 'Welfare State' because the onus now lies with the Government to provide food; to provide shelter; and to provide clothing. It is the responsibility of the Government; and it is the responsibility of a 'Welfare State' to provide the underprivileged all these things.

There is plight of people from rural areas to urban areas. There are many reasons behind this phenomenon,

but basically, there are two reasons. The first one is for sustenance. People who live in rural areas do not get adequate employment throughout the year, and they want gainful employment throughout the year. The people there always have a tendency to migrate to urban areas, where they can earn their livelihood and get employment. The second reason is that this problem of employment is not confined only to those areas of have nots or to those who do not always struggle daily for their food, but the middle class people also move out from rural areas to urban areas for their livelihood and to have better civic amenities. These are the two main reasons why there is a plight of people from rural areas to urban areas.

What are civic amenities? We get better housing; better water supply; better health facilities; and better schooling. These are the four major things which a rural-folk always have in his mind, that is, if he migrates to an urban area, then he will get better civic amenities which are not found in the rural areas. What has been achieved within the last 56 years? A number of proposals are being implemented. As has been said, the *Indira Awas Yojana* is meant for the deprived people of this country. A number of *Indira Awas Yojanas* is being implemented in the rural areas for the deprived people. So also, this NDA Government has come out with a unique housing policy for the urban poor: It is *Balmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana*. This is a policy which, I think, needs a little bit of improvement. Five to eight months have already passed; I think, it needs a review to find out how this Scheme is getting implemented and what are the bottlenecks in getting it implemented. The identification of urban poor is there, but the implementation of this housing policy is getting checked because the amount of money that is being provided through *Balmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana* is not sufficient. For the urban poor, his share is already very high. Under the *Indira Awas Yojana*, it is given free of cost, and the State Government bears the limited amount of Rs. 4,000 or Rs. 5,000. However, under the *Balmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana*, it is the beneficiary who has to provide, at least, Rs. 12,000 to Rs. 15,000, if not Rs. 20,000; at least, forty per cent is to be borne by the beneficiaries. That is the main hindrance or the bottleneck for the *Balmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana* not getting much of support in different urban areas. I think, this needs a little bit of consideration.

Roads are also getting developed, not only under the *Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana*, but also under many other schemes. This NDA Government is providing, at least, 60 per cent of the budgetary support for the development of the rural areas. Health services,

of course, relate to the State, and the State has to develop that. Regarding drinking water, adequate funding is being provided not only for *Swajaldhara*, but also for digging of a number of tube-wells.

When you compare the situation of today with what was the situation say 25 or 30 years back, in the early 1970s, certainly, a lot of development has taken place. Yet migration is taking place and slums are growing. However, my suggestion would be that adequate budgetary support and outside support, meaning other international financial institutions' support, is required to provide shelter, to provide better health care and to provide food in the urban areas. DFID is one of the organisations which has come up with this type of support.

As is being discussed now, a Bill is in the pipeline. NABARD is going to provide funds directly to the district central cooperative banks bypassing the State cooperative banks thereby minimising the interest component by another two or three per cent. Similarly, my request would be that such support to urban local bodies should be provided by the Central Government or by the international financial institutions directly to the urban local bodies so that they can take up different programmes for development of housing, specially in the slums.

Plight of labour is not confined to this country alone. As I have said, it is a universal phenomenon. I had the opportunity of visiting different State Capitals of different countries. When I had been to Caracas, I had seen the slums there. It has a totally different administration altogether than the administration that is being run by that country. I have seen the slums in Atlanta; I have seen the slums in Rome; I have seen the slums in Cairo. I am mentioning these four Capitals of four different countries, which represent four different Continents. Slums are everywhere. It is not true that slums are not there in the United States of America.

16.00 hrs.

Slums are there in Paris also. However, there is a difference between those slums and slums here. Migration of people from rural areas to urban areas, migration of people from developing countries to developed countries, coming up of slums, all these phenomena are there abroad also. However, the point of discussion here today is how to provide certain basic amenities in those slums which have come up over the last so many years.

But we should find out the reason for growth of slums and control it. Who is the culprit for these slums

coming up at the first instance? I would put it this way. The main culprit for slums coming up in encroached areas is the Government. It is the Government which has to protect the property of its different wings, be it of public sector undertakings or of other departments. It is the responsibility of the Government to protect those properties. It is those areas where encroachment has taken place, where slums have developed.

I would say that inconsistent urban planning breeds social conflict. In a welfare state, our endeavour should be to minimise conflict. How can that be done? It is our habit in the society that we cannot survive alone. We need helping hands. We need support. We need various people for various jobs. For masonry work, and the other work too we need different hands and for that we need people. Today, people come into the urban areas from different parts of the country. Two things are required to stem this flow of people—one is to have particular areas identified where low-cost buildings can be constructed and these people can be housed, and the other is to provide transport facilities using which they can move into and out of the city in the minimum possible time. Instead of removing slums, there is a need to provide basic minimum amenities in those slums. Unless alternative arrangements are made, nobody should be displaced.

In conclusion, I would say that this Bill needs very many corrections. The manner in which this Bill has been prepared does not fulfil the intentions being aired in the House. With utmost care I would say that I cannot support this Bill.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a very thought-provoking piece of legislation which has been brought forward by our distinguished colleague Shri Ramdas Athawale. I do not subscribe fully to all the provisions of the Bill. Before I initiate my debate on this, I would express strong reservations against Clauses 6, 7 and 8.

I entirely agree with Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot when he says that the whole objective of the Bill would be totally frustrated if Clauses 6, 7 and 8 remain a part of the Bill. Therefore, I do not extend my full support to the Bill and express strong reservations against those three clauses. However, I support the objective of the Bill.

This is a debate where we do not like to score political points, which has been successfully resorted to by the previous speaker, Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot. What Congress did and what BJP did is not the issue here,

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

The issue here is as to how, after 56 years of attaining independence, we can provide better living conditions to those people who are living in the slums and *jhuggi-jhonpris*.

I have an appeal to make to the Government in this regard. It is an appeal and a suggestion that I would make. The Government should appoint a Task Force, headed by no less a person than the Prime Minister, giving representation to all the States affected by this problem in the Committees and giving representation to the Chairmen of all Municipalities affected by this problem in the Sub-Committees. That Task Force should come out with a comprehensive strategy in developing a corpus, not fully dependent on the Union Government's Budget but by collecting revenues from various sources.

The Task Force should consider a comprehensive policy-plan to: (a) modernise the existing set-up; (b) create alternate shelters; and (c) ensure that the root cause of growing slums is frustrated. Then an national opening, in this regard, could be done. Why I say so, Mr. Chairman, Sir because I had the privilege to represent the House from a Constituency called Howrah twice. It is the largest slum of India, if not India, of Asia, which is known as *pilkhana* slum where 90 per cent are poor Muslims, and ten per cent are poor *dalits*. The film and the book *The City of Joy*, written by Dominique Lapierre, was originated from slums. It is a deep study of all the slums, their conditions, their root cause, as to why they are expanding, their problems, etc.

The first problem is illiteracy; and second problem is the kind of activities, which are not permitted by the society; the third problem is the poor hygienic conditions, sanitation and health; and the fourth problem is the living conditions of the working force. About 90 per cent of the unorganised sectors' working force live in the slums. Even the other sectors of the labour force were in the organised sector. Since the management cannot provide them housing facilities, or cannot provide them such allowances, which are required for a family to live, they find no other alternative but to go to these slums. These slums, really speaking, are not only the headache of the respective State, but also the headache of those who belong to these slums, about the future of their children.

16.06 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in 1967-68 the naxalite agitation started in Bengal. At that time I was a student leader of

the University of Calcutta. I distinctly remember, it started not only from the rural areas, but also from the slums.

At that time, Mrs. Indira Gandhi visited Calcutta. When she came back to Delhi, she first provided a concept called Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA). Within five years, package by package, the process of sanitation, drinking water in and around Calcutta Metropolitan Zone was evolved.

Yet, I confess that the problem could not be solved there because of the rush to the cities, as has rightly been said by Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, the rush to have the shelter. They do whatever they like, shoe polishing; they do whatever they like, selling the vegetables, they do whatever they like, part time work as a hawker, everything. If they find that nothing is left there for their shelter, why do not they go? There is no denying the fact that if you take the social analysis, the poorest of the poor Muslims, *dalits*, tribals, and OBCs are largely living in these slums. It is because they are not taken care of by the society, by any Government whatsoever excepting the lip service during the time of election.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a chronic problem. I know a few children of these slums who became the stars of the schools and the colleges. I also know a few artists of these slums who became the stars of the society. I also know dreaded criminals. I also know dreaded people who indulge in drug trafficking. They are also from these slums.

therefore, I do not agree with all the Clauses of the Bill, but I do want to express my concern. It is not an issue of a particular State; it is a national issue. I can tell you how good the people are! I remember one incident, the 6th December incident, when the mosque was demolished. Everybody told that there would be a clash.

In the city of Mumbai, while intellectuals claim otherwise, they did clash. But in G.T. Road of Howrah, not a single incident took place of communal lines, though on the left side of the road, there were slums of Muslims and on the right side, there were slums of the *dalits* and of a few Hindus. They are so good; they knew the problem; they did not indulge in any activity which would disturb the society and the State. I mentioned it to the then Chief Minister, - Shri Jyoti Basu. How well they behaved! It is the largest slum of Asia—Pilkhana—and not a single young man took sword in his hand. Yet they were not taken care of.

I am thankful and grateful to one leader who is not in the House today. He is none other than Shri Madhu

Dandavate; he was the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission for a short period. I approached him with the appalling condition of the slums and asked him to at least ensure drinking water. He was the one who fought and instantly arranged for the support of drinking water, to the tune of Rs. 20 crore; and people got drinking water in the slums. We shall not discuss this issue on party lines. We must all understand the issue whether you sit on the side of the House and whether we sit in this side of the House.

I share the wisdom of hon. Vice-President Shri Shekhawat. I was travelling with him to Goa for a function. He told me that we should address only three things in the country, forgetting party lines; if we do that, this country will be the strongest in the world. I asked him what are they. He said that he spent his entire life in politics and that he realised that we should address three things together, be it BJP or Congress. He said that one was population, the second was corruption and the third was education. If we jointly address and find out a method, this country will be stronger, he said and I fully subscribe to that view. I conveyed this feeling of the Vice-President to my leader, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi.

On these three basic issues we must have unity and try to solve them. Population is the first one; it is compelling the society to rush to the city. Unless family planning or population control device supported by social amenities is done, the problem cannot be managed. Unless population control supported by educational opportunities is done, this problem cannot be managed. Could we stop in this country teen-age labour? No.

I know, in my constituency, people say that their children need not go to school, but let them clean glasses, cups and saucers in tea stalls and bring money to their families. This is a social concept. In this social concept if you can show that the children can go to school and also one would not starve, children may go to school. If you cannot address this moot cause, the problem of slum expansion or the problem of slum dwellers cannot be handled.

I mentioned about a few cities where are slums. We have, in the city of Howrah, Pil Khana; we also have Tikia Para, Nazir Ganj, Chara Basti, Bhod Sagan, Phool Bagan, which are the largest *bastis* of India. I made a survey and 90 per cent of them are poor Muslims. In the cities of Ahmadabad, Surat, Pune, Mumbai, Patna, Muzaffarpur, Chennai, and Coimbatore—except the State of Karnataka—slums are growing almost every year, and

this is what the social study reveals. We also have slums in the cities of Lucknow and Allahabad, and not merely in those four Metropolitan cities.

People rush to the cities and stay on; they do not go back. Even if they stay on in the empty land of the Government, they should not be thrown out, whereas the Bill suggests this. I do not subscribe to that view because they did not come there to enjoy; they came there for food. We, as Government, are duty-bound—whether State or Union—to respond to their stomach. Till alternate shelter is not arranged, we should not throw them out.

Shri Nitish Kumar is the Railway Minister. He is expanding his railway network in our State. Hundreds of slum dwellers are occupying areas near railway stations. We had to convince them for the last six months for an alternate shelter. Certain things have been arranged and then eviction process has started. Therefore, I do share and subscribe to some of the views expressed by Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot. I strongly feel that a task force should be constituted taking into confidence all the social scientists, community leaders, Mayors, and Chairmen of the Municipalities. If it is headed by the hon. Prime Minister, it will get paramount importance to build up a situation by which this problem can be handled. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT (Nandurbar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak on this subject. I am on my legs to express my views on the bill moved on 25th July, 2003 by Shri Ramdas Athawale. I have heard here the speeches of all the hon. Members. This motion is in regard to providing amenities to the slum dwellers. The poor people come and start living in slums in the capital city of each state of the country. Many of them are local people but the concerned municipality, Mahanagarपालिका and Panchayats do not care for such people. Those poor people do not find any place to live in. They cannot purchase plots from the builders because the plots are very costly. As such wherever they find a place, they construct a *jhuggi* there and start living therein. The Government of Maharashtra has tried to provide facilities to these people by taking due care of them. The other states should also follow this state. Meager assistance is given for providing clean drinking water, electricity and constructing roads in the slums. The concerned Municipality and Mahanagarपालिका also pay no attention towards it. A large number of people are coming from outside. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted to this bill is going to be over. If the House agree, the time can be extended for ten minutes. The hon. Member should conclude because the Minister has also to reply.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: We all agree to it.

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: I would like to request that schemes like HUDCO, Indra Awas Yojana should be implemented properly. The concerned State Government and Mahanagarपालिका should make arrangements to provide more and more facilities to the slum dwellers. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana has been implemented in the country. There are certain habitations which are bit away from the villages. The programmes under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana should also be implemented in the areas where people are living by constructing *jhuggi-jhopris*.

I was to speak many things on this motion but you are hinting towards me. As such only this much I have to say that I support this bill. I associate myself with the hon. Members who have given their suggestions. The Government should take care of the slum dwellers and formulate welfare schemes for them because they are also the residents of this country. Keeping this thing in view, welfare programmes should be formulated for such people. This is what I have to request.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): Hon. Chairman, Sir, and the hon. Members, Shri Ramdas Athawale has proposed this Bill. I thank him for proposing the Bill and I also thank all the Members who have participated in the discussion.

The Bill envisages to provide basic amenities to the slums and *jhuggi-jhopris* in the metropolitan cities. I would like to say that the Government is already providing the basic amenities to all the *jhuggi-jhopri* areas in the metropolitan cities. We are also trying to provide more amenities such as water, electricity, health care facilities, etc. to the slum dwellers. So, we are also putting all efforts to help the State Governments and the Union Territories to improve the living conditions of the slum dwellers.

Here I may point out that as far as metropolitan cities in the States are concerned, they come under the purview of Entry 5, 6, 17, 18, and 53 of the State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. Therefore, I think this House may not be competent to legislate in this respect.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Could you kindly repeat your point about the competence?

SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN: I said that this subject comes under Entry, 5, 6, 17, 18, and 53 of the State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Therefore, the Government of India has nothing to do regarding slum dwellers!

SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, we are providing the basic amenities. But as far as the matter regarding legislation is concerned, it is not competent. I have taken note of all the suggestions given by the hon. Members.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what has he done about the Union Territories which are specifically under his charge. The Union Territories have been consistently neglected always in every aspect.

SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, for all the Union Territories and the States, we are providing funds through Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana and National Slum Development Fund. I have taken note of all the suggestions given by the hon. Members. Our Ministry will take necessary action in all these matters.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: What is this reply to this important debate!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramdas Athawale-Not present.

The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the basic minimum amenities of water, electricity, sanitation and health facilities in slums and *Jhuggi-Jhopri* clusters and for the clearance of such areas in larger public interest and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

The motion was negatived.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we go to Item No. 29. Shri Vilas Muttemwar—Not present.

Item No. 30 Shri Basavanagoud Kolar—Not present.

Item No. 31 Shri G.M. Banatwalla.

16.25 hrs.

INDIAN PENAL CODE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2001

(Insertion of new sections 298A to 298C)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860, be taken into consideration."

Sir, today is the 14th day of August. Tomorrow is our Independence Day. I extend my heartiest greetings to one and all here and, through you, to the entire nation.

Sir, my Bill which I have just moved addresses itself to a very important question of encroachments on wakf properties. The Bill is very simple and pertains to a very important and burning issue. We all know that there is widespread encroachment on wakf properties. Encroachments on wakf properties are not only widespread but are also on the increase. Encroachment on wakf properties is almost without impunity. It is necessary that we address to this important question.

Sir, the encroachment on wakf properties should be viewed very seriously. In the first place, it is an offence against religion. Wakf and wakf properties are dedicated to Allah and are so tied up in perpetuity. The sanctity of the wakf is also clear from the fact that even the wakf, that is, the person who has created the wakf, cannot take back the wakf property. It is not so allowed by the religion and also by the law of our land. It is, therefore, a serious offence against religion.

The encroachment on wakf property is also a serious offence against the society. Wakfs are created for religions or charitable objects. Wakfs are created for charitable objects for the benefit of the society without any distinction of class, caste or creed. They serve the society without distinguishing on ground of religion, class, caste or creed. Wakfs can be created for the service and benefit of the

society at large. These may be medical service or service with respect to alleviation of poverty or any charitable object.

We, therefore, say that an encroachment of Wakf property should be taken seriously because it is an offence against the society. The capability and the extent of the Wakf to serve the society is adversely affected by such encroachments.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Banatwalla, you can continue next time.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I will continue later.

16.31 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: MEASURES TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF WORKERS

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will now take further discussion on the Resolution moved by Shri Basudeb Acharia on the 1st August, 2003 regarding measures to protect the interests of workers.

Now, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat to speak.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Chairman, Sir, about two weeks back, I was expressing my views on the resolution moved on 1st August, 2003 by Shri Basu Deb Acharia ji. At that time also I had said that although the jugglery of words in the resolution appears to be quite fanciful, yet the spirit behind this resolution is only to find fault with the Government.

Sir, as far as the welfare of workers is concerned, the NDA Government and all of us want that there should be welfare of the workers, their interests should be protected and they should be provided with all the amenities. At that time, Acharia ji had drawn such an outline that NDA Government is doing nothing for the workers. In fact it is correct that today the worker's organizations resort to strikes quite frequently due to which the situations have changed to such an extent that Bengal which was the leading state from the point of view of industrialization, the big industrialists there are shifting their industries to other states. And today, the situation

[Prof. Rasa Singh rawat]

has changed to such an extent that nobody wants to invest capital in Bengal and Kerala states. Sir, it is because of this problem of workers' it was said that this issue should neither be dealt with strictly nor leniently and rather it is suggested that middle path should be adopted. In the same way protection should be provided to the workers and along with that production should also go up.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the previous Government had given their consent to and signed the W.T.O. agreement and after their signing that agreement, our situation has become such that we had to accept all that. The previous Government accepted the policy of liberalization, globalisation and universalisation and adopted all these things and now after adopting these things, it is these people who are saying that how all these things would be allowed to go on. Now we can see that products of China are available in the world market at cheaper rates. It is because of this that labour is cheap in China and the rules are also very simple there. Our rules are very complicated. It is because of this reason that the products of China are comparatively very cheaper than the items manufactured/produced by our country. In this way Chinese products are available in the world market at cheaper rates. We will also have to see and think from that angle in order to get our place in the world market. Thus, while providing protection to the workers we will have to see as to how much the workers cooperate us in our work, how much useful they prove and how much they can help in increasing our production and formulate such labour policies as may help in providing more and more employment for them.

Sir, at present our labour laws are somewhat complicated but the Government are trying to simplify them. As regards unorganized labour, I would like to support him. The agricultural labour, the labour engaged in kilns and other labourers engaged in sundry jobs are the unorganized lot. They are being exploited.

Sir, I would like to urge that there are 40 crore workers in our country. Out of them, 2.8 crore workers have got employment. Further, out of this 2.8 crore, 1.9 crore workers are Government servants, be they Central or State Government employees. Only 87 lakh organized workers are engaged in various private sectors who come under the purview of our Legislations. They are getting all kinds of benefits with the implementation of these Acts. They are drawing benefits of all these Acts. Only the 87 lakh organized workers who are working under

various private sectors, are getting the benefits all these facilities such as Provident Fund, Bonus, Leave Encashment and ESI facility. Only the 87 lakh organized workers working in various private sectors and 1.9 crore government employees are availing the benefits of these facilities and yet our labour laws are providing protection to those people only. As I have said that there are about 35 crore people under the unorganized sector whereas the workers under the organized sector get salary ranging from five thousand to ten thousand per month, the workers under the unorganized sector hardly get one thousand rupees or 1500 rupees, rather they get even less than this. They are hardly paid their wages even. Their wages is less, facilities are less, they get nothing in the name of allowances and they are exploited and sometimes even not paid their wages. Their accounts are not maintained and as such their condition is quite miserable. I would like to thank the NDA Government that in the previous days they have enacted several laws for the welfare of the labours engaged in building construction works and the agriculture sector. The Government are also amending the old laws and trying to simplify them.

As regards, Trade Union Laws what we have seen is that even politicians alien to trade union politics just jump into this field while they are least concerned with production and instigate the workers to join them under there banner and resort to strikes. The Government are also trying to amend the Trade Union Act. I think where the workers are provided protection for right things and when it comes to the production, we should not compromise over it. All of us should make all out efforts to ensure that our national production goes up and our nation progresses. There is plenty of labour and inadequacy of capital in the country. What is required is that we will have to maintain a coordination between these two factors that how we should remove the inadequacy of the capital and how we should fully utilize our adequacy of labour. And if we really want to maintain coordination between these two factors, then we will have to stay away from strikes.

Recently, Hon. Supreme Court has given a decision. Although that decision has crossed the limit.

[English]

Excess of everything is bad.

[Translation]

But if the workers demand for justified rights, then they should have the right to demand for such things, but

resorting to strikes every now and then and sloganising— Let our demands be fulfilled (Hamari Mange Puri Hon) Though whatever compulsion may be—proves to be detrimental for the country. What is required of them is that they should say that they would work in the national interest and get full wages in lieu of their work. As such I think that the ban put on strike by the Supreme Court has been ordered keeping in view the excess. The worker's organization and various political parties providing protection to the workers would seek inspiration from these orders and advise the worker's organization having ideology in tune with them struggle for the sake of worker's interests and fight for their rights and try to get their demands fulfilled. At the same time they should also make efforts to increase the national production and for ensuring progress of the nation.

In this Bill, hon. Acharia ji has talked about social security. I would request the Government that there should not be any laxity in providing social security. Provident Fund Scheme should be implemented for the workers of unorganized sectors. The rate of interest under the Provident Fund Scheme has fallen to a very low level during the previous days. I am office bearer of the organizations of several aided institutions. I know that earlier there was 12 percent rate of interest on their Provident Fund. Now this rate of interest has come down to 9 per cent whereas provident fund is the only source after their retirement. They do not get any pension etc. As such I would request the Government to kindly consider the issue of falling rate of interest in respect of Provident Fund sympathetically. Arrears of the workers must be paid, by they in the private sector or anywhere else. Wherever exploitation is taking place, efforts should be made to check it. ESI hospitals should be strengthened.

Workers engaged in bidi industries live in slums. People living in jhuggis-jhopris are engaged in bidi industry but the conditions in which they live are highly unhygienic and the result is that they suffer from weak eye sight and tuberculosis. Dirty drains flow along the slums they live in. They sit there alongwith their children and elderly people and do their job of making bidis. Bidi manufacturing industry is in dire straits. Efforts should also be made to provide security to this industry. Bidi worker's should get the facility of hospitals and ESI and their children should get education facility. They should be given scholarships and provided with the facility of treatment and provident fund. Bidi industry owners earn crores of rupees but the poor workers always remain the workers. We should pay special attention towards them. This Government is

bringing welfare related legislations for the people engaged in agricultural and building construction sectors. A National Labour Commission has also be constituted. This Commission would definitely submit its recommendations in this connection in the course. We are also the member of the International Labour Commission. We are bound by all these laws of this kind enacted throughout the world. Therefore if welfare of the workers is ensured, production increases and interest of the country is served and protected, then it would be all right, otherwise instigating strikes is not appropriate in the national interest.

With these words, I thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I strongly support the Resolution moved by Shri Basu Deb Acharia. Now, the day has also an importance. On the 15th of August, exactly 56 years ago, we won the freedom and on that day I had the privilege of raising the National Flag in my village at dead of night, at 12 o'clock.

Sir, before independence, we were fighting against the British slavery and that was a fight which lasted for centuries. At last we won the freedom. The British had gone out of the country. Now, after 56 years, where do we stand? Due to the functioning of the Constitution, a situation has come where the workers in this country have become slaves.

In the context of the Resolution, I would like to refer to a recent judgement of the Supreme Court. At the time when this Resolution was moved, the situation was different, but subsequently the situation has changed. The ruling by the Supreme Court is definitely a slur on the independence movement. It is an attack on the human rights also. Before a deal with the situation, I would like to submit that our Judiciary has done much service to the cause of our Constitution. They have given good interpretations. They have taken bold stands during the Emergency. That is also good. But now the situation is such that there is a continuous attack on workers' rights, not only by the Judiciary but also by the Executive.

The Resolution is crystal clear about the encroachment on workers' right by the Executive in one way or another. The recent attack was on the interest rate on the Provident Fund by way of its reduction. The Government employees, after 30 years of service, get an amount by way of Provident Fund. They put it either in

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

the Cooperative Bank or in the Taluk Treasury and they get an interest. That becomes an additional source of income for these poor people who have spent much of their time in the service of this nation and that is a boon to them. But this Government took the drastic decision of reducing the interest given to the workers, who deposit their Provident Fund amount in the bank, from 12 per cent to 6 per cent. Is there any justification? I would ask the Government: "What compelled you to reduce the interest given to the poor employees who had deposited the amounts in the Treasury as fixed deposits?"

So also, the basic right of the worker is for collective bargaining. It is not a new thing. In a recent judgement of the Supreme Court, it has been stated that there is no moral or legal right for the workers to strike. It is not a correct statement. With due respect to the Supreme Court, I challenge that statement.

We have passed the Industrial Disputes Act, 1948. That statute is still in force. As per Section 21 of that Act, the workers have a right to strike work after giving a notice of 14 days. That right is there. That is a decision of this House. This House passed the Industrial Disputes Act. There is a provision in that statute that the workers have a right to bargain and a right to strike work. Deploring that right given to the workers by the Industrial Disputes Act, the Supreme Court Judges, without understanding the provisions of that Act, have unequivocally declared that the workers have no legal right to strike work. From where did they get this information? The workers have a right. They are not slaves. They cannot be treated as slaves in this country.

Now there is a consistent attack on the employees by the Government of Tamil Nadu. Recently, it was reported in the Press that they had issued the Essential Services Maintenance Ordinance. By that Ordinance, the employees' right to work has been withdrawn. All their allowances have been withdrawn. Even the recognition of their Unions has been withdrawn—all arbitrarily—by the provisions of the statutory Ordinance issued by the Government of Tamil Nadu. So, both on the Executive side and the Judicial side, there is a consistent attack on the rights of workers.

16.47 hrs.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

The workers have obtained these rights through struggles during the Independence period and

subsequently through struggles and legal rights. This is not a boon. This is not a concession by the Executive or the Judiciary. The workers have earned those rights by their collective strength and collective bargaining. No power on earth can resist or deny these fundamental rights which the workers have won through struggles.

Now what I would simply ask the Supreme Court Judges is this. Would they get their conscience pricked when I put them the question that crores of cases are pending before the Courts? In the High Courts, in the Sessions Courts and in the Mofussil Courts, thousands and lakhs of cases are pending even now. The poor citizen is put to trial. He is not getting justice. They have not taken decisions on these cases which are pending before them. Where is their conscience? Now when the workers' strike is there, when poor people are put to struggle, they have been taken to task. This is the argument of the Supreme Court. Now I ask the Judges of the Supreme Court: "Where is your conscience when you are not taking decisions on lakhs of petitions before you? All these involve citizens' rights. All these involve the rights of the men in the streets and you are sitting there as Judges for deciding these cases. But those cases are pending before you for decades."

Now I have given an answer by collecting data from all the Courts. I have the data available with me. According to those data, the cases are pending for a period ranging from 25 to 35 years before these Judges. They have not taken any decision. They are not worried about that. The poor citizen is put to trial. They are not worried about that. But they are worried that the workers resort to strike. They will find that the poor people are put to task because of the workers' strike. But, they are forgetting that the workers have a right to strike and it is a part and parcel of our democratic tradition, democratic procedure; and that they will have to take some risk. When the workers resort to strike, some people will be affected. That is part and parcel of our democratic functioning. Are the Supreme Court Judges not living in this Universe? Are they born from Heavens?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Radhakrishnan, the time allotted for this Resolution is two hours. That has been expired.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I am also aware of it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we will have to extend it by one hour. Is it the sense of the House that the time should be extended by one hour?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, you can continue.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Now, I would like the Central Government to bring in a legislation giving the workers the right to strike or giving the workers the right of collective bargaining. They must be given that right. They must be provided that right. On that basis I move an amendment to this Resolution that not only social securities but even the basic right of the workers to strike work, the basic right of the workers to strike work, the basic right of the worker to go on strike as a collective means of bargaining should also be included. So, I move an amendment to your Resolution. I move an amendment to the effect that the basic right to strike work should also be included, and you should bring in a legislation to get over this fantastic ruling of the Supreme Court which is unjustifiable and a black day in the human history that these people have given. It is really ridiculous when we think of civilised human beings. In the civilised world, even in the international conventions, the workers have a right to work, a right to strike. They have given the right or the power of collective bargaining. It is there in almost all the civilisations. But, here, we have come acrossed and found that the workers do not have any right to strike. ...*(Interruptions)* They would say the workers do not have right to strike. They are slaves. They will have to live as slaves. This Act is utter disregard of all the labour Conventions which have said that the right to work is a fundamental right. Right to strike is a collective right, which has been taken away by the Supreme Court.

So, I would request, through you, the Central Government to bring in a legislation urgently so that the workers will have the right of collective bargaining to redress their grievances. We cannot bring in slavery. We are a brave people who fought against the British domination and British slavery. Now we have to fight against the Judiciary for bringing in a decision which will go against the Fundamental Rights of the workers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Radhakrishnan, there are some expressions against the Supreme Court judgement. There are some expressions. We will go through it and we will see if it is unparliamentary or not. We will go through it.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): He is criticising the judgement only and not the Judges.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Please expunge it.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Judges can also be criticised. The criticism must be fair. I am not adducing any motive against any particular Judge. I can criticise a Judge. I am not adducing any motive or ill-will against any particular judge.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I say in general case we can criticise the Judge. We can criticise the judgement. I am a lawyer and I know the position. That way, I am criticising the judgement of the Supreme Court.

I have the right to criticise them without adducing any malice against the judges. Malice should not be there. I am not adducing any malice or ill-will against any particular judge.

Now, definitely the provident fund interest rate of 12 per cent must be restored for the unorganised workers. Then again, regarding the ceiling on bonus payment, there is no justification for imposing a ceiling on bonus. That also has to be withdrawn in the interest of the workers. Then, there is a tendency on the party of the employers as well as the Government to withdraw the payment of statutory dues. There are statutory dues which are the result of a legislation passed by this House because the workers were demanding them and there were struggles by the workers for obtaining those statutory dues which you should not take away. So, I request the Government to restore all the statutory dues.

Then, about the agricultural workers, in Kerala we have already introduced a minimum wage for the agricultural workers. There should be a comprehensive legislation for introducing minimum wages for the agricultural workers. The Central Government should take the initiative. Then, concerning the contractual workers, now they are the order of the day, but they must have the elementary rights which the workers are entitled to. But those elementary rights are not provided in any statute. So, I would request the Central Government to bring in a comprehensive legislation giving the elementary, basic rights to the contractual workers. This is another item.

Then, about the unorganised workers, the provident fund scheme should also include them and there must be a provision so that the Government should also constitute to their provident fund. Now, in all these cases, the intervention of the Central Government is sought for, that is, firstly to tide over the Supreme Court judgement and secondly to restore all the rights that have been

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

enumerated in the Resolution. So, I hope that the Government will give a serious thought to all these demands, bring in a comprehensive legislation and bring the labour law up-to-date. With these words, I support the Resolution.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, as per the views expressed here there are eight points on which amendments have been suggested in the Resolution concerning the interest of labourers as moved in the House by the hon. Member Shri Basu Deb Acharia. As a matter of fact there are already some legal provisions in regard to the points shown in the Resolution. But since they are not fully implemented, there are some grey areas which need to be corrected. Therefore, I support this Resolution on ideological plane. He said that some measures should be taken. I also feel that certain measures should be taken. You said that there should be social security for the labourers. There are rules and regulations and schemes in favour of the labourers to provide them social security, but they are not being properly implemented.

17.00 hrs.

The law regarding Provident Fund in respect of the labourers of the unorganised sector is not being implemented. That is why the labourers of the unorganised sector get work for 30 days or at times for 10 days and at times there is no work at all for them. Even if they get work, the labour law is not properly implemented in respect of them. This is also a cause of concern and action should also be taken in this regard. Even as per the rule a labourer who works for 30 days becomes entitled for Provident Fund, but the Management deliberately causes a break in his service so that he does not complete 30 days of continuous work. There are some lacunae in the rule and the management takes benefit of it. This needs to be checked.

Moreover, as per the present economic situation, the Government has lowered the rate of interest on the Provident Fund. The resolution speaks about fixing the rate of interest at 12 per cent on the Provident Fund. In principle I may agree to this, but I also say that the labourer also consider the country's interest as Supreme. The fact however also remains that certain organisations working in the labour sector keep self-interest foremost and do not care for the interest of the labourers. These organisations do not mind if the institution in which the workers are working face closure. They are least bothered.

Those organisations care only about their interest. The credit goes to the Prime Minister and the Labour Minister Shri Sahib Singh Verma who have made separate provision for fixing the rate of interest on the provident fund at a higher rate than the bank rate. We hope that this will be increased. They are contributing to the G.P. Fund for a long time which is the sole support to their future after retirement. I want to point out that as per rule the employer too has to contribute some amount to the account of the employee but they evade it. There is a provision of taking action against such employers but the officials do not take any action. This has to be implemented. The Central Government deserve compliments for increasing the rate of interest but it should do something in this direction. I express my agreement with you on this issue.

You have mentioned about bonus payment. There is no ceiling on bonus. Generally, there is a provision for paying bonus at the rate of 8.33 per cent but it is nowhere provided that they cannot pay bonus more than that. There is a Birla factory at Nagda where I live. They pay bonus at the rate of 33 per cent, 35 per cent or 38 per cent. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): There is a limit for giving bonus. They cannot pay more than what has been stated.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: I know what you are saying. There is a ceiling of 8.33 per cent but the trade union and the owner, with mutual consent, can increase this percentage. I have worked in that organisation. There your INTUC. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is a ceiling on bonus.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: It is 20 per cent but if the owner and trade union are in agreement to pay by way of ex-gratia, there is no restriction on it. I want to quote the example of Nagda where they pay 38-39 per cent bonus. Similarly, the Bharat Commerce Industry used to pay to the same extent. They used to pay ex-gratia at the rate more than 30 per cent. There are a number of organisations which earn higher profits and feel it their duty to pay good amounts to their

labourers. If it is paid unlimited or at the rate of 20 per cent and some sick organisations too are made to pay at these rates then those organisations will face closure. I want to say that the number of sick industries is continuously increasing in the country. I heard your speech at Nagda and I hear your speech here also. But, our country is facing industrial recession due to the approach of the trade unions in the country. Industries are on the verge of closure and some of them have been closed while rest of them are functioning as sick mills. The issue of 8.33 per cent or 20 per cent is an altogether different issue, there are a number of organisations which are not paying bonus. This situation prevails everywhere. The trade unions working in labour sector should also ponder over this issue. I belong to the Bharatiya Mizdoor Sangh. Our slogan is "Deshhit mein karenge kam, kam ke lenge poore dam." We used to work with the sense of duty and integrity. We used to agitate in the interest of labourers, delivered speeches and associated ourselves with strikes. I worked as desk worker there and got special increment also. This type of approach has to be there amount the working class. We are expecting from the Government only on these issues while we should expect the same from the labour organisations operating in the labour sector. The labour organisations, at places commit such lapse and if anywhere, there is misuse of the law, it has affected the economy of the country. We seek that due to this industrial recession, workers are not in a position to stage agitations anywhere in the sector. I tell you that these organisations, be it AITUC or CITU have worsened the scenario all over the country including West Bengal, Bihar and Kerala. I have been to Kerala, you too must have been there. There was Birla factory at Calicut in Kerala, there were pulp division and staple fibre division. I went there in 1968 for a job but due to strikes every year, that division was locked out. There are a number of institutions which had significant contribution to the economy of the country and provided livelihood to the workers but were forced to close down due to the strikes. These acts spoil the atmosphere of the country which the trade unions, you and we are supposed to rectify. We should pay attention to this aspect.

The issue of "dues of the workers"—I know there are laws to get the dues. There should be no dues. If any owner or institution owes some money to any workers, then it should be paid promptly. One has to bribe a pretty 10 per cent Commission to withdraw money from one's provident fund which is one's own money and nowhere on earth it is provided to pay ten percent commission for withdrawing money from the fund.

Similarly, one may have to fix percentage to get the provident fund settled on retirement. We should find out some measures to put a check on this practice. At present, there are sufficient laws but we should endeavour to fix some measures to check such muddle. The trade unions, Central Government and State Government should coordinate among themselves to make some effective arrangement in this regard.

Similarly, you have mentioned about health services. I want to tell you the condition of ESI scheme. This has degenerated into an institution facilitating leave to the workers. The workers also do not go there for taking treatment. Medical treatment is taken elsewhere by them. The worker goes to the doctor and express his unwillingness to attend his duty. The doctor writes a slip and recommends leave for seven days as well. They bribe the doctor to get referred to a higher hospital or a private hospital. The Government is spending on the scheme as well as the workers contribution goes to it. The ESI scheme is a failure. You can see it at Nagda, Ujjain and Indore. You go to any city, you will find that ESI is not succeeding in achieving its cherished objective. It needs improvement. We should think over it. There are sufficient facilities and equipments in ESI Hospitals but the doctors have become habitual of doing the job of clerk. They are aware that if any worker has to attend some marriage or has to proceed on leave due to some work, he will take paid leave. Here he will take sick leave for which he will draw salary too and there in his factory, he will be paid for the paid leave also. This type of tendency of dishonesty is increasing. The health service meant for industrial workers have become useless. It needs improvement at some point. Such is the state of affairs in every state in the country which needs rectification. The workers need to be counselled even by bitter speeches. They resort to agitation after exploiting the institution. Later on they make so many demands including the demand for reviving the mills, such is the situation in the entire country. I feel that in a number of States, the industrial establishments have been shifting to another place and new establishments are not coming up, owing to malpractices by trade unions. Nobody wants to set up units here. I remember that Chief Ministers of many States including Digvijay Singhji, Chief Minister of Mahhya Pradesh, Jyoti Basuji, Chief Ministers of Kerala and that of Rajasthan also visited foreign countries to urge people to come to their respective states to invest capital and establish industrial units. On this, they begged their pardon saying that our trade unions used to create troubles here so they would not switch over to our place. Whenever we talk of disinvestment here—it is opposed

[Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot]

tooth and nail but we go to foreign countries to urge for setting up industrial units here. There we agree to accept numerous and varied conditions. Take the example of any organisation which has been privatised, I have seen in the case of 8 or 10 organisations like Modern Foods. I happened to go there for inspection on behalf of the Committee. After privatisation, the pay scales and perks of employees as well as production of the factory has gone up. There are a number of such institutions. Could we not think over it as to whether this action is good in the interests of the nation, the workers and the people? If it is so, then we should appreciate and support this step. There may be some institution which may be necessary for emergency services. We should consider taking such steps in all other cases excepting those.

They have talked about welfare of agricultural labourers and minimum wages. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have been a good trade unionist. There is Minimum Wages Act in force which is applicable to various fields including agriculture, factories and iron foundries. The Minimum Wages Act is meant for the daily wagers engaged in various fields. Under the said Act, the Central Government, the State Government, the State Government and the Collector concerned concerned conduct survey from time to time and carry out study about inflation on the bases of which they fix the minimum wages. The officials generally try to implement the minimum wages act by giving orders that the workers engaged in a particular field should be paid the fixed amount as minimum wages. But, this is a bitter truth that a worker engaged in agriculture sector or in any other institution as labour, does not get the minimum wage as fixed. This should be implemented. You and we, all should endeavour in this direction. Now, there is a provision for implementation also. There are inspectors at regional level and tehsil level, there are officers in Zila Panchayats. There are officers in district industry Centres and Zila Panchayats but they ally with the owners and do not force them to pay the minimum wages. The provision of minimum wages is ignored. If you make some provision for taking action against them and for its monitoring then the things will be corrected otherwise we shall be limited to its emotional support only. It is not going to yield any result. All that is written in the sections of the Act but it is not practiced. There is a need to put these provisions into practice. For that, you and all of us should take it as our moral responsibility and make endeavours in this direction. If morality is not there, then the scenario of the inspectors also going and accepting bribes will continue.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to talk about the Union leaders. They hold gate meetings and make

speeches in favour of the workers. But outside the gate, they run their hotels. Some run cycle shops. They say that they are making payment of wages to their employees on daily basis. Therefore the labour law is not applicable to them. It is also written on the wall of hotels that only cow's milk is sold there but in fact they buy buffalo's milk and mix water in that. If an Inspector comes for checking, he cannot detect it. A labourer is made to work in a hotel from 6-7 a.m. to till 10 p.m. If he happens to break a glass, the cost of the glass is deducted from his salary. What I mean to say is that on the one hand, they pretend to espouse the interests of workers by making speeches in the mills, their workers have to work for 12 to 14 hours in their hotels on the other. As long as, we do not arrest this tendency, it is of no use of indulge in rhetoric and enact laws. If we all take this responsibility on us, only then we can bring about improvement in this direction.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was also a labourer once upon a time and would indulge in rhetoric that this or that should be done in favour of workers. There should be seven days casual leave. I have also got farms where labourers work. I give them Rs. 1500 annually on the basis of daily wages. Actually these wages are for eight hours work but I make them to work for 10-11 hours. When I act as an owner leaving aside the job of a trade union leader, then I exploit them. And in fact everyone works in this style. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you had also been a big trade union leader. What I mean to say is that there is a need to arrest this trend.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the points which you have raised, is definitely think that there is practical difficulties in implementing these points. Several legislations have been enacted in view of these difficulties. There is need to bring improvement in these legislations. And if a law is strict, then its strict compliance is also required. Good intentions and luck are needed for the purpose. The Government and people should work together in a right manner. Trade unions have got an importance in the country today. At the same time, trade unions should ensure that workers and the institute in which they are working should be benefited. And the country should get benefited at large by that institute, only then the country could march forward. If all this happen, then its alright otherwise nothing good is going to happen.

While supporting your bill, I would also like to urge upon the Government to find a solution to the practical difficulties in regard to legislations enacted on these points taking along the State Governments, trade unions, selected group of people and intellectuals of this field.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Government had constituted the Second Labour Commission. And this commission heard the views of all concerned on merits and demerits. The Chairman of the Labour Commission, Shri Rabi Ray has always been the well wisher of labourers and worked for their good. Now, he has submitted his report to the Government. Therefore, the Government should seriously consider the report and take action for implementing recommendations made in the report in the interests of labourers as soon as possible. With these words, I conclude.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a good occasion that I have got an opportunity to participate in the discussion on the resolution moved by you, while you are presiding over the proceedings. The country's total population at present is 102 crore approximately out of which 40 crore population comprise labourers and working class people. What will be the fate of the working class people in this country keeping in view the way the Government is working.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, earlier Shri Jatiya Ji was the Minister of Labour. Now he has been shifted to some other department. Now Shri Sahib Singh Verma is the Minister of Labour. He was the Chief Minister of Delhi, now he is the Minister of Labour. It appears to me that at present, none of them is present here. Only the borrowed Ministers are sitting here just for the sake of presence. It is a subject related to 40 crore labourers. Only the ex-Minister of this department is present here. Where has the new Minister gone? The Minister of State is also not present here. What he will listen and think on this subject. As per the old figure, there are two crore eighty lakh organized labourers in the country out of forty crore workers. Now this figure might have been gone down further. They way the lay-off is taking place and the country is being sold. ...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): The Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour is present here.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Alright, is he the Minister of Labour now?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Do not you know?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: How can I know. Some Ministers are sacked, some are changed. Changes are made frequently in your Cabinet. Earlier

whatever we would remember, we used to retain that in our memory upto five years. Now Ministers are sacked and changed in two months, six months and sometimes their portfolios are changed. They are changed more frequently than officers and as such we cannot remember these things for a long time. At present Santosh Gangwar ji is the Minister of State, alright, you please listen, it is your subject. There are 2 crore 80 lakh organized labourers in the country. By organized labour we mean the workers who are organized and have the capacity to fight and bargain, they can protect themselves by fighting. But in this regime, their interests have also been harmed. Recently, there was a Supreme Court decision, the fundamental right of the organized labourers to go on strike has also been snatched. We can understand what will be the fate of the workers and working class people in this regime. What will happen to the tolling masses who have contributed a lot in the making of the country, in the production-both industrial and agricultural. These workers are being exploited since ancient times. Marx has said that workers have also got the importance, they have also got the prestige. Mahatma Gandhi has said that this society cannot function properly and the country cannot progress without giving due importance and respect and proper rights to the workers. But interests of the organized workers have been greatly harmed. I would like to know as to what this Government propose to do for them. They had got the fundamental right to go on strike, they had got this capacity by the dint of which they used to fight against exploitation. They had got the fundamental right to go on strike against the multinational companies, capitalists and factory owners who used to exploit the workers and perpetrate atrocities on them. Now the workers have been told that they cannot go on strike and their going on strike is illegal.

Sir, recently the Hon. Supreme Court has given its decision. I would like to know as to what law Government are going to enact to protect the interests of the organized labour. As per the old figures, the number of unorganized labourer is 36.9 crore in the country, that means unorganized labourers comprise 92 per cent of the total number of workers in the country. Out of the total 40 crore workers, only 2 crore 80 lakh workers are organized. If the number of organized workers is deducted from the total number of workers, then the rest more than 37 crore workers fall under the category of unorganized workers. Out of this, 10 crore workers are agricultural labourers. 23.7 crore workers are engaged in agricultural sector, 1.7 crore are engaged in construction work. 4.1 crore are engaged in production work. 3.7 crore are engaged in trade and 3.7 crore are employed in transport

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

and communication services. There are the old figures which I am quoting. These figures pertain to the year 2001. According to these figures, out of the total 40.2 crore workers in the country, 37.2 crore are working in unorganized sector.

Sir, you have moved the resolution for such workers and labourers who are working in the unorganized sector. But that is not going to have any effect on this Government. Why I am saying this is due to some reason. I would give the details as to what are the difficulties in it. I do not have any expectations from this Government. Why I do not expect is due to some reason which I am going to tell. In the battle of Mahabharata, Bhisham Pitamah lays on the bed of arrows waiting for his death to come. He was preaching high philosophy. On hearing the sermons of high philosophy of Bhisham Pitamah, Draupadi started laughing. She said that when she was disrobed and injustice was done to her at that time he had uttered nothing and now when his last moment had arrived he was giving sermons. Bhisham Pitamah told that at that time he had eaten the 'ann' (food) served by Duryodhana and that after eating that 'ann', he had lost his senses. As such he went on seeing the injustice and did not speak anything and now after he lays on the bed of arrows all his bad blood had oozed out from his body and pure blood had come in its place due to which he was preaching high philosophy and 'Gyan'.

Sir, such a thing has been spoken about a great, legendary personality Ganga Putra Bhisham Pitamah. When at that time, a great man had lost his 'Gyan' and reason due to eating the 'ann' served by Duryodhana, then how the Government which has come into existence with the help of multinational companies, capitalists and black marketeers can think of worker's welfare and the policies to give facilities to them. The multinational companies and black marketeers which have helped these people to come to power cannot think of the welfare of the workers and they cannot fulfill any of their aspirations and expectations. This resolution seeks to provide huge benefits to the workers of both the organized and unorganized sectors but this Government is not going to accept it.

Sir, I would like to ask the Government as to why they have stalled the Government Bill drafted in respect of the workers of the unorganized sector. We had heard that the Bill was ready. It is being sent to the Cabinet and then it is coming back from the Cabinet. This Bill will be introduced in this very Monsoon Session. But where that Bill has gone, which is the power that is,

blocking that Bill. Which power is overpowering the Government? I want to say that this Government is in the grip of multinational companies, industrialists, black marketeers and capitalist. It is because of this that this Bill is not being brought forward. Why this Bill is not being brought forward? I will reveal the shortcomings later on but first of all let the Government introduce that Bill. That Bill is not being introduced, that Bill has been withheld. That Bill has been cleared by the Ministry of Law and the Ministry of Labour but that has been withheld in the Ministry of Finance. The Ministry of Finance is in the grip of capitalists. The big capitalists, millionaires and billionaires are creating hurdles in its way. They are withholding this Bill. Under such circumstances how the interests of 37 crore workers can be protected. Honourable Member Shri Basu Deb Achariaji, who always fights and pleads for the welfare of workers and poor people has moved the resolution that there is no social security provided to the workers. They are not provided with social security and the first and foremost thing is this that they do not get any work. They do not get work for whole of the year. They get work only when crops are cut, they get work only when there is sowing season and when the season of sowing and harvesting is over, they are rendered unemployed or semi unemployed. Thus, there is no such guarantee that they will get work throughout the year and as such they are forced to migrate from the villages to the cities. The workers from Bihar migrate to Punjab, Haryana and various other parts of the country due to lack of employment opportunities in Bihar. Why the employment opportunities are not created for them. The work is not available to them throughout the year. At least it is semi-employment. This is the first problem.

The next problem is with regard to the payment of minimum wages to the unorganized labour. The Government has claimed that they have implemented the Minimum Wages Act. Let the Government tell why minimum wages are not being paid in the Government departments. Why any case has not come up against the Government in this regard. There are dozen of examples that minimum wages are not being paid in Government departments. When the Government itself is not paying the minimum wages despite enacting the Minimum Wages Act, how can we catch any other person. There was a poet named late Bhikhari Thakur in our area. He had said that all that glitters with the Government, is not the gold. He had written this in his poem in Bhojpuri. Likewise is the Minimum Wages Act. When minimum wages are not being paid in the Government departments, then how justice would be done to these hapless workers. When Government departments

are not paying the minimum wages, then how the others who exploit the workers would pay it, rather they would say that Government departments themselves are not paying the minimum wages, then this Act would be called a farce, a fraud and a wrong Act.

Problem number third is that amongst the farmers, some are big, some are medium, some are small and some are marginal farmers. They also engage the labourers but they do not have that much income and that much capital to pay the minimum wages. The Central Government say that the State Government should pay it and the State Government that they are not able to pay it. The Central Government pass on this entire responsibility to the State Government. The financial condition of the State is not too sound to provide social security to the workers. As such the problem with the State Government is that they are facing the grave financial crisis and on the issue of financial crisis of the State Government, there has been a debate in this House also and when we discuss about the difficulties, the Minister of Finance find himself without any reply. How the financial condition of the State Government will improve? If the responsibility is passed on the State Government, it will be an injustice to the workers. The Union Government will have to own this responsibility. If the financial condition of the State Government is not good to provide social security to the workers and do justice to them, then the Union Government will have to come forward to owe this responsibility. ...(*Interruptions*)

I am stating the facts systematically. The labourers do not get minimum wages, do not get social security. If a labourer dies while on work then nobody bothers. For example, if he happens to meet an accident while on duty in a factory in Delhi and in case if he gets one of his limbs severed, nobody would do anything. I went to Tuang in the North-East where I came across 2-4 poor Adivasi who were walking around infirmly. Stopping my car I asked them their identity and they told me that they were tribals from Bihar, which is now Jharkhand. I questioned them further that how did they reach there upon which they replied that their contractor brought them there for work, but when they fell sick there was no one to look after them. There is neither a way out for their return nor any medicine for their treatment. There is no food. The contractor took them there by cheating but there was nobody to look after them now. Nobody to protect them. I would like to ask the Minister of Labour as to what laws have been framed to protect, safeguard and help out a poor man in difficulty who is constrained to go in an alien state for want of food or livelihood and

falls sick and there is no one to look after him even to administer him medicine. What is your law?

Thereafter, you talked about instalment. I would like to submit in this regard that when that poor man is barely able to win bread for himself or get an employment, how would he manage to pay the instalment? You framed such a law whereby he will have to pay the premium. A person with a regular income can afford to get his premium deducted but how will a person without work, without food will arrange to pay for his premium? It is imperative to contemplate over it in depth that how can he be given security and how he can be protected.

You have talked about P.F. in the Resolution. A poor man who does not get work, or wages should have Provident Fund. What will be his future without Provident Fund. You are lowering rate of interest on all the schemes. Working class is resentful because you are slashing down their rate of interest. I would like to ask you as to why you are taking such decisions against the working class under pressure from capitalists which is creating problems for labourers and workers.

You have talked about launching Provident Fund Scheme. The demand is being made to revise the percentage of its rate of interest to 12 once again. Features like liquidating bonus payment, ensuring payments of all statutory dues to workers and health care facilities have been discussed therein. Now there is no arrangement of health care for workers. He runs from pillar to post to earn livelihood and becomes a victim of all kinds of diseases. Some assistance is given to the people living below poverty line from the Prime Minister Relief Fund. But if a poor person is suffering from some ailment of heart or kidney or any tumour the doctor gives him an estimate of Rs. One lakh while he gets only Rs. 20 or 25 thousand from the Prime Minister Relief Fund. We get tired of writing to the Minister but do not get any response. The expenditure on transportation and medicine is in addition to the estimate of Rs. One lakh. How will a poor man survive? What arrangements have you made to provide health care facilities to toilers? They have children as well. When they are not able to arrange themselves for two square meals per day how will they satiate the hunger of their children. How will they manage their education. Do you want their progeny to remain labourers? What arrangements have you made for the education of children of these toilers. That they can be protected or enjoy some facilities. His son could also become an officer, magistrate or collector. What arrangements have you made for their education or health?

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

You have stated in your Resolution that out of 40 crore there are three crore organised labour in the country. The recent decision of the Supreme Court is anti-labour and is a blow on organised labour. We shall fight for it, separately. I would like to know as to how this would be rectified? His excellency the President is country's Supreme authority. He has expressed hope that social security may be provided to organised labour. What respect does the Government have to fulfil the desire of the person holding the highest position in the country inflicted with not only one and single problem. This society has been inflicted with an ageold disease. Foodgrains are grown in the field after hard toils, bricks are manufactured after hard labour, factory is run with much labour, roads and houses are constructed with much toil but these labourers are termed small people. People soil the clothes but the washerman who washes these clothes is considered non-entity. People who clean this dirt are termed menial while people who spoil and soil are big wigs. The constitution makers took this responsibility of providing social justice by doing away with injustice. The people who were considered untouchables, small, who laboured, perspired to produce goods for the country were labelled as menials and the people who enjoyed their services became hotshots. The medicine for the treatment of this disease is social justice. I would like to know the opinion of this Government. Government in respect of social justice. ...*(Interruptions)* It is imperative to solve all these problems because this cannot go on. Unless the labourers are not going to be respected nothing can be achieved. Arrangement will have to be made for their food, clothing, shelter, employment, medicine etc.

There are 37 crore people belonging to such category in this country. When they will stand up to fight their cause, no capitalist would be able to confront them. They have been left unorganised. They are illiterate, they are ignorant lots they have resigned themselves to their fate, they blame their fate only for any predicament. An ideological revolution is imperative in the country. A poor man is not taught that it is not their birth but the deeds or the mindset which decide the destiny of an individual. Some become rich by cheating others. The capital of certain people has increased manifold in the wake of Independence. Earlier 26 per cent people were landless but now their number has risen to 40 per cent. The number of poor people is rising and the labourers are not prospering. The Government must come forth in support of this Resolution. What about that Bill, where it is stuck up. What are you going to do with 37 crore toilers who perspire to build up the Nation. Will their

exploitation continue unabated and the rich will continue to prosper?

“Hosh karo, Delhi ke devo hosh karo
Ab na tumhari yeh mohini chalne vali hai
Singhasan khali karo, ki janata aati hai.”

This has been stated by the poet, Dinkar. With these words hailing the farmers', labourers' unity I conclude.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (Cuttack): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand here to express my views relating to the Resolution moved by Shri Basu Deb Acharia. While going through the Resolution, I find that there are seven basic aspects which have been dealt with. The general issue is to protect the interests of the workers. To explain how to protect the interest of the workers, seven major points have been deliberated. The first is introducing the Provident Fund Scheme for all unorganised workers. I will come to all these points systematically. As has been said, the unorganised sector covers around 37 crore workers, and the organised sector covers around two and odd crores. An establishment which makes contributions to provident fund, if it employs a mason on a daily wage basis for one or two days to do certain repair work, if it employs a plumber to do certain repair work, if it employs a carpenter to do certain repair work, the carpenter, the plumber, and the mason have to provide their share and the establishment also has to provide its share to the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF). Till now since this Act has come into being, I doubt whether any person who comes and works on a daily wage basis, at all, gets the benefit of provident fund. He never gets it. But he belongs to this unorganised sector. We are discussing about unorganised workers. The Scheme was enacted in 1952 and subsequently amended for organised workers. So not tag in the organised workers with the unorganised workers. The scheme for organised workers with EPF and ESI has its shortcomings. No doubt it needs improvement. But do not tag in the unorganised workers with them. This is my humble suggestion because I have seen it myself and many persons who are involved in different establishments are also equally aware of the problems the unorganised workers are facing.

Second point talks about restoration of interest rate of provident fund to 12 per cent. As has been told by my friend, Shri Gehlot, I think the Government has come out with a different view point and different policy when the Government interest rate is coming down, the interest rate that has been worked out for provident fund is the maximum today and the best, The rest amount can be

accommodated in the other provisions which has been made.

As regards removal of ceiling on bonus payment, I think 20 per cent is the right ceiling. There is no need to remove the bonus ceiling. Once it is removed, there will be no end to it. It gives a lot of impetus to the aggressive unions to raise the bonus which is not conducive to maintain the labour harmony and development of industry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Our allotted time has already been over. Now we will have to extend the time. Should we extend the time for another 45 minutes for the intervention by the Minister and also the reply by the mover? Today we are supposed to sit up to 7 o'clock. So, if we finish by 6.45 p.m., then another Resolution could be taken up.

All right. The time is extended by another 45 minutes.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: The fourth point talks about ensuring payment of all statutory dues of workers which I am sure is a pertinent point. The Government should make all the provisions to ensure payment of all statutory dues to the workers.

The fifth point which has been quoted in the Resolution is providing adequate health care facilities. For adequate health care facilities, an attempt is being made both for organised and unorganised workers. As has been classified, organised workers have certain benefits through different labour laws and other laws that have been implemented during the course of the last 50 years.

But very little is done for unorganised labour. Now, we have two types of unorganised labour. One is unorganised labour in the rural areas and the other is unorganised labour in the urban areas. And we have semi-organised labour also. The semi-organised labour are mostly found in rural areas. When we talk of semi-organised labour, beedi workers come to our mind and my experience is, money is being given from the Central Government for developing their households, on their holdings and also to provide them different community centres. But how many engineers or overseers do we have to supervise this work? They have to run from pillar to post though adequate funds are being sanctioned to provide houses for beedi workers, to provide them community centres and market centres? For semi-organised labour force, adequate persons are not there

to supervise as overseers, junior engineers or assistant engineers. That is the main reason why the structures that are being erected in the rural areas are not at all completed on time.

There are labourers from vulnerable groups and child labour is one of the main labour force which are more vulnerable. Everyday, when we cross the streets, we see them. Though an Act has been passed, adequate steps have not been taken to eradicate child labour to the true sense of the term.

We have talked about bonded labour and Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh mentioned about migrant labour. But we have another problem. We have *dadan* labourers. The contractors go to certain pockets, give the workers a certain amount and bring them to another State as has happened in the North East and which is mentioned by Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh. We call them *dadan* labourers. They get money like Rs. 1000 or Rs. 5000, give it to their families, migrate to a different State and work there for four or five months. Many of them rarely return. Nobody knows what happens to them. There was a sudden cloud burst the other day in Himachal Pradesh or there may be a flood in Kerala and some other problem in Rajasthan, and these *dadan* labourers lose their lives. There is no track record about them anywhere, neither in the State from which they migrate nor in the State where they go and work. Adequate steps should be made to register them. Whenever there is any contractual work, the contractors in different States should make a list of those workers who are working in their fields with their addresses at least. A record can be maintained that these are the persons working in such a dam or road and so on. That is not being done.

The sixth point is to enact a comprehensive legislation for the welfare of the agricultural labour. I fully endorse this view. It is fully necessary that we should have a comprehensive legislation for the welfare of agricultural labourers who are the most neglected lot and who, I am sure, comprise the maximum number of unorganised labour force.

I come to another aspect. I think, two years back, an idea was floated by the Finance Minister when he presented the Budget. He mentioned that an amendment may be brought forward relating to the workers who are working in the small scale industry.

[Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab]

17.55 hrs.

(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*)

Free market economy and change in work culture have come into our country and into our work system either intentionally or unintentionally. We want development. We want to compete in the international market. At the same time, we want to sustain our products and excel in the market. That is the main reason why expertise is needed. We need finance also to upgrade the machines.

There was a time when labour was cheap. But today labour is not cheap. Neither electricity nor time is cheap. Therefore, we need more investment and quicker results. That is the main reason why the labour force is getting minimised in different establishments. But the problem is there.

Till 1973, the rule was that an establishment which employed up to 100 employees need not go to the State Government to lay off certain workers or to close down certain units. Now, very little industries or establishments are going in for a composite unit or very many units in one block. Now-a-days small number of units are coming up. Another establishment is getting all those products together, compiles, assembles and sends the products to the markets. That is the system which is in existence today. It need not have to employ around 100 people. Actually, he wants to lay off all those workers, but that permission is not being granted to him. Since 1973, that limit has been raised to 300 from 100. So, there lies the lacuna. I think two years back, year before or the year before that year the then Finance Minister had mentioned about this in his Budget speech. But till today the Bill has not come. The Labour Minister may kindly ponder over it, think over it. Amendment to this effect is necessary for the proper growth of industries and to have proper industrial climate, that certain units which employ less than 100 can directly minimise their work force. They need not have to go to the State Governments for permission. I think this needs a little consideration.

As has been said earlier, the ESI health coverage is not proper. I need not repeat it again and again. I have my own personal experience. I have interacted with a number of workers who are working in different factories. They face a lot of problems for getting their dues back from the Employees' Provident Funds. They get very little support from the ESI in regard to health services. It needs improvement.

The last point which has been mentioned in the Resolution is that we should ensure minimum wages to the workers. Different State Governments have enforced minimum wages in their States. In Orissa it was Shri Biju Patnaik who suddenly enhanced the minimum wages to Rs. 25 from Rs. 10. It was hardly Rs. 10 before that. There was a clamour not only from the industrial houses but also from the Opposition. The Opposition at that time was the Congress Party. It is necessary to mention as to how he arrived at that figure or decision. He was moving around the tribal districts once. He asked a tribal woman as to how much is required to sustain herself. She said that she would need at least five kgs. of rice per day to maintain her family. At that time the cost of rice per kilogram was Rs. 5 or Rs. 5.50. That is how Biju Babu raised the minimum wage to Rs. 25 per day. This has been revised again. It is necessary that the minimum requirement to sustain a family should be the basis for fixing the minimum wage for a worker.

I support this Resolution with certain conditions. As I had mentioned earlier, the first two provisions are not at all necessary. I would request the mover of the Resolution, Shri Basu Deb Acharia to modify the Resolution. I support the last three provisions in the Resolution.

18.00 hrs.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am in general agreement of this Resolution. The only problem with this Resolution is that it comprehends many things. So, I am not going into all the details. I am confining myself to one or two points.

This Resolution is very important because internationally Pension Schemes and Social Security Schemes are facing a lot of problems. It is because of sudden fall in the interest rate throughout the world that social securities have become a problem. In the United States of America and Europe, Pension Schemes and Social Security Schemes are rather crashing. Here also, the system is on the verge of crashing. I urge upon the hon. Labour Minister to give a very serious thinking to the Provident Fund Scheme. The Provident Fund Scheme suffers from many ailments. First of all, the Provident Fund organisation is a corruption-ridden organisation. Many things are done in that matter but even now the workers have no access to the organisation. They do not know what are the benefits that accrue from that organisation. So, my submission to the hon. Minister is that he should have a very serious thinking about the Provident Fund Organisation as it exists today. Has the

Minister ever thought of the administrative expenses of the Provident Fund Organisation? As per my information, Rs. 460 crore are spent on administration alone. With that much of top-heavy administration, the money which is being paid as subscription as well as the contribution that they get is spent only on administration. Either by mechanisation or streamlining, administrative expenses are to be reduced immediately in the Provident Fund Organisation.

Secondly, the arrears to be collected, as per the recent statistics, is Rs. 1386.70 crore. If the Provident Fund Organisation had been sufficient, this money would not have been there as arrears. What are we going to do with that? No amount of prosecution will help in this matter because many companies have disappeared, many companies are liquidated and so Provident Fund cannot be realised. So, the money that could have come to the workers is not there.

Another thing is regarding the interest rate which I had mentioned earlier. Now, he has a lot of pressure on him and he has kept the interest rate at 9.5 per cent. But does he think that he can sustain it? I do not think that in the present economic scenario of the country this percentage cannot be sustained simply on the basis of interest. Some mechanism will have to be found out. We have to look into whether a portfolio management in the Provident Fund system is necessary, whether there can be a Mutual Fund, whether investment can be done through provident Fund. Without that, Provident Fund as well as social security is going to be a great problem in this country. So, my submission is, we need a close scrutiny of the Provident Fund Scheme. As it is, there are two Provident Fund-General Provident Fund and Employees Provident Fund. In Employees Provident Fund, once upon a time we used to get 12.5 per cent interest. I do not blame the Minister. Due to the pressure put by economic Ministries as well as the pressure of the Finance Ministry, he had to reduce it. Two months back, I had congratulated him that because of his efforts he was able to stick on to 9.5 per cent. But I apprehend that he would not be able to do it for a long time. Then it comes to the poor worker who will have to face difficulties.

The Government has to find out a method by which the interest rate on the Provident Fund can be kept up.

Sir, there is a Provident Fund Pension Scheme. The Pension Scheme in the Provident Fund was started in 1995. There was a lacuna in it. First of all, in 1972, when the Pension Scheme was first introduced or talked

about, many trade unions, including the one supported by the mover of this Resolution, opposed it, with the result that those persons who were working in 1972, when they reached the year 1995, became ineligible for family pension. So, the Government has to evolve a scheme by which the entire arrears from 1972 to 1995 can be remitted and thus they become eligible for family pension. Some people have opted for it and some others have not opted for it. As a result, now the position is, the pension which was decided in 1995 still continues to remain. There is no change. It was Rs. 5090 in 1995 and even now the same amount is paid. They have no Dearness Allowance and they get no increase in their pension. They have foregone their contribution. Otherwise, they would have got the money and they would have put it in the bank and earned some more money out of interest.

The Provident Fund pensioners are facing a real problem now, but the Government is not looking into it because they are not organised. The Government has to seriously look into their problem. The pension that was decided in the year 1995 still continues. So, a scheme has to be evolved by which a little more Provident Fund pension can be given to them.

Then, in the present economic scenario, the employment scenario in the country is changing everyday. There is no security of labour now. Modern IT companies and other companies are not giving permanency to workers. The scheme brought out by the Government of giving individual Provident Fund Number is, in a way, good, but at the same time, most of the people, both low-wage workers and educated workers, cannot be in the Provident Fund Scheme. So, I urge upon the Ministry of Labour that they should come forward with a social security scheme by which all the workers, whether they are salaried or not, whether the owner of the company is providing Provident Fund to them or not, are covered, as they have done it in Canada and in some other European countries. Otherwise, a day will come, which is not far away, when the Provident Fund itself will get obliterated. That itself will become out of date because new entrants will not be there.

Secondly, the Labour Minister knows very well about the problems of the workers in the unorganised sector. I appreciate his efforts to bring in some legislation for the benefit of workers in the unorganised sector. But I would like to inform him that this august House passed a law for the Building and other Construction Workers Welfare Fund Board in 1996, during the tenure of the 11th Lok

[Shri A.C. Jos]

Sabha. But that has, still, not been implemented. I have repeatedly requested him to convene a meeting of the Chief Ministers or, at least of the Labour Ministers of all States to discuss about it. I requested his predecessor, Shri Sharad Yadav also on this matter and he has agreed with me. The hon. Minister is well aware that the Construction Workers Welfare Fund Board met only twice during the last 20 years. As per the statute, they have to compulsorily meet every six years. But till date, only three meetings have been held and I have attended two of them. In the Board meeting also, I urged upon the Labour Minister to coerce the State Governments to convene a meeting of the Labour Ministers. Only three States—Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu—have implemented their welfare schemes. No other State has done so. The major States have not implemented it. What is the purpose of passing the law in this case? We had passed a law in 1996 and the Board was constituted. The life of that first Board is expiring tomorrow or the day after. No action has been taken. The Department of Labour is not at all interested in the matter. That Department does not know what the construction workers or the agriculture workers are. They always say that bring it in the Concurrent List of such other things. They always pass the buck by saying that it is a State subject. There is no meaning in doing it. If I may say so, in common parlance, the Central Labour Department is a sort of a redundant one. No work is being done in this Department.

Now, what about the ESI? The time is not permitting me. ESI is also a bedlam of corruption. As Shri Gehlot has pointed out, a worker goes on leave only by paying money. You have to rethink about it. Its administration is with the Central Government but the implementation is with the State Government. The Central Government has no control over it. The State has no control over it. It has become a non man's land. It is an orphan. I have been requesting that under the ESI, some medical facilities should be given to the unorganised sector, especially the construction workers. We have requested for it many times. But I am proud to say that in Kerala, the Construction Welfare Board is working extraordinarily well. We are now paying Rs. 200 to the ordinary worker as pension after 60 years. I have shown that Bill to you. I have requested you to ask the other State Governments to do that. But not even a single finger has risen in that case. So, there is no meaning of it.

I repeatedly request that if you are genuinely interested in the unorganised sector, this House has given you authority by passing a law in 1996. Seven years have elapsed. The Department of Labour has not done

anything. I requested for convening a meeting. Somehow or the other, this has not happened. Without that, how can we save the unorganised workers? Shri Mehta mentioned about 37 crore workers. I agree that there are 37 crores of workers. But for those 37 crore, nothing is being done in this matter. So, my humble request is that this Resolution strengthens you. I am not going into its other details. I am mentioning only two or three points to you. We are very late. Unless you take prompt action about the Provident Fund and the social security schemes of the workers, we will be missing the bus and the country itself will be in difficulties. It will come to a grinding halt.

The other point is about the unorganised workers. I know the present Minister of Labour is sincere towards them. But the things are not moving. You have to do something for implementation of the Construction Workers Welfare Board Act as well as for the agriculture labour. These are intermingled. There is no separation of agriculture labour and the construction workers in the villages. So, the unorganised sector has to be taken up in a comprehensive manner. Some steps have to be taken to implement the Provident Fund and the health care schemes for them.

Even now, health care is a wild cry. Nobody is bothered about the health of the unorganised sector. We have no scheme for them. In the organised sector, there are bank employees and factory workers. They have such a scheme whether it is good, bad or indifferent. The ESI is there. They are getting the benefit. They are better paid. They have also got better medical facilities. So, I request the Minister of Labour to come forward with a scheme by which the unorganised workers are also given medical and health care facilities along with the security. I am not going deep into this matter. But these are matters where it is high time that we should think about this. Tomorrow is the 56th Anniversary of our Independence and even after 56 years, now we are speaking about unorganised sector. Minister after Ministers speak of the unorganised sector, but nothing has been done.

I support this Resolution with the hope that something is done in this regard.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Mr. Chairman Sir, first of all, I thank Shri Basu Deb Acharia for bringing this most important Resolution just on the eve of the 56th Anniversary of our Independence.

There are a large number of workers in the unorganised sector. As he has mentioned, there are about

37 crore workers of our country who are in the unorganised sector. They have no proper legal umbrella to protect their interests at the present as well as in the future. The social security measures are not sufficient and the pittance of laws that are there, as the earlier speaker has mentioned, are mostly not properly implemented. This is a very serious problem.

For the unorganised sector, there are some suggestions like introduction of provident fund scheme for all workers in the unorganised sector. Some State Governments have made an attempt in this regard too. We have seen in the State of West Bengal where they have started the provident fund scheme for the agricultural workers. But you know, the State Governments have their own constraints as they have financial and other problems. The question is, how we can do this for the whole country? The Central Government will have to take some initiatives and they can call a meeting of the State Governments and then take a decision as to how we can introduce this scheme in the whole country.

Then as far as restoration of the interest on the provident fund to 12 per cent is concerned, we have made some suggestions. But the hon. Minister cannot do anything because they are the victims of the World Bank, IMF and WTO and gradually we have to give in. Ultimately, we do not know whether we will be able to make it or not. If we keep the money in the bank, in future, probably we will have to pay interest to the banks for protecting the money. They will not give interest because of Shri Shourie's very fast movement towards LPG. Probably we will have to pay the bank for protecting the money. It has been reducing. It is a new challenge. We have to mobilise funds. We will have to find funds from elsewhere to do all these things. Because of the reduction in the interest rates, we are suffering a lot. The hon. Labour Minister will have to fight a lot with his colleagues to protect the workers in the unorganised area.

As far as removing of ceiling on the bonus is concerned, I think, this is in the hands of the hon. Minister. You know, the Bonus Act was passed long back and then a ceiling was put that the workers earning Rs. 2500 per month would only get the bonus. Those who are earning more than that would not get any bonus. Now, because of the rise in prices and devaluation of rupee, this amount of Rs. 2500 is a paltry sum to maintain their families for the whole month. I think, this is a very crying demand of the unorganised sector, the trade unions, etc. that the bonus ceiling should be enhanced. This should go beyond Rs. 2500. Up to Rs. 6500/- it is

in the hands of the hon. Minister and he can think of it. This has been a very long-standing demand of the workers.

Payment of statutory dues is also another area of concern. Now, the closure of factories and all new type of attacks are there. When they are closing down those factories, they are not paying their dues, they are not depositing the owners' share of Provident Fund, and they are not depositing the ESI fund. These are new areas of problems and you have to find out ways to face them.

Regarding the health and other facilities, they have mentioned about enacting a comprehensive legislation. I want to mention, in two minutes, the question of enacting a comprehensive legislation for the welfare of agricultural workers. Since 1980 onwards, I am continuously making this demand in the House. As I am working among the agricultural workers, I find that they are in great distress. Now, 11 crore agricultural labourers are there in our country but they have no guarantee of work. Earlier, they used to get work for 120 to 135 days. Now they are getting work for not more than 70 days in a whole year. How can they survive? We are making some local survey. In Haryana, in one village, we are making a survey. There, we found that in the whole year the agricultural labourers got work for only 39 days. This is a very serious situation. So, agricultural labourers are in a very bad shape. There are many schemes. Every year we introduce 4, 5 or 10 schemes in the name of this Minister, that Minister, that *mahapurush*. That is not helping. We should pool all of them together. You increase the number of schemes but their implementation is in a very bad shape. If we have a less number of programmes and maximum fund is pooled and is properly monitored, I think that will be enough. I do not know how many Rural Development Schemes are there. Probably the Ministers think their name will remain in the history, they will remain memorable in the future, so they are putting in these programmes every year. On every Independence Day, the Government announces some new Programme. We should pool together all the schemes and we should find out certain minimum number of programmes so that maximum number of people should be benefited. There are all sorts of administrative problems. We know that out of the one rupee given, only 16 paise are reaching the villages, as is commonly believed. It is because of multiplicity of programmes and mismanagement. If less number of programmes are pooled together, given directly and monitored properly, I think that will be better for the programmes.

[Shri Hanan Mollah]

Regarding agricultural labour, my suggestion is that we should have a Central legislation. We should not go in for what the State Governments are saying. Some State Governments are agreeing and some are not agreeing. We should pass a Central legislation. There, the definition should be there as to who are the agricultural labourers. They should be identified. They should have Identity Cards. Their registration should be there at the block level under an Agricultural Labour Officer. On the basis of their identities, they can be hired for work.

Secondly, I come to their wages. The minimum wage is only for violation. In most of the areas, it is not implemented. There are variations. In one State, there are 3 of 4 types of minimum wages. We have to fix proper minimum wages, and that should be implemented all over country through the Agricultural Labour Officer who will work at the block level under him.

Thirdly, there will be conciliation machinery. If there is a dispute between the landlords and agricultural labourers, where will they go? There is no conciliation machinery for the agricultural labourers. Though we say that there are certain labour laws, yet that is not practicable for the agricultural labourers. We should have separate dispute settlement machinery. We have to make a provision for that in the specific laws.

Fourthly, the working hours of these workers should also be specified. Their social security, their holidays and then their compensation should also be specified. The agricultural labourers are suffering from serious types of diseases. The normal diseases are there. Due to pesticides, working in the field and accidents, they are facing a lot of problems. So, we should make certain provisions for these in the comprehensive Central legislation.

As regards their future, some Welfare Fund for them as per the Kerala pattern should be created. We can mobilise a Fund for them. The Central Government can make a corpus with Rs. 300 crore or Rs. 500 crore and the State Governments also may be asked to contribute a bit. The landlords who hire the agricultural labourers may also be asked to pay a certain amount towards this Fund. In that way, we can have a Fund for the agricultural labourers. From that Welfare Fund, we can pay their pension. That also should be conceived in the Kerala pattern and that should be implemented for the whole of the country.

There is a massive migration of agricultural labourers because of their not getting work. In every State, you will see the Bihari workers. Thousands of workers from Bihar and the Eastern U.P. are going to Maharashtra, Kamataka, Punjab and other States. Due to drought, this migration is increasing and they are migrating in search of work. We have to think about the migrant workers and also how we can provide social security to them. That also should be provided in the Act.

This is not a new thing. Many meetings took place in this regard. Dozens of meetings had already taken place. The Standing Committee, the State-level Committees and the Labour Commission have recommended many things for them. Many Conferences were held on this subject. I would request the hon. Minister to finalise it early. It is readymade. In your Ministry, so many drafts for the Agricultural Labour legislation are rotting. I would request the Minister to take initiative and update those documents. If the hon. Minister brings up a comprehensive Central legislation for the agricultural labourers in this House, that will be the best service to a large number of our workers in the rural areas.

I would once again make a request to the hon. Minister to bring a comprehensive Central legislation for the agricultural labourers. I hope, the hon. Minister will consider the suggestions as have been mentioned in this Resolution and also by the Members and see that in the 56th Anniversary of our Independence, we will be able to provide a better life for the 37 crore rural workers of our country.

[Translation]

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT (Nandurbar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on my legs to speak on the following resolution presented by the Hon. Member Shri Basu Deb Acharia on 1 August, 2003. Thank your for giving me an opportunity:

"This House expresses its deep concern over continuous reduction in social securities for workers and urges upon the Government to take measures to protect the interests of the workers by introducing Provident Fund Scheme for all unorganised workers; restoring interest rate of provident fund to 12%; removing ceiling on bonus payment; ensuring payment of all statutory dues of the workers; providing adequate health care facilities; enacting a comprehensive legislation for the welfare of agricultural workers; and ensuring payment of minimum wages to contractual workers."

Sir, legislations have been enacted to make payment of minimum wages to workers of organised sector but the legislations for the workers of unorganised sector or contractual workers is required to be enacted. The Ministry of Labour ensures the implementation of such legislation. but what I have realised that there is no one to take care of the workers of the unorganised sector except the God.

Contract system is also in practice in major undertakings of the Government of India as in telephone department for laying cables or setting up a factory, contractual workers are engaged. The contract system is in practice almost in all the undertakings. As oil companies, coal mines, railways and all the ministries engaged safai workers on contract basis. My suggestion is that this system should be done away with.

I associate myself with the views put forth by my all colleagues here. The regard so as to incorporate some safeguards for ensuring that the unorganised workers and contractual workers are also meted out justice. Big contractors engage workers in constructing big buildings in big cities like Delhi. The contractors do not take care of those who become disabled or fall ill in the process. There must be some provision in this legislation for the poor workers who have migrated from the rural areas to other States. They migrate to this State or sometimes to other State in search of their livelihood. There are no safeguard for them in this legislation. Contractors take the workers along with them to the place where they are to execute work on contract basis but when these contractual workers meet with accidents as in collieries and railways where such workers are engaged in large number, they are not given any compensation either on behalf of the Government or for that matter from contractor's behalf. My submission is that the Government and the hon. Minister of Labour should also see to this aspect.

I once again congratulate Shri Achariaji for bringing forward this resolution and while supporting this resolution, I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted for this resolution is over. Therefore, if the House agrees, the time for this Bill may be extended by 15 minutes.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): How the discussion would be completed in 15 minutes?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): Is not the time allotted up to seven O'Clock?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted for this resolution is going to be over. Now, the Minister will give a reply on behalf of the Government.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir Veteran Member Shri Basu Deb Acharia has put forward a very important and topical subject as resolution for discussion which has received equally warm support from other Members also including your goodself.

A phase of reforms is currently going on throughout the world and an alround concern about labourers is being witnessed everywhere. The number of labourers in our country in organised and unorganised sectors has been estimated to be approximately 40 crores. The present Government is talking about creation of one crore jobs per year, at the same time we are concerned about the ones who are already in job. As you all are aware that approximately 3.74 crore employees working in about 3 lac organisations are covered under various schemes, they are taken care of. The Government has gone a step ahead to take care of approximately 37 crore labourers working in unorganised sector. I would like to inform you about the system evolved for this. Recently, I happened to go to Geneva to attend the ILO Conference where India's views were presented very well, which were appreciated by the whole world. Here, I would like to mention that despite possible difference of opinion within the country among different organisations, we all were unanimous there. In my opinion hon. Basu Deb Acharia is a veteran in this field, he has written so many things, I would come to the rate of interest on provident fund. When rate of interest on provident fund was being decided, everybody was curiously looking at hon. Minister of Labour. Nobody was able to guess as to how, in times of global reduction in the rates of interest, we would be bringing it in a form that the interests of the labour class were not harmed and we certainly made that happen.

On the next issue we are taking steps to cover 37 crore workers of unorganised sector. The bill for the same is ready which is under consideration of the cabinet. It has been circulated among the groups of ministers for discussion. We feel that the bill will soon be introduced in the House and what the hon. members have said here, will be presented in a better way. This is the beginning of the welfare measures for the labour class in the country.

[Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar]

Some hon. friends had just mentioned about ESI hospitals. ESI hospitals do cater to approximately 3.10 crore workers. Here they have highlighted some problems in this regard. Generally most of the ESI hospitals are in the states and run by State Government. The ESI hospitals in Delhi are run by the centre. In view of this we have decided to set up a model hospital run by the centre in every state. These hospitals will provide all the facilities. I have seen some ESI dispensaries too. I have felt that a lot has to be done in this direction. We are discussing the ways to bring about improvements in this direction. At present there are only 141 ESI hospitals which provide all types of facilities including Ayurvedic and Unani treatment. We are trying to take it forward but there are some shortcomings and we will try to overcome these. Those going to ESI hospital should not be going there for the purpose of taking leave.

Hon. Sahib Singh Vermaji is concerned about it. He himself has inspected a number of ESI dispensaries. We should work to take this in the right direction. I feel that agricultural workers will also come in the purview of this bill. We are going ahead with their interests in mind. In the meetings held from time to time we discuss the ways to enhance the assistance to the labourers be they the bidi-workers or any other workers. The labourers who choose to go abroad should get facilities there, how to solve their problems so that they might not feel that they are all alone. We are trying to evolve a proper system for this also I do not want to say anything regarding bonus. If we make the bonus free then we cannot imagine the resultant financial burden. All of you are aware that any unit is liberty to part with its profits as it wishes.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Their salary is Rs. 2500. Increase it. It was decided 30 years ago.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: The Government are considering all these issues. I feel that when our bill relating to the unorganised sector will come, many a things will be clear to you as to how liberalised we are on these issues and logically we are working in this direction. If any law made 20-25 years back is in force then we too understand, we also read in newspapers that there are some institutions where the annual salary exceeds Rs. One crore. If we fall in providing facilities to the workers then certainly this is a thing to worry for the Government. You should agree with us that there is no hike in prices after this Government took over. We are trying to make sure that the common man gets the eatables at fair prices. We may solve their problems. We do not want that prices keep on soaring, the salaries

keep on increasing and that we may not be able to cater to their needs.

As far as recovery is concerned we are trying our best. If you compare the data of the last 4-5 years you will find that collections, realisations on account of provident fund have been double or triple. At present difficulty is being experienced in realising approximately Rs. 1511 crores of which two-third amount has remained outstanding due to various cases in courts, BIFR etc. For the urgent recovery of the remaining amount of Rs. 300-400 crore, we have constituted a task force. Even a single penny falling due to worker should not remain outstanding. There are representatives of central and state Governments, non-Governmental organisations, in the task force. Penal action has been initiated for that.

I am in this department for 2-3 months. I have seen that in the period of two-three months hon. Minister of Labour has convened 4-5 meetings only on this issue to ensure recovery. Wherever there is a stay by the court. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Hon. Minister, when you are discussing about Provident Fund, I draw your kind attention towards 2001-02. The amount that has been collected was Rs. 1,100 and odd crore and the amount that is spent as administrative and inspection charges is Rs. 498.86 crore. It is around Rs. 500 crore. ...*(Interruptions)* So, are you are going to minimise the administrative expenses? ...*(Interruptions)* It is because administrative expenses relating to provident fund is around five per cent, which should not be. It should be less than two per cent in any establishment. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: You are absolutely right. We will see. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS: Hon. Minister, last year you have collected Rs. 1,100 crore but arrear is Rs. 1,386.75 crore and the administrative expenses will come to Rs. 486 crore. So, this is the difficulty. That is what we have been pointing out. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA: I would like to inform the hon. Member that the arrear which he is referring to does not date back to one year rather the arrears of several years have been accumulated.

[English]

That is for so many years. That is not of one year. So, please do not say that Rs. 1,100 crore was left. It was not of one year. It was of many years.

[Translation]

Secondly, I would like to say that our efforts are to minimize the expenditure. Be it Radhakrishnanji or Sh. Gehlotji or Sh. Gavitji or Raghuvansh Prasad ji, Mehtabji or Sh. Hannan Mollahji—all members have put forth their views. I admit that justice has not been meted out to the workers of the unorganized sectors. There is a need to do justice to them. I really take pity and ask ourselves as to whom our freedom was meant for. Was the freedom achieved for the people working in the organized sectors or for a few big men? The 37 crore work force of the country come from the lower Strata about whom Jos Sahib rightly said that they get only 39 to 70 days of work in 365 days. There are several others like them who get 10 to 20 days of work on contract basis. In case of some events like downpour there are problems for the contractors and then the workers get 10 days of salary for 30 days of work. They have to arrange food items on credit basis. Their plight is beyond description.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS: Without interrupting, I would like to ask how about implementing Building and other Construction Workers Welfare Fund Board Bill.

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA: I went to attend your programme of the construction workers. I know how much work you are doing for those people and how much worried you are about them. I am equally worried. I may assure you that here is a Labour Minister who has realised all these difficulties as much as you have realised. I can assure you of this with all sincerity.

[Translation]

I would like to say that there are a lot of problems. I became a Minister one year back., I paid attention to this because I belong to small farmer's family. I have personally seen the problems and lack of social security being faced by the labourers in villages. My immediate concern is that some law should be enacted soon for the people working in the unorganized sector. You talk of agriculture workers and construction workers, I would like to submit that no law could be enacted for agricultural

workers in several States even after a lot of efforts made in this regard. They argue that the Centre should come out with a law in this regard. We are making a law by including the agriculture workers in the unorganized sector and moreover we have incorporated the construction workers in the Bill. You mentioned other things in regard to which I would like to ask in how many States the same has been implemented? Hardly three-four States have stated giving benefits to the construction workers and other states have not done so. They have several problems. But I have studied a lot and on the basis of that I can say that there can be a way out. I feel that the biggest problem in the country is that 37 crore men out of the 40 crore workforce have not been provided social security. There cannot be anything more painful than this. There are several provisions for the three crore persons belonging to the organized sector. There are many problems even there, but the unfortunate thing is that nothing is being done for the 37 crore person of the unorganized sector whose number is twelve time more than the number of the person in organized sector. They constitute eighty percent of the total population of this country.

[English]

These thirty seven crore bread-earners, workforce comprise of 80 percent population of this country.

[Translation]

Interest at the rate of twelve percent has been mentioned in the Bill. All right, they want 12 percent but you are aware that we invest the twelve percent that we get. Best possible investment is made and penalties, whatever imposed are also added in it, which ultimately goes to the workers. Therefore, that is maintained and sustained. We are also thinking how they can be utilized in a yet better manner. We have studied the case of Singapore, how they have invested the provident fund in housing sector, how they have mobilized funds. These all things are in our mind. At present, four things need to be given to the unorganized sector that includes medical facility. In case of death following some accident compensation is given and arrangement has to be done for the education of their children. Moreover, our Government is committed to old age pension. As soon as possible we will try to provide four-five facilities to the men working in the unorganized sector.

You may be aware that the hon'ble Prime Minister launched a medical scheme on 14th July for the workers of this very sector in which a family of five persons will

[Dr. Sahib Singh Verma]

pay Rs. 548 under this scheme. If they belong to BPL category they have to pay Rs. 448 at the most they have to pay Rs. 548, even if we club Janashri Scheme to it. Some people will have to organise since this is a voluntary scheme. As such some one or other will have to take on the responsibility of organising, be it trade unions or any NGO. We can reimburse them to the tune of thirty thousand rupees for hospitalisation. In case a worker is ill say for fifteen days in a year even then he will be given Rs. 750 at the rate of Rs. 50 daily. Now one can see that he pays only Rs. 548 and he gets Rs. 750. Besides an amount of Rs. 30000 is already there for hospitalisation. In addition to that there is an insurance cover of Rs. 75,000 for him. If the workers children are studying in IXth, Xth or XI standard, he will get Rs. 200 per month restricted to two children only. Now the question is, who will do it. The government cannot compel them or force anybody to pay his share but we will have to do this. There are several institutions which have organised lakhs of workers and they give them money and pensions. One of them is the 'Sewa'. There are several institutes which are working in this direction. Recently an institute organised a camp in Delhi and one thousand unorganized workers were brought under this scheme and they were given receipt in token of their contribution. A unique social security serial number was very necessary for their provident fund and we have allotted these numbers to them. Earlier a worker used to work for ten days in a factory and for twenty in other and his contribution towards provident fund used to be deducted from his salary. Since he was working in two different organisations he was allotted two different numbers as a result of which he was unable to get back his provident fund accumulation. Precisely for this reason we have now allotted to them a unique social security number which will be an identification mark throughout his life. His account will be operated by this number. It will be his identity. Wherever he goes in the entire country we will get back his provident fund contribution. Earlier it used to take six full months in payment of provident fund amount. Now we have tried to reduce the period of settlement. Joseji is aware of it and all other members are also aware of it. Now we are trying to settle the provident account of workers in 30 days. For that our work on business process of engineering would be completed very soon and that will be available in the entire organisation. We hope fifty lakh people would be issued such cards by 31st March, 2004. This will remain stand valid all through his life. Wherever his contributions are deducted it will go into his account and he will get benefited.

I agree that there are several shortcomings in the ESI. I also agree that at several places there is dual administration. At some places, it is with the Union Government and at others with State Government. We are also trying to find a way out to this problem. We have been able to effect some improvements in this regard but I am not fully satisfied with that. We are trying to work further in that direction.

Several hon'ble members have mentioned about contract system which works in the manner that workers do not get social security. We would like that if the contract system is in practice then we would like to ensure that workers get weekly off besides social security and medical schemes also should be there and if a worker is fired, he should get the retrenchment allowance. We want these five six things there for workers working under the contract system.

I fully fall in with the feelings of the hon'ble member and I also share his concerns. I would like to assure him that the Government is very much concerned about this issue and we will bring forward a Bill in this regard very soon. With these things keeping in view I would like to request the hon'ble member to withdraw his resolution. With the confidence that we will try to address his concerns seriously.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, one question with regard to the building and construction workers Act. It should be enforced in all the states.

[Translation]

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA: As regards concern expressed by the hon'ble Member I would like to say that I would hold a meeting early with the representatives of the State Governments in this regard to expedite this matter.

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Sir, my resolution is also there. I should, at least, be permitted to move my resolution.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude one minute earlier.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, how can I conclude within four minutes? You kindly extend the time beyond 7 o'clock so that Shri Suresh Kurup can also introduce his Resolution. You kindly extend the time by another 10-15 minutes, so that we will also be able to introduce his resolution. He will take only one minute. Sir, I am grateful to all the Members who extended their support to my Resolution which is for 40 crore of our population. Sir, I expected that the Labour Minister would respond to some of the important points that I raised while moving this very important Resolution.

Sir, he has not touched upon those points. I referred to how the existing laws are being blatantly violated. There are a number of laws for taking care of the organised as well as the unorganised sectors. I have particularly referred to *beedi* workers. I have referred to the Supreme Court's judgment for introduction of Provident Fund scheme. I referred to one case of my district that out of 50,000 *beedi* workers, the Provident Fund scheme has been made applicable to only 17,500 *beedi* workers.

I referred to spending from the *Beedi Workers Welfare Fund*. Dr. Jatiya knows about it. I referred to his letter. He sanctioned a hospital for the *beedi* workers in my district; land was made available free of cost by the State Government, but till date no money has been released. While replying to a debate on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Labour, when I raised this point, he said that instead of sanctioning a TB hospital for *beedi* workers, he would consider setting up of an ESI hospital in the District of Purulia at Jhalda. I wanted to know how much fund is being collected out of *Beedi Cess*, and how much is being spent for the welfare of *beedi* workers. The money belongs to *Beedi workers Welfare Fund*. The Ministry of Finance is directing or issuing guidelines that in future there will not be any TB hospital for *beedi* workers; even the existing hospitals will be handed over to the State Government or to NGOs. I have the letter with me, Mr. Minister, from the Secretary, Ministry of Labour. There is a proposal to even handover the hospital at Dhulia in the District of Murshidabad to an NGO. It is because the hospital is being managed out of the *Beedi Workers Welfare Fund*.

Then, Sir, I referred to the proposed Bill for unorganised labour. I referred to the suggestion made by almost all the Trade Unions starting from BMS to CITU. He has not responded. I was told that the Third Draft has been released and the Third Draft is even more retrograde than the Second and the First.

About moving my Resolution, a new dimension has come about in the form the latest Supreme Court judgment. Yesterday, I was listening to the interview and he very clearly stated that workers should have the right to go on strike, but not in all cases. You spoke very eloquently saying that this right is not a fundamental right. I think, it is an inalienable right of the workers. It is now being taken away. What is the stand of the Government of this?

19.00 hrs.

Will the Government bring a legislation to protect the rights of the workers? My Calling Attention could not be taken up today because of disorder in the House. I could have raised certain vital points on how, after disinvestment and after change of management, interests of the workers are affected and how the agreement is being violated.

I would like to know what the stand of the Government is. Will the Government bring a legislation? Will the workers have the right to collective bargaining, right to form associations? Right to form associations is a fundamental right. Right to go on strike is given to workers in the Industrial Disputes Act of 1947.

[Translation]

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to tell the hon'ble Member that the provisions which have been made in the Industrial Disputes Act, are still there. According to the provisions made in the Industrial Disputes Act, the workers can go on strike legally. You are very well aware about the Industrial Dispute Act as to how the notice is to be given. There is nothing like backtracking in it.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: But that is contrary to the judgment of the Supreme Court. That is contrary to what is there in the Industrial Disputes Act of 1947.

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Sir, he is playing with things.

[Translation]

You know, more than I. The Industrial Disputes Act is meant for the workers. The case in the Supreme Court relates to the employees belonging to Tamil Nadu state and that a governed under the conduct Rules. That is a separate matter. Do not confuse with both. You know more than I. If you want to say anything else that is a different things.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Whether or not you are going to support what Supreme Court has directed. If you are not going to support, then.

[English]

to give this right to the workers and employees, to give the statutory dues of the workers.

[Translation]

Whether you are going to bring legislation?

[English]

Rs. 2200 crore are now due.

[Translation]

it has not been discussed as to how long will it continue. You tell in this regard.

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA: I have told very clearly that we have taken very stern measures to recover the statutory dues. People are being sent to jail. I am saying you with confidence that we have recovered a lot of money.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I want to ask whatever the dues are outstanding against the public sector undertakings too.

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA: We are taking strict action against them.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Where are you doing so? Whom you are sending jail? Which Minister is being sent to jail? What amount of gratuity and Provident Fund is outstanding?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Basu Deb ji, you please withdraw your resolution.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Let the Minister assure that whatever points have been raised, he will consider

them and arrange to get the statutory dues cleared at an early date.

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA: I will certainly consider to get them cleared.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, since the Minister is giving an assurance that all the problems that I have mentioned would be favourably considered by the Government, I am prepared to withdraw my Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the House that the Resolution moved by Shri Basu Deb Acharia be withdrawn?

the resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

19.03¹/₂ hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: PRIVATISATION OF CENTRAL PUBLIC SECTOR UNDERTAKINGS

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): I beg to move:

"This House urges upon the Government to review its policy of privatising Central Public Sector Undertakings in the country, especially the Cochin Shipyard Ltd., Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd., and Hindustan Newsprint Ltd., in Kerala."

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Suresh Kurup, you have moved your resolution. Your speech will continue.

19.04 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, August 18, 2003/Sravana 27, 1925 (Saka).

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