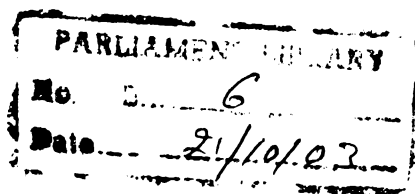


LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

Twelfth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 50.00

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, April 24, 2003/Vaisakha 04, 1925 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

**Re: Disinvestment of Public Sector Undertakings
in the country particularly of HPCL and BPCL**

...(Interruptions)...

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir through you, I would like to make a humble request that in the matter of disinvestment. ...(Interruptions) what you people talk....(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI (CHITTORGARH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether the Question Hour would not be taken up? What is he doing everyday? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are right but actually I want to understand what he wants to say.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Through you, I would like to submit that discussion on the issue of disinvestment has been taken up a number of times in the House but we could not reach to any concrete outcome. The main point is that the Government are selling those Government undertakings which are running in profit. ...(Interruptions) Hon. Prime Minister had once said that to what extent we can let the wealth of the country be plundered through selling of Government undertakings. I wish to submit that be it BALCO or CMC, Government undertakings sold till date were those undertakings running in profit. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have neither given permission for Adjournment Motion on this issue nor have I suspended the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: I urge that at least those

Government undertakings running in profit may not be sold. ...(Interruptions) The Government are selling even profit earning Government undertakings. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Its alright, you can speak during the Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I gave the notice of suspending the Question Hour on a very important issue. We have only a few days left. We have to take up the Finance Bill tomorrow and pass it by 30th. We would like to cooperate with the Government. We have been cooperating with the Government on every business. Our information is that after the 9th of May at a row, the Government is desperate to sell the precious national wealth of Navratnas - HPCL, BPCL and NALCO. Sir, when Smt. Indira Gandhi nationalised the oil companies in India, it was at the backdrop of threat to India's security by Pakistan. The national security is more important today. Therefore, we do not want the Cabinet only to come to us and reply. We have calculated as to how many parties have opposed this. If anybody wants to deny, let them deny. Shiv Sena - ally, TDP - outside supporter, JD(U), Samata Party, all have opposed this disinvestment. Shri Arun Shourie and the Cabinet headed by the Prime Minister are desperately ignoring all their will and ignoring the mood of the entire House and the collective wisdom of the House. So, till the hon. Prime Minister comes to the House and assures that no profit-making unit would be sold, we cannot cooperate. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: The main Question is that the Government undertakings running in profit should not be sold. ...(Interruptions) The Government are selling them also. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: After the Question Hour, you can raise this issue.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have received notices for the suspension of Question Hour from three hon. Members. I have permitted Shri Ramji Lal Suman to speak, I have also permitted

Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi to speak and the third Member is Shri Ajoy Chakraborty who has also given a notice for the suspension of Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGLY): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice for Adjournment Motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The notices for Adjournment Motions have already been rejected by me. I am only taking up the notices given for suspension of Question Hour.

Shri Ajoy Chakraborty, what do you want to say?

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (BASIRHAT): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is regrettable that the Government of India has decided to disinvest the profit-making concerns, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited. These two companies were created by an Act of Parliament, namely the Acquisition of Undertakings in India Act, 1974. After the passing of this law, these concerns were taken over by the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Why should the Question Hour be suspended? That is what I want to know from you.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: The Government should promise that profit earning Government undertakings would not be sold. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let him argue his point of view.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am prepared to permit you to speak on this issue after the Question Hour is over. During 'Zero Hour' I will permit you to speak and you can make your point of view clear at that time. Please take your seat now.

Question No. 482. Shri Suresh Ramrao Jadhav.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government should assure the House that such type of disinvestment would not be done. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to permit you to speak after the Question Hour is over.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not admitted the notices for Adjournment Motion. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I know that the disinvestment of HPCL and BPCL has become an important issue. There was a discussion about this in the BAC also. After the discussion, it was agreed that this issue would be discussed in the House threadbare. The only question was, under which rule it should be discussed. That was the problem, as Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi may recollect. I have said that I have no objection for discussing this issue and it can be discussed as per the agreement in the BAC. The Parliamentary Affairs Minister will come and she will make a statement as to under which rule this issue should be discussed. In the meantime, I do not find any reason for suspending the Question Hour. Therefore, let me complete the Question Hour. I would request you all to cooperate. During 'Zero Hour' we can take up this issue and I will permit you to speak. Please cooperate now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): Property of the country is being sold to the foreigners. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR): It is a big scam. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: It is a very serious issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister would come, he would also make a request. I know that it is an important issue and discussion can be held on it. Government would put their view point and he can put his view but it is not right to say anything before discussion, so you please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will permit you to speak during 'Zero Hour'. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, discussion after discussion has been held on this subject, but the Government did not listen to the views of the House. ...(Interruptions) The views of all the parties have been ignored by the Government. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: On the suspension of Question Hour, I would like to ask the Government as to what they have to say. The Parliamentary Affairs Minister may say something on this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Naik wants to say something. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): Sir, you have already said that this issue can be discussed during the 'Zero Hour', after Question Hour. We think that Question Hour should be completed first and then the House can discuss this. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Suresh Jadhav please ask your question.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will permit you to speak during the 'Zero Hour'. Please sit down now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: During the 'Zero Hour' I will permit all of you. This is an important issue, you can speak during the 'Zero Hour'. Let the Question Hour be taken up now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I request that the said issue may be raised during the Zero Hour, I would grant you permission.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Property of the country is being sold. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

Mr. SPEAKER: There are important questions during the Question Hour also. Let those questions be taken up.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: That is why, I am granting you permission.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Question in such a manner are not asked in the Question Hour. I would grant you permission in the 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (AURANGABAD,

MAHARASHTRA): We should also be given chance to speak on this matter as the Shiv Sena had, first of all raised this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: You would also be granted permission.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Question Hour should be suspended. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let me now complete the Question Hour. After the Question Hour, I am going to permit all of you to ask your queries on this issue. Now Shri Suresh Ramrao Jadhav, Q.No.482.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Transmission Facilities in Border Areas

+

*482. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI:

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

- (a) whether Government propose to install high and low power transmitters along the Western border areas of the country in order to increase the quality of radio and TV signals;
- (b) if so, the number of high and low power transmitters installed so far in the said areas, location-wise;
- (c) the reasons for delay in completion of work, which was to be completed in the year 2001-02 and 2002-03;
- (d) the steps taken to achieve the target and progress made in this regard as on date; and
- (e) the time by which the work on the above proposal is likely to be completed?

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

Statement

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) Twenty two High Power and 163 Low/Very Low Power TV Transmitters and 7 High Power and 4 Low Power Radio Transmitters are presently functioning in the western

border. Location-wise details of these transmitters are given in the Annexure enclosed.

(c) to (e) All the transmitter projects targeted to be set up in the western border states during 2001-02 and 2002-03 have been completed with the exception of permanent set ups at Fazilka, Ajmer, Surat and 20 KW MW AIR Transmitter at Bhuj (replacement of existing 20 KW MW Tr.).

Construction of towers at Fazilka and Ajmer has been completed to full height and antenna panels and feeder cables are to be mounted on the towers. Permanent set ups at Fazilka and Ajmer are targeted to be commissioned during the current year. Foundation of tower at Surat has been completed and erection is to be done by M/s. Triveni Structurals Ltd. (TSL). There has been delay in completion of the above projects due to delay in construction of towers by M/s. TSL.

The AIR Transmitter at Bhuj, which was targeted for completion during 2002-03; got delayed because of non despatch of equipment due to prevailing war in Iraq. The project is now targeted for completion during 2003-04.

All out efforts are being made by Prasar Bharati to complete the above projects at the earliest.

Annexure

A. TV Transmitters functioning in States of Gujarat, Punjab and Rajasthan

Gujarat

HPT Ahmedabad

HPT Ahmedabad (DD II)

HPT Surat (Interim)

HPT Surat (DD II) (Interim)

HPT Dwarka

HPT Bhuj

HPT Rajkot

HPT Rajkot (DD II)

LPT Dhandhuka

LPT Amreli

LPT Dhari

LPT Rajula

LPT Khambat

LPT Ambaji

LPT Bhabbar

LPT Deesa

LPT Palanpur

LPT Radhanpur

LPT Tharad

LPT Amod

LPT Bharuch

LPT Jhagadia

LPT Bhavnagar

LPT Bhavnagar (DD II)

LPT Botad

LPT Mahuva

LPT Palitana

LPT Devagadh-Baria

LPT Dohad

LPT Sanjeli

LPT Gandhinagar (DD II)

LPT Jamjodhpur

LPT Jamnagar

LPT Jamnagar (DD II)

LPT Khambhalia

LPT Junagarh

LPT Mangrol (Junagarh)

LPT Una

LPT Veraval

LPT ~~Porbandra~~ Porbandra (Mobile)

LPT Rapar

LPT Mehsana

LPT	Dediapara	VLPT	Sagwara
LPT	Kevadia Colony	VLPT	Kakrapar
LPT	Rajpipla	Rajasthan	
LPT	Godhara	HPT	Ajmer (Interim)
LPT	Lunawada	HPT	Barmer (Interim)
LPT	Patan	HPT	Bundi
LPT	Bantva	HPT	Jaipur
LPT	Porbandar	HPT	Jaipur (DD II)
LPT	Dhorajee	HPT	Jaisalmer
LPT	Morvi	HPT	Jodhpur
LPT	Idar	HPT	Jodhpur (DD II)
LPT	Modasa	LPT	Ajmer (DD II)
LPT	Shamlaji	LPT	Beawar
LPT	Kosamba	LPT	Vijaynagar
LPT	Mangarol (Surat)	LPT	Alwar
LPT	Songarh	LPT	Kishangarh Vas
LPT	Vyara	LPT	Banswara
LPT	Dharangadhra	LPT	Kushalgarh
LPT	Limbdi	LPT	Baran
LPT	Surendranagar	LPT	Barmer
LPT	Ahwa	LPT	Bharatpur
LPT	Chhota Udaipur	LPT	Deeg
LPT	Vadodara	LPT	Nagar
LPT	Vadodara (DD II)	LPT	Bhilwara
LPT	Dandi	LPT	Shahpura
LPT	Dharampur	LPT	Bikaner
LPT	Umargaon	LPT	Bikaner (DD II)
LPT	Valsad	LPT	Nokha
VLPT	Netrang	LPT	Bansi (DD II)

LPT	Bari Sadri	LPT	Khetri
LPT	Chittaurgarh	LPT	Navalgarh
LPT	Pratapgarh	LPT	Pilani
LPT	Churu	LPT	Phalodi
LPT	Rajgarh	LPT	Hindaun
LPT	Ratangarh	LPT	Karauli
LPT	Sardarshahr	LPT	Kota (DD II)
LPT	Sridungargarh	LPT	Makrana
LPT	Sujargarh	LPT	Nagaur
LPT	Taranagar	LPT	Bali
LPT	Basava	LPT	Nimaj
LPT	Dungarpur	LPT	Pali
LPT	Sagwara	LPT	Sojat
LPT	Anupgarh	LPT	Nathdwara
LPT	Ganganagar	LPT	Gangapur
LPT	Karanpur	LPT	Sawaimadhopur
LPT	Raisinghnagar	LPT	Sikar
LPT	Suratgarh	LPT	Mt. Abu
LPT	Bhadra	LPT	Sirohi
LPT	Hanumangarh	LPT	Tonk
LPT	Nohar	LPT	Kesriaji
LPT	Rawatsar	LPT	Salumber
LPT	Kotputli	LPT	Udaipur
LPT	Jaisalmer	LPT	Udaipur (DD II)
LPT	Bhinmal	LPT	Vallabh Nagar
LPT	Jalore	VLPT	Kotra
LPT	Jhalawar	VLPT	Fatehpur
LPT	Chirawa	VLPT	Laxmangarh
LPT	Jhunjhunun	VLPT	Neem Ka Thana

VLPT	Amet
VLPT	Bhim
VLPT	Deogarh
VLPT	Kumbhalgarh
VLPT	Chaumahla
VLPT	Aandhi
VLPT	Viratnagar
VLPT	Tibi
VLPT	Sikrai
VLPT	Rawatbhata
VLPT	Gangapur
VLPT	Mandalgarh
VLPT	Rajgarh
VLPT	Zawar Mines
Transponser	Jamua Ramgarh
Transponser	Lalsot
Punjab	
HPT	Amritsar
HPT	Amritsar (DD II)
HPT	Bhatinda
HPT	Fazilka (Interim)
HPT	Jalandhar
HPT	Jhalandhar (DD II)
LPT	Abohar
LPT	Firozpur
LPT	Gurdaspur
LPT	Pathankot
LPT	Patiala
Transponser	Talwara

B. All India Radio

HPTs	Low Power Transmitters
------	------------------------

Punjab

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|---|
| 1. Jalandhar | 300 KW MW Tr. | . |
| | 200 KW MW Tr. | |

Rajasthan

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| 2. Bikaner | - | 20 KW MW Tr. |
| 3. Jodhpur | 300 KW MW Tr. | |
| 4. Suratgarh | 300 KW MW Tr. | |
| 5. Barmer | - | 20 KW MW Tr. |
| 6. Jaisalmer | | 10 KW FM Tr. |

Gujarat

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| 7. Bhuj | | 20 KW MW Tr. |
| 8. Rajkot | 300 KW MW Tr. | 1000 KW MW Tr. |
| 9. Ahmedabad | 200 KW MW Tr. | |

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Sir, the reception of Akashwani and Doordarshan programmes is not clear in the Indo-Pak border Area, Western area and North eastern States. Hon. Minister is a good friend of mine. But I am not satisfied with his written reply. He furnishes the same reply to us as given to him by the officers of his department. It is not a practical reply. I can assert that neither radio nor T.V. transmission is upto the mark in the Indo-Pak border area. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Question Hour should be suspended.

MR. SPEAKER : Ramdasji, please sit down and let others ask questions.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever Shri Ramdas Athawale is saying should not go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: I have personally visited the area and found that transmission of Akashwani and T.V. programmes is not upto the mark there.

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask the question directly, otherwise I would come over to the next question.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: I would like to know from the hon. Minister that the area that has been covered by Doordarshan and Akashwani as per the population and area of the Indo-Pak border region and the area still left to be covered. And if some area is still remaining then what is the strategy of the Government to cover it under the transmission network of Doordarshan and Akashwani.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question raised by the hon'ble Member and the concern expressed by him is quite natural. We are making efforts in this regard. So far as Doordarshan is concerned, we cover 94.2% population of Western region and 82.4% population of North-East. Hon'ble Member has expressed concern regarding TV reception. His complaint is justified. I want to inform the House that at present 22 HPTs alongwith 163 low and very low transmitters are functioning in the Western borders. We are making all efforts to increase their quality. Similarly, in North-East area 132 towers are functioning out of which 18 are HPT, 43 LPT and 71 are VLPT. I would like to inform the hon'ble Member that the range of towers installed in border areas is upto Islamabad, Lahore and Rawalpindi. We are striving to increase the quality of these towers and for that purpose we regularly monitor the quality. So far as Kashmir channel shown in Kashmir is concerned, it has a large viewership. 54% people view this channel. The quality of the programmes shown on this channel has been increased.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: My question is that how much population is covered there.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: I have already stated that it is 94.2% in Western borders and Jammu and Kashmir.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: What steps are being taken for the rest of the area?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: New budget allocation is being made for the rest of the area. Out of 15 proposed towers, 12 have been installed and the remaining 3 will be installed by the end of this year.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that the North-eastern states are suffering from both the internal

and cross border terrorism. Radio and Television play an important role there. 15 days ago one of our Deputy Engineer went to Kashmir to repair a Doordarshan transmitter. Department of Doordarshan did not get any clue as to how and where he was killed and who had abducted him. Nobody knew about his whereabouts for 15 days. After 15 days his dead body was found. Thereafter an inquiry committee was constituted. Through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister when such a situation is prevailing in border areas, no employee of Doordarshan and Radio would like to work there as an engineer has already been killed. Reception of the programmes telecast by Radio and Television is poor in those areas. As such, I want to know as to what concrete arrangements have been made by the Department for the safety of the employees.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: I am grateful to hon'ble Member for the concern he has expressed over the safety of our engineers. He has rightly mentioned the incident of our Assistant Engineer Shri R.S. Bali who was murdered there and whose body was recovered after 15 days. Director, Doordarshan had visited the place just after the incident. Earlier it was not clear whether he had been murdered or not. Immediately after receiving the information in this regard, his son has been appointed as an Engineer. A sum of Rs. 7.50 lakh has been paid to them as compensation as per my directives. So far as safety is concerned, it is true that our employees of Doordarshan and Radio are working in far-flung areas at the risk of their lives for the sake of sovereignty of the country. I have decided to talk to hon'ble Home Minister in this regard. We would make all efforts to provide them adequate security.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: You should not go there accidentally.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: I am about to go there in a month.

SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that a large part of Western Rajasthan is adjacent Pakistani border. Hon'ble Minister has stated here that the range of the TV transmitters installed there, is upto Rawalpindi and they are of good capacity. However, as per my information in border areas of Rajasthan like Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Barmer and Shriganga Nagar where these transmitters have been installed, reception of Doordarshan Programmes is poor. Is the hon'ble Minister aware of it? For the last few years Pakistani TV is indulged in false propaganda against our country. Have any efforts been made to stop it despite having information in this regard? What is the capacity of the transmitters installed in Pakistan? What is their number in

comparison to the number of transmitters, be they are doordarshan or Radio, installed by us in our border areas? Are they in sufficient number? Besides, whether efforts are being made to improve the signals?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon'ble Member hails from Rajasthan, I would like to inform him that in total 100 towers are functioning in Rajasthan out of which 8 are HPT, 72 LPT and 20 are very low power transmitters.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Details have been given regarding Rajasthan. Besides other places should also be mentioned.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: I have already given the details about it in reply to the question, that is why I am informing him about Rajasthan only. I would like to inform in this matter that our towers cover 78.2 % population. Our around 9 new projects are proposed to be executed in Rajasthan. I will inform hon'ble Member in detail regarding those projects later on. I would like to inform regarding the efforts being made to stop the campaign launched by the Pakistan. A Comprehensive programme has been formulated on the recommendations of a fast track committee in this regard. Under this programme, a programme titled "FT v Kitna Such Kitna Jhuth" is being telecast on Doordarshan which has been very popular. Besides, we have also telecast commissioned programmes like 'Deadline Kashmir', "Kashmir Nao", "Kashmirnama", "Sarhad key do rukh" etc. through private channels. The quality and authenticity of these programmes has been increased. That is why the viewership of Kashmir channel has increased from 54%. Now the telecast of Kashmir channel would continue round the clock. Hon'ble Prime Minister himself has announced it during his visit to Kashmir. We are making all possible efforts to expose the false propaganda launched by Pakistani TV. Hon'ble Member may inform me if the quality of any specific transmitter is not upto the mark, I will take all steps to improve it.

SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, sufficient number of transmitters have not been installed there. Therefore, their number should be increased. ...*(Interruptions)*
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to ask a supplementary question.

MR. SPEAKER: You can not ask supplementary question.

SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I just want an information. Can any arrangement be made on border to stop Pakistani TV telecast on televisions as mobile phones do not function in your Chamber due to installation of Jammer.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have banned Pakistani TV for some time during Kargil war but there is a need to understand the qualitative difference in this regard. Our's is a democratic open society whereas Pakistan is a military closed society. Pakistan forcefully tries to stop our good quality programmes, however, it is a matter of satisfaction that the quality and authenticity of Pakistani TV always remains doubtful. Creativity is very good on our side. We have received a survey report, according to which the number of people watching PTV in Kashmir is not as much as we expected. We are making all efforts to expose the lies being televised on Pakistani T.V. and we are succeeding in our efforts. We are proud of our open society and democratic conventions and have respect for them.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the area in my constituency borders with Pakistan in the West and many high powered and low powered transmitters have been installed there. Out of them two have been installed at Jaiselmer and Barmer areas of my constituency which were completed in 1993 but the range of both these transmitters is up to 250-300 kms. and about 45-50 crores of rupees were spent thereon. I have been requesting for the last 6 years that their range should be increased. Just now the Minister while talking about the quality, mentioned that their range covers Rawalpindi and Lahore. Karachi is quite near to my constituency and is only at 250 kms. But not to talk of Karachi even Pakistan border is not covered by these transmitters as the range is only up to 35 kms. On the other hand the range of Pakistani T.V. which is making false propaganda covers the area up to Jodhpur. The main objective of installing the transmitter was to counter the Pakistani propaganda. The work on transmitters at Jodhpur was done on war-footing. I had asked many questions in this regard and one S.Q. No.4229 was raised on 10th April but the reply was inadequate. In the meantime, the hon. Minister had also visited Jaiselmer. But our people who are responsible for countering the Pakistani propaganda being carried on in Barmer and Jaiselmer border in Western Rajasthan are not doing their work properly. They are worthless people. The first part of my question is whether the Government would raise the capacity and range of transmitters to cover Karachi city of Pakistan for conveying our views.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has claimed that the quality of these transmitters is very good but I do not agree with him. The staff is not working there and on many occasions they do not attend to their duties. Some of them have resigned and come back. The Government should appoint dedicated staff who could do something to counter Pakistani propaganda in Barmer Border area. The residents there say that they are not able to watch and hear anything on television.

MR. SPEAKER: You have raised your question now please listen to the reply.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member has repeatedly asked the question about Barmer. There is one HPT in Jaiselmer and one HPT interim in Barmer also. We propose to have permanent set up during 10th Plan and we are making efforts in this regard.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: We have to admit that no work was done during the past days.

MR. SPEAKER: Sona Ramji, please listen the reply.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will personally inquire into the specific matter regarding the non-availability of employees and engineers. I can assure him that the Government will not allow the shortage of employees on border areas.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: But the main question is ...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: The proposal is there.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Still there are 5 years of the 10th Plan.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: This will be done definitely and surely.

[English]

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Mr. Speaker Sir, more than 500 kilometres along the India's international border with China and Myanmar is still not properly covered by Doordarshan and Akashvani. I know this very well because I belong to that part of the country. Every time I go on tour, I take my sets and I try to put them on to check their reception. But, it has never been properly covered in these areas. On the other side, the Chinese, Burmese and Thai programmes are very clearly coming into our territory. Now, the people are still wondering whether these border areas are part of China or Myanmar. I think it is high time that the Government of India takes this matter very seriously because the propaganda machinery, which is to be equipped in these border areas, needs to be strengthened.

I belong to Nagaland. We have got 16 tribes and 16 dialects. Now, the Doordarshan station, which is in Kohima, does not telecast in any of the dialects. The Akashvani station which is 41 years old, is still a 50 kilowatt station. It has been proposed to make it a 100 kilowatt station, and there is a proposal for a 10 kilowatt FM station also. You have 16

programmes in a radio station or a television station, which is not proper.

MR. SPEAKER: You just ask the question.

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: I am trying to explain so that he can answer.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no necessity of explaining the question. You just ask the question, please.

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Sir, give me an opportunity to put the question.

MR. SPEAKER: There are a number of questions to be taken up. You just ask a straight question.

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: I want to know whether the Government has any plans to have the radio stations properly equipped in all the district headquarters so that all the people, who do not understand Hindi and English, are properly covered through these stations.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, I quite share the concern of the hon. Member, as far as the need for strengthening the Doordarshan and Akashvani channels in North-East is concerned. I wish to inform the hon. Member that as of now we have got a total of 132 towers - HPT 18, LPT 43, and VLPT 71. But, yes, you have a point that we need to strengthen our operations in North-East. Therefore, the Government of India has already sanctioned Rs. 204 crore under a special package, keeping in view the needs of the North-East, whereunder we propose to have HPTs in all the five State Capitals of Northeast. Presently, it is available only in Guwahati and Agartala.

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: These are State Capitals. It should be in all the districts, because there are 16 dialects. That is what I want to ask.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Let me come to that. Therefore, on a larger issue, the Government of India is quite committed to strengthening our Prasar Bharati channels in the North-East.

As far as the specific needs of a particular district, and of a particular dialect are concerned, that point is there. I would appreciate if the specifics can be given to me in writing.

I would certainly make my enquiry. I would certainly like to assure you that the local dialects ought to be given due reflection on the Prasar Bharati.

Pricing Policy of Natural Gas

*483. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to free natural gas pricing policy from Government control;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the import parity pricing would be advantageous to all LNG projects;
- (d) whether it would increase prices of CNG; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the Government decision taken in September 1997, the price of natural gas was linked to the price of a basket of international fuel oils and a review was to be undertaken to reach 100% price parity with fuel oils by the year 2001-02. The natural gas price is proposed to be market determined after the gas price deregulation. Final decision on gas pricing, however, will be taken by the Government after considering recommendations of the Group of Ministers, which is currently reviewing this issue.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) can be produced from natural gas as well as LNG through compression. Price of CNG would depend upon the market price of LNG/natural gas.

DR. V. SAROJA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, most of the gas that is in use comes from a gas field not as a bi-product from refining crude oil. The oil prices are controlled by the 10-member Vienna-based cartel, called OPEC. It generally manages to freeze the supplies to keep the prices high. No such cartel controls the gas prices. Unlike oil, there is no easy and cheap way to store the gas which has to be sold soon after it starts gushing out. In these circumstances, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the logic behind linking the gas and oil prices. It is said in the statement that the final decision will be taken on this issue after due consideration and recommendation of the Group of Ministers. When will the report be available? Is there any timeframe fixed for that?

SHRI RAM NAIK: The first aspect of the question is

regarding the basic price structure of crude oil. Whether it is oil or gas, the end use is the same. Whatever may be the rate at which the oil would be available, the end use would be the same. That is why, the oil prices are taken into consideration. There is a wider base available for deciding the price.

About your second question on the Group of Ministers' recommendation, I had moved, according to the earlier decision, a Cabinet Note for reviving the gas prices. Now that was given to the Group of Ministers. The Deputy-Chairman of the Planning Commission is working as the Chairman. The Minister of Petroleum, the Minister of Power and Minister of Fertiliser are the members. We had our first meeting. There were some figures to be reconciled. The Secretaries of all these Ministries were given the task of that. They have completed the task of reconciliation on 1st April. I hope that in the coming month, the second meeting of the Group of Ministers will be held.

DR. V. SAROJA: The global suppliers of gas have to enter into a long-term agreement with the promoters of LNG projects in India. How does the Government propose to supply gas to power and fertiliser plants at an affordable cost in India?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Whatever gas we are having is just 50 per cent of our requirements. That is why, we are trying to import. We have already finalised, through our Petronet LNG, to import five million metric tonnes LNG per annum. A terminal is being constructed at Dahej in Gujarat. 75 per cent of the work is completed. By December end, the remaining work will be completed and commercially the gas would be available in the first quarter of the next year.

Similarly, at Cochin, another terminal will be built and that work is also proceeding. The price aspect has been considered. For the information of the House, I must tell you that if parity in the price of natural gas and oil is maintained, the delivered cost would be about Rs. 8,400 per MSCM. Now, as compared to that, the LNG's cost would be more by 105 per cent. It will be more by five per cent. If other fuels are used, then the cost would be more by 154 per cent. If Naphtha is used, the cost would be more by 174 per cent. So, taking into consideration all these aspects, positively, the LNG and the natural gas will be cheaper, and that is what we are trying to do.

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, the hon. Minister has now mentioned that the second terminal at Kochi is in the process of construction. The fertiliser plant in Kochi, FACT, is based on naphtha; and naphtha being very expensive, that factory is unable to function. It is under lockout and is about to be laid off. The process of construction of the LNG terminal would take at least three to four years. That is a very long period. Till

that time, FACT and other fertiliser plants in Kerala cannot remain closed. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India could think of having some temporary arrangement for importing LNG for the functioning of FACT and other naphtha-based industries in Kerala and in south India.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, a terminal is to be specifically built for importing LNG. Unless the terminal is constructed, LNG cannot be imported. So, there cannot be any immediate solution for the problem. All the pre-project activities of the Kochi terminal are being completed. It is for two and a half million metric tons. We have to ensure that the gas that we would be bringing is consumed. So, you would have to build industries in that part of the country also. We would try to expedite and do it as early as possible.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri P. Kumarasamy.

SHRI M. CHINNASAMY: Sir, I am Chinnasamy. Anyway, both of us are from the same party and so it does not matter.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry; I stand corrected.

SHRI M. CHINNASAMY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier, the Government was maintaining an oil pool account for the purpose of giving subsidy. I would like to know whether the Government is maintaining that account even now or not. If the pool is being maintained, what is the quantum of money in the pool?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, after dismantling the administered pricing mechanism from April 2002, technically, the oil pool account is not functioning. Many times some adjustments are to be made because of the CAG's audit or some such matters which sometimes take time. The oil pool account is now on the books only to that extent. For all other purposes, the oil pool account is not functioning.

Reducing the Speed of Superfast Trains

*484. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is planning to reduce the speed of Superfast trains to prevent frequent derailments;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the other steps being taken by the Government to reduce the incidents of derailments?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR):
(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

- (a) No, Sir.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) The steps being taken by the Government to reduce the incidences of derailments are as under:
 - (i) A non-lapsable Special Railway Safety Fund of Rs. 17,000/- crore has been set up for renewal of over aged assets and for safety enhancement works.
 - (ii) All the Production Units, majority of repair workshops and large number of Sheds/Depots have achieved ISO 9002 certification for their Quality maintenance system
 - (iii) Fitment of micro processor control speed recorders to monitor speed of the train.
 - (iv) Procurement of simulators as training aid to improve training of running staff.
 - (v) Odour-cum-fume type hot box detectors are under lab tests for timely detecting and detaching hot boxes thereby preventing breakage of axle/journals on the run.
 - (vi) New wagons being inducted into the system are equipped with more reliable Casnub Bogies and Air Brake System. Bogie Mounted Brake System on wagons has also been developed. The use of Composition Brake Blocks on wagons is being progressively increased.
 - (vii) Derailment prone four wheeler wagons (CRT wagons) are being phased out of service.
 - (viii) There has been progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and Ballast Cleaning Machines for track maintenance. Track Renewal Trains are also being used.
 - (ix) For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometers are being used progressively.
 - (x) For detection of rail fractures/weld failures, adequate double rail Ultra Sonic Flaw Detectors have been procured. Self Propelled Ultrasonic Rail Testing Cars are being procured.
 - (xi) Regular inspection of track at various levels is undertaken.
 - (xii) Training to Railway staff is provided immediately after their recruitment and thereafter their knowledge is

refreshed periodically. Seminars. Workshops and field demonstrations are also organized for 'permanent way' staff from time to time to enhance and update their knowledge.

(xiii) Patrolling of railway track by gangmen is carried at vulnerable locations during monsoon, summer and winter.

(xiv) The specifications of rail steel have been upgraded and are in conformity with the International Union of Railways (UIC) specifications. Longer rails of 26 m are getting manufactured at Bhilai and it is planned to manufacture 65 m and 78 m long rails and weld them into longer panels of 240 m from Bhilai by next year.

(xv) The track structure is upgraded on planned basis.

(xvi) To keep the track in good condition, track renewals are carried out whenever it becomes due subject to availability of funds.

(xvii) Closer liaison is being maintained with State Police Departments, wherever required for prevention of crime on Railway tracks and bridges.

(xviii) Instructions have been issued to reduce the number of fish plated joints, wherever feasible and for burring of two fish bolts, one on each rail, at joints located in the stretches considered vulnerable.

(xix) An anti-theft elastic rail clip and fish bolt fastening is under development.

(xx) Concrete sleepers are being provided progressively in place of wooden and metal sleepers.

(xxi) Progressive welding into Long Welded Rails to reduce the number of fish plated joints which is the weakest link in track.

(xxii) Provision of steel channel sleepers instead of wooden sleepers on girder bridges to tide over the shortage of wooden sleepers.

(xxiii) Posting of stationary watchman at vulnerable bridges, tunnels etc. and joint surprise night patrolling by Railway Protection Force/Gangman in areas considered sabotage prone.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the statement given by Shri Dattatreya Bhandaru is that super fast trains may go slow because there is a proposal to curtail the speed of the Rajdhani Express trains. Some Members of Parliament from West Bengal also told me that after the Rajdhani Express accident, the speed of some trains has been

reduced. I would like to know, through you, from the hon. Minister how many derailments have taken place so far in the last five years and what are the steps taken by the Government to prevent accidents through renewal of tracks and over-aged bridges instead of reducing the speed of trains.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no question of restricting the speed of superfast trains. But after the accident of Rajdhani Express, the Commissioner of Railway Safety has suggested in his report that some speed restrictions be imposed in sabotage prone areas. One suggestion was to introduce pilot engine. Keeping that in view, even now there is speed restrictions in Kodarna-Dehri Onson section resulting in late running of some trains. But as a policy, there is no proposal to reduce the speed of superfast trains. However, keeping in view the suggestions of Commissioner Railway Safety, special efforts are being made in such areas and some arrangements for patrolling etc. are being made and some steps have been taken at the Divisional level.

Regarding the number of incidents of derailments, we have provided details in the White Paper on safety laid just now.

The number of incidents of derailment are decreasing. There were 280 derailments due to various reasons during 2001-02 and according to the provisional figures with me for 2002-03 their number has decreased to 216.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: They have mentioned in their reply about the steps taken by the Government. I would like to know whether any time-bound programme is fixed or not. It may be mainly due to the overaged bridges and renewal of tracks which are very old. The Britishers had laid these railway tracks. So, I would like to know whether any time-bound programme is fixed to renew the overaged bridges and railway lines or not. In this way, we can prevent derailments.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Sir, the renewal work on our overaged assets is being done through the Railway Safety Fund. This is third year since the work is going on. This work had been started in 2001 and will continue for the next six years. I hope we will complete the renewal work on all our overaged assets.

[English]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Mr. Speaker Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he has got a special Budget allotment as a Contingency Fund, which arises from emergency sabotage areas. In my constituency Khamman, there has been no passenger train service. It has been suspended since 23rd December at Kothagudem segment because of perceived threat of derailments by PWG. Three of our engines were attacked, after which all passenger services have been terminated and the local Boards have no concept of when they are going to restart these passenger services. So, is it a perception in the Government that wherever there is a threat perception, we suspend the railway services?

As per the Report of the Commissioner of Railway Safety, what is the budget allocation that you have given for R & D on railway safety and how much on par are we with other international superfast trains? After all, trains run everywhere in the world and Japan is a pioneer in superfast trains. Perhaps to reduce the speed of superfast trains, either they were not equipped or they did not have the infrastructure in place when they started these trains, or they are now doing reverse engineering. So, I would like to have the reply on all these questions.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, the Member has asked three questions. You can give reply to one question.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. lady Member has asked statement type questions and I will have to give reply accordingly.

Sir, there is no proposal to reduce the speed of superfast trains. The hon. Member knows that this year the Government is going to introduce the railway train having a speed of 150 kms. per hour. At present the maximum speed is 130 kms per hour and we propose to increase it up to 150 kms per hour.

Sir, high speed trains are being run in many countries of the world. There is difference between superfast and high speed trains. The high speed trains have a speed of 250, 300 or more kms per hour. At present such a facility do not exist in the country because a separate track, total fencing and other arrangements are required therefor. The Government will have to consider the propriety of spending 35-40 thousand crore rupees for running trains at such a speed on some sections. It is a question of priority.

Regarding sabotage-prone area, our officers are in constant touch with the State Governments. I have just now told that after the accident of Rajdhani train, Commissioner, Railway Safety has suggested separate security patrolling of Railways in such areas. It is a new domain where we will have to go. The security patrolling was the responsibility of

the State Government but we are trying to arrange our own security patrolling also in such areas. Regarding discontinuation railway service due to attack by PWG, I will share information with you after I received it. Wherever such incident takes place we take decisions after consulting the State Governments and their security agencies.

[English]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Does the hon. Minister agree that this is a humongous problem?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I have already presented a White Paper on Safety. I will request the hon. Member to go through that. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All the Members should go through it.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: No. I am asking a very simple question. Do you agree that this is a humongous problem?

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister should reply whether it is a humongous problem or not? ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: It is between you and Shri Jaipal Reddy to decide. ... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: It is between you and me. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Both of you have to decide which one is humongous and which one is not. I do not know about it.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: It is between you and me. ... (Interruptions) You have to place on record that the State Government has totally failed to give any security to the Railways. It is unheard of that all passenger trains have been suspended since December 23rd in Kothagudem segment of Khammam parliamentary constituency. There is no passenger service. It is a failure of the State Government. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: How can you blame the State Government? ... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: The State Government has to provide security. You have not done it. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the

survey for and the trial of the bullet train between Mumbai and Goa have been completed. Through you, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister as to when the train is going to be launched? When does he propose to introduce Mumbai-Goa bullet train under Konkan railway. ...*(Interruptions)* Whether he also proposes to link Mumbai-Delhi and all other capitals with such trains? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This question is not arising out of the main Question.

[Translation]

Even then hon'ble Minister may reply to it.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, accidents are more common in passenger trains than in superfast trains and the train of the Government of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is running ever so slowly and that is why it always derails. Therefore, we need to run express trains? My question is when does he propose to introduce the Bullet train? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Members of Republican Party insist on express trains. One Member of Republican Party is speaking against the passenger trains. And such opinion is maintained by the people who claim to represent the lower strata of the society. He has asked when that train on Konkan route will be introduced and the answer is 'this very year' when a date for that train is fixed, it will be given wide publicity. Trial for running the train at 150 km/hr. has been completed and other preparations for introducing this train are going on.

[English]

One Time Settlement of Power Dues

* 485. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the States have agreed to clear, under a one time settlement scheme, all the outstanding power dues amounting to Rs.37,400 crores as per the agreement signed with the Centre and the Reserve Bank of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether for this purpose tax-free bonds carrying interest at the rate of 8.5% are to be issued;

(d) if so, the amount due to be cleared by each

State and the time by which the proposed bonds are to be issued by the State Governments;

(e) whether the Montek Singh Ahluwalia Committee had recommended waiving of 60% surcharge for one time settlement of the dues by the State Governments; and

(f) if so, the exact amount required to be paid by each of the State Government after the waiving of surcharge and the decisions of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes. Sir. The main features of the one time settlement scheme under the Tripartite Agreement for old outstanding dues of the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) payable to the Central Public Sector Utilities (CPSUs) are:

- (1) Old arrears of SEBs of the States amounting to Rs. 37,400 crore to 8 CPSUs and Railways as of 30th September, 2001 would be settled as an one-time measure;
- (2) 60% of the interest/surcharge amounting to Rs. 8,300 crore out of the above amount would be waived;
- (3) Thereafter, net outstanding dues of Rs.29100 crore would be converted into tax free Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) bonds with interest rate of 8.5% per annum, which will be repaid over a period of 15 years with the moratorium of 5 years;
- (4) The States will become eligible, to receive incentive amounting to Rs. 6100 crore over a period of 4 years on adhering to the terms and conditions of the agreement;
- (5) The State Utilities will have to ensure payment of current bills through Letters of Credit and any defaulted amount would be recovered through adjustment against releases due to the respective State Governments on account of Plan Assistance, States' share of Central Taxes and any other grant or loan given to the State by way of debiting their accounts; and
- (6) The CPSUs covered under the scheme are National Thermal Power Corporations (NTPC), National Hydro-electric Power Corporation

(NHPC), Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL), North-Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) and Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) under the Ministry of Power; Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and its subsidiaries and Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) under the Ministry of Coal, Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL) under the Department of Atomic Energy and the Railways

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Tax free bonds with interest rate of 8.5% are proposed to be issued. The amount of bonds to be issued by the States to clear the outstanding amounts are given in the enclosed Annexure-I. The tripartite agreement with the 24 States and RBI were signed recently on 20.3.2003. The Bonds are going to be issued by the concerned States after following due procedure in this regard.

(e) and (f) The Montek Singh Ahluwalia Committee had recommended waiver of 50% of the surcharge for the one time settlement of outstanding dues. The waiver was, however, subsequently increased to 60% based on the recommendations of the High Level Empowered Group of Chief Ministers under the Chairmanship of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. The exact amount of outstanding dues as on 30.9.2001, surcharge of 60% to be waived and the net amount for which bonds are to be issued by each State Government is in the enclosed Annexure-II.

Annexure-I

State-wise bonds to be issued for dues as on 30.9.2001

(Amount in Crores of Rupees)

S.No.	States/SEBs	Bond Amount
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	769.30
2	Arunachal Pradesh	28.24
3	Assam	699.35
4	Bihar	2670.59

1	2	3
5	Chhattisgarh	210.73
6	Goa	-
7	Gujarat	1392.64
8	Haryana	1046.81
9	Himachal Pradesh	101.87
10	Jammu & Kashmir	566.64
11	Jharkhand	1859.40
12	Karnataka	644.95
13	Kerala	878.30
14	Madhya Pradesh	3606.66
15	Maharashtra	1648.53
16	Manipur	192.21
17	Meghalaya	17.45
18	Mizoram	52.88
19	Nagaland	84.64
20	Orissa	762.50
21	Punjab	1155.48
22	Rajasthan	682.50
23	Sikkim	51.53
24	Tamil Nadu	2241.45
25	Tripura	77.45
26	Uttar Pradesh *	4311.77
27	West Bengal	3108.07
Total		29057.96

* Includes Uttaranchal.

Annexure-II

State-wise summary of Principal, Interest, Waiver and Bond amount

(Amount in Crores of Rupees)

S.No.	States/ SEBs	Principal	Interest	Benefit due to waive off of interest	Bond amount
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	537.65	579.14	347.48	769.30
2	Arunachal Pradesh	25.54	6.76	4.06	28.24

1	2	3	4	5	6
3	Assam	554.88	361.18	216.71	699.35
4	Bihar	2049.97	1551.56	930.94	2670.59
5	Chhattisgarh	159.40	128.32	76.99	210.73
6	Goa	-0.36	-	-	-
7	Gujarat	1205.71	467.32	280.39	1392.64
8	Haryana	634.53	1030.7	618.42	1046.81
9	Himachal Pradesh	76.93	62.35	37.41	101.87
10	Jammu & Kashmir	497.58	172.65	103.59	566.64
11	Jharkhand	1384.15	1188.12	712.87	1859.40
12	Karnataka	501.31	359.09	215.45	644.95
13	Kerala	786.70	229.01	137.41	878.30
14	Madhya Pradesh	3103.53	1257.83	754.70	3606.66
15	Maharashtra	1172.81	1189.29	713.57	1648.53
16	Manipur	167.89	60.80	36.48	192.21
17	Meghalaya	15.39	5.15	3.09	17.45
18	Mizoram	45.82	17.64	10.58	52.88
19	Nagaland	71.60	32.61	19.57	84.64
20	Orissa	682.80	199.24	119.24	762.50
21	Punjab	1046.98	271.26	162.76	1155.48
22	Rajasthan	604.53	194.92	116.95	682.50
23	Sikkim	39.97	28.91	17.35	51.53
24	Tamil Nadu	2025.46	539.98	323.99	2241.45
25	Tripura	72.67	11.94	7.16	77.45
26	Uttar Pradesh*	3582.08	1824.23	1094.54	4311.77
27	West Bengal	2290.52	2043.87	1226.33	3108.07
Total		23520.76	13842.77	8305.65	29057.96

* Includes Uttaranchal

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, out of the arrears due to the Central Utilities which is nearly Rs. 34,500 crore, about 60 per cent of it is the interest which is to be waived. This is recommended by the High-Power Committee. When you look at the principal, which has been enlisted in Annexure-I, the principal and the interest are equal. For example, in the case of Andhra Pradesh, the principal is Rs. 537 crore and the interest is more than the principal, that is Rs. 579 crore. In view of the financial crunch of the State Electricity Boards, would the Ministry consider hundred per cent waiver of the interest? That is my first question.

The whole thing is contemplated till the year 2001. The arrears accrued between 2001 till date would be enormous. The whole thing is contemplated in order to bail out the State Electricity Boards and strengthen their hands in order to attract more private investment. In this period of one-and-a-half to two years from 2001 to 2003, if the arrears are more, then what is the rationale behind giving such a bail-out package? This is my second question.

Thirdly, in order to attract private investment, the Kohli Committee went into the details of private investments. I want to know whether the Government has accepted the recommendations of the Kohli Committee or not. There are series of measures recommended by the Committee which are really vital for the improvement of the power sector and electricity reforms. One of the recommendations is ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You need not mention them all. The hon. Minister must be knowing about it. Please ask the question.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Sir, I will just come to that.

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you waste the time of the House? You need not read out the recommendations.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Sir, I will just ask pointed questions. Will the Ministry introduce special power bonds in order to attract black money? With regard to project development, they had apply to the CBDT in order to avail of tax exemption and the tax exemption is given only for two or three years. Would the Ministry consider that period to be extended for a longer time? This is available under Section 10 of the Income Tax Act. Would that be extended to transmission as well as distribution?

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Montek Singh Ahluwalia Committee had recommended that interest surcharge be reduced to the extent of 50 per cent but

the Chief Ministers Committee, which was constituted later, recommended it to be 60 percent which was accepted. This decision was taken in the conclave of Chief Ministers of all the States and it was unanimously agreed that interest would be remitted only to the extent of 60 percent and, so there is no question of remission of 100 percent. Hon'ble Member has asked question about Kohli Committee's report and I will inform him about it later on personally. The original question relates to the fiscal condition of State Electricity Boards. To improve their fiscal condition assistance needs to be provided to them. Union Government cannot be responsible for the current financial condition of State Electricity Boards. Their condition is bad because they did not get the desired support from state Government.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: The real cause is the rampant corruption in State Electricity Boards. He may try to check that.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what hon'ble Member is saying is an additional information, but even for that the State Electricity Boards are responsible. If efforts are not made to improve the condition of SEBs then the consumers are affected as they have to bear the consequences. In such a scenario, it is heartening that all the States have adopted programmes to improve the condition of SEBs and it is already showing good results.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You ask second supplementary. Be very short and ask specific question.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Sir, this is a very important question.

MR. SPEAKER: Every question is important.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Since the Government is planning to have 1,00,000 MW of power by 2012 with an investment of Rs. 9,00,000 crore, unless the private investors, whether Indian or overseas, participate, it would not be possible. Therefore, the Government is bailing out the State Electricity Boards in order to instil confidence in the private investors. Just bailing out the State Electricity Boards alone will not do. Therefore, investment must go side by side. I would like to ask what action they have taken on the recommendations of the Kohli Panel.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: I fully agree with the views of hon'ble Member. At present we need one lakh megawatt of additional power for which an investment of Rs.

8.00,000 crore is required. Therefore the State Governments, private sector, cooperative sector - all need to promote energy generation. The House may recall that last week we have passed Electricity Bill, 2001. As per the provisions contained in the Bill, we have tried to introduce reforms aimed at increasing both foreign and domestic investment in power generation to the desired level. Therefore, I believe that we would be able to get the requisite investment for the generation of additional one lakh Megawatt of power.

[English]

Sale of Unused Railway Land

* 486. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have made plans to increase revenue by selling unused railway lands and properties;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the revenue collected by the Railways by selling of lands during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR):

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) to (c) Railways neither has nor had any plan for selling its unused land and properties to increase revenue. However to increase revenue, the vacant land, if not required for immediate operational and maintenance purposes, is utilised for following purposes:

- (i) licensing of railway land in and near station yards (known as commercial plots) for stacking/storing of goods moved by rail. Such licensing also helps Railways in attracting/retaining traffic.
- (ii) Bulk oil installations and private sidings which offer substantial traffic to the Railways.
- (iii) Leasing of land to other Central Govt. Depts./ State Govts./ Public Sector Undertaking on a long term basis.
- (iv) Afforestation, cultivation and commercial plantation.
- (v) Other miscellaneous uses like way-leave facility,

pisciculture, leasing/licensing to staff welfare organisations/ schools.

- (vi) Putting some of its land/air space for commercial use wherever such a potential exists.

In addition, Railways have planned to plant 'Jatropha Curcas'(Ratanjot) on a large scale along the track as well as elsewhere. Railway has also entered into Memorandum of Understanding with Indian Oil Corporation for plantation of Jatropha Curcas on 500 hectare of land and production of bio-diesel as a pilot project.

(d) Earnings from the land utilisation during the last three years is as under:

Figures in Rs. (crore)			
Year	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-2002
Rs. (in Crores)	30.37	94.49	223.53**

** Includes arrears of Rs.131 crore realised from oil companies as land lease rentals.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabodh Pandaji, I permit you to ask the question.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: I would like to ask the hon. Railway Minister whether the Ministry is contemplating to reserve railway lands for any public works, in particular, in the South Eastern Railway, and mainly in Kharagpur. I would like to know whether they have any plan to reserve it at cheap rates for any public function because by that, they will earn revenue also.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to the question, I have already said that the land of railway, which it does not immediately require, is given away on lease which earns for it some money. I have provided details as to where and in what circumstances land has been leased out. The people who trade with railway related works are given land and it is given also for storage purpose and siding.

MR. SPEAKER: It is there in the reply.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The answer has all the details. Apart from that we also given out land for afforestation. Before 1984, the land was also given out for commercial purposes, for opening small shops, but this policy has been terminated

since 1984, but those who already had commercial establishments on railway land were allowed to continue albeit with new conditions. Similarly, in Kharagpur, as per my information, and one hon'ble Member had also raised this issue, there are two type of shopkeepers, one who were allotted constructed shops by the railways and the second who have taken railway land on lease. Both have different problems which we are trying to sort out. Do you want to ask more questions?

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: My second supplementary is that so far as Kharagpur is concerned, there is Railway land where a Central Bus Station can be constructed, but the Railway administration is asking for more than one crore rupees. In view of this, it is not possible to construct a bus station there. Therefore, I ask the hon. Minister whether the Ministry has any plan to lease the land to the State Government or the Municipality at a cheap rate to construct a Central Bus Station in public interest.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: If a state Government or any Government institution requires land, it is given to them on lease. There are lease charges which they have to pay. But our policy is to provide state Government land if it is available.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform the hon'ble Railway Minister that most of the railway land is under illegal occupation of influential people. Whether he would try to use them commercially after freeing it from their clutches? The second part of the question is some of the approach routes of the people lie through railway land, whether he would open them for public use?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: As far as illegal occupation of railway land is concerned, four per cent holding of the railways is being used in different work. There is no doubt that there is lot of encroachment on railways land. About 20000 hectares of railway land is under illegal occupation. We constantly make efforts to free that land. As far as opening of railway land for thoroughfare purpose is concerned, we would consider it if any specific proposal comes to us.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Control on Cable Operators by State Governments

- *487. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

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

- (a) whether some of the State Governments have urged the Union Government to empower them to have control on the Cable Operators in their States;
- (b) whether the Union Government have taken a decision in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Suggestions for better enforcement of various provisions of Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 have been received from some States. Under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 officers of State Governments have been empowered to take action against the erring cable operators under the various provisions of the Act.

"As per section 2 (a) of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 "authorised officers" means, within his local limits of jurisdiction:-

- (i) a District Magistrate; or
- (ii) a Sub-Divisional Magistrate; or
- (iii) a Commissioner of Police.

And includes any other officer notified in the Official Gazette, by the Central Government or the State Government, to be an authorised officer for such local limits of jurisdiction as may be determined by that Government;

Under the Section 11(1) of the above Act if any authorised officer has reason to believe that the provisions of section 3 (regarding registration), section 4A (regarding transmission/retransmission of pay channels through an addressable system after 14.07.2003), section 5 (Programme Code), section 6 (Advertisement Code), section 8 (mandatory carriage of Doordarshan channels) have been or are being contravened by any cable operator, he may seize the equipment being used by such cable operator for operating the cable television network.

Under section 19 of the above Act where "any authorised officer" thinks it necessary or expedient so to do in public interest, he may, by order, prohibit any cable operator from transmitting or re-transmitting any programme or channel if, it is not in conformity with the prescribed programme code referred in section 5 and advertisement code referred to in

section 6 or if it is" likely to promote, on grounds of religion, race, language caste or community or any other ground whatsoever, disharmony or feelings of enmity, hatred or ill-will between different religious, racial, linguistic or regional groups or castes or communities or which is likely to disturb the public tranquility".

[English]

Performance of Sainik Schools

*488. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether performance of Sainik Schools in the country is not upto the mark and they are not producing good results;

(b) whether the entry of students belonging to Sainik Schools in NDA has declined considerably;

(c) if so, the number of students qualified for NDA during the last three years, Sainik School-wise; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken to improve the performance of Sainik Schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Sainik Schools were established primarily to remove regional imbalance in the Officers cadre of the Armed Forces, make the cadets good and useful citizens of tomorrow and to bring public school education within the reach of common man. Besides providing more than 6000 Officers to the Armed Forces since inception, Sainik Schools are providing useful and disciplined citizens with well rounded personalities who have contributed in all walks of life.

There has been no decline and rather there is marginal increase in the NDA entry from the Sainik Schools from 15.8% (January 1985 to January 1995) to 16.5% (July 1995 to January 2002). 310 cadets from Sainik Schools have joined NDA during the last three academic years. School-wise details are given in the statement enclosed.

The performance of Sainik Schools vis-a-vis their aims and objectives is constantly under review. From the current financial year, additional funds have been made available to share burden of increased fees which would improve quality of intake besides providing public school education within the reach of common man. Certain measures like centralized exams for IX and XI have been introduced for strengthening the academic performance of the Sainik Schools. It is also proposed to organize additional adventure activities for the

cadets in order to prepare them for confidently facing the Services Selection Boards. The admission process to the Sainik Schools is being further improved so as to select the best potential cadets. In-service training for teachers and hostel superintendents is being regularly organized to update their professional competence.

Statement

Details of Cadets from Sainik Schools Joining NDA during the Academic Years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002

Sl.No.	Name of School	Cadets Joined NDA 1999-2000 (Course 102 & 103)	Cadets Joined NDA 2000-2001 (Course 104 & 105)	Cadets Joined NDA 2001-2002 (Course 106 & 107)
1	Amaravathinagar	3	11	1
2	Bhubaneshwar	3	5	4
3	Bijapur	4	4	4
4	Chittorgarh	1	4	5
5	Ghorakhal	7	10	7
6	Goalpara	1	0	1
7	Imphal	1	5	5
8	Balachadi	0	4	3
9	Kapurthala	0	1	1
10	Kazhakootam	5	10	4
11	Korukonda	4	10	16
12	Kunjpura	4	13	10
13	Nagrota	1	7	4
14	Purulia	4	5	3
15	Rewa	12	9	8
16	Satara	12	15	12
17	Sujanpur Tira	5	9	11
18	Tilaiya	4	7	11
Total		71	129	110

Universal Metering

*489. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the metering of 11 KV feeders and above has been completed in the first phase of 100% metering programme by the end of 2001;

(b) if not, whether the universal metering programme is lagging behind the schedule throughout the country;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the progress made under the programme so far, State-wise; and

(e) the time by which the Government propose to complete the universal metering programme?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) 86.38 percent of the 11 KV Feeders in the country have been metered so far. As per the information

made available from the States, 11 States have achieved 100% metering at 11 KV feeder level.

(b) As reported by the States, 6 States have achieved 100% metering at consumer level. Substantial progress has been achieved in metering of industrial/domestic and commercial consumers. However, metering in respect of agricultural consumers has been slow.

(c) The target of metering has lagged behind because of the following reasons:-

(i) Inadequacy of implementation capability of the State Utilities;

(ii) Constraint of material resources; and

(iii) Insistence of farmers in some States to continue with flat rate tariff.

(d) A statement indicating the status of consumer metering and 11 KV feeder metering is enclosed.

(e) As reported by the States universal metering is expected to be completed by December, 2004.

Statement

Status of Consumer Metering as on December, 2002

S.No.	State	No. of Consumer (In Lakhs)	Metered (In Lakhs)	Percentage
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	146.9	124.82	84.97
2	Assam	9.92	8.55	86.19
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1.3	0.7	53.85
4	Bihar	18	16	88.89
5	Chhattisgarh	19.25	12.54	65.14
6	Delhi	26.26	26.26	100.00
7	Goa	3.92	3.74	95.41
8	Gujarat	73.33	68.11	92.88
9	Haryana	32.27	32.27	100.00
10	Himachal Pradesh	15.68	15.68	100.00
11	Jharkhand	6.53	4.02	61.56

1	2	3	4	5
12	Jammu & Kashmir	10	4	40.00
13	Karnataka	48.4	48.4	100.00
14	Kerala	68.94	68.94	100.00
15	Madhya Pradesh	65.3	40.98	62.76
16	Maharashtra	132.82	113.73	85.63
17	Manipur	1.7	1.4	82.35
18	Meghalaya	1.4	0.9	64.29
19	Mizoram	1.16	0.55	47.41
20	Nagaland	1.5	1.1	73.33
21	Orissa	12	10.8	90.00
22	Punjab	55.13	46.73	84.76
23	Rajasthan	48	43.25	90.10
24	Sikkim	0.6	0.17	28.33
25	Tamil Nadu	113.91	113.91	100.00
26	Tripura	2.28	1.84	80.70
27	Uttar Pradesh	78.1	46.03	58.94
28	Uttaranchal	9.09	7.95	87.46
29	West Bengal	43.45	41.11	94.61
Total Metering in North Eastern		19.26	15.04	78.09
Total Metering in Country, Except North Eastern		1027.88	889.44	86.53
Total Metering in Country		1047.14	904.48	86.38

Status of 11 KV Feeder Metering as on December, 2002

Sl. No.	State	No. of Feeders	Metered	Percentage
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	7291	7291	100
2	Assam	605	208	34.38
3	Arunachal Pradesh	168	33	19.64
4	Bihar	1517	600	39.55

1	2	3	4	5
5	Chhattisgarh	988	619	62.65
6	Delhi	1400	1400	100
7	Goa	179	179	100
8	Gujarat	4917	4917	100
9	Haryana	2557	2557	100
10	Himachal Pradesh	678	628	92.63
11	Jharkhand	461	4	0.87
12	Jammu & Kashmir	1214	1214	100
13	Karnataka	3518	3518	100
14	Kerala	1051	1051	100
15	Madhya Pradesh	6117	5551	90.75
16	Maharashtra	7128	6082	85.33
17	Manipur	193	40	20.73
18	Meghalaya	314	96	30.57
19	Mizoram	131	104	79.39
20	Nagaland	93	32	34.41
21	Orissa	1875	500	26.67
22	Punjab	5387	5368	99.65
23	Rajasthan	7321	3321	45.36
24	Sikkim	87	21	24.14
25	Tamil Nadu	3684	3684	100
26	Tripura	185	185	100
27	Uttar Pradesh	8124	8124	100
28	Uttaranchal	643	618	96.11
29	West Bengal	2406	2234	92.85
Total Metering in North Eastern		1689	698	41.33
Total Metering in Country, Except North Eastern		68543	59481	86.78
Total Metering in Country		70232	69179	85.69

[Translation]

Partnerships Acquired by Public Sector Oil Companies

*490. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Indian Public Sector Oil Companies have acquired partnership in some companies engaged in oil production abroad;

(b) if so, the names of such companies and the capital invested by each company by the end of December, 2002, country-wise; and

(c) the details of the benefits in terms of oil and exposure to new technology accruing to the PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) As on date, one Public Sector Oil Company, namely, ONGC-Videsh Limited (OVL), the wholly owned subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has acquired the shares of a subsidiary of a company engaged in oil production abroad.

In the process of buying the 25% stake of Talisman Energy Inc. (TLM), Canada, OVL acquired from TLM, 100% shares of the "Talisman Greater Nile BV", a subsidiary of TLM, through whom they were holding the 25% stake in the Greater Nile Oil Project. The investment made by OVL in the project in form of purchase price is US \$ 720 million (Rs. 3,456 crores approximately).

It may be added that OVL, as a member of an unincorporated Joint Venture, also holds 45% interest in gas producing Block 6.1 of Vietnam offshore. Further, OVL and three other Public Sector oil companies, namely, GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) and Oil India Limited (OIL), have interests in Blocks abroad, in countries like Iran, Myanmar, Russia and the USA, from which no production is taking place as of today.

(c) Apart from enhancing equity oil for the country by about 3 million tonnes per annum, OVL would also derive the following benefits:

- (i) Valuable expertise and transnational operating experience to enable OVL to become a major force in the global hydrocarbon industry.
- (ii) Good exposure and experience to OVL personnel who would be deputed to the Project, which could prepare them to take up other further overseas projects.

- (iii) OVL would be promoting other Indian companies who can offer materials and services to the Project and other allied activities in Sudan.

[English]

Electricity Generation by NCES

*491. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of annual electricity produced through non-conventional energy sources in the country; State-wise:

(b) whether there has been no appreciable increase in the generation of electricity from these sources;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof;

(d) whether there is any proposal before the Government to establish new NCES projects in Tamil Nadu to enhance electricity production to meet the local needs;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (c) The installed power generation capacity from non-conventional energy projects based on wind, small hydro, biomass and waste-to-energy projects was 2674 MW, 3002 MW, 3457 MW and 3875 MW, as on 31.3.2000, 31.3.2001, 31.3.2002 and 31.3.2003 respectively. The generation of electricity from these sources has progressively increased in consonance with the annual increase in installed capacity. The annual electricity production has been estimated at more than 8.5 billion units during 2002-03. The State-wise break-up is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) A total power generating capacity of 1174 MW based on non-conventional energy sources has already been installed in Tamil Nadu, as on 31.03.2003. Projects of about 115MW comprising bagasse cogeneration, biomass power, small hydro, waste-to-energy and biomass gasifier projects are under construction in the State; and, 60 MW wind power capacity is planned to be added during the current year. Further, the State Government propose to promote biomass power projects of about 300 MW capacity in the next two years using locally available biomass in various districts. Under the

proposed biomass power programme of the State Government, no proposal has so far been received or is pending with Government.

(f) The steps taken to promote electricity production from non-conventional energy sources include provision of Central Financial Assistance in the form of capital

subsidy or interest subsidy depending upon the type of project; fiscal incentives such as 80% accelerated depreciation and concessional duties and taxes; and, term loans from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency. The State Government have introduced a policy for power generation from non-conventional energy sources.

Statement

*State-wise Estimated Energy Generated during 2002-2003 from
Non-Conventional Energy Based Power Projects*

(Million Units)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Wind Power	Small Hydro Power	Biomass Power	Energy from Wastes	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands		15.75			15.75
2	Andhra Pradesh	93.63	452.13	558.20	11.00	1114.96
3	Arunanchal Pradesh		97.11			97.11
4	Assam		6.00			6.00
5	Bihar		134.70			134.70
6	Chhattisgarh		0.60	66.00		66.60
7	Gujarat	157.61	21.00	3.00	8.00	189.61
8	Haryana		144.90	24.00		168.90
9	Himachal Pradesh		273.72			273.72
10	Jammu & Kashmir		279.72			279.72
11	Jharkhand		12.15			12.15
12	Karnataka	165.20	470.70	322.40	4.00	962.30
13	Kerala	0.76	208.56			209.32
14	Madhya Pradesh	30.39	116.88		10.80	158.07
15	Maharashtra	636.01	600.99	105.00	4.00	1346.00
16	Manipur		14.10			14.10
17	Meghalaya		92.13			92.13
18	Mizoram		44.28			44.28
19	Nagaland		59.61			59.61

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
20	Orissa		3.90			3.90
21	Punjab		309.60	68.00		377.60
22	Rajasthan	21.54	71.55			93.09
23	Sikkim		97.80			97.80
24	Tamil Nadu	1,305.70	221.70	457.00	0.92	1985.32
25	Tripura		48.03			48.03
26	Uttar Pradesh		64.50	186.00	4.00	254.50
27	Uttaranchal		185.25			185.25
28	West Bengal	0.46	267.84	268.30		
	Total	2411.30	4315.20	1789.60	42.72	8558.82

Modernisation/Upgradation of Production Units

*492. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal for modernisation/upgradation of some Defence production units during Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds earmarked in this regard, unit-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) An investment of Rs. 1456 crore is envisaged under the Renewal & Replacement (RR) Grant for modernisation of ordnance factories during the Tenth Plan. During 2002-2003, an investment of approximately Rs. 300 crore has been made for modernisation of the Ordnance Factories. Modernisation of the ordnance factories is being carried out to reduce the cost of production, enhance the product quality and bring in flexibility in the product mix. During the process of modernisation, automation is also being introduced in the ordnance factories in selected areas like auto-gantry robots, material handling manipulators, auto-gauging units, automatic packing plants etc. The modernisation process has already commenced in Twenty six ordnance factories. Unit-wise investment proposed to be made under the Renewal & Replacement head for modernization during the period 2002-2007 is given in the enclosed statement.

The Defence Public Sector Undertakings have their own financial resources for modernisation/upgradation of their respective units. However, the three shipyards viz., Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL), Mumbai, Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE), Kolkata and Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), Goa have proposed to modernise/augment some of their facilities through project-aided funds of the Indian Navy. Similarly, Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited has proposed creation of certain facilities for production of cast alloy feed stock for manufacture of blading for Kaveri and SU-30 Engines and for manufacture of high pressure air bottles required by Navy, through funding by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

Statement

As per the perspective plan of the Ordnance Factory Board, the investment proposed to be made, under the Renewal & Replacement head, for modernization of the ordnance factories, during the period from 2002 to 2007, is given in the table that follows:-

(Rs in Crores)		
S.No.	Name of the Factory	Proposed Investment 2002-2007
1	2	3
1.	Heavy Vehicle Factory, Avadi	22.90
2.	Ordnance Factory, Medak	7.54
3.	Metal & Steel Factory, Ishapore	199.02

1	2	3
4.	Ordnance Factory, Muradnagar	23.06
5.	Ordnance Factory, Ambajhari	143.83
6.	Ordnance Factory, Ambernath	26.54
7.	Heavy Alloy Penetrator Project Tiruchirapally	21.30
8.	Ordnance Factory, Katni	17.45
9.	Ordnance Factory, Kanpur	164.4
10.	Field Gun Factory, Kanpur	16.98
11.	Gun & Shell Factory, Cossipore	65.00
12.	Rifle Factory, Ishapore	62.77
13.	Small Arms Factory, Kanpur	26.62
14.	Ordnance Factory, Tiruchirapally	34.23
15.	Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur	78.07
16.	Ordnance Equipment Factory, Kanpur	13.31
17.	Ordnance Parachute Factory, Kanpur	11.29
18.	Ordnance Factory, Khamaria	71.02
19.	Ammunition Factory, Khadki	100.00
20.	Ordnance Factory, Varangaon	14.06
21.	Ordnance Factory, Chanda	18.82
22.	Ordnance Factory, Itarsi	18.75
23.	Ordnance Factory, Bhandara	108.60
24.	Cordite Factory, Aruvankadu	24.66
25.	Ordnance Factory, Dum Dum	12.91
26.	Gun Carriage Factory, Jabalpur	37.00
27.	High Explosive Factory	7.84
28.	Ordnance Factory Dehu Road	5.09
29.	Grey Iron Foundry	11.39
30.	Machine Tool Prototype Factory	12.10
31.	Ordnance Factory Bhusawal	7.47

1	2	3
32.	Ordnance Factory Dehradun	16.16
33.	Engine Factory Avadi	4.69
34.	Opto-electronics Factory Dehra Dun	5.97
35.	Ordnance Equipment Factory, Hazarthpur	6.65
36.	Ordnance Clothing Factory, Avadi	6.23
37.	Ordnance Clothing Factory, Shahjahanpur	18.90
38.	Ordnance Factory, Chandigarh	13.68
Total		1456.3

Introduction of Anti-Collision Device

*493. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Northern Railway has decided to introduce Anti-collision device on all its major routes as reported in 'The Hindu' dated April 1, 2003;

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

(c) whether any plan has been formulated to implement the same in the entire railways; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR):

(a) and (b) No, Sir. A work of provision of Anti-Collision Device (ACD) on only one section, i.e. Jalandhar-Amritsar of Northern Railway has been sanctioned in this year's works programme.

(c) and (d) It is proposed to provide, ACD system on Indian Railways progressively. To start with provision of ACD on about 3,500 route Kms. of Northeast Frontier Railway, Southern Railway, South Central Railway and Northern Railway have been taken up. Besides, ACD survey have been sanctioned on additional 10,000 route Kms, to cover selected routes on Indian Railways.

Since, ACD has been developed indigenously by Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd., Indian Railways propose to procure these devices through Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd.

Power Supply Position in Summer

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that the ensuing summer is going to be very difficult for people due to shortage of power;

(b) if so, the estimated peak load status for the summer and the estimated supply; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Union Government to bridge the gap?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) There is an overall shortage of power availability in the country except some States. The gap between demand and supply varies from State to State and region to region.

(b) The All India energy shortage during the ensuing summer is anticipated to vary from 2.9% to 8.8%, compared to 8% to 10.7% during the April-July, 2002. The All India peaking load shortage is expected to vary from 10.5% to 14.7% during April-July, 2003 as compared to 14.5% to 16.2% during the corresponding period of 2002.

(c) Electricity is a concurrent subject. Supply and distribution of electricity in a State is the responsibility of the State Government/State Power Utility concerned. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments by way of capacity addition through the Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs). Presently, about 30% of the total power generated in the country comes from the Central generating stations.

The following steps are being taken to improve the generation and availability of power in the country:

- (i) A capacity addition of 41,110 MW has been targeted for 10th Five Year Plan.
- (ii) Early stabilization of newly commissioned units and overall increase in PLF of thermal units.
- (iii) Strengthening/Augmentation of sub-transmission and distribution systems. Funds are being provided for undertaking schemes for transmission and distribution systems to States under the accelerated power development & Reforms Programme (APDRP).
- (iv) Demand side management and Promoting energy efficiency and energy conservation measures.

(v) Disbursement of loans with interest subsidy by the Power Finance Corporation for renovation and modernization of old and inefficient generating units.

(vi) Enhancement of inter-state and inter-regional power transfer by strengthening of inter-regional transmission links and finally formation of National Grid.

(vii) Exploitation of hydro potential at a faster pace.

(viii) A major cause for power projects not materializing has been the poor paying capacity of the State Utilities which are the ultimate purchasers of power from the private sector projects and CPSUs. A number of steps have been initiated to reform and restructure the State Power Utilities. 27 States have already signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for undertaking reforms and restructuring in a time bound manner. Further, to bring about reforms in distribution, Ministry of Power has launched the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme as a major step towards reduction of aggregate transmission and commercial losses and attaining commercial viability of the power sector. 27 State Electricity Boards/Utilities have signed Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Ministry of Power which is a pre-requisite for release of APDRP funds. The commitments of the State Government in these MoUs/MoAs include setting up of the State Electricity Regulatory Commission, 100% metering of 11 KV feeders, effective energy audit, identification and elimination of power theft and thereby attainment of commercial viability in distribution.

Board of Directors of PSUs

*495. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued any guidelines for inducting professionals on the Board of Directors of the public sector undertakings;

(b) if so, the guidelines issued in this regard along with the names of the public sector undertakings, which are not being represented by professionals on their Board of Directors;

(c) the names of the public sector undertakings, whose Board of Directors are being reconstituted;

(d) the names of the public sector undertakings having vacancies on their Board of Directors along with the number thereof in each of the public sector undertaking; and

(e) the time by which the Government propose to fill up these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (e) The Government have issued guidelines for inducting professionals on the Board of Directors of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) vide DPE OM No. 18(6)/91-GM dated 16.3.1992 and DPE OM No. 18(6)/2000-GM dated 26.11.2001. According to the aforesaid guidelines, the number of non-official (professional) Directors on the Boards of PSUs should be at least 1/3rd of the actual strength of the Board and in the case of listed companies, headed by executive Chairman, the number should be at least half of the Board. The Boards of 89 PSUs out of 240 (as per Public Enterprises Survey, 2001-02) have been reconstituted by inducting professional Directors. The names of these PSUs are given in the enclosed statement.

There is no fixed number of posts for professional Directors as the above mentioned guidelines lay down the ratio of such professional Directors, and the actual number may vary from time to time depending upon the strength of the respective Board at that time and as per the Articles of Association of respective PSUs. Vacancies also arise due to various reasons like completion of tenure, resignation, etc. Vacant posts are filled up by following the prescribed procedure which is a continuous process.

Statement

Names of Public Sector Undertakings (Ministry-wise) where Professional Directors are Inducted

Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers **D/O Chemicals & Petrochemicals**

1. Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
2. Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.

Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers **Department of Fertilizers**

3. Fertilizers & Chemicals (Travancore) Ltd.
4. National Fertilizers Ltd.
5. Rashtriya Chemicals And Fertilizers Ltd.

Ministry of Civil Aviation

6. Air India Ltd.

7. Airline Allied Services Ltd.

Ministry of Commerce & Industry **D/O Commerce**

8. Export Credit Guarantee Corpn. of India Ltd.
9. India Trade Promotion Organisation
10. MMTC Ltd.

Ministry of Communications & Information Technology **D/O Telecommunications**

11. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.
12. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.
13. Telecommunications Consultants (India) Ltd.

Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution **D/O Food & Public Distribution**

14. Food Corporation of India

Ministry of Defence **D/O Defence Production and Supplies**

15. Bharat Electronics Ltd.
16. Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd.
17. Goa Shipyard Ltd.
18. Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.
19. Mazagon Dock Ltd.
20. Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd.

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare **Dept. of Health**

21. Hospital Services Consultancy Corp. (India) Ltd.

Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises **D/O Heavy Industry**

22. Andrew Yule & Company Ltd.
23. Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.
24. Bharat Heavy Plate & Vessels Ltd.
25. Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd.
26. Bharat Leather Corpn. Ltd.

27. Bharat Wagon & Engg. Co. Ltd.
28. Bharat Yantra Nigam Ltd.
29. Braithwaite & Co. Ltd.
30. Bridge & Roof Co. (India) Ltd.
31. Engineering Projects (India) Ltd.
32. Heavy Engineering Corpn. Ltd.
33. Hindustan Paper Corporation Ltd.
34. Hindustan Newsprint Ltd.
35. Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Corpn. Ltd.
36. Hindustan Salts Ltd.
37. National Instruments Ltd.
38. NEPA Ltd.
39. Richardson & Cruddas (1972) Ltd.
40. Triveni Structurals Ltd.
41. Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd.
42. Tyre Corporation of India Ltd.

**Ministry of Human Resource Development
D/O Secondary Education & Higher Education**

43. Educational Consultants (India) Ltd.

Ministry of Information & Broadcasting

44. National Film Dev. Corpn. Ltd.

Ministry of Mines

45. Hindustan Copper Ltd.
46. Mineral Exploration Corpn. Ltd.
47. National Aluminium Company Ltd.

Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources

48. Indian Renewable Energy Devt. Agency Ltd.

Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas

49. Bharat Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.
50. Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd.

51. GAIL (India) Ltd.

52. Hindustan Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.

53. IBP Co. Ltd.

54. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.

55. Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.

Ministry of Power

56. National Hydroelectric Power Corpn. Ltd.

57. National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd.

Ministry of Railways

58. Container Corporation of India Ltd.

59. Indian Railway Finance Corporation Ltd.

60. IRCON (International) Ltd.

61. RITES Ltd.

**Ministry of Science & Technology
Dept. of Biotechnology**

62. Bharat Immunological & Biologicals Corp. Ltd.

**Ministry of Science & Technology
Dept. of Scientific & Industrial Research**

63. Central Electronics Ltd.

64. National Research Development Corpn. of India.

Ministry of Shipping

65. Cochin Shipyard Ltd.

66. Dredging Corpn. of India Ltd.

67. Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.

68. Shipping Corporation of India Ltd.

Ministry of Small Scale Industries

69. National Small Industries Corpn. Ltd.

Ministry of Steel

70. Bharat Refractories Ltd.

71. Kudremukh Iron Ore Co. Ltd.

72. MSTC Ltd.
 73. Manganese Ore (India) Ltd.
 74. Mecon Ltd.
 75. National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.
 76. Steel Authority of India Ltd.

Ministry of Textiles

77. Central Cottage Industries Corpn. of India Ltd.
 78. Cotton Corpn. of India Ltd.
 79. Handicrafts & Handlooms Exports Corp. India Ltd.
 80. National Handlooms Development Corporation Ltd.
 81. National Jute Corporation Ltd.

Ministry of Urban Dev. and Poverty Alleviation D/O Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation

82. Housing & Urban Dev. Corpn. Ltd.

Ministry of Urban Devpt. & Poverty Alleviation D/O Urban Development

83. National Bldg. Constn. Corpn. Ltd.

Ministry of Water Resources

84. Water & Power Consultancy Services (India) Ltd.

Dept. of Atomic Energy

85. Electronics Corpn. of India Ltd.
 86. Indian Rare Earths Ltd.
 87. Uranium Corporation of India Ltd.

Dept. of Development of North Eastern Region

88. North Eastern Handicrafts & Handloom Dev. Corpn. Ltd.

Dept. of Space

89. Antrix Corporation Ltd.

Terrorist Attack on Oil Installations in J&K and North-East

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

- (a) whether terrorists targeted oil installations in Jammu in March 2003 killing and injuring several people;
 (b) if so, the details thereof;
 (c) the details of incidents of terrorist attacks on oil installation in Jammu & Kashmir and North-East during 2002-03; and
 (d) the steps taken to ensure safety of oil installations in sensitive areas?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b): There was an incident of explosion of a bomb implanted in a contractor's tank truck No. JK-02-Q-327 parked alongwith another tank truck outside Jammu Depot of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) in front of the emergency gate of depot of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited at around 0745 hrs. on 26th March, 2003. One cleaner expired on the spot and 4-5 persons including driver of the tank truck and its crew were injured in the incident. Another tank truck parked beside was also extensively damaged due to fire.

(c) In Jammu & Kashmir no other instance of terrorist attack on oil installation had been reported. As regards North-East, details are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(d) The details are given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

Details of Incidents of Terrorist Attacks on Oil Installations in North-East during 2002-03

Sl. No.	Name of the oil PSU	Brief of the incident	Loss incurred (estimated)
1	2	3	4
1	Indian Oil Corporation Limited	1. Digboi- Tinsukia Petroleum product pipeline blown up about 17 km. away from Digboi town by a blast on 21st January, 2003 at around 0200 hrs. The damaged section of pipeline was repaired in 44 hrs. and operation normalized.	Rs. 22.42 lakh
2		2. On 7th March, 2003 at around 1145 hrs. a fire broke out in a petrol tank in the Digboi Refinery	Rs. 14.47 crore

1	2	3	4
		Tank Farm. The fire was completely extinguished at 1215 hrs. on 10th March, 2003.	
II Oil India Limited	On 8th March, 2003 at around 0120 hrs. there was an incident of explosion and huge fire in one 8 inch gas pipeline and another 10 inch gas pipeline between oil and gas collection stations of Kathalguri outside the boundary wall of Kathalguri oil collection Station in Dibrugarh District.		Rs. 25 lakh.

Statement-II

Details of Steps Taken to Ensure Safety of Oil Installations in Sensitive Areas

Apart from safety measures in line with Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD) guidelines, the following safety and security measures are adopted for refineries, oil installations and petroleum & natural gas pipelines in the sensitive areas:

- Strict Access control is enforced.
- Gadgets like HHMD, Explosive detectors are used to check personnel and vehicles.
- Sniffer dogs are pressed into service to check for explosives at random.
- Provision of boundary wall of 3 metres plus 0.6 metre barbed wire fencing at all locations.
- Round the clock patrolling by CRPF, CISF, Home guards, State Police and Army outside the boundary walls.
- Helicopter patrolling in Assam sector as well as in West Bengal and Bihar.
- Regular meetings with airport authority, Police, IAF authorities at aviation fuel stations.
- Close liaison with intelligence (Core) group of State Police and District authorities.
- Sharing of intelligence between the in-house intelligence cell and local army/police authorities on regular basis.
- Periodical monitoring of safety and security measures through Intelligence Bureau team.

[Translation]

Policy for Advertisements on Doordarshan

*497. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI:

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL:

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

(a) whether in spite of directions issued by the Ministry regarding not to advertise commercial on liquor and sexist/vulgar, the satellite T.V. channels are continuing to show them;

(b) if so, whether the satellite T.V. channels paid little or no heed to notices issued by the Ministry in the month of February, 2003;

(c) if so, the total number of satellite T.V. channels which have not adhered to the Government orders;

(d) whether a demand is being made for formulating a policy or pre-censorship for commercial advertisements before these are beamed to the public;

(e) if so, whether the Government have considered this demand so far;

(f) whether any discussions have been held with the representatives of the advertising standard council impressing upon them to observe self-regulating measures in the matter of advertisements;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ban such type of advertisements on T.V. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Advertisements on all satellite channels transmitted or re-transmitted through the Cable network are required to adhere to the provisions of the Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. The Advertising Code provides, inter-alia, that no advertisement shall be transmitted, which directly or indirectly promotes production, sale, consumption of tobacco, wine, alcohol, liquor and other intoxicants or which glorifies obscenity, offends morality/decency, projects a derogatory image of women, or has an indecent/vulgar theme.

The Government has constituted a Committee under

Section 20 of the Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act, 1995 comprising officers from the Ministries of Information and Broadcasting, Law, Women and Child Development, Health and Family Welfare and a representative from the Advertising Standards Council of India to look into the violations of the Advertising Code.

Orders have been issued to television channels directing them not to telecast 11 (eleven) advertisements of liquor products, which were found to be in violation of the Advertising Code. In the year 2003, Show Cause Notices have been issued to various television channels for telecasting advertisements in violation of the Code.

(d) and (e) There are inherent practical limitations on pre-censorship of TV programmes but violation of Programme & Advertisement Codes is an offence punishable with imprisonment/fine under the Cable Television Networks Act.

(f) and (g) Representative of the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) is a member of the Committee constituted under Section 20 of the Cable Act to look into the violations of the Advertising Code. A meeting was also held recently with the ASCI regarding concerns about advertisements telecast on TV channels.

(h) Complaints/suggestions regarding violations of the Code are looked into from time to time. This is a continuous and on-going process.

[English]

Procedure for Acquiring Weapons

*498. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA:

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the acquisition of weapon system has been delayed over 20 years;

(b) if so, main reasons therefor and the utility of a weapon system acquired after a lapse of 20 years;

(c) whether the procedure followed in acquiring weapons is faulty in many aspects;

(d) if so, the reasons for not changing the procedure for a long time;

(e) whether the setting up of a Procurement Board with the Defence officials has helped;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to overcome the shortage in armament and equipment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): (a) and (b) Acquisition of weapon systems is done both through import as well as indigenous development. Delays do, at times, occur in both modes of acquisition. Delays in import are owing to short listing of technologies, availability through desired vendors, obtaining assurances from other Governments on product support, trial evaluation, and attempts to obtain reasonable prices. Indigenous development is hampered mainly because of inadequate technological base in the country. However, it is ensured that on induction the system meets current requirements.

(c) and (d) Defence procurement is being carried out under the various systems and procedures devised from time to time. They have been improved, based on the experience gained over the years. The Defence Procurement Procedure 1992 followed in the Ministry of Defence has been revised in December, 2002.

(e) and (f) A Defence Procurement Board has been set up in October, 2001. This is an institutional arrangement which functions within the Ministry of Defence having, inter-alia, representatives of the Services and Finance. It oversees all activities relating to acquisition in the capital account. With this institutional change, during the year 2001-2002, 174 contracts valued at Rs. 12,488 crores have been finalised, while during the year 2002-2003, 183 contracts valued at Rs. 34,198 crores have been finalised.

(g) Institutional arrangements have been set up to determine the long term requirements of the Services; the public sector is being modernised and defence equipment production has been opened up for private sector investment. Procurement procedures have been revised to facilitate quicker imports without compromising on technical parameters.

Investment in Power Generation

*499. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of investment in power generation by public and private sectors;

(b) whether the Government has taken adequate steps to improve the conditions for investment in these sectors; and

(c) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) to (c) From 1st Plan to 9th Plan total public sector investment in the power sector (including generation) is estimated to be Rs. 2,85,576.33 crores. Figures regarding actual investment by private sector in the power sector are not maintained. However, the private power projects Commissioned/under construction and have been accorded Techno-Economic Clearance envisage total investment of around DM 238.49 million + US\$ 4950.52 million and Rs.13,515.16 crore. The installed power generation capacity in the country as on 31.3.2003 is 1,07,972.80 MW comprising 96,104.98 in the public sector, and remaining 11867.82 MW in the private sector. A capacity of 22,011.92 MW is under execution, comprising 19,477.92 MW in the public sector and 2,534 MW in the private sector.

Government have been reviewing and taking necessary steps from time to time to facilitate and enhance investment in power generation projects. In the 10th Plan the plan outlay for public sector investment in the central sector has been increased about three times. The new Electricity Bill creates a more liberal framework for private sector investment.

[Translation]

Financial Investment in Dabhol Power Project

*500. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the capital of national and international financial institutions is invested in the Dabhol Power Project;

(b) if so, the details of capital invested by the

national and international financial institutions in this project, as on date:

(c) whether the Union Government have given guarantee for the protection of this capital investment; and

(d) if so, the quantum of the capital investment for which the Government have given guarantee?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) A number of national and international Financial Institutions have extended loans to Dabhol Power Company (DPC).

(b) The details of exposure of the Financial Institutions to DPC as on January 1, 2003 are indicated in the enclosed statement.

(c) The Government of India (GOI) has issued a counter guarantee to DPC for payment obligations of Government of Maharashtra (GOM) under the GOM guarantee in regard to Phase-I (740 MW) of the Dabhol power project. The counter guarantee covers some of the energy and capacity payments as well as some termination payments and gets invoked in the event of the Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) failing to make payments to DPC under the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) and the GOM as the primary guarantor also failing to make such payments.

(d) Obligations of the GOI under the counter guarantee are limited to payments (covering some of the energy and capacity charges) upto Rs. 1500 crores per annum, which amount is escalable based on certain parameters specified in the counter guarantee agreement. In the event of termination of the Power Purchase Agreement, the counter guarantee also covers outstanding foreign debt repayments limited to US \$ 300 million.

Statement

*Dabhol Power Company
Summary of Principal Outstanding as on January 1, 2003*

(1 US\$ = Rs.49.50)

Lenders	US \$ Million	Rs. Crore	Remarks
1	2	3	4
I OPIC			
Phase I	78.00	386.10	Project Risk, but payment on termination of PPA guaranteed by GOI
Phase II	60.00	297.00	Project risk
Sub-total (OPIC Loans)	138.00	683.10	

	1	2	3	4
II Off-shore banks				
1 Phase-I Loans \$		90.00	445.50	Project risk, but payment on termination of PPA guaranteed by GOI
2 Phase-I Rupee Loan of Bank Am		2.75	13.59	
3 Phase-II Loans		220.13	1089.65	Project risk
Sub-total (off-shore banks with project risk)		312.88	1548.74	
Total of OPIC Plus off-shore banks (with project risk)		450.88	2231.84	
III US EXIM (Phase-I)		164.00	811.80	Guaranteed by the IFIs
IV JBIC/MITI Banks (Phase-II)				
JBIC (other than MITI banks)		210.68	1042.87	Guaranteed by the Indian Financial Institutions (IFIs)
Foreign Banks in the MITI Syndicate		113.60	562.33	Guaranteed by the IFIs
Sub-total (JBIC/MITI Banks) - Phase-II		324.28	1605.19	Guaranteed by the IFIs
V Foreign Banks in the OND Syndicate (Phase II)		52.89	261.81	Guaranteed by the IFIs
VI Indian Financial Institutions				
A Fund based				
1 Phase-I Rupee Loans			191.77	
2 Phase-II Rupee Loans			1171.78	
3 Demand Loans - Phase-I			242.54	
4 Demand Loans - Phase-II			331.66	
5 Dollar denominated Loans in Phase-II		190.31	942.03	
6 Guaranteed Loans of SBI in the OND syndicate (Guaranteed by IFIs)		10.47	51.83	
Total			2931.61	
B Guarantee Exposure (including the guarantee in respect of SBI Loan in the OND Syndicate at VI A 6 above)				

1	2	3	4
IDBI	240.69	1191.42	
ICICI	143.26	709.16	
IFCI	50.39	249.41	
SBI	107.85	533.88	
Canara Bank	9.45	46.78	
Sub Total	551.64	2730.62	
Total Exposure of IFIs (E+F)		5610.41	
Grand total of Principal Outstanding		7842.25	

Abbreviations:

OPIC - Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

IDBI - Industrial Development Bank of India

IFCI - Industrial Finance Corporation of India

JBIC - Japan Bank for International Cooperation

ICICI - Industrial Credit & Investment Corporation of India

SBI - State Bank of India

*[English]***White Paper on Railway Projects**

*501. SHRI ASHOK N.MOHOL:

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways had published white paper on the status of on-going railway projects;

(b) if so, the number of on-going railway projects still incomplete after publication of white paper, zone-wise;

(c) the present position of these projects and expenditure incurred thereon so far;

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed;

(e) the number of projects out of them which have been dropped alongwith the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Railways has any proposal to publish another white paper on the status of on-going projects; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the White Paper on Railway Projects tabled in both the Houses of the Parliament on 28.7.1998, status of 214 number of ongoing projects was given. Out of this, 69 number projects have already been completed in various years upto March 2003. However, many new projects have been added in the subsequent years and as on 1.4.2003, there are 233 number of projects which are in progress/yet to be taken up and the Railway wise details are as under:

Sl.No.	Railway	Number of Projects
1	2	3
1	Central	10
2	Eastern	22
3	East Central	23
4	East Coast	16
5	Northern	19
6	North Central	12
7	North Eastern	6
8	Northeast Frontier	13
9	North Western	10

1	2	3
10	Southern	22
11	South Central	20
12	South Eastern	8
13	South East Central	6
14	South Western	14
15	Western	10
16	West Central	01
17	Railway Electrification	13
18	Metropolitan Transport Project (MTP), Mumbai	4
19	Metropolitan Transport Project (MTP), Chennai	2
20	Metro Railway, Kolkata	2

(c) The projects are in various stages of progress. The approximate expenditure incurred on the ongoing and completed projects up to 31.3.2003, which are appearing in the Pink Book, is about Rs.22125 crore.

(d) The completion of these projects would depend upon availability of resources.

(e) No project has been dropped.

(f) and (g) At present, there is no proposal to again publish the White Paper on the status of the projects.

[Translation]

Appointment of Dealer

4813. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the various public sector oil companies had made the process of appointing dealers 'open' as a result of which some petrol pumps had been installed and some were in the process of installation;

(b) if so, whether the oil companies put a restriction on the said policy during February/March, 2003 as a result of which the heavy investment made by applicants and company has stopped;

(c) if so, whether approval of his Ministry was taken in implementing and discontinuing with the said policy; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of applicants in cases where the process of appointing dealers had started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Two of the public sector oil companies have conducted some interviews for selection of retail outlet dealers as per the policy drafted by them. Further action in these cases will be taken after the finalisation of the policy/guidelines in this regard.

[English]

RPO Dealers Commission

4814. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have already approved the formula to increase the RPO dealers commission to materialise the impact of price hike;

(b) if so, whether the oil PSUs are following this formula with each price hike; and

(c) if not, the appellate authority for getting the relief against the arbitrary act of the oil PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) With the dismantling of the 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 have last revised the dealers' commission effective 1.11.2002. As per this revision, the dealers' commission on petrol was increased from Rs.613/KL to Rs.639/KL and on diesel from Rs.365/KL to Rs.385/KL.

Inspection of Petrol Pumps by Anti Adulteration Cell

4815. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

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

(a) whether the Government have formulated/

created Anti-Adulteration Cell to check complaints of adulteration at the petrol pumps;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the objective and powers entrusted with this cell;

(c) the number of inspections conducted by Anti-Adulteration Cell under different control orders other than the MS and HSD order 1998 and number of cases of unauthorised diversion of solvent, Naphtha & Kerosene used by petrol pumps for adulteration;

(d) whether the Government are also aware that AAC is conducting the inspections of petrol pumps only and has not raided/inspected the business premises under Naphtha Control Order, LPG Control Order, Furnace Oil Control Orders etc.;

(e) if so, the motive of this cell to conduct inspections on the petrol pumps only, specially in the night hours;

(f) the detail of cases of violation by AAC came to the notice of Government; and

(g) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the erring officials to stop unnecessary harassment of petrol dealers and to honour the provisions of CRPC ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Anti Adulteration Cell (AAC) has been empowered under the following control orders to conduct inspections. Powers of search and seizure have also been given to the officers of this Cell.

- (i) Naphtha (Acquisition, Sale, Storage and Prevention of Use in Automobile) Order, 2000
- (ii) Solvent, Raffinate and Slop (Acquisition, Sale Storage and Prevention of Use in Automobile) Order, 2000
- (iii) Petroleum Products (Maintenance of Production, Storage and Supply) Order, 1999
- (iv) Motor Spirit and High speed diesel (Regulation of Supply and Distribution and Prevention of Malpractices) Order, 1998
- (v) Kerosene (Restriction on Use and Fixation of Ceiling Price) Order, 1993

(vi) Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000

(viii) Lubricating Oils and Greases (Processing, Supply and Distribution regulation) Amendment Order, 1987

(c) The number of inspections conducted by AAC under the different control orders other than MS & HSD Control Order, 1998 is as follows:-

Control Order	No. of Inspections
(i) Naphtha & Solvent	78
(ii) Liquefied Petroleum Gas	6
(iii) Kerosene	13
(iv) Lube	3

(d) and (e) AAC is conducting inspections of petrol pumps as well as Business premises under the Naphtha Control Order, LPG Control Order and Solvent Control Order. AAC quite often conducts the inspections during the night hours since most of the adulteration activities take place during the night hours and it is possible to catch the culprits red-handed at that time. Moreover, inspections of outlets during the day time is likely to cause more inconvenience to the general public.

(f) No, such case has come to the notice of the Government.

(g) Does not arise.

LPG Distributorship in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka

4816. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have received representations from some Members of Parliament for setting up of LPG distributorships in various districts of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The representations received from Members of Parliament from time to time for setting up of LPG distributorships at various locations are forwarded to Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for conducting feasibility studies of these locations. Consequent upon the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM), OMCs are free to choose locations and set up LPG distributorships as per their commercial considerations in the States.

Non-Completion of Hydel Power Projects

4817. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

Statement

Delayed Hydro Ongoing Electric Power Projects

Name of Project	State	Capacity (MW)	Comm. Sch. Original/ Latest	Estimated cost Original/ Latest (Price Level) (Rs. Crores)	Reasons for Delay
Dhauliganga (NHPC)	Uttaranchal	280.00	1998-99/ 2004-05	601.98(12/89)/ 1578.31(8/99)	Delay in tying up of funding, acquisition of land and resettlement problems.
Dulhasti (NHPC)	J&K	390.00	July, 1994/ Dec., 2003	1262.97(10/88)/ 3559.77(11/96)	Law and order problem, withdrawal of French Consortium, poor geological strata encountered in Head Race Tunnel (Upstream) and rock burst leading to burial of Tunnel Boring Machine.
Nathpa Jhakri (NJPC)	H.P.	1500.00	Dec.01 to March, 02/ March,03 to Dec., 03	1578.02(12/88)/ 7666.31(6/98)	Landslide and need for rock stabilization work, flash floods in July/ August, 2000, rock fall in desilting chamber no. 3 & 4 during May, 2000 and shot crate/rock falls in the desilting chamber no.4 during Sept.-Oct. 2002. Additional protection measures had to be taken.
Sardar Sarovar	Guj/ MP/ Mah.	1450.00	1994-96/ 2003-07	1551.86 (86- 87)/ 3267.25 (96-97)	Resettlement problems, agitations, court cases and withdrawal of World Bank funding.
Bansagar Tons PH-IV	M.P.	20.00	1996-97/ 2005-06	51.06(9/90)/ 84.97(2000)	Fund constraints, delay in finalising the executing agency and relief and rehabilitation problems.
Ghatghar PSS	Mah.	250.00	1995-96/ 2004-05	485.96 (1992)/ 1184.60 (99-00)	Delay in land acquisition and award of major works etc.
Srisaillam LBPH	A.P.	900.00	1993-95/ 2002-03	418.00 (85-86)/ 2620.00 (01-02)	750 MW commissioned. Delay in award and slow progress of civil works etc.
Pykara Ultimate	T.N.	150.00	1994-95/ 2003-04	70.16(87-88)/ 373.06(98-99)	Delay in award of civil and mechanical works.
Karbi Langpi (Lower Borpani)	Assam	100.00	1985-86/ 2004-05	36.37(1979)/ 470.86	Delayed due to frequent changes in executing agencies, fund constraints.

(a) the details of the hydel projects which were sanctioned more than 10-15 years ago and have not yet been completed and are providing a drain on the National Exchequer; and

(b) the reasons therefor and the details of the cost of such projects increased during all these years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Details of incomplete Hydro-electric Projects sanctioned 10-15 years ago indicating reasons for their delay and latest estimated cost are given in the enclosed statement.

Repeating of Programmes/Matches on T.V.

4818. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the repeated screening of various programmes specially the World Cricket Series on TV is leading to tiredness of the viewers through this cheap exploitation of the TV Companies;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that this may also seriously affected the natural interest of the viewers in Cricket and other sports and programmes specially since the programmes are massively covered by advertisement which are sapping the viewer patience;

(c) if so, details thereof alongwith the reasons therefore; and

(d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Prasar Bharati a statutory, autonomous corporation, has informed that all efforts are made by them to telecast a number of sporting events - both international and national on all Doordarshan Channels. Doordarshan has signed agreements with all major sporting federations for exclusive telecasts of sporting events on Doordarshan Channels.

(b) Prasar Bharati has informed that care is taken by them to telecast the advertisements in the natural breaks without affecting the flow of the match in cricket and other sporting events so that action on the field is not compromised.

(c) and (d) Questions do not arise.

Service Period

4819. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to reduce the period, for pension for Personnel Below the Officer Rank (PBOR) in Army from 33 years, as a soldier is not allowed to remain in service for more than 17 years of service; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Infiltration of Jihadis

4820. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'ISI ready to unleash Jihadis on Kashmir' appearing in The Hindustan Times dated April 2, 2003;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether there is any intelligence report about the spurt increase in terrorist infiltrations from across the border would be taken place when the ice melt; and

(d) the action taken by the Defence forces to stop such infiltrations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Terrorists of various groups are located in different launching pads in Pak Occupied Kashmir close to the Line of Control, ready to infiltrate into Jammu & Kashmir at short notice.

(c) There is no credible evidence to suggest that Pakistan has made sincere efforts to stop cross border terrorism and infiltration into India. Despite Pakistan President's commitments to end cross border infiltration into India on a permanent basis, infiltration across border continues at a significant scale. There are indications to suggest that the level of infiltration may increase typically, like that in previous years, when the snow over the mountains in J&K recedes.

(d) Adequate military measures have been taken to intercept and eliminate terrorist groups attempting to infiltrate into Jammu & Kashmir. In addition to appropriate security measures to curb cross border infiltration, appropriate and necessary diplomatic steps are taken continuously to apprise the international community about Pakistan's continued support to cross border infiltration into India.

[Translation]

National Commission for Welfare of Disabled

4821. SHRI VISHNUDEO SAI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the schemes for disabled persons in the country;
- (b) the State-wise population of disabled persons;
- (c) whether there is any proposal relating to setting up a National Commission for the welfare of the people of this section;
- (d) whether the welfare commissioners appointed for the welfare of such people will be appointed from the disabled section or who have experienced the pain of having disability; and
- (e) if not, the criterion fixed for the appointment of welfare commissioners from this section?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is supporting six National Institutes/Apex level Institutions set up in each major area of disability which work, inter-alia towards, manpower development through long term and short term training programmes, provide rehabilitation services, undertake functional research etc. The Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), a public sector undertaking under the aegis of this Ministry manufactures and promotes availability, supply and distribution of quality aids and appliances for persons with disabilities. The National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation (NHFDC), set up in 1997, provides financial assistance to persons with disabilities on soft terms for self-employment and income generating activities. Schemes are also under implementation for providing support to non-government organizations running programmes for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. The Government has also taken initiatives for ensuring wider coverage and holistic rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. Over hundred districts have been identified for setting up District Centers with the objective of providing comprehensive rehabilitation services. Schemes are also under implementation for setting up Composite Regional Centres for providing composite rehabilitation services and Regional Rehabilitation Centres (RRCs) for persons with spinal injuries and other orthopaedic disabilities. Besides, the National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (NPRPD) scheme has been approved in the State sector for creating infrastructure at State/District/ Block and Gram Panchayat level for providing comprehensive rehabilitation services. The National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities set up in 2000 extends support to registered organizations to provide need based services during periods of crises in the family of the persons with disability and also

promotes measures for care and protection of these persons in the event of death of their parents or guardians.

(b) Information on population of disabled persons, as per the NSSO survey, 1991 is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Section 57 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 empowers the Central Government to appoint a Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities. This Section also stipulates that the Chief Commissioner should have special knowledge or practical experience in respect of matters relating to rehabilitation. Similar provisions are also made in respect of appointment of Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in States. Persons with Disabilities can also be considered for these posts provided they are otherwise eligible.

Statement

State-wise details of physically disabled people as per the survey conducted by NSSO in 1991

S. No.	Name of the State	Estimate number of persons with disabilities (in lakhs)
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	15.72
2	Assam	2.71
3	Bihar	13.61
4	Gujarat	6.95
5	Haryana	3.04
6	Himachal Pradesh	1.40
7	Karnataka	8.76
8	Kerala	5.56
9	Madhya Pradesh	12.87
10	Maharashtra	18.19
11	Orissa	7.20
12	Punjab	5.31

1	2	3
13	Rajasthan	7.23
14	Tamil Nadu	12.36
15	Uttar Pradesh	25.50
16	West Bengal	11.79
All India		161.54

Note: 1: Figure includes (i) visual, (ii) hearing, (iii) Speech and (iv) locomotors disability.

Note: 2: For the remaining States/UTs, results are not presented, as the sample size was not considered large enough to provide reliable estimates. However, the results presented at the All-India level include all the States/ UTs. Around 2-3% of children suffered from mental retardation. Figures regarding mentally ill are not known.

Full Rake Point at Jabalpur, Rewa and Mandla

4822. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to sanction full rake point at Jabalpur, Rewa and Mandla and half rake point at Niwadi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be sanctioned?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Sipat NTPC Project

4823. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether fresh E.I.A. study has been conducted on changing the 660 MW turbine undertaken in the Sipat NTPC project in Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the final environmental approval has been accorded to this project; and

(d) if so, the terms and conditions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) study was conducted

for Sipat Project of NTPC in Chhattisgarh for a capacity of 2000 MW. Subsequently, the earlier unit configuration was changed from 4x500 MW to 3x660 MW units with installed capacity 1980 MW which is within earlier stipulated 2000 MW. Therefore, there was no requirement for a fresh EIA study. However, impact assessment due to change in unit configuration from 4x500 MW to 3x660 MW was computed and presented to Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOE&F).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The conditions stipulated in the clearance from MOE&F relates, inter-alia, to use of coal from Dipka mines, air quality monitoring near Sonthipahar, provision for retrofitting of Flue Gas De Sulphuriser if required, no removal of earth from ash dyke area for construction activity etc.

[English]

Shortfall in Supply of Petroleum Products

4824. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have asked Reliance Petroleum and Mangalore Refineries and Petrochemicals Limited to ramp up production to bridge any shortfalls in supplies of petroleum products that may occur due to three-day strike by employees of HPCL and BPCL;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if so, the extent to which the Reliance and MRPL have been able to bridge the shortfalls of petroleum products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) During the strike period, BPCL uplifted products from Reliance Petroleum Limited (RPL) and Mangalore Refineries and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) as per the Industry Plan (ILP) that was planned in the beginning of the month. Product Inventories were maintained as desired without any reduction in level. Market demand was met in full except partial dry out at some retail outlets of Kolkatta due to non-supply of product as filling of lorries were obstructed by lorry crews. HPCL refineries at Mumbai & Visakhapatnam were operated without any disruption during the three days of strike. There was no shortfall in supplies of products during this period.

[Translation]

Lohardaga-Tori New Rail Line Project

4825. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of extension work of new rail line between Lohardaga and Tori;
- (b) whether the work on the said project is running as per schedule;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government for timely completion of this project; and
- (e) the allocations made for this work in current budget 2003-04?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Extension work of new line between Lohardaga and Tori is a part of Ranchi-Lohardaga gauge conversion project. Land acquisition is in progress on Lohardaga-Tori section, where full requisition for land measuring 596 acres has been submitted to the State Government. An amount of Rs. 4.10 crore towards the cost of land has been submitted to State Government. Tenders for earthwork have been processed and Bridgework has been taken up.

(b) to (d) The entire project of Ranchi-Lohardaga gauge conversion with extension of the new line up to Tori is being implemented through cost sharing with the State Government for its early completion. The Lohardaga-Tori new line segment is targeted for completion in 2004, subject to the timely availability of resources and land. There has been delay in handing over of land by the State Government. However, the State Government is being actively pursued to expedite the same.

(e) There is no separate budgetary provision for Lohardaga-Tori new line portion of work. Budget outlay proposed for the entire project is Rs. 17.34 crore during the year 2003-04. In addition, Rs. 34 crore will be the share of Jharkhand Government as per the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with them.

Manufacturing of AC-II and AC-III Coaches

4826. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the built operated AC-II and AC-III rail coach manufacturing factories in the country, location-wise;
- (b) the annual manufacturing capacity thereof, factory-wise;
- (c) the production target fixed and achievement made during each of the last two years, factory-wise;
- (d) whether the coaches have also been exported to foreign countries; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) The following two factories manufacture AC-II Tier coaches for Indian Railways:-

1. Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai.
2. Rail Coach Factory (RCF), Kapurthala.

AC-III Tier coaches are manufactured at RCF, Kapurthala.

(b) The installed manufacturing capacity of each of the above factories is 1000 coaches per annum. Out of this, Air-conditioned coaches are manufactured depending upon traffic requirements and availability of funds.

(c) The production target fixed and actual output during the last two years factory-wise, are as under:-

	2001-02		2002-03	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
ICF				
AC-II Tier	60	60	50	50
AC-III Tier	-	-	-	-
Others	941	965	840	894
RCF				
AC-II Tier	18	18	7	7
AC-III Tier	261	261	205	205
Others	925	925	729	732

(d) No, Sir. In the last 3 years, coaches have not been exported from these factories.

(e) Does not arise.

Raising of Platforms with Safety Fund

4827. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry propose to raise the platforms of the small railway stations in the country and also to extend their length;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) The length of platforms are provided/extended based on length of longest stopping train at the station. The height of the platforms is provided as per the laid down norms of the Minimum Essential Amenities. Deficiencies, if any, in this regard are reviewed annually and such works are accordingly proposed in Annual Works Programme. At some stations, the length of the platform is less than the prescribed norms. This is mostly unavoidable because of the space constraints imposed by the yard layout. However, such platforms are also extended whenever yards are remodelled for operational requirements.

Works of raising/extension of Platforms are done primarily under Planhead "Passenger Amenities". The details of major works in progress and new works approved for the current year at various Railway stations are included in the "Works, Machinery and Rolling Stock Programme Part-II" presented to the Parliament along with the Railway Budget Documents. The expenditure under the Planhead "Passenger Amenities" during 2001-02 was Rs. 168.9 crore and it is likely to be Rs. 200.1 crore during 2002-03.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Impact of Reliance Gas in Cauvery Basin

4828. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ICRA has conducted any study on the impact of Reliance gas found in Cauvery basin on the prospects of upcoming LNG projects on Eastern coast;

(b) if so, whether a positive fallout of Reliance discovery of gas is increase of enthusiasm on the part of the bidders for new block; and

(c) if so, the number of new blocks on deep water have been auctioned recently and the pattern of gas/oil sharing arrangement between the ONGC and the bidders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir. Government is not aware of any study conducted by ICRA. However, as per the Hydrocarbon Vision 2025 the demand of Natural Gas is estimated to be 231 million standard cubic meters per day (MMSCMD) in 2006-07. The current supply is only around 65 MMSCMD. The major gas discovery by the consortium of Reliance Industries Ltd., and Niko Resources Ltd., Canada in Krishna-Godavari off-shore basin on the East Coast is expected to produce 25-35 MMSCMD of gas as per the estimates of the consortium. Despite the additionality in gas supply there will remain a large gap between demand and supply. One of the options to meet this gap is through import of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). LNG is under Open General Licence (OGL) list and the import initiatives will be propelled by commercial viability of the respective project.

(b) and (c) Any major discovery of oil and gas is expected to improve the overall perception of the geological perceptivity and enhance the interest of exploration and production companies. Government of India has signed production sharing contracts for 24 deepwater blocks in the first three rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) The profit petroleum under the NELP is a biddable item and is shared between the Government and the contractors.

Power Scam in Kakinada Plant in A.P.

4829. DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO:

SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether power scam in respect of gas fired plant at Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh has been reported;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against those involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes Sir, there have been some news reports about alleged secret pay-offs in regard to the 208 MW Godavari power project in Andhra Pradesh of M/s. Spectrum Power Generation Limited (SPGL).

(b) A news item in 'The Asian Age' of 11th February, 2003 has mentioned about reports in the British Media stating that the Rolls Royce Company (a UK based firm), had allegedly made secret pay-offs to an Indian firm, Towanda Services Ltd., to secure bids for the 'Engineering, Procurement & Construction' (EPC) as well as the O&M contract in relation to the 208 MW Godavari power project being implemented in Andhra Pradesh by M/s. Spectrum Power Generation Limited (SPGL).

The Godavari project is a State Sector project which was awarded to the private company by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The Power Purchase Agreement in respect of the project has been entered into between the private project developers and the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh (GOAP), who were requested for their comments in the matter have informed that there has been a series of allegations and accusations and litigation between the two sets of promoters for the said power project. It has been stated by the State Government that there is no definite information about the authenticity of these documents. Efforts of the Government of Andhra Pradesh to contact the parties involved to find out the confirmation regarding authenticity of their communication also did not yield any response. When asked by the State Government for his comments, the Managing Director of the power project also declined to offer any comments on the subject, because of the pendency of several cases in different courts and "the matters are sub-judice".

Beside allegations of kickbacks from EPC and O&M contractors, GOAP have also informed about allegations of bogus contracts awarded for land and site developments for the Godavari project. The project developers had claimed an amount towards land and site development cost which was higher than that cleared by the Central Electricity Authority. However, the State Government decided not to allow any increase in the capital cost for the project.

(c) Various allegations made with reference to the 208 MW Godavari power project, are sub-judice and the Central Government (Ministry of Power) has not carried out any separate investigation into the matter.

Thermal and Hydel Power Generation

4830. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the present ratio of thermal and hydro power generated in the country;

(b) whether the Government have taken special action to balance the ratio of power generated in thermal and hydro sector during the next Tenth Five Year Plan and investment proposed with new strategy of operation involving active cooperation at the State Governments and neighbouring countries;

(c) if so, the details of review of ongoing projects in thermal/hydro sector in terms of set targets; and

(d) the fresh policy initiatives taken/proposed to attract private and foreign direct investment in Power Sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The ratio of thermal and hydro power in the total installed capacity in the country as on 31.03.2003 was 71% and 25% respectively.

(b) A capacity addition target of 41,110 MW comprising 14393 MW Hydro, 25,417 MW Thermal, and 1,300 MW Nuclear has been fixed for 10th Plan. Effective mechanism has been put in place to ensure timely completion of the projects and achievement of the target during 10th Plan. In addition, power will be imported from Tala Hydro Electric Project (1020 MW) in Bhutan which is also expected to be commissioned in the 10th Plan. With this accelerated hydro power development the declining share of hydro power will be reversed.

(c) Details of ongoing Hydro Electric and Thermal Projects are given in the enclosed statement I and II.

(d) The policy announced in 1991 to encourage greater private sector participation in the power sector has been reviewed from time to time with a view to streamline the procedures for speedy development of the schemes being developed in private sector. Some of the recent policy initiatives taken in this direction are indicted below:-

- i. Power Generation Schemes by Generating Companies having a capital cost of upto Rs.2500 crores have been exempted from the requirement of Techno-Economic Clearance of the Central Electricity Authority wherever the tariff is to be approved by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission or any of the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions.

- ii. Automatic approval (RBI route) for 100% foreign equity without any upper ceiling on the quantum of investment. specified residual fuel oils used as primary fuel for power generation, has been removed.
- iii. The excise duty/counter veiling duty on naphtha as well as Low Sulphur Heavy Stock and other
- iv. With the ongoing reforms and restructuring of the power sector, the confidence of investors/IPPs in power sector is expected to improve and the need for security (escrow cover and guarantees, etc.) for their investments may no longer be necessary.

Statement-I

Ongoing H.E. Projects in the country
(Excluding Renewables under MNES)

As on 15.04.03

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	Sector	LC. No.xMW	Cap. Under Execution (MW)	Comn. Sch. Latest	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Jammu & Kashmir						
1	Dulhaati (NHPC)	Central	3x130	390.00	2003-04	
2	Bagliahar-I	State	3x150	450.00	2004-05	
3	Bagliahar-II	State	3x150	450.00	11th Plan	
4	Sawalkot	State	3x200	600.00	2009-10	
Himachal Pradesh						
5	Chamera St. II (NHPC)	Central	3x100	300.00	2003-04	
6	Parbati St. (NHPC)	Central	4x200	800.00	2009-10	
7	Nathpa Jhakri (NHPC)	Central	6x250	1500.00	2003-04	
8	Kol Dam (NTPC)	Central	4x200	800.00	2008-10	
9	Larji	State	3x42	126.00	2004-05	
10	Kashang	State	2x33	66.00	2006-07	
11	Uhi-III	State	2x50	100.00	11th Plan	
12	Baspa St. II	Private	3x100	100.00	2003-01	U-1 & 2 rolled
13	Dhamwari Sunda	Private	2x35	70.00	2006-07	Financial Closure
Uttaranchal						
14	Tehri St. I (THDC)	Central	4x250	1000.00	2003-04	
15	Koteswar (THDC)	Central	4x100	400.00	2005-06	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
16	Dhauliganga (NHPC)	Central	4x70	280.00	2004-05	
17	Maneri Bhali-II	State	4x76	304.00	2005-06	
18	Vishnu Prayag	Private	4x100	400.00	2006-07	
Madhya Pradesh						
19	Indira Sagar (NHDC)	Central	8x125	1000.00	2003-06	Joint Venture
20	Madhikheda	State	2x20	40.00	2004-05	
21	Bansagar Tons PH IV	State	2x10	20.00	2004-05	
Gujarat						
22	Sardar Sarowar	State	6x200+5x50	1450.00	2002-07	U-2 & 3 of CHPH rolled (Test spun)
Maharashtra						
23	Ghatghar PSS	State	2x125	250.00	2004-05	
Andhra Pradesh						
24	Priyadarshni Jurala	State	6x39.1	235.00	2006-07 (Two Units) & four Units in 11th Plan	
25	Srisailem LBPH	State	6x150	150.00	2000-04	U-1 to 5 Commnd.
Karnataka						
26	Almatti Dam	State	1x15+5x55	290.00	2004-06	
Tamil Nadu						
27	Pykara Ultimate	State	3x50	150.00	2003-05	
28	Bhawani Barrage I	State	2x15	30.00	2004-05	
	II		2x15	30.00	2005-06	
	III		2x15	30.00	2005-06	
West Bengal						
29	Purulia PSS (NHPC)	Central	4x225	900.00	2006-07	Joint Venture
Assam						
30	Kopili St. II (NEEPCO)	Central	1x25	25.00	2003-04	
31	Karbi Langpi (Lower Borpani)	State	2x50	100.00	2004-05	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sikkim						
32	Teesta St. V(NHPC)	Central	3x170	510.00	2006-07	
Meghalaya						
33	Myntdu	State	2x42	84.00	2006-07	
Mizoram						
34	Tuirial (NEEPCO)	Central	2x30	60.00	2006-07	
Total				13390.00		

Statement-II*10th Plan Thermal Power Projects which are under construction*

Sector/State	Project Name	Impl. Agency	Unit No.	Capacity (MW)	Comm. Target	Schedule Act/ Ant.	Est. Appd. Cost (Rs. in Lakhs)	Project Capacity (MW)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Central Sector								
A.P.	Ramagundam STPS-III	NTPC	U-7	500	Aug-2005	Aug-2005	181846	1x500
M.P.	Vindhyachal TPS-III	NTPC	U-09	500	Aug-2006	Jul-2006	412500	2x500
Orissa	Talcher STPS-II	NTPC	U-3	500	Nov. 2003	04.01.03 (A)	6685499	4x500
			U-4	500	Aug 2004	Dec. 2003		
			U-5	500	May 2005	Sep. 2004		
			U-6	500	Feb. 2006	Mar. 2005		
T.N.	Neyveli TPS-I Exp.	NLC	U-1	210	Jun-2002	21.10.02 (A)	159058	2x210
			U-2	210	Dec.-2002	July-2003		
U.P.	Rihand STPS-II	NTPC	U-3	500	Aug.-2005	Aug.-2005	404949	2x500
			U-4	500	May-2006	May-2006		
W.B.	Mejia TPS Ext. 4	DVC	U-4	210	Jul-2004	Jul-2004	79782	1x210
Sub Total :				4630				
State Sector								
Gujarat	Akrimota TPP	GMDCL	U-1	125	Mar-2003	Jun-2004	133842	2x125
			U-2	125	May-2003	Sep-2004		
	Dhuvaran CCPP	GSECL	GT	67.85	Apr.-2003	Apr.-2003	31006	106.617
			ST	38.77	Jun-2003	Jun-2003		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Haryana	TDL (Panipat) TPS	HPGCL	U-7	250	Sep-2004	Sep-2004	178536	2x250
Mizoram	Bairabi DGPP	Power Deptt. Govt. of Mizoram	DGs	22.92	Jul-2003	Jan-2004	8595	4x5.73
M.P.	Birsinghpur TPS Ext.	MPEB	U-1	500	Sep-2006	Sep-2006	209375	1x500
Rajasthan	Kota TPS-IV Suratgarh TPS-III	RRVUNL	U-6 U-5	195 250	Jul-2003 Jun-2003	Jul-2003 Jun-2003	63478 75274	195 1x250
T.N.	Kuttalam CCPM	TNEB	GT ST	64 36	Sep-2003 Oct-2003	Sep-2003 Oct-2003	31111	100
U.P.	Parichha TPS Extn.	UPRVUNL	ST	210	Sep-2006	Jan-2005	170300	2x210
Sub Total :				2134.54				
Private Sector								
A.P.	Ramagundam TPP	BPL Power Project	U-1 U-2	260 260	May-2005 Dec-2005	May-2005 Dec-2005	238906	2x260
Maharashtra	Dabhol CCPP- II	Dabhol Power Company	GTs STs	916 528	Mar-2003	Sep-2004 Sep-2004	560400	1444
Sub Total :				1964.00				
Total:				8728.54				

(A) Indicates actual data of synchronization of the Unit.

[Translation]

**Spreading of Indecent Culture by
Foreign Channels**

4831. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

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

(a) whether the foreign channels are spreading indecent culture through their channels in the country, particularly in major cities; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check invasion of Indian culture and the spread of influence of obscenity through foreign channels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Complaints/suggestions are received from time to time expressing concerns about programmes telecast on TV Channels

The programmes of all Satellite Channels, when transmitted through cable television networks in the country, are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. The Programme Code prohibits carriage of such programmes in Cable Service, which offend good taste or decency, contain anything obscene and are not suitable for unrestricted public exhibition.

Government has constituted two Inter-Ministerial Committees under Section 20 of the Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act 1995, to look into violations of the Programme

and Advertising Code. On the recommendations of these Committees, appropriate action is taken against TV Channels for violation of the provisions of the Codes.

Terrorisation of Railway Passengers

4832. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railway passengers are terrorised because of cases of detection of bombs at railway stations and in trains during recent months;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken or propose to take any effective measure to dispel fear of train passengers; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Though the responsibility to curb crime on Railways lies with the State Governments, the Railway has taken the following steps to supplement the efforts of the State Governments:

- (1) Anti-social elements are being removed from Railway premises and trains by RPF.
- (2) Coach Attendants/TTEs keep proper watch on the passengers' entering/detraining from the coaches.
- (3) FIR forms are made available with the Train Guards/Station Masters/RPF to facilitate the travelling public to lodge their reports immediately.
- (4) Sharing of Special Intelligence and Crime Intelligence between RPF and the GRP is done at all levels.
- (5) Announcements are made through Public Address System and CCTV at important Railway Stations to alert the travelling passengers against any suspicious looking and abandoned objects in

trains and Railway premises. Passengers are warned not to touch the suspicious looking articles, but to inform Police/RPF or Railway authorities.

(6) RPF sniffer dogs, wherever available, are being deployed at Railway platforms, yards etc. to sniff out explosive substances. RPF men are being trained in the identification and detection of explosive devices.

(7) RPF Assistance Posts are provided at important stations to assist passengers in lodging FIRs with Government Railway Police.

(8) Periodic High Level co-ordination Meetings with Government Railway Police and Local Police are conducted to analyze the crime position with a view to taking suitable preventive measures.

[English]

Power Generation from Hydel Power Projects

4833. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the hydel power projects sanctioned by the Union Government during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(b) the names of Indian and Foreign firms which had invested in these projects;

(c) the names of hydel projects for which proposals have been received from the Government of Maharashtra during the above Plan;

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government on each proposal; and

(e) the reasons for their pendency, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The Government of India accords investment sanction in respect of projects to be executed in the Central Sector. The following Hydro-electric Projects were sanctioned during the Ninth Plan:

Sl. No.	Project	State	Capacity	Executing Agency
1.	Chamera Stage-II	H.P.	300 MW	NHPC
2.	Teesta-V	Sikkim	510 MW	NHPC
3.	Loktak Downstream	Manipur	90 MW	NHPC
4.	Indira Sagar	M.P.	1000 MW	NHPC
5.	Koteshwar	Uttaranchal	400 MW	THDC
6.	Kopili Extn. II	Assam	25 MW	NEEPCO
7.	Tuirial	Mizoram	60 MW	NEEPCO

(b) Investment is made by private entities in projects executed in the Private Sector.

The names of Indian and foreign entities which have invested in hydro-electric projects are given below:

1. Vishnu Prayag	Uttaranchal	400 MW	Jai Prakash Power Venture Ltd.
2. Malana	H.P.	86 MW	Malana Power Co. Ltd.
3. Srinagar	Uttaranchal	330 MW	Duncan North Hydro Power Co. Ltd.
4. Dhamwari Sunda	H.P.	70 MW	Dhamwari Power Co. Ltd.

(c) and (d) Government of Maharashtra had submitted the Detailed Project Reports of the following Hydro-electric Schemes during the Ninth Plan for Techno-Economic Clearance of Central Electricity Authority but were returned due to the reasons indicated against these schemes:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Chikhaldara PSS (400 MW) | CEA clearance not felt necessary as estimated cost is not exceeding Rs.1000 crores and the scheme was proposed to be posed to private investors through competitive bidding. |
| 2. Malshej Ghat PSS (600 MW) | Non-compliance of basic inputs/clearances. |
| 3. Humbarli PSS (400 MW) | Unresolved major issues:
(a) Finalization of power evacuation arrangements.
(b) Source of funding.
(c) MoE&F clearance.
(d) Site clearance.
(e) Does not arise. |

(e) Does not arise.

Freight Information System

4834. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways has introduced a freight information system called "Freight Operation Information System (FOIS);

(b) if so, the manner in which this system is to operate;

(c) the number of railway stations in the country to which this system has been introduced;

(d) whether busy stations like Tenali and Guntur were part of this system;

(e) whether this system would keep customers to locate their freight; and

(f) if so, the other steps proposed to implement speedy loading and unloading of wagons?

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

(b) All the information regarding freight train operation is fed into the computerised Freight Operation Information System (FOIS) by the staff in the Divisional Control Offices, major stations & yards as the event occurs/train moves. This information once available on the system can be monitored or viewed from any terminal on the FOIS system.

(c) FOIS terminals have been introduced at 233 locations including control offices, major stations, Railway yards etc.

(d) Guntur Railway Station is already a part of FOIS system. Tenali Railway Station has not been computerised under the current phase.

(e) and (f) At present major customers are being informed of their rake movement position through e-mail. But once FOIS Phase II i.e. Terminal Management System (TMS) is fully implemented, customer will come to know the exact position of their consignment on the basis of invoice no. and or wagon no. etc. Due to availability of information in advance, it is expected to improve planning & consequently improved loading and unloading operations on Indian Railways.

[Translation]

Shifting of Headquarter of PGCI from Faridabad to Lucknow

4835. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited propose to shift its transmission Headquarter of Northern Region from Faridabad to Lucknow;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have

received any representation from Power Grid Corporation of India Limited in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) In April, 2001, the Government of UP had suggested re-location of Northern Region-I Office of POWERGRID from Faridabad, Haryana to Lucknow. POWERGRID had indicated a requirement of 12 acres of land for relocation of the said office in Lucknow. Government of UP have not confirmed the availability of the required land in Lucknow for this purpose. There is, however, no proposal at present of POWERGRID to shift the Headquarter of their Northern Region-I office from Faridabad to Lucknow.

[English]

Setting up of Information Technology Centre at Hyderabad

4836. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have cleared the proposal of Government of Andhra Pradesh for setting up of Information Technology Centre at Hyderabad;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

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

(b) and (c) The proposal is at examination stage. As

Board is yet to take a view on the issue which has long term financial implication, no prediction of time-frame is possible at this juncture.

ONGC Agreement with CIL for Coal Bed Methane Gas

4837. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Coal India Ltd. (CIL) have signed contracts for the exploration and production of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) gas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the particulars of CBM Block contracts signed till date for the exploration and production of CBM in the country;

(d) whether there exists any CBM block in Maharashtra;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which a contract is to be signed for the exploration and production of CBM in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Government has signed contracts with a consortium of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Coal India Ltd. (CIL) in respect of two Coal Bed Methane (CBM) blocks viz. Jharia in Jharkhand and Raniganj in West Bengal for exploration and Production of CBM.

(c) Till date, the Government has signed contracts for eight CBM blocks as per the details given below:-

Sl No.	Name of Block	State	Awardee Contractor
1.	Bokaro	Jharkhand	ONGC-Indian Oil Corporation
2.	North Karanpura	Jharkhand	ONGC-IOC
3.	Sohagpur (East)	Madhya Pradesh	Reliance Industries Ltd.
4.	Sohagpur (West)	Madhya Pradesh	Reliance Industries Ltd.
5.	Raniganj (East)	West Bengal	Essar Oil Ltd.
6.	Raniganj (North)	West Bengal	ONGC-CIL
7.	Jharia	Jharkhand	ONGC-CIL
8.	Raniganj (South)	West Bengal	Great Eastern Energy Corporation Ltd.

(d) to (f) The identification and award of CBM blocks from the States having CBM potential, including Maharashtra, on the basis of international competitive bidding, for Exploration and Production of CBM is a continuous and ongoing process. The contracts are signed after completion of the process of award and subsequent negotiations with the awardee companies for which no time limit can be given.

Systemic Deficiencies and Procedural Lapses in DD Billing

4838. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken note that despite increase in Viewership, programme production centres and Transmitters, gross earning of Doordarshan had declined from Rs. 572.70 crores during 1996-97 to Rs. 400.00 crore during 1998-99.

(b) if so, whether it was due to systemic deficiencies and procedural lapses;

(c) if so, whether persistent irregularities in the trading of commercial time and failure to observe standard commercial practice undermine the weakness of the system;

(d) if so, whether the Government have also taken note of numerous deficiencies like raising of Bills without telecast certificates, wrong billing, poor monitoring of dues realisation in the system;

(e) if so, the facts thereof; and

(f) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to avoid such lapses in future and losses to Doordarshan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (f) C&AG (Comptroller and Auditor General of India) in Para No. 3.2 of his report No.2 of 2002 (Civil) for the year ended March 2001 has pointed out that gross earnings of Doordarshan had declined from Rs. 572.72 crores in 1996-97 to Rs. 399.09 crore in 1998-99 despite increase in Programme Production Centres, Transmitters and Viewership. In the same report, C&AG have mentioned that the Audit review of the billing practice in Doordarshan revealed systemic deficiencies and procedural lapses, non-maintenance of basic records in a proper manner etc. C&AG Para is under examination of the Ministry in consultation with Prasar Bharati.

[Translation]

SCs/STs Under Abject of Poverty.

4839. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:

SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

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

(a) whether the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people are reeling under abject poverty;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government for eradication of poverty amongst Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people during the Ninth Five Year Plan and the outcome thereof; and

(d) the provisions made for the development of SCs/STs during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) A large percentage of SCs/STs people are living below the poverty line. The main reasons are illiteracy, low income, landlessness etc. The Central Government is committed to ameliorate poverty and towards this end the Government has formulated a number of schemes for SCs and STs, Funds for implementing socio-economic and educational schemes are released to the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations. A list of schemes implemented for the welfare of SCs/STs is given in the attached statement. As per strategy of Special Component Plan (SCP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have been asked to prepare and implement SCP and TSP by earmarking part of the plan fund in proportion to the percentage of SCs and STs in the States/UTs respectively. During Ninth Five Year Plan an amount of Rs. 3569.87 crores was released for benefiting 158.16 lakh SCs. Besides Rs. 3387.41 crores released which benefited 47.74 lakh STs.

(d) In Tenth Five Year Plan a provision of Rs.5786 crores and Rs.1754.00 crores for SCs and STs has been made respectively. The above provision relate to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs only.

Statement*Schemes implemented for the welfare of SCs and STs during Ninth Five Year Plan*

S.No	Scheme for Scheduled Castes	Scheme for Scheduled Tribes
1	Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan for SCs	Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan
2	Post Matric Scholarship	Grants under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution
3	PCR and Atrocities	Girls Hostel for Scheduled Tribes
4	Hostel for SC boys & Girls	Boys Hostel for Scheduled Tribes
5	State Scheduled Castes Development Corporations	Establishment of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub-Plan Areas
6	National Safai Karamcharis Finance Development Corporation	Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations working for the welfare of STs.
7	Book Banks	Research and Training
8	Liberation & Rehabilitation of Scavengers	Grant-in-aid to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations
9	Pre-Matric Scholarship	Educational Complex in Low Literacy Pockets for Development of ST Girls in Tribal Areas
10	Coaching & Allied for SCs	Vocational Training in Tribal Areas
11	Upgradation of Merit of SCs/STs students	Village Grain Bank Scheme
12	State Scheduled Castes Development Corporations	Development of Primitive Tribal Groups
13	National Overseas Scholarship Scheme	Post Matric Scholarship
14	Assistance to Voluntary Organisations working for the welfare of SCs.	National Overseas Scholarship Scheme
15	National Scheduled Castes Finance Development Corporation	Coaching & Allied for STs
16	-	Upgradation of Merit of STs
17	-	Book Bank Scheme
18	-	State Tribal Development Finance Corporations
19	-	Exchange of Visits by Tribals

Vacant Posts of SCs/STs/OBCs

4840. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:

Will the Minister or RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of vacant posts of SCs, STs and OBCs of Group D and C in newly created railway zones and divisions;

(b) the reasons for not filling the said vacant posts so far; and

(c) the time by which the said posts are likely to be filled?

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

[English]

Reconstruction/Strengthening of Railway Bridges in Andhra Pradesh

4841. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways has taken up any plan for reconstruction/strengthening of Railway Bridges in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the allocation of funds made for this reconstruction/strengthen work in the present financial year;

(d) whether the allocation is made in accordance with the requirement sought;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) The position of Railway bridges is maintained Railway-wise and not state-wise. However, the work of reconstruction/re-strengthening of all the bridges identified for rebuilding/rehabilitation as a result of annual inspections on Southern, South Central and East Coast Railways which run through state of Andhra Pradesh is being taken up.

(b) Number of bridges sanctioned as on 1.4.2003 for rehabilitation/ rebuilding over Southern, South Central and East Coast Railways which run through the state of Andhra Pradesh is as under:-

Railway	No. of Bridges
Southern	311
South Central	431
East Coast	187
Total	929

(c) An amount of Rs.57.36 crore has been allocated to Southern, South Central and East Coast Railways during the current year for rehabilitation/ rebuilding of Railway bridges.

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. Funds have been allocated according to the requirement for execution of the work of reconstruction/ rehabilitation.

[Translation]

Infiltration Through Sea Route

4842. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that some Pakistanis have infiltrated into India through Sea route;

(b) if so, the number of such cases registered; and

(c) the details of steps taken by the Government to check such infiltration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): (a) This Ministry is not aware of any such infiltration.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Joint patrolling by the personnel of the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, State Police, Customs and Revenue Intelligence has been in force along the coasts of Gujarat and Maharashtra to check the smuggling/infiltration of personnel, arms and ammunition.

Sports Events on Doordarshan

4843. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH 'CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether revenue income of Doordarshan is continuously decreasing;

(b) if so, whether Doordarshan has been deprived of important sports events and foreign channels have been awarded the contract;

(c) if so, the facts thereof alongwith total loss incurred due to these programmes;

(d) whether some senior officers are involved in incurring loss to Doordarshan; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against these officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that the gross revenue of Doordarshan for the last four years against the target is as follows:-

Year	Target	Revenue Earned (Rs. in Crore)
1999-2000	Rs 575	Rs 597.19
2000-2001	Rs. 625	Rs. 657.51
2001-2002	Rs. 600	Rs. 615.21
2002-2003	Rs. 550	Rs. 553.81

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

**ROB/RUB Sanctioned on
Hajipur-Muzaffarpur Line**

4844. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of over bridges/under bridges sanctioned on Hajipur-Muzaffarpur and Muzaffarpur-Samastipur rail line, location-wise;

(b) the time by which work is likely to be started and completed; and

(c) the details of expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Four works of Road over bridges have been sanctioned.

Two on Muzaffarpur-Samastipur line i.e. in lieu of Level Crossing (LC) No. 101 & 101/A between Narainpura-Anant & Muzaffarpur.

Two on Hazipur-Muzaffarpur line in lieu of LCs No. 47 & 54/A between Hajipur & Sarai Stations.

(b) Road over/under bridge is constructed jointly by Railway and State Govt. Railway construct Bridge proper (over the track) and approaches are built by State Govt. Efforts are made by Railway to complete its portion before or alongwith approaches by State Govt.

(c) Estimated cost of works is as under:-

1. ROB at LC No. 47	-	Rs. 11.35 cr.
2. ROB at LC No. 54/A	-	Rs. 11.58 cr.
3. ROB at LC No. 101	-	Rs. 11.47 cr.
4. ROB at LC No. 101/A	-	Rs. 12.55 cr.

Manufacturing of Electric Rope Shovel

4845. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) has become completely self-reliant in the manufacturing of ten cubic metre electric rope shovel;

(b) if so, the total number of ten cubic metre electric rope shovel sold by the Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) to various companies alongwith rates thereof during the last three years till March 31, 2003, company-wise;

(c) if not, the percentage of technique or equipments imported from foreign companies by BEML for manufacturing this type of shovel, country-wise;

(d) whether these companies supply technique or equipments to Bharat Earth Movers Limited in India through their representative companies;

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

(f) whether any dispute has come up with foreign companies of their India based representatives with regard to the matter of purchase; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to resolve such dispute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) has been

manufacturing 10 Cubic Metre electric rope shovels with technical tie-up with M/s Bucyrus International, USA. BEML has sold 4 nos. of 10 Cubic Metre electric rope shovels during the last three years to Coal India Limited (CIL) till 31st March, 2003. The details are as under:-

Customer	Year of Supply	Quantity	Unit ex-works price (Rs. in Lakhs)	Extension Value (Rs. in Lakhs)
Coal India Limited	2002-2003	2 (Under Normal Custom Duty)	1571.36	3142.72
		2 (Under Normal Custom Duty)	1372.00	2744.00
Total				5886.72

As of now, BEML has achieved an indigenisation level of around 50% at present cost in the manufacture of 10 Cubic Metre electric rope shovels.

(d) to (g) BEML is dealing directly with M/s Bucyrus International, USA - who have an office situated at Bangalore to assist BEML in technical and after sales service matters. BEML has no dispute with M/s Bucyrus.

[English]

Violation of Censorship Provisions

4846. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of violation of censorship provisions relating to films continue to proliferate;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported during each of the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken if any, to check such practices and results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The number of complaints relating to censorship violations received by Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) in various forms in several States and Union Territories during 2000, 2001 and 2002 were 57, 144 and 105 respectively.

With a view to ensuring strict compliance of the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952, the CBFC on a test case basis had hired a private detective agency for carrying out regular checks in cinema theatres initially in the four metropolitan cities during the period from 01.05.2001 to

30.04.2002. The Agency carried out checks in 1859 theatres in the four metropolitan cities and caused 31 cases to be registered. It has been decided to extend the engagement of detective agencies to carry out checks in cinema halls to all the regional centres of CBFC in the 10th Plan.

Government Loans to Public Sector Enterprises

4847. SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are granting loans to public sector enterprises in the red, for revival of these companies and for facilitating V.R.S.;

(b) if so, the details of these loans granted to sick companies during the last three years, State-wise and rate of interest charged;

(c) whether any of these companies have been able to revive their financial position;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether these companies have repaid the loans with interest so far;

(f) if not, the details of outstanding principal and interest accrued, company-wise;

(g) whether the Government are aware that private sector companies are able to generate funds from the Banking Sector at a rate less than P.L.R.;

(h) if so, whether the Government consider a comparative reduction of interest rate on these loans; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Need based loans are granted by the Government to Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) including sick enterprises on merit. The details of loans granted to CPSUs including sick one & during the last three years are given in Ministry of Finance's Expenditure Budget Volume 1 of respective years and it is a published document. The rate of interest charged on Government of India loan are announced by the Ministry of Finance from time to time and depends on nature of loan granted. As per Ministry of Finance's circular dated 30.3.2002, the rate of interest charged on investment loans was 13.50% and on working capital loans and loans to meet cash losses 17.50% w.e.f. 1.4.2002 to 31.3.2003. In the previous year the rate of interest was 14% and 18% respectively.

(c) and (d) In addition to financial assistance, the revival

of sick CPSUs depends on other aspects also such as financial and business restructuring, order book position, capacity utilisation, cost control measures, rationalization of manpower, etc. However, as per Public Enterprises Survey 2001-02 which was laid in the Parliament on 3.3.2003 and is a published document, three sick industrial CPSUs namely U.P Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited, Vignyan Industries Limited and NTC (APKK&M) Limited have recorded positive improvement in networth during 2001-02 as compared to last year.

(e) and (f) The details of Government of India loan and interest with sick industrial CPSUs are given in the enclosed statement.

(g) to (i) The interest rates on Government of India loan to CPSUs is reviewed from time to time taking into consideration the prevailing circumstances.

Statement

Details of outstanding Govt. of India loans/interests of Sick PSEs registered with BIFR (as on 31.12.2002) as on 31.3.2002

(Rs. in Crore)

S. No.	Name of the Company	Loan	Interest
1	2	3	4
1.	Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	23.58	1.35
2.	Bengal Immunity Ltd.	67.44	8.82
3.	Bharat Brakes & Valves Ltd.	1.44	0.13
4.	Bharat Gold Mines Ltd.	704.38	255.49
5.	Bharat Immunological & Biological Corp. Ltd.	11.34	0.80
6.	Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd.	219.86	22.02
7.	Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd.	16.82	3.37
8.	Bharat Refractories Ltd.	103.18	1.30
9.	Bharat Wagon & Engg. Co. Ltd.	6.57	0.19
10.	Birds, Jute & Exports Ltd.	11.55	0.90
11.	British India Corporation Ltd.	252.82	0.00
12.	Burn Standard Company Ltd.	0.00	14.92
13.	Cawnpore Textiles Ltd.	122.64	11.38

1	2	3	4
14.	Cement Corporation of India Ltd.	974.84	107.55
15.	Elgin Mills Company Ltd.	571.51	45.22
16.	Fertilizer Corpn. of India Ltd.	7027.57	831.58
17.	Heavy Engineering Corpn. Ltd.	636.00	27.89
18.	Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.	91.32	1.30
19.	Hindustan Cables Ltd.	73.55	10.74
20.	Hindustan Fertilizer Corpn. Ltd.	6004.92	633.69
21.	Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Corpn. Ltd.	302.14	36.70
22.	Hindustan Salts Ltd.	35.09	2.03
23.	Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corpn. Ltd.	127.39	20.30
24.	Indian Drugs & Pharmaceutical Ltd.	716.24	60.41
25.	Instrumentation Ltd.	69.52	7.36
26.	National Instruments Ltd.	198.42	0.00
27.	National Jute Manufacturers Corporation Ltd.	2675.08	213.13
28.	NEPA Ltd.	35.65	5.16
29.	North Eastern Regional Agri. Marketing Corp. Ltd.	0.25	0.00
30.	NTC (Maharashtra North) Ltd.	4.24	0.00
31.	Praga Tools Ltd.	0.00	10.06
32.	Projects & Development India Ltd.	68.32	6.33
33.	Pyrites, Phosphates & Chemicals Ltd.	146.57	19.59
34.	R B L Ltd.	9.62	0.00
35.	Richardson & Cruddas (1972) Ltd.	8.05	0.00
36.	Scooters India Ltd.	7.53	0.00
37.	Smith Stanistreet & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	37.33	4.44
38.	Triveni Structural Ltd.	0.00	5.56
39.	Tyre Corporation of India Ltd.	457.51	33.82
Total		21820.28	2403.53

Power Projects in Rajasthan in Public and Government Sectors

4848. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of power projects sanctioned in private and public sectors in Rajasthan during the Ninth Plan;
- (b) the number of such power projects lying

pending and number of projects which are being implemented; and

(c) the names of above projects and estimated cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The status of power projects along with estimated cost cleared during 9th Plan for being set up in Rajasthan is given in enclosed statement.

Statement

Status of Power Projects Cleared by Central Electricity Authority during 9th Plan Forbeing Set up in Rajasthan

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Capacity (MW)	Est. Cost (Rs. in Crore)	Status
1.	Suratgarh St. II Unit 3 and 4, State Sector	500	2057.62	Commissioned
2.	Ramgarh Combined Cycle Power Project (CCPP) St II GT-2 & ST, State Sector	75.325	300.10	Commissioned
3.	Suratgarh, Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) St. III. Steam Turbine RRUVNL Date of TEC by CEA: 27.07.01	250	752.74	Under Construction
4.	Mathania Integrated Solar Combined Cycle Power house M/S Rajasthan Renewal Energy Corpn. Ltd.(RRECL) Date of TEC of CEA: 27.8.1999	140	871.86	Work on the project is yet to start.
5.	Barsingsar Lignite, NLC	2x250	Rs. 1090.08 crore +US\$ 322.7M	One unit scheduled for 10th Plan

In addition to this, Rajasthan Atomic Power Project (RAPP) (U-5 & U-6) was accorded financial sanction by Government of India towards the end of 9th Plan. The construction work in this project has commenced and is proceeding as per schedule. The scheduled dates of commencement of commercial operations are August 2007 for RAPP Unit 5 and February 2008 for RAPP Unit 6. The work on these projects is proceeding as per schedule. The completion cost of the project is Rs 3072 crore.

In addition to above, two more plants namely Dholpur CCGT and Anta CCGT St. II were also awarded Technical clearance during 9th Plan but investment decision for the execution of these plants has not been taken.

[Translation]

Welfare Activities for Orphans in the Country

4849. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Non-Governmental Organisations engaged in welfare activities for the orphans in the country particularly in Jharkhand, State-wise;

(b) the quantum of financial assistance provided to each of the said organization especially in Jharkhand during the last two years, State-wise;

(c) whether some of the said organizations have misused these funds;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) A statement showing the details of the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) which received grant under the Scheme of Assistance to Homes (Shishu

Grehs) for Children to promote In-country Adoption, during the years 2001-02 and 2002-03 is enclosed as statement-I. Another statement showing the grant-in-aid released to Voluntary Coordinating Agencies (VCAs) during 2001-02 and 2002-03 for promotion of adoption in the country under the Scheme titled "General Grant-in-aid Programme for Assistance in the field of Social Defence", is enclosed as statement-II. No NGO engaged in welfare activities of orphan under this scheme in Jharkhand.

(c) to (e) Details of misuse of funds and the action taken are given in the statement-III enclosed.

Statement-I

S.No.	Name of the Organisation	2001-02	2002-2003
1	2	3	4
Arunachal Pradesh			
1	Oju Welfare Association, Ita Nagar	533,700.00	490,500.00
	Sub Total	533,700.00	490,500.00
Assam			
1	Sreemanta Sankar Mission, Nagaon	172,125.00	-
2	Helal Sangha Community Centre, Karimganj	151,686.00	230,338.00
	Sub Total	323,811.00	230,338.00
Delhi			
1	Welfare Home for Children, Sarita Vihar	-	579,024.00
2	Sewa Bharti, Jhandewalan	466,650.00	658,800.00
	Sub Total	466,650.00	1,237,824.00
Gujarat			
1	Shri Kathiawar Nirashrit Balashram, Rajkot	-	447,300.00
2	Shishumangal Trust, Junagadh	-	377,100.00
	Sub Total	-	824,400.00
Haryana			
1	Haryana State Council for Child Welfare, Chandigarh	223,650.00	142,650.00
2	SOS Children's Villages Association, Panchkula	354,452.00	332,261.00
	Sub Total	578,102.00	474,911.00

1	2	3	4
Himachal Pradesh			
1	H.P. State Council for Child Welfare, Shimla	191,803.00	394,074.00
	Sub Total	191,803.00	394,074.00
Karnataka			
1	Jayanthi Gram Women & Children Welfare Association, Bizapur	252,000.00	
	Sub Total	252,000.00	
Kerala			
1	Dinasevanasabha, Pattuvarn, Kannur	232,200.00	
2	Kerala State Council for Child Welfare Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram	278,290.00	293,326.00
3	Holy Angel's Foundation Home, Thrissur	161,325.00	209,454.00
4	Ananda Bhavan (Foundling Home), Palakkad	198,598.00	162,598.00
	Sub Total	870,413.00	665,378.00
Madhya Pradesh			
1	Shri Banke Bihari Kunj Bahuuddeshjya Mahila Kalyan Samiti, Bhind	518,850.00	398,700.00
	Sub Total	518,850.00	398,700.00
Maharashtra			
1	Adharashrarn, Nashik	707,100.00	464,660.00
2	Bal Vikas Mahila Mandal, Latur	512,100.00	
3	People's Education Society, Buldana		1,024,200.00
4	Dnyan Gangotri Education Society, Latur	516,150.00	516,690.00
5	Pankaj Bahuddeshiya Shikshan Sanstha, Bhandara	933,300.00	113,442.00
6	District Probation and After Care Assocation, Kolhapur	496,800.00	
7	Vatsalya Trust, Mumbai	453,533.00	824,181.00
8	Sandhi Niketan Shikshan Sanstha, Nanded	493,900.00	494,550.00
9	Patel Bahuudheshya Shikshan Sansthan, Nagpur	-	970,200.00
10	Smt. Narsabai Mahila Mandal, Nanded	452,700.00	497,250.00

1	2	3	4
11	District Probation & After Care Association, Ahmed Nagar	513,337.00	518,850.00
12	Jyotiba Phule Seva Trust, Nanded	526,950.00	521,775.00
13	Shri Ganesh Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Latur	497,250.00	229,050.00
14	Unatisheel Mahila Mandal, Nanded	-	936,050.00
15	Jaishree Sushikshit Berojgar Mahila Mandal, Nagpur	172,125.00	-
16	Rohini Kalyankari Mahila Mandal, Bhandara	329,719.00	241,500.00
17	SAKAR (Society for Adoption Knowledge, Awareness & Resource), Aurangabad	69,398.00	453,510.00
	Sub Total	6,674,362.00	7,805,908.00
Manipur			
1	Social Reformation & Development Organisation Leikai, Imphal (East)	479,700.00	-
2	Community Development Programme Centre Thoubal	479,700.00	479,700.00
3	Tear Fund India Committee on Relief and Rehabilitation Service, Churachandpur	172,125.00	734,801.00
4	Integrated Women and Children Development Centre (IWCDC), Imphal	172,125.00	665,169.00
	Sub Total	1,303,650.00	1,879,670.00
Mizoram			
1	International Poor Children, Aizawl	525,600.00	467,550.00
	Sub Total	525,600.00	467,550.00
Orissa			
1	Subhadra Mehtab Seva Sadan, Khurda	241,200.00	482,400.00
2	Nilachal Seva Pratisthan, Puri	-	1,480,500.00
3	Banabasi Seva Samiti, Kandhamal (Phulbani)	512,100.00	511,560.00
4	Lutheran Mahila Samity, Kendrapara	504,000.00	486,450.00
5	Maharshi Dayanand Service Mission, Dhenkanal	229,050.00	727,650.00
6	Anatha Parityakta Balashram, Nayagarh	418,725.00	-
	Sub Total	1,905,075.00	3,688,560.00

1	2	3	4
Rajasthan			
1	Shri Karni Nagar Vikas Samiti, Kota	547,200.00	525,600.00
2	Madhu Smriti Mahila and Bal Kalyan Utthan Sansthan, Kota	493,200.00	490,500.00
	Sub Total	1,040,400.00	1,016,100.00
Tamil Nadu			
1	Malaysian Social Services, Chennai	291,600.00	-
	Sub Total	291,600.00	0.00
Tripura			
1	Tripura State Council for Child Welfare, Agartala	266,850.00	514,800.00
2	Tripura State Council for Child Welfare Nutan Nagar, Agartala (West)	69,038.00	468,900.00
	Sub Total	335,888.00	983,700.00
West Bengal			
1	Scottlane Poverty Eradication Centre, Kolkata		253,877.00
2	Ramakrishna Vivekananda Mission, Barrackpore	161,325.00	
3	Vivekananda Welfare and Development Society, Kolkata	69,488.00	479,700.00
	Sub Total	230,813.00	733,577.00
	Grand Total	16,042,717.00	21,291,190.00

Statement-II

Financial Assistance to Voluntary Coordinating Agencies for Adoption under General Grant-In-Aid Scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

S.No.	Name of the VCA	Financial Year	
		2001-2002	2002-2003
1	2	3	4
1	Voluntary Coordinating Agency Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh	251,100.00	251,100.00
2	Coordinating Voluntary Adoption Resource Agency Civil Lines, Delhi	251,100.00	251,100.00
3	Voluntary Coordinating Agency for Adoption Ahmednagar, Gujarat	283,500.00	283,500.00

1	2	3	4
4	Voluntary Coordinating Agency Bangalore, Karnataka	103,900.00	-
5	Voluntary Coordinating Agency for Adoption Kalamassery, Kerala	-	567,000.00
6	Voluntary Coordinating Agency Mumbai, Maharashtra	136,160.00	283,500.00
7	Voluntary Coordinating Agency (Vidharba Region), Nagpur, Maharashtra	-	305,938.00
8	VCA (Shishuadhar "for the Child") Pune, Maharashtra	216,715.00	210,212.00
9	Voluntary Coordinating Agency (Shahane Consultants Private Limited) Pune, Maharashtra	195,943.00	220,490.00
10	Voluntary Coordinating Agency SANYOG Cuttack, Orissa	283,500.00	283,500.00
11	Voluntary Coordinating Agency for Child Adoption Chennai, Tamil Nadu	283,500.00	276,075.00
12	West Bengal Coordinating Agency on Adoption Kolkata, West Bengal	425,250.00	251,100.00
Total		2,430,668.00	3,183,515.00

Statement-III*Action Taken Against the NGOs for Irregularities under the Shishu Greh Scheme*

S.No.	Name of the Organisation	Action Taken	w.e.f.
1	2	3	4
1.	Madras Social Service Guild, Chennai, Tamil Nadu	Project withdrawn	18/06/1999
2.	Priyadarshini Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Chandrapur, Maharashtra	Project withdrawn	01/09/2000
3.	Vikas Parishad At. - Kadampara (Kharipadia), P.O. Dadhibamanpur (42 Mouza), District - Cuttack, Orissa	Project withdrawn	10/04/2001
4.	Indian Council of Social Welfare Hyderabad, A.P.	Project withdrawn	25/05/2001

1	2	3	4
5.	Priyadarshini Service Organisation Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh	Project withdrawn	25/05/2001
6.	Social Action for Social Development, Mahabub Nagar, Andhra Pradesh	Project withdrawn	25/06/2001
7.	Community Legal Action and Research Centre, At/P.O. - Bainsia, Via - Mahimgadi. Dist - Dhenkanal- 759014, Orissa	Project withdrawn	14/03/2002
8.	Malaysian Social Services H.O. No. - 6, Sengunthar Street, Shenoy Nagar, Chennai - 600030 Tamil Nadu	Project withdrawn	03/04/2002
9.	Jayanthi Gram Women & Children Welfare Association P. Box No. - 55, Mallikarjuna Gyana Yogashrama B.L.D.E. Road, Bizapur - 586103, Karnataka	Grant stopped & matter is subjudice	13/05/2002
10.	Social Reformation & Development Organisation, Imphal, Manipur	Grant stopped & showcause issued	27/12/2002

World Bank Loan to Power Grid Corporation of India

4850. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. has recently taken loan from the World Bank for laying optical fibre;

(b) if so, the details of the amount of loan and the terms and conditions thereof;

(c) whether the Corporation has done the job of laying optical fibre earlier also;

(d) if so, the length of optical fibre in kilometers laid by the Power Grid Corporation so far;

(e) the amount spent thereon;

(f) whether the Corporation has earned profit from this project; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) PGCIL signed an agreement with World Bank on 13th June, 2001 for a loan of US\$ 450 million (Power System Development Project-

II) for implementation of its various schemes which includes the project for Establishment of a Backbone Telecom Network. The loan has become effective from 21.11.2001 and will close on 30.06.2006. The repayment of the loan which has LIBOR based interest rate, will commence on 15.12.2006 with a total repayment period of 15 years.

(c) and (d) The investment approval for the project for Establishment of a Backbone Telecom Network for POWERGRID has been issued on 12.3.2003. The project envisages establishment of broadband optic fibre backbone network of about 14,000 Kms. covering more than 60 major cities in the country. The project is scheduled to be completed by December, 2003. POWERGRID has already established about 4,800 Kms. of optic fibre network including links under Unified Load Despatch & Communication (ULDC) schemes and Delhi-Mumbai Telecom link.

(e) POWERGRID has so far spent an amount of about Rs.202 crore on optical fibre which includes cost apportioned to telecom on the investment made in the ULDC projects, optic fibre links established on transmission systems and Delhi-Mumbai Telecom Link.

(f) and (g) The project for the Establishment of Backbone Telecom Network for POWERGRID is scheduled to be completed by December, 2003. Although, POWERGRID has started earning some revenue from the optical fibre links

established under ULDC projects and the Delhi-Mumbai Telecom Link, the profitability of the Backbone Telecom Network project would be known after the project is fully operational.

[English]

Water to Farmers by NCES

4851. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any project under way to provide water to farmers for cultivation under any method of non-conventional energy/solar system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to provide water to villages under solar energy system; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M.

KANNAPPAN): (a) Yes Sir. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing schemes concerning deployment of solar photovoltaic water pumping systems and water pumping wind mills for providing water to farmers for cultivation purposes and also for certain other uses.

(b) Details of the financial assistance provided by the Ministry under these schemes are given in the Annexure. A total of 5,591 solar photovoltaic water pumping systems and 888 water pumping wind mills have been deployed so far in different parts of the country for agriculture and other applications under the Ministry's Programmes.

(c) Under the Ministry's scheme on solar PV water pumping systems, there is a provision for providing financial support for installation of systems for community drinking water supply, provided the balance funds are arranged by the state Government or user agency and necessary arrangements for storage and distribution of water are also organized by the concerned agency.

(d) The details of the financial support provided by the Ministry for the deployment of SPV water pumping systems for community drinking water supply projects are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

I. SPV water pumping systems

S.No.	Implementation Arrangement	Central Financial Assistance	Loan
1.	Direct marketing by manufacturers, subsidy routed through the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)	Rs. 110 per watt of photovoltaic (PV) array used, subject to a maximum of Rs. 2.5 lakhs per system	Soft loan @ 2.5% and 5% interest rate to intermediaries and users respectively on 90% of the remaining unsubsidized price, to be repaid in 10 years, with one year moratorium.
2.	Direct procurement by States	Rs. 135 per watt of PV array used, subject to a maximum of Rs. 2.5 lakhs per system	Not eligible to avail loan from IREDA
3.	Direct procurement by NE States	90% of approved ex-works cost of system	
4.	Community Drinking Water supply	Rs. 110 per watt of PV array used, subject to a maximum of Rs. 2.5 lakhs per system	

II. Water pumping windmills

S.No.	Type of water pumping windmill	Central Financial Assistance
1.	Direct drive - Modified 12 PU 500 type	50% of ex-works cost of windmill subject to Rs. 20,000/- per windmill
2.	Direct drive - Auroville A V 55 type	50% of ex-works cost of windmill subject to Rs. 45,000/- per windmill
3.	Geared type	50% of ex-works cost of windmill subject to Rs. 30,000/- per windmill

Design of AC-3 Tier Compartments

4852. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether AC-3 tier compartments are not properly designed;
- (b) whether elderly passengers are unable to reach the upper berths;
- (c) whether the Government propose to introduce a better-designed and passenger friendly AC-3 tier compartments;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to provide more facilities in AC-3 tier compartments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) No, Sir. All the compartments including AC 3 tier are designed properly keeping in view the safety and comfort of the passengers.

(b) Provisions for climbing on upper berths are provided in AC & Non AC coaches. Further to the extent possible, the seat/berth allocation logic of the computerized passenger reservation system looks for lower berth for allotment to Senior Citizens.

(c) to (e) Improvement in design and amenities of all types of Railway coaches is a continuous process which is undertaken by RDSO and the production units.

[Translation]

Free Travel Facility to Recipients of Paramveer, Mahaveer and Veer Chakra Award

4853. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry has recently taken any decision to provide the facility of free of cost travel in Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains to the recipients of Gallantry awards;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to extend this facility to those civilians also who are recipients of the bravery awards at the national level;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) First class/AC 2 tier complimentary card passes issued to Param Vir Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra and Vir Chakra gallantry awardees have been made valid for travel in AC 2 tier/AC 3 tier of Rajdhani and chair car of Shatabdi/Jan Shatabdi Express trains.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The complimentary card passes are issued to Gallantry awardees of defence/police forces as per scheme of Ministry of Railways. Due to financial and other repercussions, it has not been possible to extend the scope of the scheme to civilian gallantry awardees.

Adverse Affect on DD Programmes by Cable Wire

4854. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether T.V. viewers are unable to see clear broadcast of Doordarshan Programmes due to laying of cables by the Private Cable Network Operators near the T.V. antennas all over the country particularly in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to increase the broadcasting capacity affected by the said action;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Prasar Bharati have informed that terrestrial reception of Doordarshan programmes at a viewers end can be impaired if these programmes are distributed by the cable operator in the particular area on the same frequency on the cable, as the frequency of Doordarshan terrestrial transmission in the area. Reception can also be impaired if the cable operators' cable running close to receive antenna of a viewer is not of proper quality.

(b) and (c) As per Cable TV Act, it is mandatory for all the cable operators in the country to distribute programmes of two terrestrial channels of Doordarshan (DD 1 & 2) and a regional channel of the State in prime band on the frequencies other than that of terrestrial transmission in the particular area. Doordarshan is doing its best to persuade the cable operators

to adhere to the provisions of Cable TV Regulation Act. Doordarshan also has been telecasting programmes to educate and make the viewers aware of their rights for quality signals from cable operators.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

LPG Outlets in Orissa

4855. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any market survey is conducted by oil companies to increase LPG outlets in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Consequent upon the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM), Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are free to choose the locations to set up LPG distributorships as per their commercial considerations in the States. Identification of potential sites for setting up of LPG distributorships by OMCs is a continuous process.

Proposal for Sharing Profits

4856. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of sharing profits between Union Government and State Governments for future Gas & Oil Exploration forwarded by the Ministry has since been approved;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Ministry of Finance has objected to the proposal of his Ministry in regard to sharing profits with State Government for ongoing Coal Bed Methane Projects;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the matter has been referred to the Twelfth Finance Commission for its suggestion;

(f) if so, the further response thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (f) Some State Governments have requested for sharing of Profit Petroleum under New

Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) and Production Level Payment (PLP) and Commercial Discovery Bonus under CBM Policy. These requests are under consideration of the Government and final decision on the whole range of issues involved in the proposal has not been taken by Government.

Refinery Projects of IOCL with Kuwait Petroleum Corporation

4857. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some refinery projects are being set up in the country by Indian Oil Corporation Limited in Collaboration with Kuwait Petroleum Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of each project; and

(d) the expected date by which these projects are likely to commence commercial production?

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

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

Domestic Light by Solar Energy

4858. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether domestic lighting programme through solar energy is under implementation in the State of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funding pattern of this programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (c) The Ministry is supporting the installation of solar home systems (domestic lighting systems) under its Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) Programme in all states including Gujarat. Under this programme, the Government provides subsidy for non-commercial users of solar home systems and some service charges to the programme implementing organizations. The details of different models of solar home systems supported under the programme, the central financial assistance and the eligible categories of beneficiaries are given in the enclosed statement.

The SPV Programme in Gujarat is being implemented through the State nodal agency for renewable energy programmes i.e. the Gujarat Energy Development Agency (GEDA), Vadodara. As per reports received from GEDA, a

total of 3,351 solar home systems have been installed in the State till 15th April 2003. Under the 2002-03 SPV programme, GEDA has been allocated 2,000 solar home systems. These systems are to be installed by 31st May 2003.

Statement

Pattern of Central Financial Assistance (CFA) and Eligible Categories of Beneficiaries for installation of Solar Home Systems under SPV Programme

A - Pattern of Central Financial Assistance (CFA)

Solar Home System	Central Subsidy		Service Charge
	For General Areas 50% of ex-works cost, subject to a maximum of:	For North - Eastern Region 90% of ex-works cost, subject to a maximum of:	
Model 1 (18 W PV module, 1 light)	Rs. 3,000/-	Rs. 5,000/-	Rs.200/-
Model 2 (37 W PV module, 2 lights)	Rs. 5,500/-	Rs. 10,000/-	Rs.200/-
Model 3 (37 W PV module, 1 light, 1 fan)	Rs.5,500/-	Rs. 10,000/-	Rs.200/-
Model 4 (74 W PV module, 2 lights, 1 fan)	Rs. 10,000/-	Rs. 18,000/-	Rs.200/-
Model 5 (74 W PV module, 4 lights)	Rs. 10,000/-	Rs. 18,000/-	Rs.200/-

B - Eligible Categories of Beneficiaries for Central Subsidy

- All Categories of individual beneficiaries & non profit institutions/organizations. No individual would be given more than one system.
- Commercial Organizations are not covered under the capital subsidy scheme.

FDI in DTH Service

4859. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether before providing licence to DTH service, Government has thoroughly scrutinized, if any foreign company is actually taking licence for DTH service in India through backdoor by keeping some dummy Indian entity/company in front as Star TV has applied for DTH licence through a dummy Indian Company space TV by making two of its employees as the promoter of Space TV;

(b) if so, the facts therefor;

(c) the details of companies who have applied for licence for providing DTH service;

(d) whether the Government are trying to relook into the FDI in DTH and news uplinking services; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) As per DTH guidelines, applicant company for obtaining DTH licence, should be an Indian company registered under Companies Act, 1956. Total foreign equity holding including FDI/NRI/OCB/FII in the applicant company cannot exceed 49%. Within the foreign equity, the FDI component cannot exceed 20%.

It has been informed by Space TV Private Limited that STAR TV has evinced interest in participating as equity shareholders in Space TV. For the present, equity of Rs. 10 01

crore has been put in by individuals in the employment of Star TV. Further, Space TV has informed that Star TV will support and assist Space TV in the execution and management of the DTH project and has agreed to provide its expertise in the management of Pay TV platforms to Space TV.

Licences for DTH service will be granted only on fulfilment of laid down eligibility criteria and compliance with various terms and conditions prescribed in this regard.

(c) The companies who have applied for licence for providing DTH service are - (i) Space TV Private Limited, Mumbai (ii) ASC Enterprises Limited; (iii) ESSEL SHYAM Communication Ltd.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal presently to reconsider the FDI limits in DTH service. As far as the news uplinking services are concerned, the government has announced in March, 2003 the guidelines for uplinking of foreign owned news channels. These, inter-alia, permit foreign equity holding in the applicant company upto 26% of the total paid up capital and require the company to be registered in India under the Companies Act 1956 and the majority of the Directors, CEO and News Editors to be Resident Indians.

The permission for usages of facilities/information for live news/foreign collection and transmission, irrespective of the technologies used will be available only to those channels which are uplinked from India and the channel/company has to ensure that its news and current affairs content providers are accredited to the Press Information Bureau.

Supply of Small Cylinders in Plain Areas

4860. SHRI S. MURUGESAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched small capacity 5 kg LPG cylinders for remote/hilly areas of the country;

(b) if so, whether the small capacity cylinders will be supplied in plain areas also considering ample potential for the same; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have introduced 5 kg LPG cylinders in selected rural, urban-rural and hilly markets in various States. Based on the experience and feedback received from these markets, the 5

kg cylinders would be introduced in other markets also by OMCs in a phased manner.

Power Capacity Added by Solar Energy

4861. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total power capacity added under Solar Photovoltaic Cells (SPVs) power programme in the country as on December 31, 2002;

(b) the number of SPV units set up and total financial assistance given as on December 31, 2002, State-wise; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to popularize the use of SPVs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing a country-wide solar photovoltaic (SPV) programme for generation of electricity from solar energy. Under this programme, installation of different types of SPV systems like solar home systems, street lighting systems, water pumping systems and power plants, etc. is being supported for providing lighting, water pumping and other services and for electrification of remote villages. The Ministry provides central subsidy, soft loan packages and other incentives for the installation of these systems. The solar photovoltaic programme of the Ministry is being implemented through the State renewable energy development agencies, selected NGOs and the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) Limited.

SPV systems are also being used to provide power for applications like rural telephones, battery charging, road and railway signalling and other industrial and commercial applications.

About 10.3 lakh solar photovoltaic systems and power plants of 61 MWp aggregate SPV capacity are estimated to have been installed in the country for different applications as on 31st December 2002. In addition SPV products of 46 MWp capacity were exported.

The state-wise details of SPV systems installed under the Ministry's Programme till 31.12.2002 are given in the enclosed statement-I. The aggregate SPV capacity of these systems and power plants is about 27.65 MWp.

The state-wise financial assistance released under the

solar photovoltaic programmes of the Ministry during 2001-02 and 2002-03 (upto 31st December, 2002) are given in the enclosed statement-II.

(c) The Ministry has taken the following steps to popularize the use of SPV systems & power plants:

1. Provide support for installation of about 56 MWp aggregate capacity of SPV Systems and Power Plants during the Tenth Plan period through capital and interest subsidy schemes, as compared to the installation of about 14 MWp during the Ninth Plan period under the Ministry's programmes.

2. Implementation of a programme for the electrification of remote villages; about 4,000 villages are

expected to be electrified through the use of SPV systems during the Tenth Plan.

3. Mobilization of resources from other programmes such as tribal welfare, drinking water supply, MPLAD & MLALAD schemes, etc. to expand use of photovoltaic systems.

4. Providing financial and fiscal incentives to the manufacturers and users like concessional customs duty, exemption from excise duty, and accelerated depreciation.

5. Support for research and development projects aimed at improvements in products and reduction in costs.

Statement-I

State-wise Details of Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) Systems Installed as on 31/12/2002

S.No.	State/UT/ Others	Solar Lanterns (Nos.)	Home Lighting Systems (Nos.)	Street Lighting Systems (Nos.)	Power Plants & Other Systems (kWp)	Water Pumping Systems (Nos.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Andhra Pradesh	27707	1033	3520	296.66	603
2	Arunachal Pradesh	4937	750	738	17.10	1
3	Assam	541	2787	98	7.50	45
4	Bihar	28275	679	490		128
5	Chhattisgarh	3192	3612	1237	76.65	5
6	Goa	443	51	69	1.72	15
7	Gujarat	31603	2552	1764	24.90	43
8	Haryana	32727	9666	612	24.20	268
9	Himachal Pradesh	20697	10848	1319	1.50	6
10	Jammu & Kashmir	9202	25317	389	40.00	18
11	Jharkhand	16374	102	135	-	6
12	Karnataka	7334	4626	914	48.91	339
13	Kerala	39681	18343	1065	69.74	737
14	Madhya Pradesh	8564	159	5714	361.40	78
15	Maharashtra	8683	721	3388	191.40	189

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
16	Manipur	3883	650	370	11.00	12
17	Meghalaya	4875	540	593	42.00	5
18	Mizoram	5812	1645	315	-	37
19	Nagaland	95	143	271	6.00	-
20	Orissa	8484	2914	5665	36.52	4
21	Punjab	14495	2520	1666	346.00	1119
22	Rajasthan	4716	34464	6473	75.80	268
23	Sikkim	845	340	127	-	-
24	Tamil Nadu	12818	471	2272	237.00	760
25	Tripura	20805	2238	760	24.57	10
26	Uttar Pradesh	52815	50938	550	454.20	234
27	Uttaranchal	27027	37854	250	80.03	10
28	West Bengal	3662	25916	1461	415.00	48
29	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	796	405	358	217.00	5
30	Chandigarh	1675	275	-	-	12
31	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-	1
32	Delhi	4753	-	301	15.00	86
33	Lakshadweep	8455	-	821	735.00	-
34	Pondicherry	637	13	62	-	21
35	Others (NGOs and PSUs)	28197	3295	-	-	-

Statement				1	2	3	4
<i>State-wise Financial Assistance Released under SPV Programme during 2001-02, 2002-03 till 31st December 2002</i>				4	Bihar	-	-
(Rs. in Lakhs)				5	Chhattisgarh	249.8	44.3
				6	Goa	-	-
				7	Gujarat	69.75	70
				8	Haryana	170.81	96.75
				9	Himachal Pradesh	133.94	99.5
				10	Jammu & Kashmir	771.66	19.75
				11	Jharkhand	-	18.78
				12	Karnataka	106.97	139.77
				13	Kerala	838.28	-
S.No.	State/UT	Financial Assistance Released					
		2001-02	2002-03 (till 31/12/2002)				
1	2	3	4				
1	Andhra Pradesh	239.41	40				
2	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-				
3	Assam	1.25	42.5				

1	2	3	4
14	Madhya Pradesh	32.26	7.5
15	Maharashtra	38.75	41.11
16	Manipur	44.75	44.75
17	Meghalaya	0.6	-
18	Mizoram	19.95	31.33
19	Nagaland	-	-
20	Orissa	61	-
21	Punjab	157.4	100.51
22	Rajasthan	557.89	412.04
23	Sikkim	36.92	20.9
24	Tamil Nadu	53.8	-
25	Tripura	205.4	285.1
26	Uttar Pradesh	775.4	226.92
27	Uttaranchal	257.75	344.55
28	West Bengal	793.05	164.84
29	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	60	-
30	Chandiagarh	10.53	4.33
31	Delhi	0.83	-
32	Lakshadweep	572.49	98
33	Pondicherry	3.78	1.67
34	Others (NGOs & PSUs)	281.3	32.60

Hydel Power Project in Maharashtra and Karnataka

4862. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total power generation capacity of hydel power projects in megawatts in Maharashtra and Karnataka;

(b) the names of hydel power projects sanctioned by the Union Government in the above States during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) the names of Indian and Foreign firms which had invested in these projects;

(d) the names of hydel projects for which proposals have been received from the Government of Maharashtra and Karnataka during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government on each proposal; and

(f) the reasons for their pendency, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The total power generation capacity (above 3 MW) of hydel power projects in Maharashtra is 2768.3 MW and in Karnataka it is 2909.4 MW.

(b) No hydro-electric project was cleared by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in Maharashtra during the 9th Five Year Plan. In Karnataka, Almatti Dam Power House Scheme (IX15+5X55=290 MW) was cleared for execution in the State Sector during this period.

(e) Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has provided loan for execution of Almatti Dam Power House scheme in Karnataka.

(d) to (f) Government of Maharashtra had submitted the Detailed Project Reports of the following Hydro Electric Schemes during the Ninth Plan for techno economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority but were returned due to the reasons indicated against these schemes:

1. Chikhaldara PSS (400 MW): CEA clearance not felt necessary as estimated cost is not exceeding Rs.1,000 crores and the scheme was proposed to be posed to private investors through competitive bidding.
2. Malshej Ghat PSS (600 MW): Non-compliance of basic inputs/clearances.
3. Humbarli PSS (400 MW): Unresolved major issues:

(a) Finalisation of power evacuation arrangements

(b) Source funding.

(c) MoE&F clearance.

(d) Site clearance.

Proposal for Almatti Dam Scheme (290 MW) received from the Government of Karnataka was cleared by CEA in February, 2002 for execution in State Sector.

Supply of Snow Shoes to Soldiers

4863. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the soldiers stationed at higher altitude snow fall areas have been facing difficulties in absence of adequate supply of snow shoes and all other protective equipments;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether deficiencies noted during the Kargil war in terms of equipments have been met through adequate supplies;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to supply snow shoes and other equipments to soldiers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) Not applicable.
- (e) All requisite steps are taken by the Government to ensure timely and adequate supply of snow shoes and other equipments to soldiers.

Irregularities at Petrol Pumps

4864. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

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

- (a) whether some petrol pumps have been closed for 30 days on account of irregularities during the last year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the closer of a petrol pump for 30 days is an insufficient punishment for the various irregularities committed by petrol pump owners; and
- (d) if so, the stringent steps being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) 277 petrol pumps have been closed for 30 days on account of irregularities during the last year i.e. 2002-2003.

(c) and (d) Punitive action is taken against erring dealers depending on the nature of irregularity, which includes the suspension of sales and supplies along with a fine and termination of dealership under Marketing Discipline Guidelines and/or Dealership Agreement.

[Translation]

Schemes run by NGOs

4865. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the schemes run by NGO's under the guidelines and supervisions of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment;
- (b) whether it is mandatory for the NGO's to get the schemes recommended by the State Governments; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) The details are attached in the statement.

(b) and (c) The application of the NGO for accessing grant-in-aid assistance for a new project, under the schemes of the Ministry, is to be recommended in the first instance by the State Government/Union Territory Administration.

Statement

The details of schemes run by NGO's under the guidelines and supervision of the Ministry are as follows:-

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme
1	2
PLAN	
1	Promotion of Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities
2	Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase of Aids/ Appliances (ADIP Scheme)
3	Prevention of Alcoholism & Substance (Drugs) Abuse
4	General grant-in-aid Programme for Assistance in the field of Social Defence

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2 |
|---|---|
- 5 Integrated Programme for Street Children
 - 6 Integrated Programme for Older Persons
 - 7 Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organization for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes (SCs)
 - 8 Coaching & Allied Assistance for Weaker Sections including Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes and Minorities
 - 9 Assistance to Voluntary Organizations working for the Welfare of Other Backward Classes (OBCs)
 - 10 Pre-examination Coaching for Other Backward Classes (OBCs)
 - 11 Pre-examination Coaching for Weaker Sections based on Economic Criteria

NON-PLAN

- 12 Assistance to Panchayati Raj Institutes/Voluntary Organizations/Self Help Groups for Construction of Old Age Homes/ Multi Service Centres for Older Persons

*[English]***Oil Import Bill Due to US-Iraq War**

4866. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are facing any problem in managing the oil import bill due to the U.S.-Iraq war;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to overcome the problem?

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

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

*[Translation]***Kerosene Quota to States**

4867. SHRI NAGMANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the monthly quota of kerosene allotted to each State especially to Jharkhand;

(b) the criteria adopted for allocation of kerosene to States;

(c) whether the above quota is sufficient for the States; and

(d) if not, the steps taken to increase the above quota?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The details of monthly kerosene allocation made by Government to various States/Union Territories, including Jharkhand, for distribution under Public Distribution System during the first quarter of 2003-2004 are given in the attached statement.

(b) As there is no justification for subsidising the same customer for both LPG and kerosene, kerosene allocation to various States/Union Territories for the year 2003-2004 has been reduced taking into account the number of LPG connections released during December, 2001 to November, 2002 in each of the State/Union Territory.

(c) and (d) States are required to rationalise kerosene allocation to the ration-card holders having LPG connections and meet the requirements within the allocation made by the Government.

Statement

State/Union Territory-wise Monthly SKO Allocation during first quarter of 2003-2004

State/UT	SKO Allocation per month for the 1st Quarter i.e. April, May & June, 2003 (MTs)
1	2
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	492
Andhra Pradesh	44320
Arunachal Pradesh	787
Assam	21177
Bihar	53102
Chandigarh	1102
Chhattisgarh	12087
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	238

1	2
Daman & Diu	183
Delhi	14896
Goa	1706
Gujarat	63378
Haryana	12238
Himachal Pradesh	4428
Jammu & Kashmir	5301
Jharkhand	17783
Karnataka	40013
Kerala	18687
Lakshadweep	73
Madhya Pradesh	40551
Maharashtra	108398
Manipur	1686
Meghalaya	1716
Mizoram	538
Nagaland	1074
Orissa	25930
Pondicherry	1071
Punjab	20860
Rajasthan	33846
Sikkim	490
Tamil Nadu	46805
Tripura	2551
Uttar Pradesh	102719
Uttaranchal	7779
West Bengal	63644
All India (Total)	771649

*[English]***Shishu Greh**

4868. SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of "Shishu Greh" set up under the 'Scheme of Assistance to Homes (Shishu Grehs) for children to promote in-country adoption' in each State, till date;

(b) the amount provided for the purpose during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the number of "Shishu Greh" proposed to be set up under this scheme in each State during the next year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) A statement-I showing the number of Shishu Grehs set up under the Scheme of Assistance to Homes (Shishu Grehs) for children to promote In-country Adoption in the country is enclosed.

(b) A statement-II showing the amount provided for the purpose during the years 2000-01, 2001-02 & 2002-03, State-wise, is enclosed.

(c) The number of new Shishu Greh will depend upon receipt of fresh proposals with State Governments' recommendations, and approval of the Project Sanctioning Committee.

Statement-I

Statement referred to in reply to Part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4868 for 24.4.2003 by Smt. Hema Gamang, regarding 'Shishu Greh', showing the State-wise number of Shishu Grehs under the Scheme of Assistance to Homes (Shishu Greh) for children for the year 2002-2003

Arunachal Pradesh	1
Assam	1
Delhi	2
Gujarat	2
Haryana	2
Himachal Pradesh	1
Kerala	3
Madhya Pradesh	1

Maharashtra	14
Manipur	3
Mizoram	1
Orissa	5
Rajasthan	2
Tripura	2
West Bengal	2
Total	42

Statement-II

Statement referred to in reply to Part (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4868 for 24.4.2003 by Smt. Hema Gamang, regarding 'Shishu Grehs', showing the State wise Grant-in-aid released to the NGOs under the Shishu Greh Scheme during the years 2000-2001, 2001-2002 & 2002-2003.

S.No.	Name of the State/UT	Amount released (in Rs.)		
		2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	550,800.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	583,200.00	533,700.00	490,500.00
3.	Assam	0.00	323,811.00	230,338.00
4.	Delhi	177,314.00	466,650.00	1,237,824.00
5.	Gujarat	-	-	824,400.00
6.	Haryana	347,276.00	578,102.00	474,911.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	78,763.00	191,803.00	394,074.00
8.	Karnataka	496,800.00	252,000.00	
9.	Kerala	449,072.00	870,413.00	665,378.00
10.	Madhya Pradesh	600,000.00	518,850.00	398,700.00
11.	Maharashtra	7,628,700.00	6,674,362.00	7,805,908.00
12.	Manipur	456,300.00	1,303,650.00	1,879,670.00

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Mizoram	496,800.00	525,600.00	467,550.00
14.	Orissa	4,077,600.00	1,905,075.00	3,688,560.00
15.	Rajasthan	1,387,800.00	1,040,400.00	1,016,100.00
16.	Tamil Nadu	583,200.00	291,600.00	0.00
17.	Tripura	583,200.00	335,888.00	983,700.00
18.	West Bengal	0.00	230,813.00	733,577.00
Total		18,496,825.00	16,042,717.00	21,291,190.00

Rail Accident at Rafiganj

4869. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA. Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several injured and traumatised survivors of the September, 2002 Rajdhani Express rail accident at Rafiganj have boycotted the hearing of the Railway Claims Tribunal;

(b) if so, the reason therefor;

(c) the number of claims relating to Rajdhani Express accident at Rafiganj admitted for hearing at Railway Claim Tribunal;

(d) the claims disposed of till 31 March, 2003 relating to the above accident; and

(e) the reasons for pendency of the remaining claims?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) 237 claims cases of Rajdhani train accident have been admitted in different benches of Railway Claims Tribunal.

(d) As on 31-3-03, 104 cases have been decreed by the Railway Claims Tribunal. Payment has been arranged in 95 cases. The payment in balance nine cases is under process.

(e) The remaining claims are sub-judice.

[Translation]

Increase in Number of Trains and Passengers

4870. SHRI SURESH PASI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to open additional booking counter at New Delhi/Old Delhi Railway Station in view of the constant increase in the number of passengers in order to facilitate them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) Additional booking counters at stations are opened depending upon the requirement. At New Delhi Railway station, 9 additional booking counters for issue of unreserved tickets were opened with effect from 15.8.2002.

[English]

Power Generation from Waste and Wind in Karnataka

4871. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope to generate power from waste and wind in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the possibilities explored by the Government in that regard during the Ninth Plan; and

(c) the funds allocated and released by the Union Government for this purpose and the actual amount spent by Government of Karnataka in generating power during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) A potential for generation of about 67 MW power from urban wastes and about 6620 MW power from wind is estimated for the State of Karnataka.

(b) A National Programme for recovery of energy from urban and industrial wastes is being implemented in all the States and Union Territories of the country. A project for

generation of 1 MW power from biogas produced from distillery wastewater was installed at M/s Ugar Sugar Works, Ugar, Belgaum during the Ninth Five Year Plan period. As regards the power from wind, the Government of Karnataka has allotted 109 wind power projects with a capacity of 1654 MW. During the Ninth Five Year Plan period, wind power projects with an installed capacity of about 63 MW were commissioned.

(c) Rs. 69.97 lakh for waste-to-energy project and Rs. 14.34 lakh for various support activities under wind power programme were provided by the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources during the Ninth Five Year Plan period. These funds have been utilized for the purpose for which they were released.

Rail Projects in Uttar Pradesh

4872. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY:

DR. BALIRAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposal submitted by the Government of Uttar Pradesh regarding new rail projects in their State during the last three years;

(b) the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) the details of the new/on-going/pending rail projects and surveys in U.P. alongwith present status thereof, project-wise;

(d) the details of the amount allocated to each of those projects alongwith the expenditure incurred thereon so far;

(e) whether there is a considerable increase in expenditure for each project;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the time schedule fixed for completion of these projects, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) The details of some of the proposals submitted by Government of Uttar Pradesh regarding new rail projects in the State during the last 3 years and the action taken thereon are as under: -

S.No.	Proposal	Action
1.	New rail line between Shahajahanpur-Jalalabad-Farrukhabad	An updated survey for construction of rail line between Golagokamanath - Shahajanpur- Jalalabad- Farrukhabad was conducted in 1999. Due to constraint of resources and unremunerative nature of the project, it was not considered feasible to take up the work.
2	Doubling and Electrification of Lucknow-Varanasi via Sultanpur	Double line between Lucknow to Utratia and Zafrabad to Varanasi already exists. The patch doubling work has been taken up between Utratia and Zafrabad section. Electrification of Mughalsarai- Varanasi-Zafrabad section was included in the Railway Budget 1999-2000 as phase-I of Mughalsarai- Lucknow project, subject to procedural clearances. The clearances are yet to be received.
3.	Linking of Kanpur-Mandhana-Bithor rail line with Kanpur-Unnao - Balamau rail line	Due, to constraint of resources, it is not feasible to consider construction of this line.

(c), (d) and (g) The details of the new/on-going Railway projects in the State, their present status, likely expenditure incurred upto 31.3.2003, proposed outlays during 2003-2004 and target dates wherever fixed are given as under:

Sl. No.	Name of project	Likely Expenditure upto 31.3.2003 (Rs. in Crore)	Proposed outlay 2003-04 (Rs. in Crore)	Present Status
1	2	3	4	5
New Lines				
1.	Agra-Etawah via Fatehabad and Bah	27.53	20.00	Final location survey completed and land acquisition is in progress
2.	Etawah-Mainpuri	3.9	10.00	Final location survey completed and land acquisition is in progress.
3.	Guna-Etawah	316.04	40.00	Guna-Gwalior and Gwalior-Bhind sections have already been completed and commissioned. The work on last phase of this project from Bind to Etawah is in progress and is targetted for completion in the year 2004.
4.	Katra-Faizabad	85.95	3.00	Almost completed and will be opened to traffic after CRS inspection.
5.	Lalitpur-Satna & Rewa-Singrauli	34.00	32.45	Work is being taken up in phases. Final location survey in Lalitpur - Khajuraho and Mahoba - Khajuraho sections has been completed. Land acquisition is in progress and work has been taken up where land has been made available. In Satna-Khajuraho and Rewa-Singrauli section final location survey is in progress.
6.	Rampur-Lalkuan-Kathgodam ROB on NH	0.07	0.01	Preparatory arrangements like preparation of plans, estimate etc. are in progress.
Gauge Conversion				
7.	Agra-Bandikui	39.38	40.00	Earthwork, bridge works, ballast supply and other works are in progress. Bandikui-Bharatpur is targetted for completion during 2003-04.

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Chhapra-Aunrihar	170.02	0.01	Completed. Residual work/ financial adjustment is in progress.
9.	Gonda-Bahraich-Sitapur-Lucknow Ph-I	0.35	5.00	Earthwork is in progress.
10.	Gonda-Gorakhpur Loop with Anand Nagar Nautanwa	2.00	20.00	Earthwork and minor bridges have been taken up.
11.	Indara-Phephana	33.57	0.01	Completed. Residual work/financial adjustment is in progress.
12.	Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura-Bareilly and extension from Bareilly to Lalkuan	114.84	23.20	Earthwork and bridge works are in progress.
13.	Kaptanganj-Thave-Siwan-Chhapra	6.08	10.00	Earthwork and bridge works are in progress.
14.	Kashipur-Lalkuan	57.41	0.01	Completed. Residual work/financial adjustment is in progress.
15.	Khadda-Gorakhpur	102.74	0.02	Completed. Residual work/financial adjustment is in progress.
16.	Mathura-Achnera	0.11	0.01	It is planned to do this work alongwith Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura section.
Doubling				
17.	Aligarh-Ghaziabad 3rd line		30.00	New work included in the Budget 2003-04. Work would be taken up once budget is passed by Parliament.
18.	Amroha-Kankather	22.11	8.00	Earthwork and minor bridge works are in progress.
19.	Amroha-Moradabad	45.41	6.00	Earthwork and minor bridge works are in progress. The work is targetted for completion during 2003-04.
20.	Cheonki-Lohgara	0.5	6.00	Tenders for earthwork, bridges and ballast have been processed.
21.	Ghaziabad - (Hapur) Moradabad Ph-I	65.38	0.10	Completed. Residual work/financial adjustment is in progress.
22.	Gonda-Jarwal Road	74.77	0.50	Completed.
23.	Gorakhpur-Sahajanva	10.21	8.00	The work has been taken up in phases. The work of Gorakhpur - Domingarh (6 km.) is targetted for completion during 2003-04.
24.	Hapur-Kankather	-	1.00	New work included in the Budget 2003-04. Work would be taken up once budget is passed by Parliament.
25.	Jarwal Rd.-Burhwal	8.4	10.00	Earthwork and bridge works are in progress. Project is targetted for completion during 2003-04.
26.	Kanpur-Chanderi	0.5	1.17	Preparation of plan and estimate has been taken up.
27.	Kanpur-Panki 3rd line	49.44	5.50	Earthwork and bridge works are in progress.
28.	Lohgara-Katiadandi	-	1.00	New work included in the Budget 2003-04. Work would be taken up once budget is passed by Parliament.

1	2	3	4	5
29.	Manikpur-Cheonki Ph- I doubling of Mainkpur - Katiadandi	12.93	10.00	Earthwork, minor/major bridges are in progress.
30.	Mathura-Bhuteshwar	4.03	0.01	Completed. Residual work/financial adjustment is in progress.
31.	Muradnagar-Meerut	63.53	0.20	Completed. Residual work/financial adjustment is in progress.
32.	Naini link junction Extn. of shunting neck	-	0.83	New work included in the Budget 2003-04. Work would be taken up once budget is passed by Parliament.
33.	Sahibabad-Anand Vihar 3rd & 4th line		10.00	New work included in the Budget 2003-04. Work would be taken up once budget is passed by Parliament.
34.	Sonenagar-Mugalsarai	248.65	0.01	Completed. Residual work/financial adjustment is in progress.
35.	Tundla-Yamuna Bridge	21.43	0.50	The work of Tundla-Etmadpur with twin single line working has been commissioned on 12.11.2001.
36.	Utratia-Chandrauli and Sultanpur-Bandhua Kalan	14.97	5.00	Earthwork, minor/major bridges are in progress.
37.	Zafrabad-Utratia Ph-II (Zafrabad-Srikrishnanagar)	10.32	5.00	Land acquisition is in progress. Earthwork, minor bridges etc. are in progress.
Electrification				
38.	Ambala-Moradabad	127.52	30.00	Ambala to Saharanpur section has been completed. Work on Saharanpur- Moradabad section is in progress and targetted for completion in the year 2004.
39.	Circular Railway around Lucknow area under Northern/North Eastern Rlys.	26.33	2.00	Completed. Residual work/financial adjustment is in progress.
40.	Kanpur-Lucknow	58.55	0.18	Completed. Residual work/financial adjustment is in progress.
41.	Khurja-Meerut-Saharanpur	-	0.01	The work pended due to lower operation priority
42.	Mugalsarai-Zafrabad	-	3.00	Awaiting requisite clearances.
43.	Sitarampur-Danapur-Mugalsarai	381.31	1.45	Completed. Residual work/financial adjustment is in progress.

The details of surveys in progress are as under:-

[Translation]

S.No.	Name of survey	Km.
1.	Anand Nagar to Kaptanganj	60
2.	Paniahwa and Tamkuhi Road	60

(e) and (f) The works are being progressed as per the availability of resources.

**Broadcast of a Weekly Programme
'Nai Roshani Nai Dishayen'**

4873. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE:

SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO:

SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI:

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

(a) whether the Government had launched radio broadcast of a weekly programme "Nai roshani nai dishayen" to disseminate information regarding the use of non-conventional energy sources like solar energy, wind energy, hydro electricity and bio-energy as easy alternatives in view of the shortage of conventional power;

(b) if so, whether the programme was completely successful and effective in its objective;

(c) if so, the reasons for the discontinuation of this popular programme all of a sudden;

(d) whether the Government propose to restart the broadcast of this edifying programme giving correct information about methods of utilization in view of the current requirement of exploration of non-conventional sources; and

(e) if so, the time by which the broadcast of the programme is likely to be restarted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (c) Under its Information and Public Awareness Programme, the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (MNES) through Directorate of Advertising & Visual Publicity (DAVP) got prepared 15 episodes regarding the use of non-conventional energy sources like solar energy, wind energy, etc. and their weekly broadcast for 15 weeks. These episodes were broadcast during 22nd December, 2002 to 30th March, 2003 from different radio channels of All India Radio (AIR). DAVP has informed that these episodes have generated a lot of enquiries about non-conventional energy sources. These episodes were broadcast on weekly basis for 15 weeks as envisaged and there was no discontinuation.

(d) and (e) At present, MNES has no plan to repeat the broadcast of these episodes.

[English]

Accident Rate of MIG-23

4874. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:

SHRI RAMSHETHH THAKUR:

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

SHRI C.N. SINGH:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Committee had found in 1990s that the accident rate of the MIG-23 per 10,000 hours of flying was the highest among the various types in the IAF fighter fleet;

(b) whether the pilots are faced to fly ageing fighters;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken on the recommendation of the Committee;

(d) whether there is enormous delay in induction of new and upgraded aircraft in the IAF combat fleet;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and steps taken by the government to induct AJTs;

(f) whether there have been over 350 aircraft accidents in the IAF since 1990 with over 130 pilots losing their lives;

(g) if so, the number of MIG-21, 23 and other MIG versions met with accidents during the last three years till date;

(h) the loss of life and property suffered in each case;

(i) the outcome of the enquiry conducted in each case; and

(j) the compensation paid in each case to the victim personnel and civilian?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Every aircraft is certified fully airworthy before flight is undertaken.

(c) All recommendations of the Committee have been addressed and are under various stages of implementation.

(d) Induction of new aircraft and upgrade of aircraft are carried out after technical evaluation and cost-benefit analysis to maintain combat worthiness.

(e) Request for Proposal (RFPs) for AJT was issued on three occasions i.e. in 1986, 1992 and finally in 1999 to the two shortlisted vendors M/s. BAE for the HAWK aircraft and M/s. Dassault Aviation for the Alpha Jet Aircraft. No contract has been finalized as yet. Government is keen on early finalisation of the issue.

(f) Since the financial year 1990-1991; there has been a total of 303 Category-I aircraft accidents. 143 pilots were killed during this period.

(g) The details of the number of accidents on MiG variants are given in the enclosed statement.

(h) to (j) The information is being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The details of the number of accidents on MiG variants are as follows:-

	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004 (Upto 17.4.2003)
MIG-21	12	07	11	01
MIG-23	02	04	01	01
MIG-25	-	01	-	
MIG-27	03	-	02	
MIG-29	-	01	01	-

[Translation]

Removal of Jhuggi Cluster

4875. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to remove the jhuggi clusters which have come up along the rail tracks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b)

Railways are engaged in a continuous exercise to remove all types of encroachments, including the jhuggies, from Railway land including the land near the tracks. Such encroachments are removed as per provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 and Railways Act, 1989.

(c) Removal of encroachments is undertaken as part of the routine duties of the concerned Railway staff/officers and expenditure incurred is charged to normal revenue expenses. No separate account of the same is maintained.

[English]

Modernisation of Signalling System

4876. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Signal System of one thousand sixteen hundred railway stations are in a very bad condition;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have any plan to modernise the system;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time frame for this purpose; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Modernisation of signalling system has been sanctioned at 1494 stations under works of replacement of overaged signalling assets under Special Railway Safety Fund. The work shall be completed by 2006-2007.

(e) Does not arise.

LPG Connections in North East

4877. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Oil Companies in the North East have stopped releasing LPG New Connection;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any directive has been given to Oil Companies to immediately resume the counter connection in these States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by Oil Companies to position the required number of cylinders and pressure regulators in the North East Region to overcome difficulties faced by public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (e) Some of the distributors of Assam Oil Division of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) are not releasing new connections on demand in North-East due to shortage of cylinders. IOCL has floated a new tender for procurement of cylinders to tide over the situation.

[Translation]

**LPG/Petrol/Diesel Distributorship
at Panchayat Level**

4878. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to give distributorship at Panchayat level to ensure supply of petroleum products (diesel, LPG, petrol) in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of States where the said programme has been initiated so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) After the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector with effect from 1.4.2002, the Oil Marketing Companies have freedom to choose locations for setting up retail outlets dealerships/ SKO-LDO dealerships/LPG distributorships in various parts of the country including rural areas provided that the locations meet certain norms like commercial viability and non-encroachment of the existing dealerships/distributorships.

[English]

Petrol/Diesel Outlets in Tamil Nadu

4879. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Petrol/Diesel retail outlets

functioning in Chennai and all other districts of Tamil Nadu allotted by various oil companies;

(b) the total annual sale of Petrol/Diesel from each of these retail outlets in terms of quantity and value;

(c) whether the Government have any idea to allow private petrol companies to open petrol/Diesel retail outlets in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with locations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) 168 and 1537 retail outlets are functioning in the district of Chennai and in all other districts of the State of Tamil Nadu respectively.

(b) The total sales for petrol and diesel in the retail outlets located in the State of Tamil Nadu during the year 2002-2003 were about 948985 KL and 2705583 KL respectively. It is difficult to co-relate the value of petrol/diesel and the quantity sold in the year because of frequent price revision of petrol and diesel.

(c) and (d) Government have already given permission to M/s Reliance Petroleum Limited and Essar Oil Limited for setting up of retail outlets in various states of the country.

[Translation]

Opening of Jubilee R.O.

4880. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Jubilee R.O. going to be opened by the oil companies in the country and the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(b) whether all the R.O. are put under Marketing Plan;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the oil companies are making allotment of Jubilee outlets according to their own need; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (e) The scheme for setting up of Jubilee Retail Outlets (JROs) has been discontinued by the Government.

*[English]***Coverage of War Events in Iraq**

4881. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:

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

(a) whether any assessment has been made by the Government with regard to the quality of coverage-visual & News of war in Iraq by the Doordarshan team in comparison with the coverage made by other TV networks of the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the areas of reporting in which Doordarshan's team was considered lacking in the coverage of the events in Iraq; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that an assessment is made continuously with regard to the quality of coverage-visual and News of war in Iraq by the Doordarshan team. Doordarshan's coverage has made a distinct mark bringing out the Indian perspective.

(b) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan's programme 'World View India' on Iraq War has drawn more audiences for DD-I in both non cable and satellite and all TV homes as it has clearly brought out Indian perspective in the coverage, which was missing in other channels.

(c) No. Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Computerised Freight Terminals

4882. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of computerised freight terminals have been augmented in the Ninth Plan in respective Railways; and

(b) the achievements of those computerised terminals in collecting or transporting the freight volume in Ninth Plan in comparison to Eighth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) It is presumed that Hon'ble member desires to know about the augmenting of freight terminals under Freight Operation Information System (FOIS) computerization project.

Till the end of Ninth Five Year Plan, no freight terminal has been covered under this project.

Under Phase I of FOIS project, 233 locations which includes control offices, major stations, Railway yards etc. only have been covered to facilitate monitoring of rakes on Indian Railways.

(b) As the Freight terminals are going to be covered under FOIS Phase II Terminal Management System (TMS), no comment can be offered.

*[Translation]***Money Spent in Ministry**

4883. SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has not spent even half of its budget till January 2002 alongwith the details of the amount spent so far; and

(b) the responsibility fixed against the officers found responsible in this regard alongwith the action taken there against?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) The release of funds depends upon fulfilment of terms and conditions as per provisions contained in the schemes/programme. The Ministry had spent Rs.293.01 crore against the Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) of Rs.582.35 crores, which was more than half of the budget, till January 2002. An amount of Rs.498.27 crores was spent against the GBS of Rs.582.35 crores during 2001-02.

(b) Does not arise.

*[English]***Export of Petroleum Products**

4884. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation Limited propose to enhance the exports of Petroleum Products in 2003-2004;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the objectives of IOCL to target export of surplus petroleum products to the tune of about 3 million tonnes during 2003 and 2004?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) IOCL propose to export petroleum products during 2003-2004 through the market in the neighbouring countries.

- (c) The objective is to utilise surplus refining capacity in India and also develop export market so as to take care of future surplus envisaged on account of addition/augmentation of capacities in India.

Survey of Talcher-Gopalpur Rail Line

4885. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the survey of new rail line from Talcher to Gopalpur in Orissa has been completed;
- (b) if so, the outcome of the traffic survey;
- (c) whether the Government have a proposal to take up the construction of that proposed line during Tenth Plan, and
- (d) if so, the steps taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (d) The survey conducted in 2001-02 for Talcher-Gopalpur New Line project has revealed that the cost of construction of this 293-km long line would be about Rs. 863.21 crore with a non-remunerative rate of return. In view of the on-going doubling work of Talcher-Cuttack-Paradeep section, the construction of this line is not considered justifiable from traffic point of view. In view of above and resource constraints, it has not been considered feasible to take up the construction of this new line.

German Assistance to Development of Hydro Power Sector in North Eastern States

4886. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a German delegation during their recent visit to the North Eastern States had expressed interest of German Government extending help towards development of hydro power sector and infrastructure in the North Eastern Region;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any discussion held with German delegation for the development of hydro power; and
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Sipat Power Project

4887. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Sipat project is held up since June, 2001 for non-availability of suitable technology;
- (b) if so, whether the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) have since tied up with Alstom for the execution of this project;
- (c) if so, the terms of the technological assistance to be provided by Alstom to BHEL for this project and the cost thereof;
- (d) whether any other company have also offered to provide the required technological assistance;
- (e) if so, the names of the companies and the prices quoted by them; and
- (f) the time by which this project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (f) The Sipat Power Project of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has been planned with supercritical technology for its Stage-I (3x600 MW). Fresh bids have now been invited by NTPC for the supply of equipment for the project. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited have informed that they have made arrangements with Alstom for bidding for the project. The first 660 MW unit of the project is scheduled for commissioning in the 10th Plan.

Induction of HJT-36

4888. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the HJT-36 is an Indian product and

has been designed and developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Bangalore;

(b) if so, whether it has been useful and has taken place of IAF's 200-odd Kirans that have been in service for nearly 30 years;

(c) if so, the details regarding its speed, quality and usefulness; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be handover to Armed Forces to train their pilots?

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

(b) HJT-36 is an Intermediate Jet Trainer (IJT) which is being developed for Stage-II flying training of pilots, which is presently done on Kiran aircraft. IJT will replace the ageing Kiran trainers.

(c) IJT is a sub-sonic aircraft with a fuel efficient engine, advanced avionics systems and increased weapon load. This will help to improve the pilots' training effectiveness and lead to easier transition to the advanced training for modern fighter aircraft.

(d) Initial operational clearance of IJT is expected by 2005-2006 and deliveries to Indian Air Force (IAF) are expected to start from the same year onwards.

[Translation]

Poor Quality of Drinking Water

4889. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether food items, drinking water and other drinks sold to passengers on railway stations are of poor quality and contaminated, and these adversely affect the health of the passengers;

(b) whether the Ministry of Railways have made some arrangements to check these items; and

(c) if so, details of the samples of food items/drinks tested, number of traders/sellers blacklisted, number of traders/sellers against whom cases have been filed in court during last three years, year-wise, item-wise and organisation-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Indian Railways have taken steps to ensure good quality of food supplied by them on trains from base kitchens and at Railway stations.

Some of these include use of quality raw material and branded products, setting standards of hygiene and cleanliness, training of staff, frequent surprise checks and inspections etc.

Moreover, with a view to upgrade and professionalise catering services on trains as well as at Railway stations, Ministry of Railways have set up the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

Agreement Between GAIL and BOTAS Petroleum Pipeline Corporation

4890. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether GAIL and Turkey based Botas Petroleum Pipeline Corporation have signed an agreement for joint participation in cross country pipeline project and in other fields:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be started on the agreed field between the two companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL) and BOTAS, National Oil and Gas Company of Turkey, have finalized and initiated a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC). The MOC aims at evaluation and implementation of projects in the following areas:

(i) Possibility of development of CNG and residential infrastructure for retail gas marketing in Turkey, India and third countries.

(ii) Identification of CNG infrastructure requirement for the transport sector in Turkey and India covering the techno economic and marketing aspects etc.

(iii) Possibility of joint participation in cross country pipeline projects in Turkey, India and third countries.

- (iv) Possibility of development of gas processing facilities in Turkey, India and third countries.
- (v) O&M services.
- (vi) Techno economic studies for underground gas storage.
- (vii) Other natural gas sector opportunities in Turkey and India.
- (viii) Exchange of experts and training of personnel.

(c) The MOC may be signed by the middle of the year 2003, following which joint teams would be constituted to evaluate various potential opportunities. The Joint teams would present the assessment to respective managements and based on which the two companies would endeavour to identify projects which can be taken up for joint implementation. Separate project specific agreements would then be entered for such identified projects.

Turn Down of Agreement

4891. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

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

(a) whether there was a mutual agreement/accord between the members/representatives of Federation of All India Petroleum Traders and Directors of Marketing of four oil PSU's signed on August 17, 2001 having different clauses/procedures regarding checking and initiation of action on the petrol pump dealers;

(b) if so, whether all inspecting authorities/officers of the oil PSU's and Government are bound to act as per the clauses and procedures embodied in this said accord;

(c) if so, whether there are some reports that some of the officers are deliberately working against the procedure mentioned in this accord;

(d) if so, whether the petrol pump dealers are free to refuse to sign on the inspection report in case the officers violate the clauses of this accord; and

(e) if so, the name and designation of Officers found guilty for violating this accord and the action taken/proposed to be taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) 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 a 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.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Shifting of Joint Cipher Bureau

4892. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to shift Joint Cipher Bureau (JCB) from its present location;

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

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

(d) whether JCB is co-related/part of DRDO for whom a multistoried building project has already been started;

(e) if so, the details in this regard;

(f) the additional expenditure likely to, be incurred by the exchequer on account of security, safety, maintenance etc. after the shifting of JCB at proposed location; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to check and stop such wasteful expenditure to exchequer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) JCB is not part of DRDO. It is an inter-Service organisation working under the Department of Defence Research and Development.

(f) No additional expenditure is envisaged.

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

**Contracts to Private Parties for Cleanliness
of Railway Stations**

4893. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

SHRI AMBAREESHA:

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has awarded contracts for some Railway Stations to private parties for their cleanliness;

(b) if so, the details of Railway Stations awarded, zone-wise;

(c) whether any criteria have been adopted by the Government for awarding the contract or selecting the stations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (e) The contracts for cleanliness are awarded by the Zonal Railways at various Railway stations based on the need at a particular location, feasibility, availability of service provider etc. and it is a continuous process. The details of Railway stations, where such contracts have been awarded, are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Details of Railway stations where contracts have been awarded for cleanliness.

S.No.	Zonal Railway	Name of Railway station
1	2	3
1	Central	Lokmanya Tilak Terminus
2	ER	Sealdah, Barasat, Sonarpur, Howrah
3	ECR	Rajendra Nagar and Patna
4	NR	Hazrat Nizamuddin, Delhi and New Delhi
5	NER	Bareilly Junction

1	2	3
6	NFR	Nil
7	NWR	Nil
8	SR	Bangalore City, Mangalore, Mysore, Trivandrum Central, Trichur, Ernakulam, Alwaye, Chengannur, Kayankulam, Alleppey
9	SCR	Nil
10	SER	Nil
11	WR	Dadar, Bandra, Andheri, Borivili, Surat, Bisalwas Kalan, Barayala Chaurasi, Raila Road Attar and Nagda

(Information as on 31.03.2003)

[Translation]

Inquiry Commission on Tehlka Tapes

4894. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are conducting an enquiry through an Inquiry Commission into the Tehlka Tapes which exposed corruption indulged by certain politicians and the officials of his Ministry;

(b) if so, the date on which the said inquiry of tapes was started and the time stipulated to complete the inquiry;

(c) whether the said inquiry was not completed in the prescribed time limit;

(d) if so, the dates on which the tenure of the said Commission was extended and the period for which it was extended; and

(e) the details of the inquiry points set to be looked into by the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): (a) to (e) Following certain allegations made in the videotapes and transcripts released by Tehelka.com under the name of "Operation West Fund", Government set up Justice K. Venkataswami Commission of Inquiry vide Notification dated 24.3.2001. The

Commission started functioning from 30.3.2001 and initially, the inquiry was to be completed by 23.7.2001.

The tenure of the Commission has been extended as per the detail shown in the table below:

Date on which the tenure was extended	Period for which the tenure was extended.
23.7.2001	4 months i.e. upto 23.11.2001
23.11.2001	4 months i.e. upto 23.3.2002
20.3.2002	6 months i.e. upto 23.9.2002
21.9.2002	Beyond 23.9.2002 and upto 31.1.2003
4.1.2003	6 months w.e.f. 4.1.2003 i.e. upto 3.7.2003

Justice S.N. Phukan has been appointed as new chairman of the Commission vide Government Notification dated 4.1.2003. The terms of reference of the Commission are as follows:-

(a) to inquire whether the transactions relating to Defence and other procurements referred to in the said videotapes and transcripts have been carried out in terms of the prescribed procedures and the imperatives of national security;

(b) to inquire whether in any of the aforesaid procurement transactions, illicit gains have been made by persons in public office, individuals, and any other organization as alleged, and if so, to what extent;

(c) to suggest action that may be taken in respect of persons who may be found responsible by the Commission for their acts of commission and/or omission in respect of the transactions referred to in sub-clause (a) above;

(d) to inquire into all aspects relating to the making and publication of these allegations and any other matter which arises from or is connected with or incidental to any act,

omission or transaction referred to in sub-clauses (a) and (b) above.

[English]

Non-Clearance of Dues of Workers in PSUs

4895. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether lakhs of workers in Central Public Sector Undertakings, especially of HCL Ltd. and Cement Corporation of India have not received their salaries, bonus, EPF and other arrear dues for a long time;

(b) if so, the total amount of arrear dues of workers, PSU-wise;

(c) the recommendations of the Committee set up by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether Government have any action plan to clear all dues of workers as early as possible; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (e) As per the available information, as on 30.6.2002 there were 66 enterprises inclusive of Hindustan Cables Ltd. and Cement Corporation of India which have pending dues to the extent of Rs.2082.23 crore on account of salaries, wages and statutory dues. Enterprise wise details are given in the enclosed statement. Government have been assisting some PSUs with interim financial support for liquidating employees related liabilities. A Group of Ministers constituted to recommend ways and means to liquidate the outstandings has not submitted its final recommendations. However, the administrative Ministries have been advised to assess and indicate expeditiously the budgetary support required by the PSU, to clear the outstandings after taking the stock of the financial position of the enterprises, which can liquidate the outstanding statutory dues out of their own resources, or by disposal of non-performing assets.

Statement

PSU wise position of outstanding statutory dues and salaries and wages as on 30.6.2002

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of CPSU	Outstanding statutory dues	Outstanding salary/ wages dues	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andrew Yule & Co.	725.05	1164.13	1889.18
2.	Bengal Immunity Ltd.	508		508

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Bharat Brakes & Valves Ltd.	78.76	-	78.76
4.	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	48995	-	48995
5.	Bharat Earth Movers Ltd.	2.93	-	2.93
6.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.	49.69	0.91	50.60
7.	Bharat Heavy Plate & Vessels	1110.15	-	1110.15
8.	Bharat Pumps and Compressors	1284.37	-	1284.37
9.	Bharat Refractories Ltd.	4687.65	2593.83	7281.48
10.	Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd.	74.72	315	389.72
11.	Bharat Wagon & Engg.	516.89	360	876.89
12.	Birds, Jute & Exports Ltd.	115	-	115
13.	Braithwaite & Co. Ltd.	321.11	-	321.11
14.	British India Corporation Ltd.	596	-	596
15.	Burn Standard Co. Ltd.	5391.52	145	5536.52
16.	Cement Corpn. of India Ltd.	1288.57	747.74	2036.31
17.	Central Coalfields Ltd.	317	-	317
18.	Heavy Engineering Corporation	9755	681	10436
19.	Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.	1700	-	1700
20.	Hindustan Cables Ltd.	4324.31	2347.95	6672.26
21.	Hindustan Copper Ltd.	2059	793	2852
22.	Hindustan Photo Films Mfg.	815.93	1299.17	2115.10
23.	Hindustan Salts Ltd.	108.32	38.97	147.29
24.	Hindustan Steel Works Const.	7918	13079.56	20997.56
25.	Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corp.	1220	-	1220
26.	HMT Ltd.	426.14	-	426.14
27.	HMT (MT)	2259.43	275.95	2535.38
28.	HMT (W)	1953	639	2592
29.	HMT (CW)	171.84	232.92	404.76
30.	Hooghly Dock & Port Eng. Ltd.	35.00	242.00	277.00

1	2	3	4	5
31.	Hospital Services Cons Ltd.	0.76	-	0.76
32.	Indian Drugs and Pharma. Ltd.	7585	-	7585
33.	Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd.	4502	-	4502
34.	Instrumentation Ltd.	628.65	213	841.65
35.	Jessop & Co. Ltd.	1586.45	198.20	1784.65
36.	Mazagon Dock Ltd.	26.64	0.97	27.61
37.	National Aluminium Co. Ltd.	2.38	-	2.38
38.	National Building Cons. Corp.	125.05	231.33	356.38
39.	National Industrial Dev. Corp.	62	386	448
40.	National Instruments Ltd.	243.95	887.97	1131.92
41.	National Jute Man. Corpn. Ltd.	13057	-	13057
42.	National Projects Con. Corp. Ltd.	4259	1527	5786
43.	National Seeds Corporation Ltd.	338.69	189.23	527.92
44.	NEPA Ltd.	-	1416.35	1416.35
45.-53.	NTC's Subsidiaries	35564	-	35564
54.	Praga Tools Ltd.	505	335	840
55.	Projects and Development India	1936	-	1936
56.	Reyrolle Burn Ltd.	52.79	60.65	113.44
57.	Richardson & Cruddas (1972) Ltd.	257.40	470.69	728.09
58.	Sambhar Salts Ltd.	3.86	36.41	40.27
59.	Scooters India Ltd.	16.08	-	16.08
60.	Smith Stanistreet & Pharma.	91	-	91
61.	State Farms Corporation Ltd.	2538	250	2788
62.	Tea Trading Corpn.	872.29	1029.52	1901.81
63.	Triveni Structural Ltd.	796.48	678	1474.48
64.	Tungbhadra Steel Products Ltd.	194	223	417
65.	Tyre Corporation of India Ltd.	933.66	119.99	1053.65
66.	Weihbirds India Ltd.	27.02	-	27.02
	Total	175013.53	33209.44	208222.97
	Equivalent to Crore	1750.14	332.09	2082.23

[Translation]

Allotment of Petrol Pumps to OBCs

4896. DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to provide reservation for the backward classes in the allotment of petrol pumps and LPG Agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Consequent upon the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector with effect from 1.4.2002, the selection of dealers/distributors for retail outlets (petrol pumps), SKO-LDO dealerships and LPG distributorships at different locations in the country, will be made by the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) themselves as per the guidelines to be adopted by them.

[English]

Paucity of Staff and Space in East Central Railway

4897. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:

SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether East Central Railway Zone at Hajipur has become fully operational;

(b) if so, whether several officers of East Central Railway are operating from Patna;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether paucity of staff and space in Hajipur are coming in the way of proper functioning of East Central Railway (ECR); and

(e) if so, the action taken to ensure its smooth functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Yes, Sir. East Central Railway has become fully operational w.e.f. 01.10.2002.

(b) Temporary leased accommodation has been taken at Hajipur and Patna for off line activities.

(c) Office building expansion is in progress.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Regional Programmes on DD-I

4898. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:

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

(a) whether sponsored programmes of Regional Kendras are given opportunity on DD-I;

(b) if so, whether successful programmes of Regional Channels can be given opportunity through DD-I where slob are available;

(c) whether due recognition has been given to regional programmes;

(d) if so, the details thereof, region-wise;

(e) whether to ensure quality of the programmes of all Kendras, DD has any facility to compare similar programmes in Private Channels;

(f) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(g) the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati has informed that sponsored programmes of Regional Kendras are telecast

on their terrestrial windows of DD-I given in the enclosed statement in the respective regional language.

(b) Prasar Bharati has informed that most of the Kendras are providing opportunity to the successful programmes of Regional Satellite Channels on DD-I (Regional Window) also by telecasting these programmes simultaneously on Regional Satellite Channels and DD-I, to provide wider viewership.

(c) and (d) Prasar Bharati has informed that Regional Kendras allot their telecast time for telecast of programmes in the language of the region.

(e) to (g) Prasar Bharati has informed that telecast of good quality programmes on Doordarshan Channels is a continuous activity and monitoring quality of programmes is a regular exercise with a view to retain high viewership.

Doordarshan has been improving its programming structure and making policy changes to match the competition, while discharging its mandate as a Public Service Broadcaster. Various steps like appointment of expert Advisory Groups, revised guidelines for bringing transparency and objectivity in programming, improvement in transmission quality and awards for excellence, have been taken to enhance the quality and content of Doordarshan programmes.

Statement

I. Slots on DD-I for Regional Kendras:

Sunday :

(i) 0800 to 0830 hrs. (ii) 1600 to 2000 hrs.

Monday to Friday :

(i) 1030 to 1100 hrs. (ETV)
(ii) 1430 to 1700 hrs. (Except Hindi Belt)
(iii) 1700 to 2000 hrs. (Wednesday 1930 to 2000 hrs.)

Saturday: 1830 to 2000 hrs.

II. Hindi belt Kendras:

Sunday :

(i) 1300 to 1330 hrs. (Except DDK, Lucknow/Bhopal/Jalandhar)
(ii) 1330 to 1400 hrs. (Except DDK, Lucknow/Bhopal/Jalandhar/N&CA)

Monday to Friday :

1430 to 1700 hrs. (Except Lucknow)

Friday :

1930 to 2000 hrs. (Except Jalandhar)

[Translation]

Setting up of Joint Venture for Cable T.V. Distributorship

4899. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether the Government are considering granting approval to Prasar Bharati to set up a joint venture for Cable T.V. distributorship in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the organisations proposed to be included in this joint venture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) No such proposal has been received from Prasar Bharati.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Talcher-Bimlagarh Rail Line

4900. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for the construction of a railway line from Talcher to Bimlagarh in Orissa has been pending since long;

(b) whether the Railway line is proposed to be constructed during Tenth Plan;

(c) if so, the fund provision made therefor; and

(d) the details of the steps taken to expedite the construction of that line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (d) The survey conducted in 2001-02 for Talcher-Bimlagarh New Line project has revealed that the cost of construction of this 154-km long line would be about Rs. 606.60 crore with a non-remunerative rate of return. Construction of this new line is not considered justifiable from traffic point of view. In view of the above and acute resource constraints, it has not been considered feasible to take up the construction of this new line.

Fake Credit Letters

4901. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned. "Rake for rent scam busted by Railways" as reported in 'The Statesman' dated March 17, 2003;

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

(c) whether foodgrain exporters are using fake credit letters and bank endorsements in connivance with railway and FCI officials to allot goods bogies;

(d) if so, the modus operandi of the scam; and

(e) the corrective steps the Government propose to take to defuse such scams and to punish the involved railway officials?

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

(b) The news item has reported about booking of rakes on the basis of forged letters of credit and Bank endorsements allegedly in connivance with certain officials of Railway and FCI for exporting foodgrain to Bangladesh under fictitious names.

(c) During checks conducted by Railway Vigilance, 49 bank certificates from the exporter's Bank and attestation by them on letters of credits were found to be fake. However, There was no connivance of Railway employees with these parties who submitted fake documents.

(d) The modus operandi was to get the indents registered against fake certificates submitted from Exporter's Bank. These fake certificates enabled the consignor to get higher priority in allotment of Railway rakes.

(e) In addition to intensifying preventive checks, procedure for registration of indents for export traffic has been modified in consultation with Ministry of Commerce and FCI. Under the revised procedure, indents for export of foodgrains to Bangladesh are required to be supported by a release order issued by FCI and no priority in allotment is given on the basis of letter of credit.

Sale of Scrap

4902. SHRI C. N. SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any action to accumulate the scrap which are lying unchecked on both sides of the Railway Tracks throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of total scrap sold by Railways during the year 2002-2003 and till date, Zone-wise; and

(d) the total amount generated therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Quantification and classification of released Permanent Way materials is done in accordance with the extant provisions and related instructions issued from time to time. Separate lots of Scrap Permanent Way material are formed at convenient locations along lines/Depots before disposal. The accidented rolling stock, which cannot be repaired economically and can not be moved on rails are mostly disposed off from the accident sites itself.

(c) and (d) The details of total scrap sold by Railways (Zone-wise) during 2002-03 (April 2002 to March 2003) and total amount generated therefrom are given as under:-

Railways	Ferrous Scrap including Rails (In MTs#)	Non-Ferrous (In MTs#)	Wagons (In FWUs*)	Coaches (In Nos.)	Locos (In Nos.)	Amount Realised (Rs. in Crs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Central	166459	1281	4208	124	9	193
Eastern	95468	1938	1807	128	50	118
Northern	153939	512	2702	107	6	171
North-Eastern	47343	866	351	251	10	44

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Northeast Frontier	19887	71	250	37	2	16
Southern	103393	3139	529	248	2	103
South-Central	115773	657	631	84	0	105
South-Eastern	197692	992	2418	45	12	192
Western	69080	1939	1358	102	3	84
NWR	16933	306	486	29	8	40
All PUs	42617	749				45
Total	1038564	12450	14788	1135	102	1111

MTs stands for Metric Tonnes

* FWUs stands for four wheeler units

World Bank Loan for Mega Rail Projects

4903. SHRI Y.V. RAO:

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railways has sought World Bank aid for mega rail projects;

(b) if so, the details of the projects for which the aid has been sought;

(c) whether the deal has been finalised; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the terms and conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) The World Bank (WB) is funding Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP) Phase-I, which has both road and rail components, through a loan from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) of US Dollar 463 million (including US Dollar 305 million for rail component) and a credit from International Development Association (IDA) of US Dollar 79 million (including US Dollar 60 million for rail component). The total estimated cost of the rail component of this project is Rs. 3125 crores. The cost is being equally shared between Govt. of Maharashtra and Ministry of Railways.

Some more projects under National Rail Vikas Yojana and Safety Enhancement Works are under discussion with World Bank for funding.

(b) The details of the projects under rail component of MUTP Phase-I are indicated in the enclosed statement. In regard to projects under National Rail Vikas Yojana and Safety Enhancement Works, the same are yet to be finalised.

(c) The loan for MUTP has become effective on 6th November, 2002. The loan for National Rail Vikas Yojana and Safety Enhancement Works is under discussion.

(d) The IDA credit of MUTP loan is repayable in 35 years with a moratorium of ten years. The IBRD portion of MUTP loan is repayable in 20 years with a moratorium of five years. IDA credit entails service charge at the rate of 0.75% per annum, whereas IBRD has a variable interest rate equal to LIBOR (London Inter-Bank Offered Rate) Base Rate plus LIBOR total spread.

Statement

Works Included under the Rail Component of MUTP Phase-I

Name of work	Estimated Cost (In crores of Rs.)
1	2
5th line in Western Railway including flyover modification at Mahim	59.00
Kulra-Thane 5th & 6th Lines	166.00

1	2
Borivili-Bhayander: Quadrupling of track	509.00
Western Railway optimisation-increased train frequency and rake size	50.10
Central Railway optimisation-increased train frequency and rake size	99.50
Harbour line optimisation-increased train frequency and rake size	19.70
DC to AC conversion	380.40
EMU coach remanufacturing	1359.20
Resettlement and Rehabilitation	290.00
EMU Maintenance facilities	64.30
Stabling lines for EMUs	48.50
Procurement of Track Machines	31.30
Institutional Strengthening & Technical Assistance	48.20
Total	3125.20

Funds for Solar Energy Scheme in Punjab

4904. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are providing any assistance or grant to any solar energy scheme in Punjab;

(b) if so, the funds released under this scheme to Punjab during the last two years and proposed for 2003-2004;

(c) the details of solar energy produced and utilized during the last two years in the above State; and

(d) the target set for the production of solar energy under solar energy scheme during 2003-04 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry is implementing various solar energy programmes such as solar photovoltaic (SPV) demonstration & utilization programme, SPV grid-interactive power programme, SPV water pumping programme, solar thermal extension programme and solar cooker programme in the entire country, including the state of Punjab. These programmes are being implemented through

the state renewable energy development agencies, selected non-governmental organizations, the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) Limited and a few public sector banks.

Under these programmes, installation of solar energy systems like solar home systems, street lighting systems, power plants, water pumping systems, solar water heating systems, solar cookers, etc. is being supported through central subsidy, soft loan packages and other incentives. In addition, the Ministry is supporting the establishment of 'Aditya' solar shops in the selected cities of the country.

The solar energy programmes in Punjab are being implemented through the Punjab Energy Development Agency (PEDA), Chandigarh. During the last two years i.e. 2001-02 and 2002-03, PEDA has installed the following solar energy systems:

- (i) 1200 solar water pumping systems
- (ii) A 200 kWp Grid-Interactive SPV Power Plant at village Khatkar Kalan, District Nawanshahar
- (iii) 750 solar home systems
- (iv) 350 solar street lighting systems
- (v) 1,500 solar lanterns
- (vi) 250 box type solar cookers
- (vii) 100 dish type solar cookers
- (viii) Solar water heating systems with aggregate capacity of 12,500 litres per day.

The Ministry released central grants of Rs. 650.56 lakhs during 2001-02 and Rs. 1,043.57 lakhs during 2002-03 to PEDA under solar energy programmes. State-wise financial allocations and releases are yet to be made during 2003-04 under the solar energy programmes.

(c) and (d) It is estimated that the solar photovoltaic systems & power plants installed in Punjab have generated 2.08 and 2.92 million units of electricity during 2001-02 and 2002-03, respectively.

State-wise targets for the year 2003-04 under the solar energy programmes of the Ministry are yet to be allocated. Proposals in this regard from various states are being compiled.

[Translation]

Welfare Schemes for SCs/STs/Minorities Etc.

4905. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of welfare schemes being implemented for the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/Minorities/handicapped/widows and other backward classes particularly in Shekhpura, Lakhisarai, Jumai and Begusarai districts of Bihar;

(b) the funds allocated/expenditure incurred under

these schemes during each of the last three years, scheme-wise; and

(c) the number of families and individuals of different social groups benefited under these schemes in Bihar and other States during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) No State-wise allocation is made. Funds released under welfare schemes in the Bihar State including districts of Shekhpura, Lakhisarai, Jumai and Begusarai during the last three years is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) Information is being collected.

Statement*Release of funds to various schemes in the State of Bihar*

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	Scheme	Release		
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4	5
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment				
1	Pre-Matric Scholarship to the children of those engaged in unclean occupation	20.00	15.47	20.00
2	Book Banks for Scheduled Caste Students	7.38	0.00	10.00
3	Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989	34.03	0.00	65.00
4	Grant in Aid to Voluntary Organisations for the welfare of Scheduled Castes	46.68	89.61	96.47
5	Coaching & Allied for SCs	0	0.00	6.00
Other Backward Classes				
6	Construction of Hostels for OBC boys and girls	0.00	149.58	0.00
7	Post Matric Scholarship for OBC students for studying abroad	0.00	500.00	0.00
8	Assistance to VOs working to the welfare of OBCs	0.00	5.13	0.00
Minorities				
9	Pre Examination Coaching for Weaker Sections based on economic criteria	50.82	53.82	37.50
Welfare of Persons with Disabilities				
10	Scheme to Promote Voluntary Organisation for Persons with Disabilities	162.47	225.42	194.60

1	2	3	4	5
11	Scheme of assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase/fitting of Aids and Appliances	22.16	63.31	74.65
12	National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities	322.25	251.75	*
Ministry of Tribal Affairs				
1	Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan	1711.06	556.56	556.56
2	Educational Complex in low literacy pockets	0.00	0.00	0.30

* Transferred to States

[English]

Setting up of Petrol Pumps by IOCL in A.P.

4906. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have directed Indian Oil Corporation to set up petrol pumps in some coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh;

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

(c) whether the districts of East Godavari, Vashhapatnam and West Godavari have been chosen by IOC to set up petrol and diesel outlets without any planning or market considerations; and

(d) if so, the full details of the commercial activity of IOC in response to the directives from the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, consequent upon the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector with effect from 1.4.2002, the selection of dealers/distributors for retail outlets (petrol pumps), SKO-LDO dealerships and LPG distributorships at different locations in the country, will be made by the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) themselves as per the guidelines to be adopted by them.

Survey for Rail Lines in Tamil Nadu

4907. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Railway lines in Tamil Nadu in respect of which survey was conducted for reopening/

upgradation during Ninth Five Year Plan but could not be taken up for various reasons;

(b) whether public representatives of Tamil Nadu have requested the Government to conduct fresh survey in respect of those lines;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the response of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) No Railway line has been closed in the recent past in Tamil Nadu, as such, no survey for re-opening of Railway line is required. However, survey for gauge conversion of Bodinayakanur-Madurai, Virudunagar-Manamadurai and Dindigul-Pollachi-Palghat were conducted during 9th plan but works have not been taken up.

(b) to (d) There have been demands for taking up gauge conversion of these lines. However, no demand is pending for conducting fresh survey.

Derailment Since January, 2002

4908. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of derailments which affected train services in the country since January, 2002, zone-wise;

(b) the causes of these derailments;

(c) the amount of loss suffered by Government on account of disruption of train traffic, during the above period; and

(d) the measures Government propose to take to check derailments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) The number of derailments that occurred on Indian Railways since January 2002 to March 2003 (Figures are provisional), Zone wise, are as follows: -

S. No.	Railway	No. of Derailment
1.	Central	31
2.	Eastern	40
3.	East Central	11
4.	Northern	34
5.	North Eastern	20
6.	Northeast Frontier	40
7.	North-Western	4
8.	Southern	22
9.	South Central	29
10.	South Eastern	29
11.	Western	18
12.	Konkan	2
Total		280

The derailments are caused by a variety of factors, which broadly include failure of Railway staff equipment failure, and sabotage, etc.

(c) The figures relating to indirect losses on account of accidents are not maintained. However in the period January 2002 to January 2003, direct losses to the tune of Rs. 29.81 cr. (Provisional) have been estimated on account of damage to Railway property due to derailments.

(d) To prevent derailments and reduce their impact, some of the measures being taken are as under:

- (i) A non-lapsable Special Railway Safety Fund of Rs. 17,000/- crore has been set up for renewal of over aged assets and for safety enhancement works.
- (ii) All the Production Units, majority of repair workshops and large number of Sheds/Depots have achieved ISO 9002 certification for their Quality maintenance system.

- (iii) Procurement of new generation diesel locomotives with enhanced safety features such as multi-re-setting vigilance control device, computer controlled brake system, extended dynamic brake and creep control to avoid wheel slipping.
- (iv) Fitment of micro processor control speed recorders to monitor speed of the train.
- (v) Procurement of simulators as training aid to improve training of running staff.
- (vi) Odour-cum-fume type hot box detectors are under lab tests for timely detecting and detaching hot boxes thereby preventing breakage of axle/journals on the run.
- (vii) New wagons being inducted into the system are equipped with more reliable Casnub Bogies and Air Brake System. Bogie Mounted Brake System on wagons has also been developed. The use of Composition Brake Blocks on wagons is being progressively increased.
- (viii) Improvement in rolling stock design to reduce the impact of accidents and resultant casualties.
- (ix) There has been progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and Ballast Cleaning Machines for track maintenance. Track Renewal Trains are also being used.
- (x) For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometers are being used progressively.
- (xi) For detection of rail fractures/weld failures, adequate double rail Ultra Sonic Flaw Detectors have been procured. Self Propelled Ultrasonic Rail Testing-Cars are being procured.
- (xii) Regular inspection of track at various levels is undertaken.
- (xiii) Training to Railway staff is provided immediately after their recruitment and thereafter their knowledge is refreshed periodically. Seminars, Workshops and field demonstrations are also organized for 'permanent way' staff from time to time to enhance and update their knowledge.
- (xiv) Patrolling of Railway track by gangmen is carried at vulnerable locations during monsoon, summer and winter.

- (xv) The specifications of rail steel have been upgraded and are in conformity with the International Union of Railways (UIC) specifications.
- (xvi) The track structure is upgraded on planned basis.
- (xvii) To keep the track in good condition, track renewals are carried out whenever it becomes due subject to availability of funds.
- (xviii) Derailment prone four wheeler wagons (CRT wagons) are being phased out of service.
- (xix) Closer liaison is being maintained with State Police Departments, wherever required for prevention of crime on Railway tracks and bridges.
- (xx) Instructions have been issued to reduce the number of fish plated joints, wherever feasible and for burring of two fish bolts, one on each rail, at joints located in the stretches considered vulnerable.
- (xxi) An anti-theft elastic rail clip and fish bolt fastening is under development.
- (xxii) Stringent penalty to the extent of dismissal/removal from service is being imposed on officials causing serious accidents.

[Translation]

Violent Episodes on DD

4909. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether violent episodes telecast from Doordarshan are creating violent and criminal tendencies in children;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take concrete steps to check such things;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that programmes telecast on Doordarshan channels are governed by the broadcast code. Doordarshan ensures that the programmes/sequences which incite violence are not telecast.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[English]

J & K Disturbed Area by Oil PSU

4910. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the area of Jammu in the State of Jammu and Kashmir is not considered the disturbed and terrorist affected area by the oil PSU's;

(b) if so, whether the oil PSU officers posted in this city are given the benefits being given to the officers posted in terrorist affected areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons for discrimination with the officers posted at Jammu;

(e) whether the Government propose to declare entire Jammu as disturbed and terrorist affected area; and

(f) if so, time by which the officers of oil PSU's posted at Jammu would get benefit as are available to the officers posted in disturbed and terrorist affected area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (f) The State Government of Jammu & Kashmir have declared the district of Jammu as disturbed area in August 2001. The oil Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) have not extended any special incentive to their employees posted in Jammu. However, Indian Oil Corporation Limited and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited have extended certain special concessions since the year 1991 to their employees working in Srinagar Valley in view of the hardship and difficulties experienced there. Depending upon the hardship and difficulties experienced, the respective oil PSUs consider grant of special benefits to their employees.

Solar Energy

4911. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to give preference to solar energy as compared to hydro and thermal power;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any studies have been conducted by the Government to tap more power from other resources except thermal, hydro and solar energy; 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) Government is promoting all indigenous energy resources, conventional like hydro and thermal as well as non-conventional including solar, depending upon techno-economic feasibility/viability with the aim of making them complementary to each other. However, solar energy is still not competitive to conventional energy sources for large-scale power generation. Hence, it is being promoted in areas where it is useful and viable particularly in the remote and hilly areas. A total of around 2,56,673 home lighting systems, 47,969 street lights, 5,09,894 solar lanterns, 5591 water pumps, 7,00,000 sq. meters of collector area for water heating, 5,30,500 solar cookers and 3.14 MW capacity of power plants have been installed and 800 villages electrified through solar energy till 31.03.2003. It is proposed to install another 53,000 home lighting systems, 600 solar generators, 1600 water pumps, 55,000 sq. meters of collector area for water heating, 35,000 solar cookers and 1.2 MW capacity of power plants including street lights during the current year. In addition 850 villages are proposed to be electrified through solar energy.

(c) and (d) The other sources of non-conventional energy include wind, small hydro, biomass, urban & industrial wastes, geo-thermal and ocean energy. Studies and estimates prepared by the Ministry and various other institutions have revealed that there is a potential for generating 45,000 MW from wind, 15,000 MW from small-hydro, 19,500 MW from biomass, 2,500 MW from urban & industrial wastes, 10,000 MW from geo-thermal and around 15,000 MW from ocean tides in the country.

[Translation]

Misbehave with Travellers by Railway Officers

4912. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to take strict action against the railway officers misbehaving with the travellers and neglecting the services to be provided to them with regard to raising of objections by the travellers for serving bad quality of food and not providing them with complaint book during their journey in the Express and Shatabdi Express trains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b)

Departmental action is taken against officers on whom complaints are substantiated.

[English]

Hydel Generation

4913. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether hydel generation has low recurring costs and free of host of problems associated with fossil fuels such as dependence on imported fuel;

(b) if so, whether the share of generation of hydel power has dropped from 38 to 25 percent in the last twenty years;

(c) if so, whether hydel generation constitute only 14 percent of the total power generation;

(d) if so, whether enormous hydel potential is yet to be tapped; and

(e) if so, steps taken by the Government to tap and promote hydel generation?

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

(e) The hydro power installed capacity as on 31.3.2003 was 26,910 MW out of a total grid connected installed capacity of 1,07,973 MW. A capacity addition of 14,393 MW from hydro projects is to be achieved during the 10th Plan. Ministry of Power has developed appropriate strategies to further harness the country's hydro potential, and accords high priority for its development. The major strategy in this regard includes facilitation of prioritized basin wise development through a preliminary ranking done by the Central Electricity Authority in 2001. After discussions with the State Governments, 162 schemes of an installed capacity of about 50,000 MW have been selected for preparation of Pre-Feasibility Reports.

The investment policy has been made more attractive from time to time and provides for (i) Debt: Equity ratio up to 4:1 (ii) 100% foreign equity participation (iii) liberalized rates of depreciation in respect of assets (iv) import of equipment for power projects at concessional customs duty (v) 16% rate of return on equity (vi) generating companies can sell power on the basis of a suitably structured two part tariff - one part to cover fixed costs and the other to cover variable costs at a prescribed level of performance.

Since hydroelectric projects have lower internal rate of return compared to the thermal and gas based projects, the Government has notified new norms for incentives where the availability factor threshold has been reduced from 90% to 85%. Similarly, the sale rate of secondary energy has been notified at the same rate as primary energy.

Ceiling limits for techno-economic clearance in terms of the provisions of Section-29 of Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 has been enhanced for hydro projects. The procedures relating to transfer of clearances from State Government to Central Public Sector Undertakings and State Government to private sector have been simplified.

With the object of reducing the time and cost over-run of hydro projects so far as they relate to inadequate investigation and non-availability of proper infrastructure in terms of access roads and land, the Government has introduced a three stage clearance process for development of new hydro electric projects in the Central Sector.

[Translation]

Orders for BHEL

4914. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited has sufficient orders;

(b) if so, for how many years and target fixed for obtaining further orders; and

(c) the results of the diversification of its products?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) As on 1.4.2003, BHEL's outstanding order book position was approximately Rs.15,000/- crores scheduled for progressive delivery over a period of approximately 4 years. These appear to be sufficient to meet its business projections.

The target for obtaining further orders during the year 2003-04 is about Rs.11,000/- crores.

(c) BHEL has been continuously diversifying to ensure growth for the company keeping in view the changing economic scenario. It has successfully diversified into metallurgical and process industries, oil and gas, power transmission, transportation, non-conventional energy systems etc. The company has also reached out to new international markets.

During the year 2002-03, Industry Sector and International Operations contributed 26.7% and 8.8% respectively to BHEL's total turnover.

[English]

Extension of Sirpur-Kagaznagar-Bhagyanagar Express

4915. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has received a request from Members of Parliament and others regarding extension of 7233/7234 Secunderabad-Sirpur-Kagaznagar-Bhagyanagar Express upto Balharshah;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government on the above request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Some representations, including one from Shri Naresh Puglia, have been received regarding extension of 7233/7234 Secunderabad-Sirpur-Kagaznagar-Bhagyanagar Express/ Fast Passenger upto Balharshah. The same have been examined but not found feasible due to operational constraints.

[Translation]

Rehabilitation of Tehri Dam Oustees

4916. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:

YOGI ADITYA NATH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the persons displaced due to the Tehri Dam Project have not been rehabilitated completely as on date;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of such displaced persons who are yet to be rehabilitated; and

(d) the time by which these displaced persons are likely to be rehabilitated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The rehabilitation of persons to be displaced

on account of Tehri Dam is being carried out pari-passu with the construction of Dam and its reservoir filling. The rehabilitation work is being carried out by Government of Uttaranchal.

(c) and (d) All the affected 5291 urban families have been offered rehabilitation benefits. Out of 5429 fully affected rural families, 4011 rural families have so far been rehabilitated through allotment of land/cash compensation. About 250 families are reportedly still residing in Old Tehri Town though they have already been offered rehabilitation benefits. The balance rural families are likely to be rehabilitated by March, 2004.

[English]

Grants to Bio Mass Projects

4917. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have released grants under Bio-mass Project to the State of Andhra Pradesh particularly to Mahaboob Nagar District;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the quantum of funds released is higher than that of previous year; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) Central Financial Assistance in the form of interest subsidy amounting to Rs.10.40 crore was released during 2002-03 for biomass power and cogeneration projects in Andhra Pradesh. This included Rs. 51.84 lakhs for a biomass power project in Mahaboob Nagar District.

(c) Yes Sir. An amount of Rs. 9.61 crore was released for projects in Andhra Pradesh during the previous year 2001-02.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Khandwa-Poorna Gauge Conversion Work

4918. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Khandwa-Poorna gauge conversion work;

(b) whether the work of said project is running as per schedule;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for timely completion of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Presently, gauge conversion of only Purna-Akola section of Khandwa-Purna metre gauge line is a sanctioned work for which the detailed estimate has been sanctioned. Earthwork and bridge work are in progress in Purna-Hingoli section.

(b) to (d) No target has yet been fixed. The project would be progressed and completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

[English]

Gauge Conversion

4919. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the length of railway line that has been converted into Broad Gauge line in the country during the Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Plan, Sector-wise/State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): The length of Railway line that has been converted into Broad Gauge line in the country during the Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Plan, Statewise is as under:-

Sl. No.	State	Kms Converted
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	765
2	North Eastern Region	829
3	Bihar	397
4	Delhi	27
5	Goa	75
6	Gujarat	349
7	Haryana	380
8	Karnataka	1756
9	Madhya Pradesh	78

1	2	3
10	Maharashtra	784
11	Punjab	103
12	Rajasthan	1918
13	Tamil Nadu	883
14	Uttar Pradesh	888
15	Uttaranchal	60
16	West Bengal	35

[Translation]

Railway Siding Project in Piparwar

4920. SHRI RAVINDERA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be please to state:

(a) the amount spent so far on the Railway siding project at Piparwar under Bokaro district in Jharkhand and the length of rail line laid so far, the number of rail bridges to be constructed and the number of rail bridge constructed so far out of them;

(b) the reasons for not completing the said project so far;

(c) whether delay in the completion of said project is causing adverse affect on environment;

(d) whether the Government propose to complete said railway project on priority basis; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (e) The work of construction of Piparwar siding which is 27.35 kms long is being executed by M/s. IRCON. The contract of this work was awarded by M/s. Central Coal field Limited (M/s.C.C.L.), the owner of the siding to M/s.IRCON in 2 phases in the years 1990 and 1995. Railway (East Central Railway) is executing only the junction arrangements at Mc Cluskieganj Railway station which includes construction of two loop lines and a fly over near Mc.Cluskieganj Station. The revised cost of the work awarded to M/s. IRCON is Rs.141. 84 crores whereas the cost for the Railway's portion is about Rs.10 crores.

The amount spent for the portion of work being done by

Railway, is Rs.8.12 crores; and that for being executed by M/s. IRCON is Rs.85.40 crores. Railway has laid the complete length of the track in their portion (2.6 kms) and M/s. IRCON have laid the track in 13.275 kms. length. As regards to bridge works, all the 4 bridges on the railway portion of work have been completed. The work on a fly over near Mc.Cluskieganj Station is under progress and likely to be completed by 30.06.2003. M/s. IRCON have completed 43 bridges out of total 48 nos.

The project work is, however, facing serious law & order situation in contractual matters and also problems in acquisition of the required land free from encumbrance.

Expenditure Incurred on Research and Development Projects

4921. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Sector Enterprises are expending money on "Research and Development (R & D) Projects";

(b) if so, the names of such Public Sector Enterprises and the amount being spent by them in this regard;

(c) whether companies of the private sector are also working on 'Research and Development' projects;

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

(e) the percentage of amount spent by them for this purpose;

(f) whether the Government have issued any orders to the private companies for continuing to spend a fixed amount on 'Research and Development' in order to compete with the world; and

(g) if so, the details alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the Public Enterprises Survey 2001-02, placed in Parliament on 3.3.2003, a sum of Rs.832.73 crore was spent by Central Public Sector Enterprises on Research and Development activities, details of which are available in Statement 15 Volume-I of Public Enterprises Survey.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As per the R&D Statistics (May 2002) published by the Department of Science and Technology, the expenditure on R&D by 968 private sector companies during the year 1998-99 has been Rs. 1872.66 crore.

(e) The 968 private sector companies have spent 0.70% of their sales turn over on R&D in 1998-99.

(f) and (g) In order to encourage and augment industrial investment in R&D, Government have introduced various fiscal incentives and other support measures from time to time for private sector also.

[English]

Solar Energy Plants in Karnataka

4922. SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of solar energy plants being installed in Karnataka;

(b) the total expenditure incurred thereon so far;

(c) the time by which each of such plant is likely to be commissioned;

(d) whether the Government propose to install such solar energy plants in Tumkur district of Karnataka during the current financial year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (c) The Ministry is supporting the installation of solar photovoltaic (SPV) power plants under its solar energy programmes all over the country, including the state of Karnataka. The solar energy programmes in Karnataka are being implemented through the State nodal agency for renewable energy development i.e. the Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited (KREDL), Bangalore.

A 10.50 kWp SPV power plant is presently under installation in the office building of KREDL at Bangalore. The estimated central financial assistance to KREDL for installation of this power plant is Rs.18.90 lakhs. An amount of Rs.9.45 lakhs has been released so far to KREDL for this project. The power plant is likely to be commissioned within the next three months.

(d) and (e) The Ministry has not received any proposal for installation of solar photovoltaic power plant in Tumkur District in Karnataka from the State nodal agency.

Safety Aspects of AC Compartments

4923. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railways have examined the safety aspects of AC compartments in times of accidents and derailments;

(b) whether the coaches are also locked in the night;

(c) the way in which the passengers will find the keys to get out of such sealed compartments;

(d) whether the railways propose to ask research institutions to come up with a safer AC compartment within a time limit; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the safety capacities of AC compartments being used by Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Safety of the passengers is a high priority area of the Railways. Several improvements aimed at better reliability, safety and comfort have been introduced on AC coaches from time to time.

(b) Generally, AC coaches are kept in locked condition from inside during night.

(c) These doors can be opened from inside in case of any exigencies including accidents. No key is, therefore, required for this purpose.

(d) Suitable improvements in design of AC and Non AC coaches are made regularly by indigenous development.

(e) The salient features for improved safety, which will be installed in coaches including AC coaches, manufactured to the new design, are as under:

(i) Crash worthy features in passenger coaches to minimize damage to the passenger area of the coach in the event of an impact.

(ii) Anti climbing feature with center buffer couplings to avoid piling up of coaches in the event of accidents.

(iii) Fire retardant upholstery and furnishings to prevent spread of fire.

(iv) Modern Disc type, microprocessor controlled brake system for superior braking.

(v) Emergency opening windows to provide exit in case of accidents.

*[Translation]***Telecast of Regional News**

4924. SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the time allotted to regional Doordarshan Kendras out of the twenty four hours time for regional news bulletins and whether any percentage is fixed for regional news and national news out of these broadcasts;

(b) if so, the details of percentage fixed for the said purpose;

(c) whether any ratio/percentage and guidelines have been fixed for the visuals;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the day-wise or week-wise broadcasting time allotted to the regional Doordarshan Kendras in the country; and

(f) the details thereof, Kendra-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that Regional Kendras of Doordarshan are putting out news bulletins at different hours as per the schedule of each Kendra. Prasar Bharati has further informed that no percentage has been fixed for Regional News and National News out of these broadcasts.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Prasar Bharati has informed that no ratio/percentage for the visuals has been fixed.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) A list giving details of timings of Regional Service slot/Hindi belt is attached as statement.

Statement*Regional Window on National Channel (DD-I)*

Details of news telecast for Regional Service slot/Hindi belt on National Channel (DD-I)

Regional

Sundays	(i) 0800 to 0830 hrs.
	(ii) 1600 to 2000 hrs.
Monday to Friday	(i) 1030 to 1100 hrs. (ETV)
	(ii) 1430 to 1700 hrs. (Except Hindi Belt)

(iii) 1700 to 2000 hrs.
(Except Wednesday: 1930-2000)

Saturdays 1830 to 2000 hrs.

Hindi Belt

Sundays (i) 1300 to 1330 hrs. (Except DDK, Lucknow/Bhopal/Jalandhar)

(ii) 1330 to 1400 hrs. Do/N&CA

Monday to Friday 1430 to 1700 hrs.
(Except Lucknow)

Fridays 1930 to 2000 hrs.
(Except Jalandhar)

Recasting of 15 point Programme for Minorities

4925. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to recast the 15 point programme for the minorities afresh;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Union Government for effective implementation of the 15 point programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) Recasting of 15-Point Programme is under consideration of the Govt.

(c) Implementation of 15-Point Programme is monitored by the Ministry. Directions have been issued to the concerned Central Ministries, the State Govt./UT Administrations for effective implementation of the Programme.

*[English]***White Paper on Status of OPSUs**

4926. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to release White Paper on the status of CPSUs under the administrative control of this Ministry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government for early releasing of white paper?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) A white paper on the status of PSUs under the administrative control of the Department of Heavy Industry is under finalization.

Uplinking Permission to Foreign Channels

4927. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH:

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI:

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

(a) whether the Government are giving uplinking permission to some foreign television news channels;

(b) if so, whether the national security aspect has been considered;

(c) whether the Government have announced the guidelines in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the names of the channels alongwith owners of the channels to whom the guidelines for television news channels from and to India are likely to be applied;

(f) the benefit likely to be derived by the Government and viewers after issuing these guidelines; and

(g) to what extent these guidelines are likely to be helpful to regulate news channels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) Keeping in view all concerns, including security concerns, the guidelines for uplinking of foreign news channels from India were issued on March 26, 2003. The Guidelines, inter-alia, permit foreign equity holding in the applicant company up to 26% of the total paid up capital and require the company to be registered in India under the Companies Act, 1956 and majority of Directors, CEO and News Editor(s) to be Resident Indians.

Further, the permission for usage of facilities/ infrastructure for live news/footage collection and transmission, irrespective of the technology used, will be given to only those channels which are uplinked from India and the channel/ company will ensure that its news and current affairs content provider(s), if any are accredited with the Press Information Bureau.

(e) M/s. Zee Telefilms Ltd. has to comply with the new regime within one year. M/s. Star New Broadcasting Ltd. and BBC, which are 100% foreign companies, have been advised to apply afresh, as per the provisions of the revised guidelines

(f) to (g) In influencing public opinion, Television is, if not more, as powerful as the print media. In the given socio-cultural environment of the country and in the larger interests of the security and safety of the State, it is therefore not desirable to permit a foreign owned and managed company to uplink news and current affairs programmes from India.

Broadcasting of Obscene Album on Cable/DD

4928. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that several Hindi Private Music Video Albums are depicting females in obscene and semi-nude forms;

(b) if so, whether the Government have issued orders for stopping broadcasting of such albums on Private and DD Channels;

(c) if so, whether any action is being taken against the producers of these albums;

(d) if so, whether any explanation is called from Censor Board for issuing certification of these albums;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Complaints/suggestions expressing concerns about Programmes/Advertisements on TV Channels are received from time to time. Programmes of Satellite Channels when transmitted/retransmitted through the Cable Network are required to adhere to the Programme Code prescribed under the Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. The Programme Code, inter-alia, prescribes that no programme shall be carried in the cable service which offends good taste and decency, denigrates women, contains anything obscene or is not suitable for unrestricted public exhibition. Show Cause Notice were issued to two private TV Channels for telecasting Hindi songs in violation of the Code. Show Cause Notices have also been issued recently to TV Channels for telecasting songs from a Hindi Film certified 'A' by the Central Board of Film Certification, in violation of the Code.

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

Supply of Diesel/Petrol to Farmers at Concessional Rates

4929. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to supply diesel/petrol to the farmers at concessional rates;

(b) if so, the scheme formulated by the Union Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have any data regarding consumption of diesel/petrol by farmers; and

(d) if so, the quantum of diesel/petrol sanctioned and consumed by the farmers during each of the last three years?

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

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

(c) and (d) The estimated sales of diesel to agriculture sector during the period 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 was as follows:

Year	Figures in TMT* Estimated Sales
1999-2000	7592
2000-2001	7497
2001-2002	7227

(* thousand metric tonne)

Petrol is pre-dominantly used in automobiles, which are used other than in agriculture.

Funds for Track Renewal

4930. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present level of funds allocation for a pace of work on track renewal will take another hundred years to complete the work on defective and aged track existing as of today;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to tap other sources of finance for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government are considering to fixing a time-frame within which to complete the work of renewal; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF) had been created in 2001-02 to renew overdue assets including track. It is programmed that track overdue renewal as on 1.04.01 will be renewed by 31.03.07, out of SRSF.

However, track renewal is an ongoing activity like regular track maintenance, and no time limit can be fixed.

Setting Up of Power Plants in M.P.

4931. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up any power plant in the State of Madhya Pradesh with the Financial assistance of International Financial Institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to clear such proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Germany has committed financing through KfW for the Madhya Pradesh power sector reforms programme through improvement in power generation facilities in the State.

Retrenchment of Railway Employees

4932. SHRI NAGMANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has suggested his Ministry for the retrenchment of about four lakh employees:

(b) if so, the reasons given by the World Bank for its said decision; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Dividend by Oil Companies

4933. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Finance has demanded Rs. 2,500 crores from oil companies to be paid through the interim dividend route to help the government to bridge the impending large fiscal deficit;

(b) if so, whether this amount was to be paid before the budget;

(c) if so, whether the boards of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, Indian Oil, GAIL and Bharat Petroleum have declared their interim dividend; and

(d) if so, the extent to which this fund will be helpful to the Government?

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

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

(c) and (d) In view of the expected higher accrual of profits during the financial year 2002-03, six Oil PSUs including Oil & Natural Gas Corporation, Indian Oil Corporation, GAIL (India) Ltd. and Bharat Petroleum Corporation declared interim dividend for their shareholders. The total revenue receipts for the Central government on account of the interim dividend from six Oil PSUs for the fiscal year 2002-03 was Rs. 2687.42 crores.

Expansion Plan of HAL

4934. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the various expansion, modernization and infrastructure upgradation programmes proposed to be implemented by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) during Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the steps taken by the HAL in this regard; and

(c) the fund earmarked by HAL for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The major projects/programmes to be taken up during 10th Five Year Plan by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) are as follows:

(i) Licence manufacture of SU30MKI aircraft, its engines & accessories;

(ii) Limited Series Production (LSP) of Light Combat Aircraft (LCA);

(iii) Limited Series Production of Intermediate Jet Trainer (IJT);

(iv) Upgradation programme on aircraft/helicopters; and

(v) Developing centre of excellence in machining.

Plant and Machinery, civil works and other facilities are planned to be set up for the above programmes at HAL.

Sales growth will be achieved through increase in productivity and outsourcing. Modernisation of facilities is expected to help the products of HAL in becoming globally competitive besides increasing its export potential.

(b) The steps taken and the present status of various programmes are given below:

(i) An Inter Governmental Agreement for manufacture of SU30MKI aircraft, their engines and aggregates, was signed with the Russian side on 4th October, 2000. Subsequently, a General Contract, elaborating terms and conditions for Russian supplies/support was signed by HAL with Russian agency-Rosoboronexport on 28th December, 2000. Government sanction for the project was given on 17th January, 2001.

Setting up of facilities for manufacture of airframes, engines and accessories is underway at different divisions of HAL. Civil works and other procurement activities are under progress.

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed by HAL with Aeronautical Development Agency; (ADA) for setting up facilities for production of LCA at HAL. Work on drawing up specification for assembly hangars is progressing. Tool design and tool fabrication is under progress.

(iii) Proposal for productionising of IJT at HAL has been mooted.

(iv) Development works on up gradation of Jaguar, MiG-27M and Weapon System Integration (WSI) on Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) are under progress and the series modifications are envisaged after prototype developments. Additional activities for setting up testing facilities etc., are underway.

(v) A centre of excellence in machining is envisaged to cater to various projects of HAL. Drawing up of specifications for machines and plant layout are under progress.

(c) The funds required for the purpose are proposed to be arranged through customers and HAL's own resources, as per their mutual agreements.

Investment in Power Projects of Himachal Pradesh

4935. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any investment in power projects in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of investment made during the last two years, project-wise; and

(d) the share of the State Government therein?

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

(b) to (d) The details of investment made during the last two years by the Central Public Sector Undertakings are given as under:

Name of Project	Investment during 2000-01 (Rs. in Crore)	Investment during 2001-02 (Rs. in Crore)
Nathpha Jhakri HEP (SJVN)	794.57	1169.11
Chamera II (NHPC)	334.58	420.80
Parbati II (NHPC)	52.19	72.68
Koldam (NTPC)	6.52	121.45

The State Government of Himachal Pradesh is providing equity contribution only in the case of Nathpha Jhakri Hydro electric Project being executed by Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) which is a joint venture with the State Government with equity being contributed in the ratio of 3:1 by Government of India and Government of Himachal Pradesh respectively. The details of equity contribution in the SJVN for the years 2000-01 and 2001-02 are given as under:

	(Rs. in Crore)	
	2000-01	2001-02
Government of India Equity	435.00	658.35
Government of H.P. Equity	41.00	69.00

[Translation]

Construction of Railway Bridge in Delhi

4936. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to construct a new railway bridge in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds proposed to be spent by the Government thereon; and

(d) the time by which this bridge is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, there is one sanctioned work for replacement of existing Railway Bridge No.249 over Yamuna between Shahdara and Delhi Main Railway Station at estimated cost of Rs.67.11 crore which is likely to be completed in next three years.

[English]

Raising of Platform of Barbil Railway Station

4937. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to raise the platform of Barbil Railway Station in the district of Keonjhar has been pending since long;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by which the said platform is likely to be raised; and

(d) the steps taken to provide other amenities at this Station for passengers?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Barbil is an 'E' category station and passenger amenities at this station exist as per prescribed Minimum Essential Amenities norms, except deficiency of one booking window and one latrine. The target date for completion of works for these two amenities is September, 2003.

Increase in Fuel Cost

4938. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that fuel cost increase of 30% will seriously affect the industries and travel industry as reported in 'Economic Times' dated March 27, 2003; and

(b) if so, the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) With the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the Petroleum sector effective 1st April 2002, the pricing of all petroleum products, except for PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG, has been decontrolled. The oil marketing companies are now fixing the prices of petroleum products after taking into account the prevalent international oil prices. Thus, the variations in the international oil prices are likely to be reflected in the domestic prices of petroleum products.

Taking into account the softening of international oil prices, the oil companies have reduced the selling prices of petroleum products during April 2003. A comparison of the selling prices of some petroleum products in Mumbai as on 16.4.2003 with the position on 16.3.2003 is given below:

(Rs./Ltr.)

Price as on	Petrol	Diesel	Naphtha (Rs./Kg.)	Furnace Oil
16.04.2003	37.52	26.70	18.87	13.50
16.03.2003	38.59	27.88	26.29	16.01

Funds under APDRP

4939. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned an amount of Rs.70 crore under the accelerated power development and reforms programme to improve the power distribution system in Guwahati zone, under a 90%, 10% cost sharing system between the Centre and the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken for proper monitoring of implementation and timely completion of the scheme?

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

(b) During the financial year 2002-03, projects for strengthening of the Sub-Transmission & Distribution (ST&D) system in Guwahati, costing Rs.70.21 crore have been sanctioned under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP). Total cost of the above projects would be funded through APDRP as grant and loan to the State Government in the ratio of 90:10. Details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) As per the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) signed by the Ministry of Power with the Assam State Electricity Board, a State level Distribution Reform Committee, is to be set up comprising of the State Government representative, head of the State Electricity Boards, a representative from National Thermal Power Corporation or Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. and a representative from Central Electricity Authority or Ministry of Power. The Committee shall meet once in two months to review progress of APDRP project implementation and compliance of MoA conditions.

The Assam State Electricity Board (ASEB) has signed the MoA on July 27, 2002. ASEB has since constituted the Reform Committee and the same has become functional.

Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. is the lead advisor cum consultant assisting the State in formulation and monitoring of the projects in Assam.

Statement

(Rs. in Lacs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Schemes	Guwahati I	Guwahati II	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1	33 kV metering	43.17	35.16	78.33
	11 kV Metering	14.12	17.10	31.22
	Data Loggers	53.20	24.00	77.2
	R & M of Sub station		210.18	210.18

1	2	3	4	5
2	Computerised billing System Mapping and Indexing	63.20 40.00	95.00	158 40.00
3	Consumer Metering		281.82	
4	DTR metering Revamping of DTRs New DTRs	333.85	128.50 186.57 191.85	1122.59
5	11 kV feeder augmentation, pole replacements 33 kV feeder augmentation		102.68 131.76	102.68 131.76
6	Power transformer augmentation		77.06	77.06
7	New Sub station		116.88	116.88
8	MTI Augmentation		183.09	183.09
9	Oil filter matching and oil testing kit		13.05	13.05
10	Construction of new 33/11 kV sub station, augmentation of Sub station capacity, New 33 kV lines, addition of DTRs, Re-conductoring of 11 kV feeders, Conversion of single phase to three phase L T lines to three phase, Installation of capacitor bank, Auto Re closures etc.	4076.81		4076.81
11	Augmentation of 33 kV & 11 kV feeders, Augmentation of PTRs, sub-division civil works, oil filtering machines and oil testing kits, tools and plants etc.	613.90		613.90
Total		5238.25	1783.10	7021.35

Import of Diesel and Petrol by Oil Companies

4940. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new exim policy has permitted the oil marketing companies to go in for direct imports of petrol and diesel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of companies who applied for direct import of petrol and diesel;

(d) whether this step of the Government is likely to bring any competition in the marketing sector in the country; and

(e) if so, to what extent the consumers are likely to be benefited by this step of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) As per the extant EXIM policy, IOCL as State Trading Enterprise and the companies who have been granted rights for marketing of transportation fuels in terms of Resolution No. P-23015/1/2001-Mkt. Dated 8.3.2002 of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, could import transportation fuels.

(c) M/s. Essar Oil Limited, who have been granted marketing rights for transportation fuels by the Government, have sought permission to import petrol and diesel in the country.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Competition in the marketing of petroleum products is likely to benefit the consumers.

Complimentary Passes Facility

4941. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the categories of persons who are provided with complimentary passes facility;

(b) whether the Government has withdrawn or propose to withdraw the facility of complimentary passes to these categories;

(c) if so, the reasons for withdrawing this facility;

(d) the time by which the above facility is likely to be restored;

(e) whether any reimbursement is made in certain categories avail complimentary passes provided by Railways; and

(f) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government to check misuse of complimentary passes?

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

(b) No, Sir. However, issue of complimentary card passes under discretionary power of Minister of Railways has been completely stopped since 15.11.1999 (in view of austerity and economy). There is presently no proposal to change the existing policy.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) The cost of freedom fighter complimentary card passes is borne by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the cost of these passes is reimbursed to the Ministry of Railways.

(f) The cases of misuse of complimentary card passes detected/reported are promptly dealt with and appropriate action is taken in such cases.

Statement

Complimentary passes are presently issued to the following categories as per the schemes announced from time to time:

S.No.	Category
I.	Card Passes
1	Freedom Fighters.
2	Arjun Awardees/Olympic Medallists/Asian & Commonwealth Gold Medallists/Dronacharya Awardees.
3	Winners of Chakra Series Gallantry Awards (Defence).
4	Winners of President's Police Medal for Gallantry & Police Medal for Gallantry (Police).
5	Non-official Members of Railway Hindi Salahakar Samiti.
6	Ex. MRs/MOS(R)s/DMRs.
II.	Cheque Passes:
1	Licensed Porters.
2	Individuals and organisations engaged in social, cultural, educational, sports and welfare activities under the discretionary powers of Minister for Railways, Minister of State for Railways & Railway Board, as per guidelines evolved by the Ministry of Railways.

Objectionable Songs on Television

4942. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA) and the National Human Rights Commission have protested against some T.V. channels regarding the advertisement on LIC mentioning the expenses of a daughter's marriage and a son's education and an ICICI where a man puts Sindur on his wife with the word 'Suraksha' insinuating a woman is incapable of looking after herself;

(b) if so, whether Government would like to ban such objectionable advertisements and vulgar songs; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
4.	Assam	5.56	0.36	5.92	7.26	1.92	9.18	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Bihar	1.05	0.00	1.05	6.80	0.00	6.80	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Chandigarh	0.58	0.00	0.58	0.90	0.04	0.94	0.28	0.00	0.28
7.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.61	0.00	2.61	5.97	0.34	6.31
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu	0.31	0.00	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9.	Delhi	0.33	0.10	0.43	3.88	0.00	3.88	2.30	0.00	2.30
10.	Goa	0.22	0.01	0.23	0.21	0.00	0.21	0.15	0.01	0.16
11.	Gujarat	21.82	1.37	23.18	2.97	3.55	6.52	4.56	2.25	6.81
12.	Haryana	2.56	0.00	2.56	1.65	0.00	1.65	2.61	0.00	2.61
13.	Himachal Pradesh	3.44	0.00	3.44	3.33	0.00	3.33	3.05	1.50	4.55
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.10	0.20	3.30	0.00	0.00	0.00
15.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.97	0.00	2.97	3.03	0.00	3.03
16.	Karnataka	9.48	2.39	11.87	15.82	5.00	20.82	9.33	3.00	12.33
17.	Kerala	4.38	0.19	4.57	0.26	0.20	0.46	1.80	1.00	2.80
18.	Lakshadweep	0.27	0.05	0.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Madhya Pradesh	4.92	1.00	5.92	12.67	0.50	13.17	14.69	1.50	16.19
20.	Maharashtra	3.52	0.17	3.69	11.54	0.50	12.04	13.34	0.00	13.34
21.	Manipur	0.67	0.10	0.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.98	0.00	0.98
22.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
23.	Mizoram	1.32	2.08	3.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.06
24.	Nagaland	2.33	0.00	2.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25.	Orissa	6.89	0.00	6.89	1.30	0.00	1.30	0.66	0.75	1.41
26.	Pondicherry	2.14	0.00	2.14	1.58	0.00	1.58	0.00	0.00	0.00
27.	Punjab	1.18	0.00	1.18	0.10	0.00	0.10	1.00	0.00	1.00
28.	Rajasthan	2.15	0.06	2.22	2.53	0.23	2.75	3.06	0.07	3.12
29.	Sikkim	1.27	0.05	1.32	0.92	0.00	0.92	0.02	0.00	0.02
30.	Tamil Nadu	0.82	0.00	0.82	4.67	0.19	4.86	2.76	0.00	2.76
31.	Tripura	1.98	0.00	1.98	3.54	0.00	3.54	3.01	0.00	3.01

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
32.	Uttar Pradesh	11.08	3.28	14.35	20.22	4.95	25.16	20.07	5.40	25.47
33.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.31	0.17	2.48	4.68	0.26	4.94
34.	West Bengal	9.69	0.00	9.69	19.34	0.75	20.09	6.00	1.50	7.50
Grand Total		117.48	15.03	132.51	149.65	24.19	173.84	131.33	28.74	160.07

* Micro Credit Finance Scheme

Accidents on Unmanned Railway Crossings

4944. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of accidents occurred at unmanned railway crossings in the country during the each of the last three years, State-wise & Zone-wise;

(b) the number of persons died or injured in each accident during the last three years, till March 31, 2003;

(c) whether medical and other relief work started immediately at the accident site;

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Railways to actively start relief work at the accident site;

(e) whether the railway board monitors the relief work after an accident; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) The figures for various accidents on Indian Railways are not maintained State wise, but Zone wise, as the unit of Railway Operations is a Zone and not a State. The details of the accidents at Unmanned Railway Crossings in the last three years, including the figures of deaths and injuries are as under:-

Railway	2000-01			2001-02			2002-03*		
	N	K	I	N	K	I	N	K	I
Central	5	6	9	6	14	11	1	1	3
Eastern	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3
East Central	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	0
Northern	25	43	52	27	58	44	31	50	53
North Eastern	13	20	8	15	19	60	14	27	45
Northeast	5	16	10	2	2	8	4	4	11
Frontier									
North Western	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	4
Southern	6	6	22	9	9	29	7	9	19
South Central	12	23	26	10	14	11	11	26	43
South Eastern	5	12	19	8	12	26	2	0	4
Western	1	2	2	3	5	8	9	27	16
Konkan Railway Corporation	1	10	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	73	138	152	80	163	197	83	148	201

Note: N - Number of Accidents

K - Killed

I - Injured

* Figures for 2002-03 are provisional.

(c) and (d) Prompt medical assistance and relief work is provided utilizing Railway as well as other local resources, available at the nearest point, wherever required.

(e) and (f) Detailed inquiries are conducted to find out the cause, responsibility for the accidents and aspects related to relief and restoration work. Corrective action is initiated wherever required.

Using of Steel Components

4945. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to use steel in all its components than alloys; and

(b) if so, the extent to which steel consumption is likely to increase in safety factor and also in reducing accidents?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Gauge Conversion of Gondia-Nagbhir-Nagpur Rail Line

4946. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on the conversion of Chandrapur-Gondia-Nagbhir-Nagpur rail lines to broad gauge was taken up by the railways;

(b) whether a part of the work covering about 242 kms. from Chandrapur to Gondia was completed about three years back;

(c) whether the work on the remaining portion of this sector Nagbhir-Nagpur covering a distance of about 120 kms. is yet to be started;

(d) if so, the reasons for not taking up the conversion work on the remaining portion from Nagbhir to Nagpur during the last three years; and

(e) the time by which the Government propose to take up and complete the work on this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Gauge conversion of the erstwhile Gondia-Nagbhir-Chanda Fort narrow gauge section into broad gauge was only taken up and has been completed and commissioned in 1998-99.

(c) Gauge conversion of Nagpur-Nagbhir narrow gauge section is not a sanctioned work. However, a survey for conversion of this section from narrow gauge into broad gauge is in progress.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Modernisation of Retail Outlets by HPCL in A.P.

4947. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether HPCL has a policy to improve and modernise its retail petrol and diesel outlets in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of outlets selected to be modernised by HPCL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) HPCL has a policy to upgrade and modernise its retail outlets for the entire country including in the State of Andhra Pradesh. The policy for different categories of dealerships is as under:-

(i) Dealer owned outlets: For bringing uniformity in identity, investment is made by HPCL for providing illuminated banding and curtain wall logos under upgradation policy.

(ii) Company controlled Outlets: To provide consumer convenience, investment is made by HPCL towards facilities such as canopy drive-ways & yard lighting etc. Under modernisation policy needs and sales potential is also considered in deciding the type of facility.

(iii) Company owned outlets: Full investment is made by HPCL in this category of outlets in providing infrastructure and facilities such as sales building, canopy, drive-way and yard lighting etc. Under the major rebuild/modernisation policy needs and sales potential is also considered in deciding the type of facility.

(c) During the year 2003-2004, HPCL has plan for modernisation of approximately 35 company controlled retail outlets in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

NGOs Involved in the Welfare of SCs/STs

4948. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

SHRI RAJO SINGH:

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

(a) the number of NGOs involved in the welfare of SCs and STs and other weaker sections in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether some welfare projects are pending with the Union Government for approval at present;

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

(d) whether the Government have assessed the working of NGOs in different States including Gujarat and West Bengal;

(e) the number of proposals sent to the Government of Rajasthan for rectification of the deficiencies in the proposals during the last three years;

(f) the number of proposals received by the Union Government after the rectification of the deficiencies from the Government of Rajasthan during the last three years;

(g) the amount of financial assistance sought by the various NGOs/State Governments for the welfare of SCs and STs and other weaker sections during 2003-2004;

(h) the assistance given to various States by the Union Government; and

(i) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) The state-wise details are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) and (c) 1331 proposals are awaiting final decision for want of requisite documents, specified in the scheme applied for, inspection reports from the State Governments/clarifications from the NGOs. The NGOs and the State Governments are being pursued to furnish the requisite information so that appropriate decisions on the applications can be taken. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement-II.

(d) Yes. Sir.

(e) 17 proposals have been sent to the Government of Rajasthan for rectification of deficiencies/seeking clarifications during the last three years.

(f) In 15 out of 17 proposals, the requisite clarifications/rectification of the deficiencies have been received.

(g) Since the financial year has just begun, hardly any cases have been received so far.

(h) No funds have been released so far.

(i) Does not arise.

Statement-I

No. of NGOs assisted State-wise during 2002-03 under the schemes involved in the welfare of SCs, STs and other weaker sections

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	No. of NGOs assisted during 2002-03
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	154
2	Arunachal Pradesh	16
3	Assam	31
4	Bihar	20
5	Chhattisgarh	6
6	Delhi	56
7	Gujarat	65
8	Haryana	12
9	Himachal Pradesh	7
10	Jharkhand	12
11	Jammu & Kashmir	8
12	Karnataka	65
13	Kerala	13
14	Madhya Pradesh	125
15	Maharashtra	129
16	Manipur	73

1	2	3
17	Meghalaya	4
18	Mizoram	17
19	Nagaland	37
20	Orissa	143
21	Pondicherry	1
22	Rajasthan	86
23	Sikkim	3
24	Tamil Nadu	15
25	Tripura	5
26	Uttar Pradesh	109
27	Uttaranchal	11
28	West Bengal	45
29	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	3
Total		1271

Statement-II

State-wise list of pending proposals from NGO as on 20.04.2003 relating to welfare of SCs/STs and Weaker Sections

S.No.	Name of State	No. of proposals pending
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	03
2	Assam	20
3	Chhattisgarh	01
4	Delhi	18
5	Gujarat	85
6	Haryana	02
7	Himachal Pradesh	04
8	Jammu & Kashmir	01
9	Jharkhand	04

1	2	3
10	Karnataka	20
11	Madhya Pradesh	17
12	Maharashtra	990
13	Manipur	21
14	Orissa	29
15	Punjab	03
16	Rajasthan	37
17	Sikkim	01
18	Tamil Nadu	09
19	Tripura	03
20	Uttar Pradesh	46
21	Uttaranchal	11
22	West Bengal	06
Total		1331

Rationalization of Power Tariff

4949. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTPC gives power to State Electricity Boards at the rate of Rs.1.80 per unit while SEBs charge as much as Rs.4.50 per unit to Coal India Ltd.;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering rationalization of power tariff and check subsidization by SEBs;

(c) if so, whether the Coal India Ltd. has sought rationalization of freight charges by the Railway to enable coal sector to be competitive and cost effective; and

(d) the details of action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard along with present status of reforms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The weighted average tariff of NTPC for the year 2001-02 was Rs.1.43 paise per KWH. The tariff charged by the various SEBs from heavy industrial consumers which may also be applicable to Coal India Ltd., during the same period varies from 164.70 paise per KWH to 518.21 paise per KWH.

Section 29(2)(c) of the Electricity Regulatory Commissions (ERC) Act, 1998 requires the State Commission to ensure inter alia that the tariff progressively reflects the cost of supply of electricity at an adequate and improving level of efficiency.

Rationalization of rail freight charges for coal has been suggested.

[Translation]

Launching of Torpedo

4950. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has recently launched Torpedo;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the above weapon has been completely developed indigenously;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the estimated cost of production thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The light weight torpedo named Advanced Experimental Torpedo (AET) has been successfully launched.

(c) Yes, Sir. The AET has been developed indigenously.

(d) The torpedo has been designed and developed by Naval Science and Technology Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam a Laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and is being produced by M/s Bharat Dynamics Ltd., Hyderabad.

(e) The estimated cost of production of Design and Engineering model of one torpedo is Rs. 210 lakhs.

Educational Institutions in Danapur

4951. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of educational institutions set up by the railway administration in Danapur division of Eastern Railway to facilitate the railway employees;

(b) the number of the institutions provided assistance for their development;

(c) the number of the institutions in respect of which the proposals are pending; and

(d) the difficulty in approving these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) 14 Nos.

(c) Nil.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Opening of Flag/Halt Station in Subai

4952. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received requests from various quarters for opening of a Flag/Halt station at village Subai on Kazipeth-Balharshah section of Secunderabad Division;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Representations have been received from the following regarding opening of a Halt station at village Subai between Wirur and Makudi stations on South Central Railway:-

(i) Shri Prabhakar Mamulkar, Ex-MLA and Chairman, Special Action Plan Committee, Rajura, Maharashtra,

(ii) Shri Naresh Puglia, MP and

(iii) Shri Anand Rao Keshav Rao Katnake, President, Panchayat Committee, Rajura, Chandrapur District, Maharashtra.

(c) In view of the heavy cost involved and meagre anticipated passenger traffic, it is not considered commercially justified to open this Halt.

[Translation]

New Power Projects in Arunachal Pradesh

4953. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to set up new power projects in Arunachal Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details of the participation of the State Government, Union Government and the Public Sector;
- (c) the present status in this regard; and
- (d) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

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

(b) to (d) Implementation of hydro-electric projects in the Central Sector is generally taken up under a three-stage clearance procedure under which investment approval is accorded in three stages for (i) survey & investigation and preparation of pre-feasibility/feasibility report (Stage-I); (ii) detailed investigation, preparation of Detailed Project Report and pre-construction activity including land acquisition (Stage-II); and (iii) execution of the main project works (Stage-III). Implementation of these projects will depend upon a number of factors which include tying up of all statutory clearances, funding aspects, arrangements for transmission/evacuation of power from the project and commercial agreements regarding sale of power.

Two projects have already been accorded second stage clearance under the three stages clearance procedure. (i) Kameng Hydro-electric Project (600 MW) in Arunachal Pradesh has been accorded second stage clearance under three stage clearance at a cost of Rs.94.54 crores for execution by North Eastern Electric Power Corporation and the project is likely to be commissioned in about 7 years from the date of investment approval, (ii) Lower Subansiri Hydro-electric Project in Arunachal Pradesh with an installed capacity of 2000 MW to be implemented by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation has also been accorded second stage clearance under the three stage clearance. This project is likely to be commissioned in 7 years from the date of investment approval.

Rehabilitation Schemes for Handicapped Persons

4954. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of handicapped persons in the country including Jharkhand as on date, State-wise;
- (b) the details of the rehabilitation schemes launched by the Government;

- (c) the amount allocated for various States including Jharkhand under the said scheme during the last three years, till date; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to provide special assistance to handicapped persons to enable them to face day to day problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) had conducted a Survey in the 47th Round during July-December, 1991 to collect information on the number of persons with disabilities. This survey has estimated that 1.9% of the population are affected by some kind of physical disability. A statement-I showing the State-wise population of persons with disabilities as per the 1991 survey is enclosed. A separate survey (Report No. 391) of children (age 0-14 years) with delayed mental development in all the States and Union territories during July-December 1991 has also been conducted by them. The survey showed a possible level of mental retardation of about 3 percent among children.

(b) to (d) A statement-II is enclosed.

Statement-I

State-wise details of physically disabled people as per the survey conducted by NSSO in 1991

S. No.	Name of the State	Estimated number of persons with disabilities (in lakhs)
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	15.72
2	Assam	2.71
3	Bihar	13.61
4	Gujarat	6.95
5	Haryana	3.04
6	Himachal Pradesh	1.40
7	Karnataka	8.76
8	Kerala	5.56
9	Madhya Pradesh	12.87
10	Maharashtra	18.19

1	2	3
11	Orissa	7.20
12	Punjab	5.31
13	Rajasthan	7.23
14	Tamil Nadu	12.36
15	Uttar Pradesh	25.50
16	West Bengal	11.79
All India		161.54

Note: 1. Figure includes (i) visual, (ii) hearing, (iii) Speech and (iv) locomotors disability.

Note: 2. For the remaining States/UTs, results are not presented, as the sample size was not considered large enough to provide reliable estimates. However, the results presented at the All-India level include all the States/ UTs. Around 2-3% of children suffered from mental retardation. Figures regarding mentally ill are not known.

Note: 3. The State of Jharkhand was created in 2000.

Statement-II

(b) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is supporting six National Institutes/Apex level Institutions set up in each major area of disability which work, inter-alia towards, manpower development through long term and short term training programmes, provide rehabilitation services, undertake functional research etc. The Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), a public sector undertaking under the aegis of this Ministry manufactures and promotes availability, supply and distribution of quality aids and appliances for persons with disabilities. The National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation (NHFD), set up in 1997, provides financial assistance to persons with disabilities on soft terms for self-employment and income generating activities. Schemes are also under implementation for providing support to non-government organizations working for various programmes for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

(c) The amount released to the all States including Jharkhand under the following schemes for welfare of persons with disabilities is given below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Schemes	Year					
	2000-01		2001-02		2002-03	
	All States	Of which Jharkhand	All States	Of Which Jharkhand	All States	Of Which Jharkhand
Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities	6213.10	Nil	6081.91	7.00	7553.70	20.94
Scheme of assistance to disabled persons for purchase and fitting of aids and appliances.	2910.74	Nil	4357.60	1.00	5700.00	4.00
National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (NPRPD)*	5551.95	210.85	4361.20	156.05	Nil	Nil

* The Scheme has since been transferred to States/ Union Territories from the 10th Five Year Plan.

(d) The Government has taken initiatives for ensuring wider coverage and holistic rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. One hundred and thirty districts have been identified for setting up District Centers with the objective of providing rehabilitation services. Schemes are also under implementation for setting up Composite Regional Centres for providing composite rehabilitation services and Regional Rehabilitation Centres (RRCs) for persons with spinal injuries and other orthopaedic disabilities. Besides, the National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities

(NPRPD) scheme has been approved in the State sector for creating infrastructure at State/District/Block and Gram Panchayat level for providing comprehensive rehabilitation services. A scheme has also been approved for setting up of four Auxiliary Production Centres of Artificial Limb Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) to expand the production capacity and for easy availability of quality aids and appliances. The National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities set up in 2000 extends support to registered

organisations to provide need based services during periods of crisis in the family of the persons with disability and also promotes measures for care and protection of these persons in the event of death of their parents or guardians. For educational and economic empowerment of persons with disabilities, the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 provides for 3% reservation in seats for persons with disabilities in all Government educational institutions and other educational institutions receiving aid from the Government and 3% reservation of identified posts in Government establishments and Public Sector Undertakings.

[English]

Refineries in Private and Public Sector

4955. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of refineries owned by different oil companies both in private and public sector;

(b) the conditions and capacity of each oil refinery as on date;

(c) whether the Government propose to restructure the management of these refineries; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) At present there are 18 refineries operating in the country, in public and private sector.

(b) All the 18 refineries are in operating condition. The capacity of each refinery as on 1.4.2003 is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) No, Sir.

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

Statement

Refineries Capacity as of 1.4.2003

S.No.	Name of Company	Location	Capacity (MMTPA)
1	2	3	4
1	Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)	Digboi	0.65
2.	IOCL	Guwahati	1.00
3.	IOCL	Barauni	6.00
4.	IOCL	Koyali	13.70
5.	IOCL	Haldia	4.60
6.	IOCL	Mathura	8.00
7.	IOCL	Panipat	6.00
8.	Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL)	Chennai	6.50
9.	CPCL	Nagapattinam	1.00
10.	Bongaigaon Refinery & Petrochemicals Limited	Bongaigaon	2.35
11.	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)	Mumbai	5.50
12.	HPCL	Visakh	7.50
13.	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited	Mumbai	6.90

1	2	3	4
14.	Kochi Refineries Limited	Kochi	7.50
15.	Numligarh Refinery Limited	Numaligarh	3.00
16.	Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited	Tatipaka	0.078
17.	Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited	Mangalore	9.69
	Sub Total (PSU)		89.97
18.	Reliance India Limited	Jamnagar	27.00
	Sub Total (Pvt.)		27.00
Total Refining Capacity			116.97

MMTPA: Million metric tonnes per annum

Lower Berths to Senior Citizens

4956. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railways are considering a system whereby people above 60 years of age will get lower berths in all reserved compartments;

(b) if so, the present system in force on allotment of berths to people above 60 years; and

(c) the details of steps being taken by Government to modify the compartments so that passengers of above 60 can easily get access to upper berths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) There is already a provision in the computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS) to provide lower berths automatically to male passengers of 60 years and above and female passengers of 45 years and above subject to the availability of accommodation at the time of booking. In addition, instructions also exist for allotment of lower berths falling vacant in the train due to non-turning up of passengers, to senior citizens by train conductor/TTE on first-come-first served-basis. These arrangements are considered adequate.

(c) No modification of this nature is in hand.

[Translation]

Ban on Vulgar Films/Programmes on Doordarshan

4957. SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

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

(a) whether the Government have received complaints about declining standard of DD programmes during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the remedial measures taken in this regard;

(d) whether the Government propose to impose ban on the telecast of vulgar films and other such programmes on DD;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan continuously receives suggestions for improvement in programming.

(d) to (f) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan does not telecast vulgar films and other such programmes on Doordarshan. Feature films telecast on Doordarshan are only "U" certified films by CBFC and they are also previewed for ensuring their suitability for family viewing.

Allotment of Railway Land on Lease to SCs/STs

4958. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the land lying vacant near the rail lines in various railway zones in the country as on date;

(b) whether the Government are contemplating to allot the said land to the persons belonging to scheduled castes/scheduled tribes on lease;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Railways have about 20,000 hectares vacant land near rail lines, stations and Railway colonies.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Expansion of Sanjay Gandhi Thermal Power Plant

4959. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal for the expansion of Sanjay Gandhi Thermal Power Plant in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the additional MW of power expected to be added after expansion; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board is expanding its Sanjay Gandhi Thermal Power Plant by adding a new unit of 500 MW. After obtaining Techno-Economic Clearance from the Central Electricity Authority, the Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board has issued Letter of Intent (LOI) on Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. on 10th March, 2003 for completing the project on turnkey basis. The project is scheduled for commissioning in the 10th Plan.

Income of ONGC from Overseas Operations

4960. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation

Limited is likely to mop up a revenue of about \$ 1250 million from its overseas operations during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, whether the ONGC will start getting revenue from its investment in Vietnam gas project from the current fiscal year itself;

(c) if so, the total revenue expected from these projects in Vietnam; and

(d) the other projects which would provide revenue during 2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has envisaged a revenue of around US \$ 1,250 million (Rs. 6,000 Crore approx.) from its overseas operations during the X Five Year Plan period, i.e. 2002-2007.

(b) and (c) Arising out of the investment made by ONGC-Videsh Limited (OVL), the fully owned subsidiary of ONGC, in the Vietnam Project, revenue generation has started from the fiscal year 2002-03. The total sales revenue booked from the Vietnam Project during the above period, for OVL's share is US \$ 2.07 million (Rs. 99.36 crore approx.).

(d) In addition to the Vietnam Project, during 2002-03 revenue realization of OVL from the Greater Nile Oil Project (GNOP), Sudan was US \$ 18 million (Rs. 86.4 crore approx.) through ONGC Nile-Ganga, its wholly owned subsidiary registered in Amsterdam.

New Zones

4961. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new Railway Zones proposed to be made operational from April 2003;

(b) whether all these zones have become fully operational particularly East Coast Railway Zone;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the construction activities and work undertaken, particularly in East Coast zone;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to make all these zones fully operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) The

five new Railway Zones namely East Coast Railway/Bhubneshwar, North Central Railway/Allahabad, South Western Railway/Hubli, South East Central Railway/Bilaspur and West Central Railway/Jabalpur have been fully operationalised w.e.f 01.4.2003.

(c) **Works for creation of infrastructure on all the new zones have been taken up.** As far as East Coast Railway zone at Bhubaneswar is concerned, following works have been completed:-

Works completed

- (i) Type-I - 32 units, type II - 24 units, type III - 20 units, type IV - 12 units quarters and Electrical sub station.
- (ii) Modification to existing residential buildings at Chandrasekharpur for setting up of different offices of new zone and transit accommodation for officers,

Works taken up

- (i) Construction of zonal office building.
- (ii) Modification to existing S&T buildings at Mancheswar for accommodating the different offices of new zone.
- (d) Does not arise

(e) For operationalisation of these Zones w.e.f 01.4.2003, the various necessary steps such as the issue of Gazette Notification, posting of officers and staff, provision of basic infrastructure, etc. were taken. The Officers-on-Special Duty (OSDs) have also since been redesignated as General Managers w.e.f. 01.4.2003.

Reserves Found by ONGC

4962. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has found six new Oil and Gas fields in early April, 2003 in the Western and Eastern Coasts and North Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the estimated reserves of oil and gas found in each region;

(c) the extent to which the finds would help the country in reducing the oil import bill;

(d) the number of surveys conducted during each of the last three years to find oil and natural gas in the country; and

(e) the countries with whom ONGC is having joint ventures to find oil reserves in India and their success rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) In April 2003, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) announced six hydrocarbon finds made during 2002-03. Out of the six finds, one each is in the Eastern Offshore and Rajasthan and two each are in the Eastern Offshore and the state of Assam.

(b) and (c) Exploration and the estimation of resources in any new field is a continuous and on going process and the leads thus obtained from various discoveries have to be pursued to consolidate the gains and produce hydrocarbons, for which no time frame can be laid down.

(d) Seismic surveys conducted by ONGC during the last three years are as follows:

Year	2D(GLK/LK)	3D (Sq.Km.)
2000-01	16,895	4,980
2001-02	32,973	8,076
2002-03	21,058	8,639

2D Two Dimensional

3D. Three Dimensional

GLK. Ground Line Kilometre

LK: Line Kilometre

Sq Km. Square Kilometre

(e) ONGC does not have any joint venture with any country for hydrocarbon exploration in India.

Soft Loan by Japan to Power Sector

4963. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently signed an agreement with Japan for a major package of official development assistance to India in form of soft loans for certain power projects in the country and specially in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the terms and conditions of such loan;

(c) the names of the power projects identified for such loan assistance: and

(d) the time by which the projects are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The Government of Japan has extended the JBIC loan assistance for the following projects in Power Sector under FY 2002 loan package:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Loan Amount (In Million Yen)
1.	Simhadri Thermal Power Station Project (iv) in A.P. Both 500 MW Units under the Project have been commissioned and are in operation.	5684
2.	Bakreshwar Thermal Power Station (Units Extension Project) in West Bengal. The Project is to be completed within a period of 33 months from the Letter of Award.	36771

Power Reforms

4964. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Assam and other States in the North Eastern Region have submitted proposals for power reforms in the region, including bifurcation of the respective State Electricity Boards and privatization thereof;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The decision to reform the power sector including bifurcation or privatization of SEBs in the States rests with the State Governments.

Government of India has been encouraging States to undertake reforms so as to improve the health of the power sector. With this objective the Government of India has been signing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with states reflecting the joint commitment of the Centre and the States to undertake reforms in a time bound manner. The MOUs are being fleshed out into the Memorandum of Agreements (MOAs) with clearer and more specific milestones. All the

States of north-eastern region except Manipur and Tripura have signed MoU/MoA with the Government of India.

The Union Government has released Rs.43.20 crores in 2000-01 and Rs.143 crores in 2002-03 to the north-eastern States under the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) for implementation of projects in identified distribution circles for bringing about a turn around.

[Translation]

Welfare Schemes for Older Persons

4965. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of welfare schemes for the old people being implemented in the country along with the dates since when these schemes are being implemented;

(b) the expenditure incurred on each scheme during 2001-2002 and the extent to which the targets in regard to these schemes have been achieved; and

(c) the funds allocated for these schemes during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) There are two welfare schemes for the old people being implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment i.e. (i) An Integrated Programme for older Persons. This is a Plan scheme under which financial assistance in the form of grant in aid is given to the eligible Non Governmental Organizations whose proposals are recommended by the concerned State/UT Governments, for running old age homes, day care centers, mobile medicare units and non-institutional service centers. This scheme is being implemented since 1992-93 (ii) Assistance to Panchayati Raj Institutions/Voluntary Organisations/Self Help Groups for Construction of Old Age Homes/Multi Service Centres for older persons: Under this Non Plan Scheme, financial assistance in the form of grant in aid is given for construction of old age homes/multi service centers for older persons, to the eligible Non-Governmental Organisations whose proposals are recommended by the concerned State/UT Government. This scheme is being implemented since the year 1996-97.

(b) and (c) A Statement is enclosed.

Statement

S.No.	Scheme	Expenditure incurred during 2001-02*	No. of beneficiaries during 2001-02	Funds allocated for the year 2003-04
1.	An Integrated Programme for Older Persons (Plan Scheme)	14.61	64482	17.80
2.	Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for construction of Old Aged homes etc. (Non-Plan Scheme)	1.14	425	1.14

* There are no physical targets fixed in regard to above schemes. However, in both these schemes, 100% budget allocation was utilized during the year 2001-02.

[English]

Requirement of Aircraft Carriers

4966. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the dominance of small ships in the Naval fleet imposes limitations of reach of Indian Navy;

(b) the number of aircraft carriers required by the Indian Navy vis-a-vis present number of aircraft carrier with Indian Navy; and

(c) the reasons for treating Indian Navy as "Cinderella service"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): (a) Because of limited endurance of small ships, they impose limitations on the reach of Indian Navy.

(b) One Aircraft Carrier viz. INS Viraat is in service with the Indian Navy against the requirement of two operational Aircraft Carriers.

(c) The Navy is not treated as a "Cinderella service" and its genuine requirements are met.

Unspent Amount

4967. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI:

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken note of regular unspent budgetary allocations under grants/appropriation relating to Ministry of Defence;

(b) whether it is a fact that unspent funds under grants/appropriation have increase from Rs. 449.59 crore during 1996-97 to Rs. 8,797.62 crores, during 2000-2001;

(c) whether unspent amount in grants for Ministry of Defence during 2000-2001 work out to 14.6 percent and 30% during the year 2002-2003 of budgetary allocation which indicates poor financial management;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken to avoid projection of inflated demands in future and proper management of allocated grants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The unspent amount in the grants for the Ministry of Defence during 2000-2001 work out to 14.6% of the budgetary allocation. However, Annual Accounts for the year 2002-2003 have not yet been closed.

(d) The detailed reasons for variation between the budgetary allocations and the actual expenditure have been given in the Appropriation Accounts (Defence Services) for respective years presented to the Parliament.

(e) All efforts are being made to ensure realistic projection of funds. In order to fully utilize the allocated grants, the progress of Defence expenditure and status of various procurement proposals is kept under constant review and follow up action, as necessary, is taken. A new procurement Organisation has also been established to deal with acquisitions on capital account for the Defence Services.

Deregulation of Petroleum Sector

4968. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the petroleum sector has been deregulated;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that the problems of erstwhile administered price regime still remains; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to put in place the policy framework for deregulation and the regulator?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The Administered Pricing Mechanism in the petroleum sector has been dismantled effective 1.4.2002. The details of the decisions taken in this regard are contained in resolution no.P-20029/22/2001-PP dated 28.3.2002 of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

The Petroleum Regulatory Board Bill 2002, which provides for the establishment of the Petroleum Regulatory Board, has been introduced in the Parliament. The Bill has been referred to the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals.

Schemes for Welfare of Street Children

4969. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have introduced some schemes for the welfare of street children;

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

(c) whether these street children are benefited from the grants-in-aid under these schemes to voluntary organisations;

(d) if so, the details of voluntary organizations which received grants-in-aid from the Union Government during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise; and

(e) the number of children benefited in Rajasthan during the above plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is implementing a Plan Scheme called "An Integrated Programme for Street Children" for the welfare of street children. Under this Scheme, financial assistance is given to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) for providing shelter, nutrition, health care, education, vocational training and recreation facilities to street children and to facilitate their withdrawal from life on streets.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The financial assistance provided to NGOs during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise, under "An Integrated Programme for Street Children" are given in the Statement enclosed.

(e) The number of children benefited in Rajasthan during Ninth Five Year Plan under 'An Integrated Programme for Street Children' is as under:

Sl. No.	Year	No. of children benefited
01	1997-98	600
02	1998-99	600
03	1999-2000	800
04	2000-01	800
05	2001-2002	800
	Total	3600

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	Year-wise grant in aid released (Rs. in lakhs)									
		1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000		2000-01		2001-02	
		No. of NGOs	Amount Released	No. of NGOs	Amount Released	No. of NGOs	Amount Released	No. of NGOs	Amount Released	No. of NGOs	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	14.06	10	50.81	18	103.75	7	29.62	18	86.08
2.	Assam	1	6.1	1	5.58	2	5.71	2	15.87	2	12.26
3.	Bihar	0	0	2	1.99	1	1.83	2	3.89	1	4.74
4.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3.3	3	4.12

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
5.	Gujarat	5	25.73	10	55.74	14	91.41	11	76.06	18	77.78
6.	Haryana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.25
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	1	2.16	1	7.75	1	5.37	1	5.96
8.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.07
9.	Karnataka	1	3.37	1	7.19	4	12.37	3	27.85	5	29.89
10.	Kerala	2	12.91	2	6.56	2	14	4	8.29	6	20.25
11.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	2	6.7	3	7.77	2	4.13	4	11.2
12.	Maharashtra	3	13.61	10	47.36	20	53.17	16	106.62	18	69.4
13.	Manipur	1	7.05	1	3.53	1	8.06	1	11.6	0	0
14.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2.29
15.	Mizoram	1	6.74	0	0	1	1.79	1	1.06	0	0
16.	Orissa	1	5.67	2	5.1	1	7.93	5	14.3	4	15.54
17.	Punjab	0	0	1	7.05	2	8.55	1	6.38	2	23.28
18.	Rajasthan	2	17.63	2	14.78	6	25.67	6	17.68	5	37.92
19.	Tamil Nadu	6	44.57	9	66.55	12	83.46	11	66.8	12	53.76
20.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	1	0.5	0	0	2	5.69
21.	Uttar Pradesh	3	14.41	8	35.62	9	74.28	10	74.4	13	79.19
22.	West Bengal	18	126.17	24	148.55	26	195.62	24	167.52	28	198.69
23.	Chandigarh	0	0	1	1.85	1	8.59	1	9	2	1.88
24.	Delhi	6	28.19	9	48.66	9	71.66	8	76.26	8	65.61
Total		52	326.21	96	515.78	134	783.87	117	726	156	805.85

Weapons recovered by Army

4970. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of weapons recovered/seized by the army from different parts of the country during 2002-2003, till date;

(b) the mode adopted by the Government for their use/disposal; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure proper control of these weapons and to check their misuse?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): (a) According to the information available in the Army HQrs., the number of

weapons recovered/seized in Counter Insurgency Operations by the Army and the forces under their operational control in the States of Jammu & Kashmir and the North East during 2002-2003 are as under:-

- (i) J&K 2533 weapons.
(ii) North East 974 weapons.

(b) According to the provisions of Law, arms ammunition or explosives seized are to be handed over to the Police. However, in August 2001, the Supreme Court had ruled that the seized weapons/ammunition may be kept in the custody of the Army on behalf of the Police but the same shall be produced by the Army Authorities in the Court of Law if so required. On finalisation of the case, weapons are used/dropped off according to the relevant instructions by sale/allotment to various authorized agencies/individuals, including service personnel.

(c) Adequate measures are taken to ensure proper accounting of weapons seized/recovered from terrorists by way of preparation of a 'Seizure Memo' and 'history sheets' for each weapon. Strict accounting procedures are followed and frequent checks are also carried out for stock weapons.

[Translation]

Wind Mill Projects in Bihar

4971. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of wind mills set up so far in South Bihar to increase the use of non-conventional energy sources for irrigation purposes there; and

(b) the number of wind mills proposed to be set up in the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources launched a modified scheme concerning deployment of water pumping wind mills for providing water for irrigation, drinking water and other uses during 1993-94. Under this scheme of the Ministry a total of 38 water pumping wind mills have been installed in Bihar so far. All the wind mills have been installed in the southern districts of Bihar.

(b) During 2002-03 a total of 75 water pumping windmills were sanctioned to the Bihar Renewable Energy Development Agency (BREDA) for deployment in Bihar. It is expected that BREDA will complete their installation during 2003-04. No other proposal has been received from Bihar for deployment of water pumping wind mills during 2003-04 so far.

[English]

Production of Pilotless Target Aircraft

4972. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for delay in bulk production of Pilotless Target Aircraft (PTA) by HAL;

(b) the time by which the production is likely to be started; and

(c) the status of the indigenous development of block casting for turbine disk?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) There was delay in the development stage of the engine of Pilotless Target Aircraft (PTA) due to irregular and unreliable supplies of investment castings which were imported from foreign vendors. These castings were, therefore, taken up for indigenisation by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) with the help of Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratories (DMRL), which took some time.

For Series production of PTA, price negotiations with customers have been completed by HAL. The deliveries of PTA will commence within 14 months after placement of orders by the customers.

(c) Indigenous development of turbine rotor and stator castings (Integral with blades) for Pilotless Target Aircraft Engine (PTAE-7) have been taken up through DMRL, Hyderabad. Turbine rotor castings have already been developed by DMRL, and successfully used in flight trials of PTAE- 7. Development of turbine stator castings is progressing and is expected to be supplied by DMRL by June, 2003.

[Translation]

Bio-Gas Plants

4973. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Bio-Gas Plants set up in each State particularly in Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand during the last two years;

(b) the number out of them which are functioning and those lying closed, location-wise;

(c) whether the bio-gas chulha is available in the market, if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of bio-gas plants to be set up during the current financial year and the time by which the same are likely to be finalized;

(e) whether any major improvements in designs and technology have been effected during the above period; and

(f) the details of the equivalent of fuelwood saved annually after installation of these bio-gas plants and the details of the Government's plans for increasing the present number, especially large community plants for villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Information for two States is given below and for other States indicated in the enclosed statement.

State	No. of family type biogas plants set up during 2001-02 and 2002-03
Madhya Pradesh	23,310
Jharkhand	605

(b) Location-wise particulars of biogas plants, including information on functioning and those lying closed, is generally maintained at the block/district level by the State nodal departments/agencies; in the State Offices of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission and at the headquarters of non-governmental organizations concerned. Concurrent monitoring carried out on a sample of about 9,480 plants in 26 States by four independent organizations in the year 2002-03, indicated that about 79 per cent plants were functioning. The remaining 21 per cent plants were either under completion/commissioning or lying closed due to various reasons, such as poor quality of construction; difficulty in getting water for mixing with dung; improper laying of gas distribution pipe line; etc.

(c) Biogas burners (chullas) manufactured under quality specifications of the Bureau of Indian Standards are easily available in the market.

(d) A target of setting up of 1.5 lakh family type biogas plants has already been finalized for the current financial year 2003-04.

(e) Improvements in the designs and technology brought out during the last two years include: development and promotion of new fixed dome models made of (i) ferrocement with in-situ construction technique and (ii) pre-fabricated reinforced cement concrete; field testing of a plug flow digester made of brick masonry for production of biogas from leafy biomass; and studies on the use of microbial cultures adapted at a temperature of 10° Celcius for biogas production from cattle dung in an insulated digester made of fibre reinforced plastic.

(f) The plants set up during the last two years are estimated to result in the saving of about 2.75 lakh tonnes of fuelwood equivalent per year. The Government have planned a target of setting up of about 10 lakh more family type biogas plants during the X Plan (2002-07). Large community biogas plants were promoted in villages mainly up to the year 1994-95 under a separate scheme. But majority of such plants did not function on a sustainable basis mainly due to managerial and operational problems.

Statement

State-wise number of family type biogas plants set-up during the last two years, i.e. 2001-02 and 2002-03 (April, 2002 to February, 2003) under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme- National Project on Biogas Development (NPBD), which is now called as National Biogas and Manure Management Programme (NBMMMP)

State	Number of plants set up
Andhra Pradesh	40,502
Arunachal Pradesh	511
Assam	5,886
Bihar	4,403
Chhattisgarh	6,912
Gujarat	12,468
Goa	141
Haryana	3,135
Himachal Pradesh	801
Karnataka	52,323
Kerala	13,887
Maharashtra	23,665
Meghalaya	562
Mizoram	577
Nagaland	304
Orissa	21,561
Punjab	9,029
Rajasthan	715
Sikkim	1,057
Tamil Nadu	4,664
Tripura	377
Uttar Pradesh	23,157
Uttaranchal	2,435
West Bengal	30,738
Others	130

*[English]***Unrealistic Fare for AC Chair Cars**

4974. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have fixed un-realistic fare for AC Chair Cars for short trips;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to properly base short distance fares on AC Chair Cars;

(c) whether railways have studied the cost/benefit aspects of putting excessively high fares on AC Chair Cars;

(d) whether an experimental fare reduction will be done for short journeys like between Rajahmundry and Visakhapatnam or other sectors in Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) the steps proposed to rationalise such fares to get more earnings?

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

*[Translation]***Commissioning of Programmes on Doordarshan**

4975. SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Doordarshan Relay Centres from where programme are being presently telecast by Doordarshan on commissioned or royalty basis;

(b) The rate at which the payments are being made; and

(c) The details about the commissioned or royalty Payment rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that Relay Centres of Doordarshan only relay the programmes originated by major Doordarshan Kendras and Programme Production Centres and they do not decide on their own to telecast programmes on royalty or commissioned basis.

(b) and (c) Programmes on royalty are acquired as per the rates fixed by Doordarshan Directorate depending upon the genre of the programmes and the channels on which they are telecast. Royalty rates for different categories of programmes are enclosed as statement.

The rates for commissioned programmes are decided by the Costing Committee as per guidelines approved by Prasar Bharati Board, from time to time.

Statement*Rate Structure for telecast of Documentary Films/other category of programmes on royalty basis on different channels of Doordarshan*

Category of Programmes (30 minutes duration)	Royalty Rate for DD-1, DD-2 and DD-3	Royalty Rate for Delhi and other capital kendras with Satellite Channels	Royalty Rate for other Kendras/single metro on DD-2
	(In Rupees)		
1. National /International Award winning Documentaries	1,50,000/-	75,000/-	45,000/-
2. Other documentary	75,000/-	38,000/-	23,000/-
3. Animation Films	80,000/-	40,000/-	24,000/-
4. Plays/Operas/Ballet/Musical Feature	75,000/-	38,000/-	23,000/-
5. Quiz	70,000/-	35,000/-	21,000/-
6. Features/short films on socially relevant themes	68,000/-	34,000/-	20,000/-
7. Sports	60,000/-	30,000/-	18,000/-
8. Light music classical music and dance	53,000/-	27,000/-	16,000/-
9. Interview based programmes/interviews/discussions	30,000/-	15,000/-	9,000/-

- (a) The payment for a documentary/programmes with a duration of less/more than 30 minutes will be proportionately less/more.
- (b) The rate for Black & White documentary/programme will be 30% less than the above rates subject to the provision of para at (a) above.
- (c) The above rates are not applicable to films/documentaries programmes produced by Films Division/ Public Sector Undertakings/Central Government Departments/ State Governments.
- (d) For a repeat telecast, the payment in each case will be at half (50%) of the rates mentioned above.

Setting up of Power Grid Stations

4976. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government propose to set up some new power grid stations in the country;
- (b) if so, the locations where these are proposed to be set up;
- (c) the amount likely to be spent on each of them;
- (d) the time by which these are likely to be set up;
- (e) the extent to which the power supply in Delhi is likely to improve after setting up of these stations;

(f) whether the Union Government have received any request from Delhi Government in this regard so far; and

(g) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon and the reasons for delay in setting up of these power grid stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) POWERGRID has planned to implement various substations across the country as part of associated transmission systems of central sector generation projects and system strengthening schemes. A list of the substations envisaged for implementation by POWERGRID in the next five years, indicating their location, estimated cost and time by which these are likely to be set up, is enclosed as statement.

(e) to (g) On commissioning of 440/220 KV substations at Meerut, Bhiwadi and Bahadurgarh (which are in close vicinity to Delhi and are linked to Delhi system through 400 kV lines), it would be possible for Delhi to draw power from the various projects of Northern Region directly from these substations through displacement. The 400/220 KV substation at Maharani Bagh, planned to be implemented by POWERGRID as part of Tala Transmission System, would enable Delhi to draw the share of surplus power from Eastern Region and from Tala HEP.

No request has been received from Government of Delhi for setting up of any other substation by POWERGRID.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Sub-station	Voltage Level (kV)	Capacity of S/S (MVA)	Time Frame #	Estimated Cost (Rs. Crores)
1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>1. Powergrid sub-stations to be established in Northern Region</i>					
1.	Mainpuri	400/220	2x315	2004-05	57.79
2.	Patiala	400/220	2x315	2004-05	51.06
3.	Kaithal	400/220	2x315	2004-05	47.35
4.	New Lucknow	400/220	2x315	2004-05	47.27
5.	Maharani Bagh	400/220	2x315	2004-05	77.15
6.	Amritsar	400/220	2x315	2004-05	22.84
7.	Bahadurgarh	400/220	2x315	2004-05	26.21

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Gorakhpur	400/220	2x315	2004-05	50.44
9.	Ludhiana	400/220	2x315	2007-08	50.00
10.	Bhiwadi	400/220	2x315	2003-04	82.11
11.	Meerut	400/220	2x315	2003-04	66.94
<i>2. Powergrid sub-stations to be established in Western Region</i>					
1.	Ponda (Mapusa)	400/220	630	2002-03*	47.0
2.	Boisar	400/220	630	2004-05	42.0
3.	Vapi	400/220	630	2004-05	42.0
4.	Khandwa	400/220	630	2004-05	50.0
5.	Seoni	765/400	2000	2005-06	198.0
		400/220	630		
6.	Raigarh	400/220	630	2007-08	49.0
7.	Malanpur	400/220	630	2006-07	60.0
8.	Bhatapara	400/220	630	2006-07	45.0
9.	Raigarh	400/220	630	2006-07	58.0
10.	Bina	400/220	630	2006-07	66.0
<i>3. Powergrid sub-stations to be established in Southern Region</i>					
1.	Kolar	400/220	500	02-03*	55.0
2.	Hosur	400/220	630	02-03*	45.0
3.	Thiruvanthapuram	400/220	630	03-04	45.0
4.	Narendra	400/220	630	04-05	61.0
5.	Mysore	400/220	630	05-06	60.0
6.	Kozhikode	400/220	630	05-06	60.0
7.	Melakottaiyur	400/220	630	05-06	60.0
8.	Pugalur	400/220	630	05-06	60.0
9.	Arasur	400/220	630	06-07	60.0
10.	Pondicherry	400/220	630	06-07	60.0

1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>4. Powergrid sub-stations to be established in Eastern Region</i>					
1.	Siliguri	400/220	630	2003-04*	47.0
2.	Purnea	400/220	630	2004-05	46.0
3.	Baripada	400/220/132	315	2004-05	39.0
4.	Muzaffarpur	400/220	630	2004-05	56.53
5.	Subhasgram	400/220	630	2005-06	46.76
6.	Malda Ext.	400/220	315	2003-04*	9.45
7.	Farakka Ext.	400 LB		2003-04*	9.83
8.	Jeypore Ext.	400/220	315	2003-04*	8.76
9.	Biharsarrif Ext.	400/220	315	2004-05	13.0
10.	Sasaram	400/220	630	2004-05	47.0
<i>5. Powergrid sub-stations to be established in North-eastern Region</i>					
1.	Badarpur/Silchar	220/132	250	2006-07	25.0.
2.	Kopili	220/132	100	2006-07	18.0
3.	Aizawl	220/132	100	2007-08	18.0

* Completed/Commissioned

Likely time frame for implementation. Actual commissioning will depend upon a number of factors including load growth, commissioning of generation projects, transmission lines etc.

*[English]***Power Generation Units in M.P.**

4977. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Power Generation Units functioning in Madhya Pradesh along with the present power generation capacity and locations;

(b) whether all the writs are functioning properly; 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) The details of the power generation units in Madhya Pradesh (M.P.) are as under:

State Sector	Thermal	Capacity (MW) (No. of Units X rating MW).
1.	Satpura	5x62.5 + 1x200 + 3x210 = 1142.5
2.	Amar Kantak	1x30 + 1x20 = 50.00
3.	Amar Kantak Extn.	2x120 = 240.00
4.	Sanjay Gandhi (Birsinghpur)	4x210 = 840.00

Central Sector	Thermal	Capacity (MW) (No. of Units X rating MW).
1. NHPC	Vindhyachal STPS	6x210 + 2x500 = 2260
State Sector	Hydro	Capacity (MW) (No. of Units X rating MW)
1.	Gandhi Nagar	5x23 = 115
2.	Bargi	2x45 = 90
3.	Pench	2x80 = 160
4.	Rajgat	3x15 = 45
5.	Ban Sagar-I	3x105 = 315
6.	Ban Sagar-II	2x15 = 30
7.	Ban Sagar-III	3x20 = 60
8.	Bir Singhpur	1x20 = 20

(b) and (c) During the year 2002-03, thermal generation in M.P. had been 102.4% of the target with a Plant Load Factor of 79.3%. However, hydro generation during the year was 70.8% of the target due to low reservoir levels/low water availability.

Investment by ONGC for Deep Water Exploration

4978. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited has planned an investment of Rs. 3,700 crore in deep water exploration to create reserves in the next five years;

(b) if so, whether any concrete plan of action has been prepared; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) During the 10th Five year Plan period (2002-07) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.(ONGC) envisages an outlay of Rs.8,650 crores for exploration, which includes Rs. 2,322 crores for exploration in deep waters. However, the investment in the deep water exploration may go up if additional wells are taken up.

(b) and (c) The components of the deepwater exploration activities envisaged during ONGC's 10th Five Year Plan consist of acquisition of 14,000 Line Kilometre (LK) of 2D

seismic data, 17,900 square kilometre of 3D seismic data and drilling of 34 exploratory wells. These above components include exploration in blocks awarded under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) with provision to enhance the inputs.

Rangiya Rail Division

4979. SHR. M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rangiya Rail Division has started functioning as a full fledged division;

(b) if so, the new additions and alterations have been made in the infrastructure at Rangiya Station and the Division area around for upgrading it into a Division alongwith the expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) whether representations have been received from the people, their representatives and State Legislature for further augmenting the infrastructure; and

(d) if so, the details of such proposals under consideration or study, indicating estimated cost thereof?

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

(b) Yes. Sir, Additions and alterations in the existing running room, Railway Institute, Supervisor Offices and goods shed at Rangiya as also works connected with residential quarters, miscellaneous service building, DRM office complex has been taken up, the expenditure on which upto 31st March 03 is Rs. 1.06 crore.

(c) Yes, Sir. Some representations have been received.

(d) The suggestion in representations were of general nature for improvement in infrastructure at Rangiya station befitting the new division, etc. The work of creation of Infrastructural facilities at an estimated cost of Rs. 16 crore approximately has been taken up for Rangiya Division. The details of works on hand at Rangiya are as follows: -

- (i) Provision of heavy duty tiles on Platform No.1 at Rangiya station at a cost of Rs. 15 lakhs.
- (ii) Provision of 6 units of retiring rooms costing Rs.14 lakhs.
- (iii) Provision of Chief Goods Supervisor Office at a cost of Rs. 9 lakhs.
- (iv) Provision of exchange building at a cost of Rs. 11 lakhs.
- (v) Improvement to running room and Railway Institute at a cost of Rs.9 lakhs.

Vacant Posts in Prasar Bharati Board

4980. SHRI SURESH RAMARAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of existing vacancies in the Prasar Bharati Board;
- (b) the reasons for delay in filling up the long pending vacancies in the Board;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to fill up all the vacancies; and
- (d) the time by which these vacant posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) There are 4 vacancies, comprising Member (personnel), Director General, All India Radio (ex-officio) and two representatives of the employees of the Corporation.

(b) to (d) The filling up of vacancies is a continuing process. The recommendation of the selection committee in respect of Member (Personnel) has been received in the Ministry and is being processed. Prasar Bharati has initiated steps to fill up the post of Director General, All India Radio,

which had fallen vacant on 28.2.2002. Further, all the employees working in Prasar Bharati continue to be Government Servants and till their services are transferred to the Corporation, election of their representatives cannot be held.

Supply of Drinking Water in Guntur Railway Station

4981. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is no water source at Guntur Railway Station for supply of drinking water;
- (b) if so, whether any study has been made for providing drinking water at the station through direct pipeline from Krishna River or its canals;
- (c) if so, the action proposed to be taken in this regard; and
- (d) the time by which such a pipeline is likely to be laid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) There is a water source at Guntur Railway station for supplying drinking water which is Vankayalapadu NS canal. However, it is proving to be inadequate to meet the future demands.

(b) to (d) No proposal has been firmed up in this regard.

Demand and Supply of Power

4982. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the total demand and supply of power in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government have assessed the requirement of power in the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan;
- (c) if so, the details thereof State-wise;
- (d) the extent to which the generation capacity of power is likely to be enhanced by way of installing new power plants and upgrading of existing power plants separately during the Tenth Five Year Plan period, State-wise;
- (e) whether the Government propose to import power to meet the gap of demand and supply of power; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (f) The information is being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Verification of Circulation of Newspapers

4983. SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ABC certified newspapers which got their priced circulation number verified by RNI in last three years and the number of newspapers which were in deviation with norms; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Both, the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) and the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) do not keep any record of newspapers which are ABC members but whose circulations were also verified by RNI. RNI takes up circulation verification of DAVP empanelled newspapers on DAVP's request only.

Ownership Policy of Oil PSU

4984. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Sector Oil Companies are not allowed to change their ownership rights;

(b) if so, whether the above step of the Government is contrary to the announced policy that they have nothing to do with the day to day working of PSUs; and

(c) if so, the details and reaction of the Government in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise. However, as regards policy issues, it has to be ensured that Government policies are followed by Public Sector Undertakings.

[English]

Capability of Prithvi Missile

4985. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has conducted test fire of Prithvi missile successfully recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the capability of Prithvi missile; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Prithvi, Surface-to-Surface Missile System from the production lot, was flight tested during March 2003.

(c) Prithvi is surface-to-surface missile system with a range exceeding 150 km.

(d) Missile has already been inducted into the Indian Army.

Prices of Petroleum Products

4986. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the oil companies maintaining prices of petroleum products below the import-parity levels are suffering revenue losses;

(b) if so, the details of losses suffered so far;

(c) whether oil industry has been maintaining lower prices than the international prices of the product;

(d) whether the oil industry had urged the Union Government to take necessary changes in the duty structure or institutionalise a mechanism by which the impact of such volatilities could be reduced; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) With the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism in the petroleum sector effective 1st April 2002, the pricing of all petroleum products, except for PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG which are subsidized products, has become market determined. The prices of petroleum products are now being fixed by the oil companies. The making of profit or incurring loss by an oil company would inter-alia depend upon factors such as the prevalent international price of crude oil and petroleum products, cost of production and distribution, demand, marketing strategy etc. The profit or loss of any oil company would be known only after the finalisation of annual accounts.

(d) and (e) Rationalization of duty structure is a continuous process and appropriate changes are made by the Government in the duty structure from time to time.

Exhibition of Aids and Appliances

4987. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether an exhibition of aids and appliances, teaching kits and barrier free features for persons with disabilities was organized at the Guwahati Medical College recently and was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment;

(b) if so, the salient features and objectives of the exhibition; and

(c) the extent to which it has achieved success?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The exhibition aimed to develop awareness, and to disseminate information on schemes/facilities available for persons with disabilities as well as on the latest assistive devices. It also provided a forum of two-way exchange of information between the users and the producers of assistive devices, and the rehabilitation professionals working in the area. Besides, the persons with disabilities got an opportunity for getting assistive devices and free counselling at the rehabilitation camp organized alongside the venue of the exhibition.

(c) The exhibition was the first of its kind in the North-Eastern region. The exhibition provided a unique opportunity to persons with disability, their parents, doctors, paramedicals and other professionals, NGOs working in the field of rehabilitation to learn about the range of aids and appliances available in the country.

In all, 67 manufacturers/fabricators of assistive devices National Institutes of the Ministry, other Government bodies

and reputed NGOs working in the disability sector participated and displayed their products and gave information about their services to the visitors. Over 10,000 people visited the exhibition. In the rehabilitation camp, 5511 people registered themselves during the event. 217 tricycles, 128 wheel chairs, 278 hearing aids, 92 items of braille equipment and 137 other aids and appliances were distributed to the disabled persons.

Overall, the exhibition generated substantial interest and awareness among the public, families of persons with disability, rehabilitation professionals doctors and Govt. officials about the disability issues.

[Translation]

Pending Hydel Power Projects

4988. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned, "Late latif panbijli pariyojnaon ke chalte sakraon crore barbad", appearing in *Danik Jagran*, dated March 10, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in completion of these projects; and

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

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

(b) to (d) Details of ongoing Hydro-electric Projects which are delayed indicating the reasons for delay in their completion with likely commissioning schedules are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Delayed Hydro Ongoing Electric Power Project

Name of Project	State	Capacity (MW)	Comm. Sch. Original/Latest	Estimated cost Original/Latest (price Level) (Rs. Crores)	Reasons for Delay
1	2	3	4	5	6
Dhauliganga (NHPC)	Uttaranchal	280.00	1998-99/ 2004-05	601.98(12/89)/ 1578.31(8/99)	Delay in tying up of funding, acquisition of land and resettlement problems.
Dulhasti (NHPC)	J&K	390.00	July, 1994/ Dec., 2003	1262.97(10/88)/ 3559.77(11/96)	Law and order problem, withdrawal of French Consortium, poor geological strata encountered in Head Race Tunnel (Upstream) and rock burst leading to burial of Tunnel Boring Machine

1	2	3	4	5	6
Purulia PSS	W.B.	900.00	2002-03/ 2006-07	1456.56(9/91)/ 3188.90(4/94)	Due to filing of Writ Petitions by the bidders and consequential legal impediment and also the delay in diversion of forest land for the Purulia Pumped Storage Project, the commencement of Lot-4 main civil works was delayed.
Nathpa Jhakri (NJPC)	H.P.	1500.00	Dec.01 to March, 02/ March,03 to Dec., 03	1578.02(12/88) 7666.31(6/98)	Landslide and need for rock stabilisation work, flash floods in July/August, 2000, rock fall in desilting chamber no. 3 & 4 during May, 2000 and shot crate/ rock falls in the desilting chamber no.4 during Sept.-Oct. 2002. Additional protection measures had to be taken.
Tehri St.I (THDC)	Uttaranchal	1000.00	1997-99/ Dec.2004	3391.40(3/93)/ 5690.64(8/99)	Resettlement problems.
Larji	H.P.	126.00	2002-03/ 2004-05	796.98(3/99)/ 908.64(8/01)	Delay in award of contract packages. Rock fall in PH area.
Sardar Sarovar	Guj/ MP/ Mah.	1450.00	1994-96/ 2003-07	1551.86 (86-87)/ 3267.25 (96-97)	Resettlements problems, agitations, court cases and withdrawal of World Bank funding.
Bansagar Tons PH-IV	M.P.	20.00	1996-97/ 2005-06	51.06(9/90)/ 84.97(2000)	Fund constraints, delay in finalising the executing agency and relief and rehabilitation problems.
Ghatghar PSS	Mah.	250.00	1995-96/ 2004-05	485.96(1992)/ 1184.60(99-00)	Delay in land acquisition and award of major works etc.
Srisailem LBPH	A.P.	900.00	1993-95/ 2002-03	418.00(85-86)/ 2620.00(01-02)	750 MW commissioned. Delay in award and slow progress of civil works etc.
Pykara Ultimate	T.N.	150.00	1994-95/ 2003-04	70.16(87-88)/ 373.06(98-99)	Delay in award of civil and mechanical works.
Karbi Langpi (Lower Borpani)	Assam	100.00	1985-86/ 2004-05	36.37(1979)/ 470.86	Delayed due to frequent changes in executing agencies, fund constraints.
Baspa St. II	H.P.	300.00	2001-02/ 2002-03	949.23(12/93)/ Under revision	Unit I & II successfully rotated on 24.1.2003 & 8.2.2003. Delayed due to flash floods in July/ Aug. 2000.
Maheshwar	M.P.	400.00	2001-02/ 2005-07	1569.27(96-97)/ 1673.00(4/00)	Delayed due to withdrawal of foreign promoters of the project developers. Fresh financial closure required.

[English]

**Funds for Unmanned Level Crossings
under MPLAD Scheme**

4989. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unmanned level crossings in the country which have been manned during the last three years with the fund provided by the Members of Parliament from their own MPLAD fund under MPLAD Scheme; and

(b) the number of proposals pending as on 31st March, 2003 for conversion of level crossing from unmanned to manned one?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) 12 unmanned level crossings have been manned during the years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 with the funds provided by the Members of Parliament from their own MPLAD fund under MPLAD Scheme.

(b) The progress of work funded through MPLAD Scheme depends on release of funds by Hon'ble M.P./ State Govt. for the work. Funds have been received fully/partly in respect of manning of 8 level crossings and the work of manning is in progress.

[Translation]

Female Gangmen

4990. SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether females have been appointed for the post of Gangmen in Railways;

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

(c) whether the female gangmen have requested the Railway Administration to give them alternative suitable job;

(d) if so, the details thereof in each Railway zone, division-wise;

(e) whether the Railways will provide alternative work to these females to free them from inconvenient and unsafe job; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

[English]

Setting up of Defence Arms Museum in Mumbai

4991. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received any proposal from Mumbai Municipal Corporation to set up Defence Arms Museum in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the response of the Union Government thereon; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Questions do not arise.

Concession to Patients Travelling in Trains

4992. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to provide concession to patients travelling in trains and going to various hospitals in different States for treatment;

(b) if so, whether the concession would be granted in all trains and in all classes;

(c) if so, the details of the concession proposed to be granted; and

(d) the date from which it would come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Concession in train fares is presently admissible to Cancer, T.B., Thalassemia, Non-infectious Leprosy, Heart and Kidney patients, subject to certain conditions. There is no other proposal under consideration for providing concessions.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Rate of Return of Railway Lines

4993. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of new lines under construction during last three years and rate of return on each of the new lines as per latest survey report;

(b) the names of new lines which have more than five percent rates of return but have not yet been undertaken for construction alongwith reasons therefor;

(c) the major States (non-special category) which are below national average so far as railway route length, per thousand square kilometers of areas, indicating the route length per thousand square kilometer of area of each State including that of Special Category States; and

(d) the steps which are being taken to bring these backward States to the level of national average during Tenth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) The rate of return of a project is worked out at the time of the survey. The same is not updated once the project is included in the budget. As such, rate of return as per latest survey report is not available.

(b) The name of new lines for which surveys have been completed in last three years and which have more than 5% rate of return but have not been undertaken for construction are as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	KMS
1	Sahnewal-Ladowal	31
2	Nipani-Raibag via Chikodi	97
3	Talcher/Hindol Rd. to Berhampur/ Gopalpur	293
4	Bimlagarh to Talcher	154

The above projects could not be taken up for construction due to heavy throwforward of ongoing projects and acute constraint of resources.

(c) The national average of route kms per 1000 square kms of area is 19.22 as on 31-03-2002. The States which are below national average are as under:

Sl. No.	State	Route Kms. Per 1000 Sq. Kms. of Area
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	18.89
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.02
3	Chhattisgarh	8.73
4	Goa	18.72
5	Himachal Pradesh	4.83
6	Jammu & Kashmir	0.43
7	Karnataka	15.51
8	Madhya Pradesh	15.73
9	Maharashtra	17.74

1	2	3
10	Manipur	0.06
11	Meghalaya	0.00
12	Mizoram	0.07
13	Nagaland	0.78
14	Orissa	14.90
15	Rajasthan	17.22
16	Sikkim	0
17	Tripura	4.26
18	Uttaranchal	6.65

(d) A number of new line projects are in progress in various States. However, there is no specific policy to bring all States at par with the national average so far as route length, per 1000 sq. km of area is concerned.

ROB/RUB Projects in J&K

4994. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of over/under bridges under construction in Jammu & Kashmir;

(b) the details of the proposals sent by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir for construction of over bridges/under bridges at level crossings during the last three years;

(c) the steps taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the funds allocated for construction of such bridges during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Two Road under bridges near Vijay Pur Jammu Railway station of Pathanko-Jammu Tawi Section are under construction on Railway cost, one in lieu of level crossing No. C-50 at Km. 72/3-4 and other in lieu of level crossing No. 52-C at Km. 78/2-3.

(b) Nil.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Edapally-Guruvayur Rail Line

4995. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether necessary sanction and clearance has been accorded for the new line between Edapally and Guruvayur of Southern Railway;

(b) if so, the present status and position with respect to the said new line;

(c) the time by which the construction of the new line is expected to commence; and

(d) the cost involved in the construction?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Rail Link Between India and Nepal

4996. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indo-Nepal inter-Government Committee has given its nod for setting up of rail link between the two countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which rail link between the two countries is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) Finalisation of a Rail Services Agreement to introduce freight train services between India and Nepal is under process.

Austerity Measures

4997. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by the various Departments and Undertakings under his Ministry on various heads during the last three years, till date, year-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government propose any economy drive to reduce expenditure on publicity, advertisement, entertainment, catering, inauguration functions, seminars, tours within the country and abroad, including the payments made against STD and ISD bills, electricity bills particularly the bills of air conditioners and coolers and other such expenditure; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The details of the amount spent by the various Departments and Undertakings under Ministry of Power on various heads during the last three years upto 2001-02 is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Instructions issued by the Ministry of Finance to reduce economy expenditure on publicity, advertisement, entertainment, catering, inauguration functions, seminars, tours within the country and abroad, including the payments made against STD and ISD Bills, electricity bills particularly the bills of air-conditioners and coolers and other such expenditure are adhered to in the Ministry of Power.

Statement

Detailed year-wise statement of the amount spent during the last three years

Description	Actuals 1999-2000		Actuals 2000-01		Actuals 2001-02	
	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Salaries	14340	323277	13444	344236	13739	350153
Wages	0	627	0	621	0	296
OTA	178	1244	181	1263	164	1119
DTE	5353	7857	3115	8180	4746	8204
FTE	9184	4552	1199	3746	10397	3369

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Office Exp.	10774	41211	8481	40625	23560	59870
Rent, Rate & Taxes	0	17297	0	16576	0	16306
Publications	0	617	0	703	0	480
Other Adm. Expenses	0	1418	0	1881	0	1207
Advertising & Publicity	0	91	0	59	0	161
Minor Works	3303	131	3424	162	4246	153
Professional Services	906	537	1867	5812	24632	2593
Other Contractual Services	0	7632100	0	8836123	0	9807783
Grants-in-aid	748692	47000	1312213	49400	4119744	46200
Contributions	0	32	0	25	0	21
Subsidies	2953300	24	2950000	6	3450000	237173
Lumpsum Provision	0	0	0	0	431327	0
Suspense	0	20000	0	16500	0	20000
Interest	0	206899	0	0	0	0
Other Charges	9178	21244	5309	21284	135	4890
Machinery & Equipments	4061	15025	5030	16747	2892	55500
Major works	17186	0	15355	0	10281	0
Investments	12426900	0	12820000	0	19341817	0
Loan & Advances	15199132	0	10776399	0	3180149	0
Other Capital Expenditure	293466	0	445323	0	273070	0
Inter Account Transfer	0	141515	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	31695953	8482698	28361340	9363949	30890919	10615478

[English]

Modernisation of Telecommunication System in Railways

4998. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken steps for the modernisation of telecommunication system in Railways;

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

(c) the fund earmarked therefor during the Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plan period;

(d) whether private sector participation has also been invited; and

(e) if so, the extent thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) i) The

modernisation of telecom system is a continuous process. Ministry of Railways is introducing following systems progressively towards updating/modernising the telecom system -

- Optical Fibre Cable.
- Digital Electronic Exchanges.
- Digital Microwave.
- Satellite Telephones.

ii) Besides, Ministry of Railways has formed a Corporation namely RailTel Corporation of India Limited (RailTel) under its administrative control with one of the objectives as expediting modernisation of Railways' communication system for train control, operations and safety. RailTel is in the process of laying optical fibre cable system along the Railway track utilising Railways' right of way for

creating a nationwide broadband telecom and multimedia network. RailTel plans to connect 150 important cities and 1500 stations on optical fibre network during 2003-04. Besides, RailTel also plans to provide as pilot projects Internet Kiosks at New Delhi Railway station and Internet services on one of the selected trains during the current financial year.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) The funds for Signalling and Telecom are earmarked jointly. During Ninth Five Year Plan, Rs. 1665.80 crore were spent on planned Signalling and Telecom activities. For Tenth Five Year Plan, Rs. 3190 crore including Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF) have been earmarked for Signalling and Telecom.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Railway	As on 31.03.2003			
	Optical Fibre Cable System (RKm)	Digital Electronic Exchanges (Lines)	Digital Microwave Links (RKm)	Satellite Phones (Nos.)
Central	1739	41888	721	9
Eastern	1130	17657	967	8
Northern	1016	39779	1475	9
North Eastern	23	11370	624	6
Northeast Frontier	561	6750	0	5
Southern	1265	23043	1191	8
South Central	0	17110	577	2
South Eastern	3352	15192	397	9
Western	849	48271	1389	9
Total	9935	221060	7341	65

Note: The position includes telecom system of new carved out zones, which were earlier part of above 9 zones.

Construction of ROB Near Durgapur Railway Station

4999. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated cost for construction of Road over

Bridge by the side of Durgapur Railway Station which has been sanctioned during 2000-2001;

(b) the amount of the total cost to be borne by the State Government;

(c) whether the Railways and State Government have submitted their shares for this project; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Road over bridge in lieu of Level Crossing (LC) No. 113 B/T near Durgapur sanctioned in 2000-2001 is estimated to cost Rs. 791.44 lakh with Rly's share as Rs. 286.71 lakh and State Govt's as Rs. 504.73 lakh.

(c) Railway has provided Rs. 10 lakh during 2003-04. But State Govt. has not yet communicated their consent for cost sharing of this work.

(d) Road over/under bridge is constructed jointly by Railway and State Govt. Railway construct Bridge proper (over the track) and approaches are built by State Govt. Efforts are made by Railway to complete its portion before or along with approaches by State Govt.

ISO Certificate for Trains

5000. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trains received ISO - 9002 certificate till date;

(b) the details of the para-meters fixed for achieving ISO -9002 certificate by any train;

(c) whether the Government have formulated plan to getting more trains to get this norms;

(d) if sc, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Train number 2155/2156 Bhopal Express has become the first ISO certified train in the country.

(b) The scope for certification is "Transporting bonafide passengers by Railway between Habibganj and Hazarat Nizamuddin Railway stations, including from intermediate Railway stoppages in AC & Non AC coaches while maintaining the quality of services".

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Railway Crossing Proposals on Pune-Miraj Section

5001. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Railway crossing proposals pending with South-Central Railway on the Pune-Miraj section;

(b) whether due to not sanctioning of railway crossing proposal in Kasad Tehsil many acres of land cannot be irrigated;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to issue sanction to these proposals;

(d) whether due to merging of Pune-Kolhapur section into Central Railway, the officials of South Central Railway are not keen to solve problems on this section; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) There are 14 proposals of canal crossing which have been received in Pune-Miraj Section of S.C. Railway.

(b) Proposals are sanctioned as and when full formalities as per extant rules are completed.

(c) Railway have sanctioned one proposal of canal crossing. The work is in progress. Acceptance of detailed estimates for 3 crossings have been received from Irrigation Department of State Govt. and are under process of sanction. Further, acceptance of detailed estimate for another two proposals are awaited from Irrigation Department. Detail of 8 proposals of canal crossings have been asked from Irrigation Department which are awaited.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Taxation System in Auto Industry

5002. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present taxation system is seen as the major hurdle in the full growth of the auto industry;

(b) if so, the details of taxation and the reasons for higher tax rates; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to encourage this industry?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Industry has been representing in favour of lowering the incidence of tax and introduction of Value Added Tax System for further encouraging the growth of this sector in India.

(b) The details of duty on various types of vehicles are as under:-

(i) **Excise Duty:**

S.No.	Item	Rate of Duty
1.	Car and Multi Utility Vehicles (MUV)	24%
2.	Other Vehicles	16%
3.	Chassis of bus and truck	16%+Rs.10,000 per chassis
4.	Other parts	16%

(ii) **Custom Duty:**

S.No.	Item	Rate of Duty
1.	Old car and two wheeled vehicles	105%
2.	Completely Build Up Units (CBU) of above	60%
3.	Semi Knocked Down (CKD)	60%
4.	Completely Knocked Down (CKD) and parts	25%
5.	Other Vehicles	25%

Apart from Excise and Custom duty as the case may be, a vehicle sold in India also attracts Central & State Sales Tax, local taxes, road tax besides registration and insurance charges. In case of customs duty, the rates on new and old cars are aimed at encouraging adequate value addition in the country. The growth rate in this sector during the last two years is 12.54% and 14.80% respectively.

(c) Announcement of Auto Policy in March 2002, gradual rationalization of incidence of taxation, increased budgetary allocation for research & development in this sector and India's joining of Working Party 29, a United Nations' outfit on Harmonisation of Standard (W.P.29) as its Observer Member are some of the recent measures that have been initiated by the Government to encourage the auto Industry.

[English]

ROB/RUB Projects in Bihar

5003. DR. M.P JAISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new/ongoing pending/over bridges/under bridges projects in Bihar along with present status thereof;

(b) the details of the proposals sent by the Government of Bihar for construction of over bridges/under bridges at level crossing during the last three years;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the funds allocated for construction of such bridges during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (d) There are 49 on going and 2 new proposals of ROB/RUBs in Bihar. However, 71 proposals were sponsored by the State Govt. in Feb. 2002 out of which 28 proposals qualified to be taken up on cost sharing basis having Train Vehicle Units (TVUs) more than one lakh were sanctioned as Supplementary Works during 2002-03 and 2 works were sanctioned during regular Budget. All these works are at different stages of planning and execution. Allocation made for the works during the last three years is shown below:-

Year	Allocation
2001-02	Rs. 11.83 cr.
2002-03	Rs. 17.00 cr.
2003-04	Rs. 44.71 cr.

[Translation]

Suburban/Urban Transport Project

5004. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any suburban/urban transport project for Mumbai is under consideration of the Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the above project is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Railways has identified the projects to be included under Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP) Phase-II. The estimated cost of MUTP Phase-II is Rs. 3502 crores. The following works are included under MUTP-II:-

S.No.	Name of Project
1.	Kurla - Chhattarpati Shivaji Terminus (CSTM): 5th and 6th Lines
2.	Mumbai Central - Santa Cruz - Borivali 6th Line
3.	Bandra - Kurla: East West Link
4.	Divya - Kalyan: Additional Pair of Lines
5.	Divya - Thane: Additional Pair of Lines
6.	Extension of Harbour Line from Thane to Andheri to Goregaon
7.	DC to AC Conversion from Thane to CSTM
8.	S&T Upgrade on Local Lines to improve Headway
9.	EMU Maintenance Facilities
10.	Stabling Lines for EMUs
11.	EMU Procurement/ Manufacture/Retrofitment

Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation has been advised to obtain the consent of the Govt. of Maharashtra for sharing 50% of the cost of MUTP Phase-II. It is planned to pose the projects for funding by World Bank through the Ministry of Finance as soon as the consent of Govt. of Maharashtra for 50% cost sharing is received. No target date for starting of work has been fixed.

[English]

LPG Supply by Private Companies

5005. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that major portion of rural inhabitants depend upon supply of LPG from private LPG companies;

(b) if so, whether private LPG companies charge more than the Government agencies for the same capacity; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The number of domestic LPG customers enrolled by private companies is insignificant as compared to that of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs).

(b) and (c) The domestic LPG marketed by OMCs is subsidised.

Social Welfare Scheme for SC/ST, Physically Impaired and OBC

5006. MOHAMMAD ANWARUL HAQUE:

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

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

(a) the modes of publicity adopted for creating awareness among SCs/STs, physically impaired and other backward people about the schemes launched by Government for their welfare;

(b) whether adequate publicity, especially through weekly radio programmes and jingles/spots is being given to the schemes so as to create awareness among the illiterate beneficiaries thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the radio sponsored programmes, jingles, spots etc. being broadcast presently and those scheduled for broadcast for the ensuing financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is giving publicity to all its schemes and programmes to generate social awareness across the country through various forms of Media viz. electronic media, print media, outdoor media, traditional, folk and also interpersonal media.

Schemes of the Ministry are widely publicized through advertisements, printed publicity material, hoardings, kiosks, bus panels, dance and drama shows, interpersonal communication sessions as also through the broadcast of radio jingles and spots in a staggered manner and broadcast of weekly sponsored radio programme "Sanwanti Jayen Jeewan Ki Rahen" in the North Eastern States.

[Translation]

Setting up of Solar Power Plants

5007. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of solar photovoltaic power plants which have been decided to be set up by the Government during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the expenditure incurred by the Government for the setting up of these power plants;

(c) the number of power plants which have been constructed out of these or the construction of which is near completion; and

(d) the time by which the construction work of the remaining power plants is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (d) The state-wise details of the solar photovoltaic power plants sanctioned by the Ministry during the last three years i.e. 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03, the funds released by the Ministry and the status of implementation of the projects is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

State-wise details of the Solar Photovoltaic Power Plants sanctioned during 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03, Funds Released and Status of Implementation of the Projects

2000-01

S.No.	State/UT	Location	Nos. & Capacity (kWp)		Funds released (Rs. in lakhs)	Status
			Nos.	kWp		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Arunachal Pradesh	Kambang Village West Siang District, New Elope Village Bulang Valley District, New Aloni Village Dulang Valley District	3	4.50, 2.50, & 2.20	31.65	Installed & commissioned
2.	Assam	Umananda Island Guwahati; Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya & Hostel Sonitpur District	3	3x1.50	3.94	Installed & commissioned
3.	Delhi	Talwar Research Foundation Delhi	1	10	17.25	Installed & commissioned
4.	Karnataka	Poorna Prajna Schools at 5 locations in Karnataka	5	5x1.184	11.84	Installed & commissioned
5.	Kerala	11 remote SC /ST Colonies in Idukki, MPM, Palakkad, TCR, Thiruvananthapuram Districts	11	40.04 total	81.18	Installed & commissioned
6.	Meghalaya	14 tribal & remote villages in South Garo hills, East Garo hills, West Garo hills, Ri-Bhoi, Jaintia hills, West Khasi hills, East Khasi hills Districts	14	35.5 total	10.10	14 plants sanctioned, only one plant installed, other plants not to be installed
7.	Mizoram	Civil Hospital, Aizawl; De-addiction cum Rehabilitation Centre, Siloam Centre; TNT Kalvari Hospital, Zuangtui Maternity Centre, Kulikawan	4	4x25	130.60	Likely to be installed by June 2003
8.	Punjab	Village - Khatkarkalan, District -Nawashahar	1	200	288.75	Installed & commissioned

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9.	Rajasthan	State Secretariat Building, Jaipur	1	25	46.67	Installed & commissioned
		New Rajasthan Vidhan Bhawan Jaipur	1	25	46.67	Installed & commissioned
10.	Lakshadweep Islands	Bitra Island	-	25 Capacity Addition	64.00	Likely to be installed by June 2003
		Bangaram Island		40 Capacity Addition		
		Agatti Island	1	100	930.74	Installed & commissioned
		Amini Island	1	100		Likely to be commissioned by Dec. 2003
		Andrott Island	1	100		Installed & commissioned
		Chetlat Island	1	100		Likely to be commissioned by Dec. 2003
		Kadmat Island	1	150		Installed & commissioned
		Kalpeni Island	1	100		Likely to be commissioned by Dec. 2003
		Kavaratti Island	1	100		Installed & commissioned

2001-02

S.No.	State/UT	Location	Nos. & Capacity (kWp)		Funds released (Rs. in lakhs)	Status
			Nos.	kWp		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Chhattisgarh	Electrification of 30 Villages in Chhattisgarh	30	76.65	71.00	Installed & commissioned
2.	Delhi	Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi	1	10	-	Likely to be installed by December 2003
3.	Haryana	Om Shanti Complex of Brahma Kumari Ashrama in Gurgaon	1	200		Likely to be installed by December 2003
4.	Sikkim	(i) Singtam District Hospital	2	5.7	25.00	Likely to be installed by June, 2003
		(ii) STC Bldg. Gangtok		9.0		
5.	Tripura	Electrification of 10 villages in Tripura	10	36	64.00	Likely to be installed by December 2003

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6.	Uttar Pradesh	Electrification of 14 Villages in U.P.	14	220	199.40	Likely to be installed by December, 2003
		Taj Mahal Complex (ASI Lab), Agra	1	30	54.00	Installed & commissioned
7.	West Bengal	Mousani Island, Sundarbans (Phase-II)	1	110	82.60	Installed & commissioned
		Brajballabhpur and Indapur villages in Sundarbans	2	200 (2x100)	150.00	Likely to be installed by December 2003
8.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Havlock Island	2	100 (2x50)	71.11	One 50 kWp power plant likely to be commissioned by December 2003

2002-03

S.No.	State/UT	Location	Nos. & Capacity (kWp)		Funds released (Rs. in lakhs)	Status
			Nos.	kWp		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Electrification of 14 Villages in Adilabad District	14	119	108.50	Likely to be installed by March, 2004
2.	Chhattisgarh	Electrification of 200 Villages in Chhattisgarh	200	630.45	568.00	Likely to be installed by March, 2004
3.	Haryana	Shakti Bhawan Panchkula	1	25	5.00	Likely to be installed by December, 2003
		Dhani in Panchkula District	1	2	1.90	Likely to be installed by March, 2004
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	Durbook block in Leh district	2	80 (2x40)	72.00	Likely to be installed by March, 2004
5.	Karnataka	KREDL Building Bangalore	1	10.50	9.45	Likely to be installed by July, 2003
6.	Madhya Pradesh	Electrification of one village in Indore	1	5.00	4.60	Likely to be installed by December, 2003
7.	Meghalaya	Electrification of 23 Villages in Meghalay	23	183	322.55	Likely to be installed by March, 2004
8.	Rajasthan	Village- Gornir District- Jhunjhunu	1	100	19.00	Likely to be installed by March, 2004
9.	Tamil Nadu	PMCTW, Thanjavur	1	4.05	3.00	Likely to be installed by December, 2003

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10.	Uttar Pradesh	IREP Training Centre Lucknow	1	25	5.00	Likely to be installed by January 2004
		IIT, Kanpur	1	3.00	3.76	Likely to be installed by September, 2003
11.	Uttaranchal	Vidhan Bhawan Dehradun	1	25	5.00	Likely to be installed by March, 2004
		Secretariat Dehradun	1	25	5.00	Likely to be installed by March, 2004
12.	West Bengal	Barikul Gram Panchayat in Bankura District	1	5.00		Likely to be installed by June, 2003
13.	Chandigarh	S & T Building Chandigarh	1	25	5.00	Likely to be installed by March 2004
14.	Pondicherry	L.G. Secretariat Pondicherry	1	25	5.00	Likely to be installed by March, 2004

In addition, a project for installation of 10 power plants of 2.5 kWp SPV capacity each, has been sanctioned to the NGO i.e. the Social Work and Research Centre, Tilonia, Rajasthan for installation in their field workshops in different states. The Ministry has already released Rs.29.62 lakhs to SWRC for this project. The power plants are to be installed and commissioned by December, 2003.

Inclusions of Castes in OBC in Bihar

5008. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of castes which have been included in other backward classes in Bihar during the last three years;

(b) whether some other castes have also applied for their inclusion in OBCs;

(c) the details of the rules for including other castes in the list of other backward classes;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to include those castes in the list of other backward classes which have been included in the list of other backward classes by other States;

(e) the time by which the Union Government propose to take action in this regard; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Nagar caste (excluding Maithili Brahmins and immigrants Nagars (Baniyas) from other States) has been included in the Central List of OBCs for Bihar vide Gazette Notification No. 71 dated 04-04-2000.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) has formulated guidelines for consideration of requests for inclusion of any caste/community in the Central Lists of OBCs which includes criteria covering social, educational and economic aspects of backwardness.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Since status of each caste/community varies from State to State, it is not possible to include a caste/community in the Central Lists of OBCs on the basis of its inclusion in the list of OBCs by other States. As per provision under Section 9(1) of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) Act 1993, the Commission examines independently the requests for inclusion of any caste/community in the Central Lists of OBCs keeping in view the guidelines formulated by the Commission in this regard and takes its own view for its inclusion or otherwise. As such the castes/communities included in the State Lists of OBCs may

not necessarily find a place in the Central Lists of OBCs.

[English]

Arrangements for Railway Time Tables/Newspapers

5009. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any instructions have been issued to the existing bookstall contractor for making arrangements for the availability of Railway Time Tables, newspapers, books etc. during night time i.e. between 2200 hrs to 0005 hrs at platforms of Kanpur, New Delhi, Delhi and Hazrat Nizamuddin Stations for convenience of passengers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Bookstall contractors are required to sell newspapers/Railway time-table, books etc. round the clock as per agreements entered into with them.

Contracts of Bookstalls

5010. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of stations where the contracts of bookstalls are held by A.H. Wheeler & Company and Higginbothams Limited, Serva Seva Sangh Prakashan and Gita Press, Gorakhpur; and

(b) the station-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

US Report on Defence Forces

5011. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States in its latest world human rights report has accused Indian security forces of resorting to excessive use of force while combating

insurgencies in Jammu and Kashmir and North East as reported in The Hindustan Times dated, April 2, 2003;

(b) if so, the details of the report with the other points raised therein in regard to our country;

(c) whether the Government are agree with the remarks given in the said report; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report alleges custodial deaths, fake encounters, torture, abductions, rapes and arbitrary detentions by the security forces in Jammu & Kashmir and the North-East. It also alleges lack of accountability of security forces in these areas.

(c) The Government regards the report as an internal exercise by the U.S. administration that is mandated by the U.S. Congress. The Government rejects all such intrusive reports and the assessments therein.

(d) The U.S. government has been made aware by the Indian Government from time to time of the extensive constitutional, judicial and legal safeguards that are in place to check any excesses in the combat of terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and the North-East.

Recognition to Petroleum Federation of India

5012. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the capacity in which Petroleum Federation of India has been recognized by the Government;

(b) whether officials of Union Government or PSUs are permitted to serve in Petroleum Federation of India;

(c) if so, whether these officials need to obtain prior approval from their employers before serving in the office of Petroleum Federation of India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Petroleum Federation of India (PetroFed) is a voluntary 'non-profit' body registered under the Societies Act, 1860, formed by major oil PSUs and private sector oil companies including some international organisations to promote interest of Petroleum industry.

(b) and (c) PetroFed obtains the expertise services of officials of Central Government or PSUs on part-time basis in honorary capacity as and when required with the prior approval of the concerned employers.

(d) Does not arise.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) on the working of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 for the year 2001 under sub-section (4) of section 21 of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, **See** No. L.T. 7408/2003]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 731 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th July, 2002 seeking to invest the Railway Board with all the powers and functions of the Central Government issued under section 2 of the Indian Railway Board Act, 1905.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, **See** No. L.T. 7409/2003]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(ii) Review by the Government of the working

of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(iii) Annual Report of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

(5) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Indian Railway Finance Corporation and the Ministry of Railways for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, **See** No. L.T. 7410/2003]

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) under article 151 (1) of the Constitution:-

- (i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (Commercial) (No.1 of 2003) - Public Sectors Undertakings - Review of Accounts for the year ended the March, 2002.

[Placed in Library, **See** No. L.T. 7411/2003]

- (ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India - Union Government (Commercial) (No.2 of 2003) - Public Sector Undertakings - Comments on Accounts for the year ended the March, 2002.

[Placed in Library, **See** No. L.T. 7412/2003]

- (iii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India - Union Government (Commercial) (No.3 of 2003) - Public Sector Undertakings - Transaction Audit Observations for the year ended the March, 2002.

[Placed in Library, **See** No. L.T. 7413/2003]

(iv) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor

General of India - Union Government (Commercial) (No.4 of 2003) - Public Sector Undertakings - Reviews on some of the activities of selected PSUs for the year ended the March, 2002.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7414/2003]

(2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Yantra Nigam Limited and its subsidiaries, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Yantra Nigam Limited and its subsidiaries, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7415/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited and the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7416/2003]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):-

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Oil Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7417/2003]

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between

the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7418/2003]

(iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7419/2003]

(iv) Memorandum of Understanding between the GAIL (India) Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7420/2003]

(v) Memorandum of Understanding between the Balmer Lawrie and Company Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7421/2003]

(2) A copy of the Petroleum and Natural Gas (Amendment) Rules, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in the Notification No. G.S.R. 295(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 2003 under section 10 of the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7422/2003]

12.03 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

(i) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) No.3 Bill, 2003, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 21st April, 2003 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations, and to state that this House has no

recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 23rd April, 2003 agreed without any amendment to the Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2003 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 8th April, 2003."

MR. SPEAKER: Item No.8, presentation of Fifteenth Report of the Estimates Committee.

Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu - Not present.

Shri N.N. Krishnadas - Not present.

There is a Calling Attention Notice to be taken up. Before that, there is a Privilege Notice given by Shri Ram Vilas Paswan.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We are going as per the rules.

12.04 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (HAJIPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, around 10 to 15 days back, I had given a Notice of Privilege Motion against the State Home Minister of Gujarat. I have complete file in this regard. I have also asked for all the Parliamentary papers. I have given you in writing that no such question has been raised by me in the Parliament wherein survey of Christian people has been asked to be conducted. But the State Government, whose intention seems to be malafide, their Home Minister says that survey has been conducted in reply to my question. They are conducting survey and the minority people are getting ruined due to this survey. I have complete file in this regard whereby it is mentioned that not once but many a times Shri Ram Vilas Paswan has asked for it in the House that is why survey is being conducted there. I have with me the affidavit of the Court in this connection. Gujarat Government had given an affidavit in the Court on 5th April, in which they had said:

[English]

"Ram Vilas Paswan sought for the view of the State Government".

[Translation]

That is why I had requested you. You had said in the House that the State Government have been asked to furnish facts in this regard. I would like to know whether those facts have been received or not? No state Government have the moral right to malign any Member of Parliament. We can not put our viewpoint in the State Assembly. The Home Minister of the State, has repeatedly said so. I wish to submit that raising doubts on any MP's secular credibility amounts to malign him. I urge the hon. Speaker to give his ruling in this regard so that we could have a clean image before the innocent people. I am definitely guilty if I have asked any such question but if I have not asked any question then a Privilege Motion should be passed against the State Government.

MR. SPEAKER: I am giving my ruling on this subject.

[English]

I have received your notices of question of privilege dated 7th and 24th April, 2003 against the Home Minister, Government of Gujarat for his alleged misleading statement against you in the Press. As you are aware, the Home Minister of Gujarat, against whom the notices of question of privilege are directed, is a member of Gujarat Legislative Assembly. It is well established that one House cannot claim or exercise any authority over a member of the other House.

According to Kaul & Shakdhar, where a contempt or breach of privilege has been committed by a Member of Parliament against a State Legislature or by a Member of State Legislature against Parliament or the Legislature of any State, the convention is being developed to the effect that if a question of privilege is raised in any Legislature in which the Member of another Legislature is involved, the Presiding Officer refers the case to the Presiding Officer of the Legislature to which that Member belongs to, and the latter deals with the matter in the same way as if it were a breach of privilege of that House.

I have accordingly referred the matter to the hon. Speaker, Gujarat Legislative Assembly for appropriate action in the matter under intimation to us.

...(Interruptions)

Now, we will go to the Calling Attention of Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given Notice for Adjournment Motion. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Sir, an Adjournment Motion issue is there. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, matter regarding HPCL, BPCL etc. is very serious. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to take that up during 'Zero Hour'.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I am going according to our procedure, I do not want to flout it. All the Members, here, know that...

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (GOPALGANJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice for Privilege Motion. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raghunath Jha, your privilege notice is under the consideration of the Speaker. I would allow you whenever I fix the date.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Therefore, I wish that you definitely raise your question in the 'Zero Hour' but before that let us take up 'Calling Attention Motion'. 'Zero Hour' will start after the notice of Calling Attention Motion.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raghunath Jha, your matter is under the consideration of the Chair.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (LATUR): Sir, the Minister who has made this statement has not made this statement as a Member of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly. Any individual who is making a statement outside that House should be answerable to this House also.

If the Ministers and the Members are maligning this House, maligning the Presiding Officers or maligning the Members of this House, well, Sir, it will be very difficult.

If he had made any statement in that House and if Shri Ram Vilas Paswan ji had objected to that statement, it would have been all right. But he has made that statement outside that House. And, he is a Minister.

We are not asking him to come here as a Member of that Legislative Assembly. We are asking him to come here as an individual, who has made a statement against the dignity of a Member of the House by misquoting him, giving wrong information to the people there.

This is my submission. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have heard the submission made by Shri Shivraj V. Patil very carefully. I personally feel that this requires a special attention, which I would definitely give.

I have gone through the precedents. Even if the statement is made outside the House, it is the responsibility of that House to go for a privilege. I am talking only about the precedents. But since you have raised it, I will go into it again.

Now, Shri Basu Deb Acharia, on the Calling Attention.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what about our notice? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I told you earlier also again I am telling you in Hindi that I am deliberating over the notice as given by you and you can speak on the day decided by me.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Hon. Sir, please listen to me for a minute. His matter is serious. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not do advocacy for everyone. Please sit down.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are not appointed an advocate for them. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

12.09 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO THE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Situation arising out of decision of MMTC to Retrench more than 350 employees of Mica division and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Commerce & Industry to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The situation arising, out of decision of MMTC to retrench more than 350 employees of MICA division and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

*THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Mr. *Speaker*, Sir, the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction, BIFR sanctioned a rehabilitation-cum-amalgamation or merger scheme for M/s. Mica Trading Corporation Ltd., MITCO, a wholly owned subsidiary of MMTC on 8.4.1996. Later, by their Order dated 21st April 1997, MITCO was amalgamated with MMTC and became its division with retrospective effect from 1.4.1994.

The MMTC has implemented the rehabilitation package of MITCO decided by the BIFR with due seriousness. Action has been taken for closure of uneconomic offices, disposal of inventory, assistance from National Renewal Fund, NRF, repayment of working capital loan to State Bank of India, SBI, transfer of land to MMTC, adjustment of investments by way of shares in MITCO by MMTC and upgradation of technology on the lines recommended by the BIFR. In fact, BIFR had recommended continuing canalisation of Mica scrap till 1997-98, but it was actually continued till much later, that is, till March, 2002. Despite all these actions, the financial position of Mica Division, erstwhile MITCO, has worsened. The losses of the Mica Division have increased from approximately from Rs. 43 lakh in 1999-2000 to over Rs. 3 crore during 2001-02. The unaudited losses for the last year, that is 2002-03 are approximately Rs. 4 crore.

The sales turnover of the Mica Division has dwindled from approximately Rs. 13 crore in 1999-2000 to approximately Rs. 3 crore in 2001-02 and to Rs. 22 lakh in 2002-03. This was on account of:

- (a) Decanalisation of export of mica scrap with effect from 1st April 2002. It may be noted that out of Rs.13 crore sales turnover in 1999-2000, Rs.12.7 crore was accounted for by canalised export of mica scrap alone.
- (b) Mica division products are no longer cost-competitive and have become obsolete with the availability of cheaper substitutes. For example, Micanite (mica paper laminated with silicon bonded resin) has been replaced by cheaper ceramic substitute.

BIFR had also required the MMTC to reduce the erstwhile MITCO's manpower from 531 as on 1.1.96 to 220. The MMTC offered VRS several times, but the strength could not be brought down below 377 at present.

The MMTC first made efforts to lease out the plant and machinery in early 2002, but only one offer was received for Rs.15 lakh per annum which was rejected being very low. Then the plant was advertised for outright sale in May 2002. Three bids were received, the highest being Rs.1.5 crore against a valuation of Rs.10.55 crore made by HUDCO. This was rejected and another tender issued in September 2002. Two bids were received, the higher one for Rs.2.75 crore. Yet another tender was issued in December 2002 and two bids were received. The higher bid was Rs.3 crore.

The MMTC Board considered the matter on 28th January 2003. Taking all the above facts into account, it came to the conclusion that the division was not commercially viable despite all the money spent in rehabilitation. It decided to recommend its closure to the appropriate Government under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. An application was filed on the 9th April, 2003 to Secretary, Labour seeking permission for closure of the Mica Division of the MMTC. The application indicated the number of workmen whose services were to be terminated as 327, since officers numbering 50 are not covered by the Act. It may be pointed out that para 6 of Annexure I of the BIFR Order dated 8.4.96 for rehabilitation scheme does not preclude retrenchment of employees of the erstwhile MITCO. This fact had been disclosed to the Parliament even earlier in response to the Short Notice Question No.2 raised by the same hon. Member, answered on the 17th May, 2002.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, may I request you to be very brief?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Yes, Sir. I will be very brief. This is the question of bread, butter and survival of 327 workers.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Sir, when Shri Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister, he gave special funds to develop this unit. It was running in profits with huge exports to Japan. Now, it has come to this stage.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This is another example of this Government's anti-working class decision.

Prior to 1994, MITCO was one of the subsidiaries of MMTC. MITCO fell sick in 1993 and it was referred to BIFR. BIFR ordered for merger or amalgamation with MMTC. MITCO was merged with MMTC in 1997 and became one of its Divisions.

Sir, MMTC has several divisions. MICA is one of the divisions of MMTC. It is not a separate company. It is also a fact that BIFR ordered for reduction in staff strength. It had never ordered for outright retrenchment of the entire staff of Mica Division. BIFR also ordered for its revival.

The Minister in his statement has stated that as decided by the BIFR, MMTC has implemented the rehabilitation package of the erstwhile MITCO, now one of the divisions of MMTC, with due seriousness. MITCO was merged with MMTC in 1997 and it then became one of its divisions. But, when was the revival or modernisation of Mica Division started? It was started only in the year 2000 when the Petitions Committee of Lok Sabha recommended along with parity in wages, revision of the pay scale of the employees of Mica Division. It was also recommended that the Mica Division should be modernised, should be made viable. When that recommendation was made, MMTC started modernising the Mica Division.

New machines were installed only in 2000. MMTC waited for three year. The recommendations of BIFR for the revival of Mica Division were not implemented. The Minister has stated that the BIFR asked to retrench the majority of the workers and to reduce it to 220. Sir, a large number of workers have taken VRS. When MITCO was merged with MMTC, the number of workers were more than 500 and within two years it was reduced to 357. Out of 357 workers, more than 60 workers are being utilised by MMTC in its different divisions. If MMTC is serious enough to revive and make it profitable. ...*(Interruptions)* I am coming to the question. It is a very serious matter.

MR. SPEAKER: As per rule, only questions are permitted. You cannot make a speech.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: More than 60 workers could have been redeployed in other divisions of MMTC. But, in spite of doing so, MMTC has now decided to close a Central

public sector unit in the backward region of Jharkhand and has decided to retrench 327 workers. I visited this factory and you will be surprised to know that today these workers are the lowest paid workers in our country. They are getting only Rs.300 per month. You will be surprised to know that their wages have not been revised since 1987.

The argument of the Ministry of Commerce and the MMTC is that BIFR order was that the pay of the employees of erstwhile MITCO should be protected. It should not be less than what they used to get at the time of merger. They would be receiving their salary at the rate which they used to get in 1987. For years together, their wages have not been revised. Now, MMTC has taken a decision to close down the Mica Division and retrench the entire work force.

Sir, there are some divisions of MMTC which are also incurring losses. One office at Indore has been closed down but not a single employee of Indore office has been retrenched. They all have been re-deployed. If the Government feels that there is no need to continue the Mica Division, the Government could have re-deployed 327 workers in other Divisions of MMTC. Instead of re-deploying or adjusting them in other Divisions of MMTC, the Government has decided to retrench them. It has already applied to the Ministry of Labour for permission under Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Acharia, please sit down now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I would like to know from the Minister whether there are some Divisions of MMTC which are incurring losses. Is the Mica Division is one of the Divisions of MMTC? The MITCO has no separate Annual Report. It is included in the Annual Report of MMTC. It is within the same organisation. It is part and parcel of MMTC. I would like to know from the Minister whether he would consider re-deploying the entire 327 employees of Mica Division in other Divisions of MMTC. The Government wants to retrench them. It wants to throw them on the streets. Their wages have not been revised since 1987.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, the decision to close down any division or any unit of the public sector indeed is very painful both for the Government and for the employees involved. Such a decision is taken only after all efforts to revive that unit have eventually failed.

Sir, the business of the Mica Division predominantly depended on the export of Mica scrap. That export of Mica scrap got decanalized and products substituted by some cheaper substitute and that business did not survive. The BIFR directed the Government to make sure that export is canalised through MITCO till 1997-98. But the Government not only did

it till 1997-98, it continued this till 2002 when eventually it was found that the business was no longer viable. Its turnover, because of the non-viability of the product that it dealt with, started coming down. The turnover of Rs.13 crore became Rs. 3 crore and eventually Rs.22 lakh. On a turnover of Rs.22 lakh, the loss itself is approximately Rs.4 crore.

Therefore, business was no longer found to be viable.

Now, as far as MITCO staff is concerned, the MMTC has filed an application before the Ministry of Labour with regard to retrenchment under section 25(o). Under the Scheme of MMTC, the retrenchment compensation payable to them will not only be that strictly payable as far as the Industrial Disputes Act is concerned but will have the option of the Government VRS.

As far as the question of re-deploying them in the other units of the MMTC is concerned, the business of a large number of these organisations which depended on canalisation business has also been affected. The hon. Member is right that some of the divisions may have suffered losses. MMTC has come out with VRS schemes in the past and today the MMTC itself overall has a surplus staff. Therefore, the question of re-deploying staff from an unviable division into the main MMTC's other divisions perhaps would not arise. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, he has not replied to the questions. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The subject is over and now I am going to take up the 'Zero Hour'.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to permit all the Members who have given notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I have notices of Adjournment Motion in which first name is of Shri Ramji Lal Suman and second is that of Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi. I would allow both to speak, first Shri Ramji Lal Suman and then Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: First Shrimati Sushma Swaraj would present the Motion regarding report of Business Advisory Committee.

12.26 hrs.

**MOTION RE: FORTY-NINTH REPORT OF
BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"that this House do agree with the Forty-ninth Report of the Business Advisory Committee, presented to the House on 23rd April, 2003".

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The Question is:

"That this House do agree with the Forty-ninth Report of the Business Advisory Committee, presented to the House on the 23rd April, 2003".

The Motion was adopted.

12.29 hrs.

**RE: DISINVESTMENT OF PUBLIC SECTOR
UNDERTAKINGS IN THE COUNTRY
PARTICULARLY OF HPCL AND BPCL-CONTD.**

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given notice, since beginning, we are pressing for this subject. Just because we follow the rules we remain at a loss. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have received many notices regarding disinvestment of HPCL, BPCL. I would like to read out everyone's name. These are - Shri Ramji Lal Suman, Shri Basudeb Acharia, Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan, Shri Sunil Khan, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Shri Prabodh Panda, Shri Ajoy Chakraborty, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Shri Roopchand Pal, Prof. A.K. Premajan, Shri Suresh Kurup, Dr. Ramchandra Dome, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan and Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PARBHANI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given a notice.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not on this subject.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: It is on the same subject.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not on the Adjournment Motion. It is for raising issue in the Zero Hour. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You do not listen properly. Which party you belong to?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: In all the notices received by me, first is of Shri Ramji Lal Suman and then of Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi which is related to suspension of the 'Question Hour'. Hence, I would, first allow Shri Ramji Lal Suman and then Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi to speak.

Thereafter I would allow all those Members to speak here, who have given notices in this regard. There are Adjournment Notices on other subjects too. Your notice is also there. Your notice would be followed by the present notice.

[English]

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (BASHIRHAT): Sir, I also had given a notice for suspension of Question Hour.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: If you are willing you can come and sit on this Chair as Chairman.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD): Mr. Speaker. Sir, question of disinvestment is very important. This august House has held discussion on disinvestment not once but many a times, however no concrete result could be achieved. Hon. Prime Minister had once said that for how long can we tolerate plundering of the country through Government Undertakings.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, efforts have not been made to make viable Government Undertakings which are running in loss we want an assurance from the Government that atleast profit making government undertakings may not be disinvested. All other Government undertakings viz. BALCO, CMC were running in profit. When the question of selling of the profit earning undertakings NALCO arose, Shri Arun Shourie stated that the undertakings running in profit today may incur losses in future. It proves that the Government are incapable and unable to control corruption and mismanagement. Sir, through you, I would request that BPCL and HPCL both are big companies of India. From profit point of view these companies stand on second and third position respectively in first 10 big companies of the country. Both these

companies are earning profits. Even the government itself have admitted that BPCL and HPCL are profit earning companies. These two companies have earned Rs. 363 crore and Rs. 467 crore respectively in the year 2001-02. In the 9 months of the year 2002-03 these companies had earned a profit of Rs. 903 crore and Rs. 802 crore respectively. I would like to submit....

MR. SPEAKER: This is Zero Hour. How can I give more than two minutes Shri Dasmunsi.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Government should ensure that atleast profit earning government undertakings would not be disinvested.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Sir, I am grateful to you for allowing me to make submission. This is not an issue just to take the time of the House. I would give you a clear manifestation of the House which is opposed to disinvestment. The political parties in this House which took a public position against selling of the profit making public sector units are like this:

The Indian National Congress with a strength of 111 Members of this House; CPI (M) with 33 Members; Telugu Desam Party with 29 Members; Samajwadi Party with 27 Members; Shiv Sena with 15 Members; DMK with 12 Members. ... (Interruptions)

If any Party thinks that Dasmunsi is wrong, let them stand up and say so. DMK Members said that they were opposed to it. The Samata Party, with a strength of 12 Members, including their Members, publicly opposed it. The Biju Janata Dal, on the issue of NALCO, unanimously resolved against disinvestment. They have a strength of ten Members in this House. The All India Trinamul Congress, with their strength of eight Members, thoroughly opposed it. Their Nationalist Congress Party with eight Members also opposed it. The Janata Dal (United) with a strength of six Members in the House publicly took a position opposing it. The PMK with a strength of five Members publicly issued a statement against disinvestment. The Rashtriya Janata Dal with a strength of four Members publicly took position against it. The MDMK publicly took a position against it. Their strength is four Members, including one who is in jail under POTA.
...(Interruptions)

The Communist Party of India with a strength of three Members publicly took the same position. The Revolutionary Socialist Party also publicly took a position against it. The Janata Dal (JP) with two Members publicly opposed it. The

Muslim League with a strength of two Members publicly took a position. RPI with one Member, Shri Ramdas Athawale, publicly took the same position. Shri Prakash Yashwant Ambedkar also publicly took the same position. The Communist Party of India (ML) with one Member publicly took the same position. The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha with one Member publicly took the same position. The Peasants and Workers Party with one Member publicly took the same position. The Samajwadi Janata Party with one Member, Shri Chandra Shekhar has been publicly taking the position long before we started to raise it. ...*(Interruptions)*

I am not talking of others. Please do not take it lightly. Out of 545 Members of this House, I calculated that 322 Members are opposed to it. They publicly took a position. Just because the NDA Government wanted to avoid a voting on the issue, they avoided taking the sense of the House also and requested us not to bring a motion involving voting. I agree.

Sir, you see the proceedings of the debate of the discussion under Rule 193. This figure reflects which party took what position on that day. Can the country ignore the wisdom and strength of this House in such a manner? Will the 183 BJP Members who are ruling the country sell its property? Can any party deny what I am saying? Can the Party, whose name I took, get up and say that Dasmunsi is wrong and that they are supporting it? Everybody is opposing it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, why not a Motion is being moved in the House on what he is reading. ...*(Interruptions)* It would be proved from the Motion on who is against it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, you please control Shri Swain. Everyday, he is getting up and interrupting. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Swain, please sit down. He will take care of Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What is this, you can speak lateron. Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, U.P.):

He has mentioned my name. I wish to submit that on that day the House was running without quorum. I had objected to it and pointed out that there was not quorum but I did not oppose him. I had raised the question of quorum in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE): Sir on that day I was prevented from speaking when I stood up to speak and today they say that so many people are opposing it. Why did he raise the question of quorum on that day and did not let me speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the country's senior Ministers like the Raksha Mantri and the two Ministers of Petroleum and Natural Gas have publicly stated on a number of occasions that, in the interest of national security, these petroleum companies, the strategic sector, should not be sold out. Further, I salute a section of BJP Members who have said in their parlance that the petroleum sector should not be divested. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD (DARBHANGA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the discussion in the House on the issue of disinvestment under rule 184, he had brought a 'No Confidence Motion' against the Government and the motion was defeated. Leader of an opposition party said that there was no quorum in the House that shows their state of mind on the issue of disinvestment. ...*(Interruptions)* Dasmunsi ji had presented a letter from the cabinet Secretary here which was found fake later on. Even CBI had also accepted that it was a fake letter and is lying here for decision why do you not take decision on that. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: During the 'Zero Hour', I have permitted him to speak. Let him complete. You can speak afterwards if you get an opportunity. Do not disturb him now. Let me know what he wants to say.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (DEORIA): Sir, he does not complete his statement. Let him complete it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kirti Jha Azad does not have the right to interrupt a person who is speaking. Let him continue.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, no allies are protecting them. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have my full protection. Please go ahead.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: After 9th May, the disinvestment of NALCO alongwith HPCL and BPCL is on the pipeline. Since we will not be here after 9th May, we demand that the Government should assure on the floor of the House that they will not dispose of or sell any profit-making public sector company, specially the HPCL and BPCL. Otherwise, we will not co-operate with the Government. Let me make this clear. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (SOUTH DELHI): Sir, I am raising a question of propriety. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Sir, I would like to speak a clarification from you. Today, fortunately, the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs is here. If there is any response to be made, then she has to do it. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I am not making any response. I am only raising the question of propriety. How can you deal with it? You are nobody to deal with it. Hon. Speaker is here to decide. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I am not trying to stop him from speaking. You have been kind enough to ask the hon. Members who have given notice of Adjournment Motion to speak on the subject. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I am not the Speaker. So also you are not the Speaker. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Malhotra ji, I have allowed you, you can speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Kirti Jha ji, please sit down. I have given permission to Malhotra ji to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am only saying that let Dr. Malhotra

complete his speech. Thereafter, I will permit Shri Somnath Chatterjee to speak.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He rises now and then. ...*(Interruptions)* He is preventing me from speaking despite the permission given to me for speaking. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I am not questioning your ruling. Every time they are questioning your ruling. ...*(Interruptions)* If this is the way they want the Opposition's cooperation, then we know what to do. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Again the same people are speaking. We have also given notice to speak. Why does he speak without a notice. ...*(Interruptions)* These people have spoken two times. We have also given notice. How can he speak like this without a notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Malhotra is only asking for a clarification.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is not on a point of order. Nor is he obstructing the debate.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No point of order is allowed in the 'Zero Hour'.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the Solicitor General should be summoned to the House. ...*(Interruptions)* He cannot give opinion outside the House. ...*(Interruptions)* It is only the wisdom of the Parliament to decide to sell the property of the nation. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: As you know very well that I have allowed Shri Ajoy Chakraborty to speak here. Ajoy Chakraborty would definitely deliver his speech but Malhotra ji is seeking a clarification from me. I would like to ask him what does he want to know.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: No one can seek clarification from the Speaker. As per rule I am saying so. No one can seek clarification from the chair. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you are talking of rules then please sit down when the Speaker is on his legs. Please follow the rules atleast to this extent.

...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask that BAC report has been presented in the House wherein time has been fixed for this issue. You may hold discussion on this issue again and again. But it has been decided that discussion would be held on 8th May. The House has to hold discussion on the same issue and you have decided to hold a structured debate. Structured debate should be held on such issue, it should not be so that a member rises and the discussion be started. Discussion should be held properly. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I agree with you but when the entire House gives its consent to it, only then it is possible.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (CANARA): Sir, give me a chance. ... I request you to summon the Solicitor General to the House. ...(Interruptions) Under the rules, we have a right to hear the Solicitor General. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Members have given me notices.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Sir, the Government has taken a decision to sell out two profit-making companies, namely HPCL and BPCL. ...(Interruptions) These companies were created by an Act of Parliament. It cannot be sold out without the approval of this Parliament. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR): Our views also be listened. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is the time of your train's departure? You sit down. I will give you permission to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: By the law of Acquisition of Undertaking Act in India 1974, the company ESSO was taken over and it became the HPCL. ...(Interruptions) By the same Act of this House, another company, Burma Shell was

taken over and it became the BPCL. The Government of India cannot take these decisions without the approval of Parliament. The Standing Committee on Petroleum submitted a Report which was tabled on the Table of this august House on 23rd December.

In the Report that was tabled in Parliament on 23rd December, the Members of the Standing Committee on Petroleum had unanimously opposed the disinvestment of the HPCL and the BPCL. The HPCL and the BPCL are the pride of our country. They are the profit-making concerns. Even when the auction procedures were on, one of the public sector units, the ONGC, was not allowed to participate in the auction. The Government of India sought the opinion of the Attorney-General. The Attorney-General opined that the Government could sell out these units without the approval of Parliament. But I say that the former Attorney-General Shri Milan Banerjee had expressed a contrary opinion. He opined that these two companies could not be disinvested and sold out without the approval of Parliament. The point is that these companies were created by an Act of Parliament. It cannot be said that the Government can sell out these units without the approval of Parliament. So, I agree to the opinion of most of the hon. Members of this House that these units cannot be sold out without the approval of Parliament. We are of the same opinion. But this Government has decided to sell out the two public sector units. It is against the wisdom of Parliament, against the wisdom of the people of this country. So, I demand that the Government should withdraw the decision immediately.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, both HPCL and BPCL are profit making companies. I had raised the question of not selling these companies earlier also. At that time the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs had assured us in the House that in the end of the first part and beginning of the second part of the session, that is, during the recess period, in which the House remains adjourned for the discussion of the budget in the Parliamentary Standing Committee, the process of disinvestment of both the companies will not be pursued further but I am very perturbed to say that the process of disinvestment was not only preserved but was also accelerated. Shri Milan Banerjee Attorney General of India had earlier said that Government can not disinvest these companies without the consent of the Parliament because both these companies have been created by a legislation passed by the Parliament but the Government is manipulating Attorney-General to make him say that the Government can disinvest both the companies even without the prior permission of the Parliament. ...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the words uttered by the hon. Members that manipulating Attorney-General should be expunged. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Malhotra, you resume your seat. The hon. Member is saying as per his information. This is his own information.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: My allegation also is this.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government has hatched a conspiracy to disinvest HPCL and BPCL companies. Earlier ONGC had proposed to buy those companies but the Government had imposed restriction on ONGC to buy these companies. Similarly, Reliance Company, which weild enormous influence on the Government, is also willing to buy the companies and the Government is also comprising to sell these companies to Reliance. This way the Government is defying laws for disinvesting these companies and they want to sell these companies by flouting the law and ignor.ng the Parliament.

Sir, the calculation made by Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi is correct. Lok Sabha disapproves this act of Government. A motion to this effect be brought in the House. Though the government has majority but it has ignored it like America which invaded Iraq by not taking any care of the world opinion. Therefore, we are totally against this step of the Government.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, after what Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has said, it seems that only a section of the BJP stands isolated completely. Otherwise, I am sure, even the entire BJP is not speaking with once voice. They are speaking differently outside. ...*(Interruptions)* People have little patience to listen. My friends, you are in a very temporary situation. It will not last very long. The people have decided about it. Please wait for it just for a few months.

Sir, why are we repeatedly, raising this issue? This is a matter which should not be treated as a mere routine matter. These are the companies which are making huge profits. Everybody is aware of this fact. I do not want to trouble the hon. Members about it but it is nice to remind ourselves from time to time as to its performance. The profit of BPCL is Rs.850 crore. The profit of HPCL is Rs.780 crore.

The excise duty paid to the Government by these two companies are Rs. 10,513 crore and Rs. 11,246 crore respectively which, put together, comes to nearly Rs. 22,000 crore.

Sir, some revealing figures have come out on these two profit-making units. The turnover of these two companies is Rs. 87,850 crore and the excise duty paid is around Rs. 22,000 crore. The turnover of nine leading private sector companies, namely, Reliance, Grasim, Bajaj Auto, Tata Steel, Sterlite, Colgate Palmolive, L & T, Raymond and Glaxo, is Rs. 88,157 crore which is just Rs. 1,000 crore more than the turnover of these two companies. The excise duty paid by these two companies is Rs. 21,759 crore. As against this, only Rs. 6,840 crore is the amount of excise duty paid by these nine so-called leading private companies.

Now, the Government is trying to make over these two companies to the private sector when the matter is being discussed in Parliament. They should not do that, at least, without parliamentary approval. The Act is very clear, at least, to people like us. We are not as learned as the hon. Law Minister or the Attorney-General who, we find, is shifting his position from time to time.

Sir, apart from Shri Milan Banerjee, I have, with me here, the written opinion of a very distinguished group of lawyers, namely, Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer, retired judge of the Supreme Court, Justice Chinnappa Reddy, retired judge of the Supreme Court, Justice P.B. Sawant, retired judge of the Supreme Court, Justice Rajinder Sachar, retired Chief Justice of Delhi High Court, Shri Shanti Bhushan, one of the most distinguished advocates of this country. They have all said that this cannot be done without parliamentary approval because it is a commitment given in the Act itself. As against this, the Government is surreptitiously going through this process and the Parliament is never told as to what is the stage, why parliamentary approval need not be taken and what is the justification for the sale of this type of profit-making undertakings. The White Paper on Disinvestment that they had brought out did not, at all, mention about disinvestment of profit-making units. Then, why has suddenly a reversal of the policy been done by the Government of India? These are very basic questions. After all, till today, this country is committed to public sector undertakings which are the Navratnas of this country. We are proud of their performance. We all know how VSNL has been sold out.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a discussion is going to be held on this subject later in the House.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, we also know how IPCL has been got rid of. For whose benefit is this being done? Even now, the country, as a whole, still swears that a considerable portion of our population are still living below the poverty line and people are losing jobs. The Prime Minister's assurance, with all my respect for him, of creating

one crore jobs every year has become almost a matter of joke. These matters are not getting primacy, but stealthily and surreptitiously our biggest assets are being sold away and can we, representing the people in Parliament, not question this?

Sir, they talk of competition now. Reliance is being given private outlets and others are given the right to set up private outlets. They will now have competition with HPCL and BPCL.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Somnath Chatterjee, you can make these points during the debate.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I know the constraint of time, but we shall be failing in our duty if we do not raise these issues in Parliament. When all the right thinking people are agitated about this, these basic questions have not been answered. These units are not the paternal properties of one party or some group of people on that side that they can treat them in whatever way they like.

Sir, we demand a clear assurance from the Government. Even as the hon. Minister has said that it would not be done, we would like to know what is happening in the intervening period when the parliamentary approval has not yet been obtained. We would like to know what steps are being taken towards this because the opinion of the Attorney-General creates a lot of doubts. We know that he is shifting his opinion and we do not know what will be said and at what time. Therefore, I demand a categorical assurance from the Government on this matter.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR (BALLIA, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Priya Ranjanji and Somnathji have discussed this subject in detail. Priyaranjan Dasmunsi has given the names as well as the number of persons who are opposing this policy. We feel that majority is against it and still the Government is functioning and taking decisions everyday. Whenever an issue is raised, Government replies that debate can be held on it. Now I would like to submit to Shri Somnath Chatterjee and Priyaranjan Dasmunsi that now the situation is that some persons are in the habit of making different statements in the newspapers and in the House. With all humility I would like to submit that the Members of Parliament are expected to maintain consistency in speech, be they deliver it inside or outside the House. It will not be proper to say different things in and outside the House. A few people want to earn the people's appreciation outside the House and also want to enjoy fruits of power inside the House. ... (Interruptions) It is not a matter to laugh. If the things come to such a pass in the Parliament then neither the Chair nor any debate can do

anything. Hence now it is high time for these who are really opposing this policy to decide that if the government functions in this way they would no longer remain in the House and the Government may do whatever likes and conduct debate in its own way. Now it is high time to say that we are not ready to cooperate in such proceedings of the House wherein no respect is shown to majority and where Parliament is unable to pass any proposal in the interest of the nation despite having majority support on that proposal.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (AURANGABAD, MAHARASHTRA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have raised the issue of Hindustan Petroleum and Bharat Petroleum several times on behalf of my party Shiv Sena. I mentioned about it the day before yesterday while the discussion on the Ministry of Labour was going on. Today only I have received a fax from the local Lokadhikar Samiti of Hindustan Petroleum and the Bharat Petroleum. They have stated that I have always been raising this question but still they are feeling apprehensive. There are nine thousand employees from Maharashtra who have been working in the Hindustan Petroleum, Bharat Petroleum and RCF. Our colleague of our hon. Minister Shri Ram Naikji is also dead against the disinvestment of these companies even though he does not speak openly on it. ... (Interruptions) As hon. Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has mentioned that the actual number of such people is 324, though it might exceed. The elections are to take place. Madan Lal Khuranaji should suggest his party to keep this issue in the backburner for time being else it may give an opportunity to the leaders of the opposition parties to criticise the Government for selling the companies. We have been opposing the sale of the profit making companies Arun Shivaji had replied to my question on centur hotel that the Government would not sell the profit making companies and it is in the proceeding of Parliament. Thereafter proceedings on it started through hon. Sushmaji had assured us that proceeding will not begin unless the discussion on it is held. ... (Interruptions) Stop for a minute.

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR: It does not behave an MP to say something in the House and something else outside. This is against the decorum and the etiquette. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE (HINGOLI): Do not say anything about him. He has started it.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: This is not the subject of the discussion. I am expressing the stand of my party, why are you interrupting.

13.00 hrs.

...(Interruptions) It is a very serious issue. This serious issue is discussed daily in the House. We also are in the Government. The Government should decide to stop the proceedings in this regard as it had given the assurance that disinvestment would not be made in the profit making companies. I would like to say on behalf of Shiv Sena that the Government should keep its words. Similar is the case of RCF. We are of the view that CRF should also not be disinvested.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (LATUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say in very brief. Some of the Ministers have also opposed disinvestment. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has calculated that the majority of the Members are against disinvestment. I demand that discussion be held on this issue under rule 284 but the Government maintains that it is not needed. While the Attorney-General is saying something contrary to the advocate who is also a Member of the Rajya Sabha. As stated by him and Shri Chatterjee, and advocates from outside who are of the opinion that the PSUs could be divested only when an amendment in law is made. The Government is not of one opinion in this regard. Some people are urging that the House and advocates are against it even then they would make disinvestment in profit making PSUs and this is not good thing. Is it the democracy? This can not be called the parliamentary system. I have told through giving notice that if the Government propose to spend even a single pie.

This House has to take permission and has to get the Budget passed. The Government are selling property worth crores of rupees. The property Government sold at Rs. 80 crore was resold within three months to a third party for Rs. 150 crore. What does it mean? If we tell the public outside that we can do nothing about it mean? If we tell the public outside that we can do nothing about it while sitting in the House then they would say that well, let the Parliament do what it want and we will do what we are to do. It will create a law and order problem in the country. If you want to do it, do it. Others have also done it. If they want to oppose they may oppose it and if they want to support it they may support it. Let them do whatever they want. There should be transparency in disinvestment. When we demand for a policy formation for disinvestment they say that it is not required when they are asked to get it voted in the House they say that is also not required. The lawyers say it is not required. Supreme Court had issued a notice whether disinvestment can be done without changing the law and the matter is subjudice in the Supreme Court. Now Supreme Court has issued a notice. Court wants to see whether it can be done or not but the Government would disinvestment before that. The Government would resort to disinvestment during inter-session period

so that none can raise an issue. Even if it is pending in court the Government would disinvest. Is it called democracy? Is it called parliamentary system? I am unable to understand the Government acts in this way, who it would benefit? Therefore, all of us are recommending strongly. ...(Interruptions) They do not want to say anything otherwise, they would have spoken. People sitting here would have spoken the same language. They do not want to speak as they do not want to put the Government in trouble. But, while outside, they speak and we hear and that gets reported in newspaper. My submission is that this kind of disinvestment should not take place. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. A. K. PREMAJAM (BADAGARA): Sir, I have given a notice on this issue. Please allow me to speak. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP (KOTTAYAM): Sir, I have also given a notice on this issue. Please allow me to speak. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The second thing is that if Attorney-General has said something then I demand him to come here and clarify the Governments' stand. I, too, should be allowed to put questions to him. If required, we would ask in writing, but first let him come and speak. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, do you want to respond?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I have also given a notice on this issue. Please allow me to speak. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: What is meaning of No-confidence Motion? ...(Interruptions) No Confidence Motion should be resorted to on this resolution. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. In the 'Zero Hour', we have taken up this issue. It is a very important issue but at the same time there is a time constraint. If you want to know what the Government has to say on this issue, this is the time. All of you can speak if there is a discussion on this issue. I cannot permit everybody now. Otherwise, you will not get the reply

from the Government. I will adjourn the House for Lunch at 1.10 p.m.

[Translation]

Only five minutes are left. Do you not want to know what does the Government want to say on it!

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: How can I permit every Member to speak? Please sit down. The Government will respond. Later it will be discussed in detail.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. The hon. Minister will make the views of the Government clear on this issue. Thereafter, if required, there will be a debate under any rule, whatever the House decides, and all of you can participate.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: You had told that you will allow all those who have given notice on Adjournment Motion. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I thought that by one o' clock, it has to be completed. In 'Zero Hour', you cannot go on continuously discussing and debating on the issue. Let me know what the Government has to say. Otherwise, after five minutes I will adjourn the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Only one Member can speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: In this way, the Government will not be able to respond. Do not blame me.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KURUP: My notice is there.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: This is a very important issue.

[Translation]

Please extend some more time. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Sunil Khan ji, please sit down and listen to me.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at least call the Members who have given notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP: My notice is there.

MR. SPEAKER: There are a number of other notices.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There are several notices. I have the names.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Unless this subject is disposed of, no other subject can be taken up.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (SILCHAR): There is a cyclone in Dhubri District of Assam. Sir, 30 people have died and 1000 people are missing. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I do not think that the Opposition are serious on the issue of disinvestment. If the Opposition are serious, they must listen to what the Minister wants to say. The Opposition have raised the issue. If the Opposition are serious enough, they should listen to the Minister what the Government has to say on this issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Or, as per our procedure, at one o' clock, we normally adjourn for lunch hence I will adjourn the House for lunch. Again you can take up the issue tomorrow. You can discuss it tomorrow. I have no objection.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If everybody wants to speak, I have no alternative. I do not think that the Members are in a mood to know the reaction of the Government. The views of the Opposition have been made clear. It is for the Government to make their views clear. I have asked the Government to make their views clear. If all of you want to speak, let there be a discussion. The Government is ready for a discussion and we can take up the discussion on the issue.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: You allow the Adjournment Motion. Why can you not allow the Adjournment Motion? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Basu Deb Acharia ji, what do you want to say.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let me listen to him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned for Lunch till two o' clock.

13.08 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at one minute past Fourteen of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

RE: DISINVESTMENT OF PUBLIC SECTOR UNDERTAKINGS IN THE COUNTRY PARTICULARLY OF HPCL AND BPCL - CONTD.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: All of you sit in your respective seats. Your leader is speaking. I would listen as to what is he speaking.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, in the morning, we said it and again we are now saying this. You disallowed the Adjournment Motion notice but allowed us to make our submission and we are very grateful for that. We made it very clear from our side that there should be a categorical assurance from the Government that in this matter the Government would not take any step for disposing the profit-making public sector units while 300 MPs of this House, cutting across various political parties, have opposed it. That matter is very clear. ...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He has already spoken on this issue. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramji Lal Suman, please sit down now.

Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, have you completed?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I was saying that we would definitely co-operate with the Government in all its business. We have been doing it and we are very keen that all the matters of the Government are taken up very seriously by the Opposition but the issue raised by the Opposition has been treated by the Government in such a manner that the discussion in the House is over but the spirit that emerged out of that discussion is not carried out by the Government. I challenge, if you see the debates on disinvestment under rule 193, you would find that every party expecting the BJP has opposed it but yet the Government does it. It is an insult to the House. We cannot continue in this manner. Therefore, we need a categorical assurance from the Government today. If the hon. Minister says that they would not dispose the profit-making public sector undertakings without consulting the Parliament, we will co-operate.

Thank you. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: They will not permit the House to run. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: What is the problem? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Sumanji, you have just completed your speech. Why are you interrupting time and again?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise two-three points only. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Malhotra ji, I want to conduct the business of the House.

...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, they will not allow the business to continue. Their intention is such. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Not so, they will allow the business to continue. You sit down. They are very good people, they would allow.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: They are very good people. Please take your seat.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will they allow the House to run? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Will the House run after everyone has spoken? If the business of the House is not allowed to be conducted after everyone has spoken then what is the use of speaking. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: They are in a mood to run the House. They are in good mood, why do you spoil their moods? Please do not spoil their mood.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I think current spate of discussion is alright. The House is functioning in a very good manner. If he feels that disinvestment is everything, then let them disinvest the whole nation. I would like to tell him that BPCL and HPCL were nationalised in 1976 when two private companies namely Burmahshell and ESSO refused to provide fuel during 1971 war. The then Prime Minister, hon. Indira Gandhi brought a proposal for their nationalisation. Therefore, I want to tell him that this matter is linked to national security. If these companies are privatised same situation may erupt during war like situation. The price of Kerosene oil, Petrol, Diesel and LPG will be increased arbitrarily after privatisation which will lead to price escalation of other commodities. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please tell, what do you want the Government to do?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: When we were discussing it hon. Prime Minister was sitting in the House. We belong to Dalit, SCs and STs. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you too had been their champion. Therefore, I want to ask what is going to be the fate of their reservation? Time and again, there has been a demand for reservation in private sector. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You may raise this issue when discussion on this matter is held. How can you raise this issue now.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I am concluding. The Government allotted special petrol pumps to the dependents of Kargil martyrs. Will the private companies grant this kind of favour. The report of the Standing Committee is against privatisation. The report states:

[English]

"The Committee had, therefore, recommended that those companies who are engaged in raising infrastructure, there was no need to disinvest in these oil companies".

[Translation]

In the end, I want to say that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed you to speak so please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: How can I allow your speech to go on record?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Zero-Hour was over quite some time back.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, out throat has become sore in persistent crying. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I insist to let the matter be decided by the Parliament. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your leader has initiated the discussion on this subject.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, I have given a notice for Adjournment Motion. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let me know what she has to say.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, I want half a minute. They had given an assurance if on the floor of the House that nothing would be done against the interest of the nation. This House has a right to debate and discuss and only after that a decision will be taken. But, now, it has come out that immediately. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let me know what the hon. Minister has to say. Please sit down.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: How can it be? How can we remain silence spectators to all these things? What is more serious than the nation's valuable assets have been sold by the minority Members of this House? The majority Members of this House aloe of the opinion that it should not be done. What do we want? We want an assurance from the hon. Prime Minister of this country that BPCL, HPCL, NALCO, etc., which are profit making public sector undertakings, should not be disinvested. They are the prestigious Navratnas of the country. They should not be sold out in this manner like they are doing out.

MR. SPEAKER: Please let us know what the Government has to say.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (CHANDIGARH): A large number of Members of this House are against it. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You should put forth your viewpoint of the reply if the hon. Minister does not satisfy you.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir our colleagues from opposition want to have a discussion on the disinvestment in HPCL and BPCL. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you yourself are a witness to it. The Government have always given its consent for this discussion. This was also discussed in Rajya Sabha during this session itself. When this subject was raised in Lok Sabha, it was decided that the discussion on it will be held in the later part of the session. At that time Comrade Rupchand Pal raised the question that the discussion in the latest part of the session will be meaningful only when the Government gives this assurance that the status of PSU's will not be attested during the recess period. I myself gave this assurance in this regard on behalf of the Government in the House. When the House met after recess period, it was decided in the first meeting of BAC that the discussion will be held on it and even the date for it was fixed as has been mentioned by Shri Vijay Goelji. Today in the morning the House accepted the report of the Business Advisory Committee in which the agenda of the entire week was mentioned. This was unanimously accepted by the House. I was surprised and failed to understand when this question was raised by Munsiji here. Whatever he suggested there, the Government accepted. I am again retreating that the Government do not have any objection to hold the discussion. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let the Government's reply come in this regard. Sumanji and Rupchand Palji, please resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let the reply of hon. Minister come. He has a right to reply and you to ask a question.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the time to give assurance comes after the conclusion of discussion. Hence I am asking when to hold discussion and the reply would come after the conclusion of the discussion. The Government would respond on the basis of the sense of

the ... (Interruptions) We have responded to any issue. Had it not been the case, these would have been no meaning in holding discussion in the House. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, there is no respect for the democratic values and principles. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, may I speak for a minute? ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, let the discussion be held on it. The Government will certainly respond to it once the sense and intent of the House comes before the Government and also once a conclusion is arrived at. Hence I humbly request you to hold discussion on the demand for grants on the sports and youth affairs because the House has met after years, to discuss on it. With all humility I would request Shri Dasmunsiji to fix the time for the next BAC meeting if he is in favour of holding it before 8th then the time be extended. I am ready to extend the time. Notice be given for holding discussion in whatever form. Let it be decided in the next meeting of BAC and if you feel that meeting be convened before 8th, I am ready for that also.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is very right. I congratulate her wisdom and her intelligence to put forward the views of the Government. She is very right that we discussed this in the BAC and fixed a date. The hon. Minister gave an assurance that nothing will be done till it is discussed in the second part of the Session. ... (Interruptions)

But, with authority, I am telling you that a process of disinvestment has started without informing the Parliament. ... (Interruptions) Can you deny the fact that the process has started? Can you deny it officially? I will then sit down. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, may I speak? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the process has started. Let her deny it. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR): Sir, let the hon. Minister deny the fact. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: It is an insult to the House. The process has started. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: They are ready to hold the meeting of BAC quickly.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if he gives Notice and BAC fixes, the Government will certainly respond to the conclusion. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can say all this in the discussion.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, we cannot cooperate with this Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you want, you can bring a privilege motion against the Government, if the Government has started something like that.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, it cannot be done without their knowing. The Government is hiding it. ...*(Interruptions)*

14.14 hrs.

JALLIANWALA BAGH NATIONAL MEMORIAL
(AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We will take up Item No. 11 - Introduction of Bills. Shri Jagmohan to move for leave to introduce the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Act, 1951.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Act, 1951."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI JAG MOHAN: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

14.14½ hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377 listed for today, are treated as laid on the Table of the House.

* Treated as laid on the Table.

...*(Interruptions)*

(i) Need to introduce a train service between Alwar and Bhiwadi, Rajasthan

[Translation]

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV (ALWAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bhiwadi of District Alwar in Rajasthan is an industrial city and it falls under NCR. Though the industrial units of this city are governed by NCR rules, they are not being given adequate facilities. The traders, industrialists and common men have to face a lot of problems due to the non-availability of the train facility here. Although the Government earns a revenue of approximately Rs. 466 crore annually from this city yet adequate attention is not being paid to its development by the Government.

Therefore, I request the Government to take concrete and effective steps to introduce train service between Alwar and Bhiwadi in view of the problems being faced by the common men, industrialists and traders so that the people of the said area could get relief.

(ii) Need to improve mobile service by B.S.N.L. in Jalgaon Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra

SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN (JALGAON): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the hon. Minister for the mobile service introduced by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in my parliamentary constituency Jalgaon, Maharashtra.

However several tehsils of my constituency don't have the mobile coverage of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited till date. The service provided by B.S.N.L. vis-a-vis the private mobile companies in my constituency are unsatisfactory. The mobile signals are accessible only in the open area and it is difficult to receive them in the house. The people of Mustai Nagar tehsil have a lot of complaints in regard to BSNL mobile service.

Hence, through you, I would request the hon. Minister to take steps to improve the existing BSNL Service in Jalgaon and also provide BSNL mobile service in all the tehsils of this area.

(iii) Need to give financial assistance to the Government of Rajasthan for construction of Exhibition Ground at Jaipur

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (JAIPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Jaipur is the capital of Rajasthan and exhibition is organised here almost everyday. The Ramlila ground is not a proper place for it. The people of Jaipur are fond of

exhibitions. The department organising exhibition does not get more than a week and running stops do not get the due profits. There is an urgent need to construct an exhibition ground in Jaipur also on the lines of Delhi's Appu Ghar so that permanent shops and stalls could be set up there.

Therefore, I request the Union Government to provide financial assistance for this purpose.

- (iv) Need to protect the interest of Poultry Industry by withdrawing Excise Duty and VAT on fodder items**

[English]

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY (MAHABUBNAGAR): Poultry industry in the country is facing serious set back due to steep increase in the maize and other fodder materials. At this juncture, if the producers of eggs and broilers do not get proper rates, the state of industry will certainly deteriorate. At the same time, middlemen are also affecting the industry a lot and many farmers are going out of business. In these circumstances, Government should take appropriate steps to save the industry and farmers by encouraging incentives. Nearly 20 lakhs of farmers are dependent on this poultry business. Nearly Rs.12,000/- crores of Gross Domestic Revenue is coming out of this business. Hence, there is every need to withdraw the Excise Duty and Value Added Tax on the fodder items.

In view of the above, I urge upon the Hon. Minister for Agriculture to look into the ways to evolve the withdrawal of Excise Duty and save the poultry farmers from their present crisis.

- (v) Need to provide employment on compassionate grounds to the dependants of deceased persons in Bokaro Steel Plant, Jharkhand**

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (GIRIDIH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter regarding compensation and employment to the displaced persons and to the dependents of deceased persons in Bokaro Steel Plant has been lying pending for years. Dependants of the deceased workers have not been given employment since 1997 though the then management had given assurance that the employment would be given every year on the basis of priority. However, about 700 dependants are facing financial crisis and are demanding employment. They are on agitation for the last six months.

There is a formula for providing employment to the displaced workers. State Government, Central Government

Management and elected representative of people of the area should sit together and in the presence of a neutral representative identify the real displaced persons and settle the matter immediately on priority basis so that displaced people may not waste their time for compensation and appointments.

It is really a matter of surprise that this matter is pending for years even when Bokaro Steel Plant is earning profit and there is a provision for appointment on compassionate ground in all the departments.

Therefore, Central Government is requested to settle the matter of providing employment to displaced persons and compassionate appointment of dependants of deceased immediately.

- (vi) Need to solve acute drinking water problem in Ambala Parliamentary Constituency, Haryana**

[English]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (AMBALA): During my visits to my Lok Sabha Constituency of Ambala, thousands of people meet me and tell that there is an acute shortage of drinking water for the people as well as for animals. Many people have temporarily migrated with their animals to areas of Uttaranchal. This area extends from Shivalik region to Sadhora assembly segment of my Lok Sabha constituency.

I would request the Government to give a statement on this issue.

- (vii) Need to declare Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Bio-Technology as an institution of national importance and sanction adequate grants for its development**

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVAELIKARA): Shri Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Bio-Technology, a premier institute was set up by Kerala Government and the building complex was inaugurated in the year 2002 by Hon. President. It is a prestigious institute conducting research in nuclear medicine, bio-medicine and running diagnostic centres catering to lakhs of people. The institute also conducts research in agricultural operations also. Since the Institute should cater to national level also and also the fact that it requires liberal grants, I urge upon the Central Government to take over the existing institute and declare it as an institution of national importance as in the case of Sri Chitra Thirunal Institute in Kerala.

- (viii) Need to set up Special Economic Zone in Hassan, Karnataka**

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA (HASSAN): Three years ago, the Centre declared to set up four special Economic

Zones in Karantaka. But unfortunately, not even a single Economic Zone has been set up till today.

The people of Hassan particularly the farmers were very hopeful about the Special Economic Zone. In Hassan, many vegetables and flowers are grown. Fruits like mangoes, grapes, sapota, etc. are grown abundantly. Coconut, cashew and coffee are also grown in large quantities. Spices like cloves, cardamom and others are grown by most farmers. These commodities have to be exported as there is great demand for all these from European, American and Arab countries. The export of these commodities is in jeopardy as there is no Special Economic Zone in Hassan even though the Centre has announced to set up one such zone in Hassan three years ago.

There is no office of this Special Economic Zone in Hassan. Officers and other employees have not been appointed till today. All the infrastructural facilities are available in Hassan.

The farmers of the entire Hassan district are agitated on the issue.

I, therefore, urge upon the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister of Commerce to set up the above mentioned Special Economic Zone in Hassan without any further delay.

- (ix) Need to enact a law to provide ownership right to the people settled on forest land particularly Uttaranchal**

[Translation]

DR. MAHENDRA SINGH PAL (NAINITAL): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Forest Land Settlement has not been done in the entire country neither before nor after the independence. Part of the forest land which is occupied and where people are living, cultivating and doing other works also has been converted into cities and wards but that land still comes under forest land. People are living, cultivating and doing other business on this land even before the enactment of Forest Land Act, 1980. In the absence of Forest Land Settlement Law, people living on this land are facing lot of problems. Most of the land in Uttaranchal has been identified as forest land due to which people of various districts of Uttaranchal like Nainital, Udham Singh Nagar, Dehradun, Kotdwar etc. are facing lot of problems. Therefore, I request the Central Government that it is in the interest of the people to enact Forest Land Settlement Act just like the Land Settlement Act (Revenue). It would provide ownership rights to the people settled on forest land and forest land would also be earmarked.

- (x) Need for early commissioning of Akashwani Station at Himmatnagar, Sabarkantha district, Gujarat**

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (SABARKANTHA): The new Akashwani (AIR) station is ready for functioning at Himmatnagar, Sabarkantha district in Gujarat.

The commencement of this AIR station is delayed due to non-appointment of the programmer and other staff by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry.

I draw the attention of the Minister and concerned officials to appoint the programmer and other related staff to start the functioning of this AIR station as early as possible.

- (xi) Need for proper maintenance of rail track between Keul and Sahebganj in Bhagalpur Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar**

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH ROY (BHAGALPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the railway track between Keul and Sahebganj is a very important railway track but it has not been maintained and developed for quite a long time.

Therefore, I demand the Hon'ble Railway Minister and Government of India to develop this rail track and like other railway tracks, a Rajdhani Express for Guwahati - Howrah - Sealdah should also be introduced on this route.

- (xii) Need to clear the proposals of the Government of Andhra Pradesh for development of handloom sector in the State.**

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM): The Andhra Pradesh State Government has requested for the continuance of the Market Development Assistance Programme and handloom development centres for weavers which are proposed to be withdrawn by Government of India affecting the interests of the handloom weavers seriously. The State Government has also requested for sanction of work sheds for weavers outside the Cooperative sector. A recommendation has been made to provide a separate quota for weavers under IAY to the extent of 2000 houses per year. A facility for manufacturing vegetable dyes through an entrepreneurial development programme by involving the National Handloom Development Corporation has also been requested to the Government of India.

I request the Government of India to look into the matter and grant early clearance to the aforesaid long awaited proposals to the Andhra Pradesh Government.

(xiii) Need to declare Minimum Support Price for palm oil produced in the country

SHRI Y.V. RAO (GUNTUR): India's expenditure on importing edible oil was Rs. 8,000 crores during 2000-01 and Rs. 6,000 crores during 2001-2002. Palm oil is a major component of the edible oils, we are importing. In view of the large potential in palm oil, oil palm cultivation has been started on a large scale in the country. Andhra Pradesh accounts for 59% of total oil palm plantations in the country. However, right now there is no Minimum Support Price fixed by the Government of India for palm oil. Due to this, even though many farmers are ready to start oil palm plantations, they are not able to come forward. The market intervention scheme being implemented in Andhra Pradesh could not give confidence to the farmers for getting remunerative prices.

If Minimum Support Price is given to oil palm, the oil palm plantations will increase tremendously and we can reduce the import bill on the edible oils.

I request Hon. Minister for Agriculture to consider the proposal and to take an early decision in this regard.

(xiv) Need to develop Balirajgarh in district Madhubani, Bihar as a tourist resort

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJHARPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in 1884 the famous British Educationist George Griyason discovered "Barh", the kingdom of great munificent Raja Bali the son of Virochan and grandson of Prahlad about whom there is a mention in "Puranas" also. 'Barh' is situated at Babubarhi area in district Madhubani of Bihar. Central Government acquired Balirajgarh in 1905. Archaeological Survey of India conducted excavation on this site in 1962-63 and the Directorate of Archaeology and Museum, Bihar Government conducted another excavation here in 1972-73 and 1974-75. While excavating the site various sequences of Uttari Krishan-Marjit Marinpatrakal (200 B.C.) and of 10th and 11th decade (Pal era) were found. Besides, the defensive wall built in sung era of 11nd B.C., remains of an old temple, terracotta images of animal and human beings, copper coins, earthen pots and other things were also found. It is a very important historical place in Bihar. Government has developed small historical places like Vaishali and Vikramshila as tourist spots but Balirajgarh has not been developed properly till now.

I would like the Government to formulate a concrete scheme for developing the precious heritage of Balirajgarh as a tourist spot in 2003-2004.

[English]

(xv) Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Punjab for meeting severe drought situation in the State particularly in Bhatinda and Mansa districts

SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA (BHATINDA): The severe drought last year left a large number of population of our country in a dire state. The most affected among them are the agricultural labourers in every State.

Though the Central Government has already declared several measures to provide relief to the people affected, the lot of agricultural labourers hardly received due attention, particularly in the districts of Bhatinda and Mansa in Punjab.

Therefore, I urge the Government to take immediate measures so that the families of the agricultural labourers survive.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will not take up discussion and voting on the Demand for Grant relating to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports for the year 2003-2004.

...(Interruptions)

14.13 hrs.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What more you want, you have got everything.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let the TV coverage be stopped.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on 25th April, 2003.

14.15 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, April 25, 2003/Vaisakha 5, 1925 (Saka).

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Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in
Lok Sabha (Tenth Edition) and Printed at Sunlight Printers, Delhi - 110006
