

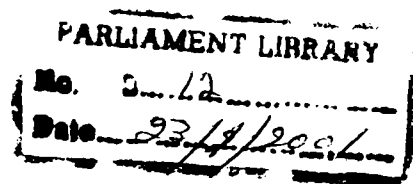
LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Third Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



सत्यमेव जयते



(Vol. IV contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, February 28, 2000/Phalgun 9, 1921 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER In the Chair]

MEMBER SWORN

Shri Kolar Basavana Goud (Bellary)

[English]

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 41 Shri Punnu Lal Mohale.

...(Interruptions)

MR. RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): We have submitted a notice for Adjournment Motion. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL NATH (Chhindwara): One minute, please. The other day you were pleased to hear us on the submission of the Adjournment Motion. This is a matter which is not concerning just one party but a large section of the House. ...(Interruptions) You have to take the sense of the House in this matter. You have taken recourse to a softest possible option. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I can hear you after the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand that for the last three days, you have not allowed the Question Hour. After the Question Hour, I can hear whatever you want to say.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Today, I have disallowed the notices for suspension of the Question Hour. Please understand. After the Question Hour, I can hear you. I am appealing to the Members to please cooperate. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): When we gave notices for Adjournment Motion, you said that you have disallowed it. You asked us not to disturb the Railway Budget. We agreed not to disturb the Railway Budget. But you said that you would talk to us on Monday..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. I am on my legs. You are not allowing me also to speak. Shri Rupchand Pal, please take your seat. You can submit later.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, you have decided to take up this discussion under Rule 193, without consulting us. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you after the Question Hour. Please take your seat. We are not able to take up Question Hour for the last three days.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, I will just explain to you as to what assurance you have given us. You have said that you would consult us and then allow a discussion. But before deciding you have not even cared to consult us. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will hear you after the Question Hour.

Now, Q. No. 41. Shri Punnu Lai Mohale — Not present. Q.No. 42. Shri Thirunavukkarasu.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolgpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to explain as to why we, on this side, feel very strongly about it. This should not be treated as a routine matter. Sir, our respectful submission before you is..(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar): This is Question Hour then why he is speaking.

[English]

For the last three days, they have not allowed the Question Hour.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Madan Lal Khurana, I have allowed Shri Somnath Chatterjee. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: They can have their say after the Question Hour, or please tell as to whether Question Hour has been suspended.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am only listening to him. I have not suspended the Question Hour.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I thought, Shri Madan Lal Khurana himself is a victim of R.S.S. Why does not he listen to us?..(Interruptions) Therefore, I am requesting him to listen to the Speaker. Please listen to the hon. Speaker at least. He has permitted me. ..(Interruptions)

Sir, if they think that nobody would be permitted to speak in the House unless it suits their convenience, then the House cannot function.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, he cannot dictate like that.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I am not dictating to anybody. I raised my hand. Sir, you have been very kind to give me an opportunity. But I have not been able to complete one sentence till now. ..(Interruptions)

Sir, I know that we have been saying that Question Hour should not be ordinarily disturbed and we stick to that. But there are certain issues on which the whole House is agitated about. Therefore, we wanted this matter to be properly discussed. It should not be talked out only. If it is to be discussed under Rule 193 means, just talking it out. The whole country wants to know what is the Government's real response, what the Members of the House feel and we would like to know what the friends in the N.D.A. feel about it. ..(Interruptions) Shri Chandrababu Naidu and Shri Karunanidhi have objected to it.

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi): What is wrong in it?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Therefore, we would like to know what is the view of their parties in the House. Merely talking it out will not do.

Sir, it is a matter, which concerns the very basic features of the Constitution, the unity and integrity of this

country; it is related to whether this country will remain a secular country or not. Kindly do not treat it as a mere routine matter. They have the majority. They will deal with it. Why are they afraid of it? Why do they not have it tested on the floor of the House? The Government wants to run away from this issue. They do not want a proper discussion. Therefore, Sir, I would request you to kindly allow this discussion under Rule 184.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): I was also there when it was stated..(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that Question Hour is becoming a discussion hour. You have already decided that this matter should be discussed under Rule 193. ..(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, please let me speak for two minutes. ..(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, they are challenging your authority.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I have also given notice under the Rule 184 and the debate has been shown under Rule 193. The question is that people of this country elected us and at the time of framing of our constitution, we resolved to make our country a sovereign, socialist and democratic Republic. But whether the employees or officers will be loyal to the Constitution or political parties or R.S.S. It is a serious matter. We have given notices under Rule 184 and I would like to say to hon'ble Speaker that debate should be conducted only under Rule 184. Allied parties are also not happy with it. People of this country should know the opinion of allied parties on this issue. Public should know that these allied parties support secularism at the time of seeking votes from people and are supporting R.S.S. in this House. Shri Chandra Babu Naidu and Shri Karunanidhi have stated that they are supporting the Government. He has opposed it. We will tell the public..(Interruptions) This issue relates to the Constitution. ..(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, you are a senior Member. I will allow you after the Question Hour. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: We resolved to make our country a Sovereign, Socialist Democratic Republic. Now officials will be committed to the Constitution of the country or any political party. If that will be our tradition. ..(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Madhavrao Scindia, I will allow you after the Question Hour. Everyday, you are not allowing the Question Hour to go on. Is this the way? Many Members want to ask supplementary questions and you are not allowing them. You are disrupting the Question Hour for the last three days continuously. You are adopting the same procedure in the House.

..(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk): They have only one issue. Is it the way, you are a sensible opposition. ..(Interruptions) They have lost election and thus raising such issues. ..(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing to all of you not to disturb the Question Hour. I will allow all of you after the Question Hour.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to go through the sequence of events. We had given a notice for Adjournment Motion, but you had disallowed it. After that, you requested us not to disrupt the presentation of the Railway Budget and said that you would allow the discussion on this matter in some form. You said that you would consult us on it and then allow a discussion under some Rule. So, we did not disrupt the presentation of the Railway Budget. But, subsequently, without even hearing our views you have taken a decision in your chamber to introduce it under Rule 193. I do not think that is fair to the Opposition. You had clearly stated that we would be consulted about the form of the discussion. But it is a matter of great regret that you have decided to allow this discussion under Rule 193. So, I would like you to kindly reconsider your decision.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. Now, Q. No. 42. Shri Thirunavukkarasu.

..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The matter is posted for discussion today itself. If the Members are interested, we can discuss the matter immediately after the Question Hour also. But it is not correct to disrupt the Question Hour everyday.

..(Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, you adjourn the House now, then we will discuss.

MR. SPEAKER: Please cooperate with the Chair. I will allow you after the Question Hour.

..(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want a discussion under Rule 184.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rupchand Pal, I have disallowed the Adjournment Motion.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the proper way. Please understand it.

..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rupchand Pal, please take your seat.

..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let me complete the Question Hour, then only, I can hear all of you. Shri Yerrannaidu.

..(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Speaker has called me...

SHRI SPEAKER: What is your point?

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, they are making a noise.

MR. SPEAKER: You are not allowing other Members also to speak.

..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is your submission?

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Hon. Speaker, Sir, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav have

taken the name of the Chief Minister who belongs to the TDP, my party. The stand of my party is clear. There is no second opinion about it. *..(Interruptions)* We have taken full day. The House was adjourned twice on this issue. On the second day also, the House was adjourned. *..(Interruptions)* Please hear me. *..(Interruptions)*

Anyhow, Shri Indrajit Gupta and Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee have given notices. Hon. Speaker has admitted them. Now, it is the property of the House. *..(Interruptions)* I want to say something *..(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete. What is this?

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, it is the right of a Member to speak *..(Interruptions)* I want to say something. This is my right. I am not talking about any other thing.

MR. SPEAKER: You please take your seat.

..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed him to speak. Let him complete.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Please allow me to speak. Sir, I am speaking as per the agenda. I am advising the hon. senior Members. It is Question Hour *..(Interruptions)*

It is the property of the House. So many Members have raised Starred Questions. So, please allow the Question Hour. Then, whatever they want to say, let them say so. It is not a proper thing. Everyday, you are disturbing the Question Hour. It is not proper. Whatever you want to say, you say after the Question Hour. All the hon. Members are eager to raise their Questions during Question Hour. This is my submission.

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing to you. Please allow the Question Hour Only after the Question Hour, I can hear whatever you want to say.

..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Question No. 42, Shri Thirunavukarasu.

SHRI THRUNAVUKARASU (Pudukkottai): Q. No. 42 *..(Interruptions)*

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No, no.

..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way.

..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

*..(Interruptions)**

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Rare Medicinal Plants

*41. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any special action plan for the development and preservation of rare medicinal plants found in Madhya Pradesh and other States;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent smuggling of these rare medicinal plants?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) There is no special action plan as yet for the development and preservation of rare medicinal plants. However, these objectives are pursued through the following programmes:

- (i) A 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Conservation and Development of Non-timber Forest Produce (NTFP) including medicinal Plants is being implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Forests in which various States of the country, including Madhya Pradesh, are participating.
- (ii) The network of protected areas comprising of 86 National Parks and 448 Wildlife Sanctuaries is also helping in the conservation of wild flora including medicinal plants.
- (iii) Under a DANIDA assisted project which is being implemented in the States of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, *in-situ* conservation of medicinal plants has been undertaken by establishing network of Medicinal Plants Conservation Areas. This activity is being replicated in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra in the next two years. Steps are also being undertaken to gradually extend such networks in other States.

(c) Steps taken to prevent smuggling of Medicinal Plants include:

- (1) Collection of wild plant species covered under Schedule VI of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 from any forest land or specified area has been banned by law.
- (2) Export of 29 species of plant or plant portion and their derivatives obtained from the wild have been prohibited.

* Not recorded.

- (3) The cultivated variety of plant/plant portions of the 29 banned species can be allowed for export subject to production of certificate of cultivation and a CITES permit, wherever applicable.
- (4) Frequent checks are carried out by the wildlife authorities whenever information of illegal trading in wild plants reaches them.

[English]

National Highways Projects

*42. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

- (a) the method of cost sharing and allocation of funds for improving the road facilities and conditions;
- (b) the envisaged fund allocation for the purpose for the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise;
- (c) the ongoing National Highways projects as on date, State-wise;
- (d) the present status of the Eastern Coastal Project;
- (e) whether the Union Government have involved the State Governments also in linking the important adjacent towns to the Eastern Coastal Highways Project;
- (f) if so, whether the Pudukkottai is going to be linked to other National Highways and evolving super highway projects; and
- (g) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) Government of India, Ministry of Surface Transport is responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways.

Funds for the this purpose are distributed to different States on the basis of the total kilometerage of National Highways in each State and the traffic volumes.

Funds for State road projects from Central Road Fund (CRF) are distributed in proportion to the consumption of petrol in each State.

(b) The total amount allocated by the Planning Commission for development of National Highways in the 9th Plan is Rs. 8,862.02 crores. The statewide allocation of funds in each year depends upon the works in progress and sanctioned in each state. Allocation of funds for the year 1999-2000 is enclosed as Statement-I.

(c) Statement-II indicating number of National Highways Projects in various States is enclosed.

(d) There is no Eastern Coastal Road Project in the Central Sector.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) to (g) Pudukkottai falls on the new national Highway No. 210 and it is connected to National Highway No. 45 and National Highway No. 49. There are no Super Highway Projects envisaged at present.

Statement I

Allocation of Funds under National Highways (Original Works) for the year 1999-2000

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	1999-2000
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5045.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00
3.	Assam	2186.83
4.	A&N Islands	0.00
5.	Bihar	6000.00
6.	Chandigarh	100.00
7.	Delhi	1200.00
8.	Goa	1500.02
9.	Gujarat	10451.43
10.	Haryana	4500.00
11.	Himachal Pradesh	4500.00
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	135.00
13.	Karnataka	4600.08
14.	Kerala	10468.12
15.	Madhya Pradesh	3226.75
16.	Maharashtra	10354.31
17.	Manipur	1010.75
18.	Meghalaya	1730.28
19.	Mizoram	300.00
20.	Nagaland	750.00
21.	Orissa	4350.00
22.	Pondicherry	319.46
23.	Punjab	2000.00
24.	Rajasthan	5778.17
25.	Sikkim	0.00
26.	Tamil Nadu	6500.00
27.	Tripura	50.00
28.	Uttar Pradesh	11005.35
29.	West Bengal	5738.02
30.	Joggigappa Bridge	0.00
31.	Ministry	100.00
32.	BRDB	11230.00
33.	NHA	0.00
34.	Other Institutions	0.00
	Total	115129.57

Statement II*No. of ongoing National Highway Works
in Different States*

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Nos. of ongoing works as on 12/99
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	70
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0
3.	Assam	101
4.	Bihar	72
5.	Chandigarh	3
6.	Delhi	5
7.	Goa	23
8.	Gujarat	49
9.	Haryana	21
10.	Himachal Pradesh	60
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	8
12.	Karnataka	77
13.	Kerala	52
14.	Madhya Pradesh	63
15.	Maharashtra	157
16.	Manipur	31
17.	Meghalaya	36
18.	Mizoram	9
19.	Nagaland	14
20.	Orissa	66
21.	Pondicherry	9
22.	Punjab	35
23.	Rajasthan	68
24.	Sikkim	0
25.	Tamil Nadu	87
26.	Tripura	0

1	2	3
27.	Uttar Pradesh	74
28.	West Bengal	64
29.	Ministry	0
30.	BRDP	0
Total		1254

Outstanding Dues from Telecom Companies

*43. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to extend the last date (deadline) for the payment of cellular licence fee arrears, from January 31 to March 15, 2000;

(b) if so, the names of the companies and the amount due from each one of them at present alongwith the periods for which the dues have been outstanding against them city-wise;

(c) the number of companies that have come to the Revenue Sharing Regime;

(d) the revenue likely to be collected from them;

(e) whether on several occasions in the past also the Government had announced such deadlines for depositing the arrears of licence fees;

(f) if so, the details of dates announced as deadlines during the last three years alongwith the reasons for giving extension of dates for clearing the dues;

(g) whether the cellular operators associations has asked for further concessions from the Government;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) The position of license fee arrears in respect of licensees presently in the process of migration as in 24th February, 2000 is indicated in Statement.

(c) Twenty Cellular Companies holding thirty-four cellular licenses have come into revenue sharing regime and are at present in the process of migration.

(d) The revenue collected in advance as revenue share pertaining to the period 1st August, 1999 to 31st March, 2000 is indicated in Statement-II. This is based on a provisional revenue share of 15% of gross revenue which is subject to change based on the final decision. The quantum of revenue collection in future will depend upon the earning levels of the licensee companies, which is difficult to assess in advance.

(e) and (f) Most of the cellular licensees had not been paying the license fee dues and had requested for several relief measures like moratorium on license fee payments, extension of period of license etc. on several grounds, *inter-alia*, non viability of their projects, poor cash flows and alleged delays in governmental clearances. The Government, as a *pro-tem* measure, asked the licensees on 25th January, 1999 to pay at least 20% of the accumulated license fees dues by 28th February, 1999 in order to establish their bonafides. In spite of this, some licensees failed to pay 20% of their outstanding dues. Consequently their bank guarantees were invoked and six licenses were terminated. This resulted in several legal proceedings in different Courts. The Government, in

consideration of totality of the circumstances offered to the licensees a package for migration to revenue sharing regime under the New Telecom Policy 1999. As per the Package 35% of the dues were to be paid by 15th August, 1999, Bank Guarantees to securitise balance dues were to be furnished by 30th November, 1999 and full balance dues were to be paid by 31st January, 2000. Some of the licensees could not abide by these deadlines in view to their various financial problems, particularly on account of alleged uncertainty created by Public Interest Litigation in Delhi High Court challenging the Migration package. A final extension for securitisation upto 29th February, 2000 and for payment of full balance dues by 15th March, 2000 has been given and for this the licensees will have to pay additional penalties.

(g) to (i) Yes, Sir. There are certain subsisting problems like lock-in period for equity, restoration of terminated licenses etc. of cellular industry which are being looked into by the Government. The Government have appointed a Group on Telecom and IT Convergence on 13th December, 1999 under the Chairmanship of Finance Minister to, *inter-alia*, identify and recommend measures for resolution of subsisting problems in the telecom sector with a view to ensuring expeditious implementation of the NTP-99. The Government will take a decision on receipt of recommendations of the said Group.

Statement I

Position of Cellular license fee Arrears against the Licensees of Cellular Mobile Services (Circles) under Migration

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Name of Company	Service Area	Arrear of Principal	license fee		Period
				Interest	*Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Bharti	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	
2.	Birla	Gujarat	0.00	0.10	0.10	
		Maharashtra	0.00	0.10	0.10	
3.	Escotel	Haryana	0.00	0.00	0.00	
		Kerala	0.00	0.00	0.00	
		Uttar Pradesh (West)	0.00	0.00	0.00	
4.	Fascel	Gujarat	60.19	87.06	147.25	19.9.98** to date

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5.	Hexacom	North East	0.00	0.00	0.00	
		Rajasthan	0.00	5.69	5.69	
6.	J.T. Mobile	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	
		Karnataka	0.00	0.08	0.08	
7.	Modicom	Karnataka	90.09	43.34	133.43	4.7.98** to date
		Punjab	84.61	39.40	124.01	4.7.98**to date
8.	Srinivas	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	0.00	
9.	RPG	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.25	0.25	
10.	Reliance	West Bengal	0.00	0.21	0.21	
		Assam	0.00	0.01	0.01	
		Bihar	0.00	2.95	2.95	
		Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.07	0.07	
		Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.25	0.25	
		Orissa	0.00	1.92	1.92	
		North East	0.00	0.01	0.01	
11.	Tata	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	4.02	4.02	
12.	BPL US	Kerala	0.00	3.12	3.12	
		Tamil Nadu	0.00	5.04	5.04	
		Maharashtra	0.00	10.19	10.19	
Total:			234.89	203.81	438.70	

Position of Cellular License fee Arrears against the Licensees of Cellular Mobile Services (Metros) under Migration.

S.No.	Name of Company	Service Area	Arrear of License fee			Period
			Principal (Provisional)*** (Rs. in crores)	Interest	Total	
1.	Bharati	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	
2.	Sterling	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3.	H. Max	Mumbai	0.00	0.00	0.00	
4.	BPL	Mumbai	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5.	Skycell	Chennai	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6.	RPG	Chennai	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7.	Modi	Calcutta	0.00	0.00	0.00	
8.	Usha	Calcutta	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total			0.00	0.00	0.00	

Note: * The interest amount shown is provisional subject to finalisation at a later date.

** The dates shown are as per the original payment schedule.

*** The license fee and interest for the fourth year and onwards are under revision following verification of the company's subscriber base.

Statement II**Revenue Share Payments received under NTP-99
C.M.T.S. (Circle)**

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Name of Operator	Area of Operation	15% Revenue share paid for 1.8.99 to 31.10.99	15% Revenue share paid for 1.11.99 to 31.1.2000	15% Revenue share paid for 1.2.2000 to 31.3.2000
1.	Bharti	H.P.	0.13	0.15	0.11
2.	Birla	Gujarat	3.69	3.69	2.74
		Maharashtra	(both)	(both)	(both)
3.	Escotel	Haryana	0.56	0.62	0.58
		Kerala	1.19	1.32	0.98
		U.P. (W)	1.18	1.63	1.25
4.	Fascel	Gujarat	2.30	2.60	2.28
5.	Hexacom	N.E.	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Rajasthan	0.87	1.01	0.87
6.	JT Mobile	Andhra Pradesh	1.41	1.46	1.06
		Karnataka	1.65	1.40	1.51
7.	Modicom	Karnataka	5.70	6.77	5.94
		Punjab	(both)	(both)	(both)
8.	Shrinivas	Tamil Nadu	0.71	0.91	1.32
9.	RPG	M.P.	0.41	0.36	
0.	Reliance	W.B.			
		Assam			
		Bihar	1.51	1.77	
		H.P.	(All Circles)	(All Circles)	
		M.P.			
		Orissa			
		N.E.			
	Tata	A.P.	1.99	2.29	1.99
	BLP US West	Kerala	1.15	1.41	1.17
		TN	1.78	1.81	1.46
		Maharashtra	1.82	2.65	2.10
			28.05	31.85	25.03

*Revenue Share Payments received under NTP-99
C.M.T.s. (Metro)*

S.No.	Name of Operator	Area of Operation	15% Revenue share paid for 1.8.99 to 31.10.99	15% Revenue share paid for 1.11.99 to 31.1.2000	15% Revenue share paid for 1.2.2000 to 31.3.2000
1.	Bharti	Delhi	9.28	10.00	10.15
2.	Sterling	Delhi	6.35	6.60	4.86
3.	H. Max	Mumbai	8.73	9.00	8.00
4.	BPL	Mumbai	9.08	10.46	6.88
5.	Skycell	Chennai	1.34	1.49	1.24
6.	RPG	Chennai	1.56	1.25	1.50
7.	Modi Tel.	Calcutta	2.00	1.79	1.21
8.	Usha	Calcutta	1.42	1.96	
			39.76	42.55	33.84
Grand Totals:		57.76 +	74.40 +	59.27	= Rs. 201.48 crores

Allocation of Kerosene

*44. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

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

- the criteria for the allocation of kerosene to States;
- whether it is proposed to allocate quota of kerosene on the basis of population;
- if so, the details thereof;
- the details of allocation of kerosene made to each State and Union Territory during the last three years against their respective demands; and
- the steps taken by the Government to make good the shortfall in the allocation?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (e) Kerosene is an allocated product and annual/monthly allocation is made by the Central Government to the States/UTs for distribution through Public Distribution System. The allocation of kerosene is made on historical basis *i.e.* past year allocation plus additional allocation out of increase given at the national level based on the principle of giving higher increase to the States with lower per capita availability so as to reduce inter State disparity.

Requests are received from various State Governments for additional allocation of kerosene from time to time. Kerosene is a deficit product in the country and on account of constraints of product availability, foreign exchange and heavy subsidy the distribution has to be judicious. The statement showing the annual allocation to the States/UTs for the last three years is enclosed.

Statement

State-wise SKO Allocation for the period from 1996-97 to 1999-2000

States/UTs	1996-97 (MTs)	1997-98 (MTs)	1998-99 (MTs)	1999-2000 (MTs)
1	2	3	4	5
Andaman & Nicobar	4676	4743	7155	6736
Andhra Pradesh	628138	650785	675056	679848

1	2	3	4	5
Arunachal Pradesh	9675	9948	10240	10295
Assam	256772	263760	271235	272623
Bihar	647512	679329	863745	870036
Chandigarh	21348	21562	21778	15408
Dadar Nagar Haveli	3170	3202	3237	3238
Delhi	243334	245768	248325	204672
Diu/Daman	3003	3033	3064	2438
Goa	27677	27954	28257	28075
Gujarat	814341	822339	831600	832432
Haryana	159099	164653	170563	171731
Himachal Pradesh	57345	58984	60737	61067
Jammu & Kashmir	86392	88828	91433	91921
Karnataka	498797	513054	528301	531167
Kerala	279701	289540	300006	302078
Lakshadweep	894	906	919	921
Madhya Pradesh	508539	532741	661812	666632
Maharashtra	1542924	1558397	1576298	1577953
Manipur	21498	22064	22670	22781
Meghalaya	19682	20245	20847	20960
Mizoram	7649	7868	8102	8146
Nagaland	13414	13797	14207	14284
Orissa	227701	239501	316597	318903
Pondicherry	15162	15329	15342	15363
Punjab	332224	337118	342376	343127
Rajasthan	345753	361736	440060	443265
Sikkim	7711	7794	7885	7895
Tamil Nadu	682026	698837	716830	720076
Tripura	30577	31451	32386	32562
Uttar Pradesh	1128847	1178862	1391123	1401255
West Bengal	763609	785065	808013	812309
Total	9389194	9659193	10490199	10490199

[Translation]

Review of Constitution

*45. DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA:

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to review the Constitution;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the articles/aspects of the Constitution likely to be reviewed;

(d) whether the Government have constituted any panel/committee for the purpose;

(e) if so, the composition and terms of reference thereof alongwith the time by which it is likely to submit its report;

(f) whether there has been wide spread opposition to this move of the Government from different quarters;

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

(h) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for striving a consensus and preparing a conducive atmosphere for undertaking this exercise?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (d) The Government have constituted the "National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution", vide Government Resolution dated February 22, 2000 in pursuance of the National Agenda for Governance which contains a pledge that a Commission shall be appointed to review the Constitution of India in the light of more than 50 years of its working and to make suitable recommendations for any possible changes.

(e) The Commission consists of a Chairperson and 10 Members. The terms of reference of the Commission are to examine, in the light of the experience of the past 50 years, as to how best the Constitution can respond to the changing needs of efficient, smooth and effective system of governance and socio-economic development of modern India within the framework of Parliamentary democracy and to recommend changes, if any, that are required in the provisions of the Constitution without interfering with its basic structure or features. The Commission will submit its report within one year.

(f) to (h) Certain representations were received opposing the setting up of the Commission. However, in view of the pledge made in the National Agenda for Governance which was affirmed in the President's Address followed by Motion of Thanks from both Houses of Parliament, it was considered necessary to set up the Commission.

[English]

Outstanding Dues of States to NTPC

*46. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation has issued disconnection notices to certain States for failing to clear their dues;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure recovery of the outstanding dues to National Thermal Power Corporation from the States expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has issued notices for regulation of power supply to West Bengal State Electricity Board (WBSEB), Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB) in the Eastern Region effective from 1-3-2000, Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) in Southern Region and Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL) in Northern Region effective from 10-3-2000.

The total outstanding dues payable by WBSEB, BSEB, KSEB and UPPCL to NTPC stand at Rs. 1175.76 crores, Rs. 2174.17 crores, Rs. 116.20 crores, Rs. 1759.11 crores as on January 31, 2000 including surcharge of Rs. 342.30 crores, Rs. 664.01 crores, Rs. 33.54 crores, and Rs. 557.91 crores respectively.

In case of WBSEB and BSEB, notices were given due to non-fulfilment of commitments given by them in response to regulation notices issued by NTPC in October, 1999. Also, these SEBs have continued to default in payment of NTPC dues resulting in huge build-up of arrears.

In case of KSEB, notice was given due to inadequate payments for power supply from Kayamkulam CAPP even though cost of power has increased very significantly due to sharp increase in Naphtha prices. As a result, there has been a very substantial build-up of arrears to the tune of Rs. 240 crores due to shortfall in payment by KSEB.

In case of UPPCL, notice was given for not making timely payment of current monthly bills and not enhancing LC to the required level.

(c) The NTPC and Government are taking up various measures regarding recovery of outstanding dues of NTPC as indicated below:

- (i) The NTPC Management is pursuing recovery of dues with concerned SEB/State Government.
- (ii) The Special Incentive Scheme has been started by NTPC since September, 1994 to provide incentive to States which establish Letter of Credits (LC) to cover full amount of current monthly bills.
- (iii) NTPC also resorts to regulation of power supply to the defaulting states.
- (iv) In case of new power projects, NTPC is making efforts for payments safeguards in the Power Purchase Agreements which also includes back up of State Government guarantee for the LC.
- (v) The position is also reviewed periodically by Ministry of Power and the matter is taken up at the level of Chief Secretary/Power Minister/Chief Minister as and when required.
- (vi) There is also dispensation under which dues as on 31.12.1996 are being recovered directly by Ministry of Finance through Central appropriation and paid directly to NTPC.
- (vii) A proposal for securitization for liquidating part of the outstanding dues payable to Central Public Sector Power Utilities is also under consideration.

Pollution in Rivers

*47. SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the rivers in the country are being polluted extensively by dropping discharge of industrial toxic waste and sewer waters therein and the

sanctity of rivers like Ganga and Yamuna has been violated badly thereby; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the Government not being able to check the pollution in the rivers inspite of the adverse criticism and directions by the Supreme Court to this effect?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) On the basis of surveys and investigations carried out by the Central Pollution Control Board, polluted stretches in 22 major rivers of the country have been identified. Pollution of these rivers is mainly on account of discharge of untreated municipal sewage from large towns and effluents from grossly polluting industries located in the river basins. Ganga and Yamuna are amongst several major rivers covered in this list. The pollution level of river Yamuna particularly along Delhi and that of the Ganga along large towns viz. Kanpur, Allahabad and Varanasi is significant.

(b) In addition to the Ganga Action Plan Phase-I started in 1985 and targeted for completion by 31.3.2000, Government have approved the National River Conservation Plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 2013 crore to prevent the pollution in these rivers on account of discharge of untreated municipal sewage. This plan includes 2nd phase of the Ganga Action Plan covering additional pollution abatement works in Ganga and its 3 tributaries namely Yamuna, Gomati and Damodar. This action plan was approved in parts during the period from April, 1993 to October, 1996. Pollution abatement works undertaken in this Plan are in different stages of implementation. Pollution from industries is monitored under the existing environmental laws. The defaulting grossly polluting industries discharging effluents into these rivers including Ganga and Yamuna have been served with notices under the appropriate Act. A total of 187 grossly polluting industries which are responsible for pollution of Ganga has been identified. Of these 187 industries, 91 units are complying with discharge standards, 32 units have been closed down and the remaining 64 defaulting units are facing legal action. In respect of River Yamuna, closure directions including disconnection of electricity and water have been issued during 18th November, 1999 to 10th February, 2000 to nearly 2300 water polluting units in Delhi for not complying with the prescribed discharge standards. The Haryana State Pollution Control Board has identified 302 industrial units which were discharging effluents into river Yamuna directly or indirectly. Out of these 302 units, 135 units are complying with discharge standards, 48 units have closed down on their own, 12 units have been closed down on the directions of the Board, 24 units have been issued closure notices by the Board and the remaining

83 units are facing legal action under the environmental laws. Water quality in these identified river stretches will improve after completion of the National River Conservation Plan and implementation of measures taken to control pollution from industries.

Road Projects for North-Eastern States

*48. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of projects regarding the widening of the National Highways (NHs), declaration of

new NHs, extension of National Highways and linking of National Highways are under execution in the North-Eastern States including Sikkim;

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

(c) the present status of each of such project and the time schedule for its completion?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) to (c) Statement giving details of ongoing works of widening the National Highways in North Eastern States including Sikkim is given below:

Statement

A. Projects of widening of National Highways executed by State PWD's

S. No.	NH No.	Reach	Sanctioned cost Rs. lakh	Status as on 31.12.99		Target date of completion
				Physical %age	Financial Rs. lakh	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
ASSAM						
1.	31B	Km. 2.10 to 8.00	426.60	62	10.32	30.9.2000
2.	31B	Km. 9.00 to 12.00	258.25	22	2.42	30.9.2000
3.	37	Km. 46.00 to 47.00	30.79	10	0.22	31.3.2000
4.	52	Km. 20.00 to 21.00	49.96	0	0.00	31.3.2000
Total			765.60		12.96	
MANIPUR						
5.	39	Km. 385—90	92.30	50	63.07	30.6.2000
6.	39	Km. 371.150—380	160.40	90	132.27	31.3.2000
7.	39	Km. 390.00—400	278.10	45	75.00	31.12.01
8.	39	Km. 410.860—430.400	964.18	0	0.00	31.3.03
9.	39	Km. 400/0 to 407/0	239.86	0	0.00	31.3.03
10.	39	Km. 311/0 to 314/0	415.66	0	0.00	31.3.03
11.	39	Km. 314/0 to 317/600	431.62	0	0.00	31.3.03
Total			2582.12		270.34	
MEGHALAYA						
12.	51	Km. 65—85 excluding Km. 77—79 & Km. 83—85	1308.76	12	296.27	31.03.02

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13.	40	Km 10—21	426.70	80	440.50	31.3.2000
14.	40	Km. 22.050—29.900	356.75	60	266.84	31.3.2000
15.	40	Km. 102.068 to 104.475	325.50	0	0.00	31.3.2003
Total:			2417.71		1003.61	
NAGALAND						
16.	36	Km. 2.00 to 3.00	49.94	100	39.27	Completed
17.	36	Km. 3.00 to 4.50	48.78	100	20.71	Completed in 12/99
18.	61	Km. 1.00 to 6.00	387.60	80	123.14	30.6.2000
Total			486.32		183.12	
Total: (18 No.)			6251.75		1470.03	

B. Projects of widening of National Highways executed by Border Roads Organisation

S. No.	NH No.	Reach	Sanctioned cost Rs. lakh	Status as on 31.12.99.		Target date of completion
				Physical %age	Financial Rs. lakh	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
ARUNACHAL PRADESH						
19.	52A	Km. 0-10	771.00	90	704.00	31.3.2001
ASSAM						
20.	53	Badarpur—Jiribam Road				
		(i) Km. 3.2—28.46	347.00			
		(ii) Km. 30.58—44.56	535.00			
Total:			882.00	55	483.00	31.3.2002
MANIPUR						
21.	53	Jiribam-Imphal Road				
		(i) Km. 3.22—96 & Km. 101.00—122.20	3133.00			
		(ii) Km. 96.00—101.00	212.00			
		(iii) Km. 186.48—221.14	2586.00			
Total:			5931.00	35	2174.00	31.3.2002

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		MIZORAM				
22.	54	Silchar-Aizawl				
		(i) Km. 0-70	1187.00	75	942.00	31.3.2001
		TRIPURA				
23.	44	Km. 2.7—120.00	3974.00	80	3302.00	31.3.2001
		Total: (5 No.)	12745.00		7605.00	
		Grand Total: (23 No.)	18996.75		9075.03	

Entry of Foreign Legal Consultants into India

*49. SHRI SURESH KURUP:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to allow the entry of foreign law firms in India by making amendments in the Advocates Act, 1961 and thereby allowing the foreign legal consultants/advocates to practice in India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether some sections of advocates and lawyers in different parts of the country went on strike over the issue in the recent past and have threatened to go on further strike in the near future as well against this move of the Government;

(d) if so, the details in this regard alongwith the demands made by them;

(e) whether the Bar Council of India has also submitted any demands to the Government in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the reaction of the Government to the demands made by advocates, lawyers and the Bar Council of India?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Lawyers had gone on strike from court work on 24th February, 2000 raising their protest on the question of entry of foreign nationals and law firms to the legal profession in India as suggested in the Working paper prepared by the Law Commission on Advocates Act, 1961 as also on the amendments recently made in the CPC by the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1999.

(e) The Bar Council of India has not yet submitted their views on the Working Paper prepared by the Law Commission on the Advocates Act.

(f) and (g) Does not arise.

Performance of Major Ports and Projects

*50. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of major ports and ongoing projects in the major ports recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof in terms of standard norms and targets laid for the last three years, project-wise and year-wise;

(c) the details of the major problems being faced at major ports in general and Maharashtra in particular along with the action taken/to be taken for their redressal;

(d) the details regarding the increase in the volume of goods traffic on the major ports in the country during last three years; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to handle the same?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) and (b) Review of the performance of Major Ports and the progress of the ongoing projects

is being undertaken regularly. The performance factors for the Major Ports during the last three years are given in the following table:—

Sl.No.	Indicator	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1.	Average pre-berthing detention (days)	3.1	2.4	2.1
2.	Average Turn Round time (days)	7.5	6.6	5.9
3.	Average Output per ship berth day (in tonnes)	4497	4634	4915
4.	Average Percentage of Idle time of ships at berth to total time at berth	36%	30%	29%

It may be seen from the above that all the performance indicators have been showing improvement consistently.

The status of projects costing over Rs. 100.00 crores being monitored intensively is as follows:

S. No.	Scheme	Date of Sanction	Estimated Cost (Rs. in crores)		Completion date		BE 1999-2000	Cumulative exp. Incurred so far	Exp. From current yrs. Budget
			Original	Revised	Original	Revised			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Construction of New Port at Ennore	23.4.93	593.00	950.00 cr. (Yet to be sanctioned)	April, 98	July, 2000	294.00 cr.	576.85 cr	164.18 cr.
2.	Construction of Mechanised Coal Handling at Paradip	23.4.93	587.41	825.11 cr (Yet to be sanctioned)	April, 98	Dec., 2000	319.00 cr.	491.52 cr	162.04 cr.
3.	Replacement of 7 sub-manne pipelines at Marine Oil Terminal at Mumbai	28.3.95	165.15	286.60 cr (Yet to be sanctioned)	Dec., 1997	June, 2000	160.00	96.64 cr.	91.40 cr.
4.	Modernization of MOT Berth J1, J2 & J3, Mumbai Port Trust	11.8.97	167.99	215.34 cr (yet to be sanctioned)	Feb, 2003	Feb. 2003	12.00 cr.	3.21 cr.	1.30 cr
5.	Capital Dredging at Tuticorin Port Trust	21.7.98	206.16	—	April, 2000	Completed Nov. 99	146.00 cr.	169.98 cr.	164.80 cr.
6.	Additional Port Facilities for expansion of Mangalore Refinery from 3 to 9 MTPA at NMPT	16.7.99	236.50	—	Jan. 2002	—	30.00	16.11 cr	16.11 cr.

(c) The major Ports are facing following problems in general:

- (i) Old and obsolete equipments.
- (ii) Low productivity of workers.

(iii) Lack of professionalism in Port functioning.

In the State of Maharashtra, there are two Major Ports namely Jawaharlal Nehru and Mumbai Ports. While Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust faces no major problems,

Mumbai Port Trust faces the problem of declining cargo, surplus manpower, increasing overheads etc.

Following action has been initiated to tackle these problems:

- (i) Government has initiated a process of modernisation of Port equipment.
- (ii) Port Sector has been thrown open for Private Sector participation.
- (iii) Decision has been taken to corporatise the existing Ports in a phased manner inter-alia to introduce better managerial practices.

(d) The details of volume of goods traffic during the last three years are as follows:—

Year	Traffic (In Million Tonnes)
1996-97	227.26
1997-98	251.66
1998-99	251.72

(e) The cargo handling capacity as on 31st March, 1999 was 240 million tonnes. As this capacity is over stretched, measures have been initiated to modernise the ports and to create additional 160 million tonnes capacity in the Major Ports during the 9th Plan consistent with the expected growth of Port traffic.

[Translation]

Disposal of Pending Cases

*51. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA:

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

(a) the number of cases pertaining to the Constitutional matters, Civil, Labour, Election Writ petitions, Public Interest Litigations, Special Leave petitions, Contempt of Court etc. lying pending before the Supreme Court and High Courts;

(b) the period of their pendency and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any new action plan for the early disposal of pending cases;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of cases disposed of during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) 20,260 cases (actual number of files) were pending in the Supreme Court of India as on 1.2.2000.

According to available information, the position in regard to pendency in the High Courts is as follows:

Sl.No.	Name of the High Court	Cases Pending	As on
(i)	Allahabad	812143	6/99
(ii)	Andhra Pradesh	150018	9/99
(iii)	Bombay	275405	9/99
(iv)	Calcutta	301852	6/99
(v)	Delhi	170901	6/99
(vi)	Gauhati	38037	1/99
(vii)	Gujarat	121532	1/99
(viii)	Himachal Pradesh	11909	9/99
(ix)	Jammu & Kashmir	75987	6/99
(x)	Karnataka	82487	9/99
(xi)	Kerala	302331	9/99
(xii)	Madhya Pradesh	102031	9/99
(xiii)	Madras	357095	9/99
(xiv)	Orissa	114548	9/99
(xv)	Patna	82908	9/99
(xvi)	Punjab & Haryana	178639	6/99
(xvii)	Rajasthan	119498	9/99
(xviii)	Sikkim	203	9/99

Information in regard to the break-up of cases pending category-wise, period of pendency and reasons for pendency is not readily available.

(c) and (d) Various steps have been taken by the Government for speedy disposal of cases. These include amendment of the Civil Procedure Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, increase in the number of posts of Judges/Judicial Officers, establishment of Special Courts/tribunals and adoption of alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, arbitration and conciliation. Lok Adalats have been given a statutory base as supplementary forum for resolution of disputes.

In addition to the above, the Supreme Court of India and various High Courts have taken a number of steps for expeditious disposal of cases, viz., grouping and classification of cases involving similar question of law,

setting up of specialised benches, computerization of records, etc.

(e) The requisite information is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

No. of cases disposed of during the year 1997, 1998 and 1999

		1997	1998	1999
A. Supreme Court of India		36569	35233	N.A.
B. High Courts:				
Sl.No.	Name of the High Court	No. of Cases disposed	No. of Cases Disposed	No. of Cases disposed
(i)	Allahabad	391333	146579	73655+
(ii)	Andhra Pradesh	142099	144367	98123*
(iii)	Bombay	88252	84881	59906*
(iv)	Calcutta	63127	64594	29182+
(v)	Delhi	44618	61887	31453+
(vi)	Gauhati	18077	17540	N.A.
(vii)	Gujarat	47711	56422	N.A.
(viii)	Himachal Pradesh	13665	9665	6447*
(ix)	Jammu & Kashmir	20753	34275	28993+
(x)	Karnataka	85059	120653	71976*
(xi)	Kerala	76075	103579	90897*
(xii)	Madhya Pradesh	79094	78719	61813*
(xiii)	Madras	110761	121581	94930*
(xiv)	Orissa	33557	36926	26888*
(xv)	Patna	93,306	105833	77345*
(xvi)	Punjab & Haryana	119037	131306	60328+
(xvii)	Rajasthan	56684	52764	36655*
(xviii)	Sikkim	227	699	660*

+ figures upto 6/99

* figures upto 9/99

*[English]***Strike by Dock Workers**

*52. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the dock workers at the major ports in the country recently went on strike crippling the navigational services;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the estimated loss suffered by each of the major port as a result thereof;

(d) whether any amicable settlement has been reached between the port workers and the Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) the time by which the Government have agreed to settle their disputes; and

(h) the additional burden caused/likely to be caused on the Government exchequer due to the settlement?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) and (b) The Port & Dock Workers at the Major Ports went on strike from 18.1.2000 to 22.1.2000 to press for their demands on wage revision and liberalisation in service conditions. During the strike, the ports had been able to carry on port operations to some extent. Handling of essential cargoes was maintained.

(c) During the Month of January, 2000, the target for handling traffic at the Major Ports was 22.736 Million Tonnes. As against this, the cargo handled was 21.116 Million Tonnes. The shortfall in cargo handling is expected to be made good in the balance period of current financial year. Therefore, it is difficult to assess the loss due to the strike.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) to (g) During discussions between the Minister of Surface Transport and the federation leaders held on 21st and 22nd January, 2000, the following decisions were taken:

- (i) Port Allowance will be given to the Port Workers in place of City Compensatory Allowance (CCA) and the former will be paid *w.e.f.* 1.1.1998.
- (ii) The Port Workers will have the option to choose either House Rent Allowance at the existing rates with enhanced ceiling or House Rent Allowance at the Government rates.
- (iii) Unimplemented terms of last settlement dated 6.12.1994 will be discussed locally. In the event of failure to resolve the issues, the same would be referred to arbitrator/adjudicator.
- (iv) The period of settlement and if HRA may be paid with retrospective effect *i.e.* from 1.1.1998 would be considered by the Government at the appropriate level and efforts would be made to resolve these issues before 31.3.2000.
- (v) The issues raised in the strike notices by the federations will be discussed and settled by 28.2.2000 at the BWNC level.
- (vi) The issues raised by the management for improving productivity and efficiency in the ports would be referred to adjudicator, who may take into account local conditions of each port and other relevant factors and finalise his award within a period of 6 months, which will be binding on both the parties.
- (vii) No worker will be victimised on account of his participation in the strike.

(h) There is no financial impact of the agreement on the Government exchequer as the expenditure is to be borne by ports from their own resources.

Modernisation of Telegraph Services

*53. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps for the modernisation of telegraph services in the country particularly in Kerala and Gujarat;

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

(c) whether any Budget allocation has been made for the purpose in the current financial year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which modernisation work is likely to be completed in Kerala and Gujarat?

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

(b) Microprocessor based electronic message switches like Store and Forward Message Switching Systems (SFMS), Formatted Terminal Concentrators (FTC) and Electronic Key Board Concentrators (EKBC) have been provided to link and network telegraph offices for quick transmission of telegrams, Bureaufax service has been provided for fax facilities. Telegraph

services in the state of Kerala and Gujarat have also been modernised. The state-wise details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) No separate budget allocations have been made. However the demands for such programmes are met in the developmental funds allotted for Telex and Telegraph works in the year.

(e) Though modernisation is an ongoing process, the modernisation work for the current year has been completed in Kerala State and it is likely to be completed in Gujarat by March 2000.

Statement

Andaman and Nicobar Circle

System	Location	Distt. Hqrs.
1	2	3
EKB	Port Blair	Port Blair

Andhra Pradesh Circle

SFMSS 128 L	Hyderabad	Hyderabad
SFMSS 64 L	Vijayawada	Vijayawada
SFT 162	Guntur	Guntur
	Visakhapatnam	Visakhapatnam
	Rajahmundari	Kakinada
	Kurnool	Kurnool
	Hyderabad	Hyderabad
	Hyderabad	Hyderabad
	Vijayawada	Machlipatnam
	Rajahmundari	Kakinada
	Nellore	Nellore
	Anantapur	Anantapur
	Visakhapatnam	Visakhapatnam
	Cuddapah	Cuddapah
	Tirupathi	Chittoor

1	2	3
Phonogram Concentrator	Hyderabad	Hyderabad
EKBC	Eluru	Eluru
	Nellore	Nellore
	Kakinada	Kakinada
	Srikakulam	Srikakulam
	Ongole	Ongole
	Cuddapah	Cuddapah
Assam Telecom Circle		
SFMSS 64 L	Guwahati	Guwahati
SFT 141	Silchar	Silchar
EKBC	Guwahati	Guwahati
	Dibrugarh	Dibrugarh
	Tinsukia	Tinsukia
	Jorhat	Jorhat
	Silchar	Silchar
	Karimganj	Karimganj
	Naigaon	Naigaon
	Bongaigaon	Bongaigaon
Bihar Telecom Circle		
SFMSS 64 L	Patna	Patna
SFMSS 32 L	Ranchi	Ranchi
SFT 162	Patna	Patna
	Muzaffarpur	Muzaffarpur
	Katihar	Katihar
	Begusarai	Begusarai
	Bhagalpur	Bhagalpur
	Dhanbad	Dhanbad
EKBC	Chapra	Chapra
	Ranchi	Ranchi

1	2	3
Gujarat Telecom Circle		
SFMSS 128 L	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
SFMSS 32 L	Rajkot	Rajkot
SFT 141	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
FTC	Vadodra	Vadodra
	Rajkot	Rajkot
	Bhavnagar	Bhavnagar
	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
<i>TP Concentrator</i>	Surat	Surat
<i>Phonogram Concentrator</i>	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
EKBC	Ahmedabad-2 Nos.	Ahmedabad
	Rajkot-2 Nos.	Rajkot
	Surat-2 Nos.	Surat
	Bhavnagar	Bhavnagar
	Jamnagar	Jamnagar
	Vadodra	Vadodra
	Anand	Nadiad
	Godhra	Godhra
	Bharuch	Bharuch
	Vapi	Valsad
	Valsad	Valsad
	Mehsana	Mehsana
	Surendranagar	Surendranagar
Junagadh	Junagadh	
Haryana Telecom Circle		
SFMS 32 L	Ambala	Ambala
EKBC	Ambala Cantt.	Ambala
	Ambala City	-do-
	Yamunagar	-do-
	Hisar	Hisar

1	2	3
	Faridabad	Faridabad
	Karnal	karnal
	Kurukshetra	-do-
	Rohtak	Rohtak
H.P. Telecom Circle		
SFMSS 32 L	Shimla	Shimla
EKBC	Shimla-2 Nos.	Shimla
	Mandi	Mandi
	Solan	Solan
	Hamirpur	Hamirpur
	Dharamsala	Kangra at Dharamsala
J&K Telecom Circle		
SFMSS 32 L	Jammu	Jammu
FTC	Srinagar	Srinagar
EKBC	Jammu-2 Nos.	Jammu
Karnataka Telecom Circle		
SFMSS 128 L	Bangalore	Bangalore
SFMSS 64 L	Hubli	Hubli
SFMSS 32 L	Gulbarga	Gulbarga
SFT 141	Bangalore	Bangalore (scrapped on 24.11.94)
SFT 162	-do-	Bangalore (scrapped on 17.5.95)
Phonogram Concentrator	Bangalore	Bangalore
EKBC	Bangalore	Bangalore
	Bidar	Bidar

1	2	3
	Bijapur	Bijapur
	Bagalkot	-do-
	Jamkhandi	-do-
	Bellary Hospet	Bellary
	Belgaum-2 Nos.	Belgaum
	Gokak	
	Sankeshwar	
	Chitradurga	Chitradurga
	Davangere	
	Chikmagalur	Chikmagalur
	Mangalore-2 nos.	Mangalore
	Kundapura	
	Puttur	
	Udupi	
	Dharwad	Dharwad
	Hubli	
	Gadag	
	Ranebennur	
	Gulbarga	Gulbarga
	Hassan	Hassan
	Madikeri	Madikeri
	Kolar	Kolar
	Mandya	Mandya
	Mysore-2 Nos.	Mysore
	Raichur	Raichur
	Shimoga	Shimoga
	Tumkur	Tumkur
	Tiptur	Tumkur
	Karwar	Karwar
Kerala Telecom Circle		
SFMSS 128 L	Ernakulam	Ernakulam
SFMSS 64 L	Trivandrum	Trivandrum

1	2	3
SFMSS 32 L	Calicut	Calicut
Phonogram Concentrator	Cochin	Emakulam
Multilingual Concentrator	Trivandrum	Trivandrum
EKRC	Quilon	Quilon
	Pathanamthitta	Pathanamthitta
	Thiruvalla	-do-
	Kottiyam	Kottiyam
	Alleppey	Alleppey
	Cochin	Ernakulam
	Muvattupuzha	-do-
	Trichur	Trichur
	Kunnamkulam	-do-
	Calicut	Calicut
	Palghat	Palghat
	Telicherry	Cannanore
	Cannanore	-do-
	Muvattupuzha	Ernakulam
	Kunnamkulam	Trichur
	Iringalakuda	-do-
M.P. Telecom Circle:		
SFMSS 64 L	Bhopal	Bhopal
SFMSS 32 L	Raipur	Raipur
SFMSS 32 L	Indore	Indore
SFMSS 32 L	Jabalpur	Jabalpur
SFMSS 32 L	TTC Jabalpur	Jabalpur
EKBC	Bhopal	Bhopal
	Jabalpur	Jabalpur
	Chindwara	Chindwara
	Hoshangabad	Hoshangabad
Any other system:		
BITMSS	Indore	Indore

1	2	3
Maharashtra Telecom Circle		
SFMSS 2x128 L	Mumbai	Mumbai
SFMSS 64 L	Pune	Pune
SFMSS 64 L	Nagpur	Nagpur
SFMSS 32 L	Sholapur	Sholapur
SFMSS 32 L	Kolhapur	Kolhapur
SFMSS 32 L	Aurangabad	Aurangabad
SFMSS 32 L	Panaji	Panaji
SFT 141	Mumbai-3 Nos.	Mumbai-Kaptitle
	Nagpur	Nagpur
	Nasik	Nasik
	Pune	Pune
	Panaji	Panaji
Phonogram	Mumbai	Mumbai
Concentrator	Mumbai-2 Nos	Mumbai
	Pune	Pune
	Nagpur	Nagpur
EKBC	Ahmednagar	Ahmednagar
	Akola	Akola
	Amravati	Amravati
	Aurangabad-2 Nos.	Aurangabad
	Barsi	Solapur
	Bhandara	Bhandara
	Bhusawai	Jalgaon
	Buldhana	Buldhana at Khamgaon
	Chandrapur	Chandrapur
	Dhule	Dhule
	Gondia	Bhandara
	Jalgaon	Jalgaon
	Jalna	Jalna
	Karad	Satara

1	2	3
EKBC	Kolhapur	Kolhapur
	Latur	Latur
	Margaon	Panaji
	Mahad	GM, Raigad at Mumbai
	Mumbai-3 Nos.	Mumbai
	Mumbai Nagpur-3 Nos.	Mumbai, Nagpur
	Nanded	Nanded
	Nasik	Nasik
	Nasik Road	Nasik
	Pandharpur	Soiapur
	Parbhani	Parbhani
	Pune-3 Nos.	Pune
	Ratnagiri-2 Nos.	Ratnagiri
	Sangli	Sangli
	Satara	Satara
	Sawantwadi	Sindhudurg
	Solapur-2 Nos.	Soiapur
	Wardha	Wardha
	Yeotmal	Yeotmal
	Ahmednagar	Ahmednagar
	Akola	Akola
	Nasik	Nasik
	Pune	Pune
	Mumbai	Mumbai
N.E. Telecom Circle		
SFMSS 32 L	Shillong	Shillong
SFT 141	Shillong	Shillong
EKBG	Itanagar	Itanagar
	Aizawal	Aizawal
	Agartala	Agartala

1	2	3
NTR Telecom Circle		
SFMSS 128L	New Delhi	New Delhi
FTC	New Delhi	New Delhi
Phonocom Concentrator	-do-2 Nos.	-do-
EKBC	-do- 2 Nos	-do-
Bi-lingual Concentrator	-do- 2 Nos	-do-
Orissa Telecom Circle		
SFMSS 32 L	Cuttack	Cuttack
SFMSS 32 L	Bhubaneshwar	Bhubaneshwar
SFT 141	Cuttack	Cuttack (not working)
SFT 162	Cuttack	Cuttack
	Sambalpur	Sambalpur
EKBC	Cuttack	Cuttack (Not working)
Punjab Telecom Circle		
SFMSS 64 L	Jallundhar	Jallundhar
SFMSS 32 L	Chandigarh	Chandigarh
FTC	Jallundhar	Jallundhar
EKBC	Bhatinda	Bhatinda
	Hoshiarpur	Hoshiarpur
	Ludhiana	Ludhiana
	Chandigarh	Chandigarh
	Chandigarh	Chandigarh
	Jallandhar-2 Nos.	Jallandhar
	Amritsar-2 Nos.	Amritsar
	Ferozepur-2 Nos.	Ferozepur
	Patiala	Patiala
	Pathankot	Pathankot
	Moga	Moga

1	2	3
Rajasthan Telecom Circle		
SFMSS 64L	Jaipur	Jaipur
SFMSS 32 L	Jodhpur	Jodhpur
FTC	Jaipur	Jaipur
	Jodhpur	Jodhpur
EKBC	Jaipur-3 No.	Jaipur
	Jaipur	Jaipur
	Jhunjhunu	Jhunjhunu
	Sikar	Sikar
	Sawaimadhopur	Sawaimadhopur
	Kota-2 No.	Kota
	Bharatpur	Bharatpur
	Alwar	Alwar
	Churu	Churu
	Sujangarh	Churu
	Nagaur	Nagaur
	Makrana	Nagaur
	Sriganganagar	Sriganganagar
	Hanumangarh	Hanumangarh
	Bikaner-2 No.	Bikaner
	Jodhpur-3 No.	Jodhpur
	Jalore	Jalore
	Sirohi	Sirohi
	Pali	Pali
	Sumerpur	Pali
Ajmer-2 No.	Ajmer	
Beawar	Ajmer	
Udaipur-2 No.	Udaipur	
Bhilwara	Bhilwara	

1	2	3
Tamil Nadu Telecom Circle		
SFMSS 128 L	Chennai	Chennai
SFMSS 64 L	Coimbatore	Coimbatore
SFMSS 64 L	Madurai	Madurai
SFMSS 64 L	Trichi	Trichi
SFMSS 32 L	Trichi	Trichi
SFMSS 32 L	Salem	Salem
SFMSS 32 L	Tirunelvelly	Tirunelvelly
SFMSS 32 L	Vellore	Vellore
SFT 141	Chennai-2 No.	Chennai (Scrapping of 2 systems approved)
	Coimbatore	Coimbatore (Scrapping in process)
	Trichy	Trichy (Scrapping in process)
	Madurai	Madurai (Scrapping in process)
SFT 162	Chennai-2 No.	Chennai (one used as standby)
FTC	Thanjavur	Thanjavur
	Chennai	Chennai
	Chennai	Chennai
	Trichi	Trichi (used as
	Madurai	Madurai (phonogram (Concen.)
Phonogram Concentrator	Chennai	Chennai
	Chennai	Chennai
	Mambalam	
	Chennai	Chennai
	Ethiraj Salai	
Multilingual Concentrator	Chennai	Chennai

1	2	3
EKBC	Trichy-2 No. Chennai Ethiraj Salai Pondicherry Villupuram Karur Rajapalayam Vellore-2 Nos. Tiruvannamalai	Trichy Chennai Pondicherry Villupuram Karur Sivakasi Vellore Tiruvannamalai
		Coimbatore
		-do-
	Madurai-3 nos.	Madurai
	Salem-3 Nos.	Salem
	Erode	Erode
	Karaikudi	Sivaganga
	Virudhunagar	Sivakasi
	Ramanathapuram	Ramanathapuram
	Pudukottai	Pudukottai
	Thanjavur-2	Thanjavur
	Kumbakonam	Thanjavur
	Tirunelveli-5 Nos.	Tirunelveli
	Nagercoil-2 Nos.	Tuticorin
	Dharmapuri	Dharmapuri
	Chennai-4 Nos.	Chennai
	Chennai	Chennai
	Paramakudi	Sivaganga
	Sivakasi	Sivakasi
	Tenkasi	Tirunelveli
	Ambasamudram	Tirunelveli
	Tiruchendur	Tuticorin
	Kovilpatti	Tuticorin
	Sivaganga	Sivaganga

1	2	3
	Dindigul	Dindigul
	Cuddalore	Cuddalore
	Pattukottai	Thanjavur
	Nagapattinam	Nagapattinam
	Theni	Theni
	Chidambaram	Cuddalore
	Kuzhithurai	Nagercoil
	Aruppukottai	Sivakasi
	Namakkal	Namakkal
	Krishnagri	Dharmapuri
	Tiruvarur	Tiruvarur
U.P. (East) Telecom Circle		
SFMSS 128 L	Lucknow	Lucknow
MSS 32 L	Kanpur	Kanpur
SFMSS 32 L	Varanasi	Varanasi
FTC	Gorakhpur	Gorakhpur
	Kanpur	Kanpur
	Sultanpur	Sultanpur
Multilingual Concentrator	Lucknow-2 Nos.	Lucknow
EKBC	Lucknow	Lucknow
	Varanasi	Varanasi
	Kanpur	Kanpur
	Allahabad	Allahabad
	Gorakhpur	Gorakhpur
	Faizabad	Faizabad
	Sultanpur	Sultanpur
	Azamgarh	Azamgarh
	Deoria	Deoria
	Ballia	Ballia
	Pratapgarh	Pratapgarh

1	2	3
	Jaunpur	Jaunpur
	Banda	Banda
	Jhansi	Jhansi
U.P. (West) Telecom Circle		
SFMSS 32 L	Dehradun	Dehradun
SFMSS 32 L	Agra	Agra
SFMSS 32 L	Barrielly	Barrielly
FTC	Meerut	Meerut
	Moradabad	Moradabad
	Bareilly	Bareilly
EKBC	Bareilly	Bareilly
	Dehradun	Dehradun
	Ghaziabad	Ghaziabad
	Haldwani	Tel. Distt. N.T. Hq. at Haldwani
	Moradabad	Moradabad
	Meerut	Meerut
	Mathura	Mathura
	Saharanpur	Saharanpur
	Srinagar	Pauri Garhwal
	Aligarh	Aligarh
W.B. Telecom Circle:		
SFMSS 128 L	Calcutta	Calcutta
SFT 162	Siliguri	Darjeeling
	Durgapur	Burdwan
EKBC	Kharagpur	Midnapur
	Midnapur	-do-
	Tamluk	-do-
	Bankura	Bankura

1	2	3
	Raniganj	Burdwan
	Burdwan	-do-
	Purulia	Purulia
	Asansol	Burdwan
	Coochbehar	Jalpaiguri
	Calcutta-2 Nos.	Calcutta
	CA-Alipore	-do-
	CA-Rashbehari Ave.	-do-
	CA-Nagerbazar	-do-
	Howrah	Howrah
	Barasat	Barasat
	Bandel	Chinchura
	Srirampur	-do-
	Bolpur	Suri
	Berhampur	Berhampur
	Krishnagar	Krishnagar
	Raiganj	Raiganj
	Balurghat	Hq.-Balurghat
	Jalpaiguri	Jalpaiguri
	Gangtok	Gangtok
	Siliguri	Darjeeling
	Malda	Malda
	Calcutta	Calcutta
	Darjeeling	Darjeeling

[*Translation*]

Strike by Power Workers

*54. SHRI RIZWAN ZAHIR:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently a number of strikes were launched by the power workers in various States;

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

(c) whether in spite of stringent measures the strikes continued;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to resolve the issues involved therein; and

(e) the details of the final settlement arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) The power employees of Uttar Pradesh were on strike from 14-1-2000 to 25-1-2000. The strike was supported by the employees of some other State Electricity Boards through a one day token strike.

(d) The Government of India is committed to support the process of reform of the power sector in the States. It is believed that reforms in the power sector are imperative. Unless reforms are implemented quickly, it may be difficult to even maintain the present quality of power supply let alone improve it.

(e) The strike in Uttar Pradesh ended with the Government of Uttar Pradesh *inter-alia*, reassuring its power employees that there would be no victimisation of the employees, that there would be full protection of their service conditions and payment of gratuity, provident fund, pensions etc. and adequate financial provisions for this purpose would be made.

[English]

Funds to SEBs to Undertake Transmission and Distribution

*55. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a special fund to enable the cash starved State Electricity Boards to undertake the improvements in the power transmission and distribution sector;

(b) if so, the details of State Electricity Boards facing financial crisis;

(c) whether the some State Electricity Boards have urged the Union Government to provide more funds to them;

(d) if so, the details in this regard;

(e) whether the foreign financial institutions have provided funds to the State Electricity Boards during the last three years; and

(f) if so, the details in this regard, state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) The Government is considering

to introduce a new scheme under which funds will be provided to power utilities to undertake investment in sub-transmission and distribution projects including the provision of meters at all levels with the object of reducing T&D losses and improving the operational efficiency of State Power Utilities. However, release of funds would be contingent on the State Government accepting conditionalities with regard to reform and restructuring.

(b) The financial position of State Electricity Boards for the year 1997-98 is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) and (d) Government of Orissa has submitted a proposal for financial restructuring of Gird Corporation of Orissa (GRIDCO) which includes, *inter-alia*:

- * Conversion of GRIDCO's payables to the generators totalling Rs. 1160.4 crores as on 31.3.2000, into tax free bonds;
- * Re-schedulement of loans to PFC and REC; and
- * Soft loan of Rs. 206 crores from the World Bank (in addition to the US\$ 350 million loan already sanctioned by World Bank);
- * The Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested for Government of India's recommendation for availing special assistance of Rs. 1000 crores (50% as grant and 50% as loan) from the World Bank, in order to support the State Government's restructuring efforts in the power sector;
- * The Government has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Government of Karnataka on 12.2.2000. The Agreement provides for, among other things, Government of India's commitment for financial support to the State;
- * To upgrade its sub-transmission and distribution network in a phased manner;
- * For executing the system loss reduction programme;
- * For adequate funding through REC for 100% electrification of villages and hamlets; and
- * For undertaking studies on reforms and restructuring through PFC grant and interest free loans;
- * For assisting the State Government in raising funds from financial institutions and other sources.

(e) and (f) Details of loans provided by foreign financial institutions to SEBs for Transmission and Distribution works during the last 3 years are given in Statement-II.

Statement I

Statement indicating the profit and loss incurred by State Electricity Boards as per 1997-98 accounts (without subsidy)

Name of the SEB		(Rs. crores)
1	2	
1.	APSEB	-1134.46
2.	ASEB	-439.53
3.	BSEB	-225.42
4.	GEB	-1363.62
5.	HSEB	-712.79

1	2
6.	HPSEB 29.45
7.	KEB -321.77
8.	KSEB -296.70
9.	MPEB -753.01
10.	MSEB 36.61
11.	MeSEB -52.00
12.	OSEB
13.	PSEB -555.27
14.	RSEB -639.53
15.	TNEB -317.75
16.	UPSEB -1547.97
17.	WBSEB -164.18
All SEBs -8457.99	

*OSEB was restructured w.e.f. 1.4.1996.

Statement II

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Name of Project	State	Funding Agency	1999-2000	1998-99	1997-1998	Total
1.	Orissa Power Sector Restr.	Orissa	IBRD	50.00	70.00	87.50	207.50
2.	Haryana Power Sector Restr.	Haryana	IBRD	93.00	70.00	0.00	163.00
3.	A.P. Power Sector Restr.	A.P.	IBRD	60.00	33.86	0.00	93.86
4.	Automation in Chennai Metro	T.N.	ADB	33.00	22.64	67.40	123.04
5.	Power System Improvement Multi/REC		JRIC	100.00	75.00	63.02	238.02
6.	Srisailam Power Trains.	A.P.	JBIC	188.80	115.00	222.15	525.95
7.	Anpara Power Trans.	U.P.	JBIC	100.00	105.00	236.23	441.23
8.	W.B. Trans. System	W.B.	JBIC	70.00	4.00	0.00	74.00
9.	Simhadri and Vizag Trans.	A.P.	JBIC	20.00	18.00	0.00	38.00
10.	A.P. Energy Efficiency Project	A.P.	U.K.	15.00	8.00	30.30	53.30
11.	Orissa Power Sector Restr.	Orissa	U.K.	19.00	62.15	63.12	144.27
12.	Power Efficiency Improvement Multi PFC		IBRD	0.00	72.12	350.00	422.12
13.	Power Efficiency Improvement Multi/PFC		ADB	0.00	176.03	385.13	561.16
Total				748.80	831.80	1504.85	3085.45

* Covered in ADB Loan for Second North Madras Power Project.

Changes in Electricity Acts

*56. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Confederation of Indian Industry has suggested to the Government to make changes in the Electricity Acts for making the private investment more attractive;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to consider the said suggestions; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has made suggestions on changes in the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Power had asked the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) as a consultant, to suggest legislative changes if considered necessary to accelerate the reform process. The suggestions made by CII were referred to the NCAER.

The NCAER has submitted a draft Electricity Bill to replace the existing three electricity laws (The Indian Electricity Act, 1910. The Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 and The Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998). The draft Bill suggests corporatization of all the State Electricity Boards and their restructuring into separate entities that would provide for accountability based on profit centres, whether public or private; and setting up or reinforcing the Regulatory Commissions on the lines of the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998. It stresses the need for efficiency and competition with the objective of providing reliable power supply to all consumers at competitive prices. It also provides for a clear delineation of roles and responsibilities.

In order to generate a national debate on the issue and to evolve a consensus on the draft Bill suggested by NCAER, its copies have been circulated to all concerned for their comments, suggestions and advice.

Women Reservation Bill

*57. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any consensus, through committee meetings or otherwise has been arrived at, in relation to the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, relating to reservation of seats in the Legislatures for women;

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

(c) the steps taken/being taken to go ahead with the Women Reservation Bill?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (c) The Constitution (85th Amendment) Bill, 1999 seeking to provide for reservation of seats for women in the Legislatures was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 23rd December, 1999. Ever since this issue came into limelight with the introduction of the pilot Bill, namely, the Constitution (81st Amendment) Bill, 1996, there have been constant endeavours on behalf of the successive Governments to bring about a consensus among all political parties. Meetings in this regard have been held with leaders of political parties and, barring a few dissenting voices, almost all political parties have supported the Bill so far. Government is committed to push through the Bill with full vigour and get it passed as soon as possible.

Recommendation of Nitish Sengupta Committee

*58. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI:

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to implement the recommendations of the Nitish Sengupta Committee Report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the other measures taken to safeguard the interest of Public Sector Oil Companies?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (d) The recommendations of the Nitish Sengupta Committee Report are under consideration of the Government. However, some of the measures taken to safeguard the interests of Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) Oil Companies are:

- (i) Conferring of Navaratna status to Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPC) and Gas Authority of India Ltd., (GAIL) and consequent further delegation of authority in regard to decision making within the guidelines.

- (ii) Formation of joint ventures by PSU Oil Companies.
- (iii) Diversification.
- (iv) Business Process Re-engineering.
- (v) Addition of capacities.
- (vi) Phased dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) and deregulation.

Hike in Prices of Petrol and LPG

*59. SHRI R.L. BHATIA:

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:

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

(a) whether the price of petrol and LPG has been increased recently;

(b) if so, the extent thereof indicating the effective increase in different States;

(c) the extent to which it has resulted in pushing up the transport cost of goods and passengers;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to minimise the hardships of the consumers especially the farmers and other weaker sections; and

(e) the impact of the price hike on the economy of the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The ex-storage point prices of petrol and LPG (Domestic) have not been revised after 1-3-1999 by the Government of India. The retail selling prices of the two products have, however, been revised in some States due to the revision in the rates of sales tax by the State Governments. The chart indicating increase in sales tax rates and corresponding increase in retail selling prices is given in attached Statement.

(c) to (e) Public vehicles used for transportation of goods do not use petrol or LPG. Only a small percentage of passenger vehicles use petrol. The variation in the prices of petrol and LPG on account of adjustments made in sales tax rates by the States has been only marginal. It has not created hardship to the consumers, specially the farmers and the weaker sections.

Statement

Statement showing increase in retail selling prices and increase in tax rates

Product : MS-87 (Petrol)

Location	State	Retail price (Rs./Ltr.)		Sales Tax (%)	
		Pre.	Revised	Pre.	Revised
Delhi	Delhi	24.00	25.94	11.00	20.00
Calcutta	W. Bengal	25.46	26.98	11.91	23.00
Guwahati	Assam	25.38	26.33	17.60	22.00
Shillong	Meghalaya	23.77	25.96	10.20	20.40
Mumbai	Maharashtra	28.25	28.47	27.00	28.00

Product : LPG (Domestic)

Delhi	Delhi	146.15	151.60	4.00	8.00
Jaipur	Rajasthan	159.35	159.85	13.44	13.80
Jalandhar	Punjab	157.35	160.45	8.80	11.00
Imphal	manipur	155.40	156.85	7.00	8.00
Mumbai	Maharashtra	149.60	153.20	5.40	8.00

Note: Pre-Revised Data is as on 1.11.1999 and Revised Data is as on 1.2.2000.

[Translation]

Afforestation Drive

*60. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to launch any drive regarding the afforestation and checking deforestation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have made any efforts to handover the work like afforestation to the Panchayats; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Central Government promotes afforestation through its several Centrally Sponsored Schemes, which are implemented throughout the country, besides the afforestation/tree planting schemes of the States Governments through State Plan budgets and externally-aided projects. The Modern Forest Fire Control scheme of the Ministry of Environment and Forests is aimed at arresting deforestation. Also, specific Acts of the Parliament exist for this purpose, such as the Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1982 and Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. A major initiative taken in the recent years by the Ministry of Environment and Forests for promoting afforestation and to arrest deforestation is to promote the participation of people in the afforestation programmes through Joint Forest Management (JFM).

Indicative List of Centrally Sponsored Schemes which include afforestation

Schemes operated by Ministry of Environment and Forests

1. Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Project Scheme.
2. Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Projects Scheme.
3. Conservation and Development of Non-Timber Forest Produce (including medicinal plants) Scheme.
4. Grants-in-Aid Scheme for Voluntary Agencies.
5. Association of Schedule Tribes and Rural Poor in Regeneration of Degraded Forest on Usufruct Sharing Basis Scheme of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Schemes operated by Ministry of Rural Development

1. Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP)
2. Desert Development Programme (DDP)
3. Integrated Wastelands Development Project Scheme.

Schemes operated by Ministry of Agriculture

1. Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity on Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers.
2. National Watershed Development project for Rainfed Areas.
3. Reclamation of Alkali Soils.

(c) and (d) The guidelines on afforestation schemes of the Ministry of Environment and Forests envisage that these are implemented by the State Governments with people's participation. Joint Forest Management is an integral part of the operational guidelines of these schemes, as per provisions of National Forest Policy, 1988. For this purpose, the Government of India had issued the guidelines to the various State Governments on the 1st June, 1990. So far Joint Forest Management resolutions have been adopted in 22 States covering 10.25 million ha. of forests being managed by 36,075 Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMC) in the country. As per various State resolutions for JFM, representatives from Panchayats are also members of JFMCs. Under the above-mentioned schemes of Ministry of Rural Development, the projects are sanctioned in favour of the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs)/Zilla Parishads (ZPs). Most of the DRDA/ZP Chairpersons are now elected representatives of Zilla Panchayats. At village level, there is a provision for Watershed Committee where two members of village panchayats are also members of the Watershed Committee, which executes watershed project works.

[English]

Losses to SEBs

427. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of State Electricity Boards running into losses at present;

(b) the total loss suffered by each State Electricity Board as on date;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up Rs. 3000 crore special fund to revamp State Electricity Boards;

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

(e) the details of State Electricity Boards to which this amount is likely to be allocated, state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) As per Annual Statement of Accounts for the year 1997-98, 14 State Electricity Boards have suffered losses without considering subsidy.

(b) State-wise losses (without subsidy) of each Electricity Board for the year 1997-98 are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) The State Electricity Boards are under the administrative control of the respective State Governments. As such, it is for the State Governments to work out any

plan/strategy for revamping State Electricity Boards. The Government is considering to introduce a scheme for providing funds to specific project including metering at all levels with the object of reducing the transmission and distribution losses.

Statement

Deficit of SEBs (without subsidy)

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Name of SEBs	1997-98
1.	APSEB	-1134.46
2.	ASEB	-439.58
3.	BSEB	-225.42
4.	GEB	-1363.62
5.	HSEB	-712.79
6.	KEB	-321.77
7.	KSEB	-296.70
8.	MPEB	-753.01
9.	MeSEB	-52.00
10.	PSEB	-555.27
11.	RSEB	-639.53
12.	TNEB	-317.75
13.	UPSEB	-1547.97
14.	WBSEB	-164.18
Total		-8524.05

LPG Agencies at Durgapur in West Bengal

428. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are no LPG agencies in the near vicinity of all the seven segments of Durgapur in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up dealerships at such places in a way that the customers of the same petroleum company could get the M.P. quota gas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) At present there are 11 LPG distributorships in operation at Durgapur in Distt. Burdwan, West Bengal.

(c) and (d) The person wishing to obtain an M.P. priority connection but falls in jurisdiction of none of the distributor has to approach his nearest distributor and request him for registering his name for a new LPG connection. The connection is released after the M.P. Priority voucher is produced to the distributor.

Delimitation of Lok Sabha and State Assembly Constituencies

429. SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU:
SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:

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

(a) whether the Government have considered the desirability of vesting the work of delimitation of the Lok Sabha and State Assembly Constituencies with the Election Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken in the matter; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (c) Election Commission had sent a proposal for vesting it with the entire responsibility of delimitation of electoral constituencies instead of appointing a Delimitation Commission for this purpose. Government has not so far found the proposal acceptable especially in view of the constitutional bar on undertaking fresh delimitation as well as lack of consensus among political parties on the subject of delimitation/rotation of seats.

Telephone Facility

430. SHRI MOHAMMED ANWARUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to connect Seohar, Sitamarhi and East Champaran districts consisting 18 Blocks in Bihar with district headquarters and the village blocks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether telephone in Seohar district remain out of order;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken by the Government to make them proper functional; and

(e) the time by which the Village Public Telephone (VPT) facility is likely to be provided in the villages of said districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Out of 49 Block Headquarters (BHQ) in Seohar, Sitamarhi & East Champaran districts 42 BHQs have so

far been provided connectivity with District Headquarters as per details given below:

District	Total No. of Blocks	No. of BHQs having Direct Connectivity with District Headquarters
Seohar	4	2
Sitamarhi	18	16
East Champaran	27	24

(c) and (d) Sir, the telephones in Seohar District are working satisfactorily. However, as and when the faults occur they are attended to promptly.

(e) Village Public Telephone (VPT) facility in all the villages of these Districts is likely to be provided by March, 2002 subject to availability of resources.

[Translation]

Oil Selection Boards

431. SHRI JAI BHADRA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for the constitution of Oil Selection Boards and the details of such boards functioning at present; and

(b) the details of Oil Selection Boards proposed to be constituted during the year 2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Oil Selection Boards have been set up from time to time by the Government with different compositions. The Oil Selection Boards now known as Dealer Selection Boards were last reconstituted in 1998-1999 with the following composition:

- (i) Retired Judge of High Court or retired — Chairman District Judge
- (ii) An officer not below the rank of — Member Chief Manager of one/concerned oil company
- (iii) An officer of the rank of Chief Manager/— Member Chief Manager of another Oil company.

The Government have recently dissolved all the Dealer Selection Boards.

(b) The Dealer Selection Boards are likely to be constituted in near future.

[English]

LPG Agencies in Kerala

432. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of distributors of LPG in and around Pattanamthitta and Mavelikara Districts in Kerala;

(b) the number of persons on the waiting list for LPG connections in the said districts; and

(c) the time by which the LPG connections are likely to be released to the wait listed persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) There are 14 LPG distributors in the Pathanamthitta District and 14 including one at Mavelikara in the Alleppey District.

(b) There are 34670 persons in the waiting list for LPG connections in the Pathanamthitta District and 71502 persons in the waiting list in the Alleppey District which includes Mavelikara.

(c) New LPG connections are released in a phased manner throughout the country depending upon the LPG availability, waiting list, slack available with the distributors and their viability. However, the Government has a plan to release around 1 crore LPG connections during the year 2000 to clear all waiting lists registered with the distributors of PSU Oil Companies as on 1.12.1999.

[Translation]

Setting up of Petrol Pumps at Satna in M.P.

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

(a) whether Government propose to set up petrol pumps in Virsinghpur, Majgavan and Chitrakut towns in Satna District and Satna City of Madhya Pradesh keeping in view the increasing industrial transport and agricultural needs of the area; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Retail Outlets for Chitrakut and Satna City in Satna Distt. have been advertised by the oil companies. At present there is no proposal to set up retail outlets at

Virsinghpur and Majgavan in Distt. Satna of Madhya Pradesh. Selection process has been kept in abeyance and Dealer Selection Boards have also been dissolved. It generally takes about 6 to 12 months for commissioning of the dealerships from the date of interview.

[English]

Application for LPG Dealership from Kerala

434. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of applications submitted for the LPG dealership from Kerala during the last three years and the action taken in this regard;

(b) whether the Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporations have applied for the LPG Dealerships in the State; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Oil Companies have invited applications for 134 LPG distributorships during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-Jan. 2000 in Kerala.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Selection process has been completed in some of these cases and a Letter of Intent has also been issued to M/s. Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation for setting up an LPG distributorship at Kannur in Kerala.

Pay Scales for Judiciary and Judicial Reforms

435. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken fresh initiatives to have uniform pay scales for judiciary both at Centre and States at various levels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of implementation of this process and action taken by the State Governments in the matter so far;

(d) the details of other judicial reforms proposed/under consideration of the Government;

(e) the agenda of action during the year 2000-2001 in this regard; and

(f) the follow up action taken by the State Governments on the directives of Supreme Court in this context?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (f) In pursuance of the directions of the Supreme Court of India in W.P. 1022/89 - All India Judges Association Vs. UOI & Ors., the Central Government had set up, in March, 1996, the First National Judicial Pay Commission (FNJPC) to evolve the principles which should govern the structure of pay and other emoluments of Judicial Officers belonging to the Subordinate Judiciary all over the country, to examine the present structure of emoluments and conditions of service of Judicial Officers in the States/UTs, to examine and recommend in respect of minimum qualifications, age of recruitment, method of recruitment, etc. for Judicial Officers and to examine the work methods and work environment as also the variety of allowances and benefits in kind that are available to Judicial Officers in addition to pay and to suggest rationalisation and simplification thereof with a review to promoting efficiency in Judicial Administration, optimising the size of the Judiciary, etc.

The FNJPC submitted its Report in November, 1999. The major recommendations of the FNJPC, *inter alia*, relate to amalgamation of multiple cadres in judicial services into three uniform cadres, independent cadre-wise pay scales, sharing of expenditure on Subordinate Courts and quarters for Judicial Officers by the Centre, increase in the retirement age, etc.

Subordinate Judiciary is primarily the concern of the State Governments/High Courts. The recommendations of the FNJPC have been sent to the State Governments/High Courts. The recommendations of FNJPC, insofar as they relate to the Central Government, are under examination. The State Governments are required to send their views on the recommendations of the FNJPC to the Central Government within six weeks from 3.2.2000 as per the directions of the Supreme Court of India.

The process of judicial reforms is a continuous one. The Government has taken various measures to expedite the disposal of cases. These measures include, *inter alia*, amendment of the Civil Procedure Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, increase in the number of posts of Judges/Judicial Officers, appointment of special Judicial/Metropolitan Magistrates to dispose of petty criminal cases and adoption of other alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, conciliation, mediation, arbitration and

setting up of Lok Adalats, Special Courts and setting up of Lok Adalats, Special Courts and Tribunals.

Crude Oil Reserves

436. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ninth Five Year Plan document has revealed that India would run out of crude oil reserves by the year 2011-12;

(b) if so, the reaction of the government thereto;

(c) whether the Government have drawn any contingency plan to accelerate new discoveries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) At the present rate of production, the known balance recoverable crude oil reserves of National Oil Companies would last for about 20-25 years.

(b) to (e) Steps taken by the Government to enhance exploration efforts and increase hydrocarbon reserves include—

- (i) Announcement of the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) in order to boost exploration activities in the country. The policy provides for fiscal and contractual concessions and provides level playing fields for both private investors and national oil companies.
- (ii) Encouraging the participation of private/joint venture companies in exploration and development activities.
- (iii) Improvement in the recovery factor in the producing basin.
- (iv) Enhancing exploration efforts in the existing basins and its extension to unexplored areas including deep waters of east and west coast.
- (v) Encouraging the exploration and exploitation of alternate hydrocarbon resources like Coal Bed Methane and gas hydrates.

Joint Venture between KPC and IOC for Paradip Refinery

437. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) has finally pulled out of the joint venture with the Indian Oil Corporation for setting up of the Paradip Refinery;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Indian Oil Corporation propose to pursue the project on its own; and

(d) if so, the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

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

(b) KPC felt that given the availability of refining capacity in South-Asia as a whole, the project construction might be phased over a longer period of time.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. IOC propose to seek approval of Government in this respect shortly.

[Translation]

Energy Conservation Bill

438. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce 'Energy Conservation Bill' in the House to legally empower the concerned authorities to take action against such domestic and commercial consumers which indulge in misuse of power;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress made in this regard so far; and

(d) the time by which the said Bill would be presented in Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The Energy Conservation Bill, 2000 has already been introduced in the Lok Sabha on the 24th February, 2000.

The Bill seeks to provide for efficient use of energy and its conservation in all sectors of economy including commercial and domestic users. The Bill *inter alia* provides for the following:—

- (i) the Central Government shall —
- (a) lay down energy consumption standards for any equipment of appliances, consuming, generating, transmitting or supplying energy and prohibit manufacture, sale or purchase of such equipment or appliances unless they conform to energy consumption standards;
- (b) enforce a scheme for compulsory affixing of labels on specified equipment and appliances;
- (c) notify industries, establishments or any user or class of users of energy, building complex, as designated consumers having regard to intensity or quantity of use of energy;
- (ii) Energy audit by an accredited auditors shall be mandatory for all designated consumers.
- (iii) Energy managers with prescribed qualifications, would be required to be appointed by the designated consumers. Such designated consumers would also be required to furnish returns of energy consumed and action taken on the recommendations of the accredited energy auditors in the prescribed period and manner.
- (iv) Empower the State Governments to notify Energy Conservation Building Codes. The codes could be amended to suit local climatic conditions and other compelling factors. The designated building complexes shall implement

the Energy Conservation Building Codes, get energy audit conducted by an accredited auditor, appoint energy manager, etc.

Penalty in monetary terms could be imposed for non-compliance of the above provisions.

[English]

Counter Guarantee to Power Projects

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

(a) the number of power projects financed through Foreign Direct Investment for which the Government have assured counter-guarantee at present;

(b) the total amount of Investment involved in such projects;

(c) the rate of return proposed by the Government for such projects;

(d) the period for which such counter-guarantee would remain valid; and

(e) the number of foreign firms which have pulled out for lack of counter guarantee during the recent past?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The following eight private power generation projects involving foreign direct investment were chosen for extension of counter guarantee of Government of India:

S.No.	Name of the project	Capacity (MW)	Estimated completed cost (as per techno-economic clearance given by CEA)
1	2	3	4
	Visakhapatnam Thermal Power Project, Andhra Pradesh.	1040	US\$ 493.75 million + Rs. 1324.993 crores (@1 US\$ = Rs. 35.00)
	Neyveli (Single Unit Lignite based) Thermal Power Project, Tamil Nadu	250	US\$ 261.59 million + Rs. 501.10 crores (@1US\$ = Rs. 31.50)
	Mangalore Thermal Power Project, Kamataka	1013.2	US\$ 751.574 million + Rs. 1580.89 crores (@1 US\$ = Rs. 31.50)

1	2	3	4
4.	Bhadravati Thermal Power Project, Maharashtra	1082	Rs. 5187 crores.
5.	Ib Valley Thermal Power Project, Units A&B, Orissa	500	US\$ 326.02 million + Rs. 983.90 crores (@ 1US\$ = Rs. 42.50)
6.	Jegurupadu Combined Cycle Gas Turbine, Andhra Pradesh	216	Rs. 827 crores
7.	Godavari Combined Cycle Gas Turbine, Andhra Pradesh	208	Rs. 748.43 crores
8.	Dabhol Combined Cycle Gas Turbine, Phase-I, Maharashtra	740	Rs. 9051.27 crores (includes cost of Phase-II of the Project)

Counter Guarantee of Government of India has been extended to Jegrupadu Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (216 MW) of M/s. GVK Industries Limited, Ib Valley Thermal Power Project (500 MW) of Ib Valley Power Private Limited and Dabhol Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (Phase-I) and 740 MW of M/s. Dabhol Power Company. M/s. Spectrum Power Generation Limited withdrew their request for counter guarantee for their 208 MW Godavari Combined Cycle Gas Turbine in Andhra Pradesh.

On 16.5.1998, the Government approved extension of counter-guarantee in the case of the Visakhapatnam Thermal Power Project (1040 MW) of M/s. Hinduja National Power Company Limited (HNPCL) in Andhra Pradesh, Bhadravati Thermal Power Project (1082 MW) of M/s. Central India Power Company (CIPCO) in Maharashtra and the 250 MW single unit lignite based Neyveli Thermal Power Project of M/s. ST-CMS Electric Company in Tamil Nadu, through a revised procedure. Government of India counter-guarantee to these projects have been issued in August, 1999.

The Ib Valley project was re-negotiated by the Government of Orissa before construction could commence and, therefore, techno-economic clearance was issued afresh to this project on 26.2.1999. Issue of Counter Guarantee of Government of India was approved in the case of this project and the Mangalore Thermal Power Project of M/s. Cogentrix Energy Inc., on 22.12.1999.

(c) The tariff notification dated 30.3.1992 as amended from time to time, *inter-alia*, provides up to 16 per cent return on paid up and subscribed capital relating to the generating units generating companies to the concerted State Electricity Board at 68.49 per cent Plant Load Factor (PLF). For generation of above 68.49 per cent PLF an additional incentive of up to 0.7 per cent of paid up and subscribed capital, for each percentage point increase of PLF above the normative level of 68.49 per cent PLF, shall be payable.

(d) Under the revised procedure for extension of counter-guarantee of Government of India, it was, *inter alia*, decided that counter-guarantee will be given only for the event of termination and will be limited to the outstanding foreign debt only. Normally the counter-guarantee will remain in force for a period of 12 years from the date on which the power station is declared commercially operational.

(e) In a letter dated 11.2.2000, M/s. Cogentrix Energy Inc., the promoters of the Mangalore TPP have informed that they have transferred their interests in the Mangalore power project and Mangalore Power Company to China Light (Mauritius) Ltd., and have no further interest in the project or the Company. No reason has been given for taking such a decision.

*[Translation]***Setting up of New Petrol Pumps in Bihar**

440. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the number of new petrol pumps proposed to be set up in Bihar in the remaining period of the Ninth Five Year Plan, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): 289 retail outlets dealerships are to be set up in Bihar from the various approved Marketing Plans. Commissioning of the dealerships depends on various factors such as locations advertised, interviews held by the Dealer Selection Boards, candidates appearing for interview for each location, issue of LOIs to the candidates, obtaining of land and mandatory clearances etc. by the dealers select. It generally takes 6 to 12 months for commissioning of the dealerships from the date of interview.

Preservation of Forests and Wild Animals

441. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any special action plan for preservation of forests and wild animals belonging to rare species in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) The Government of India have not formulated any action plan for preservation of forests and wild animals belonging to rare species specially for Madhya Pradesh. Government of India have prepared National Forestry Action Programme for development of forests and National Wildlife Action Plan for wildlife conservation in the country. However, there is special scheme to rehabilitate a few Asiatic lions from Gir protected area (Gujarat) to Kuno-Palpur Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh as second home for Asiatic lions. Government of India is co-ordinating and funding the relocation of villages and also assisting in the rehabilitation programme at Kuno-Palpur.

*[English]***National Highways Authority of India**

442. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the present composition and areas of functioning of National Highways Authority of India; and

(b) the funds provided by the National Highways Authority of India to the States in 1998-99 and 1999-2000, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) consists of a Chairman, five full-time Members and four part-time Members. However, presently posts of one full-time Member and one part-time Member are vacant. NHAI has been entrusted with the following task:

(i) Implementation of National Highways Development Project consisting of Golden Quadrilateral connecting the four metros of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Calcutta and the North-South East-West corridors connecting Sri Nagar to Kanyakumari and Silchar to Saurashtra, respectively.

(ii) Development of roads leading to important ports.

(iii) Certain other National Highways projects, involving private sector participation.

(b) construction work related to NHAI programme is managed centrally by NHAI itself. However, maintenance funds made available to the States for the year 1999-2000 are as per the Statement attached. During the year 1998-99, maintenance of entrusted sections of National Highways was not with NHAI.

Statement**State-wise Release of Funds for Maintenance of National Highways during the year 1999-2000**

Sl.No.	State	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Haryana	241.21
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1187.51
3.	Orissa	1141.63

1	2	3
4.	Karnataka	1335.00
5.	Tamil Nadu	1671.52
6.	Gujarat	1482.00
7.	Maharashtra	867.00
8.	Uttar Pradesh	1568.16
9.	Bihar	246.75
10.	Rajasthan	1124.00
11.	West Bengal	948.79
12.	Delhi	24.00
Total:		11837.57

[Translation]

Committee on Village Public Telephones

443. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received the report of the Committee on the operation and development of telecom services in the rural areas especially in regard to the Village Public Telephones;

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

(c) if not, the time by which the report is likely to be submitted?

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

The Government has received the report of the Committee. Its recommendations are attached. These have been accepted and action for implementation has been initiated.

Statement

Recommendations of the Committee

- (i) Wireless in Local Loop "WLL" for rural telecom with a range of about 25 Kms. should be inducted throughout the country to provide quick

and efficient service. To start with, one WLL system of 500 lines capacity should be provided in every SDCA in all the circles having large number of Villages not yet having telecom facilities (VPTs). Procurement process should be advanced to ensure supply of WLL equipment for 2000-2001 latest by November 2000 and for 2001-2002 latest by April 2001. Vendors should be asked immediately to get their equipment validated. Coordinated planning for entire equipment should be completed by February 2000.

- (ii) The requirement of satellite terminals for remote and isolated areas is substantially higher. Suitable systems should be selected quickly. Suitable satellite terminals in required quantity may be procured from the market following usual procurement procedure.
- (iii) State-wise village data should be reviewed. Villages shown depopulated in the census report should be removed from village data. New revenue villages, if any, should be included in programme.
- (iv) VPTs should be provided preferably at grocery shops. Selection of operator/location should be decided departmentally.
- (v) VPTs should have STD facility. Existing VPTs also should be upgraded for STD facility progressively. Charge Indicator should be provided by the VPT (PCO) operator with all VPTs with STD facility within one year of the installation of the VPT.
- (vi) The security deposit to provide STD on VPTs should be reduced to Rs. 250/-. The condition of guarantee of minimum monetary revenue of Rs. 100/- should be removed.
- (vii) The operator's commission for VPT with STD facility should be same as applicable for rural STD PCO.
- (viii) Faulty MARR systems should be repaired. Unserviceable systems should be replaced. Status report should be obtained within 2 months. After covering remaining villages with VPTs, the MARR systems in the network should be replaced progressively.
- (ix) The VPTs disconnected for non-payment should be shifted to new location/operator after waiting for payment for 3 months.

- (x) FSPs have reiterated, in a meeting taken by MOS(C), their commitment to meet their obligation in respect of rural telecom (VPTs). They should be asked to intimate their Roll-out plan to the department and to start providing VPTs.
- (xi) We should look at access technologies based on optical fibre for specialised applications.
- (xii) Department of Telecom Services should facilitate so that the VPTs are upgraded to Public Tele Information Centres/Information Dhabas progressively. Hon'ble Speaker (Lok Sabha) and Chairman Rajya Sabha will be requested to allow MPLAD funds for providing computer support for internet connections in all Government aided schools and colleges.

Power Generation Capacity in Jammu and Kashmir

444. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the increase in the power generation capacity of each of the power stations in Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the more power generation capacity of these power stations in the state; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The year-wise power generation capacity of each of the power stations in J&K during the last three years, is as under:

(In MW)

Station	1996-97*	1997-98*	1998-99*
1	2	3	4
HYDRO			
1. Poonch	0.16	0.16	0.16
Rajouri	0.56	0.56	0.56
Bhaderwah	0.56	0.56	0.56
Jammu Canal	1.00	1.00	1.00
Stakna	4.00	4.00	4.00

1	2	3	4
Mohara	9.00	9.00	9.00
Gandarbhal	15.00	15.00	15.00
Upper Sindh	22.00	22.00	22.00
Channai-I	23.00	23.00	23.00
Lower Jhelum	105.00	105.00	105.00
Dearcordin	0.03	0.03	0.03
Kargll-Iqbal			
Bridge	3.75	3.75	3.75
Chanani-II	—	—	2.00
Kamah	—	—	2.00
Uri	480.00	480.00	480.00
Salal	690.00	690.00	690.00
GAS			
Pampore-I	75.00	75.00	75.00
Pampore-II	100.00	100.00	100.00
DIESEL			
Bemina Srinagar	5.00	5.00	5.00
Micro Diesel	1.76	1.76	3.94
Total	365.82	365.82	372.90

*Provisional.

(b) and (c) Out of these power stations, the capacity of the hydro power station at Upper Sindh is proposed to be raised by addition of 2 units of 35 MW, one of which has been rolled on 5.1.2000. Also, the capacity of hydro power station at Chennai is being raised by addition of 3 units of 2.5 MW each.

Setting up of Thermal Power Station in Uttar Pradesh

445. SHRI BABBAN RAJBHAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a thermal power station at Koiati Nuhan in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the survey work has been completed in this regard; and

(c) the time by which thermal power station is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) No specific proposal regarding setting up of thermal power station at Koiati Nuhan in Uttar Pradesh has been received in Central Electricity Authority.

[English]

Hydel and Thermal Power Projects In Arunachal Pradesh

446. SHRI JARBOM GAMLIN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of Hydel and Thermal Power projects to be started in the State of Arunachal Pradesh during the current year;

(b) the target dates fixed for their completion, project-wise; and

(c) the reasons for the delay in their commencement, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) No sanctioned Hydro/Thermal Power Projects above 3 MW is programmed to be started in the State of Arunachal Pradesh during the current year. However, Ranganadi H.E. Project (3x135 MW) is under execution by NEEPCO in Arunachal Pradesh and is likely to be commissioned during 2001-02.

The following small hydro power projects upto 3 MW capacity are under construction in the State Sector in Arunachal Pradesh:

- (1) Siddip (3 MW)
- (2) Sipit (2 MW)
- (3) Liromoba (2 MW)
- (4) Kitpi (3 MW)
- (5) Domkrone (2 MW)
- (6) Kush (2 MW)

None of the above projects are likely to be completed during the current financial year. The main reason for delay in completing these projects is lack of State Plan Allocations.

Further, NHPC is considering execution of small hydro schemes namely Kambang (2x1.5 MW), Sippi (2x1.5 MW)

and Jugdin (3x1 MW) in Arunachal Pradesh Agreement with Arunachal Pradesh has been signed on 11.1.2000 for Kambang Project. NHPC have signed an MOU with Government of Arunachal Pradesh in January, 2000 for the execution of Kambang project. The project is proposed to be completed within a period of two years after the approval of updated cost estimate by the Government of Arunachal Pradesh and the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources. The MOU for Sipp and Jugdin projects are yet to be signed and therefore, their target dates for completion are not known.

White Paper on Environment and Forests

447. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of proposed white paper on the environment and forests;

(b) the details of the action plan formulated to deal with the problems relating to the forests, wildlife and environment and projection of resources required to implement the same;

(c) the details of area identified for private/FDI participation and projections thereof;

(d) the details of action taken/proposed to implement the recommendations of the Experts Committee/Working Group;

(e) the present status thereof; and

(f) the details of other fresh policy initiatives taken/to be taken to address the major outstanding issues identified particularly in Maharashtra and the projects undertaken in the state during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The State of Environment Report, National Forestry Action Programme and the National Wildlife Action Plan address issues relating to environment, forests and wildlife. The total projections for Ninth Five Year Plan are Rs. 3013.84 crores.

(c) to (e) Private/FDI participation is encouraged in agroforestry, farm forestry as also in areas of water & air pollution. FDI in environment and forest sectors is regulated through the Foreign Investment Promotion Board of the Ministry of Industrial Policy & Promotion. There is no separate Expert Committee/Working Group on Private/FDI participation in the field of environment and forests.

(f) The proposed major policy initiatives includes plantation of bamboo, medicinal plants and city forests in the country including Maharashtra. The projects undertaken in the past year in Maharashtra are:

- Introduction of modern forest fire control methods.
- Association of Scheduled Tribes and rural poor in regeneration of degraded forests on usufruct sharing basis.
- Project Tiger.
- Eco Development around important protected areas.
- Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries.
- Integrated Afforestation and Eco Development Projects.
- Area oriented fuelwood and fodder Projects.
- Area oriented fuelwood and fodder Projects.
- Non-timber forest produce including medicinal plants.
- Conservation and management of Mangroves and Coral Reefs.

Construction of Bridge on NH-52

448. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken for implementation of the project for constructing a bridge on the National Highway-52 at Chowkighat so far;

(b) the estimated cost and other details including specifications of the bridge;

(c) whether the estimate has been sanctioned; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):
(a) State PWD is taking steps for getting model studies done by specialised agency for the proposed bridge.

(b) to (d) The estimated cost and other details cannot be indicated as the detailed project report is required to be reviewed in view of change in the course of the river on the basis of results of proposed model study.

National Highways in U.P.

449. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of National Highways in Uttar Pradesh constructed during the last three years;

(b) the details of expenditure incurred thereon during the said period;

(c) the targets fixed for the National Highways with regard to the State during the Eighth Five Year Plan and to extent to which the same have been achieved; and

(d) the amount of money earmarked for the New National Highways and maintenance work of the existing National Highways in U.P. for the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):
(a) and (b) 22 Nos. of National Highways in the State of U.P. were Development and maintained during the last three years. The expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years is indicated as under:

Year	NH (O) (in Rs. lakhs)	Externally aided	Maintenance & Repairs in Rs. lakhs)
1996-97	3000.00	4118.33	3469.05
1997-98	4631.16	6670.77	4703.98
1998-99	5808.39	4914.47	6071.10

(c) and (d) Provision of Rs. 323.65 crores was made in the Eighth Five Year Plan 1992-97 for construction of road and bridge works. Against this road and bridge works, amounting to Rs. 317.79 crores were sanctioned. Funds are not provided National Highway-wise, but to the State as a whole for development of all the NHs. In the Ninth Five Year Plan 1997-2002 an outlay of Rs. 761.55 crores has been tentatively fixed. Funds for the maintenance of NHs are provided year-wise and not collectively for a Five Year Plan period.

Maintenance and Development of N.H.-23

450. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highway No. 23 is not being properly maintained;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to develop the National Highway No. 23; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Development of National Highways is continuous process and is taken up as per plan programme depending upon inter-se priority and availability of resources. Provision has been made in Annual Plan 1999-2000 for development works amounting to Rs. 26.93 crore for this National Highway. Works amounting to Rs. 3.70 crore have already been sanctioned. In addition estimate for improvement of riding quality of 16 KMs amounting to Rs. 2.74 crore have also been sanctioned during this year.

Oil Refinery at Ganjam in Orissa

451. SHRI ANADI SAHU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Australia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for setting up an oil refinery at Ganjam district in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which work is likely to commence on the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) India has not signed any Memorandum of Understanding with Australia for setting up an oil refinery at Ganjam in Orissa.

Plying of Heavy Vehicles on Zuari Bridge

452. SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government restricted the plying of heavy vehicles on Zuari Bridge in Goa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which this bridge is likely to be opened for the heavy vehicles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The bridge has developed corrosion related distresses and, therefore, the traffic restriction was imposed for safety reasons.

(c) The bridge is targetted to be opened to heavy vehicles in January, 2001.

Recommendations of National Plastics Waste Management Board

453. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have since considered the recommendations of the National Plastics Waste Management Task Force; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The Government considered the recommendations of the National Plastics Waste Management Task Force and notified the Recycled Plastics Manufacture and Usage Rules, 1999 on September 2, 1999 in The Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii). These rules prohibit the use of carry bags or containers made of recycled plastics for storing, carrying, dispensing, or packaging of foodstuffs. Carry bags and containers made of virgin plastics shall be in natural shade or white. Others may use pigments and colourants as per BIS specifications. Carry bags made of plastics shall not be less than 20 microns thick. Also, re-cycling of plastics shall be undertaken strictly in accordance with the BIS specifications.

Projects Pending Clearance in Kerala

454. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects from the Government of Kerala for getting Environmental clearance pending before the Union Government at present; and

(b) the reasons for delay in giving the environmental clearance, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Only one project proposal namely Shore Crude Oil Tank Farm of Cochin Refineries Ltd. has been received recently (24.1.2000) and is under process.

Recommendations of NHRC on Voting Rights

455. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations of the National Human Rights Commission in respect of voting rights to the Indian citizens residing in the Indian Enclaves surrounded by Bangladesh alongwith the date on which these were made;

(b) the action taken by the Government to implement the recommendations of the National Human Rights Commission so far and reasons for delay in implementation of the same; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (c) The National Human Rights Commission has stated that it had received complaints regarding non-implementation of the order dated 9.1.1996 of the hon'ble Supreme Court of India directing the authorities to take necessary action for registration of Chakmas in Arunachal Pradesh for citizenship according to law wherein it was alleged that due to denial of citizenship rights, the Chakmas and Hajongs in Arunachal Pradesh would not be able to exercise their right of franchise in the then impending Lok Sabha Elections. The Commission on consideration of the reports of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the State of Arunachal Pradesh and being satisfied with the assurance given by them that they were taking action in compliance with the hon'ble Supreme Court's directions treated the matter as closed with the observation that in the event of any further grievance being left the complainants were free to work out their remedies in accordance with law before the Court.

Scheme of LPG Connections In U.P.

456. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme of LPG connection on demand has been introduced in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of LPG connection released under this scheme in the State and the amount of deposits collected from consumers so far; and

(d) the step taken to clear the waiting list of LPG connection in the State, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The LPG connections have been released on demand in Hilly Areas/Taj Trapezium Area and Under Tatkal Scheme in Uttar Pradesh. The total connection released by the Oil Companies in the State during the period April-December, 99 is 93160. The normal deposit amount for a single cylinder connection is Rs. 1000/-. The amount collected under Tatkal Scheme is Rs. 4000/- per connection.

(d) Government has a plan to release 1 crore LPG connections during the year 2000 to clear all waiting list registered with the distributors of PSU Oil Companies as on 1-12-1999.

Exclusion of Kerala from CRZ

457. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land affected by the restrictions under the Coastal Regulation Zone, State-wise;

(b) the percentage of land under the Kerala State coming under this zone;

(c) whether the State has requested for its exclusion from the Coastal Regulation Zone; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The area under the Coastal Regulation Zone can only be arrived at after the final approval of the Coastal Zone Management Plans. The Coastal Zone Management Plans submitted by the coastal States and Union Territories were approved provisionally by the Ministry of Environment and Forests subject to the fulfilment of conditions specified in the approval letters issued in September, 1996.

(c) The State Government of Kerala requested for relaxation in the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 1991 to accommodate the unique characteristics of Kerala.

(d) The request of the State Government of Kerala was considered in the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Balakrishna Nair Committee was constituted in December, 1996 to examine the issues raised. The Committee submitted its report in March, 1997. Some of the accepted recommendations of this were incorporated in an amendment to the CRZ Notification, 1991 issued on 9th July, 1997. The recommendations regarding criteria for reduction of the CRZ along rivers, estuaries; creeks and backwaters and infrastructure development and residential construction in the No Development Zone of the CRZ in Kerala were referred to the Saldanha Committee in June 1997 for further examination in the context of the CRZ in the entire country. The recommendations of the Saldanha Committee, received in September, 1998, were incorporated in a draft amendment to the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 issued on 5th August, 1999.

Indian Shippers Used by Petronet

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

(a) whether the Government have directed the Petronet to use only Indian shippers for the purpose of gas transportation to the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the specialised ships are required by the Petronet; and

(d) if so, the steps Petronet propose to take to involve the Indian Shipping Industry in this venture?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Pre-qualification Bid documents floated by Petronet LNG Ltd. (PLL) for transportation of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) provide that the bidder will be required to associate

an Indian Shipping Company in the ownership and operation of the LNG tanker and offer training programme to Indian personnel.

Restructuring of N.H.A.I.

459. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to restructure the National Highways Authority of India; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal is not yet finalized.

Corporatisation of Department of Telecommunications

460. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under the consideration of the Government for breaking up the Department of Telecommunications into five separate corporations to kick-start a next wave of reforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a seminar has been taken place on managing the globalising trends organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry;

(d) if so, the details regarding the suggestions/recommendations made therein; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to break up the Department of Telecommunications into five separate corporations. However, in pursuance of the provisions of the New Telecom Policy 1999 to separate the policy and licensing functions from the service provision functions as a precursor to corporatisation, the Department of Telecom

Services, has been created on 15th October 99 to handle the service provision functions.

(c) to (e) Confederation of Indian Industry had organised a seminar on Global Trends in the Communication Industry on 10th February 2000 at New Delhi. The Conference deliberated on several issues like provision of level playing field to the private operators vis-a-vis the incumbent, license fee structures to support the infrastructure development objectives rather than viewed to augment the exchequer, Universal Service Obligation related issues and the need of having an Empowered and Independent Regulator. These issues have been addressed under NTP 99 and the TRAI (Amendment) Ordinance 2000 promulgated recently.

Internet Services

461. SHRI T. M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether VSNL Internet subscribers registered with the Salem Telecom district are deprived of said facility;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation for providing Internet service for Salem Telecom District; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir, VSNL is not registering any subscriber in Salem Telecom District.

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

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Two numbers of Internet Routers have been provided at Salem for the Internet subscribers of Salem and Dharmapuri SSAs. Internet nodes at Salem and Namakkal Revenue Districts in Salem Secondary Switching Area will be installed soon.

[Translation]

Post Offices in Rajasthan

462. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices functioning in Rajasthan during the last one year district-wise, category-wise;

(b) the number of post offices out of them functioning as on date and lying closed;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation to revive the closed post offices;

(d) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard;

(e) the schemes formulated by the Government for the expansion of post offices/postal facilities in the State;

(f) the number of post offices functioning in rented building at present and the number of those against which eviction cases are going on in the State during the last one year; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to provide buildings to the post offices in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Total 10371 post offices functioning in Rajasthan as on 31.3.1999. District-wise category-wise details are given in enclosed Statement.

(b) Total number of post offices functioning as on date is 10369. Two post offices, namely Topdara Sub Office (Ajmer) and Bisalpur Dam Extra Departmental Sub Office (Tonk), have been closed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No merit has been found to revive these closed post offices.

(e) Targets for opening of 27 new Branch Post Offices, 2 Sub Post Offices and 40 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras have been fixed for the year 1999-2000 for Rajasthan.

(f) 1200 post offices are functioning in rented buildings in Rajasthan. The landlords have filed civil suits for vacation of their buildings in 59 rental cases.

(g) Steps are being taken to construct departmental buildings as per plan projection outlay subject to the availability of funds.

Statement*Classified Details of Post Office in the District as on 31.3.1999*

S.No.	Name of District	Heads Offices		Deptt. Sub Office		Extra Deptt.		Extra Deptt.		Total	
		Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	S.O.s		B.O.s		Post Office	
						Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Ajmer	4	Nil	68	37	6	Nil	6	310	84	347
2.	Alwar	3	Nil	33	35	1	1	Nil	418	37	454
3.	Banswara	Nil	Nil	6	16	Nil	Nil	Nil	252	7	268
4.	Baran	Nil	Nil	7	8	Nil	1	Nil	181	7	190
5.	Bharatpur	4	Nil	37	19	1	2	4	347	46	368
6.	Barmer	1	Nil	7	27	Nil	1	Nil	441	8	469
7.	Bhilwara	1	Nil	29	18	2	7	Nil	334	32	369
8.	Bikaner	1	Nil	30	14	1	3	Nil	172	32	189
9.	Bundi	1	Nil	11	9	Nil	Nil	Nil	155	12	164
10.	Chittorgarh	1	Nil	23	22	1	5	3	343	28	370
11.	Churu	2	Nil	35	14	1	2	Nil	341	38	357
12.	Dausa	1	Nil	7	21	Nil	Nil	Nil	211	8	232
13.	Dhaulpur	1	Nil	6	12	Nil	2	Nil	166	7	180
14.	Dungarpur	1	Nil	6	24	Nil	Nil	Nil	267	6	291
15.	Hanumangarh	1	Nil	18	9	Nil	1	1	209	20	219
16.	Jaipur	5	Nil	96	38	Nil	4	2	453	103	495
17.	Jalore	1	Nil	7	18	Nil	2	Nil	237	8	257
18.	Jaisalmer	1	Nil	6	14	1	Nil	Nil	132	8	146
19.	Jhalawar	1	Nil	9	12	Nil	Nil	Nil	228	10	240
20.	Jhunjunu	2	Nil	32	35	Nil	8	Nil	336	34	379
21.	Jodhpur	2	Nil	48	17	Nil	1	Nil	330	50	348
22.	Karauli	1	Nil	7	19	Nil	Nil	Nil	220	8	239
23.	Kota	2	Nil	36	12	1	Nil	2	143	41	155
24.	Nagaur	3	Nil	23	36	2	12	Nil	466	28	514
25.	Pali	1	1	25	34	Nil	5	Nil	311	26	351
26.	Rajsamand	1	Nil	6	16	1	2	Nil	184	8	202

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
27.	Sawaimadhopur	2	Nil	8	20	Nil	Nil	Nil	183	10	203
28.	Sikar	4	Nil	25	47	Nil	14	Nil	375	29	436
29.	Sirohi	1	Nil	15	10	Nil	1	1	150	17	161
30.	Sriganganagar	1	Nil	19	17	Nil	1	Nil	287	20	305
31.	Tonk	1	Nil	13	11	Nil	3	Nil	192	14	206
32.	Udaipur	1	1	24	32	4	3	3	423	32	459
Total		53	2	729	673	22	81	22	8797	818	9553

SUMMARY

S.No.	Category	Urban	Rural	Total
1.	Head Post Offices	53	2	55
2.	Sub Post Offices	721	673	1394
3.	Extra Departmental Sub Post Offices	22	81	103
4.	Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices	22	8797	8819
Total		818	9553	10371

*[English]***Allotment of LPG Agencies in Gujarat**

463. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether number of Tehsils in Gujarat do not have LPG agencies; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken to provide LPG agencies at such places of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) As per the existing policy LPG distributorships are set up in different parts of the country including Gujarat as per the following norms:

- To cover all urban locations irrespective of its viability with a population of 10000 and above

taking into account potential of adjoining villages within a radius of 15 Kms.

- All urban viable locations having population of 5000 and above taking into account the potential of adjoining villages within 15 KM radius.
- Cluster of villages within 15 KM radius of nucleus villages having a population of 10000 and above.
- Villages within 15 KM radius around the towns having population of 1 lakh and above for opening rural distributorships.

Accordingly, LPG Marketing Plan 1996-98 has been formulated.

To meet the increased demand of LPG, 125 LPG distributorships have been included in the LPG Marketing Plan 1996-98 for Gujarat.

[Translation]

Telephone Connections in Post Offices of U.P.

464. SHRI MANOJ SINHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telephone connections have been provided in all the post offices in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the number of post offices where this facility is yet to be provided; and

(c) the time by which the telephone connections are likely to be provided in all the post offices of the State?

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

(b) 949 departmental Sub Post Offices in Uttar Pradesh Circle do not have telephone connections.

(c) Telephone Connections to the Post Offices not having the same will be provided by telecom authorities subject to availability of resources.

[English]

Toll Tax Collection Centres on NH-16

465. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of toll tax collection centres set up on National Highway No. 16 between Bhusawal and Nagpur, location-wise; and

(b) since when these centres have been functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) No toll collection centre exists at present on the National Highway between Bhusawal and Nagpur.

(b) Does not arise.

Discharge of untreated Industrial Effluents into Yamuna

466. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI:

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

(a) whether the Supreme Court has recently asked the Union Government to take harsh decisions in the interest of public health to ban discharge of untreated industrial effluents into the Yamuna by industries in Delhi and Haryana;

(b) if so, whether the Central Pollution Control Board have since contemplated any action to restrict the industries polluting river;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which an action plan to clean the river would also be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Central Pollution Control Board has formulated an action plan to monitor the pollution of river Yamuna on account of discharge of municipal sewage and industrial effluents. The Board regularly holds meetings with different agencies such as the Delhi Pollution Control Committee, the State Pollution Control Boards of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana and the Delhi Jal Board to monitor the progress of the action plan. The Delhi Pollution Control Committee has issued closure directions including disconnection of electricity and water during 18th November, 1999 to 10th February, 2000 to nearly 2300 water polluting units for not complying with the prescribed discharge standards. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi have constituted two Vigilance Squads to take action against these defaulting units. Haryana State Pollution Control Board has also identified 302 industrial units which were discharging effluents into river Yamuna directly or indirectly. Out of this, 135 units are complying with discharge standards, 48 units have closed down on their own, 12 units have been closed by the direction of Board, 24 units have been issued closure notices by the Board and the remaining 83 units are facing legal action under the Environmental Laws.

(d) The Yamuna Action Plan to clean the river Yamuna is already under implementation.

LPG Bottling Plants

467. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG bottling plants operating in the country as on December 31, 1999 with capacity thereof, State-wise;

(b) the details of the new LPG bottling plants approved/sanctioned and where work on the projects is at various stages of execution during the last three years;

(c) the details of ongoing projects of the Ministry in Maharashtra and review of their progress in terms of targets set and achieved made during current year; and

(d) the details of new LPG bottling plants likely to be set up in 2000-2001 which location thereof in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) As on 31.12.1999, there were total 117 bottling plants of PSU Oil Companies in the country with the total installed bottling capacity of 4516 TMTPA. In order to meet the future packed LPG demand, plans have been drawn by oil industry to augment the LPG bottling capacity

in the country from 4516 TMTPA as on 31.12.1999 to 7562 TMTPA by the end of IX Plan.

(c) The details of the on-going projects in the Maharashtra are given in enclosed Statement.

(d) The new LPG bottling plants proposed to be set up in the Maharashtra are at the following locations:

Location	Capacity (TMTPA)
Nagpur	22
Nagpur	22
Vasai	10
Nasik	22
Nasik	44
Satara	22

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Company	Progress
1.	DHDS Project at HPC Refinery	HPCL	Anticipated completion March 2000
2.	Revamp of FCCU at BPC Refinery	BPCL	Process design finalised. Revised date of completion April 2001
3.	BPC Refinery Modernisation Project	BPCL	Process Licensor selection in progress. Schedule completion in May 2001.
4.	POL Jetty at JNPT	BPCL/IO CL	Schedule completion is Feb 2002.
5.	Additional Co-generation Plant at Uran	ONGC	Schedule completion is December, 2000

Restoration of MARR System

468. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the total rural Telecommunication system has collapsed due to use of sub-standard materials under the MARR service;

(b) if so, the number of Telephones under MARR system functioning and out of order at present in the

West Bengal particularly in Jalpaiguri and Coochbehar districts, exchange-wise; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to restore the system?

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

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

16 out of 262 telephones (6.1%) under MARR System in Coochbehar and 57 out of 529 telephones (10.7%) under MARR system in Jalpaiguri and 887 out of 11713 telephones (7.6%) under MARR system in the State of West Bengal are out of order present.

(c) Annual maintenance contract has been made with the supplier companies and a Circle repairing Centre is functioning since June, 1998 for quick restoration of faulty system.

[Translation]

Reforms in Power Sector

469. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAULTALA:
SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH:
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government themselves or with the help of certain financial institutions have conducted a through study to undertake reforms in the power sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Power Minister recently held a meeting with the Chief Ministers of the States to firm up a strategy for reforms in this sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of the interaction held with the World Bank and International Financial Corporation (IFC) in respect of the reform process and the agreement arrived at in this context, if any; and

(f) the complete action plan of the Government for undertaking the reforms in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (f) The Government of India took the initiative to promote the reforms process in the power sector. A concerted effort was made to evolve a consensus on the need and structure of reforms. The Government of India commissioned various studies by engaging consultants. Ms. V.S. Rekha, Legal Consultant was engaged to review the existing Central Electricity Acts and suggest an

amended and consolidated Central Law which would meet the requirements of liberalisation of the electricity sector. The Administrative Staff College of India conducted studies on the restructuring of regulatory system in the power sector in India. A one-man Committee headed by Shri S.J. Coelho, former Chairman of Gujarat Electricity Board looked into the problems facing the distribution sector. The Government of India also organised Chief Ministers'/ Power Ministers' conferences to evolve a consensus on the power sector reforms.

Recently, the Ministry of Power had asked the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) as a consultant, to suggest legislative changes if considered necessary to accelerate the reform process.

The NCAER has submitted a draft Electricity Bill to replace the existing three electricity laws (The Indian Electricity Act, 1910. The Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 and The Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998). The draft Bill suggests corporatisation of all the State Electricity Boards and their restructuring into separate entities that would provide for accountability based on profit centres, whether public or private; and setting up or reinforcing the Regulatory Commissions on the lines of the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998. It stresses the need for efficiency and competition with the objective of providing reliable power supply to all consumers at competitive prices. It also provides for a clear delineation of roles and responsibilities.

In order to generate a national debate on the issue and to evolve a consensus on the draft Bill suggested by NCAER, its copies have been circulated to all concerned for their comments, suggestions and advice. The draft Bill suggests corporatisation of all the State Electricity Boards and their restructuring into separate entities that would provide for accountability based on profit centres, whether public or private; and setting up or reinforcing the Regulatory Commissions on the lines of the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998. It stresses the need for efficiency and competition with the objective of providing reliable power supply to all consumers at competitive prices. It also provides for a clear delineation of roles and responsibilities.

The Conference of Power Ministers' of States was held on 26.2.2000 with a view to reviewing the status of reforms in States. The conference reiterated the need for reforms in a cohesive manner, involving setting up of Regulatory Commissions, reorganisation of State Electricity Boards, full audit of energy flow at all levels, effective elimination of power theft, tariffs which provide for commercial viability, design and implementation of cost effective investment for improving the sub-transmission and distribution network, etc.

The states of Orissa, Haryana and Andhra Pradesh have undertaken reforms with the World Bank assistance. Necessary loan agreements have been signed in this regard. Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar have availed Project Preparation Facility from the World Bank for initiating reforms in power sector.

It is for the State Governments to prepare a detailed action plan for undertaking reforms in line with the consensus arrived at in the Chief Ministers'/Power Ministers' Conference.

[*English*]

Augmentation of Central Road Fund

470. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the revised Resolution Governing Central Road Fund, passed by Parliament in 1998, 5% of basic of petrol and diesel is to be utilised for augmenting the Central Road Fund;

(b) if so, whether the State Government of Karnataka has requested the Union Government to release an amount of Rs. 110 crore under the Central Road Fund to improve the State Highways and construct many old and narrow bridges on the State Highways;

(c) if so, the details of projects submitted by the State Government; and

(d) the reaction of Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) A large number of schemes have been sent by the State Government of Karnataka from time to time in the past. However, as the revised resolution of 1988 has not yet been implemented by the Government, all the schemes could not be considered for approval. But having regard to the accrual based on the consumption of petrol as per the 1977 resolution of Parliament, as many as 24 schemes with a Central Road Fund share of Rs. 1314.83 lakhs have been sanctioned for the State of Karnataka since 1988.

[*Translation*]

Installation of Telephone Connections

471. DR. BALIRAM:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telephones have not been installed even after issuing of O.B.;

(b) if so, the number of such cases lying pending in Delhi till date, exchange-wise;

(c) whether the directions to install telephones on priority basis are not being complied with by the officials especially, in the trans-Yamuna;

(d) if so, the details in this regard and the action taken by the Government in the matter;

(e) whether the Government have reviewed the functioning of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited in Delhi in as much as it relates to the aforesaid issue; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Some of the telephone have not been installed after the issue of OBs in areas which are not technically feasible due to non-availability of underground cable pairs/exchanges capacity constraints. Telephone Connections are being provided for feasible OBs.

(b) The exchange-wise details of pending cases as on 21.02.2000 is enclosed in the given statement.

(c) The directions to install the telephones on priority basis given by the competent authority in Trans-Yamuna area are generally being complied, subject to technical feasibility.

(d) The exchange-wise details of pending priority cases due to temporary non-feasibility in Trans-Yamuna area is given below:

Laxmi Nagar	Yauna Vihar	Shahdara	Loni Road	Total
7	2	3	2	14

Efforts are being made to clear the above priority cases very shortly by installation of new network.

(e) and (f) The provision of new telephones and other developmental work in MTNL is being monitored in Telecommunications Headquarters on a regular basis.

Statement

*Exchange-wise Details of Pending Cases
as on 21.2.2000*

Exchange	No. of OBs Pending as on 21.2.2000		
	TF	TNF	Total
1	2	3	4
Janpath	43	426	469
Kidwai Bhawan	97	39	136
Sena Bhawan	2	62	64
Rajpath	21	10	31
Jor Bagh	265	701	966
CGO	148	225	373
Idgah	1789	3797	5586
Tis Hazari	339	2882	3221
Delhi Gate	1897	1200	3097
Laxmi Nagar	4251	3742	7993
Viswas Nagar	527	390	917
Karkardooma	120	114	234
Mayur Vihar-I	797	96	893
Mayur Vihar-II	944	2214	3158
Shahadara	2758	3479	6237
Zafraabad	295	600	895
Loni Road	649	492	1141
Yamuna Vihar	2871	5832	8703
Shakti Nagar	3317	5482	8799
Rohini Sec. III	1931	1348	3279
Saraswati Vihar	667	293	960
Rohini Sec. VI	766	835	1601
Rohini Sec. IX	380	—	380

1	2	3	4
U. Pitampura	134	33	167
Keshavpuram	1271	760	2031
Badli	1249	2082	3331
Alipur	187	538	725
Narela	36	887	923
Bawana	908	217	1125
BCP	732	374	1106
Chanakyapuri	96	—	96
Vasant Vihar	39	—	39
Hauz Khas	635	2534	3169
Vasant Kunj	832	212	1044
Chattarpur	196	1026	1222
Nehru Place	3054	3696	6750
Asiad Village	124	8	132
Sadiq Nagar	237	291	528
Okhla	1579	2448	4027
Sarita Vihar	1928	475	2403
Tehkhand	491	515	1006
Tughlaqabad	1431	6781	8212
Karol Bagh	3042	2693	5735
Sadipur	535	152	667
Janakpuri	1531	556	2087
Pankha Road	2570	3013	5583
Najafgarh	1049	1107	2156
Delhi Cantt.	147	473	620
Palam	6	343	349
NITC	85	44	129
Samalkha	129	267	396
Dwarka	3206	3489	6695
Rajouri Garden	3318	2421	5739
Hari Nagar	264	198	462
PVR	308	64	372
Nangloi	18	6617	6635
G. Total	56241	78603	134844

*[English]***Use of LPG Kits in Vehicles**

472. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has given recognition to LPG kit being used in vehicles to stop air pollution and propose to enact any legislation in this regard;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken so far to check the clandestine manufacture/import of LPG kits in the country?

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

(b) and (c) No time frame can be given for enacting such a legislation.

(d) Instructions have been issued to the State Governments/UTs to abide by the existing provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 in respect of the use of LPG as an auto fuel.

Withdrawal of Subsidy on Kerosene

473. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI:
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to withdraw or reduce the subsidy on kerosene;

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

(c) the manner in which it is proposed to protect the interests of the poor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a)

to (c) The Government had decided in November, 1997 that subsidy on Kerosene (PDS) will be reduced in phases to reach the level of 33.33% of the import parity price by 2001-2002. The subsidy will be transferred to the fiscal budget from the year 2002 onwards.

*[Translation]***Condition of National Highway-31**

474. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highway No. 31 is in a bad condition in the absence of repairs;

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

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps in respect of water logging on both sides of the Highway from Maheshkund to Gerabari;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the funds allocated and spent by the Government for the repair and maintenance work of this National Highway during last three years and till date;

(f) whether the Government propose to get it repaired through a Central agency; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) National Highway-31 is being maintained generally in traffic worthy condition within available resources.

(c) and (d) Bihar Road Construction Department has been advised to undertake investigations in consultation with State Irrigation Department and Railways to formulate proposals for protective work for National Highway from Maheshkund to Gerabari.

(e) Allocations for maintenance and repairs are made State-wise and not National Highway-wise. During last three years, funds as under were allocated to the

concerned States for maintenance/repairs of National Highways including National Highway-31:

(Rs. in crore)

	Bihar	West Bengal	Assam	Total
1996-97	21.94	20.82	10.07	52.83
1997-98	34.11	32.65	11.63	78.39
1998-99	33.37	27.58	28.16	89.11
1999-2000	53.68	30.00	33.99	117.67
Total	143.10	111.05	83.85	338.00

(f) No. Sir.

(g) The responsibility of maintenance/repairs of the National Highway has been entrusted to the concerned State Government under Agency system.

[English]

Improvement in Services by LPG Dealers

475. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH:
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

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

(a) whether any efforts have been made to ensure that LPG distributors of major oil companies improve their service and behaviour towards the general public;

(b) if so, whether the public are not properly and courteously served by the distributors;

(c) whether any consumer camps have been organised by IOC, HPCL or BPCL anywhere in the country to improve liaison with the public; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Oil Companies conduct elaborate regular/surprise checks and inspections of functioning of their LPG distributors and also investigate complaints on their receipt. Suitable action is also taken against the erring distributors as per LPG distributorship agreement etc., from time to time.

(c) and (d) To render efficient/prompt service to the consumers and to redress their grievances on the spot, the field officers of oil companies operate customer service cells at the distributors premises on specified dates.

Proposal for Corporatisation of Major Ports

476. DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI:
SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Corporatisation of major ports is being undertaken;

(b) if so, the ports selected for the purpose; and

(c) its implication on Government cargo and the manner in which the safety and security of water transport is going to be ensured?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) and (b) A decision has been taken for phased corporatisation of existing Major Ports starting with the new Major Port at Ennore followed by Jawaharlal Nehru and Haldia Ports.

(c) Corporatization involves converting the Major Ports into companies. The statutory requirement pertaining to safety and security of water transport would be applicable to these companies also. Similarly, the Government cargo would continue to be governed on the basis of instructions issued from time-to-time.

Drilling on the River Brahmaputra by Oil India Limited

477. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil India Limited is planning to go for drilling on the river bed of Brahmaputra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Oil India Limited is at present planning to acquire 2D seismic data through contract services over parts of Brahmaputra river bed. Based on the results of interpretation of this data, OIL will study the feasibility of taking up exploratory drilling in this logistically difficult area.

Demand of LPG in Madhya Pradesh

478. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the supply of LPG made to Madhya Pradesh alongwith the demand thereof during the years 1998 and 1999 separately;

(b) whether the LPG cylinders are in short supply in the said State;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The sale of LPG by the PSU Oil Companies in the state of Madhya Pradesh during 1997-98 and 1998-99 are given as under:—

Year	LPG Sale (TMT)
1997-98	209.7
1998-99	228.5

The demand of LPG customers of the PSU Oil Companies in the country has been, by and large, met. Presently no shortage in supply of LPG cylinders in the State of Madhya Pradesh has been reported. However, whenever LPG backlog develops, PSU Oil Companies take various measures including maximising imports, operating the bottling plants on extended hours/Sundays and holidays, etc. to meet the demand in the affected markets.

Policy on Petroleum Production for New Millennium

479. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have initiated any policy measures to meet the challenge and need of petroleum production and products for new millennium;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government would be able to achieve self-sufficiency in this sector;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The following policy initiatives were taken by the Government in the hydrocarbon sector in recent past to meet the challenges of the future years which will encompass the first decade of the new millennium.

- (i) Grant of greater financial and operational autonomy to Navratna companies namely Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited and Gas Authority of India Limited.
- (ii) Encouraging the participation of private/joint venture companies to attract capital investment.
- (iii) Announcement of New Exploration Licensing Policy in order to boost exploration activities in the country. The policy provides fiscal and contractual concessions and provides level playing field both for private investors and national oil companies.
- (iv) Encouraging the exploration and exploitation of alternate hydrocarbon resources like Coal Bed Methane and gas hydrates.
- (v) Improvement in recovery factor from the major oil producing fields and extension of exploration activities to unexplored basins and deep water.

(c) to (e) Present indigenous oil production and demand scenario indicate that goal of self-sufficiency may not be achieved in the near future as the rate of increase in demand is outstripping the rate of indigenous production.

[Translation]

Special Facilities to Senior Citizens

480. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide any special facilities to the senior citizens; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Instructions have already been issued on 5th October 1999 that Senior Citizens of the Age 65 years and above can register one telephone connection in their names under N-OYT-Special category. A copy of it has been given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Subject: Provision of Telephone Connection on priority to Senior Citizens.

As a welfare gesture, it has been decided that the senior citizens of the Age 65 years and above shall be entitled to register their demand for one telephone connection in their names under "Non-OYT-Special" Category. Telephones thus provided shall be transferable only in the name of spouse, if alive after death of the subscriber as a general category telephone and subsequent transfers shall be governed by prevailing telephone transfer rules.

Wide Publicity may please be given to above scheme.

-Sd-

S.K. Bhardwaj
Asst. Director General (PHA)

[English]

Manipulation of ISD Facility

481. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:
KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:
SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the new-item captioned "Mumbai dons chat, MTNL foots bills" appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated January 4, 2000;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Unauthorised use of ISD facility from two telephone lines at Mumbai has been detected and these lines have since been disconnected. The case has been made over to Mumbai Police for further detailed investigation.

(c) As a preventive measure, suitable modifications in the systems have been implemented after detailed study of different technologies to stop such misuse. All field units have also been instructed to keep special watch to prevent such possible misuse.

Rationalisation of Pollution Norms

482. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to rationalise the pollution norms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the role of State Pollution Control Boards in the wake of this move;

(d) whether any concrete proposal is under consideration to meet the threat of pollution by this move; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) Environmental standards have been notified by the Government under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 which are adopted by the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs). However, the SPCBs may prescribe more stringent norms depending upon the local conditions.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Thermal Power Plant in U.P.

483. SHRI BABBAN RAJBHAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to set up a Thermal Power Plant at Koili Mohan Siyar in Ballia district, Uttar Pradesh was cleared ten years back and a survey for the plant has also been conducted;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to set up the same at the said site;

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) No proposal for setting up a thermal power station at Koili Mohan Siyar in Ballia District, Uttar Pradesh has been received in Central Electricity Authority (CEA). However, a proposal of Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board (UPSEB) to instal 3x250 MW power station at Belthara Road in District Ballia was received in CEA on 8.11.1992. As the proposal was submitted without tying up of any inputs such as water, fuel, environment, etc., UPSEB was requested in February, 1994 to do the needful and resubmit the scheme. There has been no response from UPSEB, thereafter.

[*English*]

Anti-National Operations by NRI's

484. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the NRIs have installed highly sophisticated but unauthorisedly, satellite communication network in some parts of the country linking them up with the European Commercial Satellites and the said satellites are alleged to be used by terrorists and ISI agents for anti-national operations; and

(b) if so, whether the Government have identified the people connected with these operations and the steps taken to bring them to book and smash the network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TARAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Few cases of illegal network operating through

satellite were unearthed in the country. Investigations in the case have been taken up by CBI. As regards terrorists link and identification of the operators, the same may be known only after CBI investigations are completed.

[*Translation*]

Construction of Bridges on Mugal National Highway in U.P.

485. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bridges under construction on Delhi-Kanpur via Itawah Mugal National Highway;

(b) the time by which these bridges are likely to be constructed on the said National Highway;

(c) the amount of expenditure incurred on improving the dilapidated condition of the National Highway during the last three years and the current year;

(d) whether any schemes to construct a bye-pass on this National Highway in Itawah was approved;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which the bye-pass is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) Presently only one bridge (flyover) is under construction on NH-2 at Agra.

(b) March 2000.

(c) The expenditure incurred on the improvement and maintenance of all the National Highways in the State of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years and in the current year is indicated as under:

Year	NH (Development works) (in Rs. Lakhs)	Externally aided projects (in Rs. Lakhs)	Maintenance & Repairs (in Rs. Lakhs)
1996-97	3000.00	4118.33	3469.05
1997-98	4631.16	6670.77	4703.98
1998-99	5808.39	4914.47	6071.10
1999-2000 (January 2000)	4373.98	1967.03	4065.44

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir, two wide Etawah bypass, 7.3 km in length under Phase-I has already been constructed by U.P. P.W.D. Project preparation for construction of 4 lane in balance portion of 6.7 km. and widening to four lane of 7.3 km. constructed under Phase-I is in progress by NHAI.

(f) It is too early to indicate the time by which the balance portion of Etawah bypass under Phase-II will be constructed.

Selection of Agencies by Oil Selection Board

486. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the places for which LPG agencies and Diesel/ Petrol pump dealerships have been sanctioned and selection process for granting the same by Oil Selection Board is in progress in the country, State-wise;

(b) the States where Oil Selection Board is not in existence along with the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by which selection boards are likely to be constituted in these States;

(d) the names of the States where Oil Selection Boards were dissolved during the last three years; and

(e) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (e) 927 retail outlet dealerships and 2078 LPG distributorships have been included in the current Marketing Plan 1996-98 for the country. However, selection process has been kept in abeyance all over the country from July, 1999 with the announcement of General Elections.

The Dealer Selection Boards, have been dissolved recently. The new Dealer Selection Boards are likely to be constituted in near future.

[English]

Construction of Buildings of Post Offices

487. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI:
SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices functioning and the number out of them in rental buildings in the country particularly, in Vijayawada district as on date, State-wise;

(b) the amount paid by the Government as rent during the current financial year;

(c) whether the Government propose to construct the buildings for the post offices at those places;

(d) whether the Government have adopted or propose to adopt any measures to ensure that all the post offices may have their own building;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The total number of post offices functioning in the country is 154149. The total number of post offices functioning in rented buildings in the country is 22128. State-wise detail is given in Statement. The number of post offices functioning in rented buildings in Krishna (Vijayawada) district is 145.

(b) An amount of approximately Rs. 21 crores has been paid so far by the Government as rent during the current financial year.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Government proposes to construct buildings of the post offices at these places subject to availability of suitable land and financial resources.

(d) The long term planning is to house all departmental post offices in the buildings owned by the department as far as possible. This is subject to availability of land and financial resources.

(e) During the current financial year a sum of Rs. 21 crores is likely to be spent on construction of departmental buildings.

(f) Not applicable in view of (e) above.

Statement

Name of State	No. of Post Offices functioning in rented buildings as on date
1	2
1. Andhra Pradesh	2183
2. Assam	445

1	2
3. Bihar	1382
4. Delhi	289
5. Gujarat	1203
6. Haryana	399
7. Himachal Pradesh	397
8. Jammu & Kashmir	223
9. Karnataka	1503
10. Kerala	1260
11. Madhya Pradesh	1158
12. Maharashtra	1867
Goa	93
13. North East	
Arunachal Pradesh	34
Manipur	46
Meghalaya	37
Mizoram	29
Nagaland	25
Tripura	57
14. Orissa	970
15. Punjab	637
16. Rajasthan	1202
17. Tamil Nadu	2572
18. Uttar Pradesh	2599
19. West Bengal	1518
Total:	22128

Village Public Telephones

488. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:
SHRI RAMSHAKAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has taken a decision to formulate a policy for the

expansion of telephone system in the rural areas of the country so as to make it easily accessible to all;

(b) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard;

(c) the extent to which it will be helpful in expanding the rural telephone network in the country;

(d) the number of VPTs planned and installed in the Western Rajasthan especially, Thar, Barmer and Jaisalmer districts during 1999-2000, district-wise;

(e) whether about 70 percent rural telephones in Barmer and Jaisalmer districts are not functioning satisfactorily due to poor maintenance and quality; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No Sir, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has not formulated any such policy for Village Public Telephones.

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

(d) A Private Basic Service Provider is to provide VPTs in the remaining villages in Rajasthan. There is no target for DTS for 1999-2000. However, it has provided 207 VPTs so far including one in Western Rajasthan *i.e.* Jaisalmer District. No VPT has been provided in Barmer Distt.

(e) No Sir. Fault rate of Barmer and Jaisalmer is 7% and 9% respectively.

(f) Not applicable in view of (e) above. However, for further improving the performance of MARR VPTs, department has entered into Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) with the suppliers of MARR systems. Over head lines replacement is being done by Under Ground Cable for better performance and reliability. Optical Fibre Cable is being provided for connectivity to rural exchanges.

[*Translation*]

Production of Crude Oil and Natural Gas

489. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total estimated known reserves of the crude oil and natural gas in the country and the areas found

technically and economically feasible for the exploitation works;

(b) the details of the indigenous production of crude oil and natural gas in the country and the expenditure being incurred for this purpose; and

(c) the quantum and the value of the crude oil and petroleum products imported by the Government and the annual requirement of crude oil and natural gas and petroleum products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) As on 1.4.1999, the balance recoverable reserves of crude oil and natural gas were approximately 590 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) and 635 Billion Cubic Metres (BCM) respectively. The technically and economically feasible oil and gas producing areas are located in western and eastern offshore and in the States of Gujarat, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tripura, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

(b) (i) The production of crude oil and natural gas during 1998-99 was 32.72 MMT and 27.43 BCM respectively.

(ii) The details of the expenditure incurred are being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The details of the actual quantity and value of imports of crude oil and petroleum products and also actual consumption on crude oil, natural gas, petroleum products during 1998-99 are given in the table below:—

<i>Import @ (Quantity)</i>	1998-99
Crude Oil (MMT)	39.81
Petroleum Products (MMT)	18.78
<i>Import @ (Value) (Rs. in crores)</i>	
Crude Oil	14876
Petroleum Products	9837
<i>Consumption</i>	
Crude Oil (MMT)	68.54
Natural Gas (BCM)	25.72
Petroleum Products (MMT) @	8357

@ Excludes import by private parties.

LPG Agencies/Petrol and Diesel Outlets at various Districts in Bihar

490. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Petrol/Diesel/LPG agencies in the Urban and Rural areas of Bihar particularly at Saharsa, Supaul and Madhepura districts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the places for which advertisements have been given and interviews held; and

(d) the time by which LPG agencies/Petrol and Diesel outlets are likely to be set up at the said places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Out of the 309 retail outlet dealerships and 214 LPG distributorships pending from various approved Marketing Plans in Bihar including Districts of Saharsa, Supaul and Madhepura oil companies have released advertisements for 236 retail outlet dealerships and 191 LPG distributorships in Bihar and Interviews have been held in respect of 20 retail outlets and 43 LPG distributorships.

(d) Presently, the selection process has been kept in abeyance and Dealer Selection Boards have also been dissolved. It generally takes about 6 to 12 months for commissioning of dealerships/distributorships from the date of interview.

[English]

Setting up of New Power Projects

491. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:
SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI:
SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of New Power Projects proposed to be set up during the next five years in the country; and

(b) the number of them to be set up, state-wise in the public sector, joint sector and in private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b)

The mid-term Appraisal of the Ninth Plan (1997—2002) has indicated that a capacity of 28097 MW involving 139 power projects is feasible. The capacity addition

programme for Tenth Plan (2002—07) has not been finalised. The State-wise/Sector-wise break-up of benefits during Ninth Plan period (1997—2002) is as under:

Name of State	Projects	State Sector	Private Sector	Central Sector
Haryana	5	1 (210 MW)	2 (200 MW)	2 (430 MW)
H.P.	3	1 (22.5 MW)	1 (300 MW)	1 (1500 MW)
Punjab	2	2 (1020 MW)	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	7	3 (138.5 MW)	—	4 (1570 MW)
Rajasthan	5	1 (500 MW)	1 (130 MW)	3 (1090 MW)
J & K	6	5 (124.5 MW)	—	1 (390 MW)
Gujarat	17	7 (769 MW)	6 (1377 MW)	4 (1300 MW)
M.P.	9	7 (923 MW)	1 (118 MW)	1 (1000 MW)
Maharashtra	9	7 (2135.5 MW)	2 (2184 MW)	—
Andhra Pradesh	12	3 (1165 MW)	8 (1567.9 MW)	1 (1000 MW)
Karnataka	13	6 (948 MW)	6 (771.1 MW)	1 (440 MW)
Kerala	11	6 (464 MW)	3 (189 MW)	2 (350 MW)
Tamil Nadu	11	5 (80.5 MW)	5 (741.5 MW)	1 (210 MW)
Pondicherry	2	2 (32.5 MW)	—	—
Bihar	4	3 (37 MW)	1 (240 MW)	—
Orissa	2	2 (606 MW)	—	—
DVC	1	1 (210 MW)	—	—
West Bengal	4	3 (697.5 MW)	1 (500 MW)	—
Assam	8	2 (47.5 MW)	4 (24.5 MW)	2 (115 MW)
Arunachal Pradesh	2	1 (6 MW)	—	1 (405 MW)
Manipur	1	1 (36 MW)	—	—
Nagaland	2	1 (24 MW)	—	1 (75 MW)
Tripura	2	1 (8 MW)	—	1 (84 MW)
Sikkim	1	—	—	1 (60 MW)

Traffic on NH-24 between Delhi-Lucknow

492. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the inconvenience caused to commuters due to traffic congestion on National Highway No. 24 between Delhi and Lucknow;

(b) if so, the estimated loss in terms of time and fuel consumed due to traffic congestion on the said route;

(c) the steps being taken to make it a dual carriageway and provide bypasses upto Lucknow; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is congestion in the city portion of Hapur, Moradabad Bareilly and Lucknow. It is true that congestion leads to loss in terms of time and fuel. However, no specific study has been carried out on NH-24 by this Ministry to quantify the same in terms of money.

(c) and (d) Starting from Delhi, NH-24 is already having a dual carriageway in a length of 28 Kms up to Ghaziabad. From Ghaziabad onwards to Hapur the work of four planing in a length of 32 Kms. including the construction of a four lane Hapur bypass is in progress. From Garh Mukteshwar to Moradabad feasibility study for four laning is in progress. In the remaining length of about 385 Kms, feasibility study for 4 laning of NH-24 will be carried out depending upon the *inter se* priority of work and availability of funds. Bypass at Hapur and Moradabad are already under construction. The same at Shahjahanpur and Sitapur have already been completed. Bypasses are also proposed at Bareilly and Lucknow.

[Translation]

Collection of Cess on Petrol and Diesel through Departments

493. SHRI ARUN KUMAR:
SHRI AJIT SINGH:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have interacted with the concerned Departments to obtain the funds collected through the cess levied on the sale of petrol and diesel for the Central Road Fund;

(b) if so, the dates on which the interaction was made alongwith the names of the Departments interacted with;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any concrete decision has been taken after having such interactions; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):
(a) and (b) This Ministry has interacted with the Ministry of Finance. Supplementary demand for grants was presented to them on 21.2.2000, which will be considered by the Parliament.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Cess Funds of Rs. 1900 crores were approved by Parliament in the first supplementary.

[English]

Transportation of Toxic Waste through the Gujarat Coasts

494. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the toxic waste is being transported into the country freely through ships coming for breaking on the coasts of Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check the movement of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) As per information made available by the Gujarat Maritime Board, toxic waste is not transported through ships calling for breaking at the coast of Gujarat. Ships reaching Alang for breaking are cargo free. Ships for breaking are inspected by the Gujarat Maritime Board before grant of permission for beaching. The Controller of Explosives also inspects the ships before grant of permission for cutting.

Conversion of State Highways into National Highways

495. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:
SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of the State Highways converted into National Highways during the last four years;

(b) the funds earmarked for upgrading these roads, State-wise and road-wise;

(c) the actual allocation made for the purpose during the aforesaid period, year-wise and road-wise;

(d) whether certain fresh proposals received from the State Government with regard to the declaration to State

Highways as National Highways during the Ninth Five Year Plan are under consideration of the Union Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and road-wise;

(f) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard, State-wise and road-wise; and

(g) the time by which these highways are likely to be declared as National highways, road-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) Statement-I giving details is enclosed.

(b) and (c) Statement-II giving Statewise allotment details is enclosed. Funds are not allotted road-wise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) to (g) Do not arise.

Statement-I

National Highways declared during the last four years

Sl. No.	NH No.	Route	State	Total Length	
1	2	3	4	5	
1.	19	Ghazipur-Balia-Hazipur-Patna	Uttar Pradesh Bihar	120 Kms. 120 Kms.	240 Kms.
2.	57	Muzaffarpur-Darbhanga-Forbesganj	Bihar	310 Kms.	310 Kms.
3.	58	Ghaziabad-Meerut-Haridwar-Mana	Uttar Pradesh	527 Kms	527 Kms.
4.	59	Ahmedabad-Dhar-Indore	Madhya Pradesh- Gujarat	139 Kms. 211 Kms.	350 Kms.
5.	60	Balasore-Kharagpur	Orissa- West Bengal	57 Kms. 68 Kms.	125 Kms.
6.	61	Kohima-Wokha-Jhanjhi	Nagaland- Assam	220 Kms. 20 Kms.	240 Kms.
7.	52A	Itanagar-Gohpur	Arunachal Pradesh- Assam	22 Kms. 10 Kms	32 Kms.
8.	52B	Kulajan-Dibrugarh	Assam	31 Kms.	31 Kms.
9.	Extn of NH-44	Agartala-Sabroom	Tripura	135 Kms.	135 Kms.
10.	62	Damra-Baghmara	Assam- Meghalaya	5 Kms. 125 Kms.	130 Kms.
11.	17-B	Ponda-Borim-Verna-Vasco	Goa	40 Kms.	40 Kms.

1	2	3	4	5	
12.	63	Ankola-Hubli-Gotty	Karnataka Andhra Pradesh	370 Kms. 62 Kms.	432 Kms.
13.	64	Chandigarh-Patiala-Bhatinda	Punjab	225 Kms.	225 Kms.
14.	65	Ambala-Kaithal-Hissar-Fatehpur	Haryana- Rajasthan	240 Kms. 170 Kms.	410 Kms.
15.	66	Pondicherry-Tindivanam-Krishnagir	Pondicherry Tamil Nadu	10 Kms. 234 Kms.	244 Kms.
16.	67	Nagapattinam-Karur	Tamil Nadu	217 Kms.	217 Kms.
17.	68	Ulundurpet-Salem	Tamil Nadu	134 Kms.	134 Kms.
18.	69	Nagpur-Obaidullaganj	Maharashtra Madhya Pradesh	55 Kms. 295 Kms.	350 Kms.
19.	Extn. of NH 6	Dhule-Surat	Maharashtra- Gujarat	127 Kms. 160 Kms.	287 Kms.
20.	202	Hyderabad-Warangal-Venkatapuram- Bhopalpatnam	Andhra Pradesh- Madhya Pradesh	280 Kms. 35 Kms.	315 Kms.
21.	Extn. of NH 9	Vijaywada-Machilipatnam	Andhra Pradesh	50 Kms.	50 Kms.
22.	205	Ananthpur-Kadiri-Tirupati- Renigunta-Tiruttani-Chennai.	Andhra Pradesh Tamil Nadu	360 Kms. 82 Kms.	442 Kms.
23.	Extn. of NH 54	Daboka-Lumding-alflong-Silchar.	Assam-	290 Kms.	290 Kms.
24.	80	Mokama-Munger-Bhagalpur Sahebganj-Rajmahal-Farakka	Bihar West Bengal	300 Kms. 10 Kms.	310 Kms.
25.	77	Hajipur-Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi Sonbarsa	Bihar	142 Kms.	142 Kms.
26.	78	Kanti-Shahdol-Nagar-Ambikapur- Jashpurnagar-Gumla	Bihar Madhya Pradesh	25 Kms. 534 Kms.	559 Kms.
27.	30A	Phatuha-Chandi-Harnaut-Saksohara- Barh	Bihar	65 Kms.	65 Kms.
28.	Extn. of NH 8A	Kandla-Mundra-Mandvi	Gujarat	95 Kms.	95 Kms.
29.	Extn. of NH 6	Surat-Hajira	Gujarat	17 Kms.	17 Kms.
30.	8D	Jetpur-Junagarh-Keshod-Somnath	Gujarat	127 Kms.	127 Kms.

1	2	3	4	5	
31.	21A	Pinjore-Badli-Nalagarh-Swarghat	Haryana Himachal Pradesh	16 Kms. 49 Kms.	65 Kms.
32.	71A	Rohtak-Gohana-Panipat	Haryana	72 Kms.	72 Kms.
33.	73	Roorkee-Saharanpur-Yamunagar Shah-Panchkula	Haryana Uttar Pradesh	105 Kms. 80 Kms.	185 Kms.
34.	71	Jalandhar-Moga-Bamala-Sangrur- Norwana-Rohtak-Jhajjar-Bawal	Haryana- Punjab	177 Kms. 130 Kms.	307 Kms.
35.	72	Ambala-Nahan-Paonta Saheb Dehradun-Rishikesh-Haridwar	Haryana Himachal Pradesh Uttar Pradesh	50 Kms. 50 Kms. 100 Kms.	200 Kms.
36.	70	Jalandhar-Hoshiarpur-Hamirpur- Toni Devi-Ahwa Devi-Dharampur- Mandi	Himachal Pradesh Punjab	120 Kms. 50 Kms.	170 Kms.
37.	Extn. of NH 1B	Kishtwar-Chhatree-Simthan- Maidan-Simthan Pass	Jammu & Kashmir	82 Kms.	82 Kms.
38.	1 C	Domel-Katra	Jammu & Kashmir	8 Kms.	8 Kms.
39.	206	Tumkur-Shimoga-Honnagar	Karnataka	363 Kms.	363 Kms.
40.	Extn. of NH 13	Mangalore-Tirthahalli-Shimoga- Chitradurga	Karnataka	200 Kms.	200 Kms.
41.	207	Hosur-Sarjapur-Devanhalli-Dod Ballapur-Nelamangia	Karnataka Tamil Nadu	135 Kms. 20 Kms.	155 Kms.
42.	209	Dindigul-Pattachi-Coimbatore Annur-Satyamangalam Chamrajnagar-Kollegal-Bangalore	Karnataka Tamil Nadu	170 Kms. 286 Kms.	456 Kms.
43.	208	Kollam-Punalur-Tenkasi Rajapalayam-Sirivilliputtur Thirumanglam	Kerala Tamil Nadu	70 Kms. 125 Kms.	195 Kms.
44.	75	Gwalior-Jhansi-Khajuraho- Chattarpur-Panna-Satna-Rewa	Madhya Pradesh Uttar Pradesh	440 Kms. 20 Kms.	460 Kms.
45.	200	Raipur-Bilaspur-Sarangarh-Rajgarh- Kanaktura-Jharsugudda-Kochinda- Pravasuni-Deogarh-Talcher- Chandikhol	Madhya Pradesh Orissa	300 Kms. 440 Kms.	740 Kms.
46.	79	Ajmer-Nasirabad-Bhilwara- Chittorgarh-Nayagarh-Nimach- Ratlam-Ghatbilod (Indore)	Madhya Pradesh Rajasthan	280 Kms. 220 Kms.	500 Kms.

1	2	3	4	5	
47.	76	Pindwara-Udaipur-Mangarwar-Chittorgarh-Kota-Shivpuri-Jhansi-Mahoba-Banda-Karwi-Mau Ailahabad	Madhya Pradesh Rajasthan Uttar Pradesh	60 Kms. 480 Kms. 467 Kms.	1007 Kms.
48.	204	Ratnagir-Kolhapur	Maharashtra	126 Kms.	126 Kms.
49.	211	Sholapur-Osmanabad-Aurangabad-Dhule	Maharashtra	400 Kms.	400 Kms.
50.	150	Aizwal-Tipaimukh-Churachandpur Imphal-Ukhrul-Jassami-Kohima	Manipur Mizoram Nagaland	523 Kms. 141 Kms. 36 Kms.	700 Kms.
51.	Ext. of NH-62	Baghmara-Dalu	Meghalaya	65 Kms.	65 Kms.
52.	Extn. of NH-40	Jawai-Amlarem-Dawki	Meghalaya	55 Kms.	55 Kms.
53.	44A	Aizwal-Sairang-Lengpui-Mamit Manu	Mizoram Tripura	165 Kms. 65 Kms.	230 Kms.
54.	201	Barigumma-Bhawanipatna Bolangir-Bargarh	Orissa	310 Kms.	310 Kms.
55.	203	Bhubanewar-Puri	Orissa	59 Kms.	59 Kms.
56.	Extn. of NH-64	Bhatinda-Dabwali	Punjab	31 Kms.	31 Kms.
57.	Extn. of NH-45 A	Nagapattinam-Chidambaram Cuddalore-Pondy	Pondicherry Tamil Nadu	20 Kms. 130 Kms.	150 Kms.
58.	Extn. of NH-65	Fatehpur-Nagar-Jodhpur-Pali	Rajasthan	280 Kms.	280 Kms.
59.	45B	Trichi-Viralimalai Tovarankuruchchi-Melur-Madauri Arppukattai-Tuticorin	Tamil Nadu	257 Kms.	257 Kms.
60.	Extn. of NH-67	Karur-Palladum-Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu	140 Kms.	140 Kms.
61.	210	Trichi-Pudukottai-Devakottai Ramanathapuram	Tamil Nadu	160 Kms.	160 Kms.
62.	24A	Bakshi-Ka-Talab (NH-24) Chenahat (NH-28)	Uttar Pradesh	17 Kms.	17 Kms.
63.	56A	Chenahat-Km. 16 of NH-56	Uttar Pradesh	13 Kms.	13 Kms.
64.	56 B	Km. 16 (NH-56)-Km. 19 of NH-25	Uttar Pradesh	19 Kms.	19 Kms.

1	2	3	4	5	
65.	25A	Km. 19 (NH-25) Bakshi-ka-Talab (NH-24)	Uttar Pradesh	31 Kms.	31 Kms.
66.	74	Haridwar-Najimabad-Nagina-Afzalgarh-Kashipur-Kichcha-Jehanabad-Pilibhit-Bareilly	Uttar Pradesh	300 Kms.	300 Kms.
67.	Extn. of NH-60	Kharagpur-Bishnupur-Bankura Asansol	West Bengal	180 Kms.	180 Kms.
68.	152	Patachikuchi-Bhutan Border	Assam	40 Kms.	40 Kms
69.	214	Kattipudi-Kakinada-Pamarru	Andhra Pradesh	270 Kms.	270 Kms
70.	83	Patna-Punpun-Gaya-Dobhi	Bihar	130 Kms.	130 Kms
71.	85	Chapra-Siwan-Gopalganj	Bihar	95 Kms.	95 Kms
72.	82	Gaya-Rajgir-Bihar Sharif-Mokama	Bihar	130 Kms.	130 Kms
73.	84	Arrah-Buxar	Bihar	60 Kms.	60 Kms.
74.	81	Korha-Katihar-Malda Road	Bihar	45 Kms.	100 Kms.
			West Bengal	55 Kms.	
75.	88	Shimla-Bilaspur-Hamirpur-Nadaun-Ranital-Kangra-Bhawan (at NH No. 20)	Himachal Pradesh	115 Kms.	115 Kms.
76.	212	Kozhikod-Mysore-Kollagal	Karnataka	160 Kms.	250 Kms
			Kerala	90 Kms.	
77.	213	Palghat-Calicut	Kerala	130 Kms.	130 Kms.
78.	86	Kanpur-Sagar	Madhya Pradesh	180 Kms.	360 Kms.
			Uttar Pradesh	180 Kms.	
79.	215	Panikoli-Rajamunda	Orissa	348 Kms.	348 Kms
80.	89	Ajmer-Bikaner	Rajasthan	300 Kms.	300 Kms.
81.	87	Rampur-Bilaspur-Patnagarh Haldwani-Nainital	Uttar Pradesh	83 Kms.	83 Kms.
82.	151	Karimganj-Sutrakandi	Assam	14 Kms.	14 Kms.
Total					17952 Kms.

* This was declared in January, 1996 in the 8th Plan period.

Statement II*Allotment of Funds for Development of National Highways during last four years (Rs. in Lakhs)*

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Name of State/UT</i>	<i>1996-97</i>	<i>1997-98</i>	<i>1998-99</i>	<i>1999-2000</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3910.24	5957.19	4550.00	5045.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	000
3.	Assam	1257.39	1860.80	2600.00	2186.83
4.	A & N Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Bihar	1583.35	1952.00	2950.00	6000.00
6.	Chandigarh	24.00	30.00	100.00	100.00
7.	Delhi	400.00	800.00	1400.00	1200.00
8.	Goa	860.65	971.56	1100.00	1500.02
9.	Gujarat	3738.51	4322.42	5000.00	10451.43
10.	Haryana	11245.87	10040.00	7550.00	4500.00
11.	Himachal Pradesh	1200.00	1700.00	2500.00	4500.00
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	100.00	150.00	100.00	135.00
13.	Karnataka	3530.54	4236.78	4400.00	4600.08
14.	Kerala	6022.33	8042.48	7300.00	10468.12
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1792.21	4657.06	8200.00	3226.75
16.	Maharashtra	2933.93	8062.43	10600.00	10354.31
17.	Manipur	363.52	702.19	700.00	1010.75
18.	Meghalaya	996.00	979.50	1000.00	1730.28
19.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00
20.	Nagaland	10.00	100.00	200.00	750.00
21.	Orissa	5917.28	6475.20	9500.00	4350.00
22.	Pondicherry	50.00	70.00	100.00	319.46
23.	Punjab	5801.79	5378.88	7800.00	2000.00
24.	Rajasthan	3638.80	4315.83	4000.00	5778.17
25.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26.	Tamil Nadu	2024.67	2567.92	3400.00	6500.00
27.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
28.	Uttar Pradesh	7955.58	12535.27	11150.00	11005.35
29.	West Bengal	3608.00	7335.00	10000.00	5738.02

1	2	3	4	5	6
30.	Joggigappa Bridge	2790.00	7298.17	3030.00	100.00
31.	Ministry	3209.00	7298.17	3030.00	100.00
32.	BRDB	6300.00	7031.00	8500.00	11230.00
33.	NHAI	7179.00	20000.00	25200.00	0.00
34.	Other Institutions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		88442.66	128815.68	142930.00	115129.57

[*Translation*]

Japanese Expertise in Power Sector

496. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to invite the Japanese Experts in the power sector; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The implementing agencies, on the basis of competitive bids, obtain the services of Japanese agencies/experts for implementation/R&M work of power projects. In respect of the Centrally administered sector, the information is given below:—

The NTPC has appointed M/s. Electric Power Development Co. Ltd., (EPDC), Tokyo, Japan as Consultants for adoption of Supercritical Technology for Sipat STPP Stage-I (3X660 MW). The NHPC has engaged Ms. Nippon Koei Co. Ltd., Japan, in joint venture with M/s. Electrowatt Engineering Ltd., Switzerland, as Consultant for Dhauliganga HE Project Stage-I (280 MW). The BBMB is examining a proposal to undertake the renovation, modernisation and uprating of machines/equipments of Bhakra Left Bank Power House as well as Ganguwal and Kotla Power Houses through M/s. Hitachi India Limited. Information in respect of the State Sector is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Misuse of STD/ISD Calls

497. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether senior officers of Department of Telecommunications in connivance with some private persons had given free STD/ISD facilities to a STD/ISD booths and to a few workshops;

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

(c) whether the officers of Boisar Telephone Centre of Thane District in Maharashtra has been arrested along with four others in connection with a scandal of STD/ISD calls;

(d) the total loss suffered by the Department of Telecommunications as a result thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against the persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Incidents have been reported wherein misuse of STD/ISD facilities have been noticed in different parts of the country. Involvement of the departmental officers if any, is promptly investigated and due action taken in such cases.

(c) No arrest has been made in Boisar (Tarapur) in Thane Distt.

(d) and (e) Investigations have been entrusted to CBI, however it is difficult to ascertain loss in such cases. Four officials have been suspended and two security guards have been removed from service.

Restructuring of SEBs

498. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to have a relook at the Power Sector in the light of the recent strike by the employees of U.P. State Electricity Board; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The recent power strike in Uttar Pradesh has focused attention of the country on the need for accelerating reforms in the power sector.

Government of India gave full support to the Government of Uttar Pradesh in maintaining reasonable power supply during the period of strike in Uttar Pradesh.

Government of India is extending full support to states which are undertaking reforms as it believes that reforms in the power sector are now imperative. Unless reforms are implemented quickly, it may be difficult to even maintain the present quality of power supply leave alone improve it.

Clearance to Navalodai Reservoir Scheme

499. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Navalodai Reservoir Scheme in Andiupath Village near Karumalai in Palani TK Dindigul District, Tamilnadu is awaiting clearance from the Government for quite a long time;

(b) if so, whether the said irrigation scheme is most essential for the cultivation of nearly 1000 acres and also for solving the acute drinking water problem in this area;

(c) if so, whether due to this the environmental clearance would be considered sympathetically and at the earliest; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (d) No such proposal has been received for environmental clearance.

Proposal for Acquiring Vessel/Ships

500. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) vessels/ships have become overage;

(b) whether the Shipping Corporation of India has put up proposals for acquiring/purchasing more ships;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether these proposals are pending with Ministry for over four years;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether tenders had to be re-floated again and again by the Shipping Corporation of India due to non-receipt of clearance from the Government?

(g) if so, the cost overruns as a result thereof so far;

(h) whether the Government would fix responsibility for this delay and loss to the Public Exchequer;

(i) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(j) the time by which the proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) No, Sir. The average age of SCI's fleet is about 15 years.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There are two proposals of Shipping Corporation of India Limited under process for acquisition of 7 vessels, i.e., 4 Aframax Tankers and 3 LR-II Crude Oil Tankers.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) No, Sir. However, in order to achieve the most competitive and advantageous price, SCI was asked in January, 2000 that all the four technical qualified shortlisted shipyards for Aframax Tankers be asked to tender their fresh commercial bids on the basis of specifications already given.

(g) The cost is not yet finalized on the basis of revised bids.

(h) Does not arise.

(i) Does not arise.

(j) No time could be fixed. Endeavour, however is to take investment decision at the earliest possible.

Missing of Registered Letters

501. DR. SANJAY PASWAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "P&T silence on missing registered letters" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated January 24, 2000;

(b) if so, the details of Complaints received by the Department of Posts during each of the last three years;

(c) whether many Consumer Courts in the country have prosecuted the Department of Posts (DOP) in such matters during the said period;

(d) if so, the total penalty paid by the Department of Posts to the Complainants as per the direction by the Consumer Courts during this period; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to improve the functioning of Department of Posts particularly in the case of registered letters/parcels/money orders and others for which Department of Posts is charging extra against the ordinary mail?

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

(b) The details of the complaints received during the last three years are as under:

Year	Total No. of complaints received under all categories	Number of Complaints received about	
		Registered letters	Money orders
1996-97	7,12,718	2,47,163	2,94,636
1997-98	7,74,021	2,63,806	3,33,966
1998-99	8,13,063	2,58,783	3,88,091

(c) A few of the Consumer Courts have awarded compensations to the consumers for non-delivery/damage to registered articles and non-payment of money orders.

(d) The amount of compensation paid during the last three years is as under:

Year	Amount of compensation paid
1996-97	Rs. 1,80,284.20
1997-98	Rs. 2,26,658.60
1998-99	Rs. 4,65,834.20

(e) Following steps have been taken to bring improvement in postal services:

- (i) An exhaustive Action Plan is under implementation to monitor transmission/delivery of Registered articles;
- (ii) Circle Checking Squads have been formed for surprise visits and make enquiries into such complaints;
- (iii) Punitive action is taken against the officials found at fault;

(iv) Close liaison is maintained with the financial institutions and bulk users of our services;

(v) Transmission of money orders by V-SAT has been introduced in order to reduce delay and ensure greater accuracy;

(vi) Line limits for cash conveyance is reviewed periodically to ensure that cash is available for payment of money orders;

(vii) A senior officer has been nominated in each Circle for close monitoring over public grievances relating to postal services;

(viii) Computerised Registration Sorting Centres are set up in a phased manner to ensure greater accuracy and accountability in handling of accountable articles;

(ix) Instructions have been issued to the field units to educate the customer about correct manner of lodging complaints so as to facilitate their speedy disposal;

(x) Periodic Special drives are launched for speedy disposal of complaints and rectification of system defects;

- (xi) Computerised Customer Care Centres have been set up at 127 important places for the responsive public grievance redressal.

Village Public Telephones by Private Basic Telecom Operators

502. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private basic telecom operators have committed to provide village public telephones in a time bound manner;

(b) if so, whether they have fulfilled their commitments;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action being taken to force the private telecom operators to fulfill their commitments?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Three out of six licensees, have only been able to start telephone services, that too in urban areas. They have expressed need for a longer time frame to meet their committed obligations to provide Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in rural areas.

(d) The licensees of Basic Telephone Service have been apprised many times by the Department and the TRAI for fulfilling their contractual obligations in providing VPTs. They have also been persuaded and insisted upon to submit and adhere to a definite time-bound quarter-wise roll out plan for clearing the backlog of missed targets expeditiously. It has also been intimated to them that neither their performance commitments shall be diluted nor they shall be absolved of such committed obligations under licence agreement signed by them.

[Translation]

Telephone Connections

503. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the existing norms for issuing and installing the telephone connections in Metropolitan Cities and the rural areas of the country;

(b) the number of persons on the waiting list for the telephone connections in Orissa and Kerala particularly in Alapuzha and Pathanamthitta districts and in the Talukas of Hassan district, separately, district-wise, Taluka-wise;

(c) the number of telephone connections allotted in these States and the said districts during the last three years, district-wise;

(d) the number of telephone connections proposed to be provided during the current financial year location-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to clear the waiting list for the telephone connections of the said States and the districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Sir, as per existing norms, telephone connections are to be installed within 15 days after issue of OB, both in metropolitan cities as well as in rural areas subject to technical feasibility.

(b) Details of the persons on waiting list for telephone connections in Orissa & Kerala Circles; particularly in, Alapuzha and Pathanamthitta Districts (Kerala State) and Talukas of Hassan District are given in enclosed Statement-I.

(c) Details of telephone connections provided during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) The number of telephone connections proposed to be provided during the financial year 1999-2000 are given below:

1. Orissa Circle	— 87,000
2. Kerala Circle	— Approx. 3.5 lakh connections
3. Karnataka Circle (including Hassan Distt.)	— 3,00,000

(e) Efforts are afoot to clear the waiting list for telephone connections by installation of new Exchanges, augmentation of Exchange Capacity, laying more underground cables and introduction of WILL system extensively.

Statement-I

Number of Telephone Connections on Waitlist in districts of Orissa & Kerala and talukas of Hassan District

Orissa Circle

Sl.No.	Name of the District	Waiting List
1	2	3
1.	Angul	86
2.	Balasore	2999
3.	Bargarh	1012
4.	Bhadrak	3614
5.	Bolangir	554
6.	Boudh	17
7.	Cuttack	5369
8.	Deogarh	80
9.	Dhenkanal	3998
10.	Gajapati	58
11.	Ganjam	1562
12.	Jagatsinghpur	96
13.	Jajpur	1067
14.	Jharsuguda	640
15.	Kalahandi	1543
16.	Kendrapara	701
17.	Keonjhar	596
18.	Khurda	11435
19.	Koraput	3020
20.	Malkangiri	163
21.	Mayurbhanj	824
22.	Nayagarh	137
23.	Nuapada	146
24.	Nawrangpur	535
25.	Phulbani	195
26.	Puri	2367

1	2	3
27.	Rayagada	487
28.	Sambalpur	3567
29.	Sonepur	113
30.	Sundergarh	7908

Total Wating List as or. 31-1-2000 = 54,889

Kerala Circle

1.	Trivandrum	63137
2.	Quilon	60900
3.	Pathanamthitta	36260
4.	Alapuzha	49965
5.	Kottayam	41435
6.	Ernakulam	44769
7.	Idukki	27799
8.	Trichur	61286
9.	Palghat	44220
10.	Malappuram	81089
11.	Calicut	68525
12.	Wynad	20025
13.	Cannanore	62883
14.	Kasaragod	32630
15.	U/T of Lakshadweep	133
16.	U/T of Mahe (Pondicherry_	1621

Total Waiting List as on 31-1-2000 = 686677

Hassan District

1.	Alur	488
2.	Arkalgud	1139
3.	Arsikere	1209
4.	Belur	1331
5.	Channaryapatna	2077
6.	Hassan	3735
7.	Holenarsipura	1151
8.	Sakleshpura	1309

Total waiting list as on 31-1-2000 = 12439

Statement II*Details of Telephone Connections provided during the last three years**Orissa Circle*

Sl. No.	Name of the District	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Angul	934	1468	1696
2.	Balasore	15000	2282	3787
3.	Bargarh	745	968	921
4.	Bhadrak	903	1592	1740
5.	Bolangir	842	1207	904
6.	Boudh	612	768	524
7.	Cuttack	2191	7664	7951
8.	Deogarh	161	731	697
9.	Dhenkanal	1005	2895	3779
10.	Gajapati	508	807	622
11.	Ganjam	1912	6692	3915
12.	Jagatsinghpur	808	1365	1269
13.	Jajpur	714	1202	1186
14.	Jharsuguda	836	1057	950
15.	Kalahandi	656	860	784
16.	Kendrapara	903	1091	904
17.	Keonjhar	832	1126	1269
18.	Khurda	5520	12506	13695
19.	Koraput	804	1543	2107
20.	Malkangiri	197	368	686
21.	Mayurbhanja	1008	1855	1738
22.	Nayagarh	914	963	1009
23.	Nuapada	244	340	126
24.	Nawrangpur	206	514	857
25.	Phulbani	865	992	866
26.	Puri	1232	2433	2437

1	2	3	4	5
27.	Rayagada	387	872	1053
28.	Sambalpur	1405	4072	4197
29.	Sonepur	698	780	606
30.	Sundergarh	2963	6165	5900
Total		32505	67178	68175

Kerala Circle

1.	Trivandrum	19521	30135	36163
2.	Quilon	13806	14617	19287
3.	Pathanamthitta	11000	15511	21174
4.	Alapuzha	13618	15662	20018
5.	Kottayam	13084	17012	23513
6.	Ernakulam	28698	32010	37392
7.	Idukki	3873	4860	6226
8.	Trichur	21373	30675	31128
9.	Palghat	7801	11001	13217
10.	Malappuram	9257	15384	12253
11.	Calicut	14792	14314	18324
12.	Wynad	2030	3189	3601
13.	Cannanore	10388	16691	15548
14.	Kasargod	3550	7296	9366
15.	U/T of Lakshadweep	627	1320	1524
16.	U/T of Mahe (Pondicherry)	77	333	2331
Total for Kerala Circle		172775	230010	271065

Hassan District

1.	Hassan	5568	7606	8532
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Construction of By-Passes and Over-Bridges

504. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bypasses and overbridges likely to be constructed by the Government on the Mumbai-Pune Express Highway and Mumbai-Goa National Highway to provide transport facility to rural people of Maharashtra;

(b) the present status of the schemes; and

(c) the time by which the said facilities are likely to be provided on this Express Highway and National Highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):
(a) The Mumbai-Pune Expressway is a State Project concerning the Maharashtra Government only. As regards NH No. 17 from Mumbai to Maharashtra/Goa border in Maharashtra, there is no on-going project for constructing bypass or over-bridge at present.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Efficiency of Ports

505. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need to increase the efficiency of ports in the country;

(b) if so, whether too much time is taken in loading and unloading the cargo from vessels;

(c) if so, the details of average time taken in loading and unloading of the cargo from vessels of various loading capacity; and

(d) the average more time taken in comparison to loading and unloading of cargo from ports of other developed countries?

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

(b) No, Sir. The loading & unloading rate at the ports is consistent with the available equipments and labour productivity.

(c) During the last three years, the average turn-round time of the vessels at Indian Major Ports has shown declining trend and out put per ship berth day has shown increasing trend, as may be seen below:

	Average Turn Round Time (days)	Output per ship berth day (tonnes)
1996-97	7.5	4497
1997-98	6.6	4634
1998-99	5.9	4915

(d) The level of mechanisation and management practices of the Ports in developed countries are different from those existing at Indian Ports. Therefore, it may not be possible to compare the Indian Ports with the Ports of other countries.

[English]

Funding by Power Finance Corporation

506. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Finance Corporation has proposed funding for the transmission and distribution activity in the States, which have initiated the process of reforms in the power sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the states benefited by the proposals; and

(c) the details of the proposals pending before the Power Finance Corporation for Funds, state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Power Finance Corporation, in its normal course of business, funds transmission and distribution activity in all the States whether they have initiated reform process or otherwise. However, for the States committed to undertake power sector reforms/restructuring, PFC provides relaxation in some conditionalities including exposure norms while extending financial assistance.

(b) The total cumulative disbursement by PFC to transmission and distribution activity in the States is given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(c) Details of proposals pending before PFC are given in the Statement-II enclosed.

Statement I*Borrower-wise Cumulative Disbursement upto 31st January, 2000*

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Borrower's Name	Trans.	Urban Distrb.	Shunt Cap.
1	2	3	4	5
1.	HSEB	2453.58	1054.39	1070.08
2.	HVPNL	2351.16	1602.39	689.27
3.	HPSEB	2418.88	2.42	390.52
4.	PSEB	6057.84	1221.81	32.00
5.	RSEB	25097.14	23989.54	3905.87
6.	UPSEB	20723.33	3929.32	3491.59
7.	Govt. of Goa	519.05	—	—
8.	GEB	25556.84	1491.83	2429.50
9.	MPEB	38068.15	9586.40	2968.97
10.	MSEB	93044.37	12564.15	5078.61
11.	BSES	—	47.50	—
12.	APTRANSCO	53119.89	19481.24	4326.08
13.	KPTCL	47808.15	24201.12	2658.76
14.	KPCL	—	8105.26	—
15.	KSEB	6994.32	—	148.32
16.	TNEB	32966.00	10272.28	6566.46
17.	BSEB	—	281.51	—
18.	BSHPCL	407.00	—	—
19.	OSEB	1029.93	—	382.42
20.	GRIDCO	24089.70	8258.57	7.88
21.	WBSEB	2549.74	—	—
22.	Manipur P.D.D.	405.00	—	—
23.	Mizoram P.D.D.	2456.00	—	—
24.	Nagaland P.D.D.	2583.33	345.90	—
		390699.40	131277.71	38094.45

Statement II

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Nos.	State/ Borrower	Scheme Type	Cost of Project	Amount Sought	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	1	UPSEB	S.I.	28.00	22.40	Agenda note approved sanction letter being issued
2.	1	HPSEB	Trans.	1.83	1.28	Agenda note under approval.
3.	1	SEB	-do-	15.45	10.82	-do-
4.	1	Nagaland	-do-	10.11	6.10	EIRR <12% being referred back.
5.	1	WBSEB	U.D.	36.00	30.00	Agenda note under approval.
6.	1	GEB	Trans.	73.50	58.00	Addl. Inf. sought on 21.1.2000
7.	2	-do-	-do-	15.30	12.00	-do-
8.	3	-do-	S.I.	48.90	38.00	-do-
9.	4	-do-	Trans.	13.65	10.00	-do-
Sub Total for GEB				151.35	118.00	
10.	1	ATPRANSCO	Trans.	15.40	10.80	Appraisal note under prep.
11.	2	-do-	-do-	10.00	7.00	-do-
12.	3	-do-	-do-	15.70	11.00	-do-
				41.10	28.80	
13.	1	KPTCL	TRANS.	30.86	21.60	Addl. inf. awaited.
14.	2	KPTCL	TRANS.	12.90	9.03	Addl. inf. awaited.
15.	3	-do-	-do-	9.05	6.33	-do-
16.	4	-do-	S.I.	153.72	123.00	Agenda Note under approval.
Sub Total for KPTCL				206.53	159.96	
17.	1	TNEB	U.D.	4.86	3.40	Appraisal note under prep.
18.	2	-do-	-do-	3.65	2.55	-do-
19.	3	-do-	-do-	3.47	2.40	-do-
20.	4	-do-	TRANS.	112.10	78.00	Addl. inf. awaited.
Sub Total for		TNEB		124.08	86.35	
Grand				614.45	463.71	

**Development of Jawahar Lal Nehru
Port as Mega Port**

507. SHRI RAMSETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to develop the Jawahar Lal Nehru Port as Mega Port so as to enable it to overcome constraints like low productivity and stacking space;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the matter was also discussed in meeting of Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs;

(d) if so, the reasons for not giving priority to the matter as yet; and

(e) the time by which the final decision to develop the port is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) to (e) The Export Promotion Board have recommended development of Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNP) as a hub port on the West coast. Pre-requisites for becoming a hub-port, *inter alia*, are deeper draft channel & harbour, adequate aggregation of cargo, sophisticated cargo handling equipments, sufficient stacking area as well as aggressive marketing to attract mainline vessels. As a step towards this, it has been decided to commission preparation of a detailed project report for deepening of the JNP channel.

Passenger and Cargo Ship Services

508. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to restart the passenger and cargo ship services between the Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu and Colombo;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government would provide coast guard or Naval Protection to such ship services to ensure safety; and

(d) if so, the details thereof in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Production of Kerosene

509. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil Coordination Committee has inspected the refining companies to go in for mandatory production of kerosene;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are trying to restrict its import bill;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the price difference between diesel and kerosene in India in comparison to the neighbouring countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) In view of the anticipated surplus of diesel and to avoid export losses during the current year 1999-2000, all refineries voluntarily agreed to produce kerosene @ 7% of crude thrupt during the period September, 99 to March, 2000.

(c) and (d) The increase in production of deficit products like kerosene will reduce the import bill. The total import bill as per the revised estimate for 1999-2000 is expected to be Rs. 57,976 crore.

(e) The price difference between diesel and kerosene in India in comparison to the neighbouring countries is as follows.

	Value in Rs./litre		
	HSD	SKO	Difference
India (Delhi)	14.04	2.67	11.37
Bangladesh	11.04	110.04	—
Pakistan	9.67	9.46	0.21

[Translation]

Condition of Power House in U.F.

510. SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Sabse Purana Indraprasth Bhi Aab Mritpray Hai" appearing in 'Dainik Jagran' dated 19 December, 1999;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the condition of power houses in other states is almost the same in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

(e) if so, the remedial steps taken in this regard; and

(f) the funds released for the purpose during the last three years, state-wise?

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

(b) and (c) Indraprastha Power Station of Delhi Vidyut Board (DVB) has 5 generating units. The first unit (36.6 MW) was commissioned in 1963 and generation from

this unit had stopped in July, 1995 due to unecoromical operation and non-availability of desired quality of coal. In view of this, it has been decided to phase out this unit. Units No. 2, 3 & 4 were commissioned in 1968 and Unit 5 was commissioned in 1971. As these units have outlived their useful life, it has been decided to undertake renovation and modernisation after carrying out Residual Life Assessment Studies. Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has been entrusted work relating to engineering of R&M activities of units 2, 3, 4 & 5. DVB has released funds for R&M works of all the units of Indraprastha station during the past 3 years which are as under:

Year	(Rs. in crores)
1997-98	9
1998-99	7
1999-2000 (upto February, 2000)	10

(d) and (e) The details of proposals for permanent closure of the thermal units received in CEA from other States is given below:—

S.No.	Name of Power Station	State	Unit No.	Capacity (MW)
1.	I.P. Station	Delhi	1	36.6
2.	Dhuvaran GT	Gujarat	1	27
3.	Utran	Gujarat	4, 5 & 6	13 each
4.	AECO (C-1)	Gujarat	11, 12, 13 & 14	9 each
5.	Panki TPS	U.P.	1	32

At present, out of a total thermal capacity of about 59000 MW, about 11000 MW (20%) capacity covering 117 units have already completed more than 20 years of its useful design life and 50% of these stations are performing at less than 45% PLF. These units are in the States of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, West Bengal, Gujarat, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Tamil Nadu. The life of these units can be extended by another 15-20 years beyond their useful design life of 25 years by carrying out comprehensive R&M and life extension works. In so far Uttar Pradesh is concerned, various units of Harduaganj, Obra, Panki thermal power stations need comprehensive R&M.

(f) The State-wise expenditure on R&M works in respect of thermal stations included in R&M Phase-II, cumulatively, upto 31.12.1999 is as under:—

S.No.	Name of State	Total Expenditure (Rs. crores)
1	2	3
1.	Haryana	27.84
2.	Punjab	29.38
3.	Rajasthan	30.02
4.	Uttar Pradesh	46.69
5.	Madhya Pradesh	133.04
6.	Gujarat	59.93

1	2	3
7.	Maharashtra	179.63
8.	Tamil Nadu	43.88
9.	Andhra Pradesh	159.67
10.	West Bengal	46.76
11.	Bihar	45.70
12.	Assam	47.43

Allotment of LPG Agencies and Petrol Pumps at Jamnagar in Gujarat

511. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG agencies and petrol pumps allotted in Jamnagar city and Jamnagar district of Gujarat during the year 1999 and till February 29, 2000;

(b) the details of applications for LPG agencies and petrol pumps allotment received during 1998, 1999 and upto February 29, 2000 separately;

(c) the time by which the allotment is likely to be done; and

(d) the number of petrol pumps and LPG agencies likely to be allotted during the year 2000 and 2001 in the Jamnagar Distt. of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No, LPG distributorship or retail outlet dealership was allotted in Jamnagar City and Jamnagar District of Gujarat during the year 1999 and till date.

(b) Oil Companies have advertised 6 LPG distributorships in Jamnagar City and Jamnagar District. Gujarat during the year 1998, 1999 and till date.

(c) and (d) Presently, the selection process has been kept in abeyance as Dealer Selection Boards have been dissolved.

[English]

Submission of Accounts by State Government Companies

512. SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of State Government companies which failed to submit accounts to AGCR for audit by March 31, 1998; and

(b) the action taken to pin down the responsibility for this lapse on the defaulting companies and legal action taken to expedite clearance of huge arrears of accounts alongwith the results achieved in this direction so far?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Self Employment Scheme of Oil Companies

513. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil Companies have formulated the Marketing plan incorporating the reservation for various categories, for implementing 'Prime Minister's Self Employment Scheme of Oil Companies';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the timeframe worked out for implementation thereof; and

(d) the number of agencies earmarked for the purpose in various States separately, particularly for the State of Nagaland and the Block Head Quarters in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Government has approved marketing plan for setting up 5782 retail kerosene dealerships one in each development block of the country under the Prime Minister's Self Employment Scheme of Oil Companies. Oil Companies have already advertised more than 4500 dealerships. Reservation for different categories under this Scheme is as under:—

Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST)	—	25%
Physically handicapped Persons (PH)	—	6%
Defence Personnel (DC)	—	8%
Paramilitary/Police/Govt. Personnel (PMP)	—	8%
Outstanding Sportspersons (OSP)	—	3%
Open Category (O)	—	50%

Except for SC/ST, 27% in all other categories will be reserved for OBC.

33% of the dealerships in all categories mentioned above will be reserved for women belonging to that category.

Out of 5782 dealerships for the country, 28 number of dealerships are earmarked for different development blocks in Nagaland.

LPG Agencies at Ranchi in Bihar

514. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places in Ranchi District of Bihar where LPG agencies have been established and the time from which these have been functioning;

(b) the number of additional connections of LPG provided to these agencies during each of the last three years;

(c) the number of persons registered with these agencies for new connections during the said period; and

(d) the details of additional connections released and the number of persons on the waiting list, agency-wise in the district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) At present there are 21 LPG distributorships in operation in

Ranchi District of Bihar. These were established from 1967 onwards.

(b) to (d) During the last three years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999 till date, about 29800 connections were released in Ranchi District of Bihar.

At present there is a waiting list of 40912 LPG connections in Ranchi District of Bihar.

[Translation]

Private Sector Power Projects

515. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI:
SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private sector power projects running at present in the country alongwith the cost involved therein, State-wise and project-wise;

(b) the number of power projects lying closed; and

(c) the time by which the work on these projects is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) As per information available, the following private power projects on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)/ Letter of Intent (LoI) etc. route (costing more than Rs. 100 crores) being monitored by the Government, which have been accorded techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority (CEA), have been set up and have commenced generation:

S.No.	Name of the project/ location	Capacity (MW)	Cost (as per techno- economic clearance given by CEA)
1	2	3	4
Gujarat			
1.	Hazira Combined Cycle Gas Turbine	515	US\$ 228.35 million + Rs. 7708.70 crores (@1 US\$ = Rs. 31.50)
2.	Baroda Combined Cycle Gas Turbine	167	US\$ 19.56 million + Rs. 3026.94 crores (@ 1 US\$ = Rs. 33.50)
3.	Paguthan Combined Cycle Gas Turbine	654.7	Rs. 2298.14 crores

1	2	3	4
4.	Surat Lignite Thermal Power Project	250	US\$ 44.538 million + DEM 4.92+9999.90 crores (@ 1 US\$ = Rs. 35.00)
Maharashtra			
5.	Dabhol Phase-I CCGT	740	US\$ 2828.524 million (@1 US\$ = Rs. 32.00) (Cost of Phase-I & Phase-II)
Andhra Pradesh			
6.	Jegurupadu Combined Cycle Gas Turbine	216	Rs. 827 crores
7.	Godavari Combined Cycle Gas Turbine	208	Rs. 748.43 crores
Karnataka			
8.	Torangallu Thermal Power Project	260	US\$ 106.87 million + Rs. 3289.90 crores (@ 1 US\$ = Rs. 34.50)
Tamil Nadu			
9.	Basin Bridge DGPP	200	US\$ 125.82 million + Rs. 3289.90 crores (@ 1 US\$ = Rs. 34.00)

As on date, 56 private sector power projects, including the projects listed above, having a total capacity of around 28,849 MW have been accorded techno-economic clearance by CEA. CEA, while according techno-economic clearance, prescribes commissioning schedules in respect of each power project from the date of financial closure. A large number of these sanctioned projects have failed to come up and are facing difficulties in adhering to the commissioning schedules on account of the private promoters not being able to tie up various inputs/linkages and achieve financial closure.

[English]

Pending Vacancies in Various Oil Companies

516. SHRI KARIYA MUNDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of vacancies in Group 'D' posts in the reserved category of O.B.C., to be filled up as per the latest Supreme Court instructions have been lying vacant in various Oil Companies/Undertakings in their

Delhi offices i.e. Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, I.B.P. Co. Ltd., O.N.G.C., Oil India Limited, E.I.L., Lubrizol India Ltd. and Gas Authority of India Limited;

(b) if so, the details of all such vacancies to be filled up through direct recruitment; and

(c) the action contemplated in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Out of the nine companies mentioned in the question, vacancies of OBC in group 'D' posts are lying vacant only in the following two companies:

(i) IOC	9
(ii) EIL	3

(b) and (c) All the 12 vacancies are to be filled up by direct recruitment in current/subsequent recruitment year.

Subsidy to Calcutta Port Trust

517. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are giving subsidy to Calcutta Port Trust for dredging; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard including the terms and conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The subsidy is granted as per the following terms and conditions:—

- (i) to reimburse 100% of the cost on items directly related to river dredging and maintenance as well as the cost incurred on items directly related to maintenance dredging of shipping channel leading to Haldia from the year 1992-93 onwards provided that the depreciation on capital expenditure on Haldia Channel dredging will not qualify for subsidy;
- (ii) to help the Calcutta Port Trust (CPT) to meet the expenditure as on account payment upto 90% of the amount payable towards subsidy during previous year may be made to the Port in the beginning of the following year;
- (iii) adjustment of the instalments payable against Govt. loans together with the instalments from the amount reimbursable to CPT on account of dredging expenditure.

During the current financial year, a sum of Rs. 233.42 crores has been released to Calcutta Port Trust towards reimbursement of expenditure incurred by them on dredging.

[Translation]

**Complaints against LPG Agency
at Gonda in U.P.**

518. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints against the LPG agencies located in Mankapur district of Gonda, Uttar Pradesh;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) As per the available records no complaint has been received.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

**Waiting List of LPG Connections in
North-Eastern Region**

519. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons registered for LPG connections waiting for more than three years in Manipur and other districts of North-Eastern Region, district-wise;

(b) the reasons for not granting the LPG connections to the wait listed persons of North-Eastern Region during this period; and

(c) the time by which the waiting lists for LPG connections are likely to be cleared in all the States of North-Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) As on 1.1.2000 the number of persons on the waiting list registered with the PSU Oil Companies for LPG connection in the North Eastern Region was 0.63 lakhs and in the state of Manipur was 0.07 lakhs.

(b) and (c) New LPG connections are released in a Phased manner throughout the country depending on the LPG availability, waiting list, slack available with the distributors and their viability. However, the Government has a plan to release 1 crore LPG connections during the year 2000 to clear all waiting list registered with the distributors of PSU Oil Companies as on 1-12-1999.

[Translation]

Strike by Truck Operators

520. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the truck operators had gone on strike in recent past to press for their demands;

(b) if so, the loss incurred as a result thereof?

(c) the details of the agreement reached between the truck owners and the Government to end the strike; and

(d) the extent to which the possibilities of the road transport industry are likely to increase after according it the status of industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) The truck operators went on strike in protest against the hike in diesel prices.

(b) The loss can not be quantified.

(c) The details of the agreement are given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) The industry status to Road Transport could facilitate a number of measures such as:—

(i) Availability of low cost fund under infrastructure development.

(ii) Availability of funds at reasonable rates for used vehicle financing, working capital needs etc.

(iii) Tax concession to finance companies.

(iv) Enabling transport companies to issue infrastructure bonds with tax incentives.

Statement

Agreement between Government and Truck Operators

(i) *The issue of diesel prices:*

It was explained by the Hon'ble Minister that the Government's position has been stated in the Parliament.

(ii) *Declaration of Road Transport as an Industry:*

The Hon'ble Minister has agreed to consider this demand sympathetically and take necessary steps in this regard.

(iii) *Withdrawal of the Notification dated 11th October, 1999:*

This request has been considered favourably by the Hon'ble Minister and it is proposed to withdraw the amendment.

(iv) *Collection of Toll Charges:*

As explained by the Hon'ble Minister, the possibility of reviewing the quantum of toll to be collected should be examined in detail. This will be done by a Committee after collection of required details from all concerned.

(v) *Fixation of Minimum Freight Rates:*

As explained by the Hon'ble Minister, under the Motor Vehicles Act, these powers are with the State Governments. However, keeping in view the strong demand of the All India Motor Transport Congress (AIMTC), the Hon'ble Minister has agreed to request the various States to initiate necessary steps for fixing minimum freight rates for transportation of goods and finalise this preferably within 30 days.

(vi) *Reduction in the Quantum of Permit Fee:*

As explained by the Hon'ble Minister, according to the Motor Vehicles Act, the quantum of permit fee is determined by the respective State Governments. Considering repeated requests of the AIMTC, the Hon'ble Minister has agreed to include this item in the agenda for the next Transport Development Council (TDC) meeting.

Malpractices at Petrol Pumps

521. SHRI TARUN GOGOI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to news item captioned "99 feesadi petrol pumpon per thage ja rahe hain upbhokta" appearing in the daily 'Danik Jagran', New Delhi, dated December 22, 1999.

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to check malpractices by petrol pump dealers especially on holidays; and

(c) The further action taken by the Government against the guilty petrol pump owners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The Government is aware of the news item referred to in the Question. Oil marketing companies carry out regular/surprise checks of retail outlets, to control various malpractices including adulteration. In addition, special drives are launched by the oil companies both on their

own and also under direction of Government from time to time to check malpractices. To prevent adulteration various steps like blue dyeing of kerosene (PDS), furfural doping, filter paper test, stock reconciliation, checking of retail outlets by mobile laboratories, etc. are taken by oil companies.

Stringent action has been taken which includes cancellation of licences/suspension of supplies by Oil Companies. depending upon the gravity of the case.

Development of Village in Jodhpur

522. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any scheme to develop a site in the village Khejdali in Jodhpur district of Rajasthan where 363 Bishnoi people sacrificed their lives for trees;

(b) if so, the year in which the scheme was formulated and the cost involved in the scheme;

(c) whether the then Minister of Environment and Forests had sanctioned one crore rupees for Khejdali village;

(d) if so, the reasons for not spending the said amount;

(e) whether Government propose to develop the said site in village Khejdali in district Jodhpur;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Import and Production of Petrol

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

(a) the quantum of petrol produced and imported in the country in each of the last three years;

(b) the price at which the petrol was imported;

(c) the price at which petrol is available in the international market and is there any proposal to reduce the price of petrol in the country accordingly; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The production, import and value of petrol during the last three years was as under:

Year	Production Quantity TMT	Import@	
		Quantity TMT	Value (Rs. crores)
1996-97	4704	449	365.29
1997-98	4849	331	254.98
1998-99	5573	251	186.98

@ Excludes import by private parties.
TMT: Thousand Metric Tonnes.

(c) and (d) The published price of petrol on FOB Singapore basis for unleaded MS (Octane 92) since April '99 are as under:

Month	Unleaded (\$/MT)
April '99	157.87
May '99	150.67
June '99	150.28
July '99	185.01
August '99	213.48
September '99	213.48
October '99	202.98
November '99	200.83
December '99	229.63
January '2000	246.20
February '2000*	

* Upto 21.2.2000

There is no proposal to reduce the price of petrol at present.

Vehicular Pollution*[Translation]*

524. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the vehicular pollution is increasing in the country particularly in the big cities;

(b) if so, the steps taken to control the same so far;

(c) whether any action plan has been drawn up for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir. However, in case of Delhi, the Central Pollution Control Board has reported that air pollution level has decreased in 1998-99.

(b) The steps taken to control the vehicular pollution include notification of stringent emission norms, improvements in fuel quality and vehicle technology, phasing out of old commercial vehicles and promotion of use of clean fuel.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Action plan has been drawn up for control of pollution in Delhi and Mumbai which includes control of pollution from vehicles.

Power Projects Pending for Clearance

525. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of power projects are awaiting environmental clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise alongwith the period of their pendency;

(c) the reasons for delay in clearing these projects; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Three Hydel and eleven Thermal Power Projects are awaiting environmental clearance as on 15th February, 2000. A statement indicating State-wise details alongwith period of their pendency is annexed.

(c) and (d) The primary reason for pendency is non-submission of requisite information by the promoters. Some of the pending project proposals have been received only recently. Decision on pending projects would be taken as soon as complete information is received.

Statement*State-wise list of power projects awaiting environmental clearance***(a) Hydel Power Project(s)**

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Pending since
1	2	3
	MEGHALAYA	
1.	2x42 MW Myntdu (Le-Shka) Hydro-Electric Project, Stage-I of Meghalaya State Electricity Board	12.1.2000
	MIZORAM	
2.	100 MW Tuivai Hydro-electric Project of North Eastern Electric Power Corporation	23.9.1998
	TAMIL NADU	
3.	20 MW Kollimalai Hydro Electric Project of Tamil Nadu Electricity Board	8.10.1999

(B) Thermal Power Projects

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Pending since
ANDHRA PRADESH		
1.	34.56 MW DG Power Plant at Ghanapuram Village, Ghatkesar Mandal, Rangareddy District of M/s Iden Power International Ltd.	27.10.1999
2.	2 x 30 MW Coal Based Power Plant at Wadapalli, Nalgonda District of M/s. Krishna Godavari Power Utilities Ltd.	28.1.2000
DELHI		
3.	330 MW Coal Based Power Plant at Narela, Delhi of M/s. Appollo Energy Company Ltd.	25.4.1997
4.	330 MW Gas Based pragati Combined Cycle Power project at I.P. Estate by Delhi Vidyut Board	2.2.2000
KARNATAKA		
5.	1x24 MW Co-generation Power Piant at Sameerwati by M/s. Godavari Sugar Mills Ltd.	12.11.1999
6.	1x500 MW Vijaynagar Thermal Power project at Kuditini Village, Bellary District of M/s. Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd.	31.1.2000
MADHYA PRADESH		
7.	1x500 MW Sanjay Gandhi Thermal Power Plant Stage-II at Mangather Village, Distt. Umaria of M/s. M.P. Electricity Board.	13.10.1999
8.	28.25 MW Liquid Fuel Based Power Plant at Mandideep Industrial Area, District Raisen of M/s. Som Power Ltd.	4.11.1999
TAMIL NADU		
9.	1x115 MW CCPP at Kil Arasadi Village, Tuticorin District of M/s. Sujana Power (Gangikondan) Ltd.	24.6.1999
10.	1x115 MW CCPP at Kil Arasadi Village, Tuticorin district of M/s. Sujana Power (Tuticorin) Ltd.	24.6.1999
11.	109 MW Naphtha Based Combined Cycle Gas Turbine Power Plant at Vallur Village, Ennore, North Chennai of M/s. Aban	11.10.1999

*[English]***CNG for Vehicles**

526. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal to provide compressed natural gas for motor vehicles; and

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Presently CNG is being made available as fuel for motor vehicles in the cities of Mumbai, Delhi, Vadodara, Surat and Ankleshwar. For supply of CNG to the transport sector and for expansion of infrastructural facilities for dispensing CNG in Mumbai and Delhi, two Joint venture companies have been set up by Gas Authority of India Limited *viz.*, Mahanagar Gas Nigam Ltd. (Mumbai) and Indraprastha Gas Limited (Delhi). In Vadodara supply of CNG is managed by GAIL and in Surat and Ankleshwar CNG is made available by Gujarat Gas Company a Private concern.

Setting up of CNG filling facilities is possible only in places where natural gas supply through pipeline is available.

Balmer Lawrie & Company

527. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

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

(a) whether Balmer Lawrie Freight Containers Limited (BLFC), a subsidiary of Balmer Lawrie & Company Limited has reported itself to be potentially sick;

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to make it viable; and

(c) the response of the Government to the request of the Company for the grant of Rs. 45 crore soft loan by the Oil Industries Development Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Balmer Lawrie Freight Containers Ltd. (BLFC) is not a subsidiary of Balmer Lawrie & Com. Ltd., (BL). It is a joint venture promoted by BL with 49% share holding. 51% shares are held by institutional investors and public. The company has reported itself to be potentially sick under Section 23 of Industrial Disputes Act.

The proposal of the Company for the grant of Rs. 45 crore soft loan is still with Oil Industries Development Board (OIDB) for their consideration.

[*Translation*]

Losses to Gujarat Ports due to Cyclone

528. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of losses caused to various ports in Gujarat due to the cyclone last year;

(b) whether some Dock employees have suffered loss of life and property therein; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to compensate them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The Central Government is concerned with Major Ports only. In Gujarat there is one major port namely Kandla Port Trust. Due to cyclone in June, 1998, this major port suffered loss to the extent of Rs. 76 crores.

(b) Yes, Sir. Five Port employees lost their lives in the cyclone and many employees residing in the port colony at Kandla suffered loss of house-hold property mainly due to flooding.

(c) Besides, providing employment in the Port Trust to one dependent of each of these five deceased employees on compassionate grounds, a sum of Rs. 1 lakh to the next of kin of each of the deceased employees has been paid as *ex-gratia* payment. An amount of Rs. 12.5 lakhs has been paid to 352 employees who suffered loss of house-hold properties in the cyclone.

[*English*]

Waiting Lists for LPG Connections in Tamil Nadu

529. SHRI VAIKO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons in waiting list for LPG connections in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the date upto which the waiting lists has been cleared;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to clear the waiting lists for the LPG connections in the State; and

(d) the time by which LPG seekers in the State are likely to get the connections on demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) As on 1.1.2000, the number of persons in the waiting list for LPG connections registered with PSU Oil Companies in the State of Tamil Nadu was 14.25 lakhs.

(b) to (d) New LPG connections are released in a Phased manner throughout the country depending upon the LPG availability, waiting list, slack available with the distributors and their viability. However the Government has a plan to release 1 crore LPG connections during the year 2000 to clear all waiting list registered with the distributors of PSU Oil Companies as on 1-12-1999.

Power Projects in Kerala

530. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of power projects undertaken in Kerala during the last five years;

(b) the number of projects completed and the projects where the work is going on;

(c) the progress made in respect of the projects where the work is going on and the time by which these projects are expected to be completed; and

(d) the number of such projects awaiting clearance from the Government, if any, and the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The following power projects were under construction in Kerala during the last five years (*i.e.* from 1994-95 to 1998-99).

HYDRO

1. Kallada (2x7.5 MW)	Completed
2. Maniyar (3x4 MW)	Completed
3. Lower Periyar (3x60 MW)	Completed
4. Poringalkuthu (1x16 MW)	Completed
5. Kakkad (2x25 MW)	Completed
6. Malankara (3x3.5 MW)	Under construction
7. Kuttiyadi Ext. (1x50 MW)	Under construction
8. Kuttiyadi Tail Race (3x1.25 MW)	Under construction

Works on Malankara (10.5 MW), Kuttiyadi Extension (50 MW) and Kuttiyadi Tail Race (3.75 MW) are in progress. Kuttiyadi Extension is expected to be completed during the 9th Plan. Malankara and Kuttiyadi Tail Race are likely to be completed beyond the 9th Plan.

In addition the following hydro projects have been cleared by CEA in Kerala:

1. Adirapally H.E. Project (2x80 MW) - Investment decision by Planning Commission awaited.
2. Puyankutty H.E. Project (2x120 MW) - Project still awaits clearance from MOEF from Forest angle.

THERMAL

1. Brahmapuram DG Power Project (5x20 MW)	Completed
2. Kozhikode DG Power Project (8x16 MW)	Completed
3. Kayamkulam CCGT Power Project (2x115.3 MW GT+119.4 MW ST)	Completed
4. Floor CCGT Power Project (Cochin) (3x45 MW GT+1x38 MW ST) (M/s. BSES Kerala) (Liquid Fuel)	Under construction Fuel linkage given
5. Project of M/s. Lok EDL (107 MW) (Liquid Fuel)	Fuel linkage given. Financial closure not achieved and construction work not started.

In so far as Eloor CCGT Power Project (Cochin) is concerned, three number of Gas Turbine Units having capacity of 45 MW each have already been synchronised and efforts being made to complete the Steam Turbine Unit (38 MW) by March, 2000.

Besides the above, two additional thermal power projects, namely, Vypeen CCGT project (679.2 MW) by M/s. Siasin Energy Limited and Kannur CCGT project (3x111.90 MW GT+1x177.3 MWST) by M/s. Kannur Power Project Private Limited have been cleared for implementation.

No proposal to set up new hydro and thermal power project in Kerala is presently under examination in Central Electricity Authority.

Helicopters for Offshore Drilling Operations

531. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC have invited tenders for hiring three new helicopters for its offshore drilling operations;

(b) if so, the number of tenders received by ONGC:

(c) whether ONGC had not opened all the tenders and sharp differences in prices between earlier suppliers of chopper and the present ones have come to light;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to direct the ONGC to re-tender its requirement of the helicopters; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (e) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) have invited two International Competitive Bidding tenders for charter hire of 3 large and 3 medium helicopters. Five bids were received against tenders for large helicopters and three for medium helicopters. The tenders are under further processing by ONGC for decision as per their tender procedures and bid evaluation criteria

Ribbon Development Programme of National Highway-9

532. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to delineate the open belt along the National Highway No. 9 passing through Solapur under the Ribbon Development Programme;

(b) if so, the progress made in this direction so far;

(c) whether in the absence of regulation of the belt area, while on the one hand more and more encroachments are coming up and as a regulated

which the essential development along the National Highway has been held up; and

(d) if so, the reasons for delay in demarcation of the ribbon belt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The aspect of enactment of suitable legislation covering various issues including preventing unauthorised occupation and removal of encroachments from the National Highway land is being processed, and it is too early to give broad details at this stage.

Prosecution against Vanished Companies

535. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Company Affairs has launched prosecution against 142 vanished companies all over the country as pointed out by the Securities and Exchange Board of India;

(b) if so, the details of such companies, State-wise;

(c) the total amount involved in respect of each of these companies; and

(d) the charges under which these companies have been booked?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (d) Out of the 142 companies pointed out by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEB) 36 companies were regular in filing their documents. 8 companies were under liquidation, one company is under BIFR Proceedings, assets of three companies were seized by State Governments corporations. The required details in respect of Prosecution launched against companies in default, amount involved and charges under which booked are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement*Present Status of 142 Listed Companies Identified by SEBI as Vanishing Companies*

Sl. No.	Name of the Company	Remarks/Comments of ROC	Rs. in crores
1	2	3	4
Gujarat			
1.	Advance Bio-Coal (India) Ltd.	Prosecution launched for non filing of balance Sheet & Annual Returns (B/S & A/R). Action Under Section (u/s) 209A initiated.	4.86
2.	EFCON Securities Ltd.	Under liquidation vide winding order dt. 24.11.98.	5.45
3.	Maa Leafin & Capital Ltd.	Prosecution filed on 13.7.99 for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.	4.34
4.	Shubham Granites Ltd.	Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R Action u/s 209A initiated.	9.53
5.	Suryadeep Salt Refinery & Chemical Works Ltd.	Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R Action u/s 209A initiated	7.50
6.	Bhavna Steel Cast Ltd.	Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R Police complaint made	1.80
7.	Ankush Finstock Ltd.	Filing position uptodate. Action u/s 209A initiated	3.00
8.	Arrow Securities Ltd.	Filed upto 1998. Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.	4.75
9.	Charms Ceramics Ltd.	Filing position up-to-date. Action u/s 209A initiated.	3.75
10.	Dhruv Makhan (India) Ltd.	Available. Prosecution filed on 13.7.99 for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated	7.35
11.	Interactive Financial Services Ltd.	Available. Prosecution filed on 12.7.99 for non filing of B/S & A/R. Filed documents upto 1999. Action u/s 209A initiated.	1.85
12.	Naisargik Agritech (India) Ltd.	Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.	4.66
13.	Nilchem Capital Ltd.	Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R. Filed documents upto 1999. Action u/s 209A initiated.	7.10
14.	Shree Surgovind Tradelink Ltd.	Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.	3.75

1	2	3	4
15.	Shreeji Dye-Chem Ltd.	Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.	5.84
16.	SPIIL Finance Ltd.	Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.	5.70
17.	Frontline Financial Services Ltd.	Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.	4.42
18.	Growth Agro Industries Ltd.	Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.	5.39
19.	Girish Hotels Resorts and Health Farm Ltd.	Available. Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.	2.59
20.	Integrated Amusement Ltd.	Available. Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Filed upto 1998 and AR for 1999 since filed. Action u/s 209A initiated.	8.38
21.	Hi-Tech Winding Systems Ltd.	Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.	3.84
22.	Ishaan Infrastructures & Shelters Ltd.	Filing position up-to-date. Action u/s 209A initiated	6 10
23.	Kesar Greenfield International Ltd.	Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.	5.69
24.	Kome-on Communication Ltd.	Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Filed upto 1999. Action u/s 209A initiated.	4.51
25.	Mobile Tele-Communications Ltd.	Available. Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R BS for 1998 and AR for 1999 filed. Action u/s 209A initiated.	11.53
26.	Shivam Apparels Exports Ltd.	Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.	4.45
27.	Shri Mahalaxmi Agricultural Developments Ltd.	Available. Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.	5.09
28.	AMI Ganga Infrastructure Ltr	Available. Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.	3.00
29.	Orient Tradelink Ltd.	Filing position up-to-date. Action u/s 209A initiated.	6.50
30.	Techno Forge Ltd.	Filing position up-to-date	2.80
31.	Bharat Thermite Ltd.	Filing position up-to-date	2.52
32.	Mayo Hospital Ltd.	Filing position up-to-date	5.80

1	2	3	4
33.	Protech Circuit Breakers Ltd.	Filing position up-to-date	1.80
34.	Topline Shoes Ltd.	Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R Police complaint also made	4.65
35.	Gujarat Bonanza Auto	Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Police complaint also made.	5.40
36.	D.R. Industries Ltd.	Available. A/R filed upto date. Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S	11.29
37.	Gujarat Texspin Ltd.	Filing position up-to-date	8.80
38.	Baffin Engineering Projects Ltd.	Available. Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R	6.05
39.	Jaldhara Pumps Ltd.	Filing position up-to-date	5.13
40.	Nuline Glassware Ltd.	Filing position up-to-date	4.66
41.	Gem Eyeadorns Ltd. Name changed to Amarshir Optical Ltd.	Available. B/S filed update. A/R for 1998 not filed. Prosecution filed for non filing of A/R	5.26
42.	Goodearth Organics Ltd.	Under liquidation	5.30
Punjab			
43.	Carewell Hygiene Products Ltd.	Prosecution for non filing of B/S & A/R filed. Action u/s 209A initiated.	2.25
44.	Seema Industries Ltd.	This Company was listed as a sick industrial Co. by BIFR and has recommended for wound up.	2.10
45.	Suckchain Cement Ltd.	Filing position up-to-date. Inspection u/s 209A is being conducted.	3.65
46.	Hallmark Drugs & Chemicals Ltd.	Transferred from Delhi to Punjab. The assets of the company taken over by Punjab State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.	7.00
47.	Hindustan Tools & Forgings Ltd.	Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. The assistance of Police Authorities is being taken.	5.96
48.	Overseas Cables Ltd.	Filing position up-to-date	4.16
49.	Druckgrafen India Ltd.	The Co. is under BIFR proceedings by order dated 29.12.98 and has since been taken over by PSIDC.	3.07

2	3	4
Maharashtra		
50. Caldyn Aircon Ltd.	Prosecution launched for non filing of A/R & B/S.	4.44
51. Digital Leasing & Finance Ltd.	Prosecution launched for non filing of A/R & B/S. Action u/s 209A initiated.	4.69
52. Fintech Communication Ltd.	Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.	4.09
53. Hitesh Textile Mills Ltd.	Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.	7.47
54. Ichalkaranji Soya Ltd.	Reply received from the company. Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R	2.00
55. Lympha Laboratories Ltd.	Under Liquidation	3.36
56. Pashupati Cables Ltd.	Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.	11.95
57. Realtime Finlease Ltd.	Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.	5.63
58. Sparkle Foods Ltd.	Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R.	5.00
59. Walker India Ltd.	Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R.	3.75
60. VPUL Securities Ltd.	Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R.	3.00
61. Gazi Securities Ltd.	Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R.	4.80
62. Mazda Ind. & Leasing Ltd.	Filing position up-to-date.	2.27
63. Rusoday & Co. Ltd.	Available. Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R	4.96
64. Asahi Construction & Housing Finance Ltd.	Available. Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R	2.59
65. Brakes Auto (India) Ltd.	Shifted from MP-on 11.6.97. Filing position up-to-date	3.73
66. Moneshi Agro Foods Ltd.	Available. Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R	10.90
67. Fastrack Investment Services & Commercial Advisors (Ltd.) name changed to Fiscal Ltd.	Available. Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R.	2.54

1	2	3	4
Tamil Nadu (Coimbatore)			
68.	AVR Securities Ltd.	Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.	2.47
69.	Global Blooms (India) Ltd.	Not Available. Police Complaint made. Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated	2.10
70.	Navakkarai Spinners Ltd.	Not Available. Police Complaint made. Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.	3.16
71.	Papplion Exports Ltd.	Not available. Prosecution filed for non filing. Action u/s 209A initiated. Police Complaint has also been launched.	2.20
72.	Shyam Prints & Publishers Ltd.	Not available. Police complaint launched. Prosecution launched. Inspection u/s 209A has also been taken up.	3.19
West Bengal			
73.	Auroma Coke Ltd.	Filing position up-to-date	4.18
74.	Esskay Telecom	Prosecution have been launched for non-filing of B/S & A/R	3.00
75.	GR Magnets Ltd.	Filed it's A/R uptodate. Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S.	1.04
76.	Morad Properties & Project Ltd.	Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. (\$) — Information regarding amount raised is not readily available as the public issue was prior to 1.4.1992.	(%)
77.	NICCO Corporation Ltd.	Uptodate in filing	9.89
78.	Allied Stock Investors Ltd.	Uptodate in filing.	0.35
79.	Saket Extrusion Ltd.	Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S and A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.	2.98
80.	Commitment Finance Ltd.	B/S filed uptodate. Prosecution launched for non filing of A/R.	1.62
Andhra Pradesh			
81.	Aditya Alkaloids	Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R Action u/s 209A initiated.	2.16
82.	Aqua Dev India Ltd.	Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.	3.55

1	2	3	4
83.	Kamakshi Housing Finance Ltd.	Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/S. Action u/s 209A initiated.	4.20
84.	Premier Aqua Farms Ltd.	Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.	3.63
85.	Sri Murali Spinning Mills Ltd.	Filing position up-to-date.	3.68
86.	K.P. Gelatine & Chemicals (India) Ltd.	Under liquidation	4.09
Tamil Nadu (Chennai)			
87.	Amigo Exports Ltd.	Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R. Police complaint also made. Action u/s 209A initiated.	3.30
88.	Unicorn Pharmaceuticals India Ltd.	Under liquidation	8.38
89.	Betala Global Securities Ltd.	Filing position uptodate.	2.25
90.	Advance Medical Care Ltd. Name changed to Seahorse Hospital Ltd.	Filing position uptodate.	11.51
91.	Nova Electro Magnetics Ltd.	Available. Filed B/S upto 1995. For not filing of returns for the financial year ended 30.3.96, 97 & 98. Default Notices were issued. The Co. has since tiled documents uptodate.	6.37
Karnataka			
92.	Ready Foods Ltd.	The Company was placed under liquidation vide court order dated 27.3.97 and subsequently the winding up order was recalled vide Court Order dt. 6.11.98. Accordingly, prosecution is launched for non filing of B/S & A/R for 1998.	2.25
93.	Winfarm Agro Industries Ltd.	Prosecution launched for non-filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.	19.60
94.	ACME Spinners Ltd.	Filing position uptodate. Action u/s 209A initiated.	2.58
95.	Raghoji Cements & Mfg. Co. Ltd.	Under Liquidation.	3.00
96.	Vision Technology (I) Ltd.	Available. The Company changed its accounting year. B/S at 31.3.99 yet to be filed. Default Notices issued.	4.10
97.	Ocean Knits Ltd.	Seized by Karnataka State Financial Corporation, Bangalore	2.61

1	2	3	4
		Delhi	
98.	Alps Motor Finance Ltd.	Filing position up-to-date	2.44
99.	Chirau Finance Invest. & Leasing Ltd.	Not Available. Prosecution filed. Action u/s 209A initiated. Police complaint lodged.	3.24
100.	Cilson Finance & Invest. Ltd.	Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R.	2.51
101.	Grivs Hotels Ltd.	Filing position up-to-date.	4.98
102.	ICP Securities Ltd.	Not Available. Prosecution filed. Action u/s 209A initiated. Police complaint lodged.	2.34
103.	Lakshya Securities & Credit Holdings Ltd.	Not available. Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Police complaint lodged. Action u/s 209a initiated.	3.24
104.	Patliputra Credit & Securities Ltd.	Filing position up-to-date	7.49
105.	Simplex Holding Ltd.	Filing position up-to-date.	2.27
106.	Star Electronics Ltd.	Not available. Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Police complaint lodged. Action u/s 209A initiated.	2.47
107.	Star Exim Ltd.	Not Available. Prosecution filed. Action u/s 209A initiated. Police complaint lodged.	2.76
108.	Tactful Invest. Ltd.	Not available. Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Police complaint made. Action u/s 209A initiated.	3.29
109.	Welcome Coir Industries Ltd.	Not available. Prosecution filed. Action u/s 209A initiated.	6.66
110.	Goga Foods Ltd.	Not available. Prosecution filed. Action u/s 209A initiated.	4.21
111.	Kalyani Finance Ltd.	Not available. Prosecution filed. Action u/s 209A initiated. Police complaint made.	3.21
112.	Pariksha Fin-Invest-lease Ltd.	Filing position up-to-date.	2.48
113.	Rajgarh Investments Ltd.	Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.	3.05
114.	Status MGM Services Ltd.	Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.	1.81

1	2	3	4
115.	Zed Investments Ltd.	Not available. Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Police complaint made.	2.80
116.	Big Star Films Ltd. Formerly Moon Holdings & Credit Ltd.	Not available. Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Police complaint made. Action u/s 209A initiated.	2.69
117.	Orde Textiles Ltd. Name changed to Celeste International Ltd.	Filing position up-to-date.	10.12
118.	Hatron Networks Ltd.	Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Police complaint also launched.	3.40
119.	Nova Dhatu Udyog Ltd.	The Co. has been ordered to be wound up by Hon'ble High Court of Delhi.	25.98
120.	Intecon (India) Ltd.	Filing position up-to-date	2.76
121.	Delta Colonizers Ltd.	Filing position up-to-date.	4.03
Kerala			
122.	ABN Granites Ltd.	Inspection was carried out and prosecution was launched for non filing of latest B/S and A/R.	2.78
Orissa			
123.	Orissa Luminaries Ltd.	Not available. Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R	10.62
124.	Universal Vita Aliment Limited	Not available. Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R	1.80
Madhya Pradesh			
125.	Janak Intermediaries Ltd.	Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R. Police complaint also made.	2.80
126.	Rajadhiraj Ind. Ltd.	Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R. Police complaint also made.	2.50
127.	Hi-Tech Drugs Ltd.	Not Available Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R. Police complaint also made.	3.24
128.	Madhyavart Exxoil Ltd.	Not Available. Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R. Police complaint also made.	2.30
129.	R.L. Agrotech Ltd.	Available. Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R	6.37

1	2	3	4
130.	Sterling Kalks and Bricks Ltd.	Not available Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R. Police complaint also made.	4.44
131.	Total Exports Ltd.	Not available. Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Police complaint launched.	4.06
132.	Rajani Extractions Ltd.	Filing position up-to-date	3.10
133.	Rajshri Forex Ltd.	Filing position up-to-date.	6.64
Uttar Pradesh			
134.	Rich Capital & Fin. Ser. Ltd.	Prosecution has been filed for not filing of B/S & A/R	5.00
135.	Swarnima Oil Inds. Ltd.	The Co. was transferred from Delhi. Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R	4.60
136.	Vijayshree Chemicals	Shifted from Maharashtra to Kanpur on 8.7.98. Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R	6.00
137.	SRP Industries Ltd.	Uptodate in filing. Transferred from Bihar vide CLB order dated 17.7.94.	15.00
Bihar			
138.	Blue Heavens Agro Inds. Ltd.	Filing position uptodate	1.47
139.	Ravi Hitech Pvt. Ltd.	Filing position uptodate	2.04
140.	Shree Vaishnavi Dyeing & Printing Ltd.	Prosecution filed for not filing of B/S & A/R	3.64
141.	Bodh Gaya Ceramics Ltd.	Prosecution filed for not filing of B/S & A/R	0.50
142.	Hitek Industries Ltd.	Under liquidation.	8.50

Note: (*) — B/S refers to Balance Sheet & A/R refers to Annual Return.

Review of Enron's Dabhol Power Project

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

(a) whether State Government of Maharashtra propose to review the Enron's Dabhol Power Project;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor such a review;

(c) the time by which a final decision for continuing of this project is likely to be taken;

(d) whether it would affect the on-going projects; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No such communication proposing to review the Dabhol power project promoted by M/s. Enron has been received from the Government of Maharashtra.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Deteriorating Condition of Power
Grid Corporation**

535. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the condition of Power Grid Corporation is deteriorating due to non-payment of transmission tax by some of the north-eastern states as a result of which the establishment of National Grid and the implementation of several important transmission projects could be obstructed;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Due to weak financial position of the constituent states of the North Eastern region, the transmission tariff for these states has been pegged at 35 paise per kwh which is much less than the transmission tariff to be charged by the POWERGRID as per the norms applicable in the other regions. The states in the North Eastern Region have not been able to pay even the transmission tariff worked out at the rate of 35 paise per unit. This has resulted in substantial loss of revenue to POWERGRID.

(b) and (c) Looking into the financial health of the states in NER, Government of India is considering a proposal to compensate Powergrid suitably against these revenue losses.

[English]

Toll Tax on Transport Vehicles

536. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of States have levied toll tax on the transport vehicles plying on the National and State Highways despite the fact that the said vehicles pay State permit fees to such States regularly;

(b) if so, whether this has led to heavy congestion and traffic hold-ups at the entry points of each State causing great loss in terms of time and money besides contributing to the increasing pollution; and

(c) the response of the Government thereto and the action stipulated to ensure free and uninterrupted flow of transport vehicles throughout the country?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Power Generation in Bihar

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

(a) whether the Government propose to enhance the installed capacity of power generation in Bihar during 1999-2000; and

(b) if so, the number of new power stations proposed to be set up in the state and their proposed installed capacity of each power station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No power project is envisaged to be commissioned in 1999-2000 in Bihar.

(b) The following power projects are under execution in Bihar.

State Sector

1. Tenughat TPP St II

Unit-3 210 MW

Unit-4 210 MW

Unit-5 210 MW

2. Muzaffarpur TPP Extn.

Unit-I 250 MW

Unit-2 250 MW

Private Sector

1. Jojobera TPP

Unit 1 & 2 240 MW

Further, under the Mega Power Project revised policy guidelines, the following projects are proposed to be set up in Bihar in 10th and 11th Plans:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. North Karanpura STPP | 2000 MW NTPC |
| 2. Barh STPP | 2000 MW by NTPC |
| 3. Kahalgaon St II | 1500 MW by NTPC |
| 4. Maithon Project | 1000 MW (Jt venture of BSES and DVC). |

[English]

LPG Agencies/Petrol Pumps at Balia District in Uttar Pradesh

538. SHRI BABBAN RAJBHAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether applications for the allotment of petrol pumps and LPG agencies in Balia district of Uttar Pradesh were invited two years back; and

(b) if so, the time by which the said petrol pump and LPG agency are likely to be sanctioned?

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

(b) Presently, the selection process has been kept in abeyance and Dealer Selection Boards have since been dissolved. It generally takes about 6 to 12 months for commissioning of dealerships/distributorships from the date of interview.

Power Projects in Arunachal Pradesh

539. SHRI JARBOM GAMLIN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up power plants in Arunachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The Ranganadi project (405 MW) being implemented by NEEPCO is expected to be commissioned during the

Ninth Plan. The state sector project of Nuranang (6 MW) was commissioned in 1997-98.

Given below are the details of various power projects cleared by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and schemes returned to project authorities in Arunachal Pradesh, as on 31.01.2000:

A. CEA Cleared/Appraised

1. Kameng HEP (H) 4x150 MW TEC given on 30.4.91

Revised Cost Estimate for Rs. 2874.57 crore, received in 9/99, is under examination.

B. DPR Under Examination in CEA

Nil

C. Schemes Returned/Submission of DPR Expected

1. Dihang HEP (H) 40x500 MW

Report returned in 1/91. Action on issues such as fixation of executing agency, consent of concerned states, yet to be taken.

Project has been handed over to NHPC in January, 2000 and survey/investigation for preparation of DPR commenced by NHPC.

2. Subansiri HEP (H) 12x40 MW

Returned in 1/93. Project has been handed over to NHPC in January, 2000 and survey/investigation for preparation of DPR commenced by NHPC. Matter regarding taking up the project in Central Sector is under consideration of Ministry of Power.

3. Demwe HEP (H) 8x65

Returned in 2/93 as the project parameters are being modified by project authorities.

4. Ranganadi St. II HEP (H) 2x50 MW

3x60 MW

Returned on 5.6.1998. Consent of GOI Under Sec. 18A, Ministry of Environment and Forest clearance, compliance of Sec. 29(2) & (3) of Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 availability of land & water, Inter State clearance of CWC, defence angle clearance and other issues are pending.

Rationality in Rates of Power

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

(a) whether there is a huge difference in the rates of power being supplied by the National Thermal Power Corporation, Maharashtra State Electricity Board and the Reliance Patalganga Power Private Limited;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure rationality in rates of power being charged by the Private Sector Power Producer; and

(d) the details of Power purchase agreements revised during 1998-99 and the current year alongwith the demand received for revision of PPAs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Details of the rates/charges of power supplied by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) to Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) for the month of December 1999 from the four power stations of NTPC located in the Western Region are as given below:

Sl. No.	Name of Power Station/ Capacity (MW)	Normative Tariff (at 68.49% PLF) (Paise/kwh)
1.	Korba STPS (2100 MW)	72.96
2.	Vindhyachal STPS (1260 MW)	120.21
3.	Kawas GPS (656.20 MW)	250.20
4.	Jhanor-Gandhar GPS (657.39 MW)	242.58

The Patalganga Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (447.1 MW) in Maharashtra of M/s. Reliance Patalganga Power Private Limited has been accorded techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority (CEA) on 22.1.1998 at an estimated cost of US\$ 319.02 Million (at the exchange rate of US\$ 1 = Rs. 35.50)+ Rs. 246.66 crores. The project is yet to achieve financial closure and start generation. The tariff for the power generated, which is dependent on the cost of fuel used and the prevailing foreign exchange rate, will be known only after the plant begins commercial generation.

Tariff for the power of MSEB to various categories of consumers is fixed as per Section 49 & 59 of Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 under the overall guidance of the Government of Maharashtra, whereas for the power supplied from the power stations of NTPC, tariff has been

fixed as per the norms given in the report of the K.P. Rao Committee. The average sale rate of power by MSEB in the state of Maharashtra is 216 paise per unit.

(c) and (d) Tariff for sale of power by all the private sector power projects is presently worked out in accordance with the factors laid down in Government of India's Notifications in this regard and other terms and conditions of PPA entered into between the generating company and the Board. The Government has advised the States to, inter-alia, choose those projects which offer the least tariff to the State. The power Purchase Agreement (PPA) is a contract between the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) and the independent power producers (IPPs) in which the modalities for purchase/sale of power are negotiated between the two parties. As such, the issue of monitoring of PPAs comes under the purview of the respective State Governments. Normally the Government of India does not monitor the progress in finalisation of these agreements. To assist the State Governments/SEBs in formulation of these agreements, Government of India circulated guidelines in respect of PPAs in 1994. The Ministry of Power also circulated a draft model PPA to enable the State Governments to formulate their own PPAs and also organised training workshops on PPAs.

Reconciliation Centres in Goa

541. SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of reconciliation centres have been set up in Goa to overcome the burden of court cases;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to set up such centres in other States as well to reduce the burden of court cases; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) These are in the process of being set up.

(b) and (c) The question of establishing counseling and conciliation Centres for guiding and motivating litigants to resolve their disputes amicably was considered as item No. 7 at the Second Annual Meet of the State Legal Services Authorities held under the aegis of the National Legal Services Authorities at Hyderabad on 9.10.99 where it was resolved that such Centres should be established in all districts in the States.

As per the Status report received from the State Legal Services Authorities, such Counselling and Conciliation Centres have been set up in Gujarat, Punjab, Chandigarh and Delhi.

Requirement of LPG for Uttar Pradesh

542. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated monthly requirement of LPG for KHERI (Lakhimpur) and Mohan Lal Ganj district of Uttar Pradesh at present and the supply position thereof;

(b) the details of the steps taken by the Government to meet the full requirement of LPG in the said districts;

(c) whether the rural areas of these districts are being neglected in supplying LPG;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the details of steps taken to meet the shortage of LPG cylinders in the aforesaid districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (e) The monthly requirement of packed LPG for Kheri district of U.P. and Mohan Lal Ganj market of Lucknow district in U.P. are 251 and 36 MT respectively. The supplies to the existing customers is in line with the demand. However, whenever LPG backlog develops, PSU Oil Companies take various measures including maximising imports, operating the bottling plants on extended hours, on Sundays and Holidays etc. to meet the demand in the affected areas.

[Translation]

Demand and Supply of LPG in Haryana

543. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the demand and supply of LPG in Haryana during the last three years and as on December 31, 1999;

(b) whether there is short supply of LPG cylinders in Haryana particularly in the Bhiwani region;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps likely to be taken by the Government to meet shortage during the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The sale of LPG by the PSU Oil Companies in the state of Haryana during the last three years are given as under:—

Year	LPG Sale (TMT)
1996-97	133.5
1997-98	148.8
1998-99	172.3

Presently no shortage in supply of LPG cylinders in the State of Haryana has been reported. However, whenever LPG backlog develops, PSU Oil Companies take various measures including maximising imports, operating the bottling plants on extended hours/Sundays and holidays, etc. to meet the demand in the affected markets.

[English]

Indira Vikas Patra and Kisan Vikas Patra

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

(a) whether the instances of malpractices/frauds in the issue of Indira Vikas Patra/Kisan Vikas Patra have been noticed by the Government during the year 1999-2000 so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last one year; and

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

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

In the last few years, a number of instances of malpractices/frauds in the issue of Indira Vikas Patras/ Kisan Vikas Patras have been noticed by the Government with the following break-up:—

Year	No. of Instances
1996-97	08
1997-98	12
1998-99	18

(b) There has been no reported case in the year 1999-2000.

(c) The following corrective actions have been taken by the Government:—

- (1) The Department of Posts has circulated the numbers and series of the savings certificates lost in transit from the custody of Railways till date to all the Post Offices in the country so as to guard against their fraudulent issue and subsequent encashment from any of the Post Offices.
- (2) Department has also informed Reserve Bank of India (RBI) about the complete details of the lost certificates so that RBI in turn can circulate the series numbers to various nationalised, cooperative and private banks in the country for averting fraudulent issue and pledging of these certificates to get loans from the banks.
- (3) The matter has also been reported to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) which is actively investigating the case of fraudulent issue and subsequent encashment of these saving certificates from different parts of the country.
- (4) Department has circulated instructions from time to time to all the circles and post offices to guard against fraudulent issue and

payments in saving certificates. The staff has also been directed to strictly follow the laid down procedures and rules while issuing and discharging the savings certificates.

- (5) Government has discontinued the issue of Indira Vikas Patras from 16th August, 1999.
- (6) 37 of the departmental officials have been proceeded against for imposition of major penalty.

[Translation]

Post Offices in Madhya Pradesh

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

(a) the number of post offices functioning at present in Madhya Pradesh particularly in Bilaspur district, district-wise and the places where new post offices are proposed to be opened in the next financial year, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide postal facilities in all the remote and rural areas of the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which such facilities are likely to be provided; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) 11361 post offices are functioning at present in Madhya Pradesh. 283 post offices are functioning in Bilaspur District. District-wise details of post offices are given in enclosed Statement. The places where new post offices are proposed to be opened in the next financial year have not so far been decided.

(b) and (c) Postal facilities are available in all the areas including rural and remote areas. New post offices are opened subject to the availability of resources and fulfilment of norms.

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

Statement*District-wise Post Offices in MP Circle as on 15.2.2000*

Sl. No.	Name of District	H.O.	S.O.	EDSO	EDBO	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Balaghat	1	24	—	201	226
2.	Barwani	—	12	4	102	118
3.	Bastar	1	19	—	234	254
4.	Betul	1	22	—	198	221
5.	Bhind	1	23	1	230	255
6.	Bhopal	3	59	2	65	129
7.	Bilaspur	1	33	—	249	283
8.	Chhatarpur	1	23	1	200	225
9.	Chhindwara	1	28	1	235	265
10.	Damoh	1	19	2	139	161
11.	Dantewada	—	14	—	156	170
12.	Datia	—	9	—	89	98
13.	Dewas	1	17	1	150	169
14.	Dhamtari	—	7	—	86	93
15.	Dhar	1	17	11	181	210
16.	Dindori	—	8	—	110	118
17.	Durg	2	56	—	269	327
18.	Guria	1	23	2	173	199
19.	Gwalior	2	43	1	147	193
20.	Harda	—	6	2	62	70
21.	Hoshangabad	1	24	2	150	177
22.	Indore	2	61	2	107	172
23.	Jabalpur	1	52	3	116	172
24.	Janjgir	—	22	—	262	284
25.	Jashpur	—	13	—	150	163
26.	Jahabua	1	17	—	154	172
27.	Kanker	1	11	—	144	156
28.	Katni	1	23	1	196	221

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
29.	Kavardha	—	3	—	64	67
30.	Khandwa	1	33	2	192	228
31.	Khargone	1	18	5	163	187
32.	Korba	1	22	—	70	93
33.	Koriya	—	18	—	81	99
34.	Mahasumand	—	7	—	126	133
35.	Mandla	1	10	—	91	102
36.	Mandsaur	1	21	3	148	173
37.	Morena	1	16	1	183	201
38.	Narsinghpur	1	17	—	165	183
39.	Neemuch	1	22	4	127	154
40.	Panna	—	14	1	140	155
41.	Raigarh	1	14	—	245	260
42.	Raipur	1	53	—	320	374
43.	Raisan	1	16	5	188	210
44.	Rajgarh (Bia)	1	17	4	144	166
45.	Rajnandgaon	1	15	—	138	154
46.	Rattlam	1	26	7	150	184
47.	Rewa	1	37	—	299	337
48.	Sagar	1	44	2	192	239
49.	Satna	1	26	2	260	289
50.	Sehore	1	22	8	137	168
51.	Seoni	1	18	—	177	196
52.	Shahdol	1	27	—	212	240
53.	Shajapur	1	22	2	154	179
54.	Sheopurkala	1	5	—	57	62
55.	Shivpuri	—	20	5	198	224
56.	Sidhi	1	19	—	183	203
57.	Sarguja	1	13	—	170	184
58.	Tikamgarh	1	19	—	165	185
59.	Ujjain	1	35	9	156	201
60.	Umaria (Shahdol)	—	6	—	61	67
61.	Vidisha	1	18	2	142	163
Total:		52	1358	98	9853	11361

[English]

Reduction in Tariff

546. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reduce the tariffs of cellular mobile telephones, long distance surface call facility, Internet and STD facilities, to give the benefit to the consumers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) After promulgation of the TRAI Act, 1997, the tariff setting function have been entrusted to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India. The position in respect of each of the service mentioned in this question is as under:

(i) *Cellular Mobile Telephones:*

The Authority is conducting a review of cellular mobile tariffs in the context of change in the License Fee Regime from fixed license fee to revenue sharing which reduces the financial burden on the operators.

(ii) *Long Distance STD and ISD calls:*

Through their March, 1999 order, the TRAI have reduced Long Distance (STD and ISD) rates at an average of 20% which have been made effective from 1st May, 1999.

(iii) *Internet:*

Tariff setting has been left to market forces

Approval of National Highway as Super Highway

547. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Muzaffarpur-Darbhanga-Forbisganj-Purnea National Highway has been approved as the Super National Highway;

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

(c) the amount spent on this road so far; and

(d) the time by which the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) No, Sir, it is not approved as Super National Highway (Express Way).

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Ban on Production of Leaded Petrol

548. DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:

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

(a) whether a decision has been taken to ban the production of leaded petrol in all the refineries with a view to ensure sale of unleaded petrol in the entire country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said decision is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Refineries have stopped addition of lead in petrol with effect from 1.10.99.

(c) Only unleaded petrol is being supplied since 1.2.2000 at all retail outlets in entire country.

[English]

Setting up of Regional Offices for Developmental Projects

549. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some regional offices have been set up to clear developmental projects of States involving forest land below five hectares;

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

(c) whether there is a demand to set up a separate regional office at Chandrapur or Nagpur in Maharashtra to cater to the needs of Maharashtra in this regards; and

(d) if so, the time by such a regional office is likely to be set up at these places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of Regional Offices, their headquarters and jurisdictions is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Yes, Sir, This Ministry has received demand for

separate Regional Office at Nagpur.

(d) No target date to set up separate Regional Office at Chandrapur or Nagpur. however, the Ministry is considering setting up of Sub-Regional Office at suitable places including in Maharashtra to facilitate the works but it has not been possible because of financial constraints and ban on creation of new manpower and infrastructure. At present Regional Office Bhopal is considering development projects for Maharashtra.

Statement

The Headquarter of Regional Offices and their jurisdiction are as follows:

Sl.No.	Region	Location of Headquarters	Jurisdiction
1.	East	Bhubaneswar	Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, UTs Andaman & Nicobar.
2.	South	Bangalore	Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, UTs of Lakshadweep & Pondicherry.
3.	West	Bhopal	Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and UTs of Dadra Nagar & Haveli. Daman & Diu.
4.	Central	Lucknow	Rajasthan & Uttar Pradesh
5.	North East	Shillong	Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim.
6.	North	Chandigarh	Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, J & K, Punjab, Delhi and UT of Chandigarh.
7.	Eastern Plateau or Upper East	Ranchi	Bihar & Bengal.

Note: Regional Office at Ranchi is yet to be made functional due to financial constraints and ban on creation of new manpower and infrastructure.

Internet Services

550. SHRI BHIM DAHAL:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has any proposal to expand the Internet Services in Delhi and Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to expand the Internet Services in the country particularly in Kheri and Lucknow; and

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

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

(b) MTNL proposes to expand the port capacity from present 3500 ports to 10000 ports in Delhi and Mumbai each.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The existing Internet Node at Lucknow is being upgraded to higher capacity Type and an Internet Node is to be installed at Kheri. However, the Internet Services

at Lucknow and Kheri are already available on local call basis from existing node at Lucknow.

[*Translation*]

Demand and Generation of Power in Rajasthan

551. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the rate at which power is being supplied to Rajasthan from the Central and State Power Projects separately;

(b) the names of the power projects of Rajasthan approved/lying pending with the Government during the last three years and till date;

(c) the manner in which these projects are proposed to be financed; and

(d) the action plan formulated by the Government for smooth functioning of the projects in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Tariff for sale of power from existing Central Sector Projects of NTPC, NHPC and NPCIL in Northern Region in which Rajasthan is having its share of power are as follows:

<i>Name of the Project</i>	<i>Tariff</i>	
(NTPC)	(P/Kwh)	
Singrauli	66.65	As on 14.5.99
Rihand	122.51	
FGUTPS	153.03	
Dadri	119.40	
Auraiya	103.41	
Anta	99.34	
(NHPC)	(For 1999-2000)	
Salal St. I & II	40.49	
Chamera St. I	104.54	
Tanakpur	64.80	
Un	99.61	

NPCIL (Nuclear Power Corporation)

Narora APS 164.27 (w.e.f. 20.5.98 to 31.3.2001)

Rajasthan APS I }
Rajasthan APS II } Tariff yet to be fixed.

As per the information received from RSEB, the average cost of power generation from Thermal & Hydro power projects located in Rajasthan for the year 1997-98 was 169.65 p/Kwh and 27.73 P/Kwh respectively.

(b) (i) The name of the thermal power projects of Rajasthan techno-economically cleared/yet to be cleared by CEA during the last three years & till date are as follows:

Projects Cleared/Appraised

1. Dholpur CCGT	707.7 MW
2. Barsingsar Lignite TPP	2x250 MW
3. Anta CCGT St. II of NTPC	650 MW
4. Mathania Integrated Solar cum Combined Cycle Plant	140 MW
5. Suratgarh TPS St. II of RSEB	2x250 MW

DPR yet to be Cleared

1. Ramgarh CCGT St. II by RSEB	71 MW
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(ii) There is no Hydro Power Projects in Rajasthan State costing above Rs. 100 crores cleared/pending in CEA during the last three years and till date.

(c) As per the tentative financing pattern submitted to CEA, the manner in which the projects are proposed to be financed are as follows:

- (i) Dholpur & Barsingsar Projects are promoted by private promoters. The project would be financed by non recourse project financing by tying up loan from Indian and Foreign Institutions.
- (ii) For Anta St. II, NTPC proposed to raise finance by contributing to equity (30% of the project cost) from their internal resource and arranging commercial loan from domestic and foreign institutions for the balance.
- (iii) Mathania ISCC plant is proposed to be financed by grants from Global Environment Funding

(USA), KFW (Germany) and Government of India (totalling to about 45% of project cost), Loan from KFW (Germany) (49% of project cost) and equity from Government of Rajasthan for the balance.

- (iv) Suratgarh St. II is proposed to be financed by plan assistance from State Government loan from PFC and commercial Bank/Lease financing (totalling to about 645 of the project cost) and also by equity of RSEB for the balance.
- (v) Ramgarh CCGT is proposed to be financed mainly from State Government loan provided through Annual Plan provisions. Loan assistance from PFC/other financial institutions are also proposed to be availed.

(d) The Government of Rajasthan has decided to restructure its power sector and an Act in this regard has since been passed. The Act contemplates unbundling of RSEB and privatisation of distribution. Electricity Regulatory Commission has also been set up. These measures would facilitate smooth functioning of projects.

[English]

Amendment of Major Port Trusts Act, 1963

552. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 to bring supporting infrastructure at major ports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have prepared any scheme for the privatisation of or setting up for joint ventures—involving major ports;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures proposed to implement these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Major Port Trusts (Amendment) Bill, 1998 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 4th December, 1998. The Bill was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport and Tourism. The Parliamentary

Standing Committee on Transport and Tourism has presented its report to the Rajya Sabha on 8.3.1999 and tabled it in the Lok Sabha on 4.3.1999. The said Committee has recommended the proposed amendments as detailed in its report.

(c) to (e) The Government have issued guidelines for private sector participation in the Major Ports and for Joint Venture formations involving Major Ports. A number of private sector projects have been approved. A list of such projects is given in the Statement attached.

Statement

Approved Private Sector/Captive Port Projects

S.No.	Project Name	Port Name
1.	Container Terminal (2 berths)	Jawaharlal Nehru (JNP)
2.	Liquid Cargo Berth	JNP
3.	Fifth Oil Jetty	Kandla
4.	Oil Jetty	Kandla
5.	Container Terminal	Tuticorin
6.	Multipurpose berth 5A and 6A	Murmugao
7.	Captive coal berth to SPIC Electric Corporation	Tuticorin
8.	Captive berth to Oswal Fertilisers Ltd.	Paradip
9.	Development & Operation of Container Terminal	Kandla

[Translation]

New Telephone Scheme

553. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new telephone connections provided since the new telephone connection scheme for Rs. 1500/- was introduced in Delhi till date;

(b) whether such as scheme of getting a telephone connection has been introduced in other States of the country as well;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether all the new telephone connections are being energised simultaneously;

(e) whether after installation of such connections some extra amount is being charged in the first telephone bill;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the subscribers are facing lot of inconveniences as a result thereof;

(h) if so, whether the Government propose to reconsider the said scheme; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Sir, nearly 45,000 new telephone connections have been provided since the new telephone scheme for Rs. 1500/- was introduced in Delhi.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Chief General Managers of all the Telecom Circles have been authorised to fix flexible registration charges on special occasions such as festivals etc. The scheme has been operative in Andaman & Nicobar, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Karnataka, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, U.P. (East), West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh Telecom Circles and Calcutta Telephones, etc. from time to time.

(d) Sir, the registrations made under the scheme are being cleared and telephones are provided progressively.

(e) No extra registration fee is charged. In the first bill, apart from call charges, rental, installation fee and one year advance rental is charged after adjusting registration fee already paid by the subscriber.

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

[English]

Taking Over of Delhi Vidyut Board by Tatas

554. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tatas have offered to take over Delhi Vidyut Board, including the function of the generation and distribution of power;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Delhi Vidyut Board (DVB) is under the administrative and financial control of Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi. The Delhi Vidyut Board has informed that no such proposal have so far been received by them from Tatas.

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

Pending Proposal for Road Projects in Kerala

555. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals for road projects from Government of Kerala regarding the National Highways are lying pending for approval; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) There are 37 proposals costing about Rs. 70 crores received from the State Public Works Department recently which are under examination.

Use of Electronic Voting Machines and Photo Identity Cards

556. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Election Commission have decided to introduce Electronic Voting Machines and mandatory use of Photo Identity Cards in the assembly elections;

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

(c) whether the Election Commission have completed the task of issuing Photo Identity Cards to all the entitled citizens in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Electronic Voting Machines were used extensively and successfully during the previous General Elections to the Lok Sabha and certain Legislative Assemblies, viz., Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, NCT of Delhi and very recently Haryana and Orissa. Though the production of electors' Photo-Identity Cards at the time of voting has not been made mandatory so far, the Election Commission insisted upon their production or any specified alternative

proof of identity during the recent elections to the Legislative Assembly of Haryana which State has been able to provide these cards to its 86.82% of electors. A Statement showing the status Report on progress of issue of electors' Photo Identity Cards in different States is enclosed. In this connection, it may be stated that the scheme of issue of electors' Photo Identity Cards is a continuous and ongoing scheme and, therefore, it is practically not possible to cover all the electors in the country under this scheme at any given point of time.

Statement

Election Commission of India

Status Report on Progress of Electors Photo Identity Cards

Sl. No.	States/UTs		Total Electors	Electors issued with Identity Cards	Percentage 4 as % of 3
1	2		3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Oct., 99	49,140,231	32,568,406	66.28
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	May, 99	565,283	371,734	65.76
3.	Assam	May, 98	12,575,854	67,479	0.54
4.	Bihar	Apr., 98	58,438,317	21,681,836	37.10
5.	Goa	Jan., 99	878,707	525,575	59.81
6.	Gujarat	Nov., 99	29,507,882	23,177,051	78.55
7.	Haryana	Oct., 99	10,998,746	9,549,245	86.82
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Nov., 99	3,740,172	2,653,669	70.95
9.	Jammu & Kashmir		5,022,782	0	0.00
10.	Karnataka	Dec., 98	33,052,802	24,046,881	72.75
11.	Kerala	Apr., 99	21,152,899	15,327,431	72.46
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Dec., 98	44,640,047	27,706,647	62.07
13.	Maharashtra	May, 99	56,173,068	44,261,305	78.79
14.	Manipur	July, 99	1,330,299	1,033,733	77.71
15.	Meghalaya	Sep., 98	1,157,450	644,140	55.65
16.	Mizoram		441,844	0	0.00
17.	Nagaland	Dec, 98	925,831	625,996	67.61
18.	Orissa	Jan., 99	23,373,512	18,129,314	77.56
19.	Punjab	Oct., 99	15,677,459	10,803,963	68.91

1	2		3	4	5
20.	Rajasthan	Nov., 99	29,738,496	21,331,325	71.73
21.	Sikkim	July, 99	252,190	200,077	79.34
22.	Tamil Nadu	Oct., 99	45,577,323	24,834,054	54.49
23.	Tripura	May, 99	1,725,809	1,229,931	71.27
24.	Uttar Pradesh	Feb., 99	101,943,066	53,027,456	52.02
25.	West Bengal	May, 99	46,832,298	36,013,308	76.90
26.	A&N Islands	Dec., 98	231,928	180,805	77.96
27.	Chandigarh	Apr., 99	538,607	381,048	70.75
28.	D&N Haveli	Mar., 99	95,832	67,000	69.91
29.	Daman & Diu	Feb., 99	71,931	45,645	63.46
30.	NCT of Delhi	Aug., 98	8,364,773	5,705,390	68.21
31.	Lakshadweep	Feb., 99	36,738	31,813	86.59
32.	Pondicherry	May, 99	665,486	555,675	83.50
All India Total			604,867,664	376,777,932	62.29

Olive Ridley Turtles

557. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI:
DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI:
SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY:

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

(a) whether unchecked trawling is threatening India's precious maritime resources especially the Olive Ridley turtles on the shores of Orissa; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to protect them from illegal fishing by the trawlers on the Orissa Coast?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Despite all efforts, some fishing related casualties of marine resources especially of Olive Ridley Sea Turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) are occurring in the Orissa coast.

(b) A number of steps have been taken to protect casualties of these turtles which are as follows:—

- Olive Ridley Turtles (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) has been kept in the Schedule I of Wildlife

Protection Act, 1972, in which case punishment for the offence may extend to six years imprisonment with fine of Rupees Five thousand.

- All the nesting sites of Olive Ridley Sea Turtles have been declared as 'No Fishing Zone' under "Orissa Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1982" and rules made thereunder. These 3 nesting sites are:
 - Coastal waters in front of Gahirmatha between Dhamra river mouth to Hukitola island.
 - Coastal waters in front of Devi river mouth.
 - Coastal waters in front of Rushikulya river mouth.
- Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary has been notified on 27.9.1997 covering Gahirmatha Sea Turtles breeding as well as nesting grounds and surrounding coastal waters.
- High Power Committee have been set up under the chairmanship of Chief Minister of Orissa since 1996 to review/monitor the conservation aspects of sea turtles.

5. Regular patrolling by Forest Department boats for preventing violation of Fishing Regulation Act, 1982 and Wildlife Act, 1972 are carried out in the best interest of maritime resources including sea turtles. State Police also assist the Forest department in apprehending the illegal fishing with the sanctuary limits. Some fishing boats which have violated the provisions of Wildlife Act have been seized and crews were prosecuted under the provisions of this Act. Fisheries Department, Govt. of Orissa has prescribed the use of TED (Turtle Exclusion Device) to the fishing net.
6. Indian Coast Guards of Government of India also patrol the area in high sea along the above mentioned nesting grounds of sea turtles to prevent illegal fishing and trawling.
7. Protection camps with communication facilities are set up at strategic points for protection of marine resources.
8. Public awareness campaigns are carried out through media (AIR and Doordarshan) and NGOs like WWF-India, Wildlife Protection Society of India, etc. Awareness programmes are also carried by involving the local people specially the fishing communities.
9. Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India has initiated a Sea Turtle Conservation Project primarily to safeguard the Olive Ridley Sea Turtles in Orissa and East Coast of India. The project is initially for a period of two years and is planned to be extended for a longer period.

Translation]

Speed Post Facility

558. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of cities/towns where Speed Post facility is available at present and proposed to be provided during 2000-2001 in the country, State-wise;

(b) the time being taken for delivery by Speed Post;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve speed post services in the country;

(d) the name of district headquarters of Gujarat where Speed Post facility is not available so far;

(e) the reasons therefor;

(f) the time by which the said facility is likely to be provided in the every district headquarter of the State; and

(g) the funds allocated for the purpose during 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Statewise list of 97 cities/towns on National Speed Post Network as on 1.2.2000 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Excluding the day of posting it takes from 1 to 3 days to deliver Speed Post articles between one National Centre to the other National Centres depending on their respective geographical locations and mode of transportation available between them.

(c) DOP has taken following measures to ensure efficient operation of Speed Post Service.

- Delivery through dedicated staff.
- Mechanisation of delivery.
- Free pick-up services from the customer premises.
- Computerisation of booking and delivery.
- Introduction to Track and Trace System; and
- Monitoring of quality.

(d) speed Post facility is not available at following district headquarters.

(1) Ahwa (Dang) (2) Amreli (3) Bharuch (4) Bhavnagar (5) Bhuj (6) Dahod (7) Godhra (8) Himatnagar (9) Junagadh (10) Jamnagar (11) Mehsana (12) Nadiad (13) Navasari (14) Palanpur (15) Patan (16) Porbandar (17) Rajpipla (18) Surendranagar (19) Valsad.

(e) and (f) Speed Post is a premium product providing time bound guaranteed delivery. It is run on commercial consideration. Expansion of this net work is an on-going process, depending upon market situation.

(g) The funds are made available as per requirement.

Statement*[English]**National Speed Post Centres as on 1.2.2000***Racket Involving Unmetered Calls**

Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam, Tirupati, Vijaywada
Assam	Guwahati, Silchar, Dibrugarh, Jorhat
Bihar	Patna, Ranchi, Dhanbad, Jamshedpur, Muzaffarpur
Delhi	Delhi
Gujarat	Ahmedabad/Gandhi Nagar, Vadodara, Surat, Rajkot
Jammu & Kashmir	Srinagar, Jammu
Kerala	Cochin, Trivandrum, Aluva (Alwaye), Calicut, Trichur, Quilon, Kottayam, Tiruvalla
Karnataka	Bangalore, Mangalore, Mysore Udupi, Hubli Dharwad, Belgaum, Gulabarga, Raichur
Madhya Pradesh	Indore, Gwalior, Bhopal, Raipur, Jablpur
North Eastern	Agartala, Imphal, Shillong, Aizawal, Dimapur, Kohima
Punjab	Chandigarh, Jullundhar, Ludhiana, Amritsar
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
Haryana	Faridabad, Gurgaon, Ambala, Panipat
Orissa	Bhubaneswar, Cuttack
Rajasthan	Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Ajmer
Tamil Nadu	Chennai, Coimbatore, Trichy, Madurai, Salem Kanchipuram, Pondicherry, Tirupur, Hosur, Nagarcoil, Tuticorin
Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur, Agra, Meerut, Allahabad, Lucknow, Varanasi, Moradabad, Gorakhpur, Dehradun, Bareilly, Noida, Ghaziabad.
West Bengal	Calcutta, Howrah, Siliguri, Gangtok
APO	50 APO, 99 APO.

559. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:
SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a racket of unmetered calls has been unearthed at Meerut telephone exchange as reported in the Hindustan Times, dated January 26, 2000;

(b) if so, the details of modus-operandi of the racket;

(c) the estimated losses suffered by the Government due to this particular racket;

(d) whether similar rackets of unmetered call are flourishing in other cities and towns as well, in connivance with the telecom officials; and

(e) if so, the facts in this regard and action taken by the Government to check such rackets in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir, No such racket as reported in the Hindustan Times, dated 26th January, 2000 has been detected.

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

(d) and (e) Some incidents get reported wherein misuse of STD/ISD facilities have been noticed involving different modus operandi. Involvement of telecom officials, if any, is promptly investigated and suitable action taken in each case. Besides, critical studies of different technologies have been made and suitable modifications in the systems have been decided and implemented to stop such misuse. All field offices have also been instructed to keep special watch on such possible misuse.

Report of Public Sector Oil Companies on Hydrocarbons

560. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received the Hydrocarbon vision 2025 Report on the public sector oil companies;

(b) if so, the details of the major recommendations and observation made therein;

(c) the reaction of PSUs/Government thereto;

(d) the details of action proposed to be taken on the recommendations of the Report; and

(e) the details of other major reforms under consideration/recently formulated or impact thereof?

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

(b) to ((e) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Self-Sufficiency in Petroleum Products

561. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

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

(a) whether the dependency on imported petrol and diesel has been increasing in order to fulfil the demand for the same in the country since the last few years;

(b) if so, the separate estimates of the demand of petrol and diesel in the country during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999 till December;

(c) the quantum of increase in the import of these products during the said period; and

(d) the factors responsible for increase in demand of the said products during these years?

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

(b) and (c) The demand and imports of petrol and diesel during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (April - December) was as under:

(Million Tonnes)

Year	Demand		Imports	
	Petrol	Diesel	Petrol	Diesel
1997-98	5.182	36.071	0.331	14.075
1998-99	5.511	36.887	0.251	10.485
1999-2000 (Apr. - Dec.)	4.386	29.537	Negligible	4.108

*Provisional

Import data is excluding import by private parties.

(d) The per capita consumption of fuel in India is still very low *vis-a-vis* the world average consumption. The factors responsible for recent increase in demand are economical and industrial growth in the country.

[*English*]

Clearance to Naphtha Based Liquid Fuel Power Project in Karnataka

562. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has requested the Union Government to accord Techno-economic clearance to Naphtha based Liquid Fuel Power Projects of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the date from which the request of State Government is pending with the Union Government;

(c) the reasons therefor, project-wise; and

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

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

(b) and (c) The details, as on 31.1.2000, of these

projects, indicating the requisite details and also the inputs/clearances pending for accord of Techno-Economic Clearance (TEC) by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) are given below:—

Name of project/ generating company	Capacity (MW)	Date of receipt in CEA	Pending inputs clearances
Nanjangud CCPP (M/s. IPS Power Company)	96.7	21.4.98	Resolution of inter-State angle of water availability by Central Water Commission (CWC)/ Ministry of Water Resources.
Hassan CCPP (M/s. Hassan Power Supply Co. Ltd.)	189	31.12.97	The scheme was considered by CEA for TEC on 28.5.99 when it was decided to reconsider it after hard cost is reduced by the project developer by Rs. 51 crores in addition to Rs. 20 crores already reduced by them and reduction of soft cost to a reasonable level. The pending inputs/clearances are the resolution of inter-State angle of water availability by CWC/ MOWR.
Mandya CCPP (M/s. Mandya Power Partners Pvt. Ltd.)	164.4	31.12.97 (A revised Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been received by CEA on 31.1.2000	The pending inputs/clearances are compliance of Section 29(2) of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948—Corrigendum for revised capacity and cost in the Gazette, no objection certificate of the State Pollution Control Board. Revalidation for revised capacity, firming completed cost, water availability from CWC/MOWR, enhancement and transfer of fuel linkage in favour of the generating company, fuel transport, clearance from Ministry of Environment & Forests. Revalidation for revised capacity, financial package, etc.

(d) The above schemes could be considered for accord of TEC only after the pending inputs/clearances are tied up by the concerned project authorities.

[Translation]

Construction of Tunnel under Rohtang Pass

563. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:
SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government in consultation with the Ministry of Finance, Planning Commission and Ministry of Defence have assigned the ambitious projects of the construction of a tunnel under the Rohtang Pass to his Ministry for linking district Lahol Spiti of Himachal Pradesh and Laddakh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the construction work on the said project is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):
(a) No, Sir. Investment decision for the construction of the tunnel will be taken only after further investigation.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Increase in Power Generation in Southern States

564. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a special working group to work out the ways and means to increase power availability in the Southern States;

(b) if so, whether any action plan has been formulated by the working group to overcome the growing requirement of power in those States;

(c) if so, the details of the steps taken to implement the action plan;

(d) whether the Government have received the request from Kerala Government to restore the quota of unallocated power to the state atleast to the tune of 15 percent: and

(e) the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir. A Committee has been constituted to review power supply position and suggest measures for improving the power availability in Southern Region.

(b) and (c) The Committee is yet to submit its report to the Government.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The allocation of power out of unallocated quota of central generating stations is reviewed from time to time keeping in view the relative power shortages in the constituent states of the region and also to meet the emergent/seasonal requirements of the states in the region. The power supply position in the Southern Region was reviewed by the Central Electricity Authority in December, 1999 and the power supply position in Kerala

was expected to be comfortable *vis-a-vis* other states of Southern Region during February, 2000 to June, 2000, and therefore the allocation to Kerala out of unallocated quota was reduced from 5% (22 MW) to 'Nil'.

[*Translation*]

Village Public Telephone Facility in Madhya Pradesh

565. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages covered by the Village Public Telephone facility and where the said facility is not available in Madhya Pradesh particularly in backward areas and Bihar particularly in Saharsa and Supal districts during the last three years, separately, district-wise; and

(b) the number of such telephones proposed to be provided in those State during 2000-2001, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The Village Public Telephone facility has been provided in large number of villages in Madhya Pradesh including backward areas and in Bihar including Saharsa and Supal districts.

Information on such facility provided during the last three years is as under:

	Madhya Pradesh	Bihar	Saharsa Distt.	Supal Distt.
No. of Villages	71526	79208	438	517
Villages provided with VPTs upto 31.01.2000	43615	21856	287	275
Villages not having VPTs	27911	57352	151	242
VPTs provided during				
1997-98	3878	2615	56	48
1998-99	3707	2137	42	24
last 3 years 1999-2000 (upto 31st Jan, 2000)	334	503	16	12

District-wise information is in the enclosed Statement.

in Madhya Pradesh and 17,700 VPTs in Bihar during 2000-2001. VPTs are provided at places which are easily accessible to public.

(b) The Government plans are to provide 3,000 VPTs

Statement

VPTs provided in different districts in MP during last 3 years

Sl.No.	Name of District	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (As on 21.02.2000)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Balaghat	124	152	80
2.	Bastar	12	230	23
3.	Belul	14	260	15
4.	Bhind	87	28	0
5.	Bhopal	43	0	0
6.	Bilaspur	20	350	166
7.	Chhailarpur	24	55	0
8.	Chhindwara	177	307	131
9.	Damoh	13	42	0
10.	Delia	0	0	0
11.	Dewas	36	33	0
12.	Dhar	3	0	0
13.	Durg	5	134	28
14.	Guna	172	39	0
15.	Gwalior	0	0	0
16.	Hoshangabad	112	81	0
17.	Indore	72	23	0
18.	Jabalpur	194	50	0
19.	Jhabua	218	17	0
20.	Khandwa	38	0	0
21.	Khargaon	102	154	94
22.	Mandia	33	143	39
23.	Mandsaur	251	81	0
24.	Morena	135	34	0
25.	Narsingpur	100	152	114
26.	Panna	59	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
27.	Raigarh	13	170	48
28.	Raipur	0	200	20
29.	Raisen	179	19	0
30.	Rajgarh	63	30	0
31.	Rajanandgaon	0	0	0
32.	Ratlam	170	15	0
33.	Rewa	12	70	0
34.	Sagar	140	41	0
35.	Sarguja	0	120	0
36.	Satna	202	101	0
37.	Sehore	75	65	0
38.	Seoni	90	222	148
39.	Shahdol	160	101	0
40.	Shajapur	110	79	0
41.	Shivpuri	302	70	0
42.	Sidhi	29	0	0
43.	Tikamgarh	14	5	0
44.	Ujjain	154	0	0
45.	Vidisha	185	34	0
Total:		3878	3707	906

District-wise Data for Bihar

Sl. No.	Name of District	Total No. of inhabited Vill.	Total No. of VPT provided	Total No. of VPT provided during		
				1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Arrah	993	453	96	24	58
2.	Araria	703	336	34	52	51
3.	Aurangabad	1738	382	48	36	24
4.	Banka	1618	411	80	63	41
5.	Begusarai	687	412	29	12	60
6.	Bhabhua	1309	166	44	11	00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7.	Bhagalpur	803	633	147	112	72
8.	Bokaro	373	308	48	100	30
9.	Buxar	813	210	58	11	47
10.	Chapra	1560	403	28	36	120
11.	Chatra	1411	91	00	05	00
12.	Darbhanga	1063	420	24	12	72
13.	Deaghar	2927	345	24	40	12
14.	Dhanbad	1820	514	96	198	56
15.	Dumka	1712	410	72	48	12
16.	E. Champaran	1275	595	78	72	48
17.	E. Singhbhum	1576	298	52	00	21
18.	Gaya	2650	464	48	48	24
19.	Garihawa	851	174	00	21	29
20.	Giridih	2865	365	38	36	05
21.	Godda	1599	169	48	12	12
22.	Gopalganj	1372	265	12	20	30
23.	Gumla	1393	268	48	26	12
24.	Hazaribagh	1258	461	48	42	08
25.	Jahanabad	853	225	26	04	06
26.	Jamui	1288	212	52	40	39
27.	Katihar	1224	315	58	60	48
28.	Khagaria	241	226	24	12	36
29.	Kishanganj	715	224	32	34	36
30.	Kodarma	281	162	10	36	08
31.	Lakhisarai	373	169	39	14	12
32.	Lohardaga	353	184	22	10	04
33.	Madhepura	368	273	41	08	04
34.	Madhubani	1029	5423	24	14	72
35.	Mungher	504	210	46	36	24
36.	Muzaffarpur	1712	483	54	48	04
37.	Nalanda	999	469	64	140	16
38.	Nawada	958	263	21	21	12

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
39.	Pakur	1119	69	12	08	01
40.	Patna	1284	805	136	138	22
41.	Plamu	2126	311	06	36	30
42.	Purnia	1081	349	66	48	46
43.	Ranchi	2038	502	112	84	12
44.	Rohtas	1698	310	69	16	01
45.	Saharsa	438	287	42	36	16
46.	Sahibganj	1286	118	30	22	12
47.	Samastipur	1104	490	24	12	72
48.	Sheohar	337	64	05	04	01
49.	Shekhpura	230	136	34	24	12
50.	Sitamarhi	647	468	54	48	02
51.	Sivan	1432	237	12	24	30
52.	Supaul	517	275	44	36	12
53.	Vaishali	1402	515	80	29	44
54.	W. Champaran	1357	330	54	53	23
55.	W. Singhbhum	2280	430	62	02	34

Conversion of Petrol Vehicles into Diesel Vehicles

566. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to impose a ban on converting the petrol vehicles into diesel vehicles;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of vehicles converted during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) No, Sir.

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

(c) No such data is being compiled by this Ministry.

[English]

Changes in Companies Act and Corporate Laws

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to bring certain changes in the Companies Act, 1956;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any committee has been set up to study the company insolvency laws and restructuring of the companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the time by which it is likely to submit its report;

(f) whether there is any proposal to change various corporate laws also;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the time by which all the proposed changes are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) The Government has introduced the Companies (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999 in the Lok Sabha on 23rd December, 1999. This Bill contains urgent provisions on Corporate Governance and Investors Protection. This Bill is proposed to be passed in the current Session. Another Bill namely the Companies Bill, 1997 which was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 14.8.97 stands referred to Department related Standing Committee on Home Affairs.

(c) and (d) The Government on 22.10.99 has constituted a Committee consisting of experts to examine the existing law relating to winding up proceedings of companies in order to re-model it in line with the latest developments and innovations in the corporate law and governance and to suggest reforms in the procedure at various stages followed in the insolvency proceedings of companies to avoid unnecessary delays in tune with the international practice in this field.

This Committee would examine and make recommendations with regard to:

- (a) the desirability of changes in existing law relating to winding up of companies so as to achieve more transparency and avoid delays in the final liquidation of the companies.
- (b) the mechanism through which the management of companies will be conducted after the winding up of order is issued and the authority which will supervise timely completion of proceedings.
- (c) the rules of winding up and adjudication of insolvency of companies.
- (d) the manner in which the assets of the companies are brought to sale and the proceeds are distributed efficiently, and
- (e) a self-contained note on winding up of companies having regard to the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, 1985 and the Securities Contracts (Regulations) Act, 1956 with a view to creating confidence in the mind of investors, creditors, labour and other shareholders.

The Committee consists of:

(1)	Shri Justice V. Balakrishna Eradi, Retired Judge of Supreme Court	Chairman
(2)	Shri S. Ramaiah, former Secretary, Legislative Department	Member
(3)	Shri Subodh Bhargava, Nominee of CII	Member
(4)	Prof. C.G. Raghavan, former Dean, Professor & Head of the Department of Law, Nagpur University	Member
(5)	Shri A.V. Sambhashiva Rao, Advocate, Vice-President, All India Bhartiya Majdoor Sangh	Member
(6)	Shri V.K. Bhasin, Legislative Counsel	Member
(7)	Shri G.M. Ramamurthy, Chief General Manager (Legal), IDBI	Member
(8)	Shri U.P. Mathur, Advocate	Member
(9)	Shri Shardul Shroff, Advocate, Delhi	Member
(10)	Shri S.B. Mathur, Director (Inspection & Investigation), Department of Company Affairs	Member Secretary

(e) The Committee will submit its report within a period of six months from the date of its first meeting.

(f) and (g) A Committee has been constituted on 25.10.99 to examine the provisions of Monopolies and

Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 and to propose a modern Competition Law. The Committee is headed by Shri S.V.S. Raghavan. The Committee may give its report by 31.3.2000.

(h) The changes in the Companies Act, 1956 depend upon the passing of the Companies (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999 and the Companies Bill, 1997 by the Parliament.

The Changes in Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 depend upon the report of the Committee constituted to examine the provisions of Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969. Once the report is available with the Government, the Government would take steps to amend the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969.

Cellular Telephone Facilities by DOT

568. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced to provide cellular telephone facilities to smaller sized town through the Department of Telecommunications (DOT);

(b) if so, the criteria laid down for selecting such towns;

(c) the names of towns and Municipalities selected in various States of the country, State-wise; and

(d) the names of the towns where works have already been started and proposed to be started during 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) Department of Telecom. Services has proposed to introduce cellular telephone facilities initially as a pilot project covering 4 States of the country. The areas have been selected to gain experience in operation of such a system in different working conditions. After successful implementation of the Pilot project, case for wider introduction of cellular services shall be considered. The cities proposed for pilot project are given in the Statement. The proposed services is expected to start during the year 2000-2001.

Statement

Circle	City
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad
	Vijayawada
	Tirupati

1	2
	Guntur
	Visakhapatnam
	Amlapuram
	Kakinada
Bihar	Patna
	Biharsharif
	Hazipur
	Badh
	Arah
	Rajgir
Tamil Nadu	Chennai
	Madurai
	Coimbatore
West Bengal	Calcutta
	Haldia

Allotment of Hotlines to Private Telecom Operators

569. DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Hotlines (Dedicated lines) allotted to Private Telecom Operators or their Agents in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the revenue earned by the Government thereby and the Private Operators after commercializing these lines during the last one year;

(c) the details of the reasons for not making it mandatory to commercialize these lines;

(d) whether the Government have noticed any instances of violation of the rules by the Private Telecom Operators; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to check such lapses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (e) In general, hotlines/speech circuits are provided to the

customers on point to point basis exclusively for private use. The department of Telecom has been charging the rentals for the hotlines provided. After the announcement of National Telecom Policy, 1994, the licenses for various services like basic services, cellular mobile services, internet services etc. have been issued. There is no requirement of leasing hotlines by these licensees. However, they take lease lines for connecting their network elements to enable themselves to provide the services to the public for which they have been mandated by the respective licenses.

Telegraph Act

570. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telegraph Act, 1885 has become irrelevant today in view of Government's new planning policy in this sector; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be revised and to make it relevant and up-to-date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 has been amended from time to time to cater to the changing requirements in this sector. Keeping in view the major changes and technological developments in the Telecom Sector, this enactment is being reviewed by a Group constituted under the Chairmanship of the Finance Minister. The Group is likely to give its Report by the end of March, 2000.

Foreign Investment in Power Sector

571. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been urged to create conditions for luring foreign investors in the power sector;

(b) if so, whether any concrete proposals have been worked out in this regard;

(c) the number of foreign investors ready to invest in India;

(d) the details of total power projects of the foreign investors under construction at present; and

(e) the total power expected to be generated after their completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) The policy to encourage investments by private enterprises, including foreign investors, was introduced in 1991, with the objective of mobilizing additional resources for capacity addition in power generation and distribution. The Government has reviewed the existing guidelines for automatic approval for foreign equity for electric generation, transmission and distribution projects, and has decided to enlarge the provisions for automatic approval for such projects. Accordingly, projects for electric generation, transmission and distribution will be permitted foreign equity participation up to 100% on the automatic approval route provided the foreign equity in any such project does not exceed Rs. 1500 crore.

As on date, 95 private power projects amounting to 54,957 MW of installed generation capacity on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)/Letter of Intent (LoI), etc. route (costing above Rs. 100 crores) and on the competitive bidding route (costing more than 1000 crores), are presently being monitored by the Central Government. These include 59 projects for around 36,700 MW capacity being promoted by foreign developers. As per available information, an amount of around Rs. 10,500 crores foreign investment has already been made in the private power sector. Of the above mentioned projects, details of those, involving foreign developers, which are under construction and the amount of power to be generated after their completion are as follows:

Name of Project	State	Cap. (MW)	Promoter
Dabhol CCGT-Phase II	Maharashtra	1444	ENRON
Maheshwar HEP	Madhya Pradesh	400	Maheshwar Hydel Power
Kondapally CCGT	Andhra Pradesh	350	Kondapally Power Corp.
Pillaiperumalnallur CCGT	Tamil Nadu	330.5	PPN Power Gen. Company
Vemagiri CCGT (Naphtha)	Andhra Pradesh	492	Ispat Power Limited
Neyveli TPP	Tamil Nadu	250	ST-CMS
Samayanallur DGPP	Tamil Nadu	106	Balaji Power
Samalpatti DGPP	Tamil Nadu	106	Samalpatti Power

Committee on Hazardous Waste Standards

572. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:

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

(a) whether the Government have studied the problem of dumping the treated chemical waste and the solids left over by the industrial units;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether the Central Pollution Control Board has formed a Committee on the Hazardous Waste Standards and the related issues; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A number of studies have been conducted regarding dumping of the treated chemical waste and solids left over by industrial units. A few site-specific studies have also been conducted by the Government to set up Common Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facilities for management of hazardous chemical wastes.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. An Expert Group on hazardous waste management has been constituted by the Central Pollution Control Board on 30th October, 1998. The terms of reference of the Group include recommending parameters for laboratory certification, preparing specifications for hazardous waste landfills and examining policy issues related to implementation of the Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989. Two meetings of the Group have so far been held. Criteria for hazardous waste landfills, have been discussed.

Recycling and Proper Disposal of Waste

573. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is need to work out effective strategies for the recycling and proper disposal of wastes in the country in order to protect the environment from pollution; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL

MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Legislative and non-legislative measures to encourage recycling and proper disposal of wastes have been taken by the Government. Legislative measures include notification of draft rules on collection, segregation and proper disposal of municipal solid wastes namely, the Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1999. Rule 8(1) of these rules emphasizes recycling of recoverable materials. Other legislative measures on wastes include notification on management and handling of hazardous waste namely Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 and subsequent amendment; Bio-Medical Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998 and notifications on Use of Fly Ash and Recycled Plastics.

To encourage environment friendly re-cycling and re-use, the availability of non-ferrous metallic waste, used oil and used lead acid batteries have been restricted only to actual users. Certain municipal bodies have been provided financial assistance for taking up projects related to municipal waste management including composting of organic wastes. Waste minimisation and adoption of cleaner technologies are also encouraged.

[Translation]

Disposal of Pending Cases of Senior Citizens

574. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court in pursuant to the request of the Government, has directed various High Courts in the country to dispose of the cases related to senior citizens (persons above 60 years of age) speedily; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) On April 22, 1999, the Chief Justice of India had written about disposal of cases on priority basis by the High Courts and subordinate Courts concerning older persons above 65 years of age. The Chief Justices' conference held on December 3 & 4, 1999 hoped that in pursuance of the said communication from the Chief Justice of India, "the various High Courts shall vigorously pursue for quicker disposal of cases of persons aged above 65 years as practicable on priority basis." The Resolution passed by the Chief Justices' Conference in this regard has been forwarded by the Government to the Registrars of all High Courts for information and appropriate action.

[English]

Consumption of Petrol and Petroleum Products

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

(a) the steps taken by the Government to minimise the consumption of petrol and other petroleum products;

(b) whether the opinion of public and industrialists have been sought and considered before taking decision in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the impact of rules and regulations issued recently on the consumption of petrol and petroleum products have been evaluated; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (e) Various steps taken to minimize the consumption of petroleum products focus on their conservation in the industrial, transport, agricultural and domestic sectors of the economy. These include adopting practices conducive to increased fuel efficiency, curbing wasteful practices, promoting proper oil handling, operating and maintenance practices, promoting use of fuel efficient equipments, irrigation pumpsets Kerosene and LPG stoves and lighting devices in the industrial, agricultural and domestic sectors respectively. Extensive multi-media campaigns are run to generate awareness. In addition, energy audits and fuel oil diagnostic studies are conducted apart from organization of workshops, consumer meets and seminars. R&D projects designed to improve efficiency are promoted. An extensive networking approach through industrial associations, chambers of commerce, institutions, NGOs involved at all tiers of Government, panchayats, Mahila Mandals, Youth Forums, Resident Welfare Association and so on has been adopted to spread message of conservation nationwide.

Release of New L.P.G. Connections

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

(a) whether the Government propose to release another 110 lakh gas connections in the year 2000;

(b) if so, whether any State-wise allocation of the release has been finalised;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of new L.P.G. agencies to be set up to properly implement the release of 110 lakh gas connections;

(e) whether any schedule of opening new L.P.G. agencies have been evoked out; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) New LPG connections are released in a Phased manner throughout the country depending upon the LPG availability, waiting list, slack available with the distributors and their viability. However the Govt. has a plan to release 1 crore LPG connections during the year 2000 to clear all waiting list registered with the distributors of PSU Oil Companies as on 1.12.1999.

(d) to (f) Opening of new LPG distributorships is an ongoing process depending on demand etc. The selection for Distributorships is made by DSB as per the prescribed procedure.

Scam in Farm Consumption

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Scam behind inflated farm consumption" appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated November 22, 1999;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The consumption of electricity by agriculture sector is not metered to a large extent. The figures published are based on the figures received from the SEBs. Prima facie, the reported energy consumption figures by agriculture sector seems to be inflated. To overcome this problem SEBs have been asked to meter all the consumers including agricultural consumers and to go in for energy

accounting for all the sectors of electrical energy consumption.

[*Translation*]

Waiting List of LPG Connection at various Districts in U.P.

578. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons in waiting list for LPG connection in the Itawa, Areya, Kannauj and Mainpuri districts of Uttar Pradesh as on January 31, 2000; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to clear the waiting list and make the LPG connection available on demand in the said districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The waiting list for new LPG connection with Public Sector Oil Company as on 31.1.2000 in the following districts of Uttar Pradesh, are given below:

Itawa	21824
Areya	600
Kannauj	7454
Mainpuri	4411

(b) New LPG connections are released in a Phased manner throughout the country depending upon the LPG availability, waiting list, slack available with the distributors and their viability. However the Govt. has a plan to release 1 crore LPG connections during the year 2000 to clear all waiting list registered with the distributors of PSU Oil Companies as on 1.12.1999.

[*English*]

Traffic Congestion Problem in Capital

579. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI SAHIB SINGH;
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the measures for tackling of traffic problem in capital proposed by the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB);

(b) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether there is a proposal for the construction of three Expressways in NCT Delhi and in its surrounding areas;

(d) if so, the complete details thereof; and

(e) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to solve the acute traffic congestion problems faced by the capital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (e) NCRPB is under the control of Ministry of Urban Development and Employment and reply is being obtained from them.

Project for Expanding Refining Capacity

580. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Cochin Refineries, Kerala has submitted to Government a scheme for the approval of project for expanding its refining capacity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken in the matter; and

(d) the time by which the project is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) In August, 1998 Cochin Refineries Limited (CRL) had submitted a proposal to expand its crude oil refining capacity from 7.50 million metric tonnes per annum to 13.50 million metric tonnes per annum.

(c) and (d) The proposal was considered during the pre-PIB meeting held on 8.1.1999 and was recommended for consideration of the Public Investment Board (PIB). The case is being processed further for obtaining approval of the PIB.

Privatisation of Ports

581. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to privatise ports in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) and (b) The Major Port Trusts have been opened to the Private Sector Participation and the following areas have been identified:

- (i) Leasing out existing assets of the Port.
- (ii) Construction/creation of additional assets such as container terminals, multipurpose cargo berths and specialised cargo berths, warehousing, storage facilities, tank farms, container freight stations, setting up of captive power plants, etc.
- (iii) Leasing of equipment for port handling and leasing of floating crafts from the private sector.
- (iv) Pilotage.
- (v) Captive facilities for port based industries.

Natural Gas Estimated at Barmer and Jaisalmer In Rajasthan

582. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total reserves of Natural Gas estimated in Rajasthan especially in Barmer and Jaisalmer districts, by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation/Shell India;

(b) whether time bound exploration of Gas is not being done by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation/Shell India in the Western Rajasthan; and

(c) if so, the system of monitoring activities of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation/Shell India in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The ultimate reserves of gas have been estimated as 1.41 billion cubic metres as on 1.4.99 by Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) in respect of their gas fields in Jaisalmer basin of Rajasthan.

Shell India Production Development, B.V. Netherland (SIPD) have made no estimates so far, for gas reserves in Rajasthan Production Sharing Contract area.

(b) ONGC are continuing their exploration activities in Western Rajasthan and have plan to acquire 1750 GLK of 2D seismic data and to drill 5 exploratory wells during the IXth Plan.

The exploration plan for oil and gas is being executed by M/s. SIPD as per their contractual obligation under Production Sharing Contract (PSC).

(c) The performance of ONGC including progress of their exploration activities is monitored quarterly. The activities of M/s. SIPD are also monitored through Management Committees as per provisions of PSC.

Expansion of VSAT's and ESMO's Services

583. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs) and Extended Satellite Money Order Stations (ESMOs) in the country at Present, State-wise,

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the number of VSATs and ESMOs in the country during 2000-2001 and the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof, year-wise;

(d) the time by which the said facilities are likely to be provided in all the district headquarters of the country;

(e) the details of the tariff rate of said services;

(f) whether the Government also propose to reduce the existing tariff rate for the said services;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The Department of Posts has set up 75 Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs) and 610 Extended Satellite Money Orders (ESMOs). The state-wise break-up has been indicated in the enclosed statement.

(b) Yes.

(c) 44 Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs) and 458 Extended Satellite Money Orders Stations (ESMOs)

are proposed to be set up during 2000-2001 and a total of 150 VSATs and 1500 ESMOs during the Ninth Plan period. The year-wise details are as given hereunder:

Year	VSAT	ESMOs
1997-98	Nil	316
1998-99	Nil	Nil
1999-2000	62	266
2000-2001	44	458
2001-2002	44	458

(d) The network would enable connectivity to all the important district headquarters by the end of Ninth Plan period and may spill over to the Tenth Plan.

(e) The tariff rate for transmission of money orders through VSAT/ESMO is the same as those transmitted through surface mode.

(f) At present there is no such proposal.

(g) Does not arise in view of answer to (f), above.

(h) Since the entire network has not yet been established no decision in this respect can be taken.

Statement

Expansion of VSAT's and ESMO's Services

Sl.No.	Name of Circle	Number of existing VSATs	Number of existing ESMOs
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5	33
2.	Assam	4	30
3.	Bihar	6	50
4.	Delhi	2	30
5.	Gujarat	4	50
6.	Haryana	2	10
7.	Himachal Pradesh	3	25
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	5
9.	Karnataka	5	32

1	2	3	4
10.	Kerala	4	25
11.	Madhya Pradesh	5	29
12.	Maharashtra	6	58
13.	North East	4	10
14.	Orissa	3	24
15.	Punjab	2	30
16.	Rajasthan	4	30
17.	Tamil Nadu	4	50
18.	Uttar Pradesh	7	59
19.	West Bengal	4	30
Total		75	610

[*Translation*]

Opening of Sub and Branch Post Offices

584. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the places in Saharsa and Supol districts of Bihar which fulfil the prescribed criteria for opening of the new sub-post offices and branch post offices but where these have not been opened as yet;

(b) the number of proposals for opening of said post offices lying pending with the Department, location-wise;

(c) the time by which the said post offices are likely to be opened;

(d) whether the villagers of Bamunara under P.S. Kanksa near Durgapur in the West Bengal have applied for Branch Post Offices in the year 1997 and the departmental survey had been done in the same year; and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) There is no justified proposal for opening of Sub Post office and Branch Post Office in Saharsa and Supol districts of Bihar for the present.

(b) There is no proposal pending with the Department for Saharsa and Supul districts of Bihar.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Proposal for opening of Extra departmental branch post office at Bamunara was examined in the year 1997 but the same was found not justified on financial ground. The same proposal was re-initiated and examined during the current Annual Plan 1999-2000. After examination on the basis of fresh statistical figures, it was found justified.

(e) An extra departmental branch post office is scheduled to be opened in the current financial year 1999-2000.

[English]

Expansion of Telephone Exchanges

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

(a) whether the Government propose to expand the existing telephone exchanges in West Bengal particularly the Barjora telephone exchange of Bankura District, during 2000-2001;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide better telephone services in the telephone exchanges of Bankura district?

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

(b) The detailed plan for expansion of the existing exchanges in West Bengal during 2000-2001 is not yet finalised. However, it is proposed to expand Barjora telephone exchange by 1000 lines.

(c) The steps taken/proposed to be taken are as under:

- (i) Overhead lines are being replaced gradually by under ground jellyfilled type cables.
- (ii) Replacement of old and worn out dropwire, housewiring, telephone instrument etc.
- (iii) Replacement of old batteries of the exchanges.
- (iv) Arranging additional engine alternators for areas where power supply is not reliable.

(v) Reliable transmission media like optical fibre cable technology are being inducted in the rural network.

(vi) WLL and TDMA/PMIP technologies will be used to provide the telecom facilities in remote and rural areas.

LPG Agencies to Women

586. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether various oil companies undertook a drive to allot distributorship of LPG to women in various districts in the country;

(b) if so, the total number of women allotted distributorship of LPG and number of SC/ST out of them so far; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to allot more distributorships at those places where distributors are unable to made adequate supply of LPG due to increase in the population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) As per the existing policy reservation for different categories in the allotment of dealerships/distributorships allotted through normal selection procedure of advertisement of the locations and selection by the Dealer Selection Boards is provided as under:

Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST)	25%
Physically Handicapped (PH)	5%
Paramilitary/Police/Government Personnel (PMP)	8%
Defence Personnel (DC)	8%
Freedom Fighters (FF)	2%
Outstanding Sportspersons (OSP)	2%
Open (O)	50%

Also, 33% of the dealerships/distributorship in each category mentioned above are reserved for Women belonging to that category. Accordingly in the marketing plan 1996-98 703 LPG distributorships are reserved for Women in different categories. 541 LPG distributorships are reserved for SC/ST category.

(c) To meet the increased demand of LPG, more LPG distributorships are opened, opening of extension counters of the existing LPG distributors are permitted, LPG refill sale ceilings of the different markets is increased from time to time.

Afforestation by Defence and Railway Ministries

587. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the two largest real estate owners of the nation viz. Defence Ministry and Railway Ministry have taken effective steps for the afforestation;

(b) whether there have been any targets in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the area covered by them under afforestation in relation to the targets set for the purpose so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No specific targets for afforestation have been set by the Ministry of Defence. Ministry of Railways fixes annual target for afforestation in terms of the number of trees.

(c) Annual targets fixed by Ministry of Railways (trees to be planted in lakhs) during 1997-2000 are given below:—

1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
155	135	115

(d) Ministry of Railways have brought about 35,000 hectares of railway land under afforestation so far. Data in this regard is not maintained by the Ministry of Defence.

[*Translation*]

Power Generation Units Under NTPC and NHPC

588. SHRI ARUN KUMAR:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of power generation units functioning under NTPC and NHPC in the country by the end of December, 1999;

(b) whether these power generation units generate less power than their average installed capacity; and

(c) if so, the average percentage of capacity being utilised to generate power by each of these units annually alongwith the reasons for non-utilisation of the installed capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Energy generation and plant load factor (PLF) target *vis-a-vis* actual for the year 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (upto December, 1999) of NTPC and NHPC stations is given in enclosed Statement. The actual PLF of NTPC stations during 1998-99 and April-December 1999 was 75.6% and 77.0% against targets of 70.4% and 67.1%, respectively. The national average PLF for the same year/period was 64.6% and 65.6%, respectively.

Energy generation at NHPC power stations during the year 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (upto December 1999) was 9932 Million Units (MU) and 7347 MU against targets of 8520 MU and 7852 MU, respectively. The reasons for less generation in NHPC stations were less inflows in the reservoirs and siltation in power channels in some power stations.

Statement

Station-wise Energy Generation and Plant Load Factor of NTPC and NHPC Stations

Name of Station	Installed Cap. (MW)	1998-99			1999-2000 (Upto Dec. '99)		
		Target	Actual	%	Target	Actual	%
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Energy Generation (MU)/NTPC							
<i>Thermal</i>							
Badarpur	705	4300	4867	113.2	3153	3621	114.8
Singrauli	2000	15000	15814	105.4	10768	12241	113.7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Rihand	1000	7500	6815	90.9	4820	5471	113.5
Dadri Th.	840	5900	6728	114.0	4377	5301	121.1
Korba	2100	15500	15903	102.6	11146	11392	182.2
Vindhyachal	1760	8500	9810	115.4	7971	7069	88.7
Ramagundam	2100	16000	15863	99.1	10991	12284	111.8
Farakka	1600	5100	5470	107.3	3593	4659	129.8
Kahalgaoan	840	2670	3989	149.4	2282	3082	135.1
Talcher STPS	1000	3190	4318	135.4	2676	3648	136.3
Talcher Old	460	1800	2240	124.4	1488	1802	121.1
Unchahar*	840	2840	3023	106.4	2819	2334	83.5
<i>Gas based</i>							
Faridabad GT**	286	0	0	0	0	565	0
Anta GT	419.3	2800	2926	104.5	2058	2377	115.5
Auraiya GT	663.3	3900	4157	106.6	2911	3808	130.8
Dadn GT	830	4000	5098	127.4	3023	3886	128.5
Kawas GT	656.2	2700	4354	161.3	1651	3439	208.3
Gandhar GT	657.4	2500	2165	86.6	1011	1826	180.6
Kayamkulam**	350	0	0	0	1063	803	75.5
<i>Energy Generation (MU)/NHPC</i>							
Bairasiul	180	750	750	100.0	625	294	47.0
Chamera	540	1700	2362	138.9	1675	1831	109.3
Tanakpur @	120	420	480	114.3	369	354	95.9
Salal	690	2800	3254	115.5	2650	2894	109.2
Uri	480	2400	2575	107.3	2060	1606	78.0
Rangit	60	—	—	—	114	0	0
Loktak	105	450	531	118.0	359	368	102.5

* Units 3&4 of Unchahar are under stabilisation.

** The units are under stabilisation.

@ Actual capacity 94.2 MW

Plant Load Factor of NTPC Stations

Name of Station	Installed Capacity (MW)	1998-99		1999-2000 (upto Dec. '99)	
		Target	Actual	Target	Actual
<i>NTPC</i>					
<i>Thermal</i>					
Badarpur	705	69.6	79.8	67.8	77.8
Singareni	2000	85.6	90.3	81.6	92.7
Rihand	1000	85.6	77.8	73.0	82.9
Dadri Th.	840	80.2	91.4	79.0	95.6
Korba	2100	84.3	86.4	80.4	82.2
Vindhyachal	1760	77.0	88.9	74.0	85.0
Ramagundam	2100	87.0	86.2	79.3	88.6
Farakka	1600	36.4	39.0	34.0	44.1
Kahalgaon	840	36.3	54.2	41.2	55.6
Talcher STPS	1000	36.4	49.3	40.5	55.3
Talcher Old	460	44.7	55.6	49.0	59.4
Unchahar*	840	77.2	82.2	67.8	81.0

*Units 3 & 4 of Unchahar are under stabilisation.

[*English*]

Setting up of Petrol & Diesel Outlets in Remote and Rural Areas

589. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether various oil companies have any plan to set up petrol and diesel outlets in the remote and rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, whether in spite of this the oil companies have not embarked on any imaginative marketing strategy;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to review the present system in operation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) There is already a provision under the existing dispensation for opening retail outlets in remote and rural areas.

In addition to the locations pending from earlier Marketing Plans 927 locations have been included in the

Current Marketing Plan which include locations falling in rural areas also.

Defaulting Non-Banking Financial Companies

590. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

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

(a) whether the Government have any plan to speed up the machinery to solve the problems of small investors in Non-Banking Financial Companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases pending with the Department of Company Affairs against the defaulting Non-Banking Financial Companies throughout the country alongwith the names of such companies; State-wise;

(d) whether many of these Non-Banking Financial Companies are not traceable and have vanished;

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to trace them;

(f) the total amount of deposits collected by each of these defaulting Non-Banking Financial Companies;

(g) the time by which the outstanding amount of the investors is likely to be repaid by these defaulting Non-Banking Financial Companies;

(h) whether all the defaulting Non-Banking Financial Companies are promptly honouring the re-scheduled repayment of deposits as has been ordered by the Company Law Board; and

(i) if not, the further steps suggested in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (i) The affairs of the Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) are regulated by the Reserve Bank of India. The Company Law Board has been given powers to pass orders, under Section 45QA of the Reserve Bank of India Act, where there is default by NBFCs in repayment of deposits. In case of non-compliance of Company Law Board orders, the RBI has been authorised to take penal action against NBFCs under section 58E of the RBI Act.

The information about measures regarding NBFCs, deposits collected by them and cases pending against them is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Widening and Strengthening of Highways in T.N.

591. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of Tamil Nadu State Government's plan for widening and strengthening National Highways and other radial roads at a cost of Rs. 2,907 crore apart from the reconstruction and rehabilitation of bridges;

(b) if so, whether there is the resource crunch that is holding back the speedy implementation of projects;

(c) if so, whether the Government would come to the rescue of the State so that the worst condition of roads is set right at the earliest; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Outstanding Dues to Central Undertakings

592. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to revise package of outstanding dues to Central Sector Undertakings from the State Electricity Boards;

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

(c) whether the Government also propose to hike the Central Plan Assistance appropriation limit; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The State Electricity Boards/State Governments, over the years, have been defaulting in payments of many Central Sector Undertakings. Government has, therefore, from time to time resorting to recoveries these outstanding dues from the Central Plan Assistance due to the concerned State Governments. Three such recoveries were made from the Central Plan Assistance pertaining to the period May, 1990 - March, 1994. The outstanding amounts were recovered in four annual instalments without any ceiling/cap. In February, 1997, Government approved the recovery of the dues of Public Sector Undertakings as on 31st December, 1996. However, the recovery through the Central Plan Assistance has been restricted to a maximum of 15% of the CPA. The recoveries cover PSUs of Ministry of Power, Departments of Coal, Atomic Energy, Railways and Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited.

[Translation]

Telephone based on Tower System

593. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the village panchayats/villages of Satna district of Madhya Pradesh where battery operated telephones of tower system has been installed, Block Development-wise;

(b) whether eighty per cent of said telephones are out of order; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make them properly functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The number of village panchayats/villages having battery operated tower telephone in each of the 7 blocks of Satna Distt. are as below:

Name of Block	No. of Telephones
Amar Patan	56
Maihar	68
Majhgawan	117
Nagod	130
Rampur Baghelan	69
Sohawal	151
Uchera	13

The names of such village panchayats/villages are in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) About 39% of the telephones are out of order. Efforts are being made to rectify the defective telephones with the help of vendors. Separate teams have been formed for rectifying the faults and for day-to-day maintenance of VPTs.

Statement			
S.No.	Name of Village	1	2
1	2		
Block-Amarpatan			
1.	Aduhki	36.	Amjhara
2.	Ajmain	37.	Naugawan
3.	Karra	38.	Bhatgawan
4.	Silpari	39.	Bandarkha
5.	Khutaha	40.	Jodhpur
6.	Bachhara	41.	Putariha
7.	Jhiria	42.	Kotra
8.	Bara	43.	Dhuntwa
9.	Dhatuai	44.	Bigauri
10.	Teodhari	45.	Mohrar
11.	Kirhai	46.	Saanchi
12.	Sardaka	47.	Ghuisa
13.	Budhura	48.	Chakero
14.	Pagara	49.	Debehi
15.	Bhadra	50.	Beeda
16.	Dhavarahara	51.	Pal
17.	Dhamana	52.	Dichia
18.	Daari	53.	Bilbhurikala
19.	Taala	54.	Kumtari
20.	Shahpara	55.	Jurmani
21.	Kulluha	56.	Chhain
22.	Songarh		Block-Maihar
23.	Itma P-Total	1.	Kansa
24.	Pauni	2.	Delha
25.	Deyu	3.	Hardaspur
26.	Kira	4.	Bhenda
27.	Kalla	5.	Gudadi
28.	Karaudi	6.	Hinautakala
29.	Jusisi	7.	Kheira
30.	Hardi	8.	Berma
31.	Kokaham	9.	Karahara
32.	Asrar	10.	Magraura
33.	Mohut	11.	Nakera
34.	Jhagin	12.	Motwra
35.	Itmakhaguri	13.	Deora
		14.	Budhagarh
		15.	Kuthilgawan
		16.	Kanhwara

1	2
17.	Tisgioiekala
18.	Sonvarsa
19.	Semra
20.	Googad
21.	Mahawdar
22.	Udaypur
23.	Soorama
24.	Mintolwa
25.	Aamlola
26.	Parsokha
27.	Chhapra
28.	Bharuli
29.	Karundia
30.	Dhatuara
31.	Amuwa
32.	Karsora
33.	Dhanaushikala
34.	Jooru
35.	Hinotagajnauna
36.	Amila
37.	Doondee
38.	Urdaani
39.	Aamadanee
40.	Doriyakala
41.	Harduadsani
42.	Godhwa
43.	Patharahta
44.	Belha
45.	Kutahi
46.	Bharehe
47.	Karundhidubey
48.	Jhali

1	2
49.	Goharija
50.	Jariyari
51.	Ludhauti
52.	Nakra
53.	Binayka
54.	Ithara
55.	Karua
56.	Tinghuta
57.	Itma
58.	Kalyanpur
59.	Barethi
60.	Bori
61.	Roopganj
62.	Dhanedi
63.	Bhainsasur
64.	Rohinia
65.	Tisgioackhurd
66.	Mahawparaswa
67.	Lohee
68.	Tighra
	Block-Majhgawan
1.	Putarichua
2.	Chauraha
3.	Chitahra
4.	Baraundha
5.	Nakela
6.	Sahapur
7.	Hirapur
8.	Khaimaghwani
9.	Maddinibi
10.	Barha
11.	Chorahi

1	2
12.	Chuluha
13.	Tadminyā
14.	Hardikothar
15.	Paiyan
16.	Khutaha
17.	Piprotola
18.	Barkhera
19.	Amivati
20.	Kudhari
21.	Hanumandhara
22.	Kandar
23.	Sati Anusuiya
24.	Chaubeypur
25.	Bairon
26.	Sukwah
27.	Partappur
28.	Karaundikhurd
29.	Bairahana
30.	Gujwaha
31.	Maudha
32.	Nakhuli
33.	Hardi
34.	Amua
35.	Sudamapur
36.	Barlla
37.	Gutwan
38.	Valla
39.	Khaduba
40.	Patnakala
41.	Arjunpur
42.	Khilaura
43.	Singhpur

1	2
44.	Mahtain
45.	Padari
46.	Tangi
47.	Khadra
48.	Jirwar
49.	Pachhit
50.	Kanpur
51.	Hardikotdwar
52.	Patnakhurd
53.	Machkurin
54.	Khera Maghgaon
55.	Chundikhurd
56.	Bara
57.	Jhakaura
58.	Kituiha
59.	Nadana
60.	Beema Mhau
61.	Chunwaha
62.	Khohi
63.	Hardua
64.	Karigohi
65.	Harwah
66.	Reoiari
67.	Deora
68.	Rasoiya
69.	Bitma
70.	Mishirgaon
71.	Patna Khurd
72.	Bahera
73.	Bihana
74.	Bhadantola
75.	Nagura

1	2
76.	Kureundhi
77.	Jahira
78.	Rampur Gassi
79.	Gahira
80.	Sohatwa
81.	Khiraundi
82.	Jhari
83.	Malyausa
84.	Sanda
85.	Roahniya
86.	Kharauja
87.	Banhari
88.	Kishunpur
89.	Badhadha
90.	Unchahar
91.	Hirapurbelhara
92.	Mauriyan
93.	Hardijagir
94.	Jelani
95.	Banka
96.	Barpur
97.	Baraha
98.	Guptgodavari
99.	Nardaha
100.	Patha Kuchhar
101.	Paldio
102.	Gudwa
103.	Hariharpur
104.	Lokhanwah
105.	Januwani
106.	Bitma Vijayap
107.	Bara

1	2
108.	Kanch
109.	Jhota
110.	Shikari
111.	Tigra
112.	Machkhada
113.	Pipraven
114.	Domhai
115.	Pipra
116.	Kadila
117.	Bauamrohi
	Block-Nagod
1.	Pujnari
2.	Semaria
3.	Amaliya
4.	Piprakhar
5.	Afarhar
6.	Chakadahi
7.	Saren
8.	Majhiyaikala
9.	Rajahaul
10.	Gijahati
11.	Ankuia
12.	Sarodoba
13.	Karahitakhurd
14.	Virvauli
15.	Bhulno
16.	Babupur
17.	Hadha
18.	Rajaha
19.	Sakauna
20.	Satnaraghunatpati
21.	Rajapur

1	2
22.	Ujnehi
23.	Madhi
24.	Samorwari
25.	Sadwa
26.	Barapathar
27.	Chandrakunia
28.	Renuwakhurd
29.	Phurtalkhurd
30.	Urdan
31.	Majhagavankhurd
32.	Bandhaon
33.	Ghunhar
34.	Kachloha
35.	Umari
36.	Bilaundha
37.	Baandhi
38.	Khamanriapur
39.	Piprai
40.	Bachwri
41.	Dhankher
42.	Maohari
43.	Ahirgaon
44.	Dilaura
45.	Beerpur
46.	Turri
47.	Itmakala
48.	Kohuha
49.	Bharahata
50.	Lakha
51.	Baari
52.	Naunia
53.	Paalib

1	2
54.	Jhigodar
55.	Chunaba
56.	Kapuri
57.	Darkachhi
58.	Tikuri
59.	Bela
60.	Laichadna
61.	Lohadar
62.	Kathonkla
63.	Pakar
64.	Amalia
65.	Khamachi
66.	Gagwaria
67.	Basidhar
68.	Hidardha
69.	Khairee
70.	Gingara
71.	Dubahlya
72.	Rampura
73.	Potraunatha
74.	Jadhavpur
75.	Somari
76.	Madatola
77.	Majhgawan
78.	Lakhmath
79.	Chandrakunwa
80.	Akuna
81.	Durgapur
82.	Nungra
83.	Shivrajpur
84.	Samarikothar
85.	Chinda

1	2	1	2
86.	Deora	118.	Shahpur
87.	Maghokhar	119.	Turkaha
88.	Nakti	120.	Kulhad
89.	Kulgadhi	121.	Mohujhar
90.	Attarbindia	122.	Patwara
91.	Darachiya	123.	Dhamaha
92.	Dawar	124.	Ama
93.	Baraha	125.	Rewari
94.	Amaliya	126.	Pangura
95.	Matrimendra	127.	Majhugawan
96.	Pawariya	128.	Bhitari
97.	Dureh	129.	Lalpur
98.	Kota	130.	Dilauri
99.	Dautauna		Block-Rampur Baghelen
100.	Umari	1.	Sagoni
101.	Kahirua	2.	Saleha
102.	Barkunia	3.	Janarthanpur
103.	Bijhauri	4.	Karmau
104.	Khakharaudha	5.	Chhibaura
105.	Khamribandhi	6.	Katiya
106.	Kodar	7.	Tewani
107.	Itaurakala	8.	Bhatia
108.	Sihati	9.	Koond
109.	Dhauraha	10.	Mhidalkala
110.	Shyamnagar	11.	Dagaharat
111.	Kachnur	12.	Majhiyar
112.	Kothankhurd	13.	Patrahi
113.	Umrahat	14.	Deomau
114.	Barethia	15.	Khari
115.	Kanwal	16.	Beerani
116.	Bareha	17.	Khamariya
117.	Reruakalan	18.	Bihrakalan

1	2
19.	Pagrakhurd
20.	Launlanch
21.	Rajarwar
22.	Akanoa
23.	Gajgawan
24.	Gajan
25.	Mahidolkhurd
26.	Barti
27.	Madhisonvarsa
28.	Charmari
29.	Chulahi
30.	Majhiyakotar
31.	Bela
32.	Bariha
33.	Koniakotar
34.	Renunagar
35.	Topa
36.	Lilha
37.	Ramnagar
38.	Richhahari
39.	Khagaura
40.	Nemuwa
41.	Mohania
42.	Gulchta
43.	Pagrakala
44.	Deora
45.	Atarhar
46.	Marauwa
47.	Raghunathpur
48.	Shivpurwa
49.	Krishnagarh
50.	Reomaudaldal

1	2
51.	Khotkhari
52.	Bagahi
53.	Kodia
54.	Malgaon
55.	Kitaha
56.	Devmau
57.	Bihra-2
58.	Jamuna
59.	Sonvarsa
60.	Duari
61.	Khariyakotar
62.	Sonaura
63.	Karp wahkothar
64.	Khamaha
65.	Kaiwalia
66.	Putnakala
67.	Ghumkala
68.	Guduhuru
69.	Bardadih

Names of Villages of Satna District having Battery Operated VPTs of Tower System

Sl.No.	Name of Village
1	2
Block-Sohawal	
1.	Kalgavan
2.	Pureni
3.	Khamariyan Garh
4.	Bamheri
5.	Chhapiyadi
6.	Atahra
7.	Magigar

1	2
8.	Kama Ruriya
9.	Bhariunkala
10.	Poidhakala
11.	Milehna
12.	Bharjunakala
13.	Gauriya
14.	Ramsthan
15.	Amodhakala
16.	Baboopur
17.	Ragareli
18.	Kuwan
19.	Kudiya
20.	Pawaiya
21.	Bhatia Kalan
22.	Lilauri
23.	Paindha Kalan
24.	Deori Kalan
25.	Harkhar
26.	Mahuta
27.	Raikura
28.	Barkala
29.	Gouri
30.	Girdi
31.	Bachwai
32.	Khamakhaja
33.	Badkhar
34.	Khorgaon
35.	Devipur
36.	Dadihura
37.	Pawaiya
38.	Turra
39.	Tikurikhud

1	2
40.	Sarbahani
41.	Umari Sharda Nagar
42.	Jamodi
43.	Semra
44.	Mohani
45.	Kaima Ulmunan
46.	Tikuri Koltar
47.	Lalpara
48.	Pathodhi
49.	Jiganhat
50.	Bhumikahar
51.	Mudahakalan
52.	Kharwahi
53.	Bandki
54.	Guluwa
55.	Tilahi
56.	Dagdeeha
57.	Barikala
58.	Tikuri Kalan
59.	Phutandha
60.	Pataura
61.	Kaina Kothar
62.	Kunchi
63.	Chhorari
64.	Khargarh
65.	Ujraundha
66.	Majhgaon
67.	Karhi
68.	Chakbanda
69.	Bankhu Khurd
70.	Revra
71.	Maidevi

1	2
72.	Devra
73.	Dedura
74.	Harmala
75.	Lokhaniya
76.	Teekar
77.	Mand
78.	Lohara
79.	Khamaria Payasiyam
80.	Khajurhara
81.	Itma
82.	Bele
83.	Bhathia
84.	Shipurwa
85.	Puthakala
86.	Nimi
87.	Sakariya
88.	Aber
89.	Mahadeva
90.	Barakala
91.	Gubraonkhurd
92.	Sohas
93.	Ghunchiaki
94.	Bihra
95.	Bharjanakhurd
96.	Barach
97.	Phutaundhi
98.	Sagma
99.	Neemee
100.	Bhawanar
101.	Jumunahi
102.	Rampura
103.	Goraiya

1	2
104.	Khaira
105.	Kardi Pawai
106.	Hardua
107.	Tumen
108.	Mudha Khurd
109.	Bherri
110.	Jignahat
111.	Semri Kalan
112.	Manikwar
113.	Gopalpur
114.	Kailashpur
115.	Majhatolba
116.	Jhari
117.	Khamariya
118.	Kunchi
119.	Mednipur
120.	Marwa
121.	Champurwa
122.	Susuwar
123.	Itma
124.	Umari
125.	Khokhali
126.	Kataha Bambtri
127.	Kathauriakalan
128.	Gaura
129.	Bamhourla
130.	Kushiyara
131.	Nanchanpura
132.	Madni
133.	Turri
134.	Saha
135.	Jhughuwar

*[English]***Satellite Stations**

136. Karasara

137. Patari

138. Matima

139. Bairaha

140. Pakauri

141. Lalpur

142. Raipur

143. Padraudh

144. Mauhar

145. Purwa

146. Bhargavan

147. Pohdi

148. Chaura

149. Semariya

150. Kharsara

151. Didaundh

Block-Uchehra

1. Dhaneh

2. Sahijana

3. Manikpur

4. Ramturwa

5. Karhikela

6. Gudwa

7. Pavasmania

8. Narhati

9. Pondigarda

10. Mathai

11. Bahrhut

12. Patharehta

13. Karhikhur

594. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Satellite Stations functioning in Uttaranchal, Pauri-Garhwal, Chamoli and Rudraprayag regions of the Uttar Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) whether a large number of these stations remain out of order for a long time;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the said stations are likely to be made in the working order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) During the last three years 44 number of Satellite Stations are functioning in Uttaranchal of Uttar Pradesh. Srinagar Garhwal SSA has 17 number of Satellite Stations distributed in following Districts.

(1) Pauri Garhwal 5

(2) Chamoli 6

(3) Rudra Prayag 6

(b) to (d) No, Sir. However 3 Stations namely Badrinath, Gangotri and Kedarnath have been closed for the winter session and shall be opened as and when these areas are opened up by the administration. Only one earth station located at Thalisen has gone faulty on 22.2.2000. Presently road to Thalisen MCPC Station is blocked because of snow fall and will be set right on accessibility.

Deficit of Oil Pool Account

595. DR. SANJAY PASWAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "How to lower oil prices" appeared in "Economic Times" dated January 28, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the India's import bill has more than double this year in comparison to last year;

(c) if so, the details of deficit of the oil pool account at present;

(d) whether the Government propose cut the import duties to control the high fiscal deficits and low revenue growth or deregulate the oil industry, review the administered policy mechanism as well as the entry restrictions on marketing;

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

(f) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this direction?

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

(b) The total value of imports of crude & petroleum products in the public sector have gone up to US\$ 7568.09 million during April '99 to January '2000 as against US\$ 4773.16 million during the corresponding period in the preceding year.

(c) The oil pool account deficit is estimated to be around Rs. 6000 crores as on 31.3.2000.

(d) to (f) The process of review of the policies and programmes of the Government is a continuous one. In pursuance of the decision taken by the Government in November, 1997 for phased dismantling of the administered pricing mechanism, the following measures, inter-alia, have been taken:

- (i) Customs duty on crude oil has been reduced to 22 percent in the union budget 1998-99 and to 20% in the budget 1999-2000
- (ii) Private and Joint Sector Refineries have been permitted to import crude oil freely without import licence for actual use in their own refineries.
- (iii) Cost plus formula for shipment of crude oil has been withdrawn.
- (iv) The system of retention pricing for all the refineries has been abolished and refinery gate prices of controlled petroleum products *i.e.* HSD, motor spirit, superior kerosene oil (PDS), aviation turbine fuel and LPG (Domestic) are being fixed on principle of import parity. The prices of other petroleum products have been decontrolled.

(v) Indigenous crude oil producers, namely, ONGC/OIL are being paid 77.5% weighted average FOB price of actual import with as minimum floor benchmark price of Rs. 1991/MT.

Losses to Indira Docks in Mumbai

596. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indira Docks in Mumbai is incurring huge losses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the step being taken to make it profitworthy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Construction of Subways and Over-Bridges by Private Companies

597. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of the projects for construction of subways and over-bridges on National Highways in Maharashtra assigned to the private companies by the Government during the last three years;

(b) the details of the projects assigned to them along-with the amount involved therein;

(c) the number of projects proposed to be assigned to the private companies at present; and

(d) the criteria adopted to assign these projects to the private companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) and (b) Two over bridge projects were assigned to private companies under BOT (Build-Operate-Transfer)

scheme by this Ministry on National Highways in Maharashtra during the last three years as follows:

	Construction cost of project (Rs. crore)
(i) Road-over bridge (ROB) at Nardhana on NH-3	Rs. 34.21
(ii) Road-over bridge at Nashirabad on NH-6	Rs. 10.45

The following BOT projects for river bridges and four laning of National Highways in Maharashtra, also involve construction of ROB's as part of the project.

	Construction cost of project (Rs. crore)
(i) Four laning of Thane-Bhiwandi bypass	Rs. 69.30
(ii) Road-over-bridge at Patalganga on NH-17	Rs. 33.3

(c) Nil

(d) In the first stage, short-listing of the private companies is done mainly on the basis of their financial capabilities and experience in execution of similar projects. In the second stage, the project is awarded adopting the criteria of minimum concession period offered in the competitive bidding by the short listed private companies.

[English]

National Internet Exchange

598. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the modalities worked out for setting up of a National Internet Exchange for simplifying the routing and networking of Internet Service providers; and

(b) the name of the towns and cities selected for setting up of such exchanges State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) National Internet Exchange is not planned presently by the Department of Telecom Services. However, a National

Internet Backbone is being setup which will also provide connectivity to Internet Service Providers.

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

Setting up of LPG Agencies at Coochbehar in West Bengal

599. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether demands for setting up of LPG distributorships at Mathabanga, Haldibari and Mekhliganj of Coochbehar District in West Bengal are pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the period of their pendency; and

(c) the time by which LPG agencies are likely to be set up at these places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Requests are received from time to time from different parts of the country for setting up LPG distributorships. Mathabanga, Haldibari and Mekhliganj of Coochbehar District in West Bengal have been included in the LPG Marketing Plan. It generally takes 6 to 12 months for commissioning of the dealerships/distributorships from the date of interview.

[Translation]

Opening of New Telephone Exchanges in Raigarh

600. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received proposals for opening of new telephone exchanges in Raigarh district of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard and the time by which new telephone exchanges are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Proposals have been received for opening of telephone exchanges at Pirkon, Morbe, Chorde, Nere,

Pittalwadi, Adavale and Kapade in Raigarh District of Maharashtra. Telephone exchanges at Pirkon and Pittalwadi have been installed. Telephone exchanges at Morbe, Chorde and Nere have been planned and are expected to be commissioned by June, 2000.

At Adavale and Kapade separate exchanges are not required and the demand for telephones here will be met from existing/proposed exchanges.

[*English*]

Revenue Losses to MTNL and Department of Telecommunications

601. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications has estimated a revenue loss upto Rs. 3000 crore during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) the total loss suffered by the Department of Telecommunications and MTNL during the last three years till date, due to misuse of PCO for making illegal STD and ISD calls, year-wise and State-wise;

(e) the number of such cases unearthed during the said period; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such losses to the Department of telecommunications and MTNL and the action taken against the guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Available data indicate that reduction in the revenue of the Department of Telecom Services (including MTNL), due to tariff rebalancing, in financial year 1999-2000, is likely to be approx. Rs. 2000 crores.

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

Forest Development Projects

602. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government take help of International Financial Institutions for the forest development projects;

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

(c) the details of the forest development projects implemented with such help during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. a number of forest development projects are implemented with external assistance. The details of such ongoing projects are given in Statement.

Statement

Ongoing Externally Aided Forestry Projects

S.No.	Name of the Project and Project Period	Implementing Agency	Funding Agency	Project Cost (Rs. in crores)	Physical Targets (in '000 ha.)
1	2	3	4	5	6
State Sector					
1.	Maharashtra Forestry Project (2328 IN) 1992-93 to 1999-00	Maharashtra Government	World Bank	431.51	369
2.	Andhra Pradesh Forestry Project (2573 - in 1994-95 to 1999-00	Andhra Pradesh Government	World Bank	353.92	355

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Afforestation and Pasture Dev. along Indira Gandhi Canal (ID-P-73) 1990-91 to 1999-00	Rajasthan Government	JBIC (Japan)	107.50	61.5
4.	Western Ghats Forestry Project 1992-93 to 1998-99 (1 year Extension under consideration)	Karnataka Government	DFID (U.K.)	84.20	61
5.	Himachal Pradesh Forestry Project, Kullu Mandi 1994-95 to 1999-00	H.P. Government	DFID (U.K.)	13.92	11
6.	Madhya Pradesh Forestry Project, (2700-IN) 1995-96 to 1999-00	Madhya Pradesh Government	World Bank	245.94	235
7.	Integrated Gujarat Forestry Development Project. (ID-P-112) 1995-96 to 2000-01	Gujarat Government	JBIC (Japan) 608.50	608.50	230
8.	Rajasthan Forestry Project. (ID-P-104) 1995-96 to 2000-01)	Rajasthan Government	JBIC (Japan)	139.18	55
9.	Tamil Nadu Afforestation Project 1996-97 to 2001-02	Tamil Nadu Government	JBIC (Japan)	499.20	405
10.	Eastern Karnataka Afforestation Project 1996-97 to 2001-02	Karnataka Government	JBIC (Japan)	565.54	471
11.	Capacity Building Project for Participatory Management of Forests 1997-98 to 1998-99 (Yet to be completed)	Orissa Government	SIDA (Sweden)	8.50	19
12.	Uttar Pradesh Forestry Project 1997-98 to 2000-01	UP Government	World Bank	272.00	160
13.	Punjab Afforestation Project 1997-98 to 2004-05 (Present loan for 4 years)	Punjab Government	JBIC (Japan)	442.00	59

1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	Kerala Forestry Project 1998-99 to 2001-02	Kerala Government	World Bank	183.00	54
15.	Capacity Building Project for Rehabilitation of Degraded Forests Through Land Scape Participatory Programme 1998-99 to 2000-01	KFRI, Kerala Government	AUSAID (Australia)	1.17	
16.	Afforestation of Aravalli Hills 1992-93 to 1999-00	Rajasthan Government	JBIC (Japan)	176.69	115
Total				4132.77	
Central Sector					
17.	FREEP	MoEF	World Bank	192.47	Not applicable
18.	Eco-Development Project	MoEF	World Bank	294.93	Not applicable
Grand Total				4620.17	

Pollution in Rivers

603. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the polluted rivers in the country;

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

(c) whether any scheme has been implemented to clean these rivers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken to clean these rivers and amount spent thereon during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) According to a study conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board polluted stretches in 22 major rivers in 14 States of the country

have been identified. The State-wise details of rivers is given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Government launched in 1985 the Ganga Action Plan Phase-I which is targetted to be completed by March, 2000 at a cost of Rs. 462 crore. Government also approved during the period from April, 1993 to October, 1996 the schemes of the Ganga Action Plan Phase-II and the National River Conservation Plan at a cost of about Rs. 1276 crore and Rs. 737 crore respectively which are under impiementation. The Action Plans involve (i) interception and diversion works to capture the raw sewage flowing into the river and divert it for treatment, (ii) sewage treatment plants for treating the diverted sewage, (iii) low cost sanitation works to prevent open defecation on river banks, (iv) electric and improved wood based crematoria to conserve wood and prevent the pollution of rivers on account of disposal of unburnt dead bodies into the rivers, (v) river front development works such as improvement of bathing ghats etc. and (vi) other miscellaneous works. Industrial pollution is monitored and controlled under the existing environmental laws.

The amount spent on cleaning of these rivers during the last three years is given below:

Year	(Rs. in crore)
1996-97	108.23
1997-98	94.65
1998-99	103.65
1999-2000 (till 31.01.2000)	130.30

Statement

Sl.No.	States	River
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1. Godavari
2.	Bihar	2. Subarnrekha
		3. Damodar
		4. Ganga
3.	Gujarat	5. Sabarmati
4.	Karnataka	6. Tungva
		7. Tungbhadra
		8. Cauvery
		9. Bhadra
5.	Madhya Pradesh	10. Khan
		11. Tapti
		12. Kshipra
		13. Betwa
		14. Narmada
		15. Wainganga
		16. Chambal
6.	Maharashhtra	17. Krishna, Godavari
7.	Orissa	18. Mahanadi
		19. Brahimini

1	2	3
8.	Punjab	20. Satluj
9.	Rajasthan	Chambal
10.	Tamil Nadu	Cauveri
11.	Haryana	21. Yamuna
12.	Delhi	Yamuna
13.	Uttar Pradesh	Ganga, Yamuna,
		22. Gomati
14.	West Bengal	Ganga, Damodar

[Translation]

Prices of Petroleum Products

604. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

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

(a) the price of petrol, diesel, kerosene, L.P.G. and other petroleum products separately in 1995;

(b) the details of increases effected since then the prices of above petroleum products, date-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to adopt an effective policy to reduce the frequencies of increases in the prices of petroleum products; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) A *Statement* is attached.

(c) and (d) Pursuant to decision taken by the Government in November, 1997, the prices of motor spirit, high speed diesel, kerosene (PDS), domestic LPG and aviation turbine fuel are administered. The price of diesel is fixed on the principle of import parity pricing upto the ex-storage point level. The prices of other petroleum products like naphtha, fuel oil, low sulphur heavy stock, bitumen, paraffin wax, etc. have been decontrolled w.e.f. 1.4.1998. Oil companies fix the prices of decontrolled products on market considerations.

Statement*Ex-Storage Point Prices of Major Controlled Petroleum Products*

(Rs./SU)

	MS 93	MS 87	HSD	SKO (DOM.)	LPG (P) (DOM.)	ATF (DOM.)
As on:						
01/01/1995	15344.34	12844.34	5717.28	2001.40	5309.19	9852.33
Revised on:						
03/07/1996	19180.43	16055.43	7432.46		6901.95	10837.56
07/07/1996			6574.87			
02/09/1997	20180.43	17055.43	8374.87		7958.29	
07/11/1997			7918.04			
25/12/1997			7996.84			
01/03/1998			7839.24			
04/04/1998			7645.47			
03/06/1998	18335.43	15795.43				
20/05/1998			7536.89			
09/01/1999			6722.37			
01/02/1999					8944.21	
28/02/1999	18239.01	15399.01	6621.76		8732.87	10759.32
20/04/1999			6882.15			
06/10/1999			9634.60			

Note: Ex-Storage Point Prices are exclusive of Duty Freight Local Levies etc.

[English]

Population of Leopards

605. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of Leopards in the country;
- (b) whether at least 1000 Leopards have been killed during the last one year;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect Leopards in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) As reported by the State Governments the number of Leopards in 1997 was approximately 6000.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Death of approximately one thousand leopards can be estimated from the recent seizures in Gazliabad and Khaga. Details of seizures as per enclosed Statement-I.

(d) The measures taken for protection of Leopards in the Country is enclosed in Statement-II.

Statement I**Seizure at Sahibabad (Uttar Pradesh)**

Sl. No.	Year	Month	Day	Seizure			Material seized	Quantity		Action taken	Present Status	Remarks
				State	Distt.	Site		Kg.	No.			
1.	1999	Dec.	19	UP	Sahiba bad	Sahibabad border	Leopard Tiger fox	50 03 05	3 persons arrested & sent to judicial custody	Case is pending in the court	Violation of WL(P) Act.	

Seizure at Khaga (Fatehpur District) Uttar Pradesh

Sl. No.	Year	Month	Day	Seizure			Material seized	Quantity		Action taken	Present Status	Remarks
				State	Distt.	Site		Kg.	No.			
1.	2000	Jan.	12	UP	Fatehpur	Khaga	Tiger skin Leopard skin Black buck skin Tiger nail Leopard nail Leopard penis Leopard canine	04 70 221 137 18000 01 02	6 persons arrested & sent to judicial custody	case is pending in the court	Violation of WL (P) Act.	

Statement II**Steps taken by the Government of India****National Level**

- Setting up of a National Coordination Committee to control poaching and illegal trade in wildlife with enforcement agencies like customs, Revenue Intelligence, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force, Coast Guards, State Police, Deputy Director, Wildlife Preservation & Scientific Organisations like Zoological and Botanical Survey of India.
- Training Programs and Workshops have been organized to sensitize the above departments to be proactive in control of trade and smuggling of wildlife products.
- A special co-ordination committee with Secretary (E&F), Special Secretary (Home), Director, CBI and representative of the Chairman, Central Board of Excise & Customs has been created to ensure better co-ordination in the efforts to curb smuggling of wildlife products.

- Central assistance is being provided to State Governments to strengthen the protection infrastructure including armed squads, vehicles, communication network and co-ordination between the Park managers.
- Schemes for awards and rewards for outstanding performance and acts of valour has been introduced to encourage detection and reporting.
- The State Government have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling.
- Launching of public awareness programme to involve Non-Governmental Organizations and others for supporting the Government in its efforts towards wildlife conservation.
- Supporting programmers of Institutions and NGOs in exploring tiger-trade routes and developing a forensic identification reference Manual for tiger parts and products.
- Funds are being provided to the State Governments for the eco-development of the areas to reduce the biotic pressure thereon.

10. Site specific special forces in Project Tiger Areas.
11. Special Strike Force all over the Country to control Trade.
12. Creation of wildlife trade control bureau.

International Level:

1. Initiated creation of a Forum of Tiger Range Countries, i.e. Global Forum for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.
2. To control transboundary trade and effect mutual cooperation in tiger conservation:
 - (i) A protocol has been signed with People's Republic of China.
 - (ii) An MOU with his Majesty's Government of Nepal has been signed.
 - (iii) Dialogue with Bangladesh has been initiated.
3. Several resolutions at CITES to check illegal trade in tiger parts and products have been adopted at India's initiative.
4. The Millennium Tiger Conference was held in March, 1999. The conference declaration suggested several action points for conservation of tiger both at national and international level.

Grant of Sovereign Counter Guarantees

606. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHAL RAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal to grant sovereign counter guarantee for the express road projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of such proposals under consideration of the Government, State-wise and Maharashtra in particular;

(d) the details of progress made on ongoing and new projects under consideration during the current year; and

(e) the present status thereof alongwith the project-wise funds released and outlay likely to be available to the State during 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

**Waiting List for LPG Connection at
Jamnagar in Gujarat**

607. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on waiting lists for LPG connections in Jamnagar district of Gujarat up to January 31, 2000;

(b) the time by which connections are likely to be provided to all of them;

(c) the number of domestic and commercial LPG connections provided in the district during the year 1998, 1999 and upto 31.1.2000;

(d) the number of domestic and commercial connections targeted to be provided during the year 2000 and 2001 and the steps taken to meet the targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The number of persons in the waiting list registered with distributors of PSU Oil Companies in the Jamnagar District of Gujarat as on 31.1.2000 is 4362.

(b) to (d) New LPG connections are released in a Phased manner throughout the country depending upon the LPG availability, waiting list, slack available with the distributors and their viability. However the Govt. has a plan to release 1 crore LPG connections during the year 2000 to clear all waiting list registered with the distributors of PSU Oil Companies as on 1.12.1999.

The number of LPG connections released by PSU Oil Companies in Jamnagar district is given below:

1998	5605
1999	19017
January, 2000	1462

[English]

Execution of Hydel Power Projects

608. SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the execution of four proposed Hydel Power Projects viz. , Shivasamudram, Mekedatu in Karnataka and Rasimanal, Hogenakal in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether the National Hydel Power Corporation has been given a time bound programme in respect of achieving the targets set under the projects and the finances involved therein;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) In order to take up the integrated development of hydro-electric projects based on the interim order of the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal, the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) is preparing a plan for optimal utilisation of the untapped hydroelectric potential estimated at 1140 MW of the Cauvery river (Shivasamudram 270 MW, Mekedatu 550 MW, Rasimanal 200 MW and Hogenakkal 120 MW).

NHPC would be prepared to execute, operate and maintain the four projects which would generate cheap power, subject to the Government of Karnataka and the Government of Tamil Nadu coming to a mutually satisfactory agreement on sharing of power from these projects.

Dealer's Selection Board for LPG in Nagaland

609. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the removal of the Chairman of the Dealer's Selection Board for LPG is hampering the work of the Board in the North East in general and Nagaland in particular;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the new Chairman is likely to be appointed and the board to be made functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The selection process was stayed with the announcement of General Elections in July, 1999. Recently Government have dissolved all the Boards. The Dealer Selection Boards are expected to be reconstituted in near future.

[Translation]

LPG Agencies at Baramulla in Jammu and Kashmir

610. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Panchayats under the Baramulla District in Jammu and Kashmir where the LPG is supplied through the gas agencies of the corporation;

(b) the number of villages situated at 500 to 1000 yard away from main road or motorable road and the details of LPG connections provided there;

(c) whether the Government propose to entrust the works of home delivery of cylinders in these villages and the inspection by the LPG agencies functioning there; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The two Gas distributorship of HPCL are operating in Baramulla District of Jammu & Kashmir and the names of the Panchyats in this district where LPG is being supplied are as under:

- (1) Baramulla
- (2) Rahama
- (3) Dangiwachha
- (4) Boniyar
- (5) URI
- (6) Tangmarg
- (7) Sumbal

311 Villages are situated at 500 to 1000 yards away from the main road of the above panchayats of the Baramulla Districts. Details are given in enclosed Statement.

(d) Home delivery is being effected by two distributors in Baramulla District in areas/villages which are not risk prone in view of prevailign law & order situation.

Statement

Panchayat	No. of Villages	Customer Holding
Baramulla	32	7600
Rahama	28	1200
Dangi Wacha	22	1300
Boniyar	46	1600
URI	58	1850
Tangmarg	75	1850
Sumpal	50	900

[*English*]

Allotment of Petrol Pump on National Highway

611. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any schemes to allot petrol pumps only to those owing land on the national Highway;

(b) if so, whether any advertisement has been issued in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether reservation would be maintained in the new schemes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (e) Government had launched a Jubilee retail outlet scheme on some important National/State Highways with Multiple Associated Facilities like Dhaba, Restaurants, Parking Facilities/Toilet, Bathing/Washing Facilities, Vehicle Service Centres, Communication Centres (STD/ISD Facility), etc.

For these Jubilee outlets advertisement are released by the Oil Companies for procuring suitable land inviting offers from the interested parties owning land. These Jubilee ROs will be operated by the Oil Companies themselves on COCO basis. Therefore the policy of reservation is not applicable for these outlets.

[*Translation*]

Construction of Pucca Bridge on Mahanadi River

612. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether no pucca bridge has been constructed on the Mahanadi river near Jhoa even after lapse of 50 years of independence;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether in the absence of bridge, Bartai sub-division has been cut off from the district headquarters and people from the sub-division have to take a detour of comparatively longer distance to reach the district headquarters;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to construct a pucca bridge at the said place in the public interest; and

(e) if so, the time by which the said bridge is likely to be constructed and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (e) Central Government is primarily responsible for the development and maintenance of only National Highways and the bridges falling thereon. All other roads and bridges there on fall within the jurisdiction of respective State Govt. The proposed bridge does not form part of the National Highway network.

Shortage of LPG in Rural Areas

613. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI:
SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:

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

(a) whether there is demand and acute shortage of LPG in the rural areas of the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to supply LPG as per the demand;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The demand of LPG customers registered with the Public Sector Oil Companies in the country including the State of Uttar Pradesh has been, by and large, met. Presently, no shortage in supply of LPG has been reported except for the States of Tamil Nadu and Kerala. However, whenever LPG backlog develops, PSU Oil Companies takes various measures including maximising imports, operating the bottling plants on extended hours, on Sundays and Holidays etc., to meet the demand in the affected areas.

Telephone Exchanges in Rental Buildings

614. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of Telephone Exchanges in Gonda district are functioning in rented private buildings are not suitable for extension and modernisation in future;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to construct the exchange buildings and staff quarters in the said district;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir. Care is taken to hire suitable rented buildings for installation of electronic exchanges and also for expansion up to 1.4 K capacity as per growth of network lines.

(b) As above in (a).

(c) Department has made plan to acquire the land and construct departmental buildings for all exchanges. Exchange buildings are under construction at Utraula, Arya Nagar and Tarab Ganj and Staff quarters are under construction at Gonda and Balrampur.

(d) As above in (c).

(e) Non availability of suitable land and delay in transfer of land to the department by the local authorities are main reasons.

[English]

Development of Afforestation Projects in NER

615. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds granted by the foreign countries/foreign financial institutions for development of afforestation projects in North-Eastern Region, particularly in the State of Manipur;

(b) whether Government are also providing financial assistance to the North-Eastern Region for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of amount remained unutilised during the last three years, year-wise/State-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No externally aided afforestation project has been sanctioned in the North-Eastern Region, including Manipur.

(b) to (e) Yes, Sir, assistance is provided to North-Eastern States for afforestation under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes. Projects sanctioned under these schemes are of 4-5 years and funds unutilised in the previous years are adjusted against releases in subsequent years. The State-wise details of funds released and unutilised during the last three years is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Central assistance sanctioned and released (Rupees in Lakhs) to the North-Eastern States under Centrally Sponsored Schemes from 1996-97 to 1998-99

1. Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Projects Scheme (100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme)

	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99	
	Released	Unutilised	Released	Unutilised	Released	Unutilised
Arunachal Pradesh	74.32	0.00	65.21	38.13	14.94	0.00
Assam	34.90	0.00	55.35	55.35	50.00	0.00
Manipur	261.50	0.00	98.30	23.54	283.72	0.00
Meghalaya	16.31	2.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mizoram	81.50	0.00	77.11	77.11	96.26	0.00
Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tripura	30.35	0.00	65.00	36.72	58.57	0.00
Total	498.88	2.52	360.97	230.85	503.49	0.00

2. Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Projects Scheme (50:50 sharing Centrally Sponsored Scheme between the State Government and the Central Government)

	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99	
	Released	Unutilised	Released	Unutilised	Released	Unutilised
Arunachal Pradesh	12.23	1.83	6.00	7.83	0.00	2.60
Assam	120.66	0.00	70.00	0.00	83.95	38.23
Manipur	146.82	0.00	100.00	0.00	128.75	1.21
Meghalaya	74.46	58.16	0.00	58.16	0.00	58.16
Mizoram	275.00	0.00	244.12	9.21	211.91	0.00
Nagaland	10.00	2.29	0.00	0.00	4.23	4.23
Tripura	55.19	4.49	94.30	52.44	33.19	51.68
Total	694.36	66.77	514.42	127.64	462.03	156.11

3. Conservation and Development of Non-Timber Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants Scheme (100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme)

	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99	
	Released	Unutilised	Released	Unutilised	Released	Unutilised
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Arunachal Pradesh	25.84	1.25	0.00	1.25	5.00	6.25
Assam	15.00	8.70	13.50	22.20	14.00	7.50

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Manipur	71.36	0.00	18.00	0.00	47.24	0.00
Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.00	0.00
Mizoram	8.50	0.00	17.90	17.90	25.00	7.47
Nagaland	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	5.00
Tripura	8.00	2.25	6.35	0.74	10.15	1.74
Total	138.70	12.20	35.75	42.09	118.39	27.96

4. Association of Schedule Tribes and Rural Poor in Regeneration of Degraded Forest on Usufruct Sharing Basis Scheme (100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme)

	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99	
	Released	Unutilised	Released	Unutilised	Released	Unutilised
Arunachal Pradesh	State not included in Scheme					
Assam	State not included in Scheme					
Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.36	0.00
Meghalaya	State not included in Scheme					
Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.55	0.00
Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.29	0.29
Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.55	0.00
Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	26.75	0.29

5. Grant-in-Aid to NGOs Scheme

	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99	
	Released	Unutilised	Released	Unutilised	Released	Unutilised
Arunachal Pradesh	No projects sanctioned					
Assam	No projects sanctioned					
Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.84	0.00
Meghalaya	4.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.09	0.00
Mizoram	No projects sanctioned					
Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.40	0.00
Tripura	No projects sanctioned					
Total	4.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.24	0.00

[*Translation*]

Permission for Mining in Rajasthan

616. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases seeking permission for the mining sent by Rajasthan Government during last three years;

(b) the number of such cases pending with the Government during last three years;

(c) the number of cases where the permission for mining was granted within six months alongwith the criteria adopted in such cases;

(d) whether some officers were involved in any scam in granting permission for mining; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) A statement showing number and status of cases sent by the State Government of Rajasthan for mining under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 during last three years (1997, 1998 and 1999) is enclosed.

(c) Under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 decision on the project is taken within 90 days from the receipt of complete information. However as complete information was not available no case was granted permission within six months. The Ministry has formulated the guidelines for mining projects to consider the cases under the provisions of Environment Impact Assessment Notification of 1994. Under the Aravalli Notification of 1992 projects

falling in the Sariska Wildlife sanctuary/National Park are not considered for environmental clearance. However, outside the Sariska Wildlife Sanctuary/National Park the cases are considered on merits. The project involving forestland, prior forestry clearance is required under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

As per the provision of the guideline of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, cases which are complete in all respect are being disposed of within 90 days by the Central Government.

In view of unusual large number of proposals received from the State Government of Rajasthan in the year 1997 subsequent to Supreme Court interim direction of 12.12.1996; the Ministry took a decision to constitute a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Khazan Singh, Conservator (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh to carryout sample checking of the proposals submitted by the State Government. As per the report of the Committee there were gross discrepancies in most of the proposals specially in respect of the area statement. Accordingly State Government was requested to re-verify all the proposals and submit verification report/certificate for all undecided proposals. Ministry took a stand that these incorrect proposals cannot be processed further till the verification report is submitted by the State Government. However in respect of proposals relating to renewal of mining leases, temporary working permission over already broken/used up area was granted in most of the cases as per the existing provisions of the guideline framed under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 & Rules.

After receipt of verification report from the State Government proposals have been decided and are under different levels of processing.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

(A) Status of Mining Projects of Rajasthan received during last three years (1997, 1998 & 1999) Under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

	1997	1998	1999	Total
Number of Proposals received	213	53	22	288
Number of Proposals approved	108	16	01	125
Number of Proposals Rejected/ Returned/withdrawn	26	12	05	43
Number of Proposals Pending for want of Information from State Government	06	01	16	23
Number of Proposals under consideration of the Ministry	73	24	00	97

(B) Status of mining projects from Rajasthan (1997-99) under the Environment Impact Assessment and Aravalli Notification

	1997	1998	1999	Total
Number of received projects	07	07	68	82
Number of cleared projects	07	07	25	39
Number of Pending projects as on 31.12.1999	00	00	43	43

[English]

Self-Sufficiency in Production of Petrol

617. SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have achieved self-sufficiency in the production of petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for permitting Reliance Petroleum Limited to export petrol alongwith the rate at which the petrol is being exported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) India has become near self-sufficient in refining capacity for production of petroleum products.

(b) With the addition of 39.90 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) refining capacity during the current year (1999-2000), present indigenous refining capacity has gone up to 109.04 MMTPA.

(c) Production of petrol is in excess of domestic demand.

[Translation]

Out of Order Telephone Exchanges

618. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone exchanges are lying out of order in several parts of the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make them properly functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Sir, There is no exchange lying out of order in U.P. and other parts of the country.

However, 113 exchanges in Andhra Pradesh and 11 exchanges in J&K States have been damaged by extremists & temporarily closed down.

(c) The damaged and temporarily closed exchanges are being revived progressively after getting clearance on safety and improvement of Law and Order situation.

[English]

Encouragement to Hydro-Electric Power Projects

619. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER:
SHRI DINSHA PATEL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hydro-electric Power Projects are economical and preferred source of Power; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to develop the hydel potential and encourage Hydro-electric power projects in the country particularly in remote and hilly areas during the last five years?

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

(b) The Government of India has taken various steps for developing the hydro potential in the country specially located in the remote and hilly areas. A policy on Hydro

Power Development had been announced in August, 1998 which addresses to the various issues that have led to the decline of share of hydro power in the last three decades and the remedial measures required to accelerate it. The steps taken by the Government inter-alia include taking up hydroelectric projects for construction by Central Public Sector Undertaking, increasing private investment through IPPs, provision of adequate budgetary support for on-going and new hydroelectric projects. As against the existing hydel capacity of 2425 MW under the Central Sector, Government has sanctioned six hydroelectric projects with a capacity of 1265 MW for commissioning during the 10th Five Year Plan. Advance action in respect of hydel projects involving 26261 MW capacity has also been initiated for capacity addition during the 11th Five Year Plan and beyond. The Government is also taking steps to accelerate the process of survey and investigation of the new hydroelectric sites with a view to create a shelf of projects which could be taken up for execution.

Telephone Connections in Solapur

620. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received for telephone connections from different Talukas of Solapur in Maharashtra during 1998-1999 and the current financial year, taluka-wise;

(b) the reasons for delay in providing said connections; and

(c) the time by which the connections are likely to be provided in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Sir, the details of applications received for telephone connections during 1998-99 and the current year as on 31.01.2000 for Solapur (Taluka-wise) are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) Normally, there is no delay. However, at times, non receipt of OFC equipments for transmission media and switching equipments affects the progress.

(c) 7389 telephones have been provided in 11 talukas of Solapur upto 31.01.2000. Efforts are afoot to provide about 8000 telephones by 31st March, 2000 and pending applicants are likely to be provided telephones progressively by 31.01.2001.

Statement

Details of Telephone applications received during 1998-99 and the current year as on 31.01.2000 for Solapur

S.No.	Name of the Taluka	Applications received during 1998-99 (1.4.98 to 31.3.99)	Applications received during the current year (31.01.2000)
1.	Akkalkot	14	332
2.	Barsi	551	1811
3.	Karmala	25	713
4.	Madha	690	623
5.	Malsiras	336	1301
6.	Mangalwedha	166	544
7.	Mohol	336	536
8.	Pandharpur	373	1105
9.	Sangola	124	739
10.	Solapur (Rural)	21	650
11.	Solapur (Urban)	485	2840
Total		3121	11134

Installation of Under Ground Cables

621. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to instal underground cables of telephone in Delhi and Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the total area covered during the last three years under the scheme so far;

(c) the total cable network likely to be replaced in both the States, separately;

(d) the reasons for delay in converting pole wire to underground wire system; and

(e) the time by which the work is likely to be completed in the said States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (e) *Delhi (MTNL)—MTNL, Delhi Telephones are already laying under-ground Telephone cables. The entire area of NCT*

Delhi is covered by Cable network. There is no delay in converting pole wire to underground wire system. A comprehensive plan of rehabilitation is undertaken by the MTNL, Delhi Telephones. The work is likely to be completed by the year 2003.

Hyderabad (AP Circle)—On experimental basis, Department proposes to replace overhead drop wire by underground cables to subscriber premises to reduce the faults. For this purpose one exchange in each SSA is being chosen. Since it is being done on experimental basis, there is no time bound programme for the implementation of this proposal.

[Translation]

Proposal for Express Highways in Bihar

622. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar have sent proposals for the construction of Express Highways in its main cities;

(b) whether the Government have accorded its approval to these proposals;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the amount proposed to be provided by Government to the State for the said Project; and

(e) the time by which the said projects are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

LPG Agencies/Petrol/Diesel Outlets in Haryana and Rajasthan

623. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the sub-division and blocks in Haryana and Rajasthan where the facility of the LPG agency and petrol/diesel retail outlets are not available as on 31st December, 1999;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to increase their number in the said States during the last six months; and

(c) the number of LPG agencies and petrol/diesel outlets set up in these States during the last six months location wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) As per the existing policy, the following criteria are adopted for setting up economically viable LPG distributorships in different parts of the country including Haryana and Rajasthan:

- (i) All urban locations with a population 10,000 and above by including potential of adjoining villages falling within the radius of 15 Kms.
- (ii) Urban locations having population of 5,000 and above taking into account the potential of adjoining villages falling within 15 Kms radius.
- (iii) Cluster of villages within 15 Kms radius of nucleus villages having a population of 10,000 and above.
- (iv) Villages within 15 Kms radius around towns having population of 1 lakh and above.

Retail Outlet dealerships are set up at different locations which meet Oil Industry's Volume Distance Norms.

Accordingly in the Marketing Plan 1996-98, 45 LPG distributorships and 36 retail outlet dealerships are earmarked for Haryana and 115 LPG distributorships and 40 RO dealerships are earmarked for Rajasthan.

[English]

National Highway Development Project

624. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) multilateral funding agencies, World Bank and Asian Development Bank have agreed to extend assistance worth crores of rupees for the ambitious Rs. 54,000 crore National Highway Development Project;

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

(c) the time by which the first instalment is likely to be provided alongwith the proposed amount of allocation; and

(d) the time by which the first phase of the National Highway Development Project is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The World Bank has agreed in principle to lend US\$ 400 million per year for this programme. Similarly ADB has agreed to lend US\$ 200-300 million per year for this programme.

(c) The first instalment for the Surat-Manor project from ADB is expected immediately after the sanctions are lifted.

(d) A large number of projects which are part of the NHDP are already under implementation.

Constitution of Oil Selection Board in M.P.

625. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:
SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:

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

(a) whether the Oil Selection Board has been constituted in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the composition and tenure thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which the said Board is likely to be constituted and start functioning?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Dealer Selection Boards are likely to be constituted in near future.

[Translation]

Reconstitution of TRAI

626. DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI RAMSHAKAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to disband the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and appoint a new body in its place, while divesting it of judicial powers;

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

(c) the criteria laid down for the nomination of members of the TRAI; and

(d) the date on which it was reconstituted and the composition thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) With a view to strengthening the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), Govt. promulgated the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 2000 on 24th January, 2000.

The Ordinance brings about certain structural changes in the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act 1997. Additional functions have also been entrusted to TRAI, and a clear distinction has been made between its recommendatory/advisory functions and its regulatory functions. Further more, it has been made statutorily mandatory for Govt. to seek recommendations of TRAI in respect of certain licensing matters.

TRAI has also been reconstituted and shall now consist of a Chairperson, and not more than two whole time Members and not more than two part-time Members to be appointed by the Central Government. The Chairperson and other Members of TRAI shall be appointed by the Central Government from amongst persons who have special knowledge of, and professional experience in, telecommunication, industry, finance, accountancy, law, management or consumer affairs. The Government has already taken action for reconstituting TRAI, and have approved appointments to the posts of Chairperson and Members.

As it was conceptually inappropriate that the recommending authority and the adjudicatory authority be the same, it was also felt necessary to restructure and strengthen the dispute settlement mechanism. Accordingly, Chapter IV of the TRAI Act 1997, under which TRAI had got limited adjudicatory powers, has been replaced, to provide for the establishment of a separate disputes redressal body, known as the "Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal", to adjudicate any dispute between a licensor and a licensee, between two or more service providers, between a service provider and a group of consumers, and to hear and dispose of appeals against any direction, decision or order of TRAI.

*[English]***Area of Operation of Bhopal Regional Offices**

627. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra State is covered by the Bhopal regional office set up to clear development projects of State involving forest land below five hectares;

(b) if so, the number and names of projects sanctioned, rejected referred back to the Government of Maharashtra and pending with the Bhopal regional offices during the last three years and the forest land involved in each project; and

(c) the reasons for rejection and referring back the projects to the Government of Maharashtra and the time by which the pending proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Details of the projects (below 5 ha.) received since January, 1997 alongwith their status are given in the statement.

Certain proposals, which have been rejected on merit basis, are shown accordingly. Whereas other proposals, shown as rejected have been rejected for want of information/clarifications from the State Government.

Proposals shown as pending with the State Government, are pending for want of certain essential information/clarifications on the project from concerned state Government. Further processing on these proposals is possible only after receipt of wanting information/clarifications.

Statement

Detailed status of the proposals received for forestry clearance in Regional Office Bhopal during last three years i.e. since January 1997

(0-5 ha.)

Sl. No.	Name of Project	District	Area	Date of Receipt	Present Status/Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
Maharashtra					
Year 1997					
1.	Installing of wireless station	Satara	0.06	01.01.97	Approved 4.2.97
2.	Singalchod to M.D.R. 15	Nashik	0.57	01.01.97	Approved 26.2.97
3.	40 m. High Microwave Tower	Thane	0.24	09.01.97	Approved 3.2.97
4.	Laying of pipeline under water supply scheme	Dhule	0.0525	14.02.97	Approved 11.8.97
5.	Const. of PHC at Visapur	Chandrapur	0.90	19.02.97	Rejected 2.7.99 on merit
6.	Ond-Yeoti-Kumbargaon-Galmewadi Road	Satara	1.20	11.03.97	Rejected 25.3.99

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Renovation of Shri Jivadanidevi Temple	Thane	1.95	21.03.97	Agreed in principle 15.7.99
8.	220 KV TL from Dahanu to Varsova	Thane	2.64	17.04.97	Approved 24.4.97
9	L.T. TL	Raigad	0.50 ^d	09.04.97	Rejected 3.6.98 on merit
10.	UG Pipeline	Thane	0.307	09.04.97	pending with State Govt. 10.12.99
11.	Dhagi-Borgaon Plaskheda road project	Jalna	0.43	01.05.97	Approved 16.5.97
12.	Pogarwadi Phata to Are Dare Rewande Road	Satara	3.30	13.05.97	Agreed in principle 24.7.97
13.	Const. of Labour shed & erection of electric poles	Raigad	0.0666	13.05.97	Approved 15.1.98
14.	UG water pipeline	Thane	2.834	14.05.97	Approved 24.10.97
15.	22 KV HT line	Thane	0.2879	03.06.97	Approved 15.1.98
16.	TL for electrification-of Adivasi Wadies	Raigad	0.315	06.06.97	Approved 9.3.98
17.	Laying fo National Gas Twin Pipeline	Raigad	0.867	17.06.97	Approved 25.7.97
18.	22 KV HT line	Thane	0.162	17.06.97	Approved 14.10.97
19.	Implementation of Rajasbai Shewali Water Supply Scheme	Dhule	0.1575	17.06.97	Approved 28.7.97
20.	Nalavadewadi-Hirwara-Jamb Road	Satara	2.16	17.06.97	Rejected 21.10.99
21.	Ring road from Katol road to Amravati road	Nagpur	1.371	17.06.97	Approved 14.05.98
22.	Village tank at Kochinara	Gadchiroli	1.34	14.07.97	Agreed in principle 17.10.97
23.	Installation of 13 seasonal stalls at Bombay point	Satara	0.0181	25.07.97	Approved 17.10.97
24.	Roha water supply scheme	Raigad	0.418	02.09.97	Approved 16.10.97
25.	Mankapur to Dongar-shat road	Nashik	0.750	22.10.97	Rejected 01.12.97 on merit

1	2	3	4	5	6
26.	Extension of existing Balaji temple complex	Nagpur	0.48	24.10.97	Agreed in principle 12.08.98
27.	Ranvahir to Kelvahir road	Nashik	0.320	04.11.97	Approved 15.01.98
28.	Gonde to Ustole road	Nashik	0.50	04.11.97	Approved 01.01.98
29.	Nagbhir-Narkhak regional rural water supply	Chandrapur	0.3075	11.11.97	Approved 01.01.98
30.	Ranegaon to Konashi road	Ahmednagar	0.2565	28.11.97	Approved 15.01.98
31.	Drinking water supply scheme	Pune	0.200	05.12.97	Approved 12.01.98
32.	100KV TL for power supply to GAIL	Raigad	0.2596	17.12.97	Approved 05.1.98
33.	132 KV electric TL	Nashik	0.450	17.12.97	Approved 15.01.98
34.	Bhormal Percolation tank	Nashik	2.00	01.01.97	Rejected 21.10.99
35.	Galwat Percolation tank	Nashik	3.00	01.01.97	Rejected 21.10.99
36.	Feeder channel to MI tank at Tadala	Chandrapur	0.740	01.01.97	Pending with State Govt. since 11.01.2000
37.	Kelvahir Percolation tank	Nashik	2.35	14.01.97	Rejected 21.10.99
38.	Jaitkheda Percolation tank	Aurangabad	2.00	14.02.97	Agreed in principle 09.04.97
39.	Kachorpada Percolation tank	Nashik	2.80	14.02.97	Agreed in principle 09.04.97
40.	Dhulghat Percolation tank	Nashik	1.90	26.02.97	Agreed in principle 09.04.97
41.	Ghota Percolation tank	Amravati	0.86	07.04.97	Approved 16.05.97
42.	Wai Minor Irrigation tank project	Yeotmal	0.53	16.04.97	Approved 16.05.97
43.	Bhendwal Percolation tank	Nashik	0.30	02.05.97	Approved 12.06.97
44.	Kocninara village tank	Gadchiroli	1.34	14.07.97	Agreed in principle 17.10.97

1	2	3	4	5	6
45.	Kodvi Medium Project	Kolhapur	2.52	13.08.97	Agreed in principle 13.11.97
46.	Subkund Percolation tank	Nagpur	3.50	28.08.97	Agreed in principle 17.11.97
47.	Gangayari tank	Bhandara	5.00	17.08.97	Agreed in principle 23.10.97
48.	Kolstipada Percolation tank	Nashik	2.85	19.09.97	Pending with State Govt. since 05.10.99
49.	Salangatola canal project	Bhandara	1.89	19.09.97	Agreed in principle 11.11.97
50.	Varambhe Percolation tank	Nashik	3.25	23.09.97	Agreed in principle 17.11.97
51.	Chimbale Percolation tank	Ahmednagar	1.71	30.09.97	Agreed in principle 16.12.1997
52.	Washi Percolation tank	Usmanabad	0.95	13.10.97	Approved 17.11.97
53.	Majri Malasal Irrigation tank	Amravati	4.47	22.10.97	Agreed in principle 21.08.98
54.	Biloni Perclation tank	Aurangabad	0.94	05.12.97	Approved 15.01.98
55.	Khapa Nipani Percolation tank	Nagpur	1.00	17.12.97	Approved 15.01.98
56.	Wanola (Panola) Percolation tank	Nanded	1.40	19.12.97	Agreed i principle 15.01.98
57.	Nandari Minor Irrigation tank	Kolhapur	2.18	31.12.97	Agreed in principle 15.01.98

Year 1998

1.	Laying UG water pipe line	Pune	0.005	09.02.98	Approved 31.03.98
2.	Digging of well and laying pipe line	Nagpur	0.045	13.02.98	Pending with State Govt. since 31.03.98
3.	RCC, GSR sump and pump house	Pune	0.161	10.03.98	Approved 05.05.98
4.	Constn. of Major bridge across Dham river	Wardha	0.120	24.03.98	Approved 27.05.98
5.	Augmentation to Palghar and 26 Villages	Thane	0.985	31.03.98	Approved 13.05.98

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Temple for Digambar Jain Murthy	Nashik	0.80	07.04.98	Approved 06.05.99
7.	Laying down pipe line pump house and electric supply line	Ahmednagar	0.1485	17.04.98	Approved 30.04.98
8.	Approach road to the farm land	Satara	0.15	01.05.98	Rejected 27.5.98 on merit
9.	Yashwant Sahakari Pani Purvatha Sanstha Limited	Satara	0.0074	08.05.98	Approved 08.06.98
10.	Widening of road	Nashik	1.671	20.05.98	Approved 16.02.99
11.	Major High level bridge	Wardha	0.95	29.05.98	Approved 22.07.98
12.	Khandala-Majara combined water supply scheme	Chandrapur	0.06986	15.06.98	Approved 11.08.98
13.	Installation of two meter optical telescope	Pune	1.735	17.07.98	Approved 24.05.99
14.	Laying UG pipe line	Amravati	0.135	30.06.98	Approved 11.08.98
15.	Road from Hanuman temple to Manudevi temple	Jaigaon	1.80	22.07.98	Agreed in principle 15.04.99
16.	Augmentation to Baragaon Nandur and other 14 villages	Ahmednagar	0.995	22.07.98	Approved 23.09.98
17.	UG water pipe line at Dhamantri	Amravati	0.0063	22.07.98	Rejected 2.2.2000
18.	Londha Nalla project	Kolhapur	4.007	07.12.98	Agreed in principle 14.01.99
19.	11 KV TL	Akola	0.0039	07.12.98	Approved 14.01.99
20.	11 KV electrification	Kolhapur	0.378	14.12.98	Approved 14.01.99
21.	TL cum receiving tower	Nashik	0.05	29.12.98	Approved 27.07.99
22.	Lohi Minor Irrigation tank	Yeotmal	4.43	19.01.98	Agreed in principle 20.02.98
23.	Jelugade Minor Irrigation tank	Kolhapur	4.280	21.01.98	Agreed in principle 09.03.98
24.	Temghar irrigation Project	Pune	2.42	20.02.98	Agreed in principle 15.05.98

1	2	3	4	5	6
25.	Arphal Left bank canal tunnel	Satara	1.17	24.03.98	Approved 07.09.99
26.	Construction of canal from Badri tank	Jalgaon	0.50	20.05.98	Approved 03.07.98
27.	Sabordara Percolation tank	Nashik	4.00	29.05.98	Rejected 29.10.99
28.	Construction of Kolhapur type weir at Sohale	Kolhapur	0.24	24.07.98	Approved 17.11.98
29.	Taroda Percolation tank	Nashik	3.60	19.08.98	Agreed in principle 22.10.98
30.	Londha Nala Project	Kolhapur	4.007	07.12.98	Agreed in principle 14.01.99
31.	Gavase Minor Irrigation tank	Kolhapur	2.83	07.12.98	Approved 24.09.99
32.	Telegaon Minor Irrigation tank	Wardha	0.425	07.12.98	Approved 14.01.99
33.	Lakkakot Irrigation tank	Nanded	3.87	08.01.99	Agreed in principle 10.02.99
34.	Botha Minor Irrigation project	Buldhana	1.40	24.03.98	Agreed in principle 12.04.99
<i>Year 1999</i>					
1.	11 KV line for electrification of village Chinchale	Nashik	0.287	29.01.99	Approved 12.04.99
2.	Jawahar Urdu High School, Ashti	Wardha	0.350	29.01.99	Rejected 15.4.99 on merit
3.	Microwave Link Tower for VSNL	Raigad	0.4456	09.02.99	Approved 11.3.99
4.	Resettlement of Lendhari village	Gadchiroli	3.50	29.01.99	Pending with State Govt. since 13.8.99
5.	Laying UG Pipeline from Danisar to Vasai	Thane	0.864	03.02.99	Approved 7.4.99
6.	Resettlement of Chinchtola village	Gadchiroli	3.50	06.02.99	Rejected 12.7.99 on merit
7.	Resettlement of Bandhegaon village	Gadchiroli	1.50	03.02.99	Pending with State Govt. since 13.8.99
8.	Resettlement of Kurkheda village	Gadchiroli	3.00	15.02.99	Rejected 12.7.99 on merit

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Excavation of Trench and laying OFC	Thane	0.6481	04.03.99	Approved 11.3.99
10.	Const. of new road	Thane	0.035	26.03.99	Approved 5.7.99
11.	Vangaon Gram Panchayat Weekly market place & complex	Thane	0.06	19.04.99	Rejected 2.7.99 on merit
12.	Laying pipeline under Regional RWSS	Kolhapur	0.4525	28.04.99	Approved 2.7.99
13.	Laying pipeline under Regional RWSS	Pune	0.72	28.04.99	Approved 6.5.99
14.	Laying 33 KV Mayani Vadjal Mhaswad TI	Satara	0.9075	10.05.99	Approved 2.7.99
15.	Laying pipeline to Krishna Upsa Jalsinchan Co-operative Water Supply Limited	Ahmednagar	0.0645	20.05.99	Approved 12.7.99
16.	Gharatwada Water Supply Scheme	Nagpur	0.48	01.06.99	Approved 24.7.99
17.	U.G. Pipeline to Shri Thadeshwar Co-operative Society Limited, Bhigwan	Pune	0.035	01.7.99	Approved 24.07.99
18.	Laying UG water supply pipeline	Raigad	0.0395	30.06.99	Approved 7.9.99
19.	Laying water supply pipeline	Ahmednagar	0.3462	30.06.99	Approved 7.9.99
20.	Laying UG water Supply pipeline	Raigad	0.136	20.07.99	Approved 7.9.99
21.	0.44 KV (LT) Line	Raigad	0.567	20.07.99	Pending with State Govt. since 30.9.99
22.	Laying UG water pipeline of Sonakaswadi	Pune	0.0185	22.07.99	Pending with State Govt. since 7.9.99
23.	Laying UG water pipeline of Sonkaswadi	Pune	0.0785	22.07.99	Pending with State Govt. since 10.9.99
24.	22 KV (H) line and L.T. line	Raigad	1.98	22.07.99	Pending with State Govt. since 30.9.99
25.	22 KV, 95 Sq.MM.XLPE UG High Tension Cable to Microwave Tower	Thane	0.060	03.08.99	Approved 7.9.99

1	2	3	4	5	6
26.	Laying down of pipeline	Dhule	0.362	16.08.99	Approved 10.9.99
27.	Const. of Visapur High School	Chandrapur	0.99	04.10.99	Pending with State Govt. since 12.11.1999
28.	Ujleshwar Percolation tank	Akola	0.77	08.02.99	Approved 12.04.99
29.	Asoli tank	Bhandara	4.00	25.03.99	Agreed in principle 02.07.99
30.	Keshori village tank	Nagpur	1.688	28.07.99	Agreed in principle 10.09.99
31.	Kolhapur type storage Bandhara of Khairkuti	Dhule	0.94	26.10.99	Pending with State Govt. since 16.12.1999
32.	Kolhapur type storage Bandhara of Sangvi	Dhule	0.97	26.10.99	Pendign with State Govt. since 16.12.1999
33.	33 KV HT electric power supply	Chandrapur	4.68	03.12.99	Agreed in principle dated 2.2.2000
34.	Laying down pipeline & const. of production well	Dhule	0.13	08.12.99	Pending with State Govt. since 20.1.2000
35.	Upgradation of existing path way from Ajanta caves	Aurangabad	0.22	31.12.99	Pendign with State Govt. since 10.2.2000
36.	Renovation of Shri Jagdambadevi temple	Ahmednagar	4.96	31.12.99	Pendign with State Govt. since 10.2.2000
37.	100 KV power supply to GAIL	Raigad	4.4550	24.01.2000	Agreed in principle dated 02.02.2000

Note: (a) Proposals shown as pending with the State Government are pending for want of certain essential informations/clarification on the project concerned which have not been received till date.

(b) Proposals which have been rejected on merit basis are shown against them. Other proposals which have been rejected are rejected for want of informations/clarifications from the State Government.

Rangit Hydro-Electric Power Project in Sikkim

628. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the original schedule of completion of Rangit Hydro-electric power project in Sikkim;

(b) the original cost and the present cost as per latest price index;

(c) the names of States which are beneficiaries of the project and share of each one of them;

(d) whether there is any shortage of funds for the project and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the remedial measures taken/likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The Rangit

Hydro-electric Project in Sikkim was originally scheduled to be completed in September, 1995.

(b) The original approved cost of the Project at August 1989 price level was Rs. 181.6 crores. The sanctioned revised cost estimate of the Rangit H.E. Project is Rs. 361.86 crores at May, 1997 price level. The completion cost of the project is expected to be Rs. 482 crores.

(c) The beneficiaries from the Project would be Sikkim, West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar and Damodar Valley Corporation. The share of each State would be as per the existing norms applicable to all Central hydel generating stations.

(d) and (e) Rs. 181.93 crores has been released by the Government as equity for the project. Rest of the funds have been arranged through loan by National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC). The project has been completed and is synchronised with Grid since 1st week of February 2000. In view of this no remedial measures are required.

Legislation on Waste Management

629. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to enact a legislation to deal with the collection, segregation, processing and disposal of solid wastes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures proposed by the Government to bring in corporate sector in the field of waste management in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The Government notified the draft Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1999 in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II-Section 3-Sub-section (ii) on September 27, 1999 inviting suggestions and objections. A large number of suggestions and objections have been received.

(c) Presently, there are no specific proposals to involve the corporate sector in the field of waste management. However, municipal bodies which are primarily responsible for management and handling of municipal solid wastes are free to involve the corporate sector in the field of waste management.

Amendment in TRAI Act, 1997

630. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Arun Jaitley Committee appointed to look into amendments to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act, 1997 has submitted its Report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Government had constituted on 13.12.99 a Group on Telecom and IT Convergence under the Chairmanship of Finance Minister. One of the terms of reference of this Group was to consider and make recommendations to strengthen the TRAI through suitable legislative amendments. This Group constituted a Sub-Group under the Chairmanship of Shri Arun Jaitley, Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting, to consider and make recommendations in this regard to the main Group. The report of the Sub-Group was considered by the Group on Telecom and IT Convergence, based on which Government decided to bring about immediate amendments to the TRAI Act, 1997. Accordingly, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 2000 was promulgated on 24th January, 2000, bringing about certain structural changes in the TRAI Act 1997, with the objective of strengthening TRAI.

Some of the salient amendments include the bringing about of a clear distinction between the recommendatory/advisory functions of TRAI, and the regulatory functions to be discharged by it. While entrusting certain additional functions to TRAI, it has also been made mandatory for Government to seek recommendations of TRAI in respect of need and timing for introduction of new service providers, and the terms and conditions of licence to a service provider. Besides changing the composition of TRAI, the amendments made also provide for the setting up of a separate disputes redressal body, known as the "Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal", with the objective of strengthening the disputes settlement mechanism.

Cess on Diesel and Petrol for Construction of Roads in Rural Areas

631. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI ARUN KUMAR:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken to spend the amount earned through levying of cess on the diesel and petrol or the construction of roads in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the States where the said amount is proposed to be spent on road construction works in the rural areas during the ensuing three years alongwith the length of such roads; and

(d) the extent of roads constituted in terms of percentage in the rural areas of the said States so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) to (d) 50% of the amount collected by way of cess @ Rupee 1 per litre on diesel would be earmarked for the development of rural development and social sector. This would include rural road development in all the States. Details and modalities in this regard have not yet been finalised.

Additional Amount for National Highways in Karnataka

632. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has sought an additional amount for the maintenance of newly declared National Highway No. 63 viz. Ankola-Hubli-Hospet-Gooty Road;

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

(c) whether the State Government has also sought an amount of Rs. 400 crore from the External sources like ADB/OECF/World Bank for the strengthening of Chitraguda-Sholapur section of National Highway No. 13;

(d) if so, whether the request has since been considered by the Government; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to get the external assistance for this National Highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) and (b) Funds to State Government for maintenance are allotted for all National Highways in the State taken together and not Highway-wise. An amount of Rs. 34,10,99,000/- has been so far allocated to Karnataka Government during 1999-2000 for this purpose within the available resources.

(c) to (e) State Government has proposed improvement of this Section of National Highways-13 from external funding. However, this is not a priority project for external assistance at this stage.

Modernisation of Legal Administration

633. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for modernisation/rationalization of the legal administration;

(b) the progress made so far in this regard;

(c) the details of the amount allocated for the purpose during the year 1999-2000, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government have received any proposal from State Governments specially from the Himachal Pradesh regarding legal administration; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) Modernisation/rationalization of the legal administration is a continuous process involving both the Central and State Governments. Several steps have been taken in this direction including computerisation of records in various courts. Under the Project "COURTS", the Government has successfully implemented computerisation in the Supreme Court of India and all the 18 High Courts. Under the District Courts Computerisation and Networking Programme, the National Informatics Centre (NIC) has already covered all the 430 District Courts in the country.

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the development of infrastructural facilities for the judiciary is also being implemented since 1993-94. The Scheme includes construction of court buildings and residential quarters for the Judges/Judicial Officers covering High Courts and Subordinate Courts. Funds aggregating to Rs. 331 crore have so far been released to various States and Union Territories under this Scheme.

(c) Details of funds allocated to various States/Union territories under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme relating to development of infrastructural facilities for the Judiciary during the year 1999-2000 are indicated in the enclosed statement (Annexure).

(d) and (e) During the current year, a number of States, including Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala,

have requested for increased allocation under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The matter has already been taken up with the Planning Commission to provide more funds for the year 2000-2001.

No specific proposal regarding modernisation/rationalisation of legal administration has been received from the Government of Himachal Pradesh/High Court of Himachal Pradesh during the current year.

Statement

The Amount allocated to various States/Union Territories under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme during 1999-2000

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the State	Amount Allocated
1	2
1. Andhra Pradesh	405.05
2. Arunachal Pradesh	45.00
3. Assam	280.00
4. Bihar	314.93
5. Goa	39.00
6. Gujarat	181.78
7. Haryana	86.70
8. Himachal Pradesh	39.00
9. Jammu & Kashmir	39.00
10. Karnataka	263.96
11. Kerala	175.90
12. Madhya Pradesh	323.82
13. Maharashtra	347.43
14. Manipur	45.00
15. Meghalaya	44.99
16. Mizoram	45.00
17. Nagaland	45.00
18. Orissa	206.44
19. Punjab	92.87
20. Rajasthan	249.47

1	2
21. Sikkim	39.00
22. Tamil Nadu	349.39
23. Tripura	45.00
24. Uttar Pradesh	774.54
25. West Bengal	521.63
<i>Union Territories</i>	
1. A&N Islands	30.00
2. Chandigarh	29.00
3. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	19.00
4. Daman & Diu	18.00
5. Delhi	350.00
6. Lakshadweep	18.00
7. Pondicherry	36.00
Total	5500.00

Pending Hydro-electric Power Projects in Karnataka

634. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 106 dated 29 November, 1999 and state:

(a) since when the said hydro-electric power projects are pending for the clearance by the Government;

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

(c) whether State Governments of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have expressed their views in respects of KRS dam and Mettur dam on the Cauvery basin;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The details of hydroelectric power projects in Karnataka, alongwith the date of receipt of Detailed Project Reports and their return by the Central Electricity Authority to the project authorities for re-submission after the Inter-State disputes are resolved, are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) to (e) The National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) is preparing a plan for optimal utilisation of the untapped hydroelectric power potential estimated at 1150 MWs of the Cauvery River. NHPC would be prepared to execute, operate and maintain

the four projects which would generate cheap power, subject to the Government of Karnataka and the Government of Tamil nadu coming to a mutually satisfactory agreement on sharing of power form these projects.

Statement

Hydro Electric Multipurpose Scheme of Kamataka returned for Resubmission

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Installed Capacity (MW)	Date of Receipt of DPR	Date of Return	Remarks
1.	Mahadayi	2x10+2x12.5 +2x150=345	8/91	3/92	Involves inter State aspect with GOA
2.	Kabini Dam	1x20=20	8/79	5/90	Involves inter State aspect. Located in Cauvery basin
3.	Katla & Palna	Augmentation of power in Kalinadi Basin	11/85	10/87	Involves inter State aspect with Goa
4.	Shivasa-mudram Seasonal	2x135 =270	10/87	10/88	Involves inter State aspect. Located in Cauvery basin
5.	Mekadatu I & II	St. I-180 + St. II-180=360	10/96	10/96	State with Involves inter Tamil Nadu. Located in Cauvery basin
6.	Upper Krishna-I (Almatti)	4x70+1x17 =297	10/96	11/96	Involves inter State aspect with Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra
7.	Tattihalla Augmentation Scheme	Augmentation Scheme	8/98	9/99	Does not require concurrence of CEA as estimated cost of project is also less than Rs. 250 crores.

[*Translation*]

LPG Agencies at Sarangarh in M.P.

635. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG agencies allotted in the Sarangarh District of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the number of agencies allotted to SC/ST out of them; and

(c) the number of LPG agencies proposed to be set up in Sarangarh district of Madhya Pradesh in the next few years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY

AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) At present there is no LPG distributorship at Sarangarh in Distt. Raigarh of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) M/s. Indian Oil Corporation Limited has advertised one LPG distributorship in Sarangarh in Distt. Raigarh of Madhya Pradesh. Presently Dealer Selection Boards have been dissolved. It generally takes 6 to 12 months for commissioning of the dealerships/distributorship from the date of interview.

[English]

Automatic Fault Finding Facility

636. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom Department has started an automatic fault finding facility in the Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the names of the other districts in the State having such a facility;

(c) whether this facility helps the consumer in getting speedy repair of his telephone;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the delays are usually mandate and due to lack of enthusiasm in the technical personnel to fix such faults; and

(f) if so, the manner in which the Telecom Department propose to motivate their employees to repair the faults promptly?

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

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

(e) The faults are being identified by utilising existing testing facilities and the faults are being attended promptly.

(f) The following measures are being taken to motivate the employees to repair the faults promptly:

1. Lectures are being organised on motivation, improvement in customer care and staff behaviour towards customers, for the staff by

eminent management experts. Special module on motivation is added for the training being imparted to Sr. TOAs.

2. Pagers have been provided to the field line staff in Hyderabad, the state capital of Andhra Pradesh and four more stations viz. Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Warangal and Rajahmundry for the prompt attention to the complaints of the subscribers.

3. Sanchar Doot, Sanchar Shree and Sanchar Sarathi awards are given to the staff for their excellence on performance.

Gas Production at Ravva Oilfield

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

(a) whether the Gas produced at Ravva oilfield in the Krishna Godavari basin would be piped to down stream consumers;

(b) if so, whether the agreement was signed between the Gas Authority of India, Ravva Joint Ventures and Videocon Petroleum with Union Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which it is likely to benefit the consumers in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The gas currently produced from the "existing discovery" blocks of Ravva oil & gas field, on Joint Venture (JV) development, is being supplied to downstream consumer's area.

(b) A Gas Sales Contract was signed on 27th June, 1997 between the JV, comprising M/s. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd., M/s. Videocon Petroleum Ltd., M/s. Cairn Energy India Pvt. Ltd. and M/s. Ravva Oil (Singapore) Pty. Ltd. as sellers and Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) as buyer, providing for sale of 0.7 million standard cubic meters per day (MMSCMD) on an average.

(c) Salient features of Gas Sale Contract are as follows:—

- The seller will sell their participating share of gas in a commingled form through a single stream produced from the existing discoveries, at the delivery point.

- The facilities up to the delivery point shall be constructed, operated and maintained by sellers at their own risk and cost. The facilities from the delivery point onwards shall be constructed, operated and maintained by the buyer at their own risk and cost.
- The title, control and risk shall pass from seller to buyer at delivery point.
- During each contract year, the seller shall make gas available to the buyer at the Daily Contract Quantity.
- The contract is effective from the date of its signing and its duration shall be for the same period as the Production Sharing Contract is in force, *i.e.* upto October, 2019.
- The contract is effective from the date of its signing and its duration shall be for the same period as the Production Sharing Contract, is in force, *i.e.* upto October, 2019.

The gas from Ravva field alongwith gas from the fields of ONGC, is being transported and supplied by GAIL to Power and Fertiliser sector consumers in Andhra Pradesh.

Oil Exploration Rights Under N.E.L.P.

638. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:
SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN:

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

(a) whether any oil exploration rights have been awarded under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (N.E.L.P.) recently;

(b) if so, the details of areas thus awarded;

(c) whether any production sharing contracts have been finalised by the Government under the said policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) In the first round of offer of blocks under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) twenty five exploration blocks have been awarded. The location wise details of these blocks are given in the Statement enclosed.

The production sharing contracts (PSCs) for these blocks have not been finalised so far.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of Blocks	Basin/Area
1	2	3
1.	ARP-ONN/97/1	Arunachal Pradesh Onshore
2.	GV-ONN-97/1	Ganga Valley Onshore
3.	KG-OSN/97/1	Krishna Godawari Shallow Water Offshore
4.	KG-OSN/97/2	-do-
5.	KG-OSN/97/3	-do-
6.	KG-OSN/97/4	-do-
7.	MB-OSN/97/4	Mumbai Shallow Water Offshore
8.	MB-OSN-97/3	-do-
9.	MB-OSN-97/2	-do-

1	2	3
10.	KK-OSN-97/3	Kerala Konkan Shallow Water Offshore
11.	KK-OSN-97/2	-do-
12.	CY-OSN-97/1	Cauvery Shallow Water Offshore
13.	CY-OSN-97/2	-do-
14.	GK-OSN-97/1	Gujarat Kutch Shallow Water Offshore
15.	SR-OSN-97/1	Saurashtra Shallow Water Offshore
16.	MN-OSN-97/3	Mahanadi Shallow Water Offshore
17.	NEC-OSN-97/1	North East Coast Shallow Water Offshore
18.	NEC-OSN-97/2	-do-
19.	KG-DWN-98/2	Krishna Godawari Deep Water Offshore
20.	KG-DWN-98/3	-do-
21.	KG-DWN-98/4	-do-
22.	KG-DWN-98/5	-do-
23.	KG-DWN-98/1	-do-
24.	MN-DWN-98/2	Mahanadi Deep Water Offshore
25.	MN-DWN-98/3	-do-

[Translation]

World Bank Loan in Power Sector

639. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loan received from the World Bank for the development and improvement in power sector in the various states particularly in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar till date;

(b) whether the loan received has been fully utilised;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the directions issued to the State Governments by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) State-wise details of amount of loan sanctioned by the World Bank/IBRD for the development and improvement of power sector in different States including Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, and the utilisation of these loans is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) to (d) The loans have not been fully utilised in case of some of the projects for different reasons like non-fulfilment of loan covenants, failure to implement agreed upon action and project delays.

(e) The Central Government has been asking the State Governments to comply with the loan covenants as agreed with the World bank in order to ensure full utilisation of the loans.

Statement

(Amount in US\$ million)

Sl. No.	Loan No.	Naem of the Project	Loan Amount sanctioned	Amount utilised
1	2	3	4	5
Maharashtra				
1.	3314-IN	Dhanu Thermal Power Project	200.000	194.986
2.	3239-IN	Trombay Combined Cycle Power Project	98.000	98.000
3.	3096-IN	Maharashtra Power Project	337.330	337.330
4.	3498-IN	2nd Maharashtra Power Project	350.000 112.253 (Revised)	112.253
5.	2452-IN	Trombay Thermal Power Projects	134.409	134.409
6.	2544-IN	Chandrapur Thermal Power Projects	280.00	199.400
Gujarat				
1.	2497-IN & 1553-IN	Sardar Sarovar H.E. Project	300.000	244.400 MSDR
Karnataka				
1.	2827-IN	Karnataka Power Project I	260.000	80.699
2.	2827-IN	Karnataka Power Project I	69.637	69.637
3.	2938-IN	Karnataka Power Project II	220.000	41.694
Uttar Pradesh				
1.	2957-IN	Srinagar HE Project	223.900	17.060
2.	P-229	U.P. Power Sector Restructuring Project	2.000	1.945
Bihar				
1.	P-237	Bihar restructuring Power Sector	0.624 (Revised)	0.624
Orissa				
1.	2278-IN credit 1356-IN	Upper Indravati HE Power Project	156.4 156 MSDR (170 MUS\$)	Nil 156 MSDR (170 MUS\$)
2.	4014-IN	Orissa Power Sector Restructuring Project	350.000	27.716

1	2	3	4	5
Haryana				
1.	P-225	Haryana Power Sector Restructuring Project	0.000 Revised	0.001
2.	4271-IN	Haryana Power Sector Restructuring Project	60.000	29.379
Andhra Pradesh				
1.	4441-IN	Andhra Pradesh Power Sector Restructuring Project	210.000	14.034
Himachal Pradesh				
1.	3024-IN	Nathpa Jhakri .HE Project and Expansion of T&D System of H.P.	485.000	384.455
Rajasthan				
1.	P-235	Rajasthan Power Sector Restructuring Project	2.000	0.381

[English]

Rural Electrification

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

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rural Electrification Corporation has sanctioned Rs. 146 crore for the rural electrification projects;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof alongwith the amount sanctioned for each of the projects; and

(c) the time frame fixed for their completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Rural Electrification Corporation, during the year 1999-2000, has sanctioned loan assistance of Rs. 2586.12 crore for various rural electrification schemes sponsored by State Electricity Boards/Power Departments of State Governments. State-wise details of schemes and loan amount sanctioned are given in Statement enclosed.

(c) Rural Electrification Programme is a continuous process which largely depends upon the financial resources of States, generation capacity and transmission distribution facilities in the States among other reasons.

Statement

Statewise details of schemes sanctioned by REC during 1999-2000

Sl.No.	State	(Rs. in lakhs)	
		No.	Loan Amount
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	74	22559
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	32	2947
3.	Goa	4	229
4.	Gujarat	49	8995
5.	Haryana	67	20656
6.	Himachal Pradesh	11	4713

1	2	3	4
7.	J&K	7	6230
8.	Karnataka	148	41212
9.	Kerala	139	31325
10.	Madhya Pradesh	76	6096
11.	Maharashtra	157	24915
12.	Manipur	12	3464
13.	Punjab	25	6012
14.	Rajasthan	118	26365
15.	Tamil Nadu	106	23318
16.	Tripura	11	1853
17.	Uttar Pradesh	86	27723
Total		1122	258612

Power Project in Kerala set up by Cochin Refineries

641. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Cochin Refineries in Kerala has submitted a proposal to set up a power project at Ambalamugal in Cochin;

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

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

(d) the quantum of power expected to be generated from the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) M/s. Cochin Refineries Ltd. (CRL) had in 1998 submitted a Detailed Feasibility Report (DFR) for installation of a power project at Ambalamugal in Ernakulam Distt. near their Refinery. The comments of CEA on the DFR were sent to M/s. CRL with the request to submit the Detailed Project Report after tie-up of all necessary inputs/statutory clearances.

(c) and (d) The Detailed Feasibility Report (DFR) submitted by CRL had envisaged Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle Plant of about 522 MW generating capacity at an estimated cost of Rs. 2994 crores at an exchange rate of Rs: 35.80 per US\$. The exact details regarding commercial operation of the plant would be known only after the receipt of Detailed Project Report (DPR) in CEA.

LPG Transportation Tenders by Oil Corporations

642. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil Corporations jointly advertised bulk LPG transportation tenders on all India basis during April, 1999;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that against the published requirement of LPG tankers, the quoted tankers were 55 percent excess of the requirement;

(c) the circumstances which forced the Oil Corporations to accept all the LPG tankers even before the second and final negotiations which enabled the carter to secure much higher rate than the competitive rate;

(d) whether the Government have ordered investigation in this case to bring out complete facts; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) In the Industry Tender it was indicated that the number of Tank Truck requirement would depend on several factors like total requirement of LPG in the country, requirement of LPG in a particular area or region, source from which such requirement will be met i.e. either by import or indigenous source, economic mode of transportation etc.. The requirement of tank trucks was only an estimation at the time of issue of tender notice and the Oil Companies enter into agreement for the rates at which the tenderers are willing to offer their tank trucks at the time of actual requirement in the market.

(d) and (e) The Government have looked into the matter and received report from Oil Industry.

**Cheating by various Benefit Funds and
Chit Companies**

643. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any reports on the misappropriation and cheating done by the various benefit funds and chit companies in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to curb such money misappropriations and cheating of the common public;

(c) whether the Government have issued any rigid guidelines on functioning of Nidhis/Mutual Benefit Fund Societies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the Nidhis/Mutual Benefit Fund Societies which functioned in Tamil Nadu during the last five years and their respective finance positions thereof as reported to the Government during the last five years?

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

Disqualification for Auditor of the Company

644. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Law, Justice and Company Affairs is considering the proposal for not allowing an auditor of a company to have any shares in that company;

(b) if so, whether a CA, who is a shareholder of a public limited company, is liable to be disqualified to become an auditor of that public limited company;

(c) if so, whether the Government have held any discussions with the Institute of Chartered Accountants regarding the norms and guidelines for the auditors to be appointed for the public limited companies; and

(d) if so, the steps being proposed by the Department and the Institute of Chartered Accountants against the CAs/auditors in case of delinquencies particularly of the CRB Group?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) The Government has introduced the Companies (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999 in the Lok Sabha on 23rd December, 1999. This Bill, *inter-alia*, contains provisions for disqualifying a person for appointment as auditor of a company if he holds any security of that company after a period of one year from the date of commencement of the Companies (Second Amendment) Act, 1999.

(c) No Sir.

(d) The auditors of the CRB Group Companies are not holding any shares of the companies. As such the question of taking any step against them does not arise.

Cutting Off of ONGC Pipelines by ULFA Rebels

645. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF:

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

(a) whether ULFA rebels blew up an ONGC pipeline in Assam's Sibsagar district recently and disrupted the crude oil supply;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the estimated loss suffered as a result thereof;

(c) the number of cases in the past two years or so, where ONGC pipelines were cut off by ULFA rebels stating the loss suffered as a result thereof; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to identify the loopholes in the security arrangements and to strengthen them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) On 1.1.2000, a crude oil pipeline of Oil and Natural Gas Corp. (ONGC) was blown up in Sibsagar district of Assam reportedly by United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) resulting in loss of 150 tonnes of crude oil production. Besides the above incident, there was one more incident of blowing up of 12 inch trunk oil pipeline of ONGC on 8.9.1998 in Sibsagar District reportedly by ULFA. ONGC had not suffered any loss of oil production in this incident since the pipeline was not in use for transportation of crude oil. However, ONGC spent Rupees Fifty one thousands approximately for repairing the damaged section of the pipeline.

(d) Onshore Security Coordination Committee, headed by Director General of Police, Assam, reviews the security arrangements periodically and takes necessary steps such as beefing up of security, deployment of additional manpower and round the clock patrolling of vital installations by ONGC, CISF and local police.

Use of Chemicals in Mining Industries

646. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued any guidelines on the environmental safeguards for regulating the use of chemicals in the mining industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is mandatory for all Coal mines to seek permission from the State Pollution Control Boards before using any chemicals in the coal mines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Presently, it is not mandatory for coal mines to seek permission from the State Pollution Control Boards before using any chemicals in the coal mines. However, Government has constituted a Committee to examine environmental issues pertaining to the use of chemical additives for suppression of dust in coal mines and suggest testing procedures of chemicals as well as remedial measures to prevent adverse impacts on environment.

Scheme for Mini Ratna Award

647. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a scheme to award Mini Ratna Status to the PSUs functioning well;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) qualifies for such an award as per the criteria laid down for the purpose;

(d) whether the Shipping Corporation of India has applied for such an award;

(e) if so, the details in this regard;

(f) whether the award has been approved or given; and

(g) if not, reasons for the delay or the non-award of the Mini Ratna Status to the Shipping Corporation of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per guidelines laid down in Department of Public Enterprises' Office Memorandum No. 11/36/97-FIN dated 9th October, 1997, the criterion for eligibility for declaring a PSU as a Mini Ratna are:

(i) The PSU should have made profit in the last 3 years continuously, the pre-tax profit should have been Rs. 30 crores or more in at least one of the three years and the PSU should have a positive net worth.

(ii) There should have been no default by the PSU in the repayment of loan/interest payment on any loans due to the Government.

(iii) The PSU shall not depend upon the budgetary support or Government guarantees.

(iv) The Board of directors of the PSU shall be restructured by inducting at least three non-official Directors.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. SCI have requested for grant of Mini Ratna Status in accordance with the Government guidelines.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Slashing of Long Distance Telecom Tariff by TRAI

648. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Telecommunications has lost nearly Rs. 2500 crore due to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) order regarding slashing of long distance telecom tariff;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to make good the loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Available data indicate that reduction in the revenue of the Department of Telecom Services (including MTNL), due to tariff re-balancing, in financial year 1999-2000, is likely to be approximately Rs. 2,000 crores. Consequential reduction in Internal Resources for the developmental plan will be made good by increasing the borrowing component.

Allotment of LPG Agencies in Maharashtra

649. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of tehsils do not have LPG agencies in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to provide L.P.G. agencies in such tehsils;

(c) whether any proposal to set up LPG agency at Raigarh district in Maharashtra is pending; and

(d) if so, the time by which the Government propose to set up the LPG agency there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) As per the existing policy LPG distributorships are set up in different parts of the country as per the following norms:

- To cover all urban locations irrespective of its viability with a population of 10000 and above taking into account potential of adjoining villages within a radius of 15 Kms.

- All urban viable locations having population of 5000 and above taking into account the potential of adjoining villages within 15 Km radius.

- Cluster of villages within 15 Km radius of nucleus villages having a population of 10000 and above.

- Villages within 15 Km radius around the towns having population of 1 lakh and above for opening rural distributorships.

Accordingly, the current LPG Marketing Plan 1996-98 has been formulated which contains 2078 LPG distributorships.

(c) and (d) Two locations viz. Kalod and Ambit in Distt. Raigarh of Maharashtra have been included in the current LPG Marketing Plan. It generally takes 6 to 12 months for commissioning of the dealerships/distributorships from the date of interview.

Formulation of National Road Transport Policy

650. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a national road transport policy with a view to remove the hurdles in private road projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation has submitted any proposal in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The Government has already formulated policies to remove hurdles in private sector participation in national highway projects. Detailed and comprehensive Guidelines on private sector participation in national highway projects have already been issued. Details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement**Inland Water Transport Policy***Facilitating measures for Private Sector Participation*

1. National Highways Act 1956 has been amended which enables the Government to enter into agreement with private persons/parties for development and maintenance of National Highways and allows the persons to recoup the investment from user charges. He is given the right to regulate traffic on such highways and mischief created by any person in operation is a punishable offence. This provides the basic legal framework for private sector participation.
2. Certain tax/fiscal concessions are available to the private sector entrepreneurs during the first five years of the concession period. Entrepreneur is entitled to a tax holiday for five years and further 30% deduction in the tax over subsequent five years, which can be availed of within 20 years of commissioning of the project.
3. Import duties on certain selected construction equipment have been exempted.
4. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) have been authorised to participate in the equity of privately funded projects to the extent of 30 per cent of total equity.
5. Government can grant capital subsidy to the extent of 40% of the project cost on competitive basis.
6. Land required for development of wayside amenities etc. is to be treated as land required for public purpose.
7. Government prepared to share risks with private entrepreneurs and a model concession agreement for projects over Rs. 100 crores has been finalised.
8. External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) is permitted upto 35% and Direct Foreign Investment (FDI) is permitted upto 100 per cent (with total foreign equity up to Rs. 1500 crores).
9. Model Concession Agreements have been finalised for major BOT projects costing more than Rs. 100 crores and also for smaller BOT projects costing less than Rs. 100 crores.

651. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any inland water transport policy has been framed up by the Government for the effective utilisation of National Water Ways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount provided by the Union Government to the concerned States for the development of National Water Ways during the last three years and the actual amount spent for the purpose during the said period; and

(d) the extent of development carried out, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Action has already been initiated to evolve a comprehensive proposal for inland water transport policy and strategy for its development.

(c) and (d) No amount has been provided to State Governments as the development of National Waterways is carried out directly by Inland Waterways Authority of India, with the funds provided by Central Government.

Opening of Post Offices

652. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:
SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI:
SHRI B.V.N. REDDY:
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in Assam and other North Eastern States within the ten kilometres of which there is no post office or branch post office thereof;

(b) whether the Government have received any representation for the provision of post office facilities for such villages;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the post offices are likely to be opened;

(d) whether the Government proposed to open new post offices in the country particularly in Kerala,

North-Eastern States, Shalimar Bagh and Sansad Vihar areas of Delhi during 2000-2001;

(e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make improvements in the rural areas of the country in this regard and provide more employment opportunities in the Communication sector particularly to the SC/ST people of the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR):
(a) *Assam State*

All the villages in Assam Circle have a post office within 10 kilometres.

North Eastern States

There are 754 villages in North Eastern States where there is no post office within the distance of 10 kilometres.

(b) *Assam State*

No representation has been received so far in this connection.

North Eastern States

In all 94 representations for the providing post office facilities have been received.

(c) *Assam State*

Does not arise.

North Eastern State:

S.No.	Name of State	No. of representations
1.	Meghalaya	10
2.	Mizoram	20
3.	Nagaland	33
4.	Manipur	31

The Opening of Post offices is subject to availability of resources and fulfillment of existing norms.

(d) The annual plan for 2000-2001 for opening of post offices in the States of the country is yet to be finalized.

(e) As above.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) For provision of employment opportunities in the Communication sector particularly to the SC/ST people of the rural areas, the prescribed principles laid down by the DOP & T on the matter of reservation in recruitment are being observed.

[Translation]

Illegal Domestication of Wild Animals

653. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Gause Chetal ke bhaint chadh gya Arjun Singh ke ghar per tenat sephai' appearing in Navbharat Times, New Delhi dated January 27, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted an enquiry or propose to conduct an enquiry into the matter;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the wild animals have been domesticated and are being hunted illegally in different parts of the country;

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

(f) the directions given by the Government to State Governments to check the illegal domestication and hunting of wild animals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Protection of wildlife is the responsibility of the State Government. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has conducted an inquiry and has taken action as per the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(c) The inquiry conducted by the State Government has revealed that two Cheetal, one male and one female were kept in the camps of Korwa Kothi Bhopal. Permission of ownership was granted by the Chief Wildlife Warden for one male Cheetal. The female Cheetal was domesticated without permission and a case was

registered under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The case has been compounded after imposing a penalty of Rs. 2000/-.

(d) Under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 domestication of wild animals is prohibited. However, illegal possession of wild animal is not ruled out. Cases of poaching have been detected both inside and outside the Protected Areas. However, the incidents of poaching are higher outside the protected areas due to inadequate enforcement infrastructure.

(e) and (f) The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 amended in 1991 have empowered the State Govt. to control illegal acts. Government of India have issued guidelines to implement provisions of the Act and also provide fund to implement the provisions of the Act under Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

[English]

Adulteration in Petroleum Products

654. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHAL RAO KAMBLE:
SHRI ANANT GUDHE:

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

(a) whether the problem of adulteration in petrol and diesel is rampant all over the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have carried out an objective survey in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of special measures taken and stringent punishment proposed against dealers and officers involved in the adulteration; and

(e) the number of officers and dealers charged during the current year in the country for indulgence in adulteration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (e) There are reports of alleged adulteration of petrol and diesel received from all over the country. To check adulteration and malpractices, the oil marketing companies carry out regular/surprise checks of retail outlets, to control various malpractices including adulteration. In addition, special drives are launched by the oil companies both on

their own and also under direction of Government from time to time to check malpractices. To prevent adulteration various steps like blue dyeing of kerosene (PDS), furfural doping, filter paper test, stock reconciliation, checking of retail outlets by mobile laboratories, etc. are taken by oil companies.

During the current year, as per record available, 28025 retail outlets were checked in the period April-September 99. Further, a special drive was launched where during the period 29.11.1999-3.12.1999, 1888 retail outlets were checked. In the cases of suspected and proven adulteration, action has been taken by oil marketing PSUs against the dealers as per Dealership Agreement. Action is taken against officers, if found indulging in adulteration as per guidelines of Ministry and as per policy of oil marketing PSUs.

Leakage in Pipeline at Jamnagar in Gujarat

655. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:
SHRI DINSHA PATEL:

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

(a) whether pipeline of crude oil of Indian Oil Corporation leaked near Wadinar Port in Jamnagar district of Gujarat in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any responsibility has been fixed in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the measures taken by the Government to avoid such incidents in future;

(f) whether action has been taken under the Pollution Control Act, Foreign Conservation Act, C.R.Z. Rules and various relevant laws; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) On 20.11.99, Forest Department reported an oil slick at Nararabet, Vadinar and suspected it to be from the pipelines system of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) due to its nearness. The IOC system was immediately checked

thoroughly by the Committee of senior officials of IOC and subsequently also by the Committee set up by Gujarat Government. Both had observed that the Single Buoy Mooring and the pipeline system of IOC were intact.

(e) to (g) As advised by the Gujarat Government, Indian Oil Corporation has engaged National Institute of Oceanography, Goa for carrying out a study and suggesting remedial actions required if any.

[English]

Setting up of New Retail Outlets for Petrol and Diesel in Nagaland

656. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work pertaining to opening of new retail outlets for Petrol and Diesel are yet to commence in the North East in general and Nagaland in particular;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the action is likely to be taken on the request of the public representatives pending for the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The dealers selection process was stayed with the announcement of General Election in July, 1999. Recently the Government have dissolved these Boards. The selection process is expected to be reactivated in near future.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

11.21 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till fourteen of the clock

14.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Fourteen of the Clock.

(SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*)

[English]

SHRI KAMAL NATH (Chhindwara): Sir, this issue should be taken up under Rule 184. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh is spreading communalism throughout the country.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, I have given a notice under Rule 184 on this issue..*(Interruptions)* Sir, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, Shri Pandiyan and so many other Members have given notices under Rule 184 on this issue..*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli): Sir, I may be allowed to make my submission under Rule 184..*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Discussion has already been allowed.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Sir, I have given a notice under Rule 184..*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will have your say. Let the Papers be laid on the Table, then you can raise your issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

14.03 hrs.

At this Stage Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, Shri Ramdas Athawale and some other hon'ble Members came and stood near the Table.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can have your say from your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why are you demanding debate under Rule 184, that you can explain from your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

14.04 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the 'Economic Survey, 1999-2000' (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1310/2000]

 ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Tapan Sikdar.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will listen to you.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will listen to you, please go to your seat and then speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please speak from your seat. You can say what you want to say from your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can raise the issue regarding Rule 184 from your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Till such time 184 is taken up, no Government business is transacted. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I gave notice on 23rd itself ...*(Interruptions)* I will make my submission.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will allow you. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

[Translation]

I will allow you. Please take your seat. You can raise this point from your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please go to your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will allow you to speak.

[Translation]

Please speak from your seat. I will allow you. First go to your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): The hon. Speaker should come and take the decision. You adjourn the House for half-an-hour...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please say this point from your seat. I will allow you to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can say what you want to say from your seat. You want that on this issue discussion should be held under Rule 184. You can say from your seat that why you want to hold discussion under Rule 184.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please listen to it patiently and then speak. You can raise this point from your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rajesh Pilot is speaking please maintain peace and let him speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Rajeshji wants to speak and I have allowed him, please let him speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please maintain silence and say this from your seat. I will listen to you. I will listen to your point. All the Members want to have their say.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Sontosh Mohan Devji wants to speak. Please let him speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can raise this demand from your seat.

...(Interruptions)

14.10 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Sixteen of the Clock.

16.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at two minutes past Sixteen of the Clock

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Allowing State Government Employees to Participate in the Activities of RSS

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up Discussion under Rule 193. Shri Indrajit Gupta is absent. Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ROOPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Sir, I have given a notice...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Though, before commencement of the Session of the Parliament. I had given a notice under Rule 193, in view of the circumstances here, I have withdrawn my notice under Rule 193; and I have given a notice under Rule 184.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, no one in opposition wants to interrupt the proceedings of the House. We can very well understand that there are several important issues before the House but it is also an important issue. This issues relates to the Constitution and unity of society and the country. Our party had given notice to hold discussion under Rule 193 but we withdraw that. We seek discussion under Rule 184 because...(Interruptions) I am not making any speech...(Interruptions) I do not want to deliver speech.(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: (Mumbai North East): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your kind permission, I am starting discussion under Rule 193.(Interruptions) Several allegations are being made in and outside the House with regard to the functioning of RSS and RSS workers...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has also given a notice.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I am grateful to you.(Interruptions) I would like to make a clarification here that I have been associated with R.S.S. and I am proud of it. During last 50 years Sangh...(Interruptions) has performed several works...(Interruptions) Lakhs of workers of RSS are working in the direction of bringing social revolution and are serving the nation...(Interruptions) They are engaged in different works.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, China attacked India in 1962. Volunteers of RSS were called to supply goods for the army. In 1948 when Pakistan attacked Kashmir, the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru requested RSS to assist.(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I gave a notice to raise this matter under Rule 184...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Scindia, please understand that you are not allowing the House to function. You are obstructing the Question Hour also. Every time, you are obstructing the House. What is this? His name is also there. So, I have called him. Please go through the Agenda also.

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, in 1948, when Pakistan blew up the Srinagar airport then workers of RSS were called to assist our army in repairing of the airport...(*Interruptions*)

16.06 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Devendra Singh Yadav, Shri Ramdas Athawale and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Every time, you cannot dictate terms to the Chair. You must also follow the procedure.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except Shri Kirit Somaiya's speech.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Assistance of RSS was also sought in 1962 when China attacked India. ...(*Interruptions*) In 1963 RSS was authorisedly asked by the Government of India to participate in Republic Day parade...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 29th February, 2000 at 11 a.m.

16.06 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, February 29, 2000/
Phalguna 10, 1921 (Saka).*
